

# The Dumb Ox

## October 2024



## We're All in This Together

By: Claire McMann

In addition to all the exciting events at the beginning of the school year, the high school play is one of the highlights of the fall season for everyone in the Aquinas community. This year everyone eagerly awaits November for the high school's production of *High School Musical*, a suggestion made to Mr. Flynn by senior Joe Chufo, who will be portraying Troy Bolton. When asked about where the idea for doing High School Musical came from, Joe responded that he always loved the movie as a kid.

"I'm super excited to help Mr. Flynn put on this show. He doesn't normally do Disney shows, let alone musicals. It's

going to be a lot of work to pull this thing off and this is one of the biggest casts that we have had in a while. It will also be fun to help direct and be a lead in the show," remarked Joe. His partner in crime, Ashlin Knox, commented that she is also looking forward to playing Ms. Darbus as well as choreographing and directing. "Rehearsals will be long and a lot of hours will have to be put in, but it will be so worth it. Everyone will need to put all hands on deck because we only have a little over a month."

Junior Brynn Burnsworth, who plays the role of head cheerleader in the ensemble says she is so happy with the selection of the musical this year. "I haven't done the musical



the past two years but I'm so excited that a lot of my friends are participating. It is such a fun show and the dance numbers and songs are so energetic and lively."

Upon interview, Mr. Flynn stated that he had never seen the movie, despite raising so many kids in the 2000's and early 2010's. He mentioned that while *High School Musical* is set in present time (something that Aquinas productions almost never are), the musical has classic elements and a message that Aquinas truly conveys. "I know it sounds corny, but we're all in this together. It will be a huge burden on Ashlin and Joe. It was difficult to cast the show because it felt like a huge NFL draft. All the kids at Aquinas really are unique with a variety of kids in each class, which I want to bring into the play and express that on stage."

The cast consists of three different categories including jocks, brainiacs, and thespians. There are several leads from each category, including thespians Sharpay and Ryan, jocks Chad and Troy, and brainiacs Gabriella and Taylor. There are multiple energy-rich dance numbers and songs which the cast has already started working on tirelessly. True to Mr. Flynn's fashion, there will be no pre-recorded tracks and junior Felicity Koble will be playing the entire show live. It is not an understatement to say that the entire student body and faculty are ecstatic to come see the show November 15th and 16th!

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# High School Musical Makes an Appearance at Crusader Rush

By Alexa Risdon

Crusader Rush has been an annual Aquinas tradition for as long as anyone can remember. This year grades 9-12 had the theme of *High School Musical*. This theme was an introduction to this year's musical, and was a fan favorite as many students were ecstatic when they heard what it was.

New Aquinas students got to see how the color teams work together. Julia Santucci, a new freshman to Aquinas, said that her first Crusader Rush was "a lot of fun and the activities were really good." Julia also mentioned how she loved that "everyone worked as a team and helped each other out to make the songs and do the skit." Mr. Kuniega, a new religion and Latin teacher, thought that "it was a great way for the students here at the school to have some recreation time, to be able to work together on something, and it was a great way to get ready for the musical." Mr. K's favorite part was seeing students' dancing and acting skills.

There were four categories to this year's Crusader Rush: making a trailer, writing a song, creating a dance, and making a poster. There was a lot of teamwork and attention required to make sure that your team succeeded this year, especially since the whole team had to perform the dance. The song and dance were both based on songs from *High School Musical*, and every team had their own unique twist on it. The judges (Ms. Fetchko, Mrs. Martyak, Ms. McGrath, and Mr. Meland) chose Aristoi as the winners for the poster and the trailer, while Megastoi took the dance and song. Unfortunately, Megastoi could not pull

through and Aristoi was victorious this year.

There are a few differences between Crusader Rush in high school versus middle school. Junior Lucy Flynn stated, "You have to work with your team and it's not as much of an athletic activity but rather more of a group project." The middle school involves many physical activities including relay races and other activities of that nature, while the high school activities encourage more work with your team intellectually and artistically. Lucy also shared, "In middle school you don't get as much of a sense of teamwork as you do in high school." "I got the opportunity to talk to all of the grades, added freshman Sophia Beaven. She also mentioned how much fun she had.

Crusader Rush is a staple here at Aquinas that brings everyone together each year.



