

# THE TORCH



November 2024

Aquinas Families,

Blessed Fall to you all! I pray that the harvest has been bountiful. We are grateful for the job well done in containing the fires this month and keeping our community safe. We continue to pray for much needed moisture and continued safety for all!

**Strategic Plan (Update)** – On October 23rd, we had our final Open Forum during this planning stage. The heads of each pillar gave updates on each committee's progress. We have 52 total projects for our new Strategic Plan, with 28 started and 14 complete or ongoing. Thank you again to all our parents and staff on the committees and the those who can last Wednesday evening.

**National Honor Society** - On Wednesday October 9<sup>th</sup>, the Aquinas Chapter of the National Honor Society inducted 9 new members into National Honor Society. Congratulations to those students on their achievement in the areas of Scholarship, Service, Character, and Leadership. The Aquinas Chapter of NHS held its first Induction Ceremony on April 9, 1965. The ceremony was the 60<sup>th</sup> induction at Aquinas. Since 1965 over 600 Aquinas students have been inducted into National Honor Society.

**Monarch Athletes** – We had another great month for our student athletes! Congratulations to our Girls Softball Team who advanced to state in Hastings earlier this month for the second year in a row. Congrats to junior Lydia Meysenburg on making State Cross Country! Lydia improved her individual time this year by 30 seconds. Girls Volleyball will compete in subdistricts this week in Yutan. On the 19<sup>th</sup>, our band was in Lincoln for State Competition and received a division "1". This is the first time receiving such a mark in thirty years. Well done! Congrats to our boy's football team on becoming District Champs. They play this Friday against Battle Creek. Go Monarchs!

**Homecoming** – A big THANK YOU for the hard work in making Homecoming such a great success. Thank you for Mr. Wehrs working with Student Council in coming up with a theme, organizing student events each day, and rallying our students throughout the week. Thank you, Melissa Yindrick and Fr. Greave, for our time of Adoration to begin the week. Thank you, Michaela Moravec, and her crew, in bringing back the Homecoming Parade, it was a huge success. It was a sweet week to be a Monarch!

**All Saints Day** - Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, is the solemnity of All Saints. On this day, we pray with and ask intercession from the Church Triumphant, the saints in heaven. What a powerful moment connecting with the Church Triumphant, the saints in heaven, and our own loved ones now in heaven! School is closed this day to give our families time to come to Church, to receive the Eucharist and fulfill their Catholic obligation. As parents, the first teachers of your children, please show them the importance of the Mass and the Eucharist.

**(Update) Holy Family ELC Openings** - We continue to need both full-time and part-time workers at Holy Family. Online applications can be submitted on the Aquinas website: <https://aquinas-catholic.com/careers/>

As we enter the Thanksgiving Season, please know of my gratitude for each of you, the students you have entrusted to us, and the sacrifices you make daily for our school.

*Fr. Michael Ventre*

Fr. Michael Ventre  
CAO Aquinas Catholic Schools

[WWW.AQUINAS-CATHOLIC.COM](http://WWW.AQUINAS-CATHOLIC.COM)



## **Middle/High School Principal update- November 2024**

As Election Day (Tuesday, November 5th) nears, I encourage everyone to take advantage of their ability to participate in our civic processes. Especially when there are important issues on the ballot (abortion, school choice), we need everyone to use their voice and vote. We won't all always agree on all issues, but we will never get our schools, towns, communities, and society to where it should be if everyone just throws up their hands and says "I can't do anything to change it for the better". When that mindset takes hold, we collectively lose the value we each bring to the table individually. With that being said, please vote RETAIN on Ballot Initiative 435 to support school choice in Nebraska.

