

Aquinas High School

# Principal's Newsletter

## Aquinas Moving Forward 2010

### Scripture of the Month:

**“ let it be done to me according to your word.”**

**LUKE: 1:38**



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These past few weeks have been a challenging time for the community of Aquinas. While we can always dwell on the past, we are now looking forward to the future. It is always amazing to me how this community continues to come together to support one another.

One of the results of our meeting on April 22 was the formation of a Task Force to create the strategic plan not just for next year but for the next 50 years. The twelve member task force will be composed of parents, alumni and members of the community whose expertise contribute to our future.

The goal of our Moving Forward 2010 Capital Campaign is to raise \$500,000. Since the initial announcement of the campaign in April 22, we currently have \$101,200 contributed towards this goal. We are grateful to those who have stepped up to meet this challenge. The contributors include parishes, schools, parents, alumni and other benefactors.

Bishop Gerald Barnes is an active part of this campaign and through the Office of the Bishop has raised \$35,000 of the current total. He is committed to keeping Aquinas open and is asking all of us to work together providing for the needs of the youth of San Bernardino.

In a special way, we would like to recognize two students who when they learned of the financial situation of the school stepped up and created the Facebook page “Save Aquinas High School”. Alex Wojcik and Peter Hernandez began this page and as of April 30th it has 411 members.

This is another great way to present ideas to our task force and we will also be able to give progress reports through the school website as well as the Facebook page.

Lastly, as a community, the loss of any faculty member affects all of us in a deep and profound way. We wish to thank Mr. Mat Troy for his work with our students as their drama teacher.

We are also thankful to Ms. Samperio for her work assisting the counseling office and as teacher of AP Psychology.

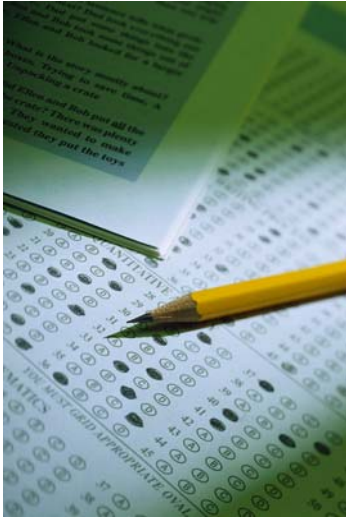
We also will be missing greatly Mr. Fran Herdlein, our principal for the last two years. Mr. Herdlein is a dedicated teacher and administrator who devoted 13 years of his life in the ministry of education for the Diocese of San Bernardino.

Aquinas will also miss Mrs. Michelle Roden. Mrs. Roden began teaching here at Aquinas in 1987. During her tenure here, she taught countless students the wonders of the English language and a love of literature.

All of these dedicated men and women will be missed by the community and we offer them our prayers for their future. We ask for continued prayer for our school and that the Lord will provide for us the means necessary to continue the mission of the school.

In Christ,

## That "Thing" You Do - by Chris Barrows



Check out were the Class of 2010 have been accepted to next year on our website!

[www.aquinashs.net](http://www.aquinashs.net)

When looking at high schools throughout the area you may find that each school has their "thing", something that they are known for, something that sets them apart from other schools. For example, Redlands East Valley might be known for their pristine facilities and competitive athletics; Redlands, for their expansive campus and history; or Cajon, for their academics among other San Bernardino high schools. So what is it that Aquinas is known for? Academics? Spirituality? Athletics? Well, why not everything?

As you know our mission is to "form through education...leaders in the light and truth of the Gospel of Jesus". What we are doing is formation, education through many different means. Our community service requirement is one that teaches our students to be faithful stewards and what it means to serve. Our athletic programs teach students the importance of teamwork and that hard work means success. In over 50 years of athletic competition Aquinas has won over 80 league championships, 4 CIF championships, and 1 state title. Not to mention the hundreds of individual athletic recognitions that our student-athletes have received. Finally, our academic program gives students the

knowledge that they need to be productive citizens, in an ever-changing world full of challenges. Our Seniors have an average SAT score of 1670 with the top 20% scoring 2010! Last year we had 2 National Merit Finalists. In comparison, Redlands East Valley had 0, Redlands had 2, and no school in San Bernardino had any. This year we are proud to announce that once again our graduates will attend some of the top universities in the country. We have a strong and dedicated faculty with 46% holding a masters degree or higher, and every one them is dedicated to teach our students to the best of their ability.

