

Aquinas High School

# Principal's Newsletter

**Scripture of the Month:**

*"The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged"*

Deuteronomy 31:8



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## Principal's Message



The month of November is a very active month during the High School years. The First Quarter has just come to an end (grades were mailed home on the 9<sup>th</sup>). The sports seasons for fall are either bearing the fruit of playoff berths or not (all teams made the playoffs.).

The students are accustomed by now to having their uniforms checked by their teachers each period to make sure it is up to specifications. The spiritual mood for the year has been set and will be reinforced at the Thanksgiving Community Day of Prayer that will start our Thanksgiving

break. All of these things refer to our journey at Aquinas, but one class is continuing their start of a new journey.

The seniors are in the midst of solidifying the start to their college careers. November is the month when college applications should be sent to colleges for fall admission.

I look forward to seeing everyone at all of our Athletic contests. Be sure and mark your calendar for the alumni basketball games on November 21<sup>st</sup>. Please keep your students on task academically so that they may have the fullest experience possible in High School and not have to worry about being academically ineligible or having to make up courses in summer school.

Our Thanksgiving Community Day of Prayer will include a mass.

Please feel free to share the Eucharist with us.

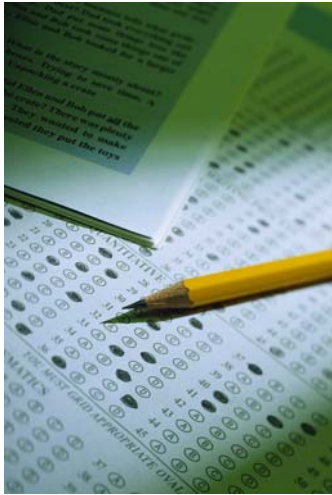
Aquinas would like to thank all of those involved with making our Monte Carlo night a major success. Among our biggest supporters this year were JZ Party Charms, Enko Systems and Sky Productions. The event's net profits were in excess of \$25,000.00.

I want to extend to all of you a heartfelt hope that your Thanksgiving will be great and you will all have a very relaxing time.

Fran Herdlein  
Principal



## Aquinas Welcomes Future Falcons!!



Two weeks ago Aquinas was very excited to have welcomed nearly 200 8<sup>th</sup> graders from all over the area. These students came from private and public schools both near and far. There were students from OLA in Claremont, St. George in Upland, Public schools in the High Desert, and of course from schools in our area. Seeing all these students excited about the next step in their education showed me something, it showed me that people need Aquinas.

A good education is now more important than ever. There are millions of people without jobs across this country, and many of them hold college degrees. This makes the need for

young people to attend college crucial if they want to achieve success, and no school can better prepare young people than Aquinas.

As our 8<sup>th</sup> grade visitors and their families decide where they will be preparing for their future it is understandable that many questions will arise. As a community we need to do the best we can to answer any questions that these future Falcons may have, and let them know that these next 4 years will affect the following 40.

Mr. Chris Barrows  
Assistant Principal  
Aquinas High School

**Seniors: Congratulations to the Class of 2009. 100% of you will be going to further your education.**

**Questions? Contact the counseling office.**

## Senior Section: Mrs. Burton's Office

From the Guidance Corner:

*In last month's Newsletter a change was made to Mrs. Burton's article that should have read:*

*Congratulatsins go out to Hannah Sequeira and Thomas Grossman. Both Hannah and Thomas achieved the distinction of being named an "A.P. Scholar." This means that both have successfully taken at least 3 A.P. Exams and scored at least a "3" on each exam.*

bulletin board in the B-Building.

The new quarter brings new opportunities to improve on the class grades that were lower than you and your student had hoped for. Remember that teachers are on campus from 7:15 AM -3:15 PM each day. Take the time to have your son/daughter attend tutoring. It does make a difference.

**A.P. Test Agreement Forms need to be returned by November**

**16<sup>th</sup>** whether your student is taking the test or not. Turn forms and payments into the Main Office to Mrs. Ford.

As always, I'm available at (909) 475-4194 or at [mburton@aquinashs.net](mailto:mburton@aquinashs.net) if you have any questions.

