



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS SCHOOL

624 DUBUQUE STREET

WEBSTER CITY, IA 50595

Volume 17 November 2023

November seems to be the month we start thinking of ways to help others. The weather turns colder; we spend more time indoors and reflecting on our lives. What a great kickoff to our Advent Season! So much to be thankful for so we think about sharing and caring! Happy Reading! Jeanne Hill, STA School Board President



"Tidbits" from Principal Theresa Schleisman: Read on for important information about our Sign Up Genius. **Link to Sign Up Genius:** <https://tinyurl.com/ytvscjkb>

Calendar Updates:

November 1 – All Saints Mass at 8:30 served by STA Teachers

November 1 – 2nd Grade Reconciliation Class at 5:15 PM

November 8 – Student Mass at 8:30 served by 3rd Grade

November 8 – 2nd Grade Reconciliation Class at 5:15 PM

November 8 – School Picture Retakes

November 13 – No School (Professional Development)

November 15 – Student Mass at 8:30 served by 6th Grade

November 15 – 2nd Grade Reconciliation Class at 5:15 PM

November 20 – School Board Meeting at 5:00 in the Parish Center

November 22 – Student Mass at 8:30 served by 5th Grade with Prayer Partners / Reception After

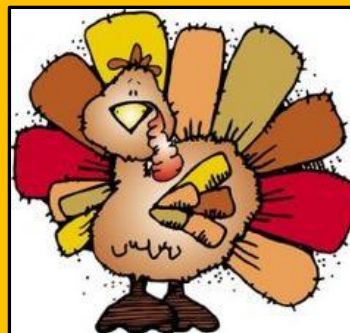
November 22 – 2 hour early dismissal for Thanksgiving

November 23 and 24 – No School / Thanksgiving Break

November 29 – Student Mass at 8:30 served by 4th Grade

November 29 – 2nd Grade Reconciliation Class at 5:15 PM

December 3 – STA Annual Christmas Concert at 6:30 PM in the STA Gym



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.

Sign Up Genius – Please take time to get involved! Erin Hoversten-Majewski and Jessica Schultz spearhead this volunteer effort at STA. According to Erin, “One of our favorite parts about STA is our extended family. We enjoy spending time with our school family and helping do “behind the scenes” projects to help our school operate efficiently. As we encourage our children to be involved and try new things, we also encourage our parents to be involved in our school community. There are many ways to participate by giving your time, talents and treasures to make the programs of STA successful. We are using Sign Up Genius again this year to share all the volunteer opportunities. Throughout the year, we will update any information regarding these opportunities in addition to any needs for the classrooms or more ways that we as parents can get involved and help out. We will also update if dates or details of specific events are changed.” Please check out the link!

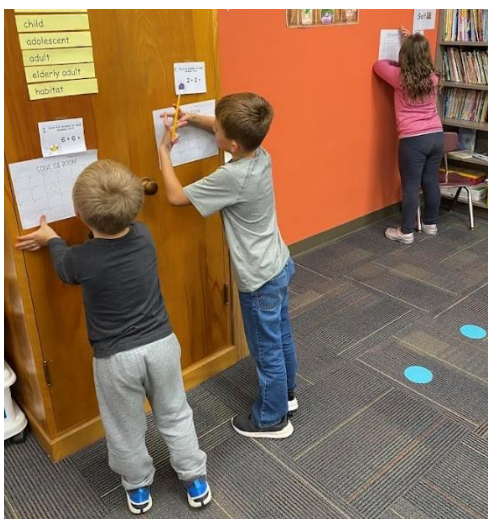
First meeting to begin planning the annual STA Ball is on Monday, November 13th at 6 PM!

**Find time to
READ / READ /
READ every
single day!**



“Good news” from Teacher Melissa Gillette: The string students are very excited to finally be playing on real instruments. All of them have earned enough ribbons to use their instruments at home and a few are even able to use their bows at home. Now they will begin learning some simple tunes for their first performance. Mrs. Gillette is very proud of their progress!

“Awesome events” from Teacher Adalie Hayes: We enjoyed going on the field trip to the Center Grove Orchard with the whole school. One of our classes' favorite parts on the trip was playing in the large corn pit. Also, our year is going great in first grade! In math, we have been learning about doubles facts and to go along with that we have developed our own doubles rap and have solved our classroom. To solve our classroom, students had to answer multiple doubles facts that were scattered around the room and when they got them all correct they solved the classroom.



**“Comments”
from Teacher
Katie Campbell**
- we all loved
the apple
orchard – what
a great day!



"Jamming" from Teacher Jan Reisetter: I am currently the Religion Teacher for 2nd, 4th, 5th & 6th grade students. The 5th and 6th graders chose saints they wanted to know more about. They will be sharing what they learned on All Saints Day, November 1st at a "wax museum" presentation. They seemed to enjoy learning about some of the people who strived to be more like Jesus. ALSO, as Thanksgiving gets closer, we will be holding our Food Drive beginning November 12. Please send any items to school with your students before the 20th of November. Some of our friends and neighbors could use some extra help this time of year. Prayers are also always welcome for the folks in need. The 6th graders will help me deliver our donations. Below is a list of things that seem to be in demand.

Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc.

Food Pantry Items Needed:

Tuna Helper
Tuna
Hamburger Helper
Oatmeal
Mac & Cheese
Canned Fruit
Canned Chicken

Canned Fruit
Canned Vegetables
Canned Turkey
Canned Ham
Canned Salmon
Beans
Instant Potatoes

Spaghetti
Spaghetti Sauce
Spaghetti O's
Ravioli
Ramen Noodles
Soups
Creamed Soups

Rice
Stuffing Mix
Cereal
Pancake Mix
Syrup
Fruit Snacks
Pasta

Misc. Food Items:

Peanut Butter
Jello
Crackers
Jell-O

Mayonnaise
Dry Milk
Vegetable Oil
Pudding

Ketchup
Mustard
Salt & Pepper
Cake Mix & Frosting

Sugar
Flour
Brown Sugar
Juice

Freezer Items:

Frozen Pizza
Hot Dogs
Hamburger
Pork
Chicken
Deli Meats
Frozen Dinners
Cheese

Non-Food Items:

Laundry Detergent
Dish Soap
Deodorant
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Toilet Paper
Shampoo & Conditioner
Kleenex & Paper Towels

Baby Items:

Diapers (Any Size)
Baby Wipes
Baby Lotion
Baby Powder
Baby Shampoo
Formula
Baby Food
Baby Blankets

ALSO Accepting Monetary Donations

Upper Des Moines Opportunity
1610 Collins Street, Suite 4, Webster City, IA 50595

STA Student Spotlight

Hudson Gapp

Hudson Gapp (1st Grade) spends his free time baking and helping out in the kitchen! He is always the first to ask to make cookies and his favorite is helping cut watermelon!



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

"Just a Note" from Teacher Joylyn Cobb: The fifth graders just finished up an informational paper and speech. They chose an ocean animal, researched it and then wrote a paper about it as if they were the ocean animal. After turning in the paper they made costumes and then gave a speech about their animal. Here is a picture of them swimming in the ocean when they were finished with their speeches!

The sixth graders just finished writing a persuasive paragraph in which they had to design a donut and then try to convince a donut shop owner to pick their donut as their donut of the month. When they finished this project they were each given a donut to eat themselves!



"Current Events" from Teacher Kari Ricke: Multiplication can be an "array" of fun! The third graders have begun their multiplication adventures for the year learning about how multiplication works. We know that multiplication is repeated addition. We can figure out problems by making equal groups. Arrays were a hit, especially when they made their very own corn array! Our goals for the year include mastering our multiplication and division facts through 12!



Summary of 5th Graders' School of the Wild written by Teacher Kaeleen Stoneburner:

Monday - Aquatic Station. We met at the beach and went fishing with Mr. Cody Crouch. We took a hike around the lake with Mr. Seiser. We learned about the lake's history and waded into the water with nets searching for aquatic life with Mr. John Laird.

Tuesday - Historical Station. We learned about Native Americans and shelter building from Mrs. Blaisdell. We explored the artifacts in the conservation building. We built shelters out of trees, sticks and logs. We practiced throwing atlatls (spears). We journaled about our day.

Wednesday - Woodlands Station. We met in the barn and dissected owl pellets. We found bones of rodents and birds while dissecting. We graphed our findings with Mrs. Ginther. We hiked to the waterfall. The water level was low. We identified types of trees based on their leaves, branches, bark, and seeds. We journaled about what we learned.

Thursday - Prairie Station. Ms. Sami and Mrs. Lyons led us on a prairie walk. We were very quiet so we could search for wildlife. We saw spiders, crickets, ants, grasshoppers, and birds. The days before some students saw deer and rabbits too. We made mud balls with milkweed seeds inside to plant in the prairie for the butterflies and bees. We went on a scavenger hunt around the prairie grasses. We drew or wrote about what we learned.



"MORE Tidbits" from Principal Theresa Schleisman: I would like to share some information regarding our Archdiocese's set of expectations that are to be implemented in our school between now and the 2025/2026 school year. These expectations will be reviewed and shared with all school stakeholders (staff, families, students, parish, school board and community) with the hope that all will be more informed and more involved in the most important aspects of our school system.

The first expectation is Catholicity: The practice of living, learning and evangelizing the Catholic faith in a Catholic school. Catholic schools exist to provide excellent education in a faith-filled environment, centered in the person of Jesus Christ. The Catholicity of each school will support living, learning and evangelizing the Catholic faith at a high level with the critical components listed below in place by the 2025/2026 school year:

- *The school system has a mission and vision that includes a focus on faith
- *The school is an integral part of the parish
- *The school system strives to build community and strengthens relationships
- *The school is immediately recognizable as Catholic upon entering the building/campus
- *Prayer is an integral part of the school day
- *Liturgy and the sacraments are celebrated regularly
- *Service is an integral part of the school experience
- *High quality instruction in the faith is present
- *Vocation awareness is embedded in instruction and school experiences

While there are more specific examples and details regarding these expectations, I am confident that our school currently implements these expectations and supports maintaining and improving upon these essential components of our Catholic identity. Stay tuned for Part #2 Operational Vitality next month in the newsletter.