

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS Regional Secondary School

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IMPORTANT DATES IN FEBRUARY

7	Weekly Mass
10-16	Catholic Schools Week
12	School Mass
14-15	No School, Catholic Educators Conference
18	No School, BC Family Day
20	Grade 9 Retreat
21	Parent/Teacher Interviews
22	No Classes, Parent/Teacher Interviews
22	Grade 8 Placement Exam
27	Spirit Day



STA NEW SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PHOTOS

Courtesy of
Mr. T. Horton

The Building Is Really Coming Together!

As you can tell from the pictures above, the construction company is really moving along in the new school building.

The top picture with the green siding is the main entrance to the school and the administration level. The building will have another access from Keith Road, west of that entry. This level leads to the gymnasium/cafeteria.

The second picture is taken from the east on Forbes and it shows classrooms on the top and bottom floors. There will be a stairwell and a 'water feature' as the water from the roof will cascade down into a catch basin creating an eye catching display.

The third picture is from the south where we see the gym to the left, the lower green is the cafeteria while the upper green is the staff room and classrooms on top. The roof is complete now to the right, with the gym roof installed since the picture was taken.

The bottom picture shows the auxiliary multipurpose room with its peaked roof in the distance. Continued good weather will help ensure a September opening.



MORE PHOTOS OF THE NEW SCHOOL AS BUILDING PROJECT PROGRESSES



Catholic Schools Week

In support of the upcoming Catholic Schools Week on February 9th to 15th, we are encouraging all of our students to wear their school uniforms to church on Saturday February 9th and Sunday February 10th.

Students wearing their uniforms will receive a ticket from the staff member attending the mass and those who are serving at the mass (alter serving, reading, etc) will receive 2 tickets for a prize draw. The draw for over \$500 worth of prizes will take place at the school mass on Tuesday, February 12th.

The show of solidarity for Catholic Education exhibited by students wearing their uniforms, will go a long way in thanking the parishioners for their prayers and donations going towards making our new school building a reality.



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.



Science Department News

SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL'S SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL GRADE 8 SCIENCE FAIR



On Monday, January 28th the STA Science Department held its Seventeenth Annual Science Fair. Our grade 8 students spent five months working on their projects, and at last it was time to share them with the world! Parent and grade 11 and 12 student judges evaluated the projects. We were also visited by grade 7 students from St. Anthony's and St. Edmund's elementary schools. Families were invited to come and view the projects in the evening, right before the winners were announced.

The STA Science Department would like to thank our grade 8 students for making the day run so smoothly; they did an excellent job of being where they were supposed to be, when they were supposed to be there. We would also like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our judges who volunteered their entire day to judge backboards, read lab reports and interview our grade 8 students. Sincere thanks are offered to the very kind parents and students who remained behind to help us with the labour-intensive job of putting away the tables and chairs when the science fair was over. Finally, we would like to congratulate our grade 8 Science teacher, *Mr. Lamasan*, on a job well done.

Our overall award winners were *Diego Islas* (1st place), *Sierra Larson* (2nd place) and *Lucas Radburn* (3rd place) as well as the top five projects in each of the five categories at our Science Fair (results listed below). Our three overall winners will compete at the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair at UBC this April 4^h through 6th. We know that *Diego*, *Sierra*, and *Lucas* will represent STA well and we wish them the best of luck!

