

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS Regional Secondary School

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IMPORTANT DATES IN JUNE

3	Spirit Day
5	Athletics Banquet & Awards
6	School Mass
7	Advisory Schedule
10-11	Grades 8-11 Special Schedule, interviews by appointment Grade 12 Noon dismissal
12-14	School Exam
17-19	School Exams
19	Socials 9 Project Presentations
21	Graduation Mass
21	Commencement Ceremony
26	Graduation Dinner Dance
28	Grade 8-11 Awards Ceremony
28	Last Day of School

What Do You Want of Me Lord? Our Archdiocesan theme asks this very question. As you can see from the picture above, the group of people from last Sunday's *Door is Open* have answered the question through active service, in helping the poor. Although we had a relatively small group of volunteers last Sunday, they were able to do their work with all of your help. Many students show their support by participating in the Spirit Days at school, where their donation of money goes towards buying the food served at each *Door is Open* Sunday. Table hosts and patrons of the Annual International Night enabled all proceeds to fund the various charities that Campus Ministry support, the *Door Is Open* being one of them... **THANK YOU!**

As the Graduation Ceremonies and festivities are at the end of the month, grade 12s will be putting some serious effort into their exams to maintain the marks they have earned up to this point. Even though we can see the end in sight, it is crucial to focus on the important parts (academics) while the distractions may be more appealing. The exam calendar is posted on the STA website. Have your child list his/her exam dates on your home calendar.

The end of the school year also includes some goodbyes. I thank *Mrs. Botteselle, Ms. Ferrone, Mr. Florut, Mr. Guy, Mr. Keong, Mrs. McEvoy, Mrs. Neuls, Mrs. Paxton* and *Mr. Vesco* for their contributions to our school as they are leaving us to explore new challenges. *Mrs. Pilar* will also be away next year on maternity leave.

Have a great June!

STA 2019-2020 REGISTRATION

All students should now have registered for the 2019-20 school year.

If you have not yet done so contact the office (office@aquinas.org or 604-987-4431) immediately as the on-line option is now closed and registration must be done in person during office hours.

Student News

THE GIRLS OF ST. MARY'S



Our school play, "The Girls of St. Mary's", was a total success! Each and every student truly shined as they acted, sang, and danced throughout the two-act musical. This production marked the 30th anniversary of the play, which was written in its entirety by *Cos Natola*. The wonderful, energetic performances by our students truly made it that much more memorable. Thanks to all of you that supported us, from your assistance behind the scenes, to attending the performances as a valued audience member. We had a blast, and hope to see you all at next year's production!

- STA Drama Department

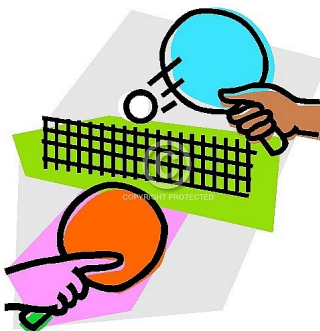
GIRLS SPORTS ACADEMY UPDATE

The Girls Sports Academy class left the STA gym and tried out a new sport! Table tennis was a hit as the girls picked up the tips and tricks with ease. Laughs were shared and memories made.

Coach Luba's energy spread throughout the whole class and everyone had a blast.

Day 1's champion, *Catie "the cat" Moric*.

By *Kristinn Black*

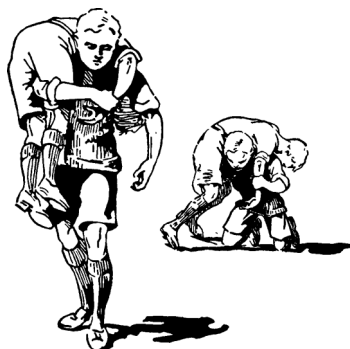


PE 10 FIELD TRIP

Mr. Prescott's PE 10 class took advantage of Vancouver's beautiful sunshine as the class took a hike around Lynn Canyon. Not only did the class get a wonderful walk in, but they got to observe the North Shore Fire Department practicing rescues on the suspension bridge. That's not something you see everyday!