### **Current news**

- **Tri-Councils-** Thank you to all who attended Tri-Councils on October 19th! 68% of all MS/HS families were represented. Q1 report cards were sent home with students the week after Tri-Councils, and final Q1 grades can also be viewed on PowerSchool, as well as current grades for Q2.
- **School absences-** While it is not ready yet, we are working with the Ed Tech office to set up the ability for parents to submit absences from school directly on the parents' PowerSchool account rather than having to call the office. I will send out more information when I have it.
- **Academic eligibility process-** There is a slight change to the academic eligibility process effective with the start of Q2. The eligibility list will still be generated on Mondays as it has been, but will not take effect until Wednesday, and will therefore run from Wednesday through the following Tuesday. Making this change will lead to less chaos and confusion about whether students are eligible to compete in activities or not, especially on the same day the list is generated. A student's academic status (probation or ineligible) is for the entire week Wednesday-Tuesday, meaning a student doesn't become eligible on Friday, for example, even if the student's grade in the class is now passing after the teacher entered grades in the gradebook.
- **Credit loss due to absence (HS only) -** This is a reminder that HS students who miss any individual class 10 or more times in one semester are at risk of losing credit for that class. There is an appeal process if a student is informed they are losing credit. Please refer to the handbook to read more on this policy.
- **Community service hours-** Reminder that community service hours need to be submitted to your student's Society teacher within 30 days of any service hours being completed!

### **Upcoming events**

- **Daylight Savings Time ends-** Sunday, November 3rd
- **All Souls Day Mass-** Tuesday, November 5th
- **Alumni Phone-a-thon-** Sunday, November 10th & Monday, November 11th
- **MS/HS Veteran's Day Program-** Monday, November 11th

### **Schedule changes/reminders**

- **No school-** Monday, November 4th (Teacher professional development)
- **1:00pm dismissal (SAT Day)-** Tuesday, November 19th
- **1:00pm dismissal-** Tuesday, November 26th
- **Thanksgiving Break-** Wednesday, November 27th-Friday, November 29th

God Bless!



Spencer Zysset, Principal



Recap of October events;

- We had another record **I-55 Book Fair!** Thank you to **Mrs. Roh** and her team of volunteers who set up and worked the book sale. We earned **\$500 in books** and **\$1800 in cash** for the library! **Anita and Henry Sisco, Karla Brezina, Carm Fiala, Lori Wessling, Lizzie Roh, Jennifer Zysset, Ashley Witmer, Sarah Holloway, Kerri Hoppe, Melissa Hotovy, Bertha Ramirez, Heather Oltmer, Colleen Storm, Christina Podolak, Laura Adair, Alina Strong, Lisa Meister; Pat, Misty, Kason, and Kendra Havlovic, and Sarah Zook.**
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences** went well and we were able to share the progress of almost all of our students. We really appreciate this partnership with our parents as we work together to form these children.
  - **Thank you to Room Moms for the delicious food for the teachers!**
- We are grateful for the visits from **Grandparents** this week. The students **LOVE** having their grandparents or friends visit.
- Thank you to **Julie Sabata** and our **amazing cooks** for serving so many extra! We served around 130 extra adults in 3 days.



- We had around 300 people come through the **All Saints Party** on 10/30. Thank you to **RJ and Cortney Hein** for spearheading that event! We had many great volunteers who helped man games and food as well! They then helped run Saints games during the day on Thu. (complete list of thank you's next month!)
- **Homecoming:** the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade ACE's Saints chose the dress-up days and helped to make posters and school decoration for the week. Great work 5<sup>th</sup> Graders!
- **Diaper Drive:** the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade ACE's Saints designed this year's Diaper Drive for Pro-Life Month. They encouraged classes to bring baby items and tallied the points for each item. Nice job, 4<sup>th</sup> Graders!
  - Thank you to families for your generous donations. They will go to local pregnancy care centers.

### Coming up:

- ACE's Saints Service Groups: 5<sup>th</sup> grade will lead Donation trees contest; 4<sup>th</sup> grade will lead Thanksgiving donations.
- We will complete our 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter writing assessments this month.
- Behavior/Discipline: Teachers will continue work on behavior management and relationship-building during PD time on Nov. 4.
- Curriculum: We continue to assess the progress on the new English/Reading programs (Wit and Wisdom and Sunday) at our Nov. 4 PD Day.
- Penance services, Nov. 6
- Veteran's Day and K flags presentation on Nov. 11
- Baptism Mass, Nov. 8
- Wear blue for Diabetes Day on Nov. 14

No School: Nov. 1, 4, 27-29      1:00 Dismissal: Nov. 19      Spirit Day: Nov. 22

Hope you have a blessed Thanksgiving. We are blessed to have these amazing teachers and your families working together for the growth of our students,

*God Bless, Mrs. Zook, Principal*

# RETAIN

## REFERENDUM

# 435



## HELPS KIDS!

Thousands of Nebraska children will benefit from Referendum 435's educational funding. The law helps low-income students, those fleeing bullying, kids needing better special education, and children from military families. Our students are Nebraska's future. They deserve every opportunity for the best education.