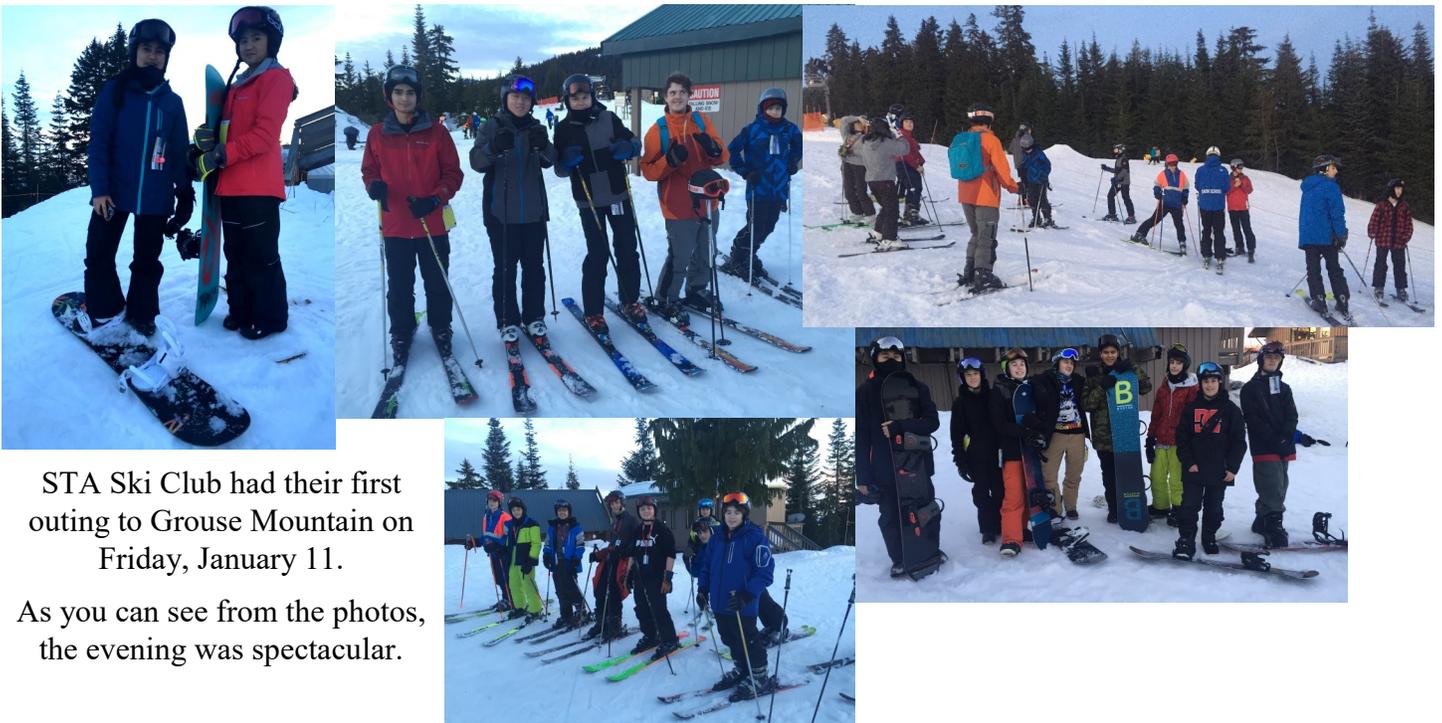
APPLIED SCIENCE	BIOLOGY	CHEMISTRY	LIFE SCIENCES	PHYSICS
<i>Diego Islas</i> A-Fresh-Sip	<i>Sophie Cox</i> Is Grass Greener with Something on the Side?	<i>Lucy Ferguson</i> Stain, Stain Go Away	<i>Sierra Larson</i> Focus Pocus	<i>Lucas Radburn</i> MAG-LEV Magnetic Train
<i>Alex Panicker</i> Whiter Smile	<i>Madelyn Lee-Cayetano</i> Sound vs. Silence: The Growth of Grass...	<i>Kara Wong</i> Be Jewelled	<i>Stephanie Kostamo</i> Attraction Distraction	<i>Anthony Hunter</i> Can Sound Travel in a Vacuum
<i>Julia Kramer</i> Water You Drinking?	<i>Meara Hamilton</i> Biodegradation: Do We Dig It?	<i>Mehrsa Matinrad</i> Stai Away	<i>Raine Fraser</i> How Our Senses Affect Our Taste	<i>Luca Caffaro</i> Cement Solidify
<i>Isaac Fediw</i> The Battle of Paper vs. Plastic	<i>Gabriella Boppart</i> Is Your Dog Colourblind?	<i>Kelsey Brick</i> Secret to a Cleaner Smile	<i>Anna-Sophia Heijse</i> Tasting with Our Nose?!	<i>Alexander Soroka</i> Electric Water
<i>Deanna Factor</i> Drink Up!	<i>Estefania Santos</i> So What is the Big Deal? Comparing Dog Saliva to Everyday Surfaces	<i>William Kim</i> Coolest in the Group	<i>Eliana Woodworth</i> Musical Memory	<i>Ben Glowacki</i> You See Me Rollin'

