

# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS Regional Secondary School

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**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**



## IMPORTANT DATES IN JANUARY

Jan 7	School Reopens
Jan 9	Advisory Schedule
Jan 10	Spirit Day
Jan 16	Advisory Schedule
Jan 21-28	Mid-term Exams
Jan 28	Grade 8 Science Fair
Jan 29	Semester 2 Begins
Jan 30	Advisory Schedule
Jan 30	Grade 9 Immunization Clinic
Jan 31	School Mass

As you read this newsletter, I hope you experienced a relaxing and revitalising Christmas break. It has been quite an eventful 2018 as the building project is moving ahead with great vigor. As it rises from the ground, we are thankful for the progress and 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.

On behalf of the staff, thank you for the treats and gifts given to us at Christmas. They were unnecessary, but much appreciated.

May 2019 bring much happiness and success to all of you!

God Bless.

John Campbell

# January Exam Schedule

DATE/GRADE	8	9	10	11	12
Monday, January 21 AM	French			Religion	Religion
Monday, January 21 PM	French Oral		English	Biology Honours English	English Communications
Tuesday, January 22 AM		Math		All Maths	Pre Calc Math
Tuesday, January 22 PM	Religion		Science		French Geography
Wednesday, January 23 AM	Math/Math 8/9	French Orals	French Orals	Socials	Law
Wednesday, January 23 PM		French	French	French	Chemistry
Thursday, January 24 AM		Socials		French Orals	English Provincial Exam Psychology
Thursday, January 24 PM			Religion	Chemistry	Biology
Friday, January 25 AM		Religion	Socials	Beg. Spanish Spanish	Economics Literature
Friday, January 25 PM				Physics Spanish Orals	Physics
Monday, January 28 AM	Science Fair		Math	Accounting	Calculus AP Calculus Found. Math
Monday, January 28 PM	Science Fair			Earth Science	History Civilizations

PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME GRADE 11 AND GRADE 12 STUDENTS WILL BE WRITING THE PROVINCIAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION NUMERACY ASSESSMENT ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 22.

## PRE-EXAM WORKSHOPS

Our School Psychologist, *Ms. Nathalie Sagar*, will be holding pre-exam lunch time workshops for students to assist them in preparing for mid-term exams coming up in January. Dates and topics are listed below with more details of each workshop announced closer to the dates. Locations TBA.

**08 Jan** SURVIVING YOUR FIRST ROUND OF MIDTERMS  
(FOR GRADE 8 STUDENTS ONLY)

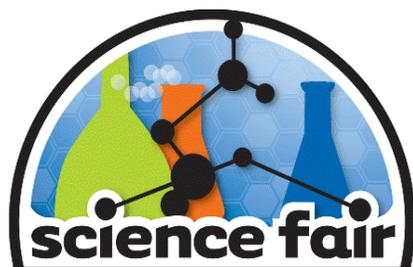
**22 Jan** MANAGING ACADEMIC STRESS & TEST ANXIETY

**15 Jan** STUDY STRATEGIES & REDUCING PROCRASTINATION

**29 Jan** BOUNCING BACK FROM TOUGH EXAMS

# Science Department News

## GRADE 8 SCIENCE FAIR



The Seventeenth Annual Saint Thomas Aquinas Grade Eight Science Fair will be held in our gymnasium on Monday, January 28. 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 on 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 noon:** *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 noon 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.)

SCIENCE FAIR JUDGES  
NEEDED

**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. **You will also earn Parent Participation hours for your involvement.** A background in science is helpful but not required. Please contact *Ms. Treacy* at the school at [treacy@aquinas.org](mailto:treacy@aquinas.org) if you are able to help out. A big "thank you" is extended to those whom have already volunteered!



## STEM CLUB

**W**e recently instituted a STEM club here at STA! Under the direction of *Mr. Jones*, students have performed a pig dissection, watched an elephant's toothpaste demonstration, and marveled at methane-filled fire bubbles. All students who are interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics are welcome to attend. The club meets in room 503 on Tuesdays from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

## EARTH SCIENCE 11

**O**n Friday, December 14, *Mr. Jones'* Earth Science 11 class visited H.R. MacMillan Space Centre. While there, students learned about the Big Bang Theory and how gravity is used to study the universe. They also attended a presentation on how spectroscopy is used in astronomy and had time to explore the Cosmic Courtyard. By all accounts, a good (and informative) time was had by all!