Not every parent in Nebraska can afford the best educational opportunity for their child. Referendum 435 gives parents the financial resources they need so their children can succeed. Every parent should have the opportunity and hope to help their children.

## EMPOWERS PARENTS!



## TAXPAYER SAVINGS!

Referendum 435 provides \$10M to give kids and families greater educational options. Similar programs in other states are proven to create savings for taxpayers. These savings can reduce property taxes or be re-invested into key state priorities.

**Aquinas Catholic Elementary Schools**  
**November 2024**  
**USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider**

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Menu is Subject to Change and will be posted for students knowledge				1 No school
4 NO SCHOOL	5 Meatball Sub California Blend Chips Pineapple	6 Hot Ham and Cheese Celery and PB Mandarin Oranges	7 Taco Corn Churro Applesauce	8 Lasagna Roll-up Garlic Bread Green Beans Ruby Pears
11 Breakfast Sandwich Roasted Potatoes Ruby Pears	12 Chili Cinnamon Roll Baby Carrots Warm Cinnamon Apples	13 Turkey Sub Cucumber Salad Chips Dragon Punch Grapes	14 Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potatoes Gravy Corn Roll Peaches	15 Fish Sticks Mac and Cheese Peas Strawberries
18 Frito Pie Taco meat, Cheese sauce, Fritos Corn Emerald Pears	19 Chicken Nuggets Baby Carrots Tater Tots Applesauce 1:00 Dismissal	20 Bacon Cheeseburger Potato Wedges Lettuce Salad SideKick	21 Turkey Mashed Potatoes Gravy G. Bean Casserole Dressing Roll Pumpkin Dessert	22 Cheese Omelet Pancakes Yogurt Hashbrown Strawberries
25 Chicken Alfredo California Blend Breadstick Peaches	26 Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Green beans Garlic Bread	27 Thanksgiving Break	28 Thanksgiving Break	Milk & water offered Daily Fruit/Veggie/ Salad Bar Offered Daily

*Happy All Saints Day!*



**5TH GRADE DRESSED AS SAINTS AND THEN DID A WAX  
MUSEUM PRESENTATION**

*Mrs. Comte & Mrs Nienhueser*



.....from everyone at

## *Aquinas Catholic Schools!*

Thank you to Jeff & Bobbi Schmid and Northside, Inc for donating the popcorn for the volleyball game October 8th & chicken tenders, meatballs, and other treats to the Homecoming Dance!

Thank you to Todd DeWispelare and Bank of the Valley for the Kindergarten binders!

Thank you to Rick & Pam Comte who provided a photobooth at the Homecoming Dance!

Thank you to the anonymous donor for the supplying the pizza's for the Homecoming Kick-off night!



Thank you to Steve & Julie Stara, Paul Krivanek, Adam Rerucha, and Jim Miratsky for providing trailers and driving the floats in our homecoming parade!

Thank you to all of the parents and staff/teachers that came with us on the students retreats this fall and for donating to support these retreats!



Thank you to Mara Yindrick for providing beautiful praise and worship music for our IGNITE Homecoming Adoration night! Big Thanks to our student servers, Bill Yindrick for running spotlights and ALL the parents who came out to support, bring your littles, and especially for helping serve pizza.

From the Ag Program,

- Thank you to Bar S Vet Clinic, Witter Family Medicine, and David City Public Ag Program for allowing us to use your lab coats for our meat evaluation practice at UNL.
- Thank you to Scott Hlavac and Butler Public Power District for sharing hard hats for our meat evaluation practice and UNL.
- And thank you to Gary Kubicek for sharing your expertise with our students for the meat evaluation and livestock judging day at UNL.



Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Elementary i55 Book Fair a success!



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## EASY FUNDRAISING

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### RaiseRight Fundraising

Fundraising made easy. Simply earn money for your organization by purchasing gift cards from more than 750 top brands you shop for everyday things. More information on back.



### Box Tops for Education General Mills Inc.

No clipping. Buy participating items. Scan your receipt or upload a digital receipt. Earn money for our school.



