

Aquinas High School

Principal's Newsletter

Scripture of the Month:

" Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation."

2 CORINTHIANS 6:2



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Principal's Message

Welcome back! I hope that everyone had a great summer. The first week of school was quite lively with the Freshmen orientation, the first day of school, and Back to School Night. Bishop Rutillio del Riego celebrated our opening liturgy with us and was very impressed with our students' maturity at mass.

Our community was blessed with a quad makeover during the summer and the installation of the statue of Mary. Part of the opening school liturgy was the blessing of the statue.



Our athletic teams are off to a great start. The football team had an exciting overtime victory against Big Bear at Big Bear on their home turf; it doesn't get any better than that. The volleyball team started out with two victories against Ramona and Oak Hills. Tennis opened its season against Oak Hills with a victory, and Cross Country had some individual excellence in the Colton com-

petition. Please be sure and sign and return all handbook, photo, and computer use forms to the attendance office immediately. The deadline for student schedule changes is over. Also all students should have every book they need for school by now. Failure to have the proper textbook for class can and may affect the student's grade for that class.

The colleges are coming to visit Aquinas en masse on September 16, 2009. However individual colleges are coming on an almost daily basis for lunch and break visits with our students.

The ASB is having the opening school dance on September 19, 2009. The cost is \$25 and it is at Fiesta Village. Please encourage your students to attend because it will be a great time.



Our quarterly fundraiser is the cruise raffle- each ticket is \$10 and every family is required to sell ten tickets. We



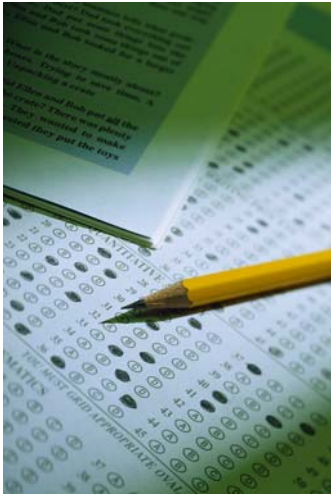
encourage you to sell more if you have the means. Our first big adult event is the Monte Carlo Night on October 3. This year's event will be even more over-the-top than last year! RSVP as soon as possible because the event is filling up and we will sell out, so don't be left out.

Finally, the library renovations and girl's restroom make-overs are going well and should be complete by the end of the month.

I thank all of you for all of your prayers for Aquinas High School and our school community. I will keep all of you in my prayers. God Bless You.



Office of the Assistant Principal



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

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
LOG ON TO
WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.COM
FOR SAT INFORMATION OR
WWW.ACTSTUDENT.ORG
FOR ACT INFORMATION.**

**FINANCIAL AID:
WWW.PIN.ED.GOV
WWW.FAFSA.ED.GOV
WWW.CALGRANTS.ORG**

As we all know the beginning of a new school year brings with it many questions. Many of you may be wondering if your student is in the right class, or what to do if they are struggling. Well rest assured that we are doing everything to make sure that our students have every opportunity to succeed in and out of the classroom. I am working with our teachers to be sure that all of students are placed in the proper classes to help ensure their success. This is done through the analysis of student performance on exams, homework, and quizzes, as well as the teacher's belief of the student's ability to grasp key concepts crucial to each particular subject. We also have in place several types of support for our students in need. First, we are pleased that Mr. Burns has returned as

our resource teacher to offer academic support. Also, every teacher is available after school for tutoring until 3:15pm. Our NHS/CSF organizations are also happy to help tutor during those same times in room B-2. Finally, we have our Gradelink system, which allows parents and students to monitor their progress in all of their classes. The Gradelink passwords were mailed home several weeks ago so all should be able to access the system by now. We look forward to successful year in which our students can be the best that they can be. If you have any other academic concerns please feel free to contact me at 909-886-4659 x264 or mbarrows@aquinashs.net.

Senior/Junior Section: Mrs. Burton's Office

From the Guidance Corner:

Welcome Back!! For seniors it's a busy time until December. Remember to sign up for and take the SAT or ACT before December. If your student will be applying to a UC, he/she also needs to take two SAT II Subject Tests, which includes Math Level II and one of his/her choice. Juniors need to start planning for the SAT test by taking an SAT prep course and plan on taking his/her first test in the spring of 2010.

