



**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS SCHOOL**

**624 DUBUQUE STREET**

**WEBSTER CITY, IA 50595**

**Volume 19 January 2024**

**2024 is here! Time to reflect on your many blessings from last year and commit to making this new year your best year ever! My wish is for God to bless you in every step of your life in 2024 and that your new year is full of joy, laughter and love! Happy Reading! Jeanne Hill, STA School Board President**



**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.*

**“Tidbits” from Principal Theresa Schleisman:** Please take time to check out our Sign Up Genius for volunteer opportunities. **Link to Sign Up Genius:** <https://tinyurl.com/ytvscjkb>

**Calendar Updates:**

January 3 – School Resumes / No Student Mass / All School Rosary at 2:30 PM

January 3 to February 2 – FAST Testing Window

January 5 – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church from 9 AM to 6 PM

January 8 – STA Ball Committee Meeting at 5:30 PM in the Parish Center

January 10 – Student Mass at 8:30 AM served by Grade 6<sup>th</sup> / End of 1<sup>st</sup> Semester

January 14 – Children’s Rosary at 9:30 AM in the Church

January 15 – No School / STA Professional Development / School Board Meeting at 5 PM in the Parish Center

January 16 – Children’s Rosary at 6:00 PM in the Church

January 17 – Student Mass at 8:30 AM served by 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

January 24 – Student Mass at 8:30 AM served by 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

January 28 to February 3 – Catholic Schools Week

January 28 – 1<sup>st</sup> Monthly Youth Mass at STA Church at 10 AM

January 30 – STA Spelling Bee for Grades 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup>

January 31 – Student Mass at 8:30 AM served by 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

February 1 – Math Night at 6:30 PM

February 3 – Chili/Soup Supper after 5 PM Mass in Parish Center

Happy New Year!  
May your troubles  
be less, and your  
blessings be more,  
and nothing but  
happiness come  
through your  
door!





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

## STA Student Spotlight

The "Entire" STA  
Student Body  
celebrating Christmas  
with song & music!



**"Moments" from Teacher McKenzi Glenn:** What a fun month December has been!

**\*\*On December 21st, 4th-6th grade had a "Grinch Day" in Mrs. Glenn's classroom!** During our math classes students had to solve math equations which then led them to find clues around the room and hallway to help them figure out who helped the Grinch steal Christmas!

**\*\*In Science we had a stem challenge!** Which group could build the sled that could help the Grinch steal the most presents! This was so fun!

**\*\*6th grade also created BEAUTIFUL nativity scenes for their December art project!** I am so proud of the wonderful work they did!



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



**“Chosen pointers” from Teacher Chelsey Wagoner:** The 4th, 5th and 6th graders went to the Carlson Family Tree Farm. We learned about the different types of Christmas trees, explored their land, went on a scavenger hunt, and learned about animals and saw their skins! It was a fun filled day. We even got to take back two Christmas trees!



**“Just a Note” from Teacher Joylyn Cobb:** On December 14 the 4 through 6 graders went on a field trip to Carlson Tree Farm near Hampton. It was a beautiful day and the students enjoyed cutting the trunks off two trees and bagging them to take home, going on a scavenger hunt, taking a hike down the creek bed and learning about some animal skins and live animals. A fun day was had by all. In the month of December the fifth and sixth graders enjoyed reading the book *The Best/Worst Christmas Pageant Ever* and the fourth graders designed holiday sweaters and then wrote an opinion paragraph encouraging a store to sell their sweater. We also enjoyed the many “dress up” days during the week before Christmas.





**“Pointers” from Preschool Teachers Ms. Julie and Ms. Lana:** 4 year-old preschool has had a busy month. We started with our Christmas concert and ended with a pajama party. It was a lot of fun seeing all the cute outfits and fun dress up day clothes. A huge thank you to everyone for your support and for sharing these amazing kids with us!



**“Current Events” from Teacher Kari Ricke:** Lots of blessings for the third graders this month! They watched the movie “A Dog Named Christmas”, baked birthday cupcakes with Mrs. Reisetter in honor of Jesus’ birthday and had fun dressing up. All in all, it was a wonderful send-off to the Christmas break.



**“Cutting Edge Info” from Teacher Kaeleen Stoneburner:** 1st grade stepping with the opposite foot and throwing underhand to a target, 6th grade playing capture the flag, 2nd grade hula hooping, and 5th grade playing capture the flag.



**1<sup>st</sup> Annual Christmas Reading and Hot Chocolate Night!**





## More fun photos from December



## STA Student Spotlight

### Bailey Schultz



**Bailey Schultz (5th grade)** will soon be celebrating her 11th birthday on January 4th. Bailey loves to dance!!! She loves to take dance lessons and help teach new little dancers at TDC in Webster City. She is also a member of their competition team and this picture is from a trip she took this past summer to dance at Disney World. (Bonus getting to meet Minnie Mouse.) Bailey also participates in basketball, track, softball, volleyball, God's Kids youth group, and 5th grade band. Bailey always has a smile on her face and is kind to all! She is truly excited to go to school every day and up for any adventure.

**“MORE Tidbits” from Principal Theresa Schleisman:** Once again 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. Read below about MTSS – something your students may talk about; but something you may not always be certain what it means.

### Archdiocese of Dubuque- Office of Catholic Schools Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) (Minimum expectations of local sites)

#### Definitions:

- Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS): A systemic, continuous improvement framework in which data-based problem solving and decision-making is practiced across all levels of a school/system for supporting students both academically and behaviorally.

#### Goals:

- Each school/system will have an active MTSS framework in place by the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year in order to excel in supporting staff and students.

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