



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS SCHOOL

624 DUBUQUE STREET

WEBSTER CITY, IA 50595

Volume 16 October 2023

Autumn greetings! By tradition, the Catholic Church dedicates each month of the year to certain devotion. The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, one of the best known of all Catholic devotions. October includes the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7). Happy Reading! Jeanne Hill, STA School Board President



"Tidbits" from Principal Theresa Schleisman: Student Spotlight -New to the monthly newsletter, we will be recognizing some of our students and their God-given talents outside of school.

Calendar Updates:

October 4 – Student Mass at 8:30 served by 5th & 6th Grade

October 4 – Blessing of the Pets on the STA Playground at 2:30

October 11 – Student Mass at 8:30 served by 4th Grade

October 13 – Center Grove Orchard School Field Trip

October 16 – No School (Professional Development)

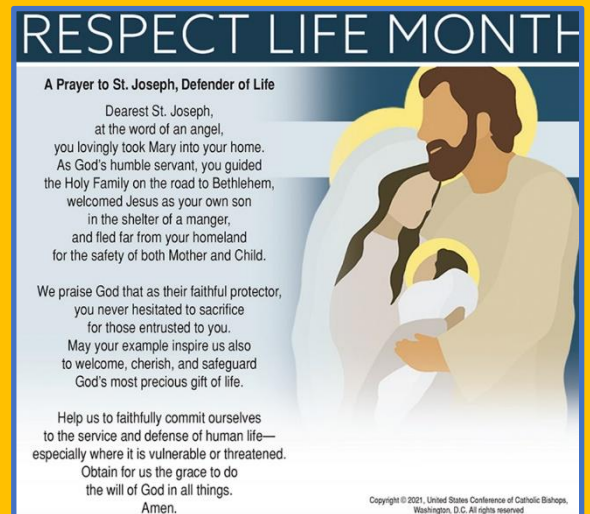
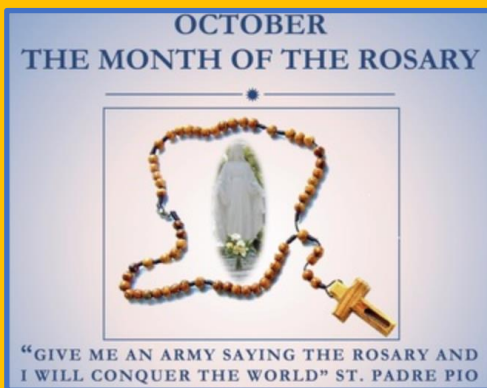
October 16 – School Board Meeting at 5:00 in the Parish Center

October 18 – No Mass / Archbishop Zinkula Ordination

October 24 and 26 – 2 hour early dismissal / Parent-teacher Conferences each day from 2:00-6:00

October 25 – Student Mass at 8:30 served by 3rd Grade

October 27 – No School



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.

"Pointers" from Preschool Teachers Lana Crawford and Julie Irvin: 3 year-old preschool is ready to learn this year and grow with Ms. Lana and Ms. Kim. We are adapting well with our preschool routine and loving every minute of our day! Our 4 year-olds are off to a great start with Ms. Julie and Ms. Lana! We are learning all about our classroom, the rules and expectations (inside and outside), and our new friends. We celebrated Homecoming week, had our first fire drill and our first tornado drill. We even had our first trip to the library!! It's great to be a preschooler!!



"Cutting Edge Info" from Teacher Kaeleen Stoneburner: All STA students are off to a healthy and academic start for the new school year. Lots of gaga ball, flag tag, jumping jacks, hula hooping, poster making, computer gaming, math reviewing and celebrating the great weather outside!



More fun photos from September!

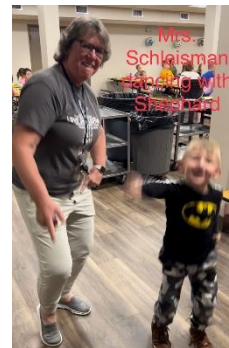


Find time to READ / READ / READ every single day!



“MORE Tidbits” from Principal Theresa Schleisman: The season of Fall can signify things dying. Without dying, the world would never know about life after death; as witnessed in the resurrection of Christ!! So let's celebrate FALL with a school field trip to the Center Grove Orchard scheduled for October 13th. Permission slips will be sent home and the school will cover the costs. This 4PS -6th trip is a special event to celebrate STA being back together this year and having a great start to the school year!!! Our kids are thriving both academically as well as spiritually.

