



Look for these Friday Notes on the school web site and in your email as well. -- www.aquinas-catholic.com

SAFETY CONCERNS SETTLE

There was a situation in Butler County that was quickly resolved. In that process, St. Mary's was not contacted. I have spoken with both the Sheriff and Aquinas and we are hopeful that this will not happen again. I think it is because these situations have been so infrequent in the past that it has been difficult to set up consistent methods of communication. I have worked diligently on our safety process and will continue to do so. Please read Fr. Timmerman's note next.

Lockout Update for Aquinas/St. Mary's Catholic Schools

Today we received a call from the sheriff's department advising the schools to go into a lockout due to a situation in the community. A lockout means that no one enters or leaves the building until further notice but classes and activities in the building continue as normal.

Approximately 15 minutes after the initial notification, the sheriff's department called again to share that the situation had been handled and we could go back to business as usual. There was no direct threat against the schools, but we took precautions and followed the directions of the authorities.

Fortunately this situation was resolved quickly, and we were able to use this situation as a learning experience. At Aquinas, students and staff were accidentally informed to go into lockdown. While this momentarily disrupted classrooms, the situation was quickly resolved and staff and students followed the lockdown procedures. While we apologize for any unrest caused by the lockdown announcement, students and staff did follow the proper protocol of the lockdown training before moving to the lockdown protocol. As part of our debriefing process, we have asked teachers to contact the Response Team with any questions, concerns or needed clarifications so we can continue to be prepared. Part of our learning also involves communication as St. Mary's was not informed of the lockout. We will continue to work with the sheriff's department on how information is shared to the schools. We pray that while we continue to train and practice ways to keep our students and staff safe, our hope is that our preparations are not needed to be implemented. Let us pray that as a nation we continue to work for ways to promote peace.

Grandparents Day and Spring Program Brings Smiles and Hugs - What a wonderful event to bring nearly 350 grand parents and friends all together to hear a wonderful spring program, celebrate Mass, and enjoy lunch together. Then, they toured the students' rooms to see their hard work. It was so heart-warming to chat with them and watch the smiles on their faces as they hung out with their grand kids and friends. Thank you all for supporting this event. I would reiterate that the foundation they provide can only be provided by them and the history they share with our children. So many rich blessings for our students! - *God Bless, Mrs. Zook*

Upcoming Events:

Finishing Spring Testing this week.

Apr. 18, 7-8 PM, Aquinas Open House (5th graders should attend)

6:30 PM SMS Council Meeting
Diocesan Crisis Response Training for Administrators

Apr. 20—LAST BOXTOPS OF THE YEAR DUE!!

Our last double choir weekend. *Please let Claire know if you can attend either/both. Thank you so much!!*
(coborny3@gmail.com)

Apr. 21, 6 PM (5:30 PM): Traveling Choir in Bruno. *Please note the time change from original schedule.*

Apr. 22, 9 AM (8:30 AM): Traveling Choir in Marietta/Presentation in Bellwood.

****Please see note on FREE Dental Checks from Four Corners**

****IOWA results will come home with your oldest on MONDAY.**

Staffing Notes: It is with a very heavy heart that I share the following staff changes with you:

- **Sr. Michaelene, Librarian:** Sister Anne Marie from Aquinas will be taking over as Mother Superior in Lincoln and therefore Sr. Michaelene will need to be pulled back to Lincoln as well. She has been such an amazing gift to St. Mary's for 30 years. We are so sorry to see her go. The Marians do not have any Sisters to accompany her or work at our schools at this time, but hope to send some back soon!
- **Kayla Schlautman, Kindergarten:** We are very sad to say that Mrs. Schlautman will be taking a position with St. Wenceslaus next year. We will surely miss her. She has been a wonderful teacher for our Kindergarteners for the last 2 ½ years. We wish her well on her new position.

I will keep you informed as we fill these positions at St. Mary's. Thank you for your prayers for the right people to continue our mission.