



# Weekend Wrap-Up

May 11, 2008

It was fall of 1993 when I first threw my hat in the ring to help out with a project at my kids' school in a bigger way than taking my turn at cafeteria duty or helping with the craft at the Christmas Party. There was a desire to have a "Disability Awareness Day", and my thinking must have run along these lines: "My husband works in Rehab Medicine. Surely he will have the resources to help me with this. If they need someone to chair this event, I think I can do that!" Little did I know that that was the training ground for figuring out a 3-dimensional matrix of scheduling! I needed to account for classes of kids rotating through various speakers in available spaces. Sounds all too familiar! The years after that brought more involvement as a parent at my children's school – including the chairmanship of the parents' organization.

Somehow, as my college-age kids arrived home for the summer this weekend, conversation turned to those days when I was involved in the activities of their school. We laughed a little bit about some of the things we got "wrapped up in" – like the papier mache Easter Eggs that made a huge mess all over the cafeteria, and the telling of the Polar Express with students weaving like a train through the classroom aisles. They also can still look at the schoolyard and recall that their mother had a hand in the design and installation of the playground equipment. Their school life was enriched by my involvement in different ways through their school years.

So... Have you considered whether it might be *your* turn to volunteer to serve as AAPA co-chair, or as a committee or event chairperson? Have you thought about the memories you could help to create as we expand our horizons to be able to have events in a space that holds more than 60 children packed in tight for lunch? Have you considered how fortunate you will be when 10 years from now your children look at you and say, "Mom, I hope that someday I too will organize an All Saints Day program where students wear everything from bathrobes to princess gowns and carry props ranging widely from roses to ping-pong balls painted like eyeballs!" Or have you, perhaps, thought about how much your children can learn about organization as they hear the phone conversations that cover the gamut of topics from flowers for May Crowning to securing busses for Romp 'n Roll to organizing a Prayer Chain? This is your chance! AAPA is still looking for nominations – and, please, don't hesitate to throw your own name in the ring – for a co-chair to help oversee the smooth coordination of committees for next school year. Soon to follow will be requests for committee chairpersons. Know that your children will surely appreciate and learn from your selfless example... and remember that you

never know the doors that will open in your future because of the talents that you will share with others today ☺. The AAPA nomination form is attached. Please consider whether you or someone you know would be perfect for the job... and we'll expect the office to be flooded with nominations by Wednesday...!

Happy Mothers' Day!  
Leslie Mitros

123456789

---

<sup>1</sup> **May Crowning** will be on **Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**, with the procession beginning in the parking lot at 10:45. Weather permitting, students will line up outdoors, and will present flowers before the image of Our Blessed Mother before Mass begins. All families are invited to join us. Our second graders and eighth graders participate in this liturgy in a special way as they have completed their preparation for and reception of sacraments this year. Second graders will change into their First Communion clothing before May Crowning; and Eighth graders will wear dress clothes as they, too, have a special part in the liturgy on Tuesday. **Following Mass, families of 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will be the guests at a luncheon prepared by third grade parents. This luncheon will be in the lunch room.** The other students will eat lunch in the classroom or outdoors (weather permitting) on Tuesday.

<sup>2</sup> **PLEASE NOTE THAT PRE-ORDERED LUNCH OPTIONS HAVE SOME VARIATIONS THIS WEEK!**

**Hot lunch will still be on Wednesday for students in grades 3 to 12. However students in grades K, 1, and 2 who had a hot lunch ordered for Wednesday will have that lunch delivered on Thursday instead.**

**ALSO, PIZZA DAY WILL BE ON FRIDAY THIS WEEK BECAUSE OF FIELD TRIPS FOR GRADES 5 TO 12 ON THURSDAY.**

**All students should pack a lunch on Thursday (except students in grades K – 2 who ordered hot lunch this week).**

<sup>3</sup> There are several **field trips** in the upcoming week. **In addition to the K – 2 zoo trip on Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**, the following trips are all on **Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**:

**5th and 6th grades are going to a bike trip in Moraine State Park.** They need to bring a packed lunch to eat after the ride. They also need to bring a helmet if they have it, otherwise they will be given one. The clothes should be ones for biking outdoors. They will all ride rented bikes; it is not possible to bring bikes in the bus.

**7th grade is going to Bushy Run.** They will have an hour class/tour at the museum followed by another hour on the battlefield. They should wear appropriate shoes for walking in the field and a light jacket in case of rain. They also need to bring a packed lunch.

---

**High School is going to the Laurel Caverns.** Cave temperature is 52 degrees, everyone should bring a sweater or jacket; non-slippery shoes with good tread are also important. They need to bring a brown-bag lunch; there are picnic shelters and soft drinks available for 75 cents a can.

