

January 2020

STA Alumni Association Inaugural Newsletter

Welcome from the Alumni Board

We are proud to launch the inaugural STA Alumni Association newsletter. We want to let you know who we are, what has been going on at STA and how we are planning for the future.

The STA Alumni Association was formed in 2018 with the support of the school administration and the Regional Education Committee with the purpose to engage STA alumni and provide them the opportunities to network. Furthermore, we are looking to work with our current students by providing and building pride within our Fighting Saint community.

Currently the STA Alumni Association Board consists of:

- Mr. Chris Campbell
- Natasha Bosa-Boffo (Grad '96)
- Chris Chapman (Grad '04)
- Fernando Grossling (Grad '91)
- Pierre Pelletier (Grad '87/REC)
- Kerri Watson (alumni/REC)

Our alumni engagement officer is Sandie Atkinson.

Since our inception we have hosted several Alumni events, including the successful Mr. C's 40th Anniversary dinner and will plan future events that will allow alumni to stay connected.

**“Encouraging the STA Alumni
to stay connected”**



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Points of Interest

- Did you know we have a new athletic logo?
- STA Alumni Survey
- Dates of Interest

SAVE THE DATE Annual STA Spring Social

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2020
1 PM—4 PM

Refreshments & Food Available
See the new school
Bring the whole family
Stay connected

Mr. C's Corner

A while back I was talking with Latash Nahanee who carved the new school's Welcoming Pole. Latash is a wonderful artist. As you drive past the school you can see this pole at the school entrance. Latash mentioned that he had been a student at STA in the early 1970's, and he remembered the day he and his friends decided they were going to cut class, so they could go into Vancouver to watch the newly released film 'Little Big Man'. Latash says they never got very far because Sister Denece put a kibosh on their plans. The movie Little Big Man, which starred Dustin Hoffman and Chief Dan George, received wide spread acclaim. Chief Dan George was nominated for an Academy Award and for a Golden Globe Award in the Best Actor in a Supporting Role category. Besides being a great actor, Dan George was a *chief* of the Tslail-Waututh Nation, here on the

North Shore and in the early 1960's was a member of STA's Education Committee.

This year STA celebrates its 60th anniversary and, in addition, the opening of the new school building. Late at night, as I reminisced over the history of the school, while leafing through old yearbooks and drawing mustaches on all of the pictures, I am intrigued by all of the people – students, teachers, parents, religious – whose lives are interwoven and connected by their association to STA. I would like to see all of those stories brought together through a strong and active Alumni. An Alumni that can play a role in mentoring and supporting not only their alma mater but also fellow Alumni. To learn more about the Alumni Association or to find out about upcoming social events contact this site or contact the school.



Look forward to hearing from you, Mr. C.

Ps. If you have not seen the new school and would like to, contact me and I would be happy to give you the 50 cent tour – which will go toward my 'Send Mr.C to Hawaii' fund, which by the way, and thank you for asking, is now at \$14.31.

STA Alumni Survey

We have recently emailed you a survey in order for us to be able to better serve and connect our STA Alumni Association. Please take a few minutes to complete and send back.

[Click here](#)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at:

alumni@aquinas.org

Did you know this about STA?

1959

YEAR FOUNDED

CURRENTLY

597
STUDENTS

77
STAFF MEMBERS

14:1
STUDENT/TEACHER RATIO



2018 GRADUATING STUDENTS WITH HONOURS



2018 GRADUATING STUDENTS RECEIVING BC MINISTRY OF EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Where are they now?

Interview by Fernando Grossling



NATALIE SHARP—Then and Now

How many years were you at STA and what year did you graduate?
4 years. Graduated 2014.

Your talent shone in all the STA drama productions you were in. At what age did you get interested in acting and how (or who at STA) did STA help you develop your talent?

