



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS SCHOOL
624 DUBUQUE STREET
WEBSTER CITY, IA 50595

Volume 2 Spring 2022

Spring 2022! It's time again to check in with our incredible school and see what's going on. So much learning has taken place and still so much on the horizon before the school year ends. Upcoming events include the annual K-6 spring musical where Music Teacher Melissa Hindt has been working tirelessly with the students to perfect their singing and performing. Next, the wax museum speeches take place in a school-wide presentation on May 13. This is where 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students research deceased individuals of their choosing and actually "become" those individuals. The historical choices range from athletes to entertainers to politicians – a real variety of people to "witness" coming alive again!

It has been my pleasure to collect photos and excerpts from the staff at STA School. I am so proud of what this team has accomplished in 2021 and 2022. I am also excited to see what will happen next once the new school year begins! Until then, happy reading! Jeanne Hill, STA School Board President



"Tidbits from Principal Theresa Schleisman" – Wow...where did all the time go? It is hard to believe that we will soon be closing the books on yet another school year. Although there were no school closures, this year still presented some challenges regarding Covid which prevented us from sharing as many of our traditional celebrations and activities as we would have liked. We are very much looking forward to next school year when we can again return to more normalcy.

We will conclude the school year with our 2nd annual STA Kids' Ball. Besides having a fun time with music, dance, food and other fun activities, our students will learn more about how the annual "Friends of St. Thomas Ball" plays an integral role in financially supporting our school.

Our staff and students would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who serve in making this fundraiser such a success. The Ball Committee, as well as all the volunteers, certainly demonstrate our school theme for this year – **We are Called**. Thanks again for sharing your time, talents and treasures!

****It is with great gratitude that St. Thomas Aquinas School bids a fond farewell to Mrs. Colleen Sadler and Mrs. Patty Thompson who have served a combined 52 years of teaching STA students!!! These two teachers will be greatly missed and the STA family wishes them both much happiness and love in their future endeavors. Thank you for being a huge part of so many lives for so many years. Because they answered God's call to serve, St. Thomas has been a blessed place for a long time.**

****Mrs. Sadler with 27 years of service strives for the same goal every year - teaching students to be independent learners and caring individuals. She wants them to know and love Jesus as well as to respect and serve others.**

****Mrs. Thompson with 25 years of service is most proud of St. Thomas's reputation for academic excellence. Her favorite memories are watching former students grow into successful young men and women. Notes and cards from these students make her heart smile!!!**

****From the bottom of our hearts, the STA school staff and families sincerely thank you for all your time, talent and treasures. May God bless you always!!!**



Mission Statement:

St. Thomas Aquinas School serves Webster City and surrounding communities by offering a Preschool - 6th grade education. Our school incorporates faith and values through daily learning in a safe and nurturing environment. With support from parents and families, St. Thomas develops the spiritual, academic, physical and emotional growth of students who will be future leaders in our ever-changing world.

Vision Statement:

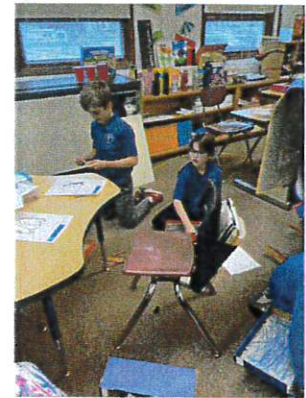
In a Christ-centered environment, St. Thomas empowers young people to build their personal foundation for lifelong learning, leadership and service to others.



“Comments from Teacher Colleen Sadler” – Kindergartners have a wonderful perspective on life. Every day with them is a unique experience unlocking doors with new learning! Even playing games can turn into education; it just depends on how the message is sent. Exploring the bodies of turtles provides students a chance to learn about science while combining that knowledge with their artistic talents.

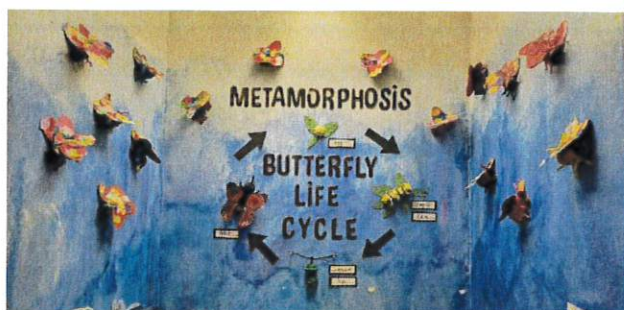


“Plans from Teacher Patty Thompson” – First grade students studied six habitats: forests, deserts, grasslands, oceans, lakes, and ice (tundra). Each student was assigned a habitat, given a shoebox, and is “filling” it with the appropriate plants and animals. They are enjoying their exploration!