# From Biggest to Littlest Fish

By: Ashlin Knox

Every year the middle school loses old leaders and the high school gains new followers. This year the high school gained 40 new freshmen in total (26 from Aquinas middle school and 14 from other schools). Being new to an environment can be a hard transition, but the friendly upperclassmen and faculty can ease the drastic change. It is clear when interviewing entirely new as well as already acquainted Aquinas freshmen, that students are finding their way into their own happy environments.

This year upperclassmen students organized a mentoring system where upperclassmen are paired with and meet with a lower classman at least once in a ten day cycle. During the meeting mentors and mentees will discuss school life and daily challenges. Freshman Sophia Beaven, says "I really like it. Specifically, it gives people a clear view on what to expect for freshman year. Also, having a mentor in general is easier than a teacher because it's more relatable."

Along with the mentoring system, school dances are also something the freshmen can look forward to. Sophia expressed that she is "excited for the dances, because it's a new experience."

Clubs are another exciting thing that freshmen are partaking in for the first time. Sophia added that "clubs are really unique to Aquinas." She is right; not every school can offer such unique activities to help kids grow and develop with what interests them. Freshman Sam Ennis started his own club called "U.S. Food Culture Club," where each Friday during club period members go down stairs to enjoy food from a different state and talk. This helps the club members grow in fellowship. Interestingly enough, around 60% of the freshmen are members of this club, thus uniting the freshmen.

Although joining a new school may be a struggle, Zach Yohe, said that he came to Aquinas to benefit his "mental health, while looking for a positive environment." Another new Aquinas freshman, Morgan Long, shared that "everyone knew about Aquinas and Macy Thiel's brother, Nolan, goes here." Macy shared that her brother "was the reason I came, and I also heard it was good for preparing for college." Collectively, both new and familiar freshmen agreed that they expected high school to be hard. Zach said his transition was "good because the teachers actually help you." Macy added "It was easy for me. Meeting new people is what I like to do. The hard thing is how much homework you have."



Sam Ennis offers the following advice to current 8th graders about finishing middle school and entering high school: "It's not too different, and if you actually try you'll succeed. Just try to keep good connections with the teachers." Triumph Tarr added, "Enjoy 8th grade, and don't be a moron during class." This is great advice when entering a new environment.

Some advice to the freshman about managing hobbies with academics from senior Jake Guillen is to "get on a routine because it's easier to stick with it. If you're going to practice then go home and do homework right after." He shared that when it comes to communicating with teachers about struggling in class you just have to "put your pride aside."

Middle school flies by in a second, and high school disappears in a blink of an eye. Senior Will Scioscia says his favorite memory was "using an outdoor bench as a sled during winter lunch one day." Sam Ennis says that his favorite middle school memory was "Just spending time with friends, they are moments I'll remember for the rest of life."

## Let's Go Clubbing

By: Jack Hoerster

Here at Aquinas Academy, students have the opportunity to start a club focused on any subject of their choosing. Clubs are a perfect way to meet new students across every grade level and encourage people to bond over shared interests. This quarter, there are nine student-run clubs, four of which are co-run. Whether you are a freshman or a senior, it is possible to start any club you can imagine..

Freshman Sam Ennis is a great example of this; he has started the USA Food Culture Club. This club focuses on the diet and culture of different areas of the United States, bringing both an educational and social aspect to the club. Recently, Sam taught about the culture of Louisiana, where he made sure to bring enough beignets, a classic, local pastry, for everyone. When asked why he started the club, Sam said "it promotes talking to others and learning about culture" and providing time for fellowship.

While an educational club is a unique way to bring people together, sophomore Miller Rouce has a different idea. He chose to start the Yard Games Club, which focuses on bringing students together over a game of basketball, cornhole, spikeball, and any other game. Miller stated that he started his club because

"yard games are fun" and he wanted to play spikeball with his friends. This club has become so much more. If you ever look out onto the parking lot on a Friday afternoon, you will be able to see dozens of young men competing in a variety of games and bonding with each other.

Similarly, the Football Club brings out the best in the Aquinas men. Run by junior Louis Bentivegna, this club is dedicated to the glory of American football, plain and simple. Although this club is not educational like other clubs, it unites the whole school, regardless of grade. It allows the participants to be bound together by a shared love of football. Sports remove any and all social barriers among the grades. Where else could you see a freshman absolutely body a senior, cheered on by all their classmates? This club has lasted for over a year, and it is moving along to become an Aquinas tradition.