**8<sup>th</sup> grade class trip to Ohiopyle** for their Peddle and Paddle Adventure will be on Thursday also. Students should wear clothing for biking and paddling on the Yough – suggested is shorts or jeans, and a t-shirt. As the river can be breezy, hoodies or sweatshirts are recommended. A change of dry clothes may be necessary before dinner. Squirt guns, footballs, etc. are highly recommended. Students should pack a brown bag lunch that will be eaten before boarding rafts. **The group will have dinner together after the trip before returning to school around 7:30. Parents should plan on that later pick-up time.** Most of the cost of the day is covered by the student activity fees, supplemented by the proceeds from the Easter Candy Sale. However, students should bring money for dinner (approximately \$15 - \$20). This will be a memorable day for the eighth graders.

<sup>4</sup> **Students in grades 8 – 12** have all received an invitation to the **Spring Dance** to be held at the Camelot in Warrendale on Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30 until 11:00. Cost of this formal dinner dance is \$29.00 per student. **Payment for reservations must be made in the office (check or cash) by Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Students are welcome to bring a guest to this dance (also \$29.00 per guest), and must submit the name of the guest to the office when the reservation is made.** Attire for this dance is formal (dress/jacket and tie). Modesty is expected in dress for the girls, and students will be given guidelines for appropriate dress. If there are any questions about the expectations, please call Mrs. Mitros. The music and dance instruction for the evening will be provided by Mrs. Burchill (Mike's mother) who is a ballroom dance instructor. All other music requested by students should be submitted on CD to Mrs. Mitros no later than Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> Having thoroughly enjoyed the middle school production of Robin Hood, and the 4<sup>th</sup> grade production of Voyage of the Dawn Treader, we look forward to the final production of the year. **The high school production based on Aristophanes' Greek Comedy, *The Birds*, will be on Friday and Saturday night at 7:00 at the Richland Elementary School Auditorium (Red Belt at Meridian Road).** This production is artistically done and employs the use of a Greek Chorus – a new skill for our students. Many of our high school students are involved in the acting and production of the show!

<sup>6</sup> **Aquinas students competed this weekend in the Midwest Scholastic Rowing Championship. Our students participated in crew as a club sport for the first time this year.** 51 schools competed this weekend in Cincinnati. In the Novice 4-man race, the crew of Chris Scioscia, Ryan Allen, Gordon Kaercher, Pete McKeating, with Coxswain Allura So qualified for the semi-final race, with the 7<sup>th</sup> best time. They did not qualify for the finals but placed 8<sup>th</sup> overall out of 30 entries for this race.

---

The Men's Novice 8-man race added Michael Plazek, Pat McCue, Robbie Fort, and JV Ortiz to the other group. They finished 16<sup>th</sup> out of 24 entries.

Congratulations to this group of students who have weathered early morning practices to be able to compete well in their first season in the sport!

<sup>7</sup> All of our parents who give of their time so generously in the cafeteria, in the library, in the classroom, and in organizing activities and fundraising events are reminded of the **volunteer Mass and Breakfast to be held next Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, beginning with Mass in the Chapel at 8:10 AM. Following Mass, the faculty will provide coffee and rolls in the lunch room.** Please plan to attend so that we, as a school community, can be sure to let you know how much your help is appreciated! Following the breakfast, we will have the final AAPA meeting of the year.

<sup>8</sup> **IMPORTANT! IMPORTANT! IMPORTANT!** In order to finish the year well, we are counting on your support of the following fundraising projects:

**Walkathon** -- Please open the attachment with important information and dates. Pledges should be turned in to the office by the deadline. Student incentives include Steeler wear, an ipod, pirate tix, and other great prizes!

**Annual Fund** – We are still counting on family support of the annual fund before June 30<sup>th</sup>! Please send your tax deductible contribution to the office.

**SCRIP!!!** (Has anyone seen Scrip Lady, Laurie Lynch, lately?!!) Faithful use of Scrip gift cards could generate amazing funds for Aquinas Academy! If every family purchased even \$100 of Giant Eagle, Sheetz, Penneys, or any other Scrip each week, Aquinas would profit by approximately \$32,000 each year! As summer approaches, please don't hesitate to stop by the school during school hours to purchase Scrip. We will be most happy to sell you gift cards so that we can continue to see the financial benefit to the school!

<sup>9</sup> As we try to streamline evening commitments during May, please note all of the following events on **Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**:

**6:00 in the Chapel: Scapular Service for students in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades and their families.** This brief service will include the enrollment of students or adults in the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Students may bring their own scapulars to be blessed, or Father Rene will have scapulars available. Families will learn the history of this sacramental as a constant reminder of our faith.

**7:00 in the Chapel: Band Concert for band students in grades 4 through 8.**

**8:00 on Dolan Field (or in the Chapel in the event of rain): Athletic Awards for students in grades 5 through 8.**