



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS Regional Secondary School

541 West Keith Road, North Vancouver, BC V7M 1M5

Principal: Mr. J. Campbell
Vice Principal: Mr. C. Campbell
Vice Principal: Mr. T. Horton

Tel: 604-987-4431
Fax: 604-987-7816
Web: www.aquinas.org

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IMPORTANT DATES IN JANUARY

8	School re-opens After Christmas Break
16-19	Review Week
18	Feast Day Mass
22-29	Midterm Exams
29	Grade 8 Science Fair
30	DPA & Service Hours Due
30	Spirit Day
30	Term 2 Begins

As you read this newsletter, I hope you are relaxing and enjoying the Christmas break. It has been quite an eventful 2017 as we have now moved ahead with the building project. The crane which now dominates the skyline represents the transformation of the school property. We are thankful for the cooperation everyone has shown thus far with all of the challenges we have faced. This short term pain will result with a school we will all be proud of. To keep on top of the building progress, click on the **BuildSTA** icon on the website. It will take you to the updated progress and pictures.

May 2018 bring much happiness and success to all of you!

God Bless.

John Campbell

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The City of North Vancouver's Bikeway project is now essentially complete with landscaping and signage now in place. Our drop-off/pick-up zone on West Keith Road is now restored and available for use. It is necessary for us to remind parents not to stop in the lane of travel between our driveway and the drop-off zone; this is a NO STOPPING zone.



Construction of our new school is pressing forward with concrete for the first footings now in place and the first columns going in. The crane was erected on December 19 and 20 and will dominate the skyline on our campus for some time to come.



Science Department News



GRADE 8 SCIENCE FAIR

Grade 8 Parents, please note the following:

The Sixteenth Annual Saint Thomas Aquinas Grade Eight Science Fair will be held in our gymnasium on Monday, January 29. Backboards will be sent home with students during the last week of school before the Christmas holidays. Students should spend some time in January putting the finishing touches on their reports and working on their backboard displays. All grade 8 students have been provided with the evaluation sheets that will be used in the judging process, including the interview questions they will be asked by the judges. **In addition to working on their reports and backboards, during the month of January students should also prepare for the judges' interviews.**

The schedule for the day of the Science Fair is as follows:

8:00 am to 9:00 am: Students set up their Science Fair backboards in the gymnasium. (This will likely take only a few minutes, but backboards **MUST** be set up no later than 9:00 am.)

9:00 am to 12:00 pm: Students return home to prepare for their interviews in the afternoon. Other students will be writing exams and we will not have supervision for the grade 8s during this window of time.

10:00 am to 11:00 am: Elementary school students visit the Science Fair.

12:00 pm to 2:00 pm: Students stand by their Science Fair boards in the gymnasium for judges' interviews. **It is essential that students are on time for their interviews – 12:00 sharp!**

5:00 pm to 6:00 pm: Students and their families attend the awards ceremony. (Awards will be presented at 5:30 pm.)

In related news, we are still looking for a few more Science Fair judges. The day runs from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm for judges, and lunch will be provided. A background in science is helpful but not required. Please contact Ms. Treacy at the school at treacy@aquinas.org if you are able to help out. A big "thank you" is extended to those whom have already volunteered!

STA has started a knitting club! Students and teachers meet on Thursdays in room 205. We are looking for donations of knitting supplies. While students are welcome to keep their creations, we hope to also make some hats and scarves for the homeless. If you have any knitting supplies, please bring them to the office for Ms. Rodericks to pick up.



Christmas Concert

The Music Department presented its first full performance of the year in December. Our 32nd annual Christmas Concert on December 11 featured performances by the Concert Bands and Jazz Ensembles and was well attended. Students will receive participation marks for the concert as well as marks for their written concert evaluations. Our Choirs performed as part of the Fine Arts Evening on December 18.

Also in December, our Choir was scheduled to perform at Evergreen

Lodge but this was cancelled due to the sudden snowfall. Our Junior Jazz Ensemble was scheduled to play at the West Van Recreation Centre on December 20.

In the new year our bands will begin preparing for the Kiwanis Festivals, Elementary Tours and our Senior Concert Band trip to California in April.

Instruments should be collected from the convent and taken home for the holidays. Now is a good time to get any required maintenance or servicing done.

The Music Department would like to wish all of our students a Blessed and Happy Christmas.

Mr. Tim Horton,
Music Department

Grade 8 Concert Band at the Christmas Concert at STA on Monday, December 11.





*Grade 9
Concert
Band*



Music



Grade 10 Concert Band



Senior Concert Band



*Junior
Jazz
Band*



*Senior
Jazz
Band*



Fine Arts Evening

A FINE ARTS EVENING THAT WAS MORE THAN FINE!