MICHAEL SMITH SCIENCE CHALLENGE

The *Michael Smith Science Challenge* is an annual contest for grade 10 science students. It is sponsored by UBC's Faculty of Science and is written by students from across Canada. This year's contest will take place on Wednesday, February 13th, from 9:00 am to 10:00 am (D block). Grade 10 students with marks of at least 80% in science who are interested in writing the contest should speak to their science teacher.

Student News

STA SKI CLUB



STA Ski Club had their first outing to Grouse Mountain on Friday, January 11.

As you can see from the photos, the evening was spectacular.

LIFE SKILLS

The Life Skills students spent two mornings at *Made By Me Sewing Studio* hand sewing funny monsters. We would like to thank *Christine* for her great instruction and making the students feel comfortable and confident with the new skills they were learning.



S.T.A. MUSIC DEPARTMENT

On Monday, December 10 the Music Department presented its 33rd annual Christmas Concert at the school, featuring our four Concert Bands and our two Jazz Ensembles. The event was well attended and we thank all those who came out. Our Concert Choir and Chamber Choir performed at the Fine Arts Evening on Monday, December 17.

Our Sound Crew provided audio and lighting assistance for the annual Christmas show at Saint Pius X Elementary School on December 12 & 13. On December 14 the Junior Jazz Ensemble performed for the students at Saint Pius X.

Our Jazz Ensembles are now preparing for the Kiwanis Jazz Festival which will come up very quickly on February 13. The Choral Festival is in April and the Concert Band Festival runs April 30-May 3.



STA FINE ARTS EVENING



STA students shined and sparkled at the Christmas Fine Arts Evening on Monday, December 17.

Thank you to all families and friends who came out and supported our school and enjoyed the Christmas spirit.

NEWS FROM THE ACADEMIC ADVISOR

As we enter the second term of school, 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. 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.



www.facebook.com/staacademics



@staacademics

WEB SITE UPDATE

Students and parents are encouraged to utilize the updated Academic Advisor's link on the STA homepage for current information on scholarships and bursaries, post-secondary planning, volunteer opportunities, and career explorations. The updated site also contains useful links to the BC high school graduation requirements, sample provincial exams and assessments, as well as quick links to download forms for the Graduation Transitions 12 portfolio.

For more information, please visit:

www.aquinas.org/index.php/services/academic-advisor



EXPLORE CAPILANO INFO NIGHT

Senior students considering to begin their post-secondary studies at Capilano University are strongly encouraged to attend the Explore Capilano Info Night on Wednesday, March 6 from 5:30-8:00 PM in the Birch Building atrium. Explore information on how to apply for admission, opportunities for financial aid and awards, study abroad opportunities, and connect with Cap U instructors.



Students can RSVP online at the following site:

www.capilanou.ca/programs--courses/get-started/visit-capu/explore-capu-info-night/



STA ATHLETICS

JUVENILE GIRLS BASKETBALL



The STA Juvenile girls basketball team played their first tournament of the season in January.