It's crunch time for seniors. **UC and Cal State applications are due by November 30<sup>th</sup>**, while deadlines for private colleges vary. New scholarship opportunities arrive daily, so please check the whiteboard in the Guidance Office or ask Mrs. Burton for more information. You can do web searches for scholarships too. Just remember that you should NEVER pay for scholarship information. We also post campus visitation dates on the

**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 Vice Principal:*

Students in a Catholic school are called to a lifestyle that is different from the norm of society. Uniform regulations are designed to help the students reflect their privilege of being members of the Body of Christ. For that reason, students are to concentrate on cleanliness, neatness, modesty, good taste, and safety. Aquinas students reflect the philosophy of Aquinas High School and the Catholic values that Aquinas embodies.

Contrary to what you may or may not have heard, there were no major changes to the dress code this year. The only difference has been enforcement. Many of our parents this past summer expressed their concern over the dress code.

In order to alleviate many of these concerns, we have empowered the teachers. First period teachers are now responsible for immediate enforcement of the dress code in their classroom. Although this may not happen each and every day in some classrooms for a variety of valid and invalid reasons, it is still the goal of this

office to make sure that the teachers at least attempt to make it a part of their pre-lesson plan.

Consequences for dress code violations have changed as well. The following can be found on page 14 of the 2009-2010 Parent/Student Handbook:

1<sup>st</sup> Offense AFTER first full day of regular school: If the student cannot immediately correct the violation in class, the student will be sent to the office to call a parent to inform them of the violation and to receive an Administrative Referral. If the offense is deemed too extreme for the student to attend classes the student must change out of the offensive clothes. If the student does not have a change of clothes and no one can

be reached, then the student will spend the remainder of the day in OCS.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense AFTER first full day of regular school: If the student cannot immediately correct the violation in class, the student will be sent to the office to call parent to change, and receive an

Administrative Referral. IF no one can be reached, then the student will spend the remainder of the day in OCS.

Subsequent Offenses-- Consequences for students violating the uniform policy on more than two occasions for the duration of the school year (regardless if it is a casual dress day), will result in a two (2) hour (\$10.00) Saturday Detention. Any subsequent offense after four (4) will result in individual attention by the Vice-Principal's Office and will automatically begin with a suspension term and probation for defiance. Offenses after this will result in an automatic appearance in front of the Discipline Board.

As always if you have any questions please be sure to consult the Dress Code section 2009-10 Parent/Student Handbook, or our web-site [www.aquinashs.net](http://www.aquinashs.net)

Take Care and God Bless  
Mr. Mark Hunter (Vice-Principal)





Aquinas High School

**Our Revised 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.”**

## Sports Update:

As the fall sports season nears an end, we are happy to say that each varsity sport has yet again qualified for playoffs. That is a great accomplishment! We are very proud of the hard work by all the coaches and athletes.

The volleyball team finished the regular season in fourth place, but received an at-large birth into the playoffs. They went on the road to face a tough St. Margaret team and put up a good effort. They unfortunately lost 3-0, and their season came to

end. Good season ladies! The tennis team finished the regular season in third place and an automatic entry into the CIF playoffs. They drew Desert out of Edwards Air Force base. If they win their first round game, they will play against Savannah (site TBD) on 11/14. Good luck Tennis!

The boys and girls cross country teams will be competing in the CIF prelims on 11/14 @ Mt. SAC. The boys finished up in fourth place, while the girls were able to bring

home a Christian League Championship!!!! Congratulations ladies!!!

Finally, the football team clinched a playoff spot and will be playing for the Christian League Championship on 11/13 @ 7:30 vs. Ontario Christian. Good luck gentlemen! They will also be playing in the first round of CIF on 11/20 (site TBD).

Thank you for your continued support of Aquinas athletics and have a Happy Thanksgiving.  
God Bless,  
Coach Ybarra

## President's Report

We've had great beginning to our school year this year and while there are many challenges that we as a community face, I am encouraged by the commitment of our families and benefactors. As president, our school is moving forward with the creation of the President's Advisory Council. Our first meeting was held on November 18 to establish the goals and focus of this group in addressing the advancement needs of Aquinas.

How is this group different from our School Advisory Board? The main difference comes from the goals and objectives and those who will be involved in it. Our School Advisory Board consists of parents of current students as well as parents of recent graduates. Its goal is to advise the principal on matters of current and long term operations directly involving the school's programs such as curriculum, athletics, student activities and school fundraisers.