The following dates will be helpful for the SAT test:

Register by October 1st for the November 7th test.

Register by October 30th for the December 5th test.

The following dates will be helpful for the ACT test:

Register by September 18th for the October 24th test.

Register by November 6th for the December 12th test.

For more information log on to

www.collegeboard.com for SAT information

or

www.actstudent.org for ACT information.

Please mark your calendar for two upcoming dates:

Wednesday, September 16th is our College Fair where college representatives will be on campus and available for you and your student to speak with. This year it will be held in the gymnasium from 6-8 P.M.

Wednesday, October 14th will be our College Information Night where we will go over college applications, financial aid, and scholarship opportunities. This event takes place in the Library from 6-8 P.M.

Please visit the College Time Line on our website. Just click on "Academics" and it will take you there.

I look forward to meeting with each senior individually and then with each junior individually before the end of the semester. You may reach me at (909) 886-4659 ext. 294.

Let's have a great year!

Mrs. Burton

From the Desk of the Vice Principal Mr. Mark Hunter

Remember, all students should be dropped off and picked up in the North Parking Lot. The Date street entrance (the blue gates as we commonly refer to them) is reserved for students who walk home, take the bus, or whose parent(s) may have business that day in the Main Office.

In the interest of efficiency while dropping off or picking up your student in the North Parking Lot turn-around, there is **no parking on the west, south or east side of the island/planter**. Drivers are asked to park either in the parking lot spaces itself, along the baseball fence, or within the circular drive but along the farthest southern curb while they wait to pick up their student(s).

If drivers use the circular drive way, they are asked to please keep their cars running, slowly pull into the drive way area and stop, have the student(s) enter the automobile, and than slowly exit. At no time should the driver turn-off the engine. This is a pick-up and drive away area only!

While on the subject of the North Parking Lot. In keeping with City and Diocesan recommendations, Aquinas High School issues parking permits for use of the park-

ing lot throughout the year to students. All students who drive to school and park in the Aquinas parking lot must obtain a parking permit and be registered with the school. The annual cost of the parking permit this year will be \$25.00 and can be obtained in the Main or Attendance offices.

And finally, tardies are beginning to add up for many students. We ask that parents consider this and the below policy, when speaking to their student.

“If a student arrives late to school, prior to 7:55am, the student should report directly to class. If arrival is later than 7:55 am the student must report to the attendance office. Teachers have been instructed to report all tardies as unexcused. The student must report to attendance before school, after school, during break or lunch by the end of the following day to have any tardy excused. Tardiness of more than ten minutes from any class is considered an

unexcused absence (3 unexcused tardies will equal 1 unexcused absence.). Excessive tardies can result in an appearance before the Attendance Review Board. Class Credit will be denied for students with an excessive amount of tardies.

Reasons for excused tardies are illness, medical/professional services appointments verified by note from the respective office, occasional car trouble verified by note from parent or guardian or severe weather conditions. The Vice-Principal will review any other parental excuse for tardiness.”

-Aquinas High School Parent/Student Handbook.

As always if you have any questions whatsoever, please do not hesitate to phone my or drop an e-mail.

Monte Carlo Night

A Pirate's Life For Me

Saturday
October 3rd
6pm to midnight



A Pirate Gambling Party !
Chart yourself for
Aquinas High School
Drink & Grub
Live & Silent Auction!
\$30 per Person-
(includes \$200 of Fun money)

Sports Update:



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."

The Aquinas sports program is off to another stellar start. After another long and hot summer, the fall sports teams have begun their seasons with a bang. The varsity girls volleyball team is currently 2 – 0, with wins over Ramona and Oak Hills high school. The Lady Falcons will be tested this week as they travel to Big Bear, and have home matches versus Victor Valley Christian and Notre Dame. Good Luck ladies.

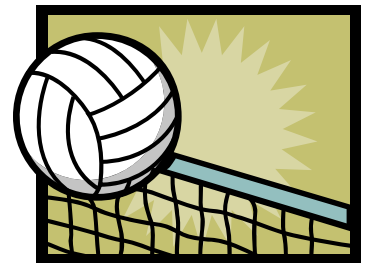
The varsity girls' tennis team is also off to

a great start. They opened with a win against Oak Hills high school. Good job ladies!