Spot your favorite player: *Anja, Ella, Gabby, Ivanna, Julie, Julie, Katie, Madie, or Meara.*

SENIOR GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM WINS BC CATHOLICS

Congratulations to the Senior Girls basketball team for their second consecutive year of winning the BC Catholics. The following STA players received special recognition during the tournament:



2nd Team Allstar: *Pasley Vandermye*

1st Team All Stars: *Jessica Clarke, Gemma Cutler & Olivia Thorpe*

Defensive Most Valuable Player: *Olivia Thorpe*

Most Valuable Player, *Jessica Clarke*

Tessa Beauchamp Scholarship Winner: *Sofia Panzetta*



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

While Christmas break and January exams are now a fading memory, the first month of the new year was all business as students prepared themselves for studying and teachers planned reviews and designed exams.

The library was a busy place as students used the space to work and review independently or study quietly as a group. Students also enjoyed perusing the new selection of fiction titles and selected favorites to begin as a break from studying.

As we prepared to celebrate the feast day of *St. Thomas Aquinas*, we looked to the “*Dumb Ox*” for inspiration before exams through this version of his famous Prayer before Study.

Prayer Before Study

Creator of all things, true source of light and wisdom, lofty origin of all being, graciously let a ray of your brilliance penetrate into the darkness of my understanding and take from me the double darkness in which I have been born, an obscurity of both sin and ignorance. Give me a sharp sense of understanding, a retentive memory, and the ability to grasp things correctly and fundamentally.

Grant me the talent of being exact in my explanations, and the ability to express myself with thoroughness and charm. Point out the beginning, direct the progress, and help in completion; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

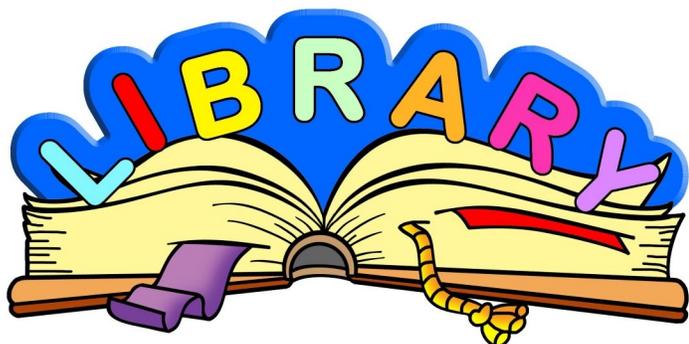
NEW IN THE LIBRARY: suggestions for younger, perhaps reluctant and not so reluctant readers.

The Brilliant World of Tom Gates
by Liz Pichon

Meet Tom Gates a master of excuses, an expert doodler, a comic story writer extraordinaire, and the bane of his teacher's existence! In this recent recipient of the 2011 Roald Dahl Funny Prize, readers will find an honest, silly and laugh-out-loud book in the format of Tom's battered homework diary, crammed full of his scribbles and stories. And in his wacky journal, you'll find all sorts of comic craziness to make you groan with glee! Hear about Tom's worst holiday ever, and the time his parents went to parents' evening, groan. Tom's battered homework diary is crammed with his scribbles and stories, cartoons and ideas as well as comments from the long-suffering Mr. Fullerman. Warning! Do not attempt to read this in public. You will laugh loudly.

The Tiny Hero of Ferny Creek Library
by Linda Bailey

Eddie, a passionate reader and a shiny green bug, saves the school library in this funny, heartwarming tale that fans of *Flora & Ulysses* and *Charlotte's Web* will love. Eddie is a tiny green bug who loves to read and who lives behind the chalkboard in Mr. Wang's fourth grade classroom with his parents, his 53 brothers and sisters, and his Aunt Min. But when Aunt Min goes to the school library and never returns, Eddie leaves the comfort of his home for the first time and begins the dangerous trek through the elementary school. After dodging running sneakers, falling books, and terrifying spiders, Eddie reaches the library, where he finds Aunt Min stuck on a desk with two broken legs! To top it all off, there's a substitute librarian who has terrible plans to close the library and turn it into a local testing center. No more books at all! Encouraged by the brave deeds done by small creatures like Stuart Little and Charlotte from *Charlotte's Web*, Eddie comes up with a plan to save the library a plan that requires all the courage one little bug can muster. Perfect for fans of *Chris Grabenstein's Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* and *Lynne Rae Perkins' Nuts to You*. Featuring extensive black and white art from Newbery Honor Medalist and New York Times bestseller *Victoria Jamieson* as well as references to classic children's literature sprinkled throughout.



