



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Nascantur in Admirazione*

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

## St. Thomas PreK-10 School Newsletter March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### *School Mission Statement*

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School exists to form disciples of Jesus Christ. Educating in the Eucharistic culture and classical intellectual tradition of the Catholic Church, students are led to encounters with the transcendental good, true, and beautiful. In wonder, confidence, and virtue, students are prepared to engage our broken world for the glory of God, the good of others, and for their own sanctification.

### Virtue for the School Year: Faith

- Assenting, through grace, to God's revealed truth

### Virtue for Scholastica Term: Friendliness

- Acting in a becoming manner towards others



## ~ Upcoming Events ~

March 4<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>

**Reading Month Competitions/Events (see below)**

March 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>

**Special Reading Month Dress Days**

March 13<sup>th</sup> and March 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Dress-up/Dress-down days canceled due to special dress days for March Is Reading Month (see below)**

March 22<sup>nd</sup>  
**Last Day of Scholastica Term**

March 28<sup>th</sup>-April 7<sup>th</sup>  
**Easter Break**

SAVE THE DATE: April 19<sup>th</sup>  
**St. Thomas Gala - Weber's Inn**



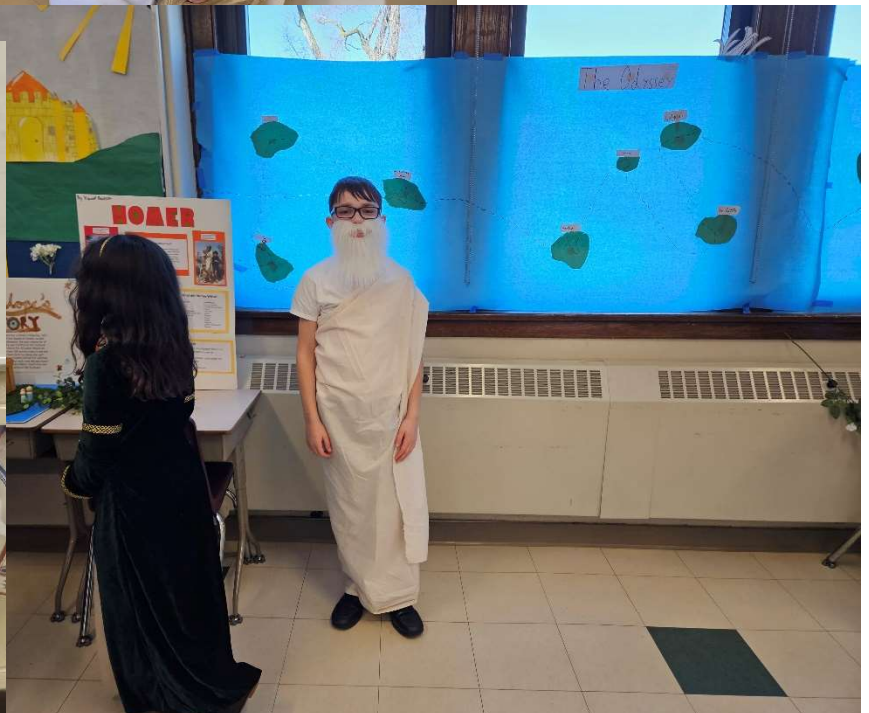
## Congratulations, JV Girls Basketball!

After losing the first game in this past weekend's tournament, the JV girls won the next three games, culminating in a come-from-behind victory over HVCS. They took home the third-place trophy, finishing the season 8-4. Great job!

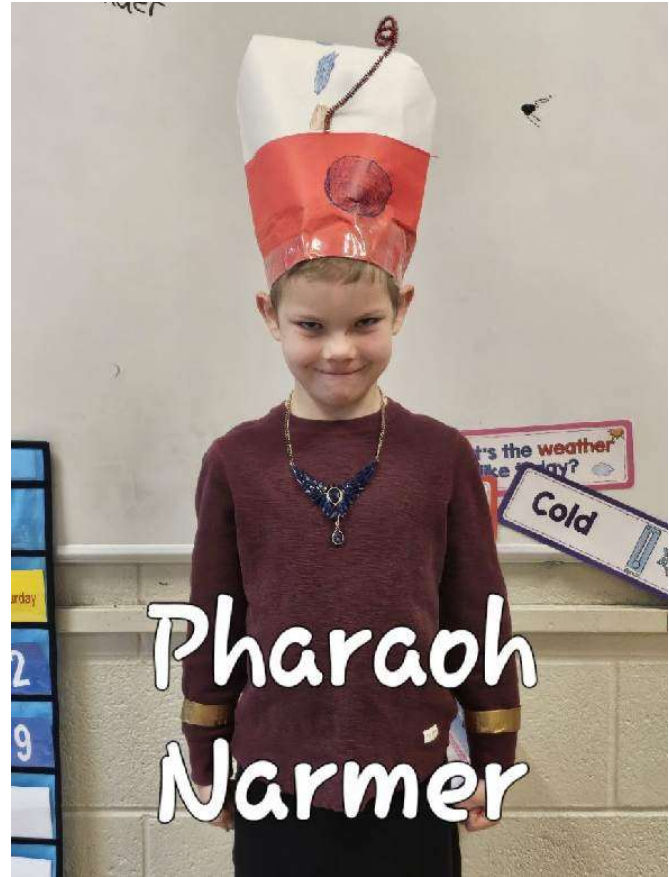


## Special Dress Day: Characters in History

The 5<sup>th</sup> graders dressed up as figures in the Greek Pantheon and in Greek history, and they hosted a number of classes to tour their posters and listen to their character descriptions. I took a tour myself and was impressed by their knowledge! Meanwhile, our kindergartners dressed up as characters in ancient history. Mr. Pietryga graciously gave us labels!