The hike was tough but students are keen for another nature walk as *Dylan Kemper* shared "Can we come back and play capture the flag next time?" Students really got to experience "Beautiful British Columbia" firsthand and loved every minute of it!

By *Kristinn Black*



STA STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

STA student campaigned on May 27 & 28 to earn a spot on the 2019-2020 students council. Elections were held on Wednesday, May 29. Voter turnout was excellent and campaigning was done with integrity and honour. The results are represented below.

Congratulations to all students who ran.

The school administration and staff look forward to working with you all in the coming school year.



POSITION

PRESIDENTS

VICE-PRESIDENTS

SECRETARIES

TREASURER

COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS

Sophia Kostamo

Edward Damery

Matthew McGeogh

Ben Marilley-Bodner

Katy Stockwell

Meg Winter

Sam Winter

Adam Pizzolon

Rudy Kischer

Dayton Bowen

Charles Kim

SOCKS FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE

Congratulations to grade ten student *Camden Hussey* for his work in the Career Life Connections 10X class. When he embarked on his work experience/experiential learning project, he decided to create a fundraising initiative.

He designed, sourced out a manufacturer and monogrammed 300 pairs of socks with the North Shore Rescue name on them. North Shore Rescue is defined on its website as "a volunteer community-based search and rescue team providing a life-saving service to the public, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year."

He began selling them at the base of popular Grouse Mountain on the weekend of Saturday, May 11, 2019. The socks sell for \$15 per pair with 100 per cent of the profits going to North Shore Rescue for the organization to "sock away".

As a result of his work, he has earned media coverage in a recent issue of North Shore News, and increased awareness of the valuable role that North Shore Rescue has in the local community.

Furthermore, he is another example of how younger students do not have to wait until their junior and senior years of high school to contribute meaningfully to the

community; there are many students already doing fantastic things.



Sock it to 'em, Camden.

MARCH FOR LIFE—VICTORIA

This year once again, STA took a number of students and alumni to the annual March for Life in Victoria, the provincial capital.

Students and staff were grateful for the beautiful weather as they prepared to be a voice for the vulnerable in our society, from conception to old age.

After attending Mass the students prepared for the march. Unfortunately, due to a fire downtown, the marching portion was cancelled, but we still attended the rally alongside thousands of other people. We heard leaders from pro life, politicians and individual young activists speak. It was encouraging

seeing the growing number of young people at the march and how this movement is growing in awareness and compassion for all people.



S.T.A. MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The final band concert of the year took place at Centennial Theatre on Tuesday, May 28. Yet another evening of outstanding performances by our junior and senior band students.

Special thank you to *Mr. Horton* and all those behind the scenes who work so hard to make this event a success. Band members displayed exemplary behavior throughout the day, conducting themselves in a manner of which St. Thomas Aquinas High School students and staff could be proud.

Recently the STA Junior Jazz Band played to a rousing crowd at the West Van Community Centre. At the end of the concert several members came up and congratulated the students on the marvelous performance and invited them to perform in the Kiwanis Senior Centre ballroom. The Junior Jazz Band received a well deserved ovation and in addition to the Kiwanis invite, the West Van Community Centre has asked us to come back and perform in the Fall, perhaps a Jazzy Christmas concert.



All school-owned band instruments must be returned in person to Mr. Horton by **Friday, June 7**. They may be rented again for the summer if desired.

All student-owned instruments must be removed from the convent and taken home by **Friday, June 7**.

Parents are urged to get instruments serviced at the beginning of the summer when the music stores are quiet, as opposed to the end of the summer when they are at their busiest.

LIBRARY NEWS

The grade 8s are ending the year just as they began it, with more visits to the library. We enjoyed hosting them in September and now they are making use of our resources to support their learning.

The Religion 8 classes, led by *Ms Liang, Ms Macek* and *Mrs Purkiss* prepared Tableaux on the subject of Women of the Old Testament, then compared their chosen woman to Mary. They made

use of both print and digital resources to learn about these historic figures.

Mrs Hughes' Social Studies 8 classes used our digital databases and some print resources for their Inquiry assignment on the historical era topic of their choice. In framing their Inquiry questions, students were encouraged to select fascinating aspects from the

historical eras studied this year to pursue in further detail.