“Pointers from Preschool Instructors Robin Ubben Harms and Olivia Tasler” – All kinds of insects have been investigated in the 4-year-old preschool class this spring. Students selected their own insect to create from egg cartons and each made butterflies from toilet paper rolls. They have been watching the life cycle of a butterfly in their own classroom while keeping a journal tracking the metamorphosis stages.





Fourth graders on the left proudly wearing their "We are Family" t-shirts in honor of the annual STA Ball scheduled for June 3rd in the STA Parish Center.



Above fifth graders working on their STA Ball project for the live auction using stained glass.

On the right fourth, fifth and sixth graders making resurrection rolls before Easter. Following the biblical words of John, the students use crescent roll dough because that is like the cloth they wrapped Jesus in to bury him. Next, they take a marshmallow peep explaining that it is a picture of Jesus who was without any sin. They roll the marshmallow in a small bowl of melted butter and a mix of cinnamon & sugar. This represents the spices they put on Jesus' body before burial. Next, they wrap the marshmallow in crescent roll dough and pinch all the sides together tightly. This represents how they wrapped Jesus' body in cloth. Put the rolls into the "tomb" oven. Once done, let them cool and then open them. The rolls will be empty just like the tomb was empty!



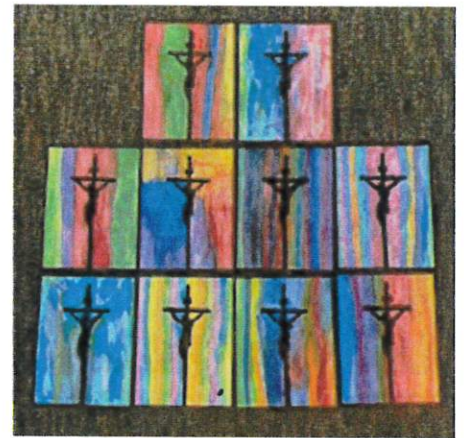
The big kids entertaining the little kids! Lots of fun and community at STA School!



"Moments from Teacher McKenzie Glenn" – Earth Day is celebrated on April 22nd every year. Here at St. Thomas Aquinas School the 4-6th grade Science classes participate in some school wide clean up. This year the students did some Earth Day art projects in the classroom and wrote a persuasive essay on why it's important to keep our Earth clean. Taking our Earth Day activities outside we spent several hours refurbishing the sidewalk area on the playground by taking out old mulch and adding new grass plants and rock. Students also cleaned up around the school and church campus by cleaning up garbage, raking leaves, and picking up large branches that have fallen with the crazy winds we have been having this spring. I am so proud of our students for their hard work and dedication to keeping our school and church grounds looking good! Way to go students!

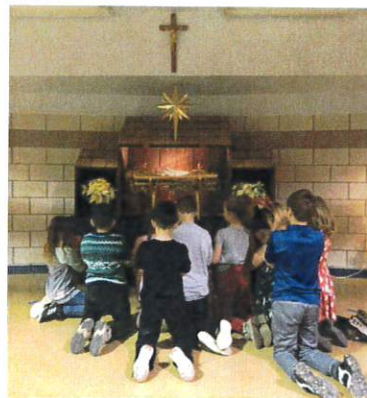


"Jewels from Teacher Janet Mitchell" – Second graders have so much energy and enthusiasm. They have grown and learned much this year. On the right are their beautiful artworks depicting the Easter celebration where Jesus died on the cross. Below are their "compliment" collections. Each student was to write something positive about each other. They then shared three of them with the class and hung them in the hall titled: "I didn't realize that my classmates thought this of me!" Also below are second graders receiving their First Communion.





On the left second graders honoring STA School Secretary Sharon Smith on Administrative Assistant Day.



On the left third graders are practicing their prayers and their rosaries at the creche of Baby Jesus.

"Current Events from Teacher Kari Ricke" – Teaching about God while teaching academics for life, is an amazing combination. Each day during opening prayer I ask God to guide me in my teaching and the students in their learning. I also teach my students to "Do all things for the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31

Third grade is full of learning fun things. By fourth grade, third graders should know their multiplication and division facts through 12. Students are able to build ice cream sundaes each year to show this accomplishment for multiplication. This year we added a gumball machine to fill for their division facts. It's been especially fun because the students came up with the gumball machine themselves!

Each year we learn about Jesus' life through the Mysteries of the Rosary. Below our third graders are each given one of the mysteries (Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, or Glorious). They create posters to share these mysteries utilizing their creative artistic abilities.



Above right, 4 year-old preschoolers say goodbye to their butterflies by setting them free! STA School Staff will be saying goodbye to their terrific sixth graders on May 27 – wishing them the best success in Middle School next year. Graduating from St. Thomas Aquinas: Madison Culver, Chance Grimm, Grayson Henderson, Fina Johnson, Elyse Mutungi, Harrison Scheurmann, and Isacc Stines. Congratulations!