



# St. Thomas Aquinas Grade School

The Catholic Community of Saint Thomas Aquinas Grade School is a partnership of parents, students, staff, and all parishioners that strive to nurture the growth of the whole child in a Catholic, faith-based environment. We seek to promote academic excellence in a safe and nurturing environment while fostering responsibility, positive discipline, service to others, and life-long learning.

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- Rocket Launch
- Tax Credit Orgs.
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## Important November Dates

- 1 School Mass—All Saints Day
- 1 Wildcats Club Mtg.
- 3 Conferences
- 3 Early Release
- 4 Conferences
- 4 Early Release
- 5 Poker Tournament
- 7 2nd Dose Flu Shots
- 13 Sunday School Mass
- 13 PTO Fundraiser
- 16 Used Uniform Sale
- 16 PTO Mtg.
- 17 Water Conserv. Night
- 19 Parish Ball
- 23 Early Release
- 24 No School
- 25 No School



## Principal's Newsletter *Family and School Working Together!*

*"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Pt 4:10)*

Dear St. Thomas Aquinas Community,

According to the current parish strategic plan it has been a goal of the parish to increase participation of young families in the various ministries. This goal is not exceptional to St. Thomas Aquinas as parishes across the country understand the necessity of reaching out to these families. What we will find out in the coming months, as the council gathers its data, is whether or not the parish is accomplishing this goal.

It is my belief we will discover that the young families of the parish, particularly those in the school community, are very involved. Fr. Kieran's comments during the discussion alluded to this. In questioning the goal itself, he pointed out the many groups in which you are all involved. Parish Ball, PTO, Wildcats, Advisory Board, CEA Committee, room parents, coaching and mentoring...the list goes on.

I would be remiss if I did not stop on occasion and thank all of you who have so faithfully contributed your time to make this a special community, so please know that both Fr. Kieran and I recognize how much you do for us.

If you are not currently involved, please join us by sharing your gifts with the school. Time is one of our most critical resources and, as we all know, *many hands make light work*.

It is up to all of us to be good stewards of the school, the parish, and the community.

God bless,

Patrick Reardon, *Principal*



# CATHOLIC EDUCATION ARIZONA (CEA)

(formerly CTODP)

Different name....same great program

CEA is the program that offers tuition assistance for STAGS families. You may contribute (payment plans available):

- \$500 for single filers
- \$1,000 for married filers

We need as many STAGS families contributing as possible. The more contributions we have...the more money collected...the greater the financial rewards.

PLEASE consider supporting this program.

For more info., visit [CatholicEducationArizona.org](http://CatholicEducationArizona.org) where you can view a brief video OR for detailed Info. you can visit [catholictuition.org](http://catholictuition.org)

Thank you to the CEA committee who will be busy the next few months. If you're interested in joining us, contact Matthew—see below information.

## Thank You!

### CEA Questions?

Matthew Scheller at 623-910-9025 or [txb2god@msn.com](mailto:txb2god@msn.com)

## PTO News

Wow, what an amazing October! Thanks to all who joined us for all the great events! A HUGE thanks goes to both our scholastic Book Fair Committee Chairs (Marisa Bell and Celeste Furey) and Authors Week Committee Chairs (Jen Copeland and Judy McCarville) for all their hard work putting together such fun and exciting events for the children and our school! Another giant thank you goes to all of our volunteers who helped staff the bookfair and brought snacks to Authors Week.

Our Spaghetti Dinner was a huge success as well! Mrs. Funk outdid herself with the fabulous sauce and our volunteers helped serve like seasoned pros! Thank you to all who came out to spend a fun night with us! We also raised \$240 from our 50/50 raffle!! \$120 of that will be used to fund our 8<sup>th</sup> grade scholarships. Thank you for your support and thank you to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who cleaned tables and sold tickets all night!

Our next General PTO Meeting will be on November 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Please join us for an evening of entertainment with our grade school children who will be presenting a musical performance led by Ms. Burley.

PTO is sponsoring a great fundraiser on November 13<sup>th</sup> at Diva's and Dude Hair Salon, 35% of all proceeds will go back to STAGS. Watch the Friday Folder for more information! This is a perfect time to get that holiday picture haircut or get your hair Parish Ball ready!

### Parish Ball

This month is another big month for STAGS. Our "Generations of Music Inspiring Dreams Ball" planning is well under way and is shaping up to be a fabulous evening to raise money for our wonderful school. If you haven't gotten your tickets yet you won't want to miss out! Tickets are on sale now in the Parish Office or can be purchased at the SCRIP Cart on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

How does a year of FREE TUITION sound to you? Great right!! Well stop by the SCRIP Cart any Tuesday or Thursday from now until the Parish Ball and purchase a tuition raffle ticket to try and win! We will be selling ONLY 100 tickets for \$100 a piece so buy your tickets soon as these will go fast!

**Contact [Kelly Fitzmaurice](#) at 480-215-8202 for more information.**

# AUCTION DONATIONS NEEDED!

With the Parish Ball fast approaching, we need your help with preparing for the auction.

If you would like to donate an item(s) for the silent or live auction, please contact Chi Funk at 602-763-4109 or at [CHIS@valleycrest.com](mailto:CHIS@valleycrest.com).

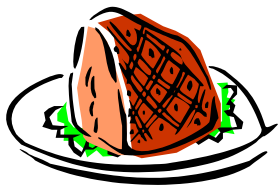
Thanks for your support!



