

Aquinas High School

# Principal's Newsletter

## Principal's Message

### Scripture of the Month:

**"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.**

Matthew 7:24



### Inside this issue:

Senior Section	2
Sports News	2
Dean's Message	3
President's Message	3
Upcoming Events	4

I want to wish each and every one of you and your families a very merry Christmas and a grand new year. Remember to keep Christ in Christmas because Jesus is the reason for the season.

During Christmas break please encourage your child to rest, but also to keep in mind that exams and quarter projects will be arriving soon, and they should do some work on these things over the holidays.

I hope to see all of our students return to school well rested and healthy, ready to resume their academic endeavors.

Mr. Herdlein

## Campus Ministry

### Apologetics without Apology

Christ is among us!

As you may be aware, the last session of Congress reintroduced a sweeping piece of abortion legislation called, FOCA (Freedom of Choice Act). This act is poorly named since it could actually limit or eliminate Catholic hospitals' (among others) power to choose not to provide abortions. It would also legalize the grisly late term abortions that most states have banned and would provide for our tax dollars to pay for abortions. This is not the first time that FOCA has circulated in Congress. It has never passed and we hope that those who are pro-life in both parties in Congress will not allow it to pass this time either.

Last summer, President-elect Obama told Planned Parenthood that he would sign FOCA into law should it reach his desk. Let us pray that the "historic presidency" of Barack Obama, as Pope Benedict put it, will not be marred by such devastating legislation.

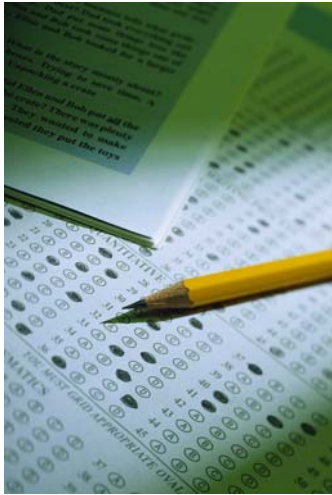
We can blend our hope and prayer with action in a couple of ways. The link below will connect you to the U.S. Catholic Bishops Website on FOCA so that you can learn more and help to educate others. Also, you can take the time to inform our representatives that we do not want our tax money used to fund abortions.

Despite the sound bytes that make pro-life concerns a partisan issue, all of us must defend those who are most vulnerable in our society. Certainly, the unborn need someone to speak for them.

The link below will provide more information.

<http://www.usccb.org/prolife/publicat/lifeissues/121208.shtml>

## Senior Section: Mrs. Burton's Office



Remember to sign up for and take the SAT or ACT before December

**FOR MORE INFORMATION LOG ON TO**  
[WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.COM](http://WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.COM)  
**FOR SAT INFORMATION OR**  
[WWW.ACTSTUDENT.ORG](http://WWW.ACTSTUDENT.ORG)  
**FOR ACT INFORMATION.**

**FINANCIAL AID:**  
[WWW.PIN.ED.GOV](http://WWW.PIN.ED.GOV)  
[WWW.FAFSA.ED.GOV](http://WWW.FAFSA.ED.GOV)  
[WWW.CALGRANTS.ORG](http://WWW.CALGRANTS.ORG)

From the Guidance Corner...

January is fast approaching and that means that it's time for the seniors and their parents/guardians to apply for Federal Student Aid. Start now by logging on to [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov) to sign up for your PIN (personal identification number.)

Once you have done this and you have received your W-2 forms from your employers, you may apply for financial aid through FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid.) Now you are ready to log on to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) to fill out the online form. It is a lengthy process, so please don't wait until the last minute.

The first FAFSA awards are announced March 2, 2009.

In addition to FAFSA, Cal Grants are available. **To be eligible for a Cal Grant you must submit two forms (the FAFSA and the GPA Verification form.)**

In January, each senior will be given a Cal Grant GPA Verification form to be signed by his/her parents and those forms are due back to me by Friday, February 12, 2010. Each senior that returns a signed form will be entered into the Cal Grant system by Aquinas High School.

It has also come to my attention that male students that are between the ages of 18-25 years old need to register with the Selective Service to qualify for FAFSA monies. It's the law. Pick up a form at your local post office.

Cal Grants are good at all UC's, CSU's, community colleges, and most private, career and technical schools in California. For more information about Cal Grants you may log on to [www.calgrants.org](http://www.calgrants.org) or call them at 1-888-CA-GRANT.

Juniors need to start planning to take the SAT. The remaining dates for the test this school year are:

Register by 12/15/09 for the 1/23/10 test.

Register by 2/4/10 for the 3/13/10 test.

Register by 3/25/10 for the 5/1/10 test.

Register by 4/29/10 for the 6/5/10 test.

A good average total score to shoot for is 1500. Colleges look at your cumulative GPA and your SAT scores to help make their admissions decisions.

