

## Effective Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences will be held Nov. 12 and 13. Here are some pointers to help you make the most of every moment of your conference:

1. Beforehand, write down your questions and concerns, including positive and negative school experiences. Get your child's input.
2. Try to be specific in your questions and comments. If your child is taking a long time to do homework, do some observing beforehand. Is it a particular subject, a lack of organization, a difficulty in grasping the material, or is your child overwhelmed with the quantity of work?
3. Be on time! The teachers have packed schedules, so keep on point. If you run out of time, ask to schedule another meeting.
4. Whatever your concerns may be, keep the discussion professional and polite.
5. Do not talk about other teachers in a negative way. If you have concerns about another teacher, make an appointment to meet with that teacher.
6. Do not expect the teacher to discuss any other students with you; this is a violation of professional behavior.
7. Take notes during the conference, and review them when you get home.
8. Follow up on suggestions and ideas, and communicate the effectiveness of strategies that the teacher suggests.

No one knows your child better than you do, but at school the teachers see the students in a very different environment than home. They spend all day with your child, observing interactions with peers, behavior in the lunchroom and playground, and study and work habits in the classroom.

*Joanne Yates*  
Principal

## So Much to Be Thankful For

So, what am I thankful for?

How about for food, clean water, and, in the words of a homeless 13-year-old squatting in a filthy, abandoned property, "a good safe place to stay." On Oct. 25, a heart-wrenching *New York Times* article noted an increasing number of homeless children.

Many of these kids became homeless because their families experienced a medical catastrophe, loss of a job, foreclosure, or eviction. To relieve the financial pressure, the children start finding their own meals, then places to sleep. Yes, some were runaways leaving abusive homes, but many landed on the streets because their parents could not offer them the basic necessities that we take for granted!

I am grateful for articles like this that slap me back to reality!

We have so much to be thankful for at Q of A. Thank God for our precious children! Thank God for their squeals of laughter that always make us laugh back and see the world as a silly, wondrous place where even the trees go from feathery to ripe green to gold, red, and orange, to white, and then start over again! Thank God, too, for the love and kindness of family, friends, teachers, parents, and even strangers!

It's the time of year to celebrate the wonders of life!! Let's remind ourselves and our children how good we have it! Think, too, of many who aren't so blessed, like the children sleeping with empty bellies in parks, abandoned properties, and restrooms. Let's pray for them, and let's say *thank you* like we mean it!!!

*Gladis Griffith*  
President, PTO Board



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### What's Happening Around School



Kinder fire safety presentation

Kindergartners are enjoying "P" week – how appropriate as they decorate the pumpkins! The 1st and 2nd graders had a great time at Cox Farm picking out pumpkins, observing the farm animals, bumping along on the hayride, and just generally having fun. The 2nd graders also spent the month practicing their speeches and planning their costumes for the Parade of Saints.



Madre Maria prays the rosary

In 3rd grade, students write in (and illustrate!) their journals every day.

The 4th graders are making posters and writing a play based on how to get along with each other.

In 5th grade, students are learning algebraic expressions in math (wow!).

The 7th graders have made DNA models, which are displayed in the case in the

hallway. The 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are writing essays. The 7th graders' topic is "school all year round." You can imagine the number of students who like that idea!!

In art, the 4th graders are making a spooky castle – a three-dimensional model with bricks, windows, and a "cool" roof (that is a direct quote from a 4th-grade student!).

The library is gearing up for the book sale – the books are terrific!

In music, the 3rd graders play instruments and use their music books to learn notes.

Students across the grade levels are practicing those all-important typing skills in computer class.

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



Pumpkin Decorating Contest



Pumpkin Decorating Contest

### Student Spotlight

**Spotlight** on Q of A's terrific Student Council, which consists of four officers and classroom representatives from the 4th through 8th grades. Officers are elected in the spring of the previous year; students campaign by giving speeches and hanging up signs around the school.

One of the main purposes of the Student Council is to spearhead service projects. For example, the members led the soup drive that has been going on most of this month. They made signs, talked with the students, and made announcements over the loudspeaker.

**Spotlight** on the many students and families

who participated in the Family Fun Night at Dogfish Head Alehouse, the Fall Festival, the Pancake Breakfast, the Pumpkin Decorating Contest ("where everyone wins!"), and the Silly Socks and Hat Day. About 400 cans of soup were collected for the Poor Sisters of Saint Joseph to distribute to the needy – your support and participation are the cornerstones of building a strong community.

**Spotlight** is also on our awesome tennis team. They have played well, won many matches, and increased their skills.

**Spotlight** is also on the equally awesome coaches for the gift of their time and talent.



Silly socks and hats



Soup for the needy



Miss Emma Boyle

## Meet Two More of Our New Teachers

Among our new teachers this year are Mrs. Molnar, who teaches middle school math, and Miss Boyle, who teaches the 1st graders. We asked them some questions to help you get to know them better.

**Mrs. Kathy Molnar** was born in Minneapolis and has been in the area since 1984. She likes volleyball and kayaking and watching her children Joey (5th grade) and Jessica (8th grade) play basketball.

Her favorite movies are *ET*, *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*, and *The Incredibles*. Her favorite books are *War of the Worlds* and *The Kids From Nowhere*. She likes to spend time sewing, stamping, and being with her kids. Her favorite trip was to Tahiti.

