



Aquinas News



8334 Mt. Vernon Highway
Alexandria, VA 22309-1998
703-780-8484

February 2012

Dear Parents,

Since this is the month for Valentines, we want to salute and thank all our Parent Valentines who have been so supportive with our needs. We have appreciated all your help driving on field trips, acting as room mothers, visiting to observe the classes, devising art projects for special events, etc. etc. Parents helping with the yearly Upper Elementary Musical, dedicate a great deal of time and talent and we do thank Susan Machanic, Ann Alger, Pam Reusing, Katherine St. Claire, Ann Vrtis, Barbie Walker, Lindsey Sepulveda, Tamara Waddell, Jean Sterne, Cathy Sutphin, and Jeri and Scot McBroom for this year's efforts.

RE-REGISTRATIONS DUE

Re-registration forms, and a \$100.00 re-registration fee, are due February 1st. If you have not yet returned your form, please do so.

VISION SCREENING

The Society for the Prevention of Blindness is providing vision screening for our students on February 2. If you are interested in registering your child for this service, please contact the office.

PARENT INFORMATION SESSION: MONTESSORI LANGUAGE CURRICULUM

Please join us on Wednesday, February 2 from 7:00 – 8:30 pm to learn more about the Montessori Language Curriculum in primary, lower, and upper elementary classrooms

“MULAN”

The Upper Elementary Drama Club has been working hard on this year's musical. The performances will be on Friday, March 23rd and Saturday, March 24th at 7:00 PM. The performances will take place in the auditorium of Carl Sandburg Middle School at 8428 Ft. Hunt Road. Because the rental of the space is costly, there will be a \$5.00 charge for adults and \$2.00 for children. Children under 3 will be admitted for free! We hope all our families can come out and enjoy this wonderful musical!

SCHOOL PHOTOS AVAILABLE UNTIL MARCH 1

School photos will be available for purchase online until March 1. The website address is:

www.tarabandes.zenfolio.com/f177391176.

Password: SWH024.

AFTER-CARE

We have some openings in our Early After Care for 3 and 4 year olds. Early After Care is available from 12:00 pm until either 3:00 pm or 6:00 pm. Mrs. Tahmassebi and Mrs. Yevoli are the After Care teachers until 3:00 pm. Mrs. Caballero is the After Care teacher until 6:00 pm. This is a monthly service that a student must be registered for in advance. If you would like your 3 or 4 year old to join Early After Care, please call the office for more information.

VALENTINE'S DAY

Valentines may be exchanged on Tuesday, February 14th. If your child wishes to participate, please send a card for each of his or her classmates, so that no feelings are hurt. The tradition in our Primary classrooms is to include only the name of the sender on each valentine. **Please do not address the valentines to any individual child.** This tradition facilitates smooth distribution of valentines in the Primary classrooms.

If the elementary children wish to personally address their envelopes, they may do so.

| <i>Teacher</i> | <i>Number of Students</i> |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Mrs. Baucom | 22 |
| Mrs. Morgan | 18 |
| Mrs. Martin | 23 |
| Mrs. Messinger | 27 |
| Ms. O'Donnell | 27 |
| Mrs. Brenning | 27 |

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

School will be closed on February 20th for President's Day and the remainder of the week for a Winter Break. Classes will resume on Monday, February 27.

CLASSICS CLUB

The Classics Club will meet on February 15 from 2:45 to 4:00 pm. They will discuss *The Secret Garden*, by Frances Hodgson Burnett. Please remember to pick your child up from the Upper Elementary Classroom.

HEALTH GUIDELINES

Please review the guidelines in your school directory regarding sick children. During this time of year, the children tend to pick up more illnesses and it is important that you keep them home from school when they are sick. Remember that children should not return to school until they are fever-free and symptom-free for 24 hours. This also applies when they are on antibiotics—they should be on the antibiotics for 24 hours and fever-free before returning to school.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

School will be closed for Individual Parent-Teacher Conferences on Friday, March 9th. If you have not already done so, please sign up on the bulletin board in the primary annex.

SUMMER CAMP

This summer we shall not have our usual Summer Day Camp at Aquinas. We may be moving our annex at Old Town to a new location, and will need time to accomplish that.

All of us on the staff wish you a Happy Valentine's Day and a Happy President's Day.

Sincerely,
Kathleen H. Futrell

CALENDAR Spring 2012

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|------------------|---|--------------------|----------------|
| February 1 | Deadline for return of Re-Registration Forms | <i>Wednesday</i> | |
| February 2 | Vision Screening | <i>Thursday</i> | |
| February 2 | Parent Information Evening – Aquinas Campus “Montessori Language Curriculum” | <i>Thursday</i> | 7:00 – 8:30 pm |
| February 20-24 | <u>School Closed</u> – President's Day and Winter Recess | <i>Mon-Fri</i> | |
| March 2 | Father/Child Night | <i>Friday</i> | 6:30 – 8:00 pm |
| March 9 | <u>School Closed</u> – Individual Parent/Teacher Conferences | <i>Friday</i> | |
| April 2 - 9 | <u>School Closed</u> – Spring Break Classes resume on Tuesday, April 10, 2012 | <i>Mon. – Mon.</i> | |
| April 23 – May 4 | Testing for Third Year Primary, Second & Third Year Lower Elementary & All Upper Elementary Students | <i>Mon. – Fri.</i> | |
| | **Please do not schedule trips or appointments during this period** | | |
| May 18 | May Fete (rain date: 5/19) | <i>Friday</i> | 6:00 – 8:30 pm |
| May 28 | <u>School Closed</u> – Memorial Day | <i>Monday</i> | |
| June 6 | Last Day of School | <i>Wednesday</i> | NOON DISMISSAL |

Additional items will be scheduled during the school year.

- Parents are expected to attend information evenings.(Caregivers are also welcome.)
- Parents are encouraged to observe their child's classroom periodically.