



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS Regional Secondary School

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IMPORTANT DATES IN APRIL

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 7

MARCH 2021

2	Good Friday, School Closed
5	Easter Monday, School Closed
6	Grade 11 Course Selection
7	Grade 12 Course Selection
12-15	Mid-term Exams
16	Grade 10 Provincial Literacy Assessment
19	Semester 2, Term 2 begins
23	Spirit Day
28	Report Cards Distributed
30	Grade 8 Science Fair



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We, as Easter people, look at the Risen and Living Jesus as a source of hope and promise. Yet, as this pandemic ventures on, we are continually challenged with restriction after restriction, preventing us the freedoms we are accustomed to. We can sit back and feel sorry for ourselves, or we can appreciate the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made for us and push on knowing the vaccines are on their way and we will be back to normal soon. As a Catholic school, we rejoice in learning about the path Jesus has forged for us. This sets us apart from our secular schools who don't have the opportunity to let God into their curriculum.

Just a reminder about registration for 2021-22. The due date for early registration has come and gone, but it is important that student registration be completed as we have to plan for next year. Staffing is contingent on registration and once the staffing is set, we cannot accept more students. Also, students cannot register for their courses unless their registration is complete. As courses will be selected next week on a first come, first served basis, late registrations may not get the course selections they wanted as the class might already be filled. In other words....if you haven't registered yet, do so now.

Have a great April!

John Campbell, Principal

Campus Ministry

CAMPUS MINISTRY SHARE LENT CAMPAIGN

Campus Ministry Grade 9 students and *Carmel Dear* have been working hard making rope rosaries to sell for Rikiau Primary School. Grade 9 student *Sara Altamirano* taught staff and students how to make them. The group completed an order of 12 rosaries for CTR to donate with the sandwiches and baked goods to the men's hostel. An additional 14 rosaries have been sold within our school community.

If you would like to purchase a handmade rosary please email: ehughes@aquinas.org

Thank you for all your support!



As part of our connection with *Rikiau Primary School* in Kenya, our students have been writing letters to the students at *Rikiau Primary*, sharing about life in Canada and life at STA. Over spring break we mailed 91 letters to *Chalice*, who will hand deliver them to the students in Meru, Kenya.

We are continuing to raise funds for them to build latrines, we have currently collected \$3,334.35. Our goal is \$9,000, which will allow them to build 6 bathrooms for the 262 students at their school. Our deadline is fast approaching - the goal is to send the money the week after Easter!

Online donations can be made via this link:

<https://secure.e2rm.com/p2p/fundraising/346021/corporateteam/47213/en-CA>



This month we began virtual visits with seniors at Inglewood Care Centre. Students are participating in zoom calls as well as writing letters, birthday cards, and holiday cards to create connections with isolated seniors. We received the following note back from our contact who guides the residents in the calls:

"Although Speedy doesn't follow conversations well because of his dementia, he was glowing after the meeting and said you were 'nice ladies.' He gets no visits and only 1 caller. Charlotte was just thrilled to meet the next generation of youth and youth leaders in

the Vancouver area and talked and talked with me after we signed off. You really made her day."



Students are writing Easter cards to be delivered with the next meal to the Men's Hostel on April 8th. This month's collections are April 8th, 15th, and 22nd. Students can drop off their homemade, individually wrapped, sandwiches and baked goods at the Campus Ministry office before school starts, between 8:00 am - 9:00 am.

News from the Academic Advisor

As application deadlines approach for post secondary admissions, we encourage and welcome all senior students and parents to arrange to meet with *Mr. Salituro* to discuss any academic needs including university application and admission requirements, obtaining transcripts, scholarship opportunities and a wide variety of other academic concerns. Follow our social media accounts on both Instagram and Facebook to keep up to date with new scholarship and bursary applications along with news on post-secondary info sessions and open houses. This information will also be published in STA's daily announcements and posted on the academic advisor link of the STA website shown below.

<http://www.aquinas.org/index.php/academics/advising>



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Course Selection



WITH THE RECENT INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW CURRICULUM AT THE GRADE 11 AND GRADE 12 LEVEL, BOTH PARENT AND STUDENT ATTENDANCE AT THESE SESSIONS WOULD BE MOST BENEFICIAL.

