



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS SCHOOL

624 DUBUQUE STREET

WEBSTER CITY, IA 50595

Volume 10 March 2023

Happy March / Happy upcoming St. Patrick's Day / Happy upcoming start to Spring / Ongoing Lenten Season – lots of activity this month! 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**).

March 1 – 8:30 Student Mass served by 5th Grade

March 2 – Stations of the Cross at **8:30** led by students

March 3 – Adoration of the Cross from 9-4:30 / Stations of the Cross at 5:00 / Fish Fry 5:15-6:30

March 7 – 2 hr. early dismissal – Parent-Teacher Conferences

March 8 – 8:30 Student Mass served by 4th Grade

March 9 – Stations of the Cross at **8:50** led by students / 2 hr. early dismissal – PT Conferences

March 10 – **No School** / Stations of the Cross at 5:00 / Fish Fry 5:15-6:30

March 11 through March 19 – **No School** / Spring Break!!

March 17 – Stations of the Cross at 5:00 / Fish Fry 5:15-6:30

March 21 – School Board Meeting at 5:00 in the Parish Center/ Children's Rosary at 6:00

March 22 – 8:30 Student Mass served by 3rd Grade

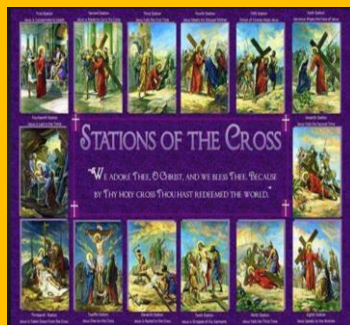
March 23 – Stations of the Cross at **8:30** led by students

March 24 – Stations of the Cross at 5:00 / Fish Fry 5:15-6:30

March 29 – 8:30 Student Mass served by 2nd Grade

March 30 – Stations of the Cross at **8:30** led by students

March 31 – Station of the Cross at 5:00 / Fish Fry 5:15–6:30



Mission Statement:

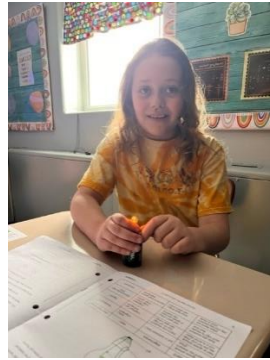
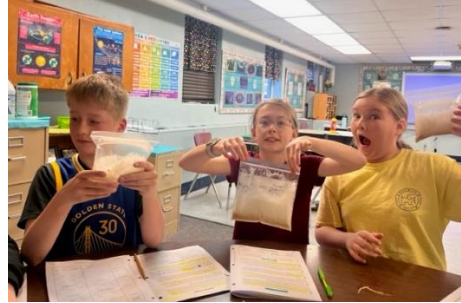
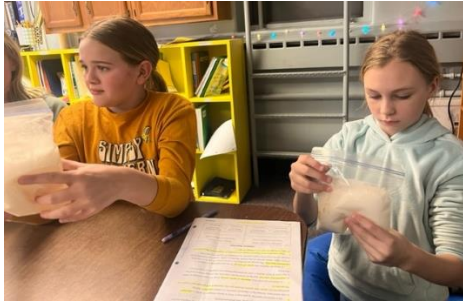
St. Thomas Aquinas School serves Webster City and surrounding communities by offering a Preschool - 6th grade education. Our school incorporates faith and values through daily learning in a safe and nurturing environment. With support from parents and families, St. Thomas develops the spiritual, academic,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

Vision Statement:

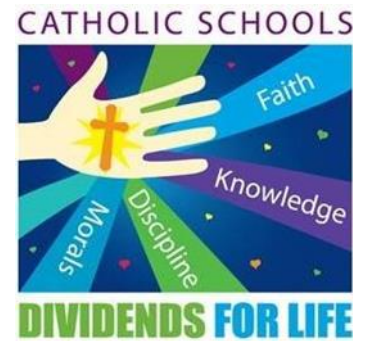
In a Christ-centered environment, St. Thomas empowers young people to build their personal foundation for lifelong learning, leadership and service to others.



"Moments from Teacher McKenzi Glenn" – 5th grade is learning about chemical reactions. Specifically in the pictures they were comparing and contrasting endothermic and exothermic reactions. In 4th grade science, they are beginning to learn about different ways energy/power is produced. Pictured, students are beginning to learn about/work with building electrical circuits.



Come join STA students and staff for weekly Stations of the Cross. The greatest act of love from Jesus started with His walk.