I wanted to act for as long as I can remember. I fell in love with stories as a very young age. I was addicted to the stage; being able to be fully express myself in different ways through character after character. Ms. McAllister and Mr. Mendoza were definitely my two major influences at STA. They both helped me cultivate my performance skills in an incredibly passionate, fun and inspired way. I am so thankful to have had my experience at STA because they truly believed in me... and sometimes that is all you need.

My children always looked at you as a mentor and example for them to follow. Did you embrace that role as a mentor to your fellow STA drama students? If so what did you get out of it?

I am always happy to sit down with an STA'er to give advice to. At such a young age (23) I feel like I have stumbled upon a lot of lessons in the industry and in just... life. When I was in high school I was 100% passion driven and didn't really understand the

business side of things or how to get from A-B, not knowing if it was even possible or realistic. I look to the drama teachers Mrs. McAllister and Mr. Mendoza who kept my dream alive. Having that support is the most important and beautiful thing in the world. I would be honoured to be that guide for someone.

Who at STA really encouraged and supported you?

I was closest with Mrs. Stagnitta, Ms. Vuk, and Mrs. McAllister. They treated me as an adult which I really liked. They really made me feel heard, and we became close friends who I trust to this day. They really helped me grow into the person I am. So much love for these women.

What are your best memories of STA?

All of the shenanigans. The welcomed pranks by Mr. C, the chaotic grad photos, getting so nervous and excited for the awkward school dances, being on the volleyball team and being so utterly competitive with it, rehearsals and performances in the productions that would com-

pletely take over your entire life, seeing everyone feel like a star at the Talent Show, getting deep at the retreats, Mr. Grossling throwing papers at us while repeating "don't you just love school kids?" and of course detention for being late almost every morning.

After STA where did you go to school? What did you study?

Loyola Marymount University in LA. Theatre Major, and Business Minor.

I know you have been in many productions (film, tv, etc). Can you give me a list of everything?

Untold stories of the ER, Supernatural, Motive, Loudermilk, You me her, Miracle season, Hit the Road, BH90210, Van Helsing, Baby Monitor Murders, God Wink Christmas, Family Pictures, Wired Shut (my brothers feature film), and currently filming a popular CW series where I play a villain.

Where do you hope to see yourself in the next 10 years?

Hanging out with Jennifer Lawrence and Amy Schumer drinking a Pina Colada in Mexico and talking comedy.

Have you been back to STA since graduating? Have you seen the new school?

I have and I adore it. So many incredible memories. Please To the students who attend there now- DON'T TAKE IT FOR GRANTED. Such special years and they go by quick.

Do you still keep in touch with anyone you went to STA with?

I do :) My best friends are from STA, and I know they will be in my life forever.



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL



WE ARE BUILDING THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW

Learn About Our New School

- Cost to build: \$26 million. Paid for by the Archdiocese, local Parishes, individual donors and school fundraising
- Contractor DGS Construction
- Project planning started 2014 with groundbreaking in November 2017. Completion September 2019
- Capacity is 650 students (school increased in size from 50,000sq ft to 70,000 sq ft)
- The Science wing was retained. The convent will be renovated to a Fine Arts wing and the field will be where the old school now is (Phase II)
- New gym is 1 ½ bigger than old gym (capacity for 400 people). We also have a new auxiliary gym
- We have a new alumni room and adjoined outdoor deck with 180° view of downtown Vancouver
- New stand alone cafeteria with a commercial kitchen that is run by the school
- High speed fiber optic/Wi-Fi throughout entire school
- Student store where merchandise is sold
- Vibrant LRC classrooms
- Dedicated wellness area with a brand new weight room
- Future *Makers Lab*
- Two computer labs with available network for staff and students throughout the school including multiple 3D printers
- Every classroom with built-in digital computer projector

New STA Athletic Logo

With the celebration of the new school building, it was decided to give the STA Athletic logo a makeover. Athletic Director Loui Salituro worked with Matthew Nosworthy, (STA Grad 2004) to create a fresh and modern logo to symbolize a new era for STA's athletic teams. The red and gold harken back to STA's original colour scheme when the school first opened its doors back in 1959. The red representing the wine and the gold representing the wheat coming together to form the body and blood of Christ. The four quadrants in the shield are symbolic of the four feeder school's which come together to form a united STA community. The senior varsity

team's uniforms have already transitioned to the new logo with the junior teams soon to follow.