“Comments” from Teacher Katie Campbell: Kindergartners were able to release their monarch butterflies with the first graders! They watched them grow from a caterpillar, to a chrysalis, and then into a butterfly! So much fun!



Next month – “Catholicity”. The Catholic School, as a faith community, is committed to excellence in “Catholicity” and in all areas that promote the development of the whole child to his or her full potential.



Hello from Korinne Nelson. I am so excited to be helping in Kindergarten this year. I was a Title 1 teacher at Pleasant View for eight years, so I have some experience in Kindergarten. I have been teaching for 38 years and I am thrilled to be back at St. Thomas. I am a mother of two daughters, Kelsey and Grace, and a grandmother to five children with another on the way this spring! I love being a grandma! I also enjoy spending time with my family, reading and walking with friends.



Randy Andrews is a small business owner and nationally touring entertainer. He is a former college admissions counselor and school activities director. Randy has been working at STA School over the past 3 years as a substitute teacher and has recently started working as a recess monitor. This summer started off with Randy performing for high school graduation celebrations in Michigan, Iowa, Minnesota, and Illinois. Randy and his family also took day trips to Des Moines, Dubuque, and Cedar Rapids this summer enjoying quality family time together.

“Just a Note” from Teacher Joylyn Cobb: 19 students brought back their summer reading challenge pizzas and enjoyed a pizza party last month during lunch. Also, 80% of our students were proficient in reading last spring which was an increase of 14% from the fall. As a celebration, the students enjoyed having Mr. Andrews as a guest DJ during lunch and recess, and they also watched a video about starting the school year off on the right path made by our sixth graders.



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



“Jewels” from Teacher Janet Mitchell: September has provided some new opportunities for the 2nd graders. They practiced their math skills with partners. They were able to show their team spirit for the Lynx and they enjoyed celebrating Father Anane's 25-year jubilee anniversary.



“Moments” from Teacher McKenzi Glenn: Sixth grade and Kindergarten have been pairing up this year for Mass and special activities. Every Wednesday for Mass, they partner up and sit together. The sixth graders go visit the Kindergarten room often to read stories with their partners and soon they will do some art projects together!

****Sixth grade science** has been learning about chemical and physical reactions and what the difference between them is. We have spent time doing experiments demonstrating both types of reactions and classifying which reaction we saw occur.

****Fifth grade science** has blasted off into space to start out school year! In class, the students constructed their own telescopes! We are currently focusing on the life cycle of stars and being able to classify them.

****Fourth grade science** is so fun! This group of students is so engaged in their learning! We have been spending the first few weeks of school learning about plants and animal cells. The students are now able to classify the structures of both plant and animal cells and tell what the function of each structure! Our friends Liam and Lane like to stop by at the end of the school day to check out our class pets, the hermit crabs!





STA Student Spotlight

Lizzie Westrum
Finley Williams
Liana Veldhuizen

Lizzie Westrum (6th grade) will be reprising her role as a Mouse and **Finley Williams (3rd grade)** will be debuting as an Angel in CY Stephens annual production of the Nutcracker Ballet. The Nutcracker Ballet tells the story of Marie and her heroic Nutcracker through their magical journey through the land of sweets after a daring battle with the mouse king. Lizzie and Finley have been rehearsing every weekend with other dancers from all over central Iowa to prepare for performances on December 9 and 10.

Lizzie says "I'm looking forward to making new friends and dancing with friends I made last year." Finley says "I am really happy about being selected to be an Angel and am excited to make new friends and have a great experience."



Liana Veldhuizen (4th grade) competed in Double Mini, Trampoline, and Tumbling at the USTA Nationals in Springfield, Illinois in June with her team, X-Treme Tumbling & Trampoline. She ended the week as National Champion in Beginner Tumbling for 9-year-olds and brought home a first place trophy. She and her team also competed in Single Mini, Double Mini, Trampoline, and Tumbling at the AAU Junior Olympics, which was held in Des Moines this summer in July. Liana scored three perfect 10 scores between both judges, had the highest beginner tumbling score out of every age group (which earned her the title of an All-American in Tumbling), was recognized during the Parade of Champions as the only athlete to score a perfect 10 in tumbling, and came home as the AAU Junior Olympics Beginner Tumbling Champion for 9–11-year-olds.

