

A Letter from the Principal

November 16, 2018

Dear Irish Family and Friends,

Each week we are reminded of how fortunate we are as a school community.

The recent open house on November 4th as well as the two in-home information nights for prospective families have given our students a chance to share with others what they believe makes Aquinas so special. One young lady explained that because we don't allow students to use phones throughout the day, they tend to live more in the moment and focus on the task at hand instead of sharing videos and texts with friends elsewhere. The alumni who spoke reiterated what parents and grads often say --- our kids leave here prepared for the rigor of college work.

SPORTS

With a huge comeback against Stratford last Friday, our football team has advanced to the second round of state playoffs. We are expecting a big crowd in green on Friday night as the Irish take on Darlington in Rome, Ga.

If you cannot make the trip to Rome, watch the broadcast by clicking [HERE](#): A huge shoutout to Marc Williamson, Brian Graham, and Sean Burke for their work on delivering an exciting broadcast of Irish football each week.

After only two swim meets, several of our swimmers have already qualified for state competition. Congrats to Mike Jeschke and Anna Summers for qualifying as individuals and the relay team of Danny Conner, Grant McMahan, Mike Jeschke, and Thomas O'Quinn!

Basketball season is officially underway. Our Varsity girls beat Westminster by 1 last week and lost to Lakeside this week. Varsity boys played a scrimmage against 4A Butler High School last week and lost by just a few points. More significant than that was the prayer at midcourt following both of those games. As a Lakeside staff member commented "Aquinas girls know how to handle a win and a loss with character." I believe that these young people learn a great deal by coming together in prayer with their opponent after the game. I appreciate our coaches who facilitate this!

Irish boys basketball heads to Atlanta for the Riverside Shootout tonight and tomorrow. Girls play Westside Saturday at home; JV start at 4:30 and Varsity at 6:00.



Mason Whatley signed to play golf on scholarship at Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC as his family, coaches, and friends looked on.



Senior Tess Conner and company are working hard to prepare for the one act play performance on Friday night, Dec. 7th in the cafeteria.



LEADERSHIP

One area that we like to give students opportunities to learn and grow is that of leadership. On Monday, excellent leadership skills were on display as several of our seniors planned an all-school Mass and catered luncheon for veterans and military family members. After Fr. Mike Ingram ('72) celebrated Mass, each veteran or active military member was announced and presented with a rose by our Vianney House leaders - Anabelle Noegel, Lindy Kelly, and Ally Mitchell. Irish grandparents John and Anne McCormack shared that was the best Veterans celebration they have attended.





Backpacking Trip



MISCELLANEOUS

We are looking for ideas for service projects/works of mercy on January 18th, our all-school service day. I'd prefer kids to work with people rather than clean up an area.

Fort Gordon CHRISTMAS HOUSE - deadline extended

Support our local military families that need a good Christmas. Bring in some toys, books or board games (around a \$20 value) for girls or boys 0-15 years of age.

Thank you to all families who have given to the Aquinas Fund. Our goal this year is 100,000, and we are currently at \$66,116.82. Your support is sincerely appreciated!

Junior Ring Ceremony is scheduled for Feb 6th at 6:00 in the chapel. Although not mandatory, this has always been a lovely evening for families of juniors.

International speaker Pam Stenzel came and talked to the students about for over an hour about chastity and the serious repercussions of decisions made as teenagers. I believe the talk was not just helpful but eye-opening and thought-provoking for many of our students. Her non-preachy but very matter-of-fact style seemed to resonate with our kids.



Aquinas alum Fr. Pablo Migone ('00) spent a day talking to Deacon Culver's religion classes during Vocations Awareness Week.



Thank you to all the families who completed the recent parent satisfaction survey. The feedback was extremely positive, and the comments made were helpful to us.

I hope that our students and faculty can relax and enjoy some time with family and friends over the next week. We then have 3 weeks of classes before semester 1 exams begin.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving,

Maureen Lewis