Great job Mr. Salituro!!!



Recent STA Athletic Accomplishments

BOYS SOCCER

Provincial AA

- 2013 Gold
- 2014 7th place
- 2017 Bronze
- 2019 Silver

BC Catholics

- 2015 Gold
- 2016 Silver
- 2018 Gold
- 2019 Gold

GIRLS SOCCER

Provincial AA

- 2017 6th Place

BC Catholics

- 2018 Bronze
- 2019 Silver

TRACK & FIELD

Seven time 'AA' North Shore Grand Aggregate Champions (2018, 2017, 2016, 2013, 2012, 2011 and 2005)

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Provincial AA

- 2014 Silver
- 2015 8th Place
- 2018 4th Place
- 2019 4th Place

BC Catholics

- 2014 Silver
- 2018 Gold
- 2019 Gold
- 2020 Silver

BOYS BASKETBALL

Provincial AA

- 2014 8th Place
- 2016 7th Place
- 2017 9th Place

BC Catholics

- 2019 Bronze

WRESTLING

Girls won five consecutive North Shore Championships (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018)



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS FIGHTING SAINTS COMPLETE THE COMEBACK AND WIN AA HOWE SOUNDS TO ADVANCE TO THE PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



STA Drama Department

Faithful to the original tale by J. M. Barrie, “Wendy: A Peter Pan Story” is a play about a 12-year old orphan who longs to know more about her family. Because she believes so strongly in Peter Pan, when the clock strikes midnight on her 13th birthday, he comes to her and takes her away to Neverland. And now, in only a matter of weeks, STA proudly presents this production. Written by our very own Cos Natola, “Wendy” has been newly revised, and sports a brand new musical score. Don’t miss “Wendy: A Peter Pan Story”, as presented by the STA Theatre Company, at the Kay Meek Centre in West Vancouver, for six performances only, March 12, 13, &

14 at 12:00 & 7:00 PM. Ticket information will be coming soon. **Ms. Natola**



“The Girls of St. Mary’s” - 2019

STA Band

In December the S.T.A. Music Department presented its first Christmas Concert in the new school gymnasium to a packed audience including numerous alumni. The concert featured performances by the Concert Bands, Choirs and Jazz Ensembles. Our ensembles are now busy preparing for the Kiwanis Music Festivals and upcoming trips this spring. The Senior Concert Band travels to southern California in April, our Choirs to Kelowna, and in May the Grade 9 Concert Band and Senior Jazz Ensemble will perform at the Whistler

Cantando Festival. Our Spring Band Concert is set for Tuesday May 26 at which the Senior Concert Band will perform a medley from *West Side Story* to mark the 25th anniversary of STA's landmark production of this show. Our International Night featuring the Jazz Ensembles is set for Friday May 29. We hope to see many alumni at our future performances!

Mr. Horton



Dates of Interest in 2020

February 12, 2020 @ 7pm

Open House at STA for new students and anyone who wants to see the new school and visit the Alumni Room

March 12-14, 2020

STA Drama Production @ Kay Meek Centre

April 15-17, 2020

BC Catholic's Senior Girls Soccer @ Archbishop Carney

May 26, 2020

Band Concert @ Centennial Theatre

May 29, 2020

International Night @ STA

June 6, 2020 from 1-4pm @ STA

3rd Annual STA Alumni Association Spring Social

Stay Connected



@StThomasAquinasAlumni



@sta.alumni



Register your email
@ www.alumnista.com

STA Alumni Board

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(Alumni Engagement)

Once a Fighting Saint, Always a Fighting Saint

GO Saints GO!