# Student News

## STA GRADUATES OF 2018

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING GRADUATING STUDENTS OF 2018 WHO RECEIVED BC MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS:

*Dante Agosti-Moro*

*Maria Altamirano*

*Zora Brough*

*Rachel Cruz*

*Thomas Curalli*

*Erik Dahl*

*Eleanor Endler*

*Trevor Flanigan*

*Gabriel Galat*

*Nicole Greig*

*Isabella Haaf*

*Katherine Harland*

*Julia Hughes*

*Ann Joby*

*Valerie Kasabashian*

*Joshua Kemper*

*Nikolas Kulka*

*Emily Kwok-Choon*

*Justin Li*

*Chanelle McPhee*

*Carissa Moore*

*Michael Mora*

*Natasha Nock*

*Michael O'Keefe*

*Annika Olson*

*David Onak*

*Isabella Parrotta*

*Diana Pavel*

*Adelle Pawlik*

*Sanjana Singh*

*Jonathan Tubeo*

*Kathleen Weinborn*

*Joshua Yellowley*

*Emilia Zerbe*

**T**he BC Ministry of Education offers Provincial Scholarships to recognize student achievement and encourage students to pursue post-secondary education. The *BC Achievement Scholarship* is awarded for use towards post-secondary tuition. It is given to the top 8,000 graduates in the province. The Ministry will determine recipients based on achievement in Grades 10, 11 and 12 courses that satisfy BC Graduation Program (2018) requirements. A cumulative average percentage is calculated and forms the basis for determining winners. There is no application process.

Recipients are notified by mail in October of the year they have graduated.

**30% of the STA grad class of 2018 received this award.**

### GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ACADEMIC AWARD



**C**ongratulations to STA Grad 2018 *Thomas Curalli* who received the Governor General's Bronze Academic Medal at the STA monthly mass held on Tuesday, December 11, 2018.

The Governor General's Academic Medal was first awarded in 1873 by the *Earl of Dufferin*, and has since become one of the most prestigious awards that a student in a Canadian educational institution can receive. The governor general of Canada continues this tradition of encouraging scholarship across the nation and recognizing outstanding students. The medal is awarded to the student who achieves the highest average, including all grade 11 and grade 12 courses, upon graduation based on final results after provincial examinations.

## SPEECH ARTS ASSEMBLY

On Thursday, December 20, the annual English Department Speech Arts assembly took place in the STA gym. This annual event is much anticipated by students and staff. Below are the list of students who presented. Thank you to Masters of Ceremonies *Grace Lee & Justin Purkiss* and to *Diego Altamirano* for his audiovisual skills. *Congratulations students for your insights.*



GRADE	STUDENT	TITLE	TOPIC
8	<i>Declan Cutler</i>	My Passion	What's my passion
8	<i>Charlotte Smith</i>	Making Digital Movie Clips	What's my passion
9	<i>Danillo Villa Soto</i>	The Playlist to my Life	My Canadian Story
9	<i>Ainslee Dalzell</i>	My Canadian Identity	My Canadian Story
10	<i>Ella Kennedy</i>	Bad Hair Days- Letter of Recommendation	Letter of Recommendation
10	<i>Mackenzie Themens</i>	Lip Balm	Letter of Recommendation
11	<i>Benjamin Marilley-Bodner</i>	Lake Placid Memoirs	Memoir
11	<i>Meg Winter</i>	Reflection	Memoir
11	<i>Madeline Urbani</i>	Family Memory	Memoir
12	<i>Laura Harris</i>	The Beauty of Suffering	Open Topic
12	<i>Poppy Keller</i>	Alarms are out to get us!	Open Topic
12	<i>Rozelle Abad</i>	What Others Think	Open Topic

## A LITTLE CHRISTMAS CHEER



On Thursday December 13th, the students in the Life Skills class invited the construction crew to drop by the breezeway for some hot coffee, tea and treats. The students wanted to thank the workers for their labour in building our school and for braving the rain, cold and wind on a daily basis. Just look at the smiles on the workers' faces!

Thank you to *Mrs. Denise Morris* for organizing the event.



## GRADE 8 & 9 CAREER FAIR



This year's STA Career Day was on Wednesday, December 5th. We had 20 speakers come into STA to talk to the grade 8 and 9 students about 17 different types of careers. Careers ranged from those in the arts and business to those in healthcare and law enforcement. Of our 20 speakers, 15 of them were STA alumni (Our Alumni ranged from Grad'07 to Grad'85), 4 current parents, and 1 parent of alumni (Grad'11). A special thanks to *Mr. Francis*, *Ms. Marchenski*, and *Mr. C* for a great career day that not only the students enjoyed but the alumni were thrilled to be part of. If you would like to take part in STA's career day next year or know of alumni who would be interested please check out our alumni website at [www.alumnista.com](http://www.alumnista.com) and add your contact information for upcoming volunteer opportunities and events.

# NEWS FROM THE ACADEMIC ADVISOR

All students with midterm exam conflicts or concerns are reminded to see the academic advisor’s office to reschedule exams. Midterm exam week begins on January 21<sup>st</sup>. With post-secondary admission deadlines approaching in the new year, all senior students and parents are encouraged 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.



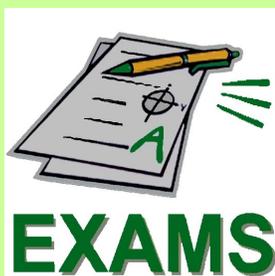
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## LANGUAGE CHALLENGE EXAMS

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.