### Best Choice Labels

Shop your local grocers and clip the Best Choice labels off with the UPC and turn into the school office. We send in the labels and they send us CASH for our school!



### Super Saver Receipts

Turn in your Super Saver receipts from Sept. through March and turn them into the Aquinas Offices.

## APPS TO CONSIDER

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### SCHOOL

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### PowerSchool Mobile PowerSchool Group LLC

Access to your student's data including grades and attendance. Our District code is: RCSD. More info. about this app can be found on our website.



### Activity Scheduler rSchool Today

School Calendar. Sign up for Notify Me, to get a text and email when activities are updated or changed. Download the [User Guide here](#)



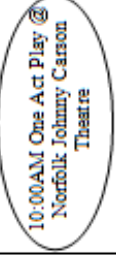





### My School Bucks MSB Parent, USA | Heartland Payment Systems

**FREE ACCOUNT:** see all balances, set up low-balance alerts, view lunch purchases (entre, seconds, milk, etc.)  
**Extra Fee:** put funds into accounts (Aquinas accepts cash/check at Office)

# November 2024

## Aquinas Catholic Schools

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Denotes change in schedule 					1 ALL SAINTS DAY NO SCHOOL  7:00PM FB State Playoffs Aquinas @ Battle Creek	2  10:00AM One Act Play @ Norfolk Johnny Carson Theatre
3 St. Mary's Harvest Festival	4 NO SCHOOL Teacher In-Service	5 All Souls Day Mass	6  Penance Service	7	8 TBA FB State Playoffs	9
10 Alumni Phone-a-thon	11 Veterans Day 4:30PM MS GBB @ Schuyler 6:00PM MS/HS Council Meeting 7:00PM ELM Council Meeting	12	13	14	15 TBA FB State Playoffs Mid Quarter	16
17	18 4:30PM MS GBB @ Scotus 6:00PM MS WR @ Centennial Quad 7:00PM Board of Advisors Meeting	19  TBA One Act Play @ Midland University 1:00 Dismissal for SAT (Student Assistance Time)	20	21 7:00PM Butler County One-Acts @ EBHS	22 Sprint Day	23 9:00AM MS WR @ Howells-Dodge Invite 10:00AM Conf. One-Acts Aquinas @ CCC
24	25	26  1:00PM Dismissal TBA FB State Finals 4:30PM MS GBB @ Lakeview	27 THANKSGIVING VACATION NO SCHOOL	28 THANKSGIVING VACATION NO SCHOOL	29 THANKSGIVING VACATION NO SCHOOL	30

# AQUINAS MS/HS



## COUNSELOR'S CORNER NOVEMBER 2024

### What's Happening

#### THE ASVAB - UPDATE

All juniors took the ASVAB assessment on October 23rd. The students did a great job, and the military assessment proctors were very complimentary of them. We can expect to see the scores from the ASVAB in about 2-3 weeks.

#### APPLY 2 COLLEGE - UPDATE

Seniors participated in the National Apply2College campaign on October 11th. All seniors were able to complete at least one college application, with many of them completing two or more!

#### NOVEMBER FOCUS - GRATITUDE

**Gratitude** - Expressing appreciation for what you have and seeing the positive things in life you are thankful for.

#### WAYS TO SHOW GRATITUDE:

- Send a thank you card - for something big or small
- Take time to appreciate little things you enjoy during the day
- Tell someone how they made your world a better place



### Senior Checklist

#### FALL TO DO:

- Apply to top college choices
- Start filling out scholarships
  - Start with the college specific scholarships!
- Take/Retake the ACT
- Prepare for the FAFSA
  - Find information at: [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov)
- Continue to update your resume

### Important Dates

- Nov. 8th - Registration Deadline for December 14th ACT
  - Nov. 21st - Northeast Community College Visit for 11th and 12th graders
    - See Mrs. M ASAP if you would like to attend!
  - Dec. 1st - FAFSA Opens!
  - Dec. 14th - National ACT Test Day
- If you need any assistance with registering for the National ACT please let me know!**

