



**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS SCHOOL**

**624 DUBUQUE STREET**

**WEBSTER CITY, IA 50595**

**Volume 9 February 2023**

**Happy February & Happy Valentine's Day – an entire month dedicated to LOVE! 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 29 to February 4 – National Catholic Schools Week (complete schedule to follow)

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

February 1 – 2 hr. Early Dismissal for Staff Development

February 4 – Annual Chili/Soup Supper after **4:00 p.m.** Weekend Mass

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

February 14 – 4-year-old Preschool Valentine Concert at 11:00 in the STA gymnasium

February 15 – No School for Students / Staff Development

February 21 – School Board Meeting at 5:00 p.m. in the Parish Center

February 22 – Ash Wednesday – 8:30 Student Mass served by STA Teaching Staff

March 1 – 8:30 Student Mass served by 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**We love because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19**



**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:**

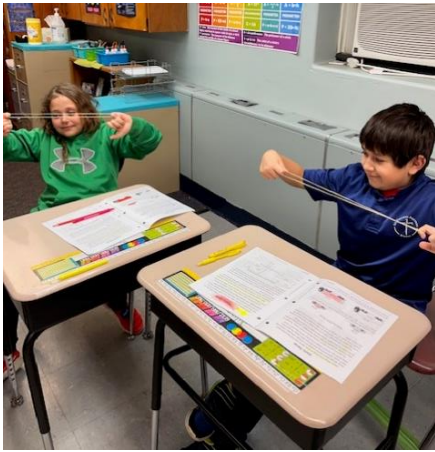
*In a Christ-centered environment, St. Thomas empowers young people to build their personal foundation for lifelong learning, leadership and service to others.*



**“Moments from Teacher McKenzie Glenn”** – To start things off after Christmas break, 4th grade started learning about different types of energy in science class. We talked about two main types of energy – potential energy and kinetic energy. While learning about potential energy, we learned there are many different kinds. Shown in the pictures is elastic potential energy, the ability of an object to be stretched and return to its original shape.

5th grade is learning many things in math. Last week, we worked on finding the radius and diameter of circles. While learning how to find those measurements, students were given a circular snack of a delicious cookie to find both the radius and diameter of! Then, for a challenge, with teacher help, we used Pi (3.14) to find the circumference of our cookies. To find the circumference we learned that we had to take 3.15 and multiply it by the radius squared!

6th grade is learning the engineering design process in science. To begin this unit, students were given a set of supplies which included 20 pieces of paper, a roll of tape, and a scissors. They had to follow criteria given to them to come up with a design that would hold at least one math text book. The group with the most simple design was able to hold a total of 32 math books!



**WHAT MAKES A BOOK A CALDECOTT WINNER?**





**"Just a note from Teacher Joylyn Cobb"** The 4th, 5th and 6th graders have just finished a unit in reading and will take a few weeks to read novels now. The fourth grade will be reading Dear Mr. Henshaw by well-known author Beverly Cleary. The fifth grade will be reading the book Wonder by R.J. Palacio and the sixth grade will read The Sign of the Beaver by Elizabeth George Speare. We will be working on many comprehension strategies, learn new vocabulary and do some activities to go with these books.

Throughout the months of December and January, St. Thomas students have been reading four picture books each week that were published in 2022 and are eligible for the 2023 Caldecott Award. *The Caldecott Award* is given each year to the illustrator who has done the best job of illustrating a picture book. After reading each book students vote on four categories: **1.** Is the technique (pencil drawings, paints, water colors, cut-outs, etc.) well done? **2.** Is the technique a good match for the mood and themes of the story? **3.** Are the illustrations critical to the understanding of the story? **4.** Did the illustrations make them want to pick the book up and read it?

We have been tabulating student votes and will announce the overall school winner, the winner in each grade and the teachers' winner at the end of January. Then we will watch the live announcement together and see how we voted compared to the real judges! The books will then be put in our new library with medals put on them showing our winners. We would like to thank everyone who made contributions to this fun learning event. Your donations were amazing and so beneficial to our St. Thomas students!



**READ / READ / READ**  
**Your Students Will Benefit!!**

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



**5<sup>th</sup> Graders Build a Snow Fort**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Graders Fly a Parachute**

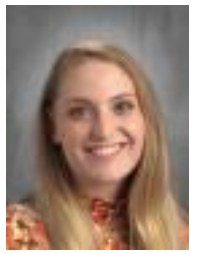
**Nominations for the "Friend of St. Thomas" award:**

- \* 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 and Gabby Gourley" – the 3-year-old preschoolers had a "fort party" to celebrate making good/great choices in January. We did our lesson, sang a song and read books (by flashlight)! We ate smore snacks too. Mrs. Hindt and the "big kids" came to visit.**



**Kindergarteners write music with popsicle sticks**



**Santa hangs out at Kendall Young Library**

**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 underway. Join us anytime. Come and find out how you can volunteer in some way to make this year be a success! Call Heidi Tesdahl at 515-832-1190 or use the **Sign Up Genius** to become involved! Here is the link: <https://tinyurl.com/ym45v3m6>**



## What is National Catholic Schools Week?

Since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. It starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week, which in 2023 is January 29 – February 4. The theme for National Catholic Schools Week 2023 is "Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service." Schools typically observe the annual celebration week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation. Below is the 2023 schedule for STA School:

### **Monday, January 30:**

Crazy Sock Day  
Deliver Cookies to Local Businesses  
Begin the Food Donation Drive  
KQWC Radio Interview w/ Natalie Stark-Fouarge & Pat Powers

### **Tuesday, January 31:**

Wear bright colored clothes to support our annual school theme "Be the Light"  
Preschool thru 6th Grade – Flashlight Reading (Older students reading a book with younger students using a flashlight)  
2nd Annual Spelling Bee (Grades 4-6) at 2:00 in the STA Gym

### **Wednesday, February 1:**

Mass at 8:30 (Wear Mass Shirts) – Early Dismissal Day  
Muffins/Donuts after Mass with a special person: parent, grandparent, aunt/uncle, neighbor, etc.  
Caldecott Results in the STA Gym 12:20 – 1:00

### **Thursday, February 2:**

Wear Comfy Clothes  
PS – Grade 2 Bowling (AM)  
Grades 3 – 6 Roller Skating (AM)  
12:15 All School Rosary

### **Friday, February 3:**

Wear Favorite Team Apparel  
PS – Grade 6 Movie Theater after Lunch

### **Saturday, February 4:**

Mass at 4:00 followed by Chili/Soup Supper in the STA Gym

