

AAS HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

The Official Newsletter of the High School



AQUINAS SCHOOL MISSION

Aquinas American School is a Catholic, college-preparatory school that promotes superior academic achievement, mastery of skills and content, and fosters moral citizenship. Aquinas American School offers the U.S. school curriculum as well as the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, preparing students to further their education either in Spain or abroad.



ROAR!!!

From Ms. Curbera

As we start the second semester, I would like to wish all High School students all the best for the next four and a half months. In spite of the difficult circumstances, you have proven to be mature, reliable and driven.

Let's make another fresh start towards academic excellence!
Go Bears!

Aquinas American High School will be relaunching the monthly student newspaper, a news medium run by the High School students for the wider AAS school community. Sections of the newspaper will cover all events directly or indirectly related to the school community, such as sports, human interest stories about in-school events, and community service.

There will be space reserved for a Culture Corner, a University Corner and for student achievements in art, literature, ICT, robotics, you name it! Do you like (fiction and/or non-fiction) writing, interviewing people, graphic design, making crossword puzzles? Contact us about these and other, even better ideas, if you want to become part of this and leave a legacy.

Please, write to Mr. Gigante or Mr. Bok for more information.

GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

“I am excited for this opportunity to coach the Women’s Soccer Team at Aquinas. This project has been an ongoing idea for the past few years, and it has finally become official. The girls have shown great commitment and dedication thus far. We are currently training twice a week and will begin competing in friendly matches towards the end of the school year. The new program will promote athletics for the young women of Aquinas, and our focus will be to teach them values through a competitive sport. This team shows a lot of promise with great young talent and I look forward to helping them grow on and off the field.” - Tomás Lober



Our new female Soccer Team started this month practicing every Wednesday with 27 high school girls, with coach Tomás Lober.



No-Uniform Day

Our February No-Uniform day was an extraordinary way to work together and raise money to provide for the Fundación Theodora. This organization supports hospitalized children by providing entertainment and visiting patients. The Theodora “doctors” organize games, dress up and invest time and energy with the children. We encourage everybody to help each time we have a fundraiser. Remember that each occasion we arrange a fundraiser, the money raised will go to charity. Over the course of the year, through no-uniform days, we have collected more than 500 euros. - Mr. Gigante



STUDENT ARTISTS!



The featured art project of this month, as chosen by the Art teacher, Ms. Omapas, is this piece by Jaime de Rodrigo and Isabella Tapia. Ms. Omapas states:

“The two work collaboratively on these projects, and theirs stood out from the rest by creating a harmonious fusion of art styles.”

Clothing Drive

Isabel Redondo, Marta Redondo, and Sofia McInnes (IB1) are organizing a clothing drive at school where students, staff, and parents are encouraged to donate clothing items, during the days of March 8th to March 18th.

The three students will personally deliver the items to Humana Spain, which will sell these donations to promote sustainability. The secondhand items will be reused and recycled to make other products that will help encourage environmental friendliness. Humana’s main objective is to develop environmental protection projects in countries in need.

OUR STUDENTS, FACING OFF!

OUR TALENTS, REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

Max Ogawa (G12) has been playing in the Getafe International Madrid Football Academy (GIMFA) for about a year and a half, and is gradually accomplishing his football objectives. Recently, he was recruited to join the Getafe Juvenil A team, a challenging step further in his sports journey in Spain. Max is incredibly excited, and has already started to train with his new peers. "I'm very grateful for the opportunity, and I feel I am accomplishing what I came to Aquinas American School and GIMFA for." He also makes reference to the training he has received at GIMFA, footballing partner of our school: "All of this wouldn't have been possible without the brilliant education I have received at GIMFA, where I got the chance to improve my game, whilst making new friends and living great experiences. I was also lucky to seamlessly integrate my footballing career with my studies, an opportunity that I will always look back on, and that has launched me into this exciting new chapter". Max hopes to achieve great things in the sport, and he is moving forward with hard work and determination. Best of luck, Max!

On Saturday, February 27th, the Aquinas Bears football team will be playing against the GIMFA football team, partner football academy of our school. Both teams are composed of students from our High School! Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, no one is allowed to attend the game, but you can wish them good luck. Good luck, Bears! Good luck, Getafe!



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GREEN AAS

Mr. Bok's Creative Writing class will launch this month a recycling campaign to make our school greener. Mr. Bok's class hopes that the students will be more environmentally-aware, and will take a bit more time to recycle. Around the school, there will be posters with drawings and quotes, and the class hopes to deliver some speeches to other classes on the matter. There will also be TikTok videos about recycling on the recycling campaign's very own Instagram account.

The account is: [@aas.recycling](https://www.instagram.com/aas.recycling). Go follow it! The campaign will occur during all of March. Think globally, act locally!



UNI SECTION - To all High school students:

We encourage you to engage in meaningful activities outside the classroom if you want to enrich your CV and learn about your interests.

Tuesday, March 2nd at 5.30 pm we will be holding a workshop for 11th-grade students on researching universities. This is happening online. We also encourage 11th-grade parents and students to book a meeting with Ms Duque to discuss their interests.

Thursday, March 4th Study Abroad Sessions: online fair to connect with universities and do not forget to explore career and studies in the teaser courses. More information in the blog: <https://aquinascollegecounselingblog.wordpress.com/>.

Wednesday, March 17th three UK universities will be holding an event for us: the University of Southampton, University of Surrey, University of Warwick

To book a meeting: <https://calendly.com/collegecounselor>
To contact the college counselor:
collegecounselor@aquinasmadrid.es

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO MADE THE HONOR AND PRINCIPAL ROLL THIS FIRST SEMESTER:

Honor Roll:



Year 9

Eslam Aljafal
 María Bautista
 Ana Cañizales
 Paloma Comas
 Ignacio Couto
 Mateo Cuellar
 Patricia de Ochoa
 Marta Jaureguizar
 Patricia Lara
 Alejandra Monteagudo
 María Mota
 Andrés Posada
 Ignacio Rodriguez
 Sofía Samper
 María Sarobe
 Fátima Sotero

Year 10

Jaime Mozley
 Carmen Pérez de Lema
 Andrés Pons
 Alejandro Rosell
 Guillermo Sabaté
 Alicia San José
 Alicia San José
 Pilar Videla

Year 11

Alvaro García Lamas
 Sandra Rodríguez Penabad
 Inés Carrasco
 Mónica Crespo
 Sandra de Paz
 Ariana del Buono
 José Izarra
 Ariana del Buono

 Enica King
 Victoria Lisper
 Isabel Redondo
 Javier Sarobe

Principal's list:



Year 9

Rebeca Armando
 Benjamin Creech
 Carla del Olmo
 Victoria Franco
 Daniel Muñoz
 Emilia Troitiño

Year 10

Lucía Arteta
 Inés de Mena
 Angel Duro
 Inés Fernández Nieto
 Alejandro Mediavilla
 Carmen Ortega

Year 11

Yousef Amirghofran
 Maria de Mena

MSA & IB ACCREDITATION - UPDATE

Our school is participating in the parallel MSA and IB re-accréditation processes, which started in the Fall. After a very successful implementation and several years of constant growth and improvements, we are now working towards the Five Year Evaluation of the IB Diploma Program, as well as the self-study process for The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. Parents, teachers and students have participated in these processes. which will culminate next school year.

Important Dates:

19 March - St Joseph. No school
 26 March - First day. Easter break
 4 April - First day of school