



St. Thomas Aquinas Grade School

The Catholic community of Saint Thomas Aquinas Grade School is a partnership of parents, teachers, staff, students and all parishioners who strives 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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Principal's Newsletter

Family and School Working Together!

Dear STAGS Community,

Welcome to a new and exciting year. This is probably the third version of this letter that has been written, so let's just get it out there!

The folks on the **Chasse** Building Team and at **CCBG** Architects, Inc. have done a remarkable job and we are moving in the furniture. We will be able to occupy the space with human beings this Thursday or Friday. It will be nice to get back to normal after a few months of upheaval, and the thrill of opening a new chapter in the story of the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community will soon make every inconvenience seem like a distant memory.

The Friday Folder will have the details you are awaiting. One important note: we will not have extended day program during the first week of school. I apologize for any inconvenience, but we will still be moving into much of our space.

There will be a lot of new faces on and around campus and I ask that you join me in welcoming them to the outstanding community that is St. Thomas Aquinas. Here is the list of teachers and assistants who are new to our school for 2011-2012

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrie Oatis – Preschool Teacher • Marie Spillet – Preschool Assistant • Diana Rodriguez – Preschool Assistant • Hilda Trujillo – Kindergarten • Karin Goto - Kindergarten | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deborah May – 1st Grade • Victoria Aja – 1st Grade • Kristen Bung – 2nd Grade • Todd Parent – 2nd Grade • Valerie Cowan – 5th Grade |
|--|--|

In addition, Lisa Albrand will be with us full-time as PE teacher and Athletic Director, while Jan Miller moved from the nurse's office to the preschool as an Assistant.

I hope that you are excited to return. May you receive God's peace and blessings for the coming year,

Patrick Reardon, *Principal*



PTO NEWS

Welcome to all our new STAGS families and welcome back to all our returning STAGS families!

The PTO is so excited for the upcoming school year and all that the wonderful St. Thomas Aquinas Grade School Community has to offer. We have some fun and exciting events to share with you for September.

New Parent Orientation will be held September 7th in St. Clare Hall, time TBA. Please join us for the evening to get all your STAGS questions answered. Parents only please.

Our first general PTO meeting will be held on September 7th in St. Clare Hall, time TBA. We invite you to join us for a fun evening learning about all of our volunteer opportunities with the committee chairs for all our events throughout the year. All parents are welcome and every parent who attends earns two volunteer hours!

Another opportunity to earn volunteer hours right away is the weekend of the school dedication. The school will be providing coffee and lemonade after all masses the weekend of September 17th and 18th. We need volunteers to show parishioners around our new school. Please contact Kelly Fitzmaurice at kfitzmau76@cox.net or 480-215-8202 if you are interested in helping.

We will have our Welcome Back Beach Bash on September 23rd at the YMCA starting at 5pm. Join us for swimming and a potluck style dinner!



CATHOLIC EDUCATION ARIZONA

Formerly CTODP

A new name....same great program!

The CEA team will be looking for new parents to help out on this very important committee. Over **\$394,000** was raised for financial assistance this school year. Please consider serving on this committee. It is a great way to help our school and our families.

Stay tuned for information about this tax credit program. Thank you to all families who support CEA.

CEA Questions?

Matthew Scheller

623-910-9025 or txb2god@msn.com

2011/2012 PTO BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PRESIDENT – Kelly Fitzmaurice—kfitzmau76@cox.net
VICE PRESIDENT – Chi Sidener-Funk—chis@valleycrest.com
TREASURER – Elsa Robinson—mammyontara@cox.net
SECRETARY – Carol Ruiz—arizonarui@hotmail.com
EXECUTIVE MEMBER – Marisa Bell—mb817@cox.net

PTO ADVISORY BOARD REP. – [Nicole Rix](#) & [Buff Wessman](#)

