

## A New Beginning

What a wonderful start to the new school year! The students and teachers are focused on lessons, the office staff is sorting through the many forms, the volunteers are sharing their time and talents, and I am enjoying greeting the wonderful families that make up our faith community at Queen of Apostles.

It is a privilege and a pleasure to work with the officers and members of the PTO. We have already had two board meetings and two general meetings, and it is so energizing to be a part of the ideas and plans to strengthen the mission of our school.

I have to say that I have been affiliated with many fine academic institutions, in both a professional and a parental capacity, and although some are bigger in size, none surpasses Queen of Apostles in the parents' dedication and willingness to help. It is truly a "family," united by our faith in God and strengthened through prayer. That is the beauty and the strength of our school.

I love the hint of fall – getting darker a little earlier and those wonderful cool nights (and cool mornings when it can be a bit hard to get out of bed!). Autumn is my very favorite season – after all, it ushers in "boot weather!" Down the road, when I have retired (and am home playing with grandchildren!), that hint of fall will remind me of the special new beginning that is the promise of each school year.

God bless all of you,

*Joanne Yates*

Principal

**Thank you to the Matzinger/Lash family, who won the contest to name our new newsletter!**

## It Will Be a Joyful Year!

Welcome to our very first newsletter! I really enjoyed meeting some of you at our Back to School nights this month.

We have a wonderful school, where our children are nurtured academically, emotionally, and spiritually! My son has grown so much at Q of A. It seems like yesterday that he sat shyly in Mrs. Dowden's kindergarten class. This year my daughter is beginning her journey as a Kinder. My children are personality polar opposites, yet Q of A nurtures their individual needs, coaxes their inner talents to the surface, and persuades them to be generous with that talent and give of themselves to others.

As Christians and parents, we are also called to serve. A good place to start is right here at Q of A – with our children! We are all way too busy for our own good, I know. I am too! But we can't let that be an excuse to not be a part of our children's lives, which right now is their

school. The time they have as impressionable children is SOOO short!

Let's use our time with our children wisely. I challenge you to become an even greater part of your children's lives at Q of A. Volunteer opportunities abound: seize them! The rewards for your activism at the school are many.

Finally, I want to invite you to take the time to know your Parent-Teacher Board. The members and their contact information are listed in the Q of A Weekly. Learn about your children's school and commit yourself to get involved! I guarantee you will love it as much as our children do!!!

Veritas et Gaudium!

*Gladis Griffith*

President, PTO Board

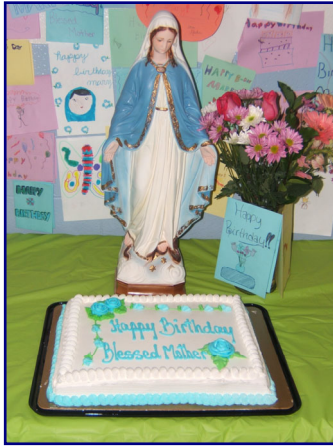


### Inside

What's Happening Around School . . .	2
Student Spotlight . . .	2
Meet Two of	
Our New Teachers . . .	3
Ways to Support Learning . . .	3
Sally Foster Fundraiser . . .	3
Mission Statement . . .	4
Crossword . . . .	4



## What’s Happening Around School



To get a feel for what is happening, this reporter decided to go right to the source – the students!

The kindergartners have been learning about safety. They are making traffic lights, and they all know that red means stop, yellow means caution, and green means go. (Now if only some adults would remember that when they are behind the wheel!)

The second graders regaled this reporter with their knowledge of Saint Padre Pio. They knew that he was a friar, that his family was very poor, that his father worked hard so he could be a friar, and that he had the wounds of Christ. They even knew it is called the *stigmata*.

Third grade is all about math. They can estimate all the way to the thousands place. They had lots of good reasons as to why math is important in life – even if you are an English teacher!

Sixth grade World Geography sounds fascinating – I may have to audit the class. They are learning about the caves in Lascaux, France and took a virtual tour. In art they watched a video about the drawings found on the cave walls. One of the students said that she really enjoyed this subject because it is “real and not pretend.” Another student enjoyed the opportunity to see the art, be creative, and share ideas.