As always, I am available by email at [mburton@aquinashs.net](mailto:mburton@aquinashs.net) or my phone number is (909)-886-4659, ext 294. Have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

## Sports Update:

December marks the beginning of the winter sports season. All of the Aquinas teams are busy with their preseason/nonleague schedule. The boys basketball team is coming off a year that saw them win back-to-back league championships, and they are primed and ready for a run at a three-peat.

They have competed in two tournaments so far and have showed very well. They took home a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in the Jurupa Valley Tourney, and went 2-2 in the Riverside Kiwanis Tourney last week.

They will be competing in the San Bernardino Kiwanis Tournament over Christmas Break. Keep up the good work Gentleman!

The Lady Falcon basketball team has also competed in two tournaments as well. They played in the Big Daddy Tourney where they went 1-3, and they just finished the Hesperia Christian Tourney going 3-1 and Tourney runner-up. Good job Ladies!

Both the boys and girls soccer teams have played many preseason games, and are preparing to compete in the Loma Linda

Tourney over Christmas break. Best of luck to both teams!

Finally, our boys wrestling team has competed in a couple of duals and one invitational. They had a big win versus St. Margaret 30-24, and getting ready to compete in the Oak Hills Invitational this weekend. Good luck Gentleman!

My coaches and I would like to wish all of you a happy, safe, and blessed Holiday Season.

God Bless,  
Coach Ybarra

## *From the Desk of the Vice Principal Mr. Mark Hunter*

The State of California provides by law for compulsory school attendance by all children between the ages of six and eighteen unless subject to a stated exemption. The responsibility for compliance with this law belongs to the parents, but the school is obliged to keep and maintain an accurate record of daily attendance for each student.

According to Diocesan and School policy, a written note, dated, with the excuse, and signed by the parent or guardian is required on the day of the student's return following an absence. A phone call is not enough!

Students who are absent 20 or more days per semester or 13 or more days per "trimester" without a doctor's excuse or other comparable professional excuse, may receive a failing grade in the affected classes, or be retained or be asked to withdraw from the school. The final decision is made by the local administration in all cases.

The excused reasons for absences and tardies at Aquinas High School are as such:

1. Personal illness (Doctor's note and verification required after three days or more)
  2. Quarantine under the direction of a health officer.
  3. Personal medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic services rendered appointment (Requires a doctor's note).
  4. For the purpose of attending the funeral services of a member of the immediate family (Limited to one day in the state and 3 days out of state)
  5. Personal court appearance (requires verification)
  6. Exclusion for medical reasons (not to exceed 5 school days)
  7. Observance of a religious holiday or ceremony. (Recommend 3 days and advance notice)
- Prior Principal's approval (at Principal's discretion).

There is very little debate open for these reasons. It is against the law

for my office to extend an excused absence to any excuse other than the reasons above.

### **Procedure For Returning To School After Absence:**

Aquinas is required to keep on file a note **signed by a parent/guardian for every student's absence. An appropriate note will include:**

1. the date(s) of absence
2. the student's name
3. a specific reason for absence
4. a legible parent/guardian signature

*When the student returns to campus he/she should bring a note from his/her parent. Any student who is absent for medical, dental or other professional services must present a note the following day before 7:40 a.m. to the Attendance Office directly from the respective provider's office. Failure to bring a written excuse upon returning to school, will result in a warning. Detentions will be given for subsequent delays.*

## **President's Message**

Greeting Students and Parents:

As we enter into the Christmas season let us remember that the most important gift we can give to each other is time with our families and our faith in Jesus. If there is a silver lining in these economic challenging times, it is that we are asked to focus on what is most important to us.

This past year has been a remarkable one where we as a community have reached out to each other in times of need. Helping the family of Carlis Teran during their time of need is just one of many selfless acts that brought together the entire Aquinas

community.

My prayers are with you and your families as we celebrate the birth of Jesus two thousand years ago and as we move into a new year, that the Lord will continue to bless you and your families.

In Christ,



Daryl Sequeira,  
President

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Lux et Veritas

**We're on the Web:  
[www.aquinashs.net](http://www.aquinashs.net)**

## Upcoming Events:

The school office will be closed all of Christmas Break

- |             |                                  |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| December 21 | Start of Christmas Break         |
| January 4   | School Resumes                   |
| January 8   | Minimum Day                      |
| January 9   | Campus clean up day              |
| January 13  | Senior Announcement Order due    |
| January 18  | No School—Martin Luther King Day |
| Jan 19      | Final exams begin                |
| January 23  | Scholarship Dinner @ 6 p.m.      |
| January 28  | St. Thomas Aquinas Liturgy       |
| January 30  | Freshmen Placement Exam          |

Please check the website for the latest information.

### ***Office Hours:***

*The Aquinas Main Office is open Monday through Friday from 7:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please try to make your appointments during the normal business hours.*

*Our website is continually updated. We ask that parents use this important means of communication.*

### **Non Discrimination Policy:**

Aquinas High School admits students of any sex, race, color, religion, creed, national and ethnic origin to all rights and privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to all students of the school. Aquinas High School does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, creed or national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs, and athletic or other administered programs.