As we prepare for yearend, we ask families to support us in ensuring all overdue and signed out books get returned promptly. Students have been reminded in homeroom, and via email. **Have a look at home for any books with the St. Thomas Aquinas High School barcode.**



INTERNATIONAL NIGHT



On Friday May 24th, the STA community came together to spend an evening enjoying delicious food, from 13 different countries, in support of some great causes. \$5000 was raised for Campus Ministry charities - going to The Door Is Open; the Archbishop's Charities; STA's sponsor child, Castro; STA alumni serving with NET (National Evangelization Team) and CCO (Catholic Christian Outreach); the Salesians of Don Bosco in the Philippines; and Campus Ministry Scholarships. A huge thank you to all the parents who cooked and served the food, all our student volunteers, and to all who came!

It would not be possible without all of your hard work!

NET TEAM FAREWELL

This month we said farewell to the National Evangelization Team (NET). Since October, *Elianna, Josh, Jackson, Kyle, Steffy, Julia, and Catherine* have come to STA twice a week to share their faith with students. Whether through Alpha sessions, retreats, or

music ministry, the NET Team added 7 fresh new faces to the Campus Ministry department and we were sad to see them go. Fortunately, we will be having another team next year; we look forward to meeting more young evangelists.



GRAD 2019



With the wrap up of May, June exams, summer and of course, Graduation are on the horizon. Grade 12s have been preparing their future plans write-ups for their big moment walking across the stage Friday, June 21st 7:00 pm at Broadway Church. The final Graduation Mass to ever take place in our school gym happens earlier in the day at 11:00 am.

Finally, graduates and their parents will celebrate this milestone with the Dinner and Dance held at the Crystal Pavilion Ballroom, Pan Pacific Hotel on Wednesday, June 26. The festivities culminate with the parent organized After-Grad.

NEWS FROM THE ACADEMIC ADVISOR

As students are finalizing their course selections and building their schedules for the 2019-20 school year, we encourage and welcome all students and parents to arrange to meet with *Mr. Salituro* or *Mrs. Paruzzolo* to discuss any academic needs, including university admission requirements 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.



Follow us @staacademics



www.facebook.com/staacademics

GRAD 2019 –ACHIEVEMENTS/AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to the following grade 12 students who received the noted awards:

Sara Bremsak

Sir John A. Macdonald Merit Bursary in the amount of \$1000
from the North Vancouver Conservative Association
&

John Barrett Award Scholarship in the amount of \$500 from BC Soccer

Thomas Thordarson

North Shore Pro-Life Society Essay Contest Winner - \$1000

Katie Zhang

CUPE Local 389 Student Scholarship in the amount of \$1000

SUMMER SCHOOL 2019

Registration is now open for students interested in summer school courses through the North Vancouver and West Vancouver School District. For more information on summer school registration, please see the academic advisor's office or check the summer school course offerings and register directly at the following sites:

North Vancouver School District

<http://www.sd44.ca/school/summer/Pages/default.aspx>

West Vancouver School District

<http://westvancouver.schools.ca/summer-learning>





STA ATHLETICS

JUNIOR GIRLS SOCCER



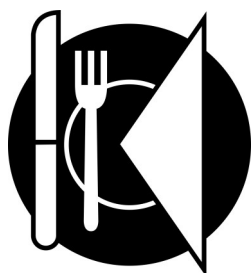
Congratulations to the STA Junior girls soccer team who won the BC Catholics tournament on May 22. *Chloe Taylor* was selected as Team All Star and *Eva Sikich* was voted Most Valuable Player. STA soccer program is a force to be reckoned with. Look for great things from these girls in the future.

SENIOR GIRLS BASKETBALL



Another one for *Gemma Cutler*! Her dominant post presence, killer jump-shots, and unbelievable rebounding all paid off as she was selected Game MVP of the North Shore Senior Girls All-Star Basketball Game. She led her team in scoring, and played alongside fellow STA All Stars *Paisley Vandermeye*, *Olivia Thorpe*, and *Jessica Clarke*. These four athletes competed with the best of the best and showcased their skill, drive, and relentless effort and truly demonstrated what the girls basketball program at STA is all about. The game was a nice last run for the grade 12's and a good pump up for the 11's looking forward to next season. Congratulations to these four outstanding players and *Gemma Cutler* for MVP!

