



Monday Minutes

November 13, 2017

Dear Families,

In this month of November, with a focus on Gratitude, I am thankful for:

- Amazing families who go above and beyond to provide for the academic and spiritual growth of their children.
- Faculty members who love what they teach and who love your children.
- The dedication of countless coaches and activity sponsors who have talents that they wish to share with children.
- The kind of memory that somehow quickly forgets the trouble that students got into last year... or last week for that matter!
- The incredible gift of being able to celebrate Sacraments right here on this campus almost every single day.
- The many good priests that assist us by offering Mass in the course of the school year.
- The way the Board, Families, Faculty, and Students resolve difficulties – honoring the likelihood that everybody acts in good faith and with good intentions, even when there are challenges.
- Parents who help in the cafeteria, in the classroom, with fundraising, with athletics, with school events, and behind the scenes. You make Aquinas Academy a truly special place!
- Holy Days and Holidays! May your Thanksgiving Table be one of gratitude and fellowship, giving thanks to God for the many blessings he has always bestowed upon each one of us!

Yours,
Leslie Mitros

123456

¹ The Kindergarteners are excited for their Thanksgiving program and Feast on Friday, November 17th. The program for each class will begin at 10:00, each in their own classroom. The Thanksgiving Feast will follow. Because the Kindergarteners and their parents will be

using the cafeteria, **THERE WILL BE NO LUNCH SERVICE ON FRIDAY, AND ALL OTHER STUDENTS MUST PACK A LUNCH THAT CAN EASILY BE EATEN IN THE CLASSROOM (NO MICROWAVE, PLEASE!)** Please note that the Feast is for the Kindergartner, parents, and younger siblings. With the growth in our Kindergarten, we can no longer accommodate school age siblings, and they should eat with their own class.

² Upcoming **this week:**

- On **Tuesday, grades 3 and 4 will attend a school day concert, “Musicalympics” at Heinz Hall in the morning.** They will travel by bus to the 10:30 concert, and return in time for lunch.
- **Picture retakes are on Thursday for any family wishing a “redo”. Also, 3-year-old Preschool will have photos taken this Thursday.**

³ **The Thanksgiving Vacation begins at noon on Wednesday, November 22nd (except for Preschool, for which the last day is Tuesday, November 21st!) Most school districts will provide bussing at noon on Wednesday; but the following WILL NOT BUS THE HALF-DAY: North Allegheny, Allegheny Valley, Avonworth, North Hills, Mars, Quaker Valley, and Seneca Valley.** Students from these districts must plan on finding alternate transportation home. There will NOT be after-day care that Wednesday so that we may all begin our Thanksgiving Holiday Preparations. **Note that school resumes ON MONDAY, November 27th.** Note tha

⁴ **We are pleased to announce that we will, once again, have matched Days of Giving for our Annual Fund. Any annual fund donations made between Friday, November 24th and Tuesday, November 28th (National Giving Tuesday), will be matched up to a total of \$100,000 by the Board of Directors and Special Benefactors.** You will receive a letter soon about the Annual Fund, along with an envelope if you wish to send a donation by check. During the Days of Giving, credit card donations will be able to be made through a link on the website. Last year, our annual fund (including the matching funds) raised over \$200,000. These donations are essential to close the gap between tuition revenue and operating expenses. The only other major fundraising event this year will be the walkathon in the spring. In this month of November, please carefully consider what you may be able to give!

⁵ **Aquinas families who will be enrolling a sibling next school year should print and complete the attached sibling application form so that we may begin planning for the 2018-2019 school year.** We ask that you complete the form as soon as possible. If you have questions about enrollment for siblings next year, please contact Mr. Mata.

⁶ **Making Morning Drop-Off Safer.**

For those who drive in the morning, there are two areas at which parents may drop off. One is the curb on the blacktop near the South Doors of both the Elementary and the High School (near the basketball hoops). The other is near the Middle School/Kindergarten Ramp. The following will facilitate the ease of the morning routine.

- a) **For those dropping off a high school or elementary student near the basketball hoops:**

Please pull up along the curb to the first available “spot”. This will allow all others to file in without needing to parallel park or form a second lane. If you pull forward by the high school, it is only a short distance on the sidewalk back to the elementary doors if needed. If you plan to walk a child in, please park in a parking spot and go in. The curb is reserved for the quick morning drop off.

b) **For those dropping off closer to Middle School and Kindergarten:**

Be aware that busses pull up along the curb. I would ask that parents do the same. Please file in place in the bus lane and move forward with the busses until you are able to quickly drop off. If you need to get out or walk a child in, I have asked faculty members to please leave 5 open spaces along the road in that area for parent drop off. In that case, please park, carefully watch for bus/car traffic, and walk your child to the classroom or ramp. I would ask that you NOT park in a second lane along side the busses to drop off. In that case, children need to walk between moving busses which is not safe. Please wait your turn to pull up along the curb, and then quickly move on after the children are safely on the sidewalk.

These small observances will greatly improve drop off!