ROOM PARENT COORD. – [Anabelle Mendoza](#) & [Jen Bobis](#)
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HOSPITALITY - [Susie Vanderwey](#)
ANNUAL APPEAL - [Sheryl Whitehouse](#)
PARISH BALL - Father Kieran
HONEY BAKED HAM - [Marlene Flickinger](#)
AUTHORS WEEK - [Judy McCarville](#) & [Jennifer Copeland](#)
JOG-A-THON - [Buff Wessman](#)
BOOKFAIR - [Marisa Bell](#) & [Celeste Furey](#)
UNIFORM – [Caren Bailey](#)
FRESH & EASY – [Laura Haggerty](#)
LABELS REDEMPTION* – [Maria Domingo](#)

*Includes box tops and Campbell's labels

The Beach Bash, Spaghetti Dinners, and PTO meetings are sponsored by the PTO Board. Contact [Kelly Fitzmaurice](#) at 480-215-8202 for more information.

Scrip Highlights

Sales have begun!!!

We're using VolunteerSpot to help us organize our Scrip volunteers for the 2011-2012 school year. Please click on the link below to sign-up to help. Your participation is what makes our program a success!

[Sign Up Now / Learn More](#)

Have questions? Contact one of the Scrip Co-Chairs for assistance: scripquestions@yahoo.com

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

September 10th

Mass sales resume.

September 13th

Weekday sales resume.

All families are encouraged to check [RenWeb](#), there are several Scrip resources posted including the new Scrip Handbook, Special Order Form, etc.

Look for the Back to School Ice Cream Contest coming out soon!



[Shop Scrip Today!!!](#)



Board Members

President

Nick Rodriguez - nirodriguez@cokecce.com

Vice President

Matt Kurtz - kurtzpoetz7@aol.com

Secretary

Steve Minten - mintens@cox.net

Treasurer

Terry Tessmer - terrytessmer@cox.net

Communications

Andy Mesquita - amesquita@cox.net

WILDCATS CLUB MEETING

The first meeting of the school year will take place on:
Tuesday, September 6th
St. Clare Hall
7PM

WILDCATS FAMILY DINING

More info. on September's family dining night to come. Please watch upcoming Friday folders.

WILDCATS POKER TOURNAMENT

This was held last Saturday. Questions on future tournaments can be sent to Jeff Bailey at jbailey2@cox.net.

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 or feel free to attend any of our monthly meetings.

For more information about who we are, please visit our website at www.stawildcats.net.



Creative Writing Club

At St. Thomas Aquinas

Register now for fall classes!



Have Fun Writing Short Stories, Plays, Poetry, Comics, Songs, Sports, Features, and More!

Young Writers' Academy is a creative writing program that provides **FUN & ENGAGING** theme-based workshops which **INSPIRES** kids to write! Each series ends with a finished product to take home, such as a bound book of the student's work. The YWA Writing Club will meet for one hour after-school and will be offered three times a year with a different theme every time. *YWA workshops meet National Writing Standards.*

FALL WORKSHOP SERIES: Ages 7-14

Let's Create a Newspaper!

Students will enjoy this creative and exciting workshop as they learn the tools necessary to write for different parts of a student newspaper through fun lessons and activities.

Your child will be transformed into a real reporter and will research, interview, write and edit their own articles, as well as help with layout and design.

The final result will be a published newspaper they will receive at the last session as a wonderful keepsake to show off to family and friends! This paper also may be distributed to fellow students and available online. Don't miss this fantastic class!

CLASS INFORMATION: There will be no class on Oct 12th

Day	Dates	Locations/Series	Time	Cost
Wed	9/28-11/16	St. Thomas Aquinas School <i>Let's Create A Newspaper</i>	3:15pm-4:15pm	\$90 for 7-classes

Classroom location provided after registration



Registration is open.

(Club limited to first 20 students only!)

Preregistration is required

REGISTER ONLINE:

www.youngwritersacademy.com

*Click "Register Now" button and follow steps to pay online or send personal check to Young Writers Academy 8034 Pemswood St. Charlotte, NC 28277 **

Questions? Call us: 623-261-3890 or

Email: helene@youngwritersacademy.com

*Also, don't miss an **AMAZING opportunity** - A Youth Writers Conference will be held on Oct 29th for ages 7-17 in conjunction with the annual Avondale Writer's conference. Opportunities to perform, win prizes and have your work reviewed by a published author. Register NOW at <http://www.avondalewritersconference.com/>*