### EXAM SCHEDULE

January 26, 2019	January 27, 2019
French 12	French 11
Korean 12	Korean 11
Japanese 11/12	Mandarin 12 (traditional)
Mandarin 11 (simplified)	Mandarin 12 (simplified)
Mandarin 11 (traditional)	Punjabi 11/12
	Spanish 11/12



Students interested in writing College Board AP exams or the SAT / PSAT tests in the spring are asked to sign up with Mr. Salituro in the academic advisor’s office. Cost for each exam is as follows: AP \$155, SAT \$80 and PSAT \$20. Students writing Advanced Placement and SAT / PSAT exams are reminded to take note of their exam date and time (visit [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)). Exam dates and times are set in accordance with the AP College Board and cannot be altered for any reason.



# STA ATHLETICS

## STA ATHLETE ATTENDS HIGH PERFORMANCE BASKETBALL CAMP IN TORONTO

**C**ongratulations to grade 11 student *Jessica Clarke* who is one of the 57 athletes invited to participate in the women's national age-group high performance assessment camp at Humber College, Toronto this month.

As part of their long term development athletes will be provided direction on next steps in their individual performance plans.

The objective of the camp is to provide a national training environment with international focus to top identified athletes. Players will undergo physical training sessions and physical testing under the evaluation of national team coaches, sports scientists and technical staff for the purposes of identifying those who will be invited to the next stage of the programs.

These athletes will be assessed for their participation in the U19 team, competing at the FIBA U19 women's basketball world cup 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.



## STA GRAD NEWS



STA's Grad 2019 Purdys Christmas Chocolate fundraiser wrapped up with over \$12,000 in total sales. *Way to go grads!* Several students sold over \$1000 worth of products, earning themselves \$250 towards their dinner/dance costs at year end. The grads will be selling again prior to Easter so stay tuned!

Grad wear sales took place the month of December just in time for grads to be able to proudly wear their 2019 gear in January.

## 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](http://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.



# Campus Ministry

## THE VALUE PROJECT



**D**ecember 10th - 14th was this year's Value Week. Each day a new display was revealed - all with the intention to connect STA students, to remind us that we are all human and all have value. One of the displays was the "Build up Wall" (seen in the photos). The wall was covered with photos of every STA student. The students removed their photos, and on the back was instructions for a random act of kindness that connects them with another student at the school. The 5 leaders and some volunteers spent many hours preparing and setting up these displays. The displays came from a summit that the 5 students participated in in October run by Signal Hill.



## CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR PRISON MINISTRY

**I**t was another successful week of students writing cards to inmates during their religion classes. The cards are handed out Christmas day along with journals to any inmate who would like one. We also bring boxes of baking for all the guards the week prior to Christmas. They are so appreciative as they do not get thought of often. Here are a few examples of the cards that the students wrote:

I can only imagine how hard it must be at Christmas, but I hope that you find peace and joy in the little things: I will pray for you this Christmas season and keep you in my heart.  
Happy Holidays

Merry Christmas! Having been away from home over the holiday season, I know how hard it can be to have Christmas without friends and family around you. I am here to simply wish you well for this Christmas. I will be sure to add a candle on our tree for you, as we put a candle on the tree for every family member. You have a place in my home and in my heart this Christmas. I wish for you all the happiness this year and that when you get out, you spread the happiness and joy the holidays bring.  
Merry Christmas

I wish you the best of luck when you get released. I will pray for you throughout your journey. Christmas can be a difficult time for you but

just know that there are people who do care and are praying for you everyday.  
Merry Christmas

If you could keep these men and women in your prayers. They are so moved when we tell them how many people care enough to pray for them. If you would like to receive our monthly 'prisoner prayer request' email, please email me at [kmagee@aquinas.org](mailto:kmagee@aquinas.org).

Wishing you all a joy filled Christmas.

Mrs. Magee

# Community News



The STA Parent Association meeting will take place on Thursday, January 10 beginning at 9:15 am in room C207 in the convent, 524 West 6th Street.

All parents are welcome to attend.

*Thank you to the many families who dropped off gifts, cards and good wishes to the office staff. Your kindness and generosity is appreciated, particularly at this busy time of year. May this festive season sparkle and shine, may all of your wishes and dreams come true, and may you feel this happiness all year round.*

*Merry Christmas!*

*Angela, Barbara, Linda & Tanya*



## URGENT HOMESTAY NEEDED

A 19 YEAR OLD STUDENT FROM MEXICO IS IN NEED OF HOMESTAY ACCOMMODATION FROM JANUARY 2, 2019 TO FEBRUARY 3, 2019. PLEASE CONTACT ANNA FOR MORE DETAILS:

604-997-9755

OR

[future.plan@hotmail.com](mailto:future.plan@hotmail.com)



HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL LOCATED AT  
128 West 27th Street, North Vancouver

## STA Newsletter Subscriptions

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