The students will be participating again this year in “Reach for the Stars.” This is a reading incentive program in which the entire school is challenged to read for 5,000 hours. Encourage your child to participate – turn off the TV and grab a good book, too. (I am re-reading the Berenstain Bears series – Mama Bear is very wise!)

*Next month: More on what’s happening in the classrooms and around the school*

---

“ASK, AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN YOU; SEEK, AND YOU SHALL FIND; KNOCK, AND IT SHALL BE OPENED TO YOU.” MATTHEW 7:7

---

## Student Spotlight

In this very first issue of our school newsletter, it is fitting that we spotlight those students who serve the school. This is often at a sacrifice, including giving up free time, having to make up work that is missed while duties are being performed, and having to get to school early or stay after.

A huge thank you to our patrols – they keep us safe, they help arrival and dismissal run smoothly, and they help the young students out of or into their cars. They are outside in the rain, wind, sun, and even snow! They do this with a smile, with a giving heart, and with a focus on the job. God bless our patrols.

Another huge thank you to our altar boys – they are serving Our Lord in a very special way. They model respect and reverence for

the younger students. They must leave class early to get ready and are expected to make up work. They also serve at funerals – often giving up recess to do so. God bless our altar servers.

We would never forget to thank our choir. They sound like angels as they raise their voices praising God. They give up recess time and Sundays (when the Children’s Choir performs), and they stay after school to practice. God bless our choir.

Thank you, also, to the parents and guardians who encourage and support our children in developing a spirit of service.

*Next month: Spotlight on Student Council*





## Meet Two of Our New Teachers



Mr. Chris Pelczar

Among our new teachers this year are two fine young men recently graduated from Christendom College in Front Royal, Va. We asked them some questions to help you get to know them better.

**Mr. Marion Miner** teaches 8th grade history, 6th and 7th grade religion, and physical education. He grew up in Wakefield, Neb., on a farm with 16 horses, numerous barn cats, and an Australian Shepherd named Patch. He has a younger sister, Kyna, and brother, Ian.

Mr. Miner enjoys reading, music, and competition – his favorite sports are football and basketball, and he also played baseball and track in high school. His favorite movies are *The Sandlot*, *Braveheart*, and *The Patriot*. As for books, among his favorites are the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, Hardy Boys books, and anything by C. S. Lewis. His favorite place to visit is Italy, especially Rome and Assisi.

When asked what he likes about Queen of Apostles School, he said, “Q of A reminds me

of the small Catholic grade school I went to. I have fond memories of the fraternity among students, and I see that here, too.”

**Mr. Chris Pelczar** is teaching 5th through 8th grade science. He is closer to home – he grew up in Fairfax, Va., with two younger brothers, Joseph and John, and a parakeet named Frances (named before they knew whether she was a boy or girl).

His favorite sports are football and rugby, and he played soccer and rugby in college. He also loves camping and going to the beach. His favorite trip was to Duck, N.C. His favorite book is *The Count of Monte Cristo*, and like Mr. Miner, *Braveheart* is one of his favorite movies.

“I have a good time working with the kids,” he said of Q of A. “It’s great to see them learn. I have fun with them at recess, and I like to get to know them outside of class.”

*Welcome to you both!*



Mr. Marion Miner

## Ways You Can Support Learning and School

- Spend a few minutes looking over handouts, tests, and forms *every day*.
- Make sure teachers know you appreciate their efforts and support them – send them an e-mail or note.
- If there is a problem, contact the teacher right away.
- Attend conferences, parent meetings, and school events.
- Take advantage of volunteer opportunities.
- Refrain from making negative comments about school, including policies, teachers, staff, and/or other students.
- Encourage good study habits – provide a consistent time and area for homework, outside play, and reading time, and limit time on the computer or game systems.
- Use the time traveling to and from school and sports practices to talk with your children – encourage them and letting them know that you are there for them.
- Turn off the TV!!! Talk, read, play games, work puzzles – these activities develop a life-long love for learning, promote higher-level thinking and problem-solving skills, and are just plain fun!

*As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live.*  
—Pope John Paul II



## Sally Foster Sales to Help Build New Playground

Help us build a new playground for Q of A! Sally Foster catalogs have already gone home; show them to friends, family, and coworkers. The catalog includes giftwrap, mouth-watering chocolates, gourmet gifts, and practical items for the home. Shop in advance

for holidays, birthdays, and other special occasions.