Campus Ministry

This March twenty five STA students in grade 11 & 12 along with Campus Ministry coordinators will be participating in the **Philippines Encounter**. We will visit projects of our Development and Peace partner, *Caritas Philippines*, and the *Don Bosco* missions, where we will work with the *Salesian* order of priests. These include a feeding center for infants, a preschool, high school, community center, vocational training center, and a physiotherapy clinic.

This is the third time we will go to the Philippines, and each time we bring donations with us - both monetary and physical.

If you are able, we are inviting you to partner with us as part of the STA community.

The items most in need are listed below.

NEW OR USED

Second hand laptops for their college scholars
(seminarians included)
Soccer cleats, rubber shoes, slippers
Balls
Lego toys or build-it-yourself toys
Art materials for 8yrs old up
Sports stuff (badminton, cones)
Stage lapel mics

NEW

Street Children Center is always in need of white
shirts and under wears
Toiletries
Vitamins (especially ascorbic acid - Vit C)

THE MONETARY DONATIONS WILL GO TOWARDS

Seminary Chapel needs new roof,
ceiling and repainting

One Youth Center Needs to buy a combo set

One newly built chapel is looking for funds
for landscaping

Most places need donations to fund youth activities
and education-formation of their catechists and
leadership seminars



If you want more information please contact *Miss E. Hughes* (ehughes@aquinas.org), or *Mr. Keong* (keong@aquinas.org).

Please bring all donations before February 28th so we have time to pack them before we leave on March 15th.

Please also pray for us: *for the success of our encounter, for the safety of all those involved, for those with whom we will be working, and that this experience might help all of us grow in our faith and our connection to the global Catholic Church.*

Thank you very much!

Ms. Elizabeth Hughes
Mr. Jeremy Keong
Campus Ministry Coordinators





Community News



PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETING

The next Parent Association meeting will take place on Thursday, February 7, 9:15 am in room C207 of the Convent. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

PRISON MINISTRY

Please continue to pray for these men and women; many have addictions and mental health issues. If you have time, dedicate an extra morning mass, adoration or rosary for those prisoners suffering with mental health; that they will find safe and healthy support systems and meaning in their lives especially once they are released. May our almighty God grant them healing.

Prisoner Prayer Requests:

T: Please pray for my spouse and kidz to come and ex-spouse.

C: I pray for Peace and God light to everybody in the world.

A: Pray that I will be successful this time to be free from my addition, with help I will be given once released as well as the help here for my anger.

A: Pray that my whole family will continue to be supportive in my recovery.

F: I worry about my release which is very soon, pray I am successful. (this young man is in the mental health section of the prison and will need extra prayers for support when he is released)

: I am thankful for the support from my inmate friends here.

: I am so thankful that you take time to visit with us here in prison, it means so much to all of us.

B: Please pray for my family first, they are safe and not in danger in their country. Please pray for my release.

K: Please pray I get out soon. For my family and me.



* A special prayer for C on his release last week that he may be protected from all evil.

STAFF CHANGES AT STA

We say a fond farewell to *Mr. MacLennan* as he has finished his contract here at STA. He will be missed for his teaching abilities, patience and his joyful nature around the school. He is moving on to R & D work and we wish him much success in his future.



Mrs. Anita Pilar returns to STA from her Maternity leave. We are pleased to welcome her back and have her youth, enthusiasm and energy at the school.

As term 2 begins, the block orders will be reversed: Day 1 will be D block, C block, B block followed by lunch then finally A block. Day 2 will be H Block, G block, F block, lunch and finally E block.

STA Newsletter Subscriptions

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