## From the Headmaster

Today at assembly, Mr. Pietryga updated the angel house reading competition. Last week, Raphael earned 20 points, Michael 18, and Gabriel 16. The students in all grades have been coming up with creative outfits for our special dress days. It's been great fun seeing famous figures from across eras of western history grace the halls of our school!

I also explored with the students the meaning and significance of the word "heritage." Closely tied to the dynamic of "tradition," a "handing on," a heritage is a kind of inheritance, an entrustment. This is something that we as a school are trying to do. Indeed, each teacher seeks to hand on to his or her students what he or she has received. As human beings, we are in many ways receivers, including of our very identity as an individual person. I pointed out that our very name is simply given to us. When teachers are guiding students to read good literature or history, they are seeking to pass on the ideas, images, and loves of a cultural inheritance, something through which students can develop a meaningful identity. Even as we are seeking to entrust the young with this inheritance, so they, as receivers, must trust *who* is

handing this on and *that* what they are being handed is truly good and beautiful. As they get older, they will also need to reflect on this heritage, wrestle with and question it, and, ultimately, come to know and love it even more deeply than their teachers.

Our discussion evening on technology last week was very lightly attended. The parents that joined Mike Hanley, Mr. McCoy, and I were able to share their concerns and thoughts, which centered on issues of family culture, the formation of the young, and continued practical guidance on managing screen access at home. As we get nearer to the summer, I'd like to offer a kind of challenge for families over the summer, with an eye to offering support in thinking of alternative ways to spend our free time. I sincerely believe that screen use for our students is a question of great importance in their formation, and, given the predominant cultural assumptions and approaches to this issue, it will take, *collectively*, a *concerted* and *intentional* effort on the part of the school and parents to develop a healthy relationship with various forms of screens and online media.

Our teachers and I had another great session with our sister schools and ICLE last Wednesday. One of the presenters was a former teacher, Marie Kelly! The session focused on the importance of inquiry in the classroom, especially through seminar and question-and-answer instruction. I anticipate further conversations among our teachers as we reflect on the insights offered by ICLE.

It is hard to believe, but the last day of the term is next Friday! Parents of 4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> graders, be sure to check FACTS to get the latest academic standing for your child.

## Canned Food Drive Update

So far, we have collected around 675 items total! Keep bringing in items, but please do check labels to make sure that items have not passed their expiration date. We have had to throw out a number of expired food items. The current class ranking is as follows:

1. 6th grade, 10.3
2. 4th grade, 9.6
3. 2nd grade, 7.2
4. 3rd grade 6.9
5. Kindergarten, 4.8
6. 5th grade, 4.6
7. 1st grade, 4.4
8. 7th grade, 4
9. 8th grade 1.25
10. 9/10, 0

## Gala Tickets

Tickets can be ordered on our website at <https://sta2.org/school/st-thomas-school-scholarship-gala-auction-2024/>.

## Track Coach Needed

Mr. Miller is still looking for a track coach for this spring. Please contact him at [cmiller@sta2.org](mailto:cmiller@sta2.org) if you know any leads or are able to help.

## March Is Reading Month

Here is the remaining schedule:

- TUES, MARCH 12
  - Miss Dalian's mother will come and read her recently-published book and answer questions for grades PK, K, 1, and 2
- **NEW - THURS-FRI, MARCH 14-15**
  - Used book sale for students during library times. Students may bring cash to purchase - \$1 per book!
- MON, MARCH 18
  - Special jeans day with spirit wear or green for St. Patrick and our Irish athletics
- TUES, MARCH 19
  - The Feast of St. Joseph- Normal dress code, only the students can wear something red- a shirt, tie, vest, sweater, socks, hairbow, pin, etc. Mrs. Deemer will set up a St. Joseph Table in the school office hallway, and the students can come by before their lunch period to visit the table and receive a St. Joseph cream puff and/or bread.
- GRAND FINALE: THURS, MARCH 21- FRI, MARCH 22
  - Library raffle prizes will be given out at library class times.
  - On Friday, we will have a special all-school assembly in the parish hall at 2:00 pm for a game of Literary Trivia. Two representatives from each of grades 1<sup>st</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> will be selected to compete in a K-4 or 5-10 trivia competition with questions composed by their teachers about literary subjects. Winners of the reading competitions will also be announced.