

The Three Ps, Always With Us

We have seen many changes in the education system over the last couple of decades, especially the integration of technology, even at the youngest grade levels. These enhancements benefit the academic experience of our children, but some things do not and should not change. I like to call these the “three Ps” – prayer, praise, and problem solving.

Prayer is the foundation on which we build our plans, dreams, hopes, and goals. Our children learn, at a young age, that they are never alone, that God is always with them, and that Mary, the other saints, and the angels are strong and willing intercessors. What a wonderful gift we give them by sending them to a school where they pray throughout the day.

Praise is effective when it is bestowed prudently and realistically. When my children played “peewee” baseball, some parents wanted to buy them trophies (I guess because they looked so cute in those uniforms – it sure was not for their athletic prowess!). Of course, the players came to expect a trophy instead of developing the concept of earning one. It takes hard

work and responsibility to be successful in schoolwork and just about everything else in life!

Problem solving is so important but is becoming a lost art! We want to solve all of our children’s problems for them out of love and a desire to protect, but our children will find it difficult to cope in the “real world” unless they learn to be accountable for their actions and to deal with the consequences. If they do not do their homework, they will get low grades; if they misbehave, they will lose privileges. We can guide, advise, and try to soften the fall, but we cannot – nor should we – make everything perfect all the time!

As our children learn the skills to navigate the challenges of life, prayer will be their strength, praise for a job truly well done will give them the encouragement they need, and sharp problem-solving skills will help them meet expectations.

Joanne Yates
Principal

It’s Time for a Masquerade!

What an insane winter it has been! Thank you, God, for sending no more snow! I’m thinking only Spring right now – and looking forward to our **Masquerade Auction and Gala** on March 6!

This is a wonderful opportunity to spend a fun evening with friends, enjoy delicious food and great music, and raise critical funds for our school. Is anything more important than ensuring that our children receive the richest education possible?!

If you are committed to this goal, you will understand why it’s so important to support our Auction. Our annual auction fundraiser has helped build our school gym. It has built our computer lab. It has funded the wonderfully interactive Active Boards in every classroom. This year, we hope that it will fund new playground equipment to ensure that our children develop physically as well as spiritually!

The PTO is able to contribute in this way to Q of A largely because our annual Auction is so successful. And it is successful because of your generosity!

Be part of the magic on March 6th!! Make your contribution by attending the Auction, offering an item for auction, or volunteering to help decorate or clean up afterward.

To the many who have already purchased tickets and volunteered to help, thank you!! Your support is an investment in one of our most precious community assets – our young people. To the rest of you: Get your tickets now – information is on the school website.

Looking forward to Masquerading with you on March 6!

Gladis Griffith
President, PTO Board



Inside

What’s Happening Around School . . .	2
Farewell to Mr. George Cook . . .	2
Meet Our Teachers . . .	3
Mission Statement . . .	4
Lenten Meditation Crossword . . .	4



What's Happening Around School



The kindergarten Valentine Day post office was a huge success. The kinders sorted and delivered hundreds of cards – in spite of the blizzard, our brave little postal workers made sure the mail got through! Thank you to Mrs. Dowden and Mrs. Murphy for helping them.

The 1st graders are busy learning how to divide objects into groups (they informed me that is how to learn multiplication!), playing phonics baseball, and learning about the miracles of Jesus. They were complimented on their reverent behavior by some of the parishioners who attended Friday's Mass.



Our 2nd graders made their First Penance last Saturday. Mrs. Feliz and Miss Twaddle prepared them well and, as Father said, it is the parents' example that makes all the difference.

The 3rd graders are growing crystals – more budding scientists! They are also learning about the importance during Lent of sacrifice and good works.

The enthusiasm of the 4th graders was so energizing when I asked them what they were learning. They told me about divisibility rules, the Nathaniel Brown rebellion, a play they are performing in Literature, and all about the planets, comets, and asteroids (it was better than watching the Discovery Channel!).

If you have a few moments, read the poems and tall tales written by the 5th graders, displayed outside their classroom. You will enjoy reading their literary masterpieces. The 5th graders are also leading the school in the Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent.

The middle school students have been immersed in preparations for the Science Fair. Each student project entailed doing research, creating PowerPoint and oral presentations, and preparing a display board, as well as conducting the actual experiment. The results were stunning! Congratulations to the winners.

Farewell to Mr. George Cook

Mr. George Cook, Facilities Manager at Queen of Apostles, is retiring at the end of this month. In his many years of service to our community, he has been behind many of our most impressive community efforts. To name just two: He led the group to build St. Joseph's Hall, our beautiful gym, and he led the successful completion of the addition to the church.

Mr. Cook's children and grandchildren attended Q of A School; he served a stint as PTO president.

Words cannot express our gratitude for all he has done for the Q of A community. We wish him all God's blessings as he enjoys retirement, spending time with his family and at the beach.