By Kristinn Black



ATHLETIC BANQUET

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

TICKEST ON SALE AT THE STA OFFICE
\$25 PER PERSON

TICKET INCLUDES DINNER AND A SEAT AT THE AWARDS CEREMONY
PURCHASE TICKETS BY CASH OR CHEQUE AT THE STA OFFICE

STA BADMINTON TEAM

SENIOR STA BADMINTON TEAM TAKES SECOND PLACE IN THE NORTH SHORE FINALS

Congratulations to the Senior Badminton team for coming in a close second in the North Shore Finals and then placing fourth in Zone finals; and to the Junior team for winning all of their league games and coming in 4th on the North Shore.

The following played in both Junior and Senior finals: *Geraldine Del Monte, Laura Cunningham, Maryan Ma, Shayne Villanueva, Dana Montoya, Aylin Asoudeh, Ayden Lum, Marcus Yellowley*

Senior Players: *Samantha Scalabrino, Jay Lee, Louis Gao, Matthew McGeough, Mattias Feigl-Schmidt, Ray Li, Tommy Rieder*

Junior Players: *Adelina Popa, Athessa Del Monte, Maddy Lee-Cayatano, Abraham Wang, Ben Edge, Kevin Calindas, Santiago Barrales, Yohan Kwon.*

Special thanks for coaches *Margaret Schmidt* and *Shirley Tanoto* for their hours of coaching and training the badminton team.



Marcus Yellowley and *Ayden Lum* carried on and played in the Provincial B Tournament in April and received medals.

Marcus - Gold U17 Boys Singles, Gold U17 Boys Doubles
Ayden - Silver U17 Boys Singles, Gold U17 Boys Doubles, Gold U17 Mixed Doubles

Congratulations boys on your achievement.

STA STUDENTS WIN GOLD AT SHAWNIGAN LAKE REGATTA



STA students *Josh Edge, Benjamin Edge, Rudi Kischer, Tommy Kischer, Daela Dalzell*, and *Mayela Rodriguez* are members of the Vancouver Rowing Club.

Josh Edge, Rudi Kischer and their team mates won gold at Shawnigan Lake Regatta on May 17-21, in their quad boat (photo at left).

More details on the Vancouver Rowing Club and an invitation to join can be found on page 12.



Parent News

GRADE 11 PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR GRAD 2019 EVENT



GRAD MASS RECEPTION

Friday, June 21

Volunteers needed to:

Decorate/Set-up/Serve/Clean up

A monetary donation of \$15 per person would also be greatly appreciated to help cover the food and decorating expenses. Cash, or cheques made out to STA, are welcome and can be dropped-off at the school office marked "Grad Mass Reception".

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

DECORATE & SET-UP IN SCHOOL CAFETERIA

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

8:00 am – 9:30 am SET-UP OUTSIDE

9:00 am – 11:30 am SET-UP IN THE CAFETERIA

11:30 am – 1:30 pm SERVE

1:30 pm -2:30 pm CLEAN UP

All help is greatly appreciated!

Questions and replies to:

Maureen Lum: mlum40@gmail.com (gr 9 parent)
and

Kika Souza: kika@proactive-tech.com (gr 10 parent)

STA DRY GRAD EVENT

Wednesday, June 26 & Thursday, June 27

The STA 2019 dry grad committee has been working diligently to organize the dry grad event. The tradition of having Grade 11 parents volunteer for this is the backbone of our community. We hope you will come forward and help our 2019 graduates.