The 13th Annual Fine Arts Evening was absolutely fabulous this year, just as every year before! The Concert and Chamber Choirs sang just beautifully under the direction of *Mrs. Rebane*. The Drama classes delighted the audience with shows from grades eight through twelve that made us both laugh and contemplate the true meaning of Christmas. The grade 8's performed "**Christmas in July**" which looked at

what the world would look like if the New Year dropped the calendar and the holidays were all out of wack. As a beginners grade, the class rocked their show, with amazing projection and character pizzazz. The grade 9's made us all think about the true meaning of Christmas with a series of wacky customers and mall employees in "**Christmas Unwrapped**". They had half a class of new students to drama and wowed us all with their show! The grade 10's performed "**Lights...Camera...Christmas!**" and showed us a look at a film set showing us the true meaning of Christmas through a director's eyes. With a show within a show approach, the actors played actors and were fabulous doing it! And lastly, the Seniors wrote and directed their own show "**Operation X-**". The show was about a group of Christmas villains who were

determined to take down Christmas, until an Agent (009) joined the group and took it down from the inside when she dropped the J-bomb (Jesus!)? The kids put in so much effort from pens to paper up to the performance, and it showed! A fabulous night was had by all, and we were surrounded by stunning Art from the Art department as well!

And perhaps the best part of the night were your generous door contributions that helped us contribute to fulfilling a children's wish for *Alina Valente* who is battling the return of her Brain Cancer. Bless you all for your contributions! We did it, and helped her by raising over \$500 that evening! Merry Christmas to you all!

-Cristina McAllister,
Fine Arts Department Head



CHRISTMAS GIVING FOR GREAT CAUSES



It is with great joy that I share that with your help and the donations at the door of the December Fine Arts Evening, we are donating \$1,156.95 to *Alina Valente's* Children's Wish Foundation wish!!!!

Four-year-old *Alina* has been battling a brain tumour her whole life. At only 18 months old, doctors diagnosed the tumour and *Alina* underwent a craniotomy (brain surgery) to try to remove the cancer. While the surgery helped save her life, it left her blind. Despite the new disability, her parents say the tumour would have killed her within months without the operation. Today, she is undergoing her second round of Chemotherapy that will last until 2018. *Alina's* family says her brain tumour has "completely encompassed" their lives. "Every aspect of our daily life has been impacted – from where we live to what jobs we can have, where the kids can go to school, to what we can do each

day as a family." Not only is she fighting a deadly disease, she's also getting used to a lifelong disability.

But despite her rough start to life, she's still an active little girl who loves playing, swimming, dancing, meeting new people, and going on adventures. While she's not fully decided, *Alina* thinks her wish might be to go to Disneyland in a few years – a place where she can just have fun like any other kid.

In speaking with *Lindsay* at the Foundation, she assured us that this is a huge and unexpected school donation. She also said that *Alina's* mom was so inspired by the Heroes Challenge that was trying to raise money for her own daughter's wish that she was also working towards raising for another sick child's wish as well. And then, an outside regular donor decided to match all donations this year for the Challenge, so ours was matched, and with all of that being done, *Alina's* wish is GRANTED! Through this whole process, 4 sick kids got their wishes with connections to the *Valente's*!! God is good!

It feels so wonderful that we contributed to such magic for these beautiful children! Bless you all!

Thank you all for helping me to do something I really wanted to do this Christmas. Our card for *Alina* and her family is from FROZEN, and I knew it was perfect when I opened it and it sang out loud. As she became blind post-surgery when her brain cancer began, I am hoping this will make her smile. The family will now be able to go to Disneyland together when the time is right for them!

Merry Christmas!

-Cristina McAllister,
Fine Arts Department Head



News from the Academic Advisor

We encourage and welcome all senior students and parents to arrange to meet with **Mr. Salituro** or **Mrs. Paruzzolo** to discuss any academic needs including post-secondary applications and admissions, obtaining transcripts, scholarship opportunities and a wide variety of other academic concerns. All students with midterm exam conflicts are also asked to see the academic advisor's office to adjust their exam schedule. Follow our new 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



LANGUAGE CHALLENGE EXAMS

Students who registered to write the Delta Language Challenge exam should have now been contacted by email to confirm their exam session date and time. All exams are written at Delta Secondary School at 4615 51st Street, Ladner BC. Please see **Mr. Salituro** if you have any questions regarding your language challenge exam.

January 27, 2018	January 28, 2018
French 12	French 11
German 11 / 12	Korean 11
Japanese 11 / 12	Mandarin 12 (simplified)
Korean 12	Mandarin 12 (traditional)
Mandarin 11 (simplified)	Punjabi 11 / 12
Mandarin 11 (traditional)	Spanish 11 / 12

JANUARY-FEBRUARY POST-SECONDARY VISITS AT STA

STA is proud to host information sessions from the following post-secondary institutions in January and February. Both sessions will take place in the library and are open to all students in grades 11 and 12. Interested students must register at the academic advisor's office for each session.