2021-2022 STA COURSE SELECTION INFORMATION EVENINGS: APRIL 6

Students entering grade 11 in September 2021 and their parents are strongly encouraged to attend STA's course selection information evening virtually on April 6th at 7:00 pm.

2021-2022 STA COURSE SELECTION INFORMATION EVENINGS: APRIL 7

Students entering grade 12 in September 2021 along with their parents are to attend STA's virtual course selection information evening on April 7th at 7:00 pm.

Student News

Congratulations to grade 9 student *Avery Corcoran* who achieved Honour Roll in the February 2021 reporting period.



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Mr. Mendoza's Composition 11 students had to write a rant or a rave to help facilitate experimenting with verbal delivery, in preparation for the speech assignment. Here, a particular student wrote a rave about one aspect of our Canadian identity -- our currency.

RAVE ABOUT CANADIAN BILLS by *Yebin Kang*

Canada is exchanging its paper money for plastic and no, not the cards but the actual plastic bills. With that being said, I think they're pretty nice.

It was around late 2011 when the first \$100 banknote was issued. Then followed by 50, 20, 10 and finally 5. I think this polymer-made currency is practically the best thing invented by the government. First of all, plastic money lasts around 2 to 5 years, much longer than paper and they are much more complicated to counterfeit. They hold a number of security features like difficult-to-copy transparent windows, hidden

numbers, metallic holograms, and text printed in a minuscule font.

Plastic bills also stay cleaner and it's harder to become filthy unlike paper money, because of the non-porous surface that does not absorb any perspiration, body oils, or liquids. In fact, plastic money is completely waterproof, so you will be safe from ruining your bills if they are accidentally left in a pocket and later discovered in the washing machine.

In conclusion, I think plastic bills deserve commendation for it's great functionality.

LEGION REMEMBRANCE DAY POSTER AND LITERARY CONTEST WINNERS

STA Grade 9 student *Monique Lee* received first place in the North Shore/Howe Sound and third place across BC and the Yukon in the annual Legion Remembrance Day Poster and Literary contest. Monique's poster was chosen from over 5000 entries across BC and the Yukon! The image of her beautiful design is displayed below.

In addition, Grade 8 student *Billy Park* received 1st place in the North Shore/Howe Sound regions for his poem submitted in the Literary component of this contest. Enjoy his poem titled "The Poppy Stands Alone".

*Congratulations Monique and Billy
on your successes!*



THE POPPY STANDS ALONE

While the bombs are thrown
In the dark warzone
Even as the wind is blown
The poppy stands alone

While the foe is near
In the dark frontier
Even when they show no fear
The poppy is still here

The war that made us pray
That we will be home today
Even when we lost our way
The poppy will still stay

The explosions in the field!
The jets soaring through the air
Dropping deadly presents!
The poppy is aware

The war that killed millions
Has finally lost its ember
The corpses crying from the ground
The poppy will remember

The clock has struck eleven!
The agreement has been signed
The brave souls who lost their lives
The poppy will remind

Now fast forward one century
We stand in front of thee
In the peaceful graveyard
The poppy will agree

In the lost unknown
In the dark warzone
Where the Sun once shone
The poppy stands alone

FIGHTING SAINTS TO WATCH OUT FOR



Coach *Vanessa Botteselle* recently led the energetic grade 8 girls basketball players through a very engaging skills and fundamentals program. Pictured are just a few of the young Fighting Saints who made the commitment to work on their game. This talented group of girls will be exciting to watch as games resume next season.

FIGHTING SAINTS SENIOR GIRLS BASKETBALL

Next season should be an exciting one for the Fighting Saints Senior Girls Basketball team. The team will be fueled by many exciting players including *Sophie Savage*, *Fiorella LaPica*, *Anja Gustafson*, *Julia Claro*, and *Gabriella Panzetta*- who recently was recognized as one of the province's TOP 15 Players to watch out for next season!

Way to go Gaby!!!

GABRIELE PANZETTA



St. Thomas Aquinas' Gabby Panzetta (far right). (Photo by Howard Tsumura property of Varsity Letters 2021. All Rights Reserved)

GABRIELE PANZETTA

School: St. Thomas Aquinas (North Vancouver)

In 2021-22: Grade 12

Height: 6-foot-1

Position: Post

The skinny: A strong interior presence whose game continues to develop beyond the paint for the Fighting Saints.