Recently you may have heard some news that could be of some concern regarding the future of Aquinas High School. While Aquinas has been affected by our struggling economy as many of you have, we will not be closing our doors and will remain committed to educating the leaders of tomorrow.

It is easy to see why I believe that we can strive to achieve excellence in all areas of education, be it morality, spirituality, academics, or athletics. We aim not to be just the best Catholic school, but to be the best school period, with one of the best educations anywhere.

## Senior/Junior Section: Mrs. Burton's Office

**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 Junior/Senior Guidance Corner...*

### Senior Section:

I am continuing the process of speaking with each senior individually about making sure that his/her community service is complete, 1<sup>st</sup> semester/3<sup>rd</sup> quarter grades, college choices and avoiding senioritis.

Please have your senior let me know which college is his/her final choice. We will read that college/university at Graduation and that is the school that I will send final transcripts to. Encourage your child to stay focused during this last semester of high school. Colleges look at final transcripts and they have the ability to revoke acceptances if the student's grades drop significantly. **Don't let SENIOR-ITIS ruin your child's chances for college!!**

### Junior Section:

I am also speaking with each junior individually about completing his/her community service hours this summer, start thinking about colleges, visit a few campuses, and take the SAT/ACT.

**The following date is available for the SAT Reasoning Test this school year:**

**Register by April 29<sup>th</sup> for the June 5<sup>th</sup> test.**

Details are available on [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).

There will be three more opportunities to take the SAT to be eligible for acceptance into a four year university/college... October, November and December of his/her senior year. Your student must have taken the SAT taken at least once by December of his/her senior year.

## Parents' survival guide for end of school year rituals

Final exams, applications for college, tuxedo rentals, ordering pictures, has been part of the end of school year ritual as students graduate from high school. It is always an exciting time, more so for the parents than the student. Mixed with excitement, is the anxiety brought on by all that has to be accomplished before graduation day.

While as parents, you agonize over all the preparations to be done, your student is cramming for final exams, taking very little interest in all the fuss surrounding his or her graduation. Surviving these rituals requires careful planning, time management and prioritizing.

Keep a calendar handy, or a big blackboard or white board in an area like the kitchen and bedroom. Use a white board and jot down tasks, reminders or even notes for the kids. A calendar is also a necessary tool, where you can keep dates and reminders of end of term projects you need to assist with, school activities, closing ceremonies, final exams along with the regular day to day activities and appointments. Create lists of things to be done

in order of priority and post in an easily accessible area.

Don't do it all by yourself. At this time of year, with all that needs to be accomplished, some parents still feel as if they have to do it alone, if it is to be done properly. Tasks can be divided between spouses. Have Dad handles the university applications, ensuring all the documentation requirements are requested, received and submitted, registration is completed and generally monitoring the progress.

Since many of the tasks are time sensitive, it is necessary to have someone in charge of this area. Dad can also be responsible for taking your son to choose his tux and ordering tickets for the various closing activities. Perhaps Mom can look after pictures, purchasing grad gifts, keeping the rest of the extended family in the loop and juggling various day to day tasks which we all share.

Through the school years, there are always concerts or a drama presentations to cap off the year. At times like this, end of year activities can clash with each other when chil-

dren attend different schools and grade.

If this is the case have each parent or grandparent attend one activity armed with video or digital equipment to capture the moment for posterity. Which, by the way, ensure that the cameras are ready, working, have extra supply of batteries, packed and ready to go. Decide who is responsible for the equipment and follow up before leaving home.

Regardless of the age of your student(s), whether in kindergarten, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, or graduating from high school, life can become hectic for the months leading up to closing.

Finally, during this time, it is important to take time for yourself. Catch a dinner or a movie with your friends or significant other. Relax, it will soon be just a memory. But it is our need to capture and embed the experience in our psychic, to ensure that our children have great memories, and ensure that a great time is had by all that we perform these rituals again and again. And isn't that the best reason ever.

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SAT II's (Subject Tests) are required by any UC and many other universities. Check the college's website for details. **If your student is applying to a UC he/she must take the Math Level II test plus one other test of his/her choice (choose a strength subject.)** The SAT II's are also available on the October, November and December test dates.

If your student is planning on going to school back east, he/she may want to take the ACT test.

**The following date is available for the ACT Test this school year:**

**Register by May 7<sup>th</sup> for the June 12<sup>th</sup> test.** Details are available on [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org).

I would like to extend my congratulations to Kyle Didier and Alyssa Morlan, who were chosen to attend the Rotary Youth

Leadership Academy this summer.