University
of Victoria

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
GUSTAVSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

January 17
11:45 AM



CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE

February 13
10:15 AM





College is the most expensive it's ever been. With tuition rates rising an average of 3.5% every year, the average undergraduate now finishes their degree with over \$37,000 in student debt. Over \$50 billion in scholarships were awarded to students

last year. With a number that large, it would seem that an opportunity wouldn't be hard to find, but the opposite is true. Because there are so many scholarships spread across a wide variety of eligibility requirements, searching through all of them is the hardest step in the process. A quality scholarship search platform is the best solution to all of these problems. These dedicated websites and mobile apps compile large databases of active scholarships from thousands of organizations and put them in one place for students to browse. They most often include dozens of filters that allow you to search only for awards that match your unique qualifications, such as scholarships by ethnicity, major, test scores, and extracurricular activity. *Reviews.com* has created this guide to review the best scholarship search platforms and instruct students on how to use them effectively to find as many opportunities as possible.



Schulich Leader Scholarships are prestigious entrance scholarships awarded to high school graduates enrolling in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM) programs at 20 Canadian partner universities. Fifty students

will receive this award, valued up to \$100,000 each. STA can nominate one student applicant to apply for this prestigious award. Application forms for all interested students are now available at the academic advisor's office. Completed application forms must be returned to the academic advisor's office no later than Friday, January 19. The STA nominee will be announced following midterm exams.

UBC PRESIDENTS' DAY 2018



The UBC Presidents' Day event is a terrific occasion to visit UBC and connect with staff, students, and advisors. Whether you've already received an admissions offer, are still waiting for a decision, or are graduating high school in the coming years, students and their families are invited to learn more about life at UBC.

The program includes:
Campus tour led by current UBC undergraduate students.

Lunch with UBC students, staff, and advisors who can answer questions about student life and your programs of interest.

Opportunity for students who have applied to UBC to meet with an advisor from their faculty of choice and plan ahead for first year.

Student panel with current UBC undergraduate students who can provide you with the "real life" students' perspective of UBC.

Introduction to UBC's innovative facilities, vibrant campus life, and supportive student services and resources.

WHERE AND WHEN

Monday, February 19, 2018
at UBC's Vancouver campus.

HOW TO REGISTER

Registration for Presidents' Day 2018 will open mid-December 2017.

Register online at: <http://you.ubc.ca/tours-info-sessions/campus-tours-events/on-campus-events>

Student News

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

SPEECH ARTS ASSEMBLY

STA English Department would like to congratulate the following students for their presentations at the Speech Arts Assembly on Thursday, December 21:



Grade 8: *Talia Erdman & Daniela Purvica*

Grade 9: *Olivia Dawson & Sophia Ryznar*

Grade 10: *Guia Panopio & Genevieve Calamo*

Grade 11: *Grace Lee & Luigi Sammarelli*

Grade 12: *Gabriel Galat, Katsy Concepcion & Matthew Birtch*

Congratulations to Grade 11 student *Amber Hickey*, plays for the Adanacs West Vancouver Field Hockey Club Team, who placed 3rd in a tournament in Richmond, Virginia.



Alumni News

Congratulations to *Madeline LaBreche*, Grad 2017, recipient of the Governor General Award. Madeline was presented her award at the Speech Arts Assembly held on Thursday, December 21 at the STA gym. *Lord Dufferin*, Canada's third Governor General after Confederation, created the Academic Medals in 1873 to encourage academic excellence across the nation. Over the years, they have become the most prestigious award that students in Canadian schools can receive. For more than 140 years, the Governor General's Academic Medals have recognized the outstanding scholastic achievements of students in Canada. They are awarded to the student graduating with the highest average from a high school, as well as from approved college or university programs. Medals are presented on behalf of the Governor General along with personalized certificates signed by the Governor General.



Community News

Hello STA Families,

Just a quick note to let you know that the STA Second Hand Store will be open over the Christmas Break.

Please feel free to email (pscalabrino@yahoo.ca) or call me (778-919-6969) for an appointment.

We have many tartan kilts, grey pants and shirts in stock. Limited numbers of gym strips, sweaters and cardigans. We also appreciate any donations and these can be dropped off at the school office or at my home.

Please encourage your student to check the TWO lost and found boxes, there are a few valuable clothing and footwear items that have not yet been claimed.

Thank you.



HOLY TRINITY PARISH CHRISTMAS TREE CHIP UP
128 WEST 27TH STREET, NORTH VANCOUVER

10 AM—4 PM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2018

FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT
AN ORPHANAGE IN NIGERIA

BY DONATION



Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!



EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURE INFORMATION

For information about school closures due to inclement weather, power failure or other emergencies, please observe the following:

Assume that the school will be open.

If in doubt, monitor the school website (www.aquinas.org) or:

TELEVISION : GLOBAL TV **RADIO** : CKNW AM 980 & CKWX AM 1130

PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL School telephone lines need to be kept open for urgent calls.

Parent Association News

Thank you to all families who contributed baking to our Christmas Concert and Fine Arts Evenings this month. Your shortbread, gingerbread, loaves and treats were appreciated by all the individuals who attended our performances.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas.



The STA office staff would like to thank parents and students for their thoughtful gifts dropped to the office throughout the month of December. We wish you one and all a wonderful Christmas break and look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Barbara, Angela, Linda & Tanya

STA Newsletter Subscriptions

newsletter@aquinas.org

Please notify the office if you move or change your e-mail address.