Regarding her time at Q of A, she says, "There are so many great things about the school, including a welcoming community and fabulous students. The teachers and

parents have been so helpful, and everyone works together toward the school's mission."

**Miss Emma Boyle** was born in Pittsburgh and attended Christendom College. She likes football and played field hockey in high school. Her favorite movies are *Braveheart* and *The Sound of Music*, and her favorite book is *Brideshead Revisited*. Her hobbies are reading, cooking, and traveling.

She and her five younger brothers grew up with goldfish and a golden retriever named Rosie. Her favorite travel destination has been to Rome and Assisi.

About Q of A, she says, "What I like best is how the Catholic faith is incorporated into every part of the day. I like teaching kids about Jesus, as well as reading to them and helping them learn to read."

*Welcome to you both!*

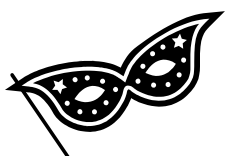


Mrs. Kathy Molnar

PRAYER IS POWERFUL BEYOND LIMITS WHEN WE TURN TO THE  
IMMACULATA WHO IS QUEEN EVEN OF GOD'S HEART.

— ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE

## Get Ready for a Masquerade!



Preparations for Q of A's Annual Auction and Dinner Gala are under way! We need your help to get ready.

Now is the time to solicit donations of goods and services to be auctioned off. The auctioning of donated items is what makes this fundraiser so successful, and the more items we auction, the more money we raise for our school.

In the PTO section of the Q of A website are a form and letter you can use in soliciting donations. Consider asking local businesses you frequent to make a donation to our Auction. It can be as easy as requesting a gift certificate from your favorite restaurant.

Other ideas include weekend stays at a hotel, tickets to shows or events, shopping certificates, spa packages,

specialty foods and beverages, home decoration items, garden furniture and equipment, appliances, hair treatments or products, jewelry, or financial services. Also, cash donations are welcome and appreciated!

Look at it this way – the worst thing that can happen is that you'll get "no" for an answer. But lots of businesses are willing to donate to gain the goodwill of discerning consumers (us!), and you can make it happen.

We also need volunteers to help with the Auction. Contact Roseann Pairo at [rspairo@gmail.com](mailto:rspairo@gmail.com) if you can help.

*The Auction and Gala will be held at Q of A's St. Joseph Hall on Saturday, February 6, 2010. The evening will include a silent auction, a live auction, music, a superb dinner, and an exceptional atmosphere!*



### 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.*

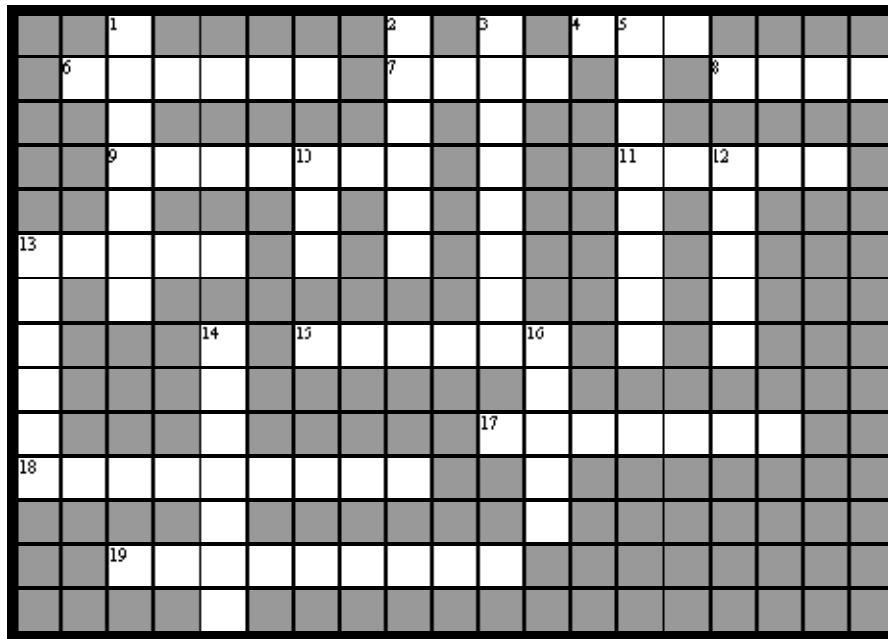
*The spiritual, moral, academic, physical, and aesthetic development of each student is fostered by providing a faith-filled academic environment where creativity and excitement for learning are tempered with self-discipline and order.*

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VERITAS ET GAUDIUM

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### Harvest of Praise



**Across**

- 4. Noah built this to be safe from the flood
- 6. The season when the leaves turn pretty colors
- 7. Capital of Italy
- 8. Called the Red Planet
- 9. Largest ocean in the world
- 11. Mrs. Feliz's first name
- 13. Person who is canonized

- 15. First name of patron saint of students
- 17. First book of the Old Testament
- 18. If a number cannot be divided evenly, this is left
- 19. Keeps crows out of the cornfield

**Down**

- 1. Used to make a jack-o'-lantern
- 2. If you don't give out treats, you might get these

- 3. You need this when it rains
- 5. Capital of Virginia
- 10. Sly animal and our secretary's last name
- 12. First name of *Little House on the Prairie* and *Farmer Boy* author
- 13. Arachnid
- 14. Last name of patron saint of students
- 16. Little Bo Peep lost these