
THE AQUINAS INQUIRER

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EIGHTH GRADE SERVICE

This year a new service program was started in the eighth grade where the students help people in the Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish who are in need. Every first Friday, the eighth grade helps people outside the school property or inside the school grounds.

In November, students split into different teams to rake leaves. Several of the groups went to the homes of elderly parishioners. One group raked leaves at the home of Ryan Brennan, a junior at Fairfield Prep who belongs to our

Parish and has developed cancer. Another group stayed behind and helped pack gifts for people in Appalachia who are less fortunate.

In December, the eighth grade students helped pack additional supplies and presents and other items that were going to people in St. Charles, Virginia, a very small and extremely poor town in Appalachia. Mrs. Greenfield, the seventh and eighth grade English teacher, led the effort to collect donations.

The eighth graders packed gifts in boxes so they could be shipped. The entire basement of the Church was filled with boxes. It was hard work but definitely worth it!

The eighth grade class really enjoys the different service projects. The goal is for the students to give back to the community, prepare for Confirmation and develop a pattern of helping others in the future. Service projects seem to be favored by the students, teachers and people who are in need too! By Liam Mason

SAINT OF THE MONTH:

This school is named after Saint Thomas Aquinas. He was born in the year 1225 and died in the year 1274. His birthplace was at his father's castle in Roccasecca Italy. His death place was at the monastery Fossanova, Italy. In 1243 he wanted to enter the Dominican order but was captured by his brothers and brought to his parents. One of his most famous writings is the *Summa Theologica*.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

He was influenced by the teachings of Aristotle. The *Summa Theologica* is about the philosophy of life.

At age 31, he received his religious doctorate. He was canonized in 1323 by Pope Pius V. St. Thomas is known as the Doctor of the Church. He is also known as the Protector of storms and sudden deaths. By James Ekstract and Patrick Campbell

WORD OF THE MONTH

Sesquipedalianist – (noun) A person who loves to use long or obscure words in writing and speech.



A CHRISTMAS STORY A CHRISTMAS COOKIE

Once upon a time
On a snowy cold night,
There was a cookie,
A very tasty sight.

The ginger was brown
A color just right,
The frosting was red
with a hat glued on tight.

He waited and waited
For the moment to come
As he stared at the stockings
Imagining candy.....yum yum!

And as he slowly crept in
Ginger did not dare to swallow
He saw a red hat
With a big man to follow.

SNOWFLAKES

They are falling down,
As white as a dove,
as pure as gold,
and as soft as silk.
It is cradled in the wind
Like a mother cradling her
child.
The snowflakes land on my
face
And slowly melt into water,
Like butter on a frying pan.
Try to catch them on your
tongue
And taste the natural flavor
– Alexa Cimino

The flashing red light
Could wake anyone up
Rudolph was surely here
Prancing joyfully above.

And as the big man came
To Ginger, with a tear
He glanced at the cookie
And said “Santa is here!”

As Santa came in
Ginger felt Christmas spirit
And immediately knew
He would ever again fear it.

This Christmas night
Was a one to remember
Because Santa was here
In this snowy December.
-Kara Duggan and
Emily Cimmino

DID YOU KNOW?

FUN CHRISTMAS FACTS
-If you received all of the gifts
in the song “The Twelve Days
of Christmas”, you would
receive 364 gifts.
-“Jingle Bells” was first
written to be a song for
Thanksgiving, then became
one of the most popular
Christmas carols of all time.
-In 1999, residents of a town in
Maine built a snowman that
stood at 113 feet tall.

THE SNOWMAN

The snow was white
So bright and pearly
The hat and scarf
Were covered in flurries
The carrot was orange
Like the peak of a sun
And it seemed to curl out
To the sky and beyond
But when the sun came out
And shone upon
It fell to the ground
But will be back again
On the edge of the lawn

-Emily Cimmino
and Kara Duggan



SPORTS SECTION

GIRLS JJV

Record: 4-1
This team is coached Mr. Chessare and Mr. O'Connell.

BOYS JJV

Record: 1-2,
The Saint Thomas JJV basketball team won the first game of the year against St. Catherine. However the team lost to Holy Family and St. Joseph. The first game the team won. The next two games were against tough teams and they lost. The coaches are Greg Clarkin and Michael Day. By Frankie Gallagi

GIRLS 5TH GRADE JV

Record: 1-5
St. Thomas Aquinas 5th Grade J.V. Girls' Basketball team's coaches are Coach Larry Dunn and Coach Mike Britt.