All good things must come to an end. It is the final year for the seniors to enjoy club period. Even though there are only three more quarters/clubs left for them, there are still some who are innovating. Senior Nick Urban chose to found the Ultimate Frisbee Club with his sister, Claire. When asked about the process of



starting a club, Nick said, "Don't hesitate to start a club, because if you wait too long, then your whole four years of high school will be up, and that will become a lost opportunity." Seniors Nadine Hokaj and Lily Santucci run the Coffee, Tea, & Art Club, which provides "a welcoming atmosphere for tired and burnt-out students to relax and talk." Nadine and Lily are continuing the club from last year.

Don't be afraid to start a club. No matter how ridiculous an idea may sound, know that there will always be people who will join, friends who will support you, and an entire community here for you. Clubs are a way to lead and educate your fellow classmates. If you have an idea, then it is worth sharing.



# The Land of Shakespeare

By: Madison Bradley

The junior class attended a field trip to Stratford, Canada in September to enjoy the town's Shakespeare festival. When asked about the town, Mr. Dolan said, "Stratford is an idyllic small town, with a river running through it and a handsome downtown. It is a pleasure to visit."

During this trip, students go to plays, walk around downtown, hang out with friends, and attend workshops. Mr Dolan explained, "I had not done a workshop previously, so that was a joy to see everyone participate in, to learn some stage-sword fighting techniques I'll use at home with my young boys, and to meet two actors we saw later that afternoon in the play." The group saw the following plays: *Twelfth Night*, *Cymbeline*, and *Hedda Gabler*. "The plays were really good when you weren't half asleep," Sam Duer said jokingly because one of the plays started late at night.

The second day, during the afternoon, the group walked around downtown with their friends, which was a great bonding experience for the students. Henry Buchanan said, "It was a lot of fun to watch the shows and hang out as a class. The trip helped a lot of us build stronger friendships with each other." Tess Duer remarked, "It was a great bonding experience for our class. I feel like all of us are more of a family now."

This trip was a tradition at Aquinas for many years until COVID hit. After a brief hiatus, it returned with the help of Mr. Dolan. Last year, both the juniors and seniors went on this trip to experience the plays and culture in the town. This year only the juniors, who are currently taking the British Literature class, went on the trip. Mr. Dolan noted, "It was much easier the second time around, and it was rewarding to improve some aspects for this recent trip. It is also great to have fellow teachers for advice and input, because I cannot think of everything - a big thanks to Miss McGrath, Mrs. Mullican, and Mr. Burchill for their help and input." When asked which year he preferred he says, "Each was a unique adventure that I have fond memories of."

Overall this is such a great and fun experience. It is recommended to all underclassmen to go on this trip. You have the opportunity to learn and have fun while doing so.



# Aquinas on Crusade for Life

By: Felicity Koble



On Monday, September 23rd, students, parents, and teachers from Aquinas Academy arrived at school at 6:45 am, hopped on a bus, and traveled to Harrisburg to march for life. This was the first time Aquinas formally sent a group to Harrisburg for the PA March for Life instead of the DC March since the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* in 2022. Regardless of the location, one thing was clear: participating in a March for Life was a powerful way for Aquinas to witness to the pro-life cause.

Travelers on the March for Life pulled up to school early Monday morning to begin the 3 ½ hour ride to Harrisburg. Upon arriving, Aquinas marchers attended the PA March for Life rally in front of the Capitol building, joining over 5,000 other pro-lifers. During the rally, figures such as the Archbishop of Philadelphia, State Representative Marla Brown, and other activists gave speeches. The talks were inspiring, but many students' favorite part was the March itself. Rain pounded the pavement as pro-life Pennsylvanians marched around the Capitol building waving signs and banners, offering up their damp hair and soaked clothing as a prayer for the lives of the unborn. Many found this experience striking. "During the March, some Aquinas students began to sing Catholic songs," Maria Gruber related, "and it was just so incredibly powerful and moving that we all gathered together to praise God for the gift of life, and to fight for the unborn to live."

At 1:30 PM, many from the crowd headed inside St. Patrick's Cathedral for Mass. "My favorite part of the PA March for Life was the Mass after the March with all of the bishops of PA," Nicholas Urban recounted. Besides the numerous bishops, many familiar priests and religious from Pittsburgh also filled the pews, contributing to the overall sense of unity in the pro-life movement. After Mass, Aquinas marchers climbed back onto the bus for the trip home. Students enjoyed the time to hang out, watch movies, grab dinner at a rest stop, and still reach school around 7:00 PM.

