



# Sunday SideNotes

May 24, 2010

All children, except one, grow up.

*Peter Pan*

*Opening words*

As the 2009-2010 school year nears completion, the events of the last two weeks have given evidence that for good or for bad, it does seem to be true that all children (except one) grow up! In the past weeks, we have celebrated and seen the talent and character of your children in many ways! The outstanding performance of our high school students in *The Crucible* touched the audience at their core; the light-heartedness of *Peter Pan and Wendy* will leave an impression for months to come; the accomplishments and sportsmanship of our athletes have been recognized; the musical talent of our students has been enjoyed by all; and student accomplishments within many of the lower school classrooms have been highlighted. At year's end, it is evident that your children have grown in many ways. Surely you see the many ways that your children have increased their knowledge and skills, grown in their understanding of the faith, and developed their relationships with others.

As students continue to “grow up” over the summer, I would like to encourage you to continue an effort that we felt was important during this school year. We began this school year with an emphasis on “Confidence and Manners”. Summer provides an opportunity to continue to develop both of these. In particular, as your children interact with others in a variety of settings, they will have occasion to greet and thank those that they meet. Please continue to guide them in appropriate and polite conversation with the adults that they meet. These are important skills that guide children in thinking about others and extending the respect that is due to elders and to those in authority. This is an area where continued growth is needed. Unfortunately, there are sometimes exchanges between students and adults – teachers, parents, or visitors – that are lacking appropriate manners and respect. Perhaps summertime will provide opportunities for students to grow in their ability to interact in confident and positive ways with the adults they encounter. Perhaps you can coach your children in introducing themselves and in greeting new people. “Hello, Mr. Smith. It’s so nice to meet you!” can go a long way. Eye contact and a firm handshake are important details that convey confidence and interest. Assist your sons and daughters in their ability to converse easily with others.

This will help students to gain confidence for eventual college interviews and job interviews. Remind your children to say “Please” and “Thank you”. Help them to continue to develop a spirit of gratitude and respect for others.

All children (except one) grow up! Let’s help them to grow in confidence and manners, even as they spend the summer chasing after their shadows!!

Sincerely,  
Leslie Mitros

1234567

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<sup>1</sup> As the school year comes to an end, please note the **last day of school** for our students:

**Lower School : Wednesday, June 2nd.**

**There is no Mass scheduled for this day.**

**Lower School Awards Ceremony will be held in the Rhodora at 11:00, followed by a closing prayer service and presentation of the Peter Hycza Memorial Award in the Chapel . Following this closing prayer service, students may be dismissed with parents who are present. Bussing will be at regular dismissal time for those who remain.**

**Middle School: Last finals on Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

**Students may be dismissed following their 2<sup>nd</sup> final ( around 12:30) if they have transportation home. Busses will dismiss at the regular time.**

**Middle School will have their closing Mass and awards ceremony, as well as 8<sup>th</sup> grade advancement, on Thursday evening, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. See details in footnote #2.**

**High School: Last final is scheduled for Thursday morning, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Students may be dismissed following their last exam on all final exam days if transportation is provided. Busses will dismiss at the regular time.**

**High School Awards Ceremony will be held on Friday Evening, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M. in the Rhodora. All high school students are invited and encouraged to attend with their parents. Honor Roll Awards, National Latin Exam Awards, Special Recognitions, and Department Awards will be presented at that time. Dress attire is required.**

**Seniors: Senior finals begin this Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, and are completed by Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. Students need only be present for the exams they are required to take.**

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**See Footnote #3 for Baccalaureate and Commencement information.**

<sup>2</sup> **Attention parents of 8<sup>th</sup> graders:** The last day of school for 8<sup>th</sup> grade is Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. **On the evening of June 3<sup>rd</sup>, there will be a closing Middle School Mass, particularly asking God's blessing on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students as they complete this level of their education. Please join us at 6:30 in the chapel where Fr. Joe Codori will celebrate this closing Mass. This is a dress occasion for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Dresses for girls and dress shirt and tie for boys would be in order. Jackets would even be appropriate for the boys.** Following Mass, a middle school awards ceremony and 8<sup>th</sup> grade advancement will be held in the gymnasium. **A special reception for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and their families will be immediately following the ceremony. (Please respond to the e-vite that you should have received).**

<sup>3</sup> **The Baccalaureate Mass for our graduating seniors will be offered on Saturday morning, June 5<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 in the Chapel. Fr. Kris Stubna, Secretary for Education in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, will be the Celebrant and homilist.** Following the Baccalaureate, brunch will be served in the Rhodora, followed by **Commencement, beginning at 12:00. Michael Maglio, Esq., is this year's Commencement Speaker.** All high school families are invited to join in honoring our graduates. A reservation is required if you plan to join in the brunch. Please see the attached form for cost of the brunch and details.

<sup>4</sup> Parents of MS/HS Students should be sure to note the attached **final exam schedule.** Times of exams will be posted in hallways and sent home this week.

<sup>5</sup> Please see the attached **Summer Camp Brochure.** A hard copy will be sent home this week. These camps are open to students from other schools as well, but are primarily for the benefit of our own students. There are opportunities for rising Kindergarteners through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Please check it out!! There is also a special College Week noted on the back of the brochure for rising seniors. Additionally, please see the attachment for the summer Lacrosse Clinic for high school boys. We look forward to a busy summer at Aquinas Academy!

<sup>6</sup> Parents of students in **grades 10 through 12 next year should be sure to see and sign the course selection form for next school year.** Students at all of these levels have met to discuss the options. If you have questions about course selection, please feel free to discuss options and best choices with Mrs. Mitros or any other high school administrator. **Note that admission to Algebra II for sophomores will require proficiency in Algebra I.** This will be determined by means of an Algebra I proficiency test to be administered this week. For students who display weakness in this area, summer work may be done and students may take the proficiency test again in August, or 10<sup>th</sup> graders may register for Honors Algebra I for reinforcement before moving on to Algebra II.

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This is part of our ongoing effort to assure that students at Aquinas are successful in the study of mathematics.

**<sup>7</sup> Uniform Exchange:** Parents may bring gently worn, outgrown uniform pieces to school this week for the Uniform Exchange. Michelle Martin will be coordinating this effort to allow families to swap out uniform pieces to obtain the right size for the next school year. Please deliver washed pieces to the front office. Clothing will be displayed in the main hallway near the library.

**Lost and Found:** The lost and found is OVERFLOWING!! There are actually two such Overflows. One is in the main building near the library. The other is remnants from gym class/locker rooms, and is located in the main hallway of the Rhodora, near the exit. Any uniform pieces unclaimed by week's end will land in the Uniform Exchange. Other items will be donated for the Rummage Sale!