Tell your far-flung family and friends they can order online using school code 926603; be sure to register your child so he or she gets credit toward prizes!



### Mission Statement

*At Queen of Apostles Catholic School, we recognize the uniqueness of each student, focus on the education of the whole child, and enable our students to realize their full potential.*

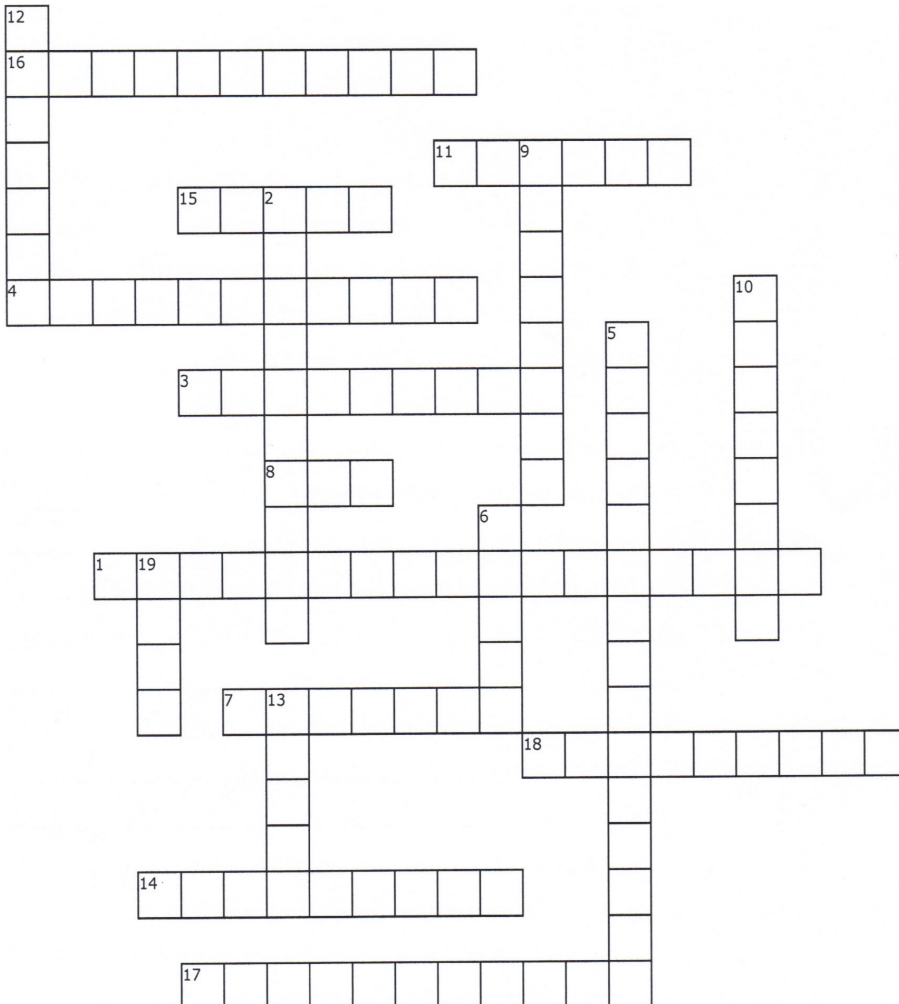
*The spiritual, moral, academic, physical, and aesthetic development of each student is fostered by providing a faith-filled academic environment where creativity and excitement for learning are tempered with self-discipline and order.*

---

## VERITAS ET GAUDIUM

---

### God Created Every Winged Bird

**Across**

- 1. Rough Rider president
- 3. Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer author
- 4. Tiny bird
- 7. Its feathers look like a tuxedo
- 8. Whooooo's that bird?
- 11. Play time
- 14. In grammar, a describing word
- 15. First Pope
- 16. Huge museum in Washington, D.C.
- 17. Veritas et Gaudium
- 18. Miss Killion's first name

**Down**

- 2. Great golfer
- 5. She says, "Give me your tired, your poor, . . ."
- 6. Bird that heralds Spring
- 9. State bird of Virginia
- 10. Game in which you score touchdowns
- 12. Large bird that does not fly
- 13. Bird that symbolizes U.S. and Q of A
- 19. Bird that is fast flyer and great hunter