As always, I am available to answer questions by phone (909)-475-4194 or by email at [mburton@aquinashs.net](mailto:mburton@aquinashs.net).



## Sports Update:



Aquinas High School

**Our Mission Statement :** "Aquinas High School's mission is to form through education young men and women as leaders in the light and truth of the Gospel of Jesus."

The midway point of the Spring season has come and gone with many of the teams in contention for playoffs and league championships. The golf team is currently in first place with an undefeated league record. They are going for back to back league titles. Good luck gentlemen!! The baseball team is currently in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in league. They are coming off an impressive showing in the St. Paul Tournament over spring break. Keep up the good work!! The boys and girls track teams are in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place after the second league meet. They will be running in three more meets with the finals on Thurs., May 6<sup>th</sup>. Good luck to both teams!! The girls softball team is currently in 1<sup>st</sup> place in league. They are also fighting for back to back league titles. Good luck ladies!! The boys and girls swim teams have completed their season. They did a good job competing against many schools much bigger. Good season swimmers!! Finally, the boys tennis team has almost completed their season. The boys have fought extremely hard and are greatly improved in their second season. Once again, thank you all very much for your continued support of Aquinas athletics.

# **Aquinas High School's 1st Annual Alumni and Family Day**



## **May 8, 2010 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

Aquinas High School is holding its first Annual Alumni and Family day. All alumni, current families and supporters are invited to be a part of the festivities.

The day begins at 3 p.m. and concludes with our alumni baseball game under the lights on Fr. Andre Field in the Bill Lemann Baseball complex. The game will be played in honor of Joey Kennedy, #7 from the Class of 1999.

Come our and support the boys in blue both past and present.



# **Picnic with your family and friends!**



Aquinas High School

## Campus Ministry Corner

I am sitting here after a couple of difficult weeks. In any crisis, there are those who make matters worse and those who make things better. We have had some small minded folks who have made matters worse by starting rumors and acting out to incite more problems. We have had many more people who have quietly offered support, encouragement and a willingness to find solutions. It is frustrating to all of us on staff, and I'm sure to everyone else, that so much of the solution is out of our hands. Nevertheless, we are not powerless. How we act in a crisis reveals a great deal about our character. After all, the Greek word *krisis* means, "decision." We can decide to lose our principles or act on them even more. We can choose to shine forth with the light and truth of the Gospel as our motto and mission profess or to abandon all hope.

We are a wonderful school. An independent team of educators and administrators just affirmed this fact at our WASC accreditation. No matter what, we continue to do our very best to form young women and men in the light and truth of the Gospel. On Friday, April 30, we will crown Mary as Queen of Heaven at our annual "May" procession (one day early!). On May 5, we will have our Freshman retreat. On May 14 and 21 we will have eighth graders from 6 of our feeder schools here for their end of the year retreat. The week after school ends in June, our newest Seniors will attend the *Kairos* retreat.

During the summer months, we will be planning and preparing for our new Freshman class and another year of ministry....just like always.

On the worst day of Jesus' life, as he carried his Cross through the streets of Jerusalem, there were lots of folks who kicked him when he fell. We also have record of those who offered comfort and support. May we stand with Mary the Mother of God, Simon of Cyrene, Veronica and the women of Jerusalem and continue in light and truth to profess the living Christ who is risen from the dead.



**Daily Mass Schedule:**  
**Wednesday, 7:15 a.m. in the chapel.**



### Upcoming Campus Ministry events:

**Freshmen Retreat:**  
**May 5, 2010**

**Baccalaureate Mass**  
**June 3, 2010 at 5 p.m.**

**Kairos Retreat:**  
**June 14—17, 2010**

## AP Exam Schedule 2010

### Monday, May 3

U.S. Government and Politics

### Tuesday, May 4

Spanish Language

### Wednesday, May 5

Calculus AB

### Thursday, May 6

English Literature and Composition

### Friday, May 7

U.S. History—Morning  
European History—Afternoon

### Monday, May 10

Biology

### Tuesday, May 11

Chemistry—Morning  
Psychology—Afternoon

### Wednesday, May 12

English Language and Composition  
Art History

### Thursday, May 13

World History

### Friday, May 14

Latin: Virgil

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Lux et Veritas

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

## Upcoming Events:

- 5/1 Campus Clean Up Day
- 5/3-14 AP Exams
- 5/8 Alumni Day
- 5/15 Make Up Registration
- 5/19 Campus Ministry Parent Night
- 5/26 Awards Evening
- 5/27 Grad Night
- 5/28 No School

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.