The President's Advisory Council (PAC) is focused on the long range or strategic advancement of the school which includes financial resource development, major capital improvements, and the development of a marketing plan that will increase student enrollment now and into the future. The council is composed of business leaders, community representatives, alumni and other benefactors who have been involved with Aquinas in the past.

My office will continue to reach out to our alumni for support of our school. The first quarterly newsletter was emailed to our alumni last month and with the next issue scheduled for publication in January. If you are an alumnus of Aquinas or St. Bernadine's or know alumni, please visit the alumni update section on the school's website to update your information.

Lastly, we will be establishing an Annual Fund drive in the spring of 2010 as a means of reaching out to our alumni, friends and supporters to help us build a solid foundation for the Aquinas community. Volunteers will be needed to support this effort since it will involve a great deal of work and organization. I will update you in the near future as the Annual Fund begins to take shape.

May God bless you and your families as we head into the holiday season and prepare ourselves for Advent. You are in my prayers and I ask for your continue prayers for myself and the Aquinas community.

## Campus Ministry Corner

### Tempus Fugit

It's almost November...have you planned your Christmas party yet?

Knowing that I am in danger of sounding like a nasty hybrid of Mr. Scrooge and the Grinch, I would like to make my annual plea not to hold Christmas parties before Christmas. Advent is such a beautiful time in the life of the Church. The light of the Advent wreath enlightens the room as the days grow shorter and the nights darker. More than just creating a beautiful scene, however, the Advent wreath teaches us an important, albeit, unpopular lesson: waiting is good...perhaps, even holy. It is ok not to have everything I want *right now*. "Yo quiero Taco Bell" but I really, honestly do not need to have Taco Bell food at midnight on a Tuesday, do I? As I said, this notion of holy waiting is about as fashionable in contemporary society as a Captain and Tenille's greatest hits album.

Nevertheless, we Catholics need to witness to the fact that ultimately we long for our heavenly home. The pleasures and satisfactions of our world are fine within limits, but the unlimited joy of Heaven outdoes any gratification we can imagine. We must not ride along the waves of popular culture, rather we should wisely navigate through the notion that we need to have everything we want and we need to have it now. Aside from other lifestyle changes that such a witness to holy waiting would involve: not taking your credit card with you when you surf the internet, not giving in to the impulse to buy things that you do not need just because they are on sale, not over eating, etc....holy waiting also means not celebrating Christmas before Christmas. After all, the "Twelve Days of Christmas" *begin* on December 25 and go until the feast of the Wise Men on January 6. Today, we often begin taking decorations down the day after Christmas because we have already been celebrating for a month.

Advent helps us to prepare to greet Jesus, the Light of the World who enlightens all people. There are wonderful Advent resources on line and in your parish book racks. I will also try to put some resources on our website. Read the Prophet Isaiah every day. Make a family Advent wreath and celebrate a simple Advent service before or after dinner. Our prayerful reflection and holy waiting during the four weeks of Advent allow us to enter more fully into the Christmas season.

So, by waiting to celebrate Christmas you will actually make Christmas more enjoyable and more special. Yes, it may mean that you will miss out on some Swedish meatballs at the company or neighborhood Christmas party. If you wait until after Christmas to celebrate, however, you can come hang out with me. In the Melkite Greek Catholic Church, we fast from meat completely during what we call the "pre-Christmas" season (which is a full 40 days), so you know I'll have some great meaty selections at my house during Christmas!

Holy waiting may not be popular, but it is both important and rewarding. Let us mark this Advent season with prayer and anticipation so that the Light of Christ may shine all the more brightly during the Christmas season.



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



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Lux et Veritas

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

## Upcoming Events:

- 11/18 Campus Ministry Parent Evening
- 11/21 Alumni Basketball Game
- 11/25 Minimum Day, Community Day of Prayer
- 11/26 Thanksgiving
- 11/27 Thanksgiving Holiday
- 12/4 Minimum Day
- 12/5 Campus Clean up day
- 12/10 Bishop's Golf Classic
- 12/18 Minimum Day
- 12/19 Start of Christmas Break

Every Tuesday and Thursday is recycling

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.