Despite the small proportions of the PA March, Aquinas students still drew the same inspiration that they did from the national level. "My main takeaway was that we must keep fighting for the ban of abortion and to fight entails that we need to make our voices heard," Nicholas Urban continued, "The march was a great way for our reps to hear us." Maria Gruber agreed, "Despite the soggy shoes and the wet sweatshirts, the March was a very fun and an inspiring trip, and I will definitely be going again!" In January 2026, Aquinas will travel to the DC March for Life, continuing to alternate years between PA and DC. In the meantime, Aquinas boasts a number of ongoing pro-life events such as the nine-month novena and baby bottle campaign, guaranteeing opportunities for students to fight for life all year long.

# A Night in Greece

As the school year shifts into October, the anticipation for one of the most exciting events of the school year builds: the homecoming dance. On October 13th the Aquinas high school students embarked on a captivating journey, "A Night in Greece" at the Pine Richland Barn.

The prefect board worked together to create an enchanting night for the Aquinas students. The behind-the-scenes process of putting the dance together took a lot of effort from the students who organized it. Junior Francesca Hite was able to work with Ms. Fetchko over the weeks leading up to the dance to plan out food, decorations, and the venue. "[Ms. Fetchko] put a lot of time and effort into making the murals and bringing many decorations from home," Francesca said. The barn was filled with elegant decor inspired by classic Greek architecture and scenic beaches, creating a spectacular world to dance in. "I'd like to give credit to Becca Guillen for coming to me with the idea for a Greece theme. I was hesitant at first but she convinced me it would be great and it really was," Francesca added.



Seniors got to revisit the Pine Richland Barn where their first homecoming was freshman year. Senior Eliana Bousamra stated that "the barn was better decorated this year and the location was still very pretty." The senior class was excited to relive the fun memories made from when they first started high school, while the freshmen were looking forward to their first Aquinas homecoming. Freshman Maggie Koenig expressed how much she enjoyed her first homecoming. Maggie shared, "I got to dance with my friends and loved the experience!"

A majority of the students liked the DJ and had fun dancing to popular hits. Junior Alexa Risdon exclaimed, "You could literally see the floor shaking from the basement; everyone had so much energy and it was a really fun night!"

Students always look forward to the homecoming dance, and this year's event did not disappoint. The prefect board put together an unforgettable night, and everyone who attended shared a great experience.

By: Caitlyn Abbett

# An Evening Of Family Fun

The Fall Fest brings together the families of Aquinas Academy for an afternoon of fun and games. There is face painting where students can volunteer to paint or help with other various activities. Lines of children are waiting for their faces to be painted so that they may go about their day feeling fierce. Another painting activity is pumpkin painting, where kids can paint whatever their creative minds may choose on their pumpkins. There are many games to choose from such as corn hole, ultimate frisbee, and football.

For many people this is their first time at the fall fest. It was particularly nice weather this year while in the past few years it had been dreary. It was sunny and warm, providing for a cozy atmosphere. Freshmen Macy Thiel, Julia Santucci, and Claire Feely were attending the Fall Fest for the first time. They all enjoyed the event and loved being able to see their friends outside of class. "The event was fun and the food was bomb! It was great seeing friends outside of class and it was a nice sense of community," remarked Macy.

For others, this was not the first time they attended the fall fest. Ms.

Fetchko said that this was her second one and she was loving every second of it, even inviting her family to come and join the fun. She said, "All the families and teachers provide such a wonderful environment and it's great to interact with the students and show we are all part of one community." Sophomore Miller Rouce said that this event may have been one of his favorites because there were more people and activities to participate in than in past years. When describing his experience, he said, "It was nice to chill and have fun with my friends."

Many parents help out with all the food and meals. Some are part of the AAPA, the Aquinas Academy Parents Association. Mrs. Burchill who is a teacher and a mother has come to more fall fests than she can count. All

four of her children have come with her and, since their first time, it has improved exceedingly in both manner and weather. "The set-up is fantastic and the community is amazing and heartwarming," she remarked.

Overall this event offers a wonderful opportunity to celebrate friendship and family.