Mr. George Cook



Meet Our Teachers



Ms. Janet Smith

Mrs. Nancy Ault, our 4th grade teacher, has taught at Q of A for 17 years. She grew up with two brothers in St. Marys, Penn., and came to the area when her husband, a Navy pilot, was transferred nearby. When she's not teaching, she goes for walks, gardens, and cooks for guests.

Her favorite movies are *Song of Bernadette* and *Gone With the Wind*. Her favorite book is *The Story of a Family* by St. Térèse of Lisieux. She has two sons and one daughter. Her last dog was a peekapoo named Gizmo, but she's currently without pets.

Her favorite travel destinations are the Virgin Islands and Montreal.

When asked what she likes most about Q of A, she answered, "I love the people I work with and have made many friends. One thing we have at Q of A is a true commitment to the Catholic faith."

Mrs. Janet Smith has taught at Q of A for 32 years! She started out teaching PE but after getting a degree in graphic design came back to teach art. She grew up in Peekskill, N.Y., and moved to this area when her husband became a police officer. When she's not teaching, she cooks and bakes, gardens, and sews, and summers are for art projects.

Her favorite movies and books are the Harry Potter series, and her favorite travel destination is Hawaii. She has a 5-month-old golden retriever pup.

About Q of A, "the kids!" are what she likes most. "I love the way they interact and accept each other, being from so many different backgrounds. It's always been that way!"



Mrs. Nancy Ault



Digging Out
(Thanks to Mrs. Beauch for the photo)



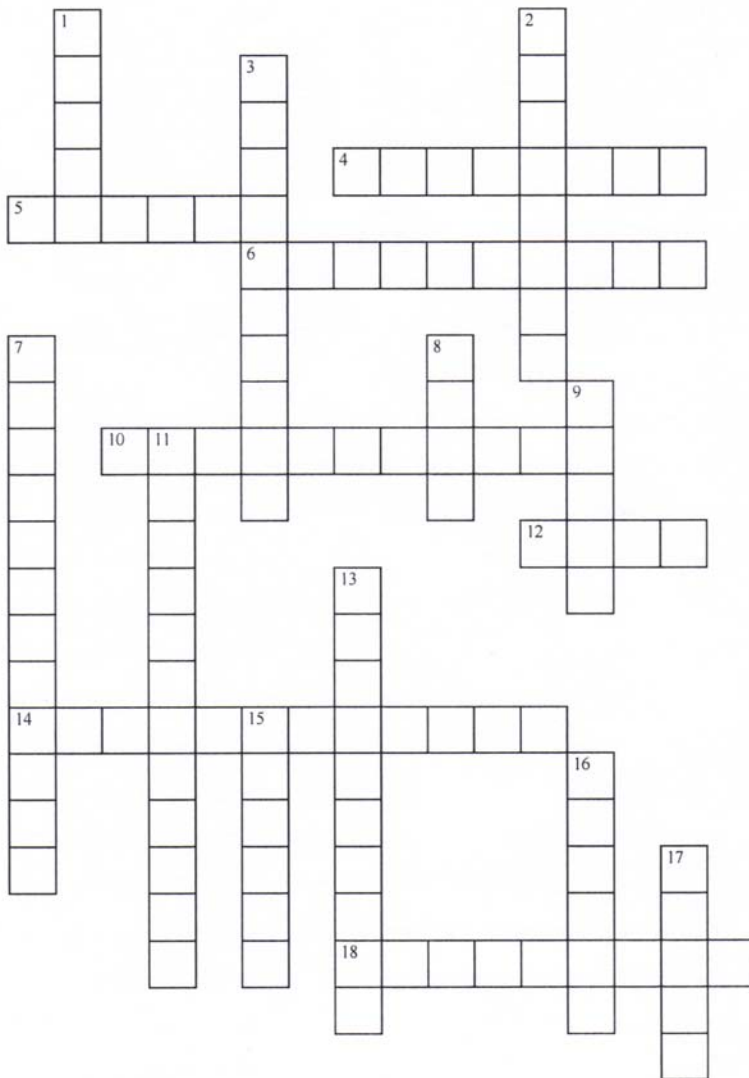
Mission Statement

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

Lenten Meditation



Across

- 4 The hill on which Jesus was crucified
- 5 It is said that St. Patrick drove these Creatures out of Ireland
- 6 The day on which Jesus was crucified
- 10 He protected and took care of Mary and Jesus
- 12 A time of fasting, almsgiving, and abstinence
- 14 The patron saint of Ireland
- 18 St. Joseph's trade, which he taught Jesus

Down

- 1 He helped Jesus carry the cross
- 2 She wiped Jesus's face with her veil
- 3 To give to the poor
- 7 The day we commemorate the Last Supper
- 8 To eat small meals or not snack between meals
- 9 The number of times Peter denied Christ
- 11 Begins the Lenten season
- 13 To refrain from eating meat
- 15 The Liturgical color worn through most of Lent