We need 20 volunteers for this event to be a success. The areas volunteers will be needed are as follows:

1. Grade 11 Liaisons – Volunteers required **NOW**
Grade 11 parents interested in joining the current Grade 12 committee to help coordinate the Grade 11 volunteers.
2. **Wednesday, June 26, 2019**
Pan Pacific Hotel, Canada Place, Vancouver
5:45 - 8:30 pm - Greet grads, help with bag check
10:30 pm – 12:00 am Take attendance, organize grads getting changed and boarding the buses.
3. **Thursday, June 27, 2019**
Castle Fun Park, Abbotsford
12:45 am – 5:00 am: greet grads, take attendance & chaperone at venue. At the end, take final roll call, get grads onto bus and back to STA.

Please reply to *Anthony Slowey* at

aslowey1166@gmail.com

by Friday May 3rd, 2019 if you can help.

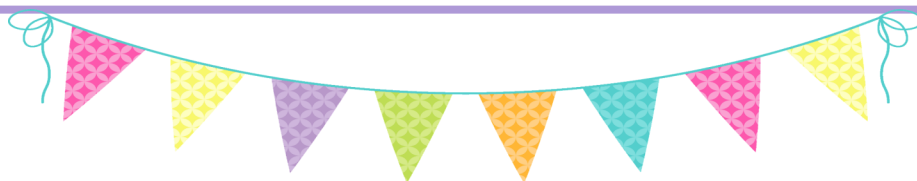
Thank you in advance for your help Remember, next year will be your turn to enjoy!



Community News

ST. PIUS X CELEBRATES RETIREMENT

The St. Pius X School community invites you to a Mass of Thanksgiving in recognition of *Mr. Fabio Battisti*, our retiring principal, and his 22 years of service to our school and parish. Mass will be celebrated at 5:00 pm on Saturday, June 8th at St. Pius X. Following Mass there will be a light reception from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm in the parish meeting room. Please RSVP by May 16th using the link to Google forms <https://forms.gle/H7Qvp9835hwGxcTW9> or by email to mbyrne@saintpius.ca.



CHOICE HOMESTAY

ARE YOU LOOKING TO ENJOY A CULTURAL AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE FOR YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY WITHOUT HAVING TO LEAVE YOUR HOME?

Become a Choice Homestay host family!

Choice Homestay is looking for families that can host an international student for this upcoming 2019-2020 school year. The homestay experience provides a complete and ideal immersion setting for students coming to Canada to study English at STA. Family interaction, cultural traditions, and community living offer aspects of the experience that can help the student adjust to life in Canada. If you or someone you know is interested in hosting an international student, please e-mail Jennifer Plachta at Jenniferplachta@choicehomestay.org



BIRTHDAY WISHES AND GOODBYE

Happy Birthday

to *Bria Marchenski*, STA Alumni Officer, and *Mr. Mendoza*, English Department member, who celebrated their day with a "Floral theme" staff dress up day.

We said goodbye to *Bria* mid-May. She was with us the past year organizing many alumni social events and growing our alumni numbers. We wish her well in her future endeavors.

VANCOUVER ROWING CLUB



SUMMER LEARN TO ROW CAMP
VANCOUVER ROWING CLUB (VRC)

SESSION 1
JULY 15 - 26

SESSION 2
AUGUST 5 - 16

12:00pm - 3:30pm Each Day

For more information contact:
row@vancouverrowingclub.ca

Grade 8 to Grade 12 welcome

PUTTING AWAY YOUR CLEATS?
TIRED OF DANCING?
READY TO TRY SOMETHING NEW?
FUN CO-ED SPORT!
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

Do you have children in Grade 8 to 12?
Do they enjoy being on the water, making new friends and would they be interested in trying the best team sport going?

VRC's Juniors Program is offering two Summer Learn to Row Camps:

Session 1: July 15th - 26th

Session 2: August 5th - 16th

Each day there will be approximately 2 hours of on-water activity, with breaks for eating snacks and lunch, plus fun dryland activities with their new crew. The whole experience is led by two of our dedicated Junior Program coaches, plus coxwain/athletes who are currently in our Competitive Junior Program.

Dale Wikaruk
Communications Officer
VRC Rowing Section

USED UNIFORMS

STA used uniforms are available for sale through the school. If you have a uniform you would like to donate, please drop it off to the STA office.
Graduating students who no longer want their black sweaters, these are greatly valued and sought after.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.



STA Newsletter Subscriptions

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