By: Lucy Flynn



# AQ's Spooky Traditions

By: Jules Shemer

This October, Aquinas students and teachers are excited to jump into the Halloween spirit with the continuation of their family traditions. It is the time of year where everyone is looking for costumes at their nearest Spirit Halloween store and are decorating their house with their scariest decor.

Dressing up and going trick or treating has always been a popular activity. When asked what her favorite past costume is, freshman Sophia Beaven replied, "In 8th grade, my friends, Eve, Grace, Naomi, and I all dressed up as princesses and I was Belle." When asked the same question, art teacher Ms. Fetchko responded, "I'm going to say Lucille Ball from [the sitcom] *I Love Lucy*."

With all the many Halloween traditions, it is hard to pick a favorite. Brad

Moore stated his favorite, saying, "My dad bakes something that I decorate in a Halloween theme, like cupcakes. I also try to make a Halloween costume every year rather than buying one. I made a house, a robot, and a mushroom. I made the house during COVID and the joke was that I was 'stuck in quarantine.'" Freshman Sophia Beaven replied, "The weekend before Halloween, we carve pumpkins. It is really fun because we always do something exotic. My favorite design that I've done would probably be a wolf howling at the moon."

Ms. Fetchko recalled her favorite tradition, saying, "Whenever I was in grade school, I would have a Halloween party every year at my house and my uncle would dress up and be the fortune teller. We also would make a trail into the

woods behind our house and then something would happen and we would all get scared and run out of the woods. At my grade school, we would have Halloween dances with our families and everybody would dress up. We dressed up and even our parents would dress up. It was a lot of fun."

Aquinas students and teachers always have a fun time on Halloween by participating in their favorite family traditions. Whether it is pumpkin carving, baking, or throwing costume parties it is always fun during this time of year. Aquinas is looking forward to the many more Halloweens to come filled with exciting traditions.

# All Saints' Day Celebrations

By: Katherine Repasky



As the end of October draws near, all grade levels of Aquinas Academy are ready for the annual All Saints' Day traditions. These yearly celebrations not only honor the saints but also provide a unique learning experience for the students.

For the youngest learners, kindergarten through third grade, the All Saints' Day celebration will be filled with creativity, telling the stories of the saints that have gone before them. Each student will be dressed as their favorite saint for the day and give a short presentation in their classroom. Being able to delve into the lives of the saints allows everyone to be directly connected to the virtues and contributions made by these holy men and women.

The fourth graders will showcase their artistic talents by creating shields that represent a chosen saint. These shields are decorated with symbols and imagery that reflect the saint's life and legacy. The fifth graders take a slightly different approach to understanding the saints through art. Instead of shields they will create full renderings of their chosen saints. Their presentations include detailed biographical information, offering insights into the lives and miracles of these holy historical figures. By making these life-size drawings, the stories of the saints are kept alive and greatly appreciated, illustrating their impact on the world.

This year the middle school is already anticipating their trip to Saint Anthony's Chapel. Known for housing a multitude of relics, including the True Cross, the chapel offers a unique opportunity

for students to learn about the significance of relics in the Catholic faith and deepen their understanding of the church's history and traditions. In the past, middle school students have also traveled to various churches in the area, where they received presentations on the patron saints of those churches and their historical backgrounds. These trips have given the students priceless knowledge of the Church's history and the holy men and women who are honored in its tradition.

In years past, high school students have been given wonderful presentations by Mr. VanVickle, father of current students and a renowned collector of church relics. He shares the fascinating stories and powers associated with these relics. Students are also given the opportunity to touch prayer cards, rosaries, and other holy items to the relics, creating third-class relics. This hands-on experience provides a tangible connection to the saints and their enduring influence.

All Saints' Day at Aquinas Academy has always been a day full of reverence, education, and inspiration. This year will be no different, so it is no surprise that many students are already excited to have fun while celebrating the lives of the saints and deepening their faith.

# Falling for Fun: Students Favorite Fall Activities

By Laila Tuffiash

When Aquinas students need a well-deserved break from schoolwork, sports, jobs, and other responsibilities, they enjoy a variety of fun, seasonal activities. When students were asked about their favorite activities, many mentioned outdoor activities. “I love going to corn mazes and hayrides with my friends,” said freshman Julia Santucci. “It’s so much fun and they are great places to take photos.” Junior Maggie McBride also mentioned corn mazes, particularly *The Beacon*, a haunted house and corn maze in Butler, PA. Junior Lara Hainan expressed an appreciation for fall weather, and added “I’ve only picked apples once or twice, but it was really fun. Carving pumpkins is also enjoyable.” Freshman Sophia Beaven shared that her favorite activity is pumpkin painting.

