



**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS SCHOOL**

**624 DUBUQUE STREET**

**WEBSTER CITY, IA 50595**

**Volume 8 January 2023**

**Happy January – a perfect time to look to the future and reflect on the past! January also marks Catholic Schools Week! Happy Reading! Jeanne Hill, STA School Board President**



**“Tidbits from Principal Theresa Schleisman”** – Please take time to sign up for our volunteer opportunities throughout the school year on the internet (**Sign Up Genius**).

January 3 – Classes resume

January 4 – 8:30 Student Mass served by 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

January 9 – STA Ball Committee Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center

January 11 – 8:30 Student Mass served by 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

January 17 – School Board Meeting at 5:00 p.m. in the Parish Center

January 18 – No School for Students / Staff Development

January 25 – 8:30 Student Mass served by 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

January 29 through February 4 – Catholic Schools Week

January 31 – Annual Spelling Bee sponsored by STA Knights of Columbus

February 1 – 8:30 Student Mass served by 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

February 4 – Annual Chili/Soup Supper after 6 p.m. Weekend Mass – more details to come



***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.*





**“Jamming with Teacher Jim Hindt”** – The 4-6 grade students at St. Thomas are currently starting a pen pal correspondence with different residents in the Webster City/ Duncombe/ Fort Dodge area. The 4th graders have been newly matched up with members of the parish, while the 6th graders are continuing their written interaction with their parish pen pals from last year. The 5th grade has taken a bit of a different path, as they are involved in a new enterprise this year called the Central Iowa RSVP North Intergenerational Pen Pal Project. This new pen pal project covers all of Hamilton County and any/all school districts that wish to participate. After speaking with the project’s coordinator, it was determined to have St. Thomas’ 5th graders become the first group to participate in the county-wide writing experience. The project also includes a Pen Pal Party at the end of the school year where each participant will have the opportunity to meet face to face with the individual they have been writing to! We started off having each 4-6 student write a Thanksgiving card to their pen pal as a way to introduce themselves and spread a little early holiday cheer.



**Loving to learn  
and learning to  
love all happening  
at STA School!**



## 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Graders helping clean the church with Kathy Josten and Jeanne Hill



### *Nominations for the "Friend of St. Thomas" award:*

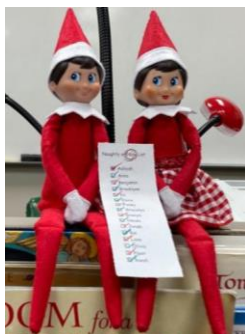
- \* We would like to recognize members of our St. Thomas family and community who remain strong and steadfast examples of high character and those who have wholeheartedly contributed to the success of our school.
- \* Nominations are being accepted for our next "Friend of St. Thomas" award. Nomination forms are available in the school and church office as well as on the school website. Nominations are due by March 20, 2023.
- \*The Friend of St. Thomas Award will be given out annually at the Ball and will be selected by a committee from nominations received.



**"Pointers from Preschool Instructors Robin Ubben Harms, Julie Irvin, and Gabby Gourley"** – The 3 year-old and 4 year-old preschoolers had a very busy December. First, St. Nicholas came to visit. We had all been very good and got a treat in our shoe. Next, we practiced for our Christmas concerts with Mrs. Hindt. and the 3 year-olds held a performance for families. Parents got to be a part of the fun too. The 4 year-old concert had to be cancelled due to weather but is planned for some time this month. Lastly, because of all of our great choices, we got to celebrate together before Christmas break by wearing pajamas, bringing our favorite blanket and stuffed animal, and watching a Christmas show together. Both classes are doing so well taking turns, following directions, and being kind to their friends.







**More  
December  
Fun & Photos**



**Save the Date for the St. Thomas Aquinas School Ball – Saturday, April 29, 2023.** We invite all parents to help with this annual fundraiser that supports the school. Planning is just underway. Join us anytime. Come and find out how you can volunteer in some way to make this year be a success! No theme or logo has been selected yet, but it is being narrowed down. Call Heidi Tesdahl at 515-832-1190 or use the **Sign Up Genius** to become involved! Here is the link: <https://tinyurl.com/ym45v3m6>





# a dozen reasons to choose Catholic Schools

We cultivate a faculty and staff of people who are dedicated, caring and effective.

We provide a safe and welcoming environment for all.

We offer an education that combines Catholic faith and teachings with academic excellence.

We partner with parents in the faith formation of their children.

We have a 99 percent high school graduation rate. 85 percent of our graduates go to college.

10

12

1

2

We set high standards for student achievement and help them succeed.

3

We provide a balanced academic curriculum that integrates faith, culture and life.

4

We use technology effectively to enhance education.

5

We instill in students the value of service to others.

6

We teach children respect of self and others.

7

We emphasize moral development and self-discipline.

8

We prepare students to be productive citizens and future leaders.

9



Catholic Schools  
Faith. Excellence. Service.

***Parents Don't Forget – Encourage Read / Read / Read!!  
Your Students Will Benefit!!***

THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

[NCEA.org/csw](http://NCEA.org/csw)