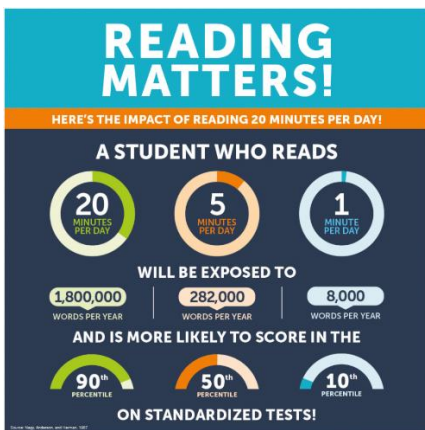


"Just a note from Teacher Joylyn Cobb" – I oversee the FAST assessment testing and the results review for STA students. The goal for each child is to achieve the designated benchmark and as a school, the goal is to achieve 80% proficiency. Our goal is to be transparent about our school and what we are doing to try to improve our scores. We have set high goals and in order to reach these goals we need to be transparent and also get everyone on board to help. That includes home support. Here are three strategies currently in place:

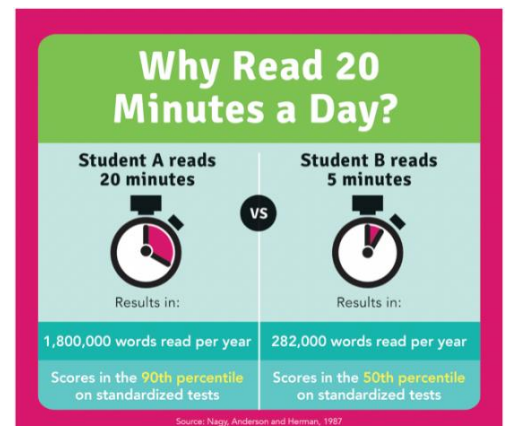
- *Providing small group instruction during MTSS time to work on areas where our data tells us the students are below benchmark.
- *Purchased and putting into use Heggerty and 95% phonemic awareness and phonics programs to use with students who haven't met benchmark or are hovering just above benchmark.
- *Daily at home monitored reading expectations: K-10 minutes, 1st- 10 minutes, 2nd- 15 minutes, 3rd- 15 minutes, 4th- 20 minutes, 5th- 20 minutes, 6th- 20 minutes.



**READ!
READ!
READ!**



	2022-2023			FAST Literacy			FAST Math		
	Fall	Winter	Spring	Fall	Winter	Spring	Fall	Winter	Spring
Kindergarten	80%	87%		100%	93%				
1st Grade	25%	38%		100%	100%				
2nd Grade	50%	69%		50%	56%				
3rd Grade	55%	82%		91%	91%				
4th Grade	83%	75%		83%	67%				
5th Grade	90%	100%		44%	50%				
6th Grade	71%	86%		86%	71%				
2022-2023 K-6	66%	77%		78%	75%				
2021-2022	78%	71%	66%	79%	80%	76%			
2020-2021	77%	78%	67%	73%	74%	74%			
2019-2020	86%	85%							
2018-2019	78%	78%	76%						



Your Students Will Benefit!!



"Kinder Updates from Teacher Katie Nyren" – Kindergartners work very hard every day on their core subjects; those we know are so important for development and learning. However, we start off every single day with a special prayer song where we ask Jesus to nourish our day of learning and adventure, and keep us safe and well. We pray to Mary displayed in our classroom or to the steeple of the church from our window view. Core learning is so important to our kids, but so is their spiritual well-being. I love getting to provide both with my students. After prayer, we pledge the flag and begin our core learning blocks. We are able to implement religion all throughout our day at St Thomas, and I know that helps my kindergarten class thrive.

Kindergartners are loving Math this time of year! They have mastered their standards so we get to implement some higher order thinking skills. This includes scales! This allows us to better analyze various attributes and teach the kids to do the same in the world around them. We used toys and our teddy bear counters to learn about balancing a scale and trying to hypothesize which items were similar in weight. The students loved this so much, they had trouble staying seated during our math meeting! If you don't already have a balance scale at home, I highly recommend it as a very engaging learning tool for kids. The students have also spent some time learning shapes. Trapezoid, parallelogram, rhombus, can be big math words to kindergartners. However, they're doing so great with our shapes portion of learning! It is another way to create more analytical skills, two trapezoids can make a hexagon, and so on. The kids love "playing" (aka learning) with our pattern blocks! They're learning to identify many shapes in the world around us and what they can make with those shapes. This helps nurture analytical thinking, which creates many more connected thoughts and questions from kids this age. The bonus is, it shows me what they understand and they have fun!



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



Singing for the Main Street Kiwanis Birthday!

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>



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.



"Chosen pointers from Teacher Chelsey Wagoner" – We celebrated our 100th day of school! We did many different things throughout our school day! We stacked 100 pennies, counted 100 blocks, did 100 exercises, read for 100 minutes, created crowns and wrote books on all things 100! These First Graders are 100 days brighter!



Catholic Schools Week

Food Pantry Drive Success!