Students also take pleasure in fall flavors. “My favorite thing to do in the fall is get pumpkin lattes,” said freshman Pursy Martsof. Senior Ashlin Knox added, “I like to bake blueberry muffins and put cinnamon and other spices in them to give them more of a fall taste.” Some students also look forward to Halloween. Junior Alexa Risdon shared that trick-or-treating is one of her favorite parts of fall.

Other students mentioned spending time with their families. When asked his favorite fall activity, junior Patrick

Richtammer replied, “playing football with my classmates and brothers.” “My favorite fall activity is attending my siblings’ soccer games on Saturdays! The trees around the Aquinas field are so pretty when they change color, and the fall weather is just right for sitting outside,” said senior Clara Yuo. No matter what you like to do for fun during this season, remember to take some time with your family and friends to enjoy the fall!



# A Local Time Machine

By: Abigail Irvin

Located right around the corner from Aquinas Academy, The Depreciation Lands Museum has preserved and taught the history of early western Pennsylvania for over 50 years. Every Sunday from May through October, costumed interpreters have museum visitors step back in time and engage in local history. The knowledgeable educators, wearing 18th Century dress, share information about life in late 1700’s Pennsylvania.

The museum features a variety of true and reproduced historical buildings that resemble a small village. At the entrance is a Covenanter (reformed Presbyterian) church that was erected in 1837. The space is now dedicated to fabric making and textiles, featuring a variety of spinning wheels and looms. Interpreters use historical methods to process flax and wool, turning it into cloth. At the heart of the museum is the 1803 Armstrong family log house. Every week, interpreters cook historical meals over the hearth and show what early households looked like. There are two craftshops on the premises that demonstrate blacksmithing and woodworking. The museum also exhibits an 1800s Kramer Wagon, used for transportation of goods, and a one-room schoolhouse. The newest installation is a Native American wigwam, where interpreters show the relationship between Indians and settlers as well as teach about their crafts and trade.

Mr. Dolan is a frequent visitor to the Depreciation Lands Museum and enjoys taking his children. When he visited, he “really enjoyed the blacksmith shop. He forged actual iron nails for my kids.” He also appreciated the Kramer Wagon “It made it real for me how important it was, whether living in it or moving across the country.” His children loved the schoolhouse and also enjoyed learning how to make corn husk dolls.

A variety of fall events occur at the museum in the month of October. On the 5th was the annual Hydref Market Fair. The event included a farm animal petting zoo, reenactments by the PA 8th Regiment, an outside baking oven demonstration, and numerous craft vendors. One of the most beloved museum events is the annual Lantern Tours. On October 19th, from 6:00-10:00 p.m, all lights in the museum are turned off and visitors are guided through by candles and lanterns. The 2024 theme was “The Deacon’s Tales.” The tour featured spooky tales and ghost stories from the 1700’s, all centered around “The Deacon,” the museum’s best known ghost. The night ended with refreshments and live music in the tavern. The final event of the museum season is Beggar’s Day. Children dress in their Halloween costumes and receive free admission, as well as collect treats from the villagers.

Whether you enjoy history or not, the Depreciation Lands Museum is an endlessly fascinating place that offers something for everyone. Whether you attend by yourself, with family or with friends, you are guaranteed to feel like you stepped back in time.



## Pumpkin Season

As the seasons change, the leaves are not the only thing turning orange. Coffees take on flavors of pumpkin and apple as customers line up at the door waiting for their first sips. With pumpkin flavors being so popular, almost all places that serve coffee offer a new pumpkin flavor every fall, yet people have mixed opinions on them all.

The most popular fall drink by far is Starbucks' Pumpkin Spice Latte. While most agree that it is a fan favorite, some are left disappointed. Megan Policicchio said, "It's really good, I like how much pumpkin spice there is." On top of that, Lily Santucci and Sophia Beaven agreed that it was "really good." Despite the love for this drink, there were some negative opinions as well. Pursy Martsof stated, "I like coffee too much to have pumpkin spice." Lucy Fowler added, "It's way too sweet for me."