## Honey Baked Ham

### PLACE YOUR HOLIDAY ORDER!!

You can now place your order for the Christmas holiday and use Honey Baked Ham scrip as it is available now for purchase. The school benefits from your Scrip rebate as well as the fundraiser donation. Honey Baked Ham donates 15% of sales to STAGS. Stop by the Scrip Cart to place your order.



#### NEED VOLUNTEER HOURS??

The Wildcat Club serves coffee at the 9AM and 10:45AM masses the first Sunday of each month.

This is a great opportunity for members to promote the Wildcat Club and earn volunteer hours!

If you are interested in volunteering, please email us at [stagswildcats@yahoo.com](mailto:stagswildcats@yahoo.com)



## Board Members

#### President

Nick Rodriguez - [nirodriguez@cokecce.com](mailto:nirodriguez@cokecce.com)

#### Vice President

Matt Kurtz - [kurtzpoetz7@aol.com](mailto:kurtzpoetz7@aol.com)

#### Secretary

Steve Minten - [mintens@cox.net](mailto:mintens@cox.net)

#### Treasurer

Terry Tessmer - [terrytessmer@cox.net](mailto:terrytessmer@cox.net)

#### Communications

Andy Mesquita - [amesquita@cox.net](mailto:amesquita@cox.net)

#### WILDCATS CLUB MEETING

The next meeting will take place on:

**Tuesday, November 1st**

St. Clare Hall

7PM

#### WILDCATS FAMILY DINING

More info. on November's family dining event to come. Please watch upcoming Friday Folders.

#### WILDCATS POKER TOURNAMENT

**Saturday, November 5th**

St. Clare Hall

Dinner begins at 6PM / Poker starts at 7PM

\$35 contribution

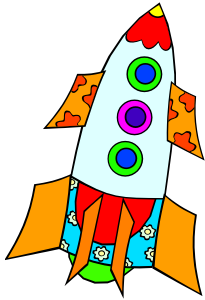
Contact Jeff Bailey at [jbailey2@cox.net](mailto:jbailey2@cox.net) to register.

#### ARE YOU A NEW FAMILY JOINING ST. THOMAS AQUINAS GRADE SCHOOL??

We are always looking for new Dads that are interested in participating in the Wildcats Club by supporting the kids, gaining service hours and having fun in all of our volunteer efforts. Anyone interested in joining is welcome to contact us at [stagwildcats@yahoo.com](mailto:stagwildcats@yahoo.com) or feel free to attend any of our monthly meetings. For more information, please visit our website at [www.stawildcats.net](http://www.stawildcats.net).

# Rocket Launch!

10...9...8.....  
....blast off!



## Tax Credit Organizations

Contact Liz Hansen, School Advisory Board Member, at [lhansen@smknights.org](mailto:lhansen@smknights.org) or 602-251-2510 for more information.

### Arizona Private Education Scholarship Fund, Inc.

14550 N. Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd.,  
#210  
Scottsdale, AZ 85260  
480-699-8911 Fax: 480-946-5224  
[www.apesf.org](http://www.apesf.org)

### AZ Scholarship Fund

P. O. Box 2576  
Mesa, AZ 5214  
480-497-4564 Fax: 480-497-4737  
[www.azscholarships.org](http://www.azscholarships.org)

### AZ School Choice Trust

P.O. Box 1616  
Glendale, AZ 85311  
623-414-3429 Fax: 623-243-6846  
[www.asct.org](http://www.asct.org)

### Catholic Education Arizona (CEA)

2025 North Third Street, #165  
Phoenix, AZ 85004-1425  
Phone: 602-218-6542  
[catholiceducationarizona.org](http://catholiceducationarizona.org)

### Educare Scholarship Fund

P.O. Box 8393  
Scottsdale, AZ 85252  
602-980-2680

### Giving Kids the Credit

17212 N. Scottsdale Rd, Apt. 2321  
Scottsdale, AZ 85255  
480-664-8617 Fax: 480-664-8618

### Institute for Better Education

5151 E. Broadway, Ste. 1600  
Tucson, AZ 85711  
520-512-5438 Fax: 520-512-5401  
[www.ibescholarships.org](http://www.ibescholarships.org)

### School Choice Arizona, Inc.

2241 E. Pecos Road, Ste. 38  
Chandler, AZ 85225  
480-722-7502 Fax: 480-820-0403  
[www.schoolchoicearizona.org](http://www.schoolchoicearizona.org)

### Tuition Organization for Private Schools (TOPS for Kids)

P.O. Box 41930  
Mesa, AZ 85274  
480-710-8943 Fax: 480-835-9615  
[www.topsforkids.com](http://www.topsforkids.com)

# Scrip Christmas Special Order!



**Help earn a pizza party for your  
child's class!**

Completed order forms may be  
turned into the School Office or Scrip  
Cart.

**October 25th -  
November 8th**

The Scrip Christmas Special Order is the time of year to get ready for the holidays! This is our biggest purchase period of the year and an opportunity to earn lots of rebates for our school as well as your annual scrip obligation and work towards your tuition credit! You can also pre-order See's Candy for the holidays!

- Orders must be made via the Scrip Christmas Special Order Form (available on RenWeb), online orders are not included although can still be placed.
- The class with the highest % of families that submit an order (of any amount!) wins a pizza party in December!
- If you have children in more than one class, you may place one order and it will be counted towards all classes.
- Orders will be distributed November 21st-23rd.

## Order Forms Due By 11/8.



### **Any Questions??**

We're here to help answer your questions and make sure to check RenWeb for program details: [scripquestions@yahoo.com](mailto:scripquestions@yahoo.com)

Kristi Mack at 650-773-5538 (cell) or Sunny Lancaster at 760-822-3323 (cell)