GIRLS 5/6TH GRADE JV

Record: 6-2
This team is coached by Mr. Donahue and Mr. McInerney.

BOYS 5TH GRADE JV

Record: 1 win
This team is playing at St. Ann's in Bridgeport. The biggest rivals are Our Lady of Fatima, St. Anne, and Holy Family. The coach says only two things are holding them back - passing the ball and paying attention at practice. A good word of advice to all

basketball players: try to get the play started and look for who is open and pass to that player. By Damian Chessare

BOYS 5/6TH GRADE JV

Record: 4-1
The coaches for this season are Coach Congdon, Coach Sendzik, and Coach Britt. St. Thomas won 24-6 against St. Theresa. Later, St. Thomas lost to All Saints 19-18. There was no clear winner until the last few seconds. Coach Congdon said "I'd rather have an exciting loss than a blowout win". By Emmet Flynn



BOYS 6TH GRADE JV

St. Thomas defeated St. Mark's, true rivals in basketball history. The game was extremely exciting, and all of the players were happy to beat St. Mark's, a team known for their size and power. There are high hopes

for high places in tournaments. By Emmet Flynn

GIRLS 7TH GRADE V

Record: 6-1
This team plays in the St. Ann's League in Bridgeport.

GIRLS 8TH GRADE V

Record: 10-4
This team plays in the Shehan Center league and is coached by Mike Hooper and Jim Whiting. The team is still feeling the loss of a player, Mary Timmons, who moved away in October. In addition, they were the St. Thomas Tournament Champions for their division, the only St. Thomas team that placed first. By Jane Hooper

BOYS 7TH

Record: 1-11
This team is coached by Mr. Antonicelli and Mr. Murphy.

BOYS 7/8TH GRADE

Record: 2-7
This team plays in the Shehan Center league and is coached by Brian O'Toole and Jeanne Devaney, and Pat Duggan. Teammate Conor Carey says "We may not be the best on the court, but we are the best in our hearts." By Ann Marie Guzzi

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

CHESS

The St. Thomas Chess Club won the Elementary Open and Middle School divisions. The club came in second in the Elementary Novice division. Mr. Swan was very proud of the team's performances. Ryan Cimmino got first place for Elementary Open. Notables: Brian Swan got fourth place for Middle School. Paul Cipollaro got fifth place for Elementary Open. The team did not do especially well in individual placing, but played very well as a team. By Spencer Peiffer and Emmet Flynn

STUDENT COUNCIL

Currently, the Student Council is working on many ideas such as a Super Bowl Party or to get the school more involved in recycling. The Student Council wants to make sure that every classroom has a recycling bin. They would also like to encourage more students to bring in box tops. A box top is worth 10 cents, and can be found on the packages made by General Mills, Avery Dennison, Kimberly-Clark, S.C. Johnson, Nestle, and Pactiv- Hefty. If anybody has a good idea, please tell a class rep. By Ryan Cimmino

CADETTE GIRL SCOUTS

The Cadette Girl Scouts of 7th and 8th grade recently put on a show for the senior center. They are also continuing the W.A.T.T. program, and are always happy to see new people there. Everyone in the troop is looking forward to the impending trip to Savannah in the spring. Additionally, cookie sales just began, and the troop hopes to raise quite a bit of money. By Brittany Sendzik

HUMAN RELATIONS

The Human Relations Committee, headed by Mrs. Kral, the middle school social studies teacher, visited the convalescent home across from the school. They brought songs and goodies with their warmth and holiday cheer.

BOY SCOUTS

The pack recently decorated a tree on the Brickwalk and won "Most Patriotic Tree." All of the boys had a lot of fun and really enjoyed the cider and cookies provided by the merchants on the Brickwalk. By Ann Marie Guzzi

JUNIOR GIRL SCOUTS

The 5th Grade Girl Scouts have done many good things and will do many great in the future. On November 20, the Girl Scouts went to our local Animal Shelter to visit and care for the animals. They also learned how to use the volunteer's tools and special items. On December 18, the Girl Scouts will visit the Longshore Ice Skating Rink in Westport, which will help them earn their Winter Sports Badge. By Adara Holecz