### Contact Info

**Sara Miriovsky**

- [sara-miriovsky@cdolinc.net](mailto:sara-miriovsky@cdolinc.net)
- 402-367-3175

**Aquinas Catholic HS/MS School**  
**November 2024**  
**USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider**



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Menu is Subject to Change and will be posted for students knowledge				1 No school
4 No School	5 Hot Ham & Cheese Sandwich Chips Carrots Fruit Cup	6 Sweet & Sour Chicken Rice Egg Roll Roasted Broccoli Pineapple	7 Beef Stroganoff & Noodles Garlic Bread Peas Tropical Fruit	8 Grilled Cheese Tomato Soup Broccoli Peaches
11 Chicken Strips Potato Wedges Green Beans Sidekick	12 Chili Cinnamon Roll Baby Carrots Warm Cinnamon Apples	13 Hot Turkey Sub Cucumber Salad Smile Fries Blueberry Fluff	14 Goulash Side Salad Garlic Breadstick Grapes	15 Shrimp Poppers Mac and Cheese Peas Strawberries
18 Boneless Wings Fries Celery Applesauce	19 French Toast Sticks Sausage Patty Hashbrown Yogurt Granola &	20 Meatball Sub Vegetable Blend Chips Banana	21 Turkey Mashed Potatoes Gravy G. Bean Casserole Roll Apple Crisp Ice Cream Cup	22 French Bread Pizza Side Salad Tri-Tater Mandarin Oranges
25 Pulled Pork Sandwich Tater Tots Baked Beans Pears	26 Hamburger Jo Jo's Peas Strawberry Cups 1:00 Dismissal	27 Thanksgiving Break	28 Thanksgiving Break	Milk & water offered Daily Fruit/Veggie/ Salad Bar Offered Daily

May 2024

**Dear 2025 Seniors and Parents of 2025 Seniors,**

Next year your son/daughter will be a senior. One of the most lasting and treasured reminders of this year will be the senior pictures which will be taken over the summer or the first part of the school year. You will be responsible for getting the following senior pictures to Mrs. Pokorny by **December 1, 2024.**

**You need to have your photographer email your colored formal pose picture in a vertical billfold sized JPEG file at 250 dpi to me for the yearbook, composite, alumni board, press releases, and class video. This picture should be the colored formal indoor pose with a plain background. (This should be a head shot with no hands or lower arms visible please.) You are responsible for making sure the school has this by November 1st. They may email this to Mrs. Pokorny at [teresa-pokorny@cdolinc.net](mailto:teresa-pokorny@cdolinc.net)**

**If we do not have your print by December 1st, you may miss out on being in the composite, yearbook, etc. or have to pay for the late fee to be included. Be sure to schedule your pictures to be taken by September 1<sup>st</sup>.**

As we at Aquinas should always strive to live up to Christ's example of modesty and Christian decency, we ask that no inappropriate pictures be submitted for publication. This would include:

- 1. Females-no off-the-shoulder dresses or blouses**
- 2. Females-no tops with an immodest/low cut (cut of the top must be 1 inch above the line of cleavage); no spaghetti or thin straps on shoulders for dresses or blouses**
- 3. Males-wear a collared shirt and tie. (A jacket is preferred but optional.)**
- 4. Nothing that goes against the current dress code, for example-tattoo/body piercing, hair length (MUST be above the collar of the shirt), 'fad' hair styles, facial hair, etc.**

**\*Remember that by a colored formal pose, we are asking for a head shot with no hands or lower arms visible in the picture. The background should be plain/one color and NO outdoor shots.**

**Again, remember to have your photographer email your colored formal vertical pose picture in a billfold sized JPEG file at 250 dpi to Mrs. Pokorny by December 1<sup>st</sup>.**

The administration reserves the right to refuse any portrait deemed unacceptable or immodest. Please read and follow the instructions we have provided and there should be no problems.

Please note that you MUST agree to the permission form which can be found on PowerSchool on your Parent Portal Account. Simply click on "Forms" and look for the "Media Consent & Release" form. This Must be done in order to have your senior's picture as part of our composite, yearbook, and any other publications who might ask for the formal shot.

If you don't plan to have senior pictures taken, Ms. Brown will take a formal head shot picture, but this must be arranged with her before December.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Pokorny at 367-3175. Best wishes and have an enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,  
Teresa Pokorny  
Senior Class Moderator Aquinas High School



*"Give Thanks always and  
for everything ..."*

Ephesians 5:20

**AQUINAS CATHOLIC  
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