Also, the reigning Christian league champion football team began their season with an exciting overtime victory against Big Bear high school. Way to go gentlemen!

All teams are also currently doing fundraisers. There is the Applebee breakfast that all teams are doing, the cross country team is doing a walk for life in November, and the football team is doing a Casino Mo-

rongo fundraiser. See the head coaches for more information on these events. I would like to wish continued success to all the teams in the fall season, and may all of our athletes stay safe and healthy.



Scrip Requirement

As was mentioned earlier operating a school requires a great deal of resources. This means helping raise funds without raising tuition. One of the easiest ways to accomplish this is by participating in our scrip program. By simply using scrip to purchase items at your local stores, you are helping give back to the school without having to really think about it on items we are going to purchase anyways. You receive the same cash value for the items for which the vendors give the school a percentage of the dollar amount. All families are asked to generate a profit of \$100 per year to meet your obligation. If you are able to do more, then it will help benefit the school.

How is the profit calculated? It's fairly simple. Let's say that a vendor gives the school 5% of the dollar amount to the school. If you purchase scrip for \$100, you just generated \$5 dollars profit towards your obligation. Some vendors give more profit some less. A list of participating vendors can be found

online at the school website. Our parent volunteers whom we affectionately call the "scrip ladies" have done wonderful job organizing the program. I want to thank them for all of their hard work this year. This program has the potential to generate thousands of dollars with no impact to a family's budget. Help us make the program even more successful for the upcoming year.



Campus Ministry Corner

Apologetics without Apology

Christ is among us!

I am really excited about our Catholic Parenting Evenings this year. At the end of last year, folks requested some discussion about Catholic Apologetics (defending the Faith). Sometimes people misunderstand this use of the word “apology” using the more common definition of telling someone you are sorry for something. When a Christian offers an apology for the Faith, it is an explanation of practices and beliefs. We will explore this topic this year, by returning to the ancient Christian Tradition of explaining the Faith.

When my namesake, St. Justin, wrote his *Apologies*, in the second century he described the life *being lived* by his fellow Christians. It was not just an intellectual activity. He emphasized that (to use current jargon) the Christians in Rome were not just “talking the talk, but walking the walk.” So often, our contemporary use of Catholic apology has been a merely intellectual attempt to prove that we are right and others are wrong. Such discourse is less and less effective in attracting non Catholics to the Faith. Rather, we should really strive to live out the command of St. Peter in his first letter, “Always be prepared to make a defense to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15).

Of course, this kind of apologetics is much more difficult because it begins with our own hearts. Debating tenets of Faith is one thing, but accounting for the Christian witness of our own life means that we must be living lives that actually witness to the hope of the resurrected Christ and the Kingdom of God. Our own struggle of conversion attracts people today because it is authentic. Our lived experience of the richness of life in Christ is the best apology we can make for the Faith today.

With this in mind, our first session will be an updated version of the first session last year. The more I study and talk about Post modern culture, the more I am convinced that we have a huge opportunity to share the Faith. After this first session, we will examine commonly misunderstood or attacked elements of the Catholic Faith, with ample time of questions and answers.

Our first session is Wednesday, 9/23 beginning at 6 pm in the Library. We will provide some coffee, wine and light refreshments. **Would you please RSVP to Marina in the Main Office (909-886-4659 ext 0) so that we are prepared for the hospitality?**



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



Upcoming Campus Ministry events:

**Campus Ministry Parent
Evening
9/23/2009, 6:00 PM - 8:00
PM
Location: Library**

2772 Sterling Avenue
San Bernardino CA 92404

Phone: 909-886-4659
Fax: 909-886-7717
Email: mherdlein@aquinashs.net



Lux et Veritas

Current Resident or

We're on the Web:
www.aquinashs.net

Upcoming Events:

- 9/16 College Fair
- 9/23 Campus Ministry Parent Evening
- 10/2 Minimum Day
- 10/3 Campus Clean Up Day
- 10/3 Monte Carlo Night
- 10/14 National Testing Day

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.