

Aquinas News



June,
2017
Newsletter

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Dear Parents,

What a busy last nine months we have had at Aquinas. We enjoyed the debut of our first ever October Fete last fall. This social gathering at the start of the school year is a wonderful way for teachers, staff, and parents to learn more about each other. Meeting the parents of your children's friends is another bonus! Our playground's natural setting is so lovely; we are happy to use it to build relationships among the Aquinas community. October is a launch month for so many other events: Monarch butterfly studies in all classrooms, parent information evenings, and the guides' inspiring annual North American Teachers Association (NAMTA).

The Winter Concert in December was a festive culmination to the first semester. Mother Nature was on our side this past winter- we had only one day closed due to snow. A record by Northern Virginian standards! We used every possible minute in the classroom to work with your children!

By the end of Winter, we were reviewed by AMI-USA and renewed our long-standing 'Recognition' status as an authentic Montessori school.

Thank you for all your help with the *Big Dig!* It too was another "First" for Aquinas that proved to be a huge success. Pizza only sweetened the pot for all who contributed to the thinning out of our Children's Garden.

We have enjoyed so many years at Aquinas filled with warm friendships and associations that are renewed every year at our Spring time May Fete. This year's event, despite its date change, was attended by many of our current and former families. We always enjoy reconnecting every May and catching up with our alum's interests.

There are openings in our Primary and Lower Elementary classes which we hope to fill over the summer. Please share your experience at Aquinas with any friends and neighbors who have expressed interest in learning about Montessori. Mrs. Gunderson is in the office all summer and is happy to answer any questions.

Meanwhile, we are looking forward to the end of year class picnics and the Upper Elementary Third Year graduates' dinner party on June 6th. The last day of this school year will be June 7 with a **noon dismissal**. We shall host the final concert on our outdoor stage beginning at 11:00am that day. All students will return to their classrooms immediately following the concert where you may bid farewell and happy returns to their teachers.

We want to include the list of impressive Community Service Projects the Third Year Upper Elementary Students complete this past school:

1. Aquinas School Reading Buddies- assist Primary beginning readers
2. UCM- Food Pantry donation stocking
3. Mason Neck State Park Trash Clean-up
4. Paul Spring Retirement Home- share class reports and play board games with the residents
5. Pizza Friday- organize, order, financially manage fund raiser for class over-night trip to Echo Hill Camp, MD
6. Assist Primary Monarch Field Day at Aquinas Mt. Vernon campus

We wish all our families the happiest of summers!

Sincerely,

Dave Futrell
Head of School

Celeste Baucom
Montessori Director