FIGHTING SAINTS BASKETBALL ACADEMY TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Recently the Fighting Saints Sports Academies headed to the home of the North Shore Table Tennis Club for some exciting action. The students were led by internationally recognized Table Tennis coach *Luba. Rory Goodwin*, pictured with coach *Luba*, stood as champion over his hard battling foes. *Henry Cromack*, in particular, was thrilled to see *Goodwin* have his hand raised in victory.

On the girls' side of the bracket *Lydia Jones* squared off against *Abi Cruz*. There was no stopping the *Cruz* machine on this day as she rolled to an 11-4 victory in championship final. *Abi* would like to thank her family and all those who supported her on her championship drive. *Lydia* took *Abi's* victory in stride, but swore that she would be back next year challenging for her title.



Pictured above are: *Rory Goodwin* and *Coach Luba*



Pictured above are: *Lydia Jones* (left) *Elizabeth Purkiss* (middle) and *Abi Cruz* (right)

STA REGISTRATION FOR RETURNING STUDENTS 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Registration for returning students, grades 9—12 continues.

The April 1 deadline for early registration and reduction of \$100 in registration fee has passed.

Families who have not yet started their registration are asked to do so as soon as possible to help us plan for the 2021-2022 school year.



Community News

VANCOUVER SUN RUN: Run with Grace

Race day nears. Have you been training? Will you achieve your best time ever?

Participants are encouraged to submit their Sun Run photos to the STA newsletter (office@aquinas.org) for inclusion in the May issue.



Congratulations to *Mrs. Kyfiuk* who won the CISVA Catholic Educators Conference trivia contest and was the happy recipient of a new Go-Pro camera.

We look forward to watching many new video presentations from her in the future.

STA PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Next meeting is on
Thursday, May 6
9:15 am
via Zoom

Meeting ID: **239 617 7748**

Passcode: **stapa**

*All parents and guardians
are invited to attend.*

*Parent association can be
contacted by email at:*

Sta.pa@aquinas.org

Join Zoom meeting at:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2396177748?pwd=ZjhadGhUWlJpcXRnQ1NXMkRlSjRsdz09>



STA Talks!

STA Alumni Board & Parent Association

present:

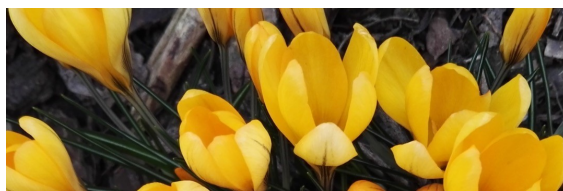
**Virtual Wine tasting
Thursday, April 29
7:00 pm with
Roche Wines**



In connection with Roche Wines, the STA Alumni Board invites you to join us for a fun and educational evening of Virtual Wine Tasting with 1994 STA Grad, *Dylan Roche*, and his wife, *Penelope*. This event is open to everyone from the STA community, not only Alumni, who are 19 years of age and older.

After graduating from STA, *Dylan* studied grape-growing and winemaking in the French Region of Burgundy. *Penelope* is a sixth-generation winemaker from Bordeaux. Together they created Roche Wines in Penticton in 2012. In keeping with their roots of hands-on organic farming, with traditional French “*savoir-Faire*”, *Dylan* and *Penelope* will help us explore and understand the richness of Okanagan terroir through a tasting of three (3) of their wines.

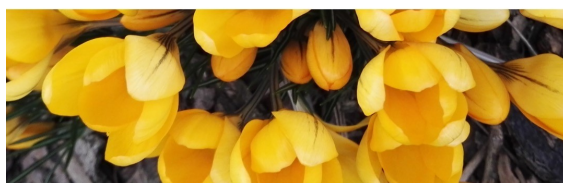
- Cost of the event is \$100.
- To learn more and register, click [here](#). Deadline to register is April 20.



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS'

Spring Plant Sale

Order by April 20th | Pick-up May 5th & 6th
aquinas.growingsmilesfundraising.com



STA Newsletter Subscriptions

Please notify the office (604-987-4431 or office@aquinas.org)
if you move or change your e-mail address.