Another popular fall drink is Dunkin's Pumpkin Spice Latte. There

seemed to be equally mixed opinions about this one. Mary Osburg said she thinks the Dunkin drink is "better than Starbucks." Kat Repasky also stated that she loves "how it tastes like fall every-time." Claire McMann, on the other hand, did not quite agree. She expressed, "It never has as much flavor as Starbucks. I always need to put sugar in it." Zoe Solomond agreed with her saying, "It doesn't give the same fall flavors that Starbucks gives."

On more of the fast food end, McDonalds also offers a Pumpkin Spice Latte. When asked, consumers agreed that they are more skeptical of this coffee than that of Dunkin' or Starbucks. Julia Santucci, however, thought that the drink "was actually really good; it was the equivalent of a Starbucks." Bella Recchi added to that by saying, "It's so good. Literally so sugary, but so good." In disagreement, Ari Buchanan stated, "An iced one gets so watered down so quickly."

By Brynn Burnsworth



With varying opinions on the different fall drinks, every student was able to find something to fit their tastes. You will be able to find some variation of the Pumpkin Spice Latte almost anywhere that serves coffee this fall season. Take a moment to go and try one for yourself!

## Elsie "Grammy" Lewis's Applesauce

During autumn people are inundated with different types of fall flavors and recipes. One of the most comforting fall dishes is applesauce. Elsie Lewis, grandmother of Alice Rothfus and five Aquinas alumni, had a spectacular applesauce recipe. During autumn and throughout the whole year applesauce was given to all of Elsie's 15 grandchildren whenever they were sick or just wanted comfort food. The applesauce was also well known at her church, as she would serve it at her church's Shrove Tuesday Supper. If you are hankering for some quality, homemade applesauce or have an excess of apples in your house, here is the recipe:

By Alice Rothfus

1. Wash approximately 12 apples (one bag) of Macintosh apples
2. Remove the cores and appleseeds and cut the apples into wedges
3. Place apple wedges into a large pot
4. Cover with water, filling  $\frac{3}{4}$ 's of the pot
5. Cook until apples are soft
6. Take the apples out and put the apples through a food mill, keeping approximately 1 cup of the water
7. Add cinnamon and sugar to taste
8. Return the milled apples to the stove for 10 minutes; if it is too watery, leave it in longer
9. Let the applesauce cool and refrigerate
10. Enjoy! This applesauce pairs well with grilled cheese, Thanksgiving dinner, or just by itself.





Abigail Irvin-Age Ten

## Writers' Favorite

### Past

## Halloween Costume

Abigail: Eliza Hamilton from *Hamilton: The Musical*

Anne: Lobster Pot

Alexa: Monkey

Alice: Pumpkin

Ashlin: Boo from *Monsters' Inc.*

Brynn: Elsa

Caitlyn: Simba

Claire: Bear

Felicity: Martian from *Sesame Street*

Jack: Penguin

Jules: Dinosaur

Katherine: Pumpkin

Laila: Batgirl

Lucy F: Ladybug with a sword

Maddy: Butterfly

Sam: Darth Vader



Anne Dolan-Age One



Maddy Bradley-Age One



Alexa Risdon-18 months



Ashlin Knox-Age 16



Brynn Burnsworth - Age 7



Claire McMann-Age One

# **Snips & Quips**



Alice Rothfus-10 Months

“Is Jonah a homeless romantic?”

-Brad

\*With a cup full of maple syrup “I’m thirsting my quench.”

-Owen McKernan

“I’m soaking wet, full of caffeine, and ALIVE!”

-Louis Bentivegna

“The Knights of Columbus are like a fraternity?”

-Alice

“A Catholic Frat.”

- Anne

“Forky became a god of Olympus!!”

- Mr. Deschamps.

\*In philosophy\* “I’m so glad God is my judge and not you guys.”

-Mrs. Meland

“I’m going to steal a little bit of her thunder, but not her lightning.”

- Mr. Meland referring to Mrs. Meland

Michelangelo pronounced himself hideous.

- Mr. Malchano

(with zero hesitation)  
“He kinda cute though.”

-Anthony Rossi

Please send articles, ideas, corrections, or Snips and Quips to: [thedumbbox@aquinasacademy-pittsburgh.org](mailto:thedumbbox@aquinasacademy-pittsburgh.org)

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