

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS Regional Secondary School

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FIRST SCHOOL MASS

IMPORTANT DATES IN OCTOBER

2	Walkathon
2-4	Grade 11 Retreat
3	Parent Association Meeting
7	Staff Meeting– 2:20 pm Dismissal
9	Advisory Schedule
10	Weekly Mass
14	Thanksgiving-School Closed
16	Advisory Schedule
17	Weekly Mass
18	Kurume Shinai Visit
22	PSI Night
23	Monthly Mass Schedule
24	Weekly Mass Schedule
25	Pro-D Day, No Classes
30	Advisory Schedule
31	Spirit Day

I always look at my message from the previous year prior to writing this communication. At that time, the construction company was putting up the final columns which support the roof for the new school. We have been in the new school for 6 weeks...it is amazing how fast the structure went up. Classes are now in full swing and each day deficiencies are getting completed.

We have set the date for the Open House and the Blessing of the school. Our Open House will be on Saturday November 23rd and will include student-lead tours for our school community, parishioners and friends. *Archbishop Miller* will celebrate a blessing Mass with our students on Tuesday November 26th.

At press time, I don't have the final pledge results for the Walkathon, but we once again experienced a great day on the trail. There was a lot of positive energy from the students, staff and volunteers. Pledges this year will go towards stocking the cafeteria with plates, cutlery and other necessities. As usual, 20% of the grade's pledges will go towards the charity of the grade's choice in grade 12. I am proud of the students as they are also taking responsibility and doing their part to help with the cost of the new school.

In addition to the students' fundraising endeavours, I continue to witness first-hand the perseverance the students are putting into their activities. The school Mass (pictured above) has set a positive tone, and the field hockey, cross-country, volleyball, rowing and soccer teams all competing at a high level. The Senior Boys Soccer team won the BC Catholic Championship last week! Our students are continually stepping forward to volunteer for a variety of events. They are an inspiration for me and leave an exemplary impression for others in the community.

Have a great month of October!
John Campbell, Principal



Student council members welcome students back to school on Tuesday, September 3. Last time through the old front doors. The old building is now being used for other purposes and is no longer accessible to students.

STA WALKATHON



Thank you to the hard work and pledging done by our students, funds raised to date are \$53,231.20. Walkathon pledge sheets and monies collected should be turned in to home room teachers by Friday, October 4 for students in grades 8, 9, 10 & 12 and by Wednesday, October 9 for students in grade 11.

STA can provide tax receipts for donations of \$25 or more if a donor's pledge is paid by cheque. To ensure that our donors receive their tax receipts please ensure that their full name and mailing address are printed on any cheques that are collected in the amount of \$25 or more. Cheques must be payable to "St. Thomas Aquinas High School." Unfortunately, we are not able to issue tax receipts for cash donations.

Student News

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to grade 11 student **Calleigh Hamilton** who achieved Frist Class Honour Roll status in the June 2019 reporting period with an overall average of 92%.



STA COHO FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS



Thank you to the following STA student volunteers who assisted at the annual Coho Festival on September 8. Self-starting, hard-working volunteers make all the difference when it comes to putting on a successful event. This year, I'd like to send a shout-out to the following volunteers who were key to the success of the Festival BBQ:

Kevin Calindas

Clare Yien Hoh

Luca Caffaro

Jenny Gao

Noah LaBreche

Deanna Factor

Jonathan Schmidt

Evan Kischer

Marcus Schmidt

Dorry Zhou

Maryan Hanshu Ma

Tommy Kischer

Hudson Nock

Ayden Eng

STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS



On Thursday, October 3 the STA Student Council had elections for Grade/Class Representatives. The successful candidates are:

GRADE 8

Alessa Pestes

Sam Haoming Wu

GRADE 9

Kiyan Gill

*Jorge Martinez
Gutierrez De Velazco*

GRADE 10

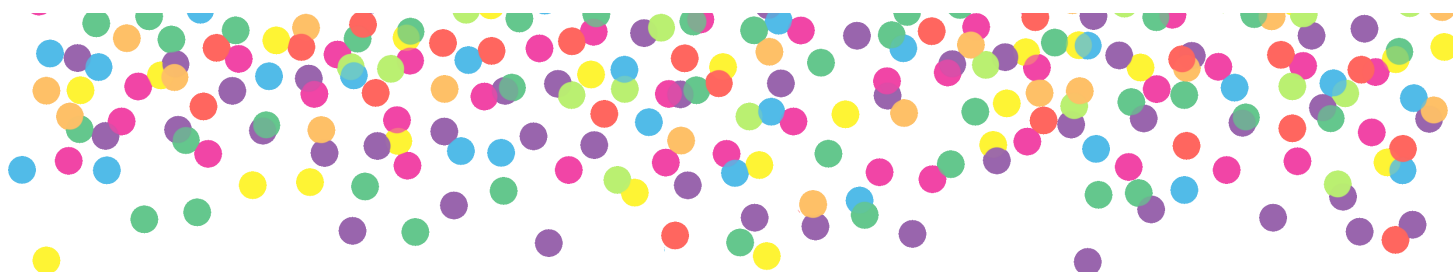
Michael Purkiss

Jacob Damery

GRADE 11

Laura Cunningham

Graydon Baker



Science Department News

STEM AT STA

Developing STEMs program is off to a great start! We've had snakes and fire shows for our Holy Trinity and St. Pius X Elementary School students and the best thing is... it is all orchestrated by our smart and awesome STA students!! Stay tuned for more amazing Developing STEMs programs in the near future!!



We Want YOU!

We are looking for judges for our Eighteenth Annual Grade 8 Science Fair. This event will take place from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm on Monday, January 27th. Training for judges will be provided on the day of the event, as will lunch! While YOU DO NOT NEED TO HAVE A BACKGROUND IN SCIENCE TO BE A

WONDERFUL SCIENCE FAIR JUDGE, this is certainly an asset. Please note that time spent judging our science fair may be used toward Parent Participation. All interested parents or STA alumni should please email Ms. Treacy at:

treacy@aquinas.org.

English Department News

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

NEW GRADE 12 STUDENT ROCKS A QUICK HIT ORAL

Special STA welcome to new grade 12 student, *Amir Bagheri*, who comes to us from Iran. Amir is depicted in the picture below delivering his first speech in the English language, and according to his teacher, *Mr. Prescott*, *Amir* was "well prepared, confident, and very articulate." Congrats *Amir* on your early success here at STA and welcome to our Fighting Saints community



Campus Ministry

CHRIST THE REDEEMER YOUTH RETREAT



Christ the Redeemer Parish

invites all youth of the North Shore to attend the **Greater Than Retreat**.

In addition to great food, games, talks, testimonies, Mass, and Confession, this year's venue—Evans Lake - also offers canoeing, rock-climbing, a low-ropes course

and awesome trails. The \$250 fee includes the sessions, instructors for outdoor activities, six meals and snacks, and two nights accommodation.

Please consider registering and encouraging the teens in your life to attend this retreat - they will hear from not only young adults, but teens their age who experience the same real struggles and desires that they do, and still choose to follow Christ as best they can. Our main goal is to give teens a safe, comfortable, non-judgmental space to get real about their relationship with God and with others, and have some fun while we're at it! We so hope to have your teen with us.

For more details, please visit our retreat website at: greaterthanretreat.weebly.com

Do you know where the \$2 you bring on Spirit Days goes?

The first Sunday of every month STA as a school community is responsible for providing a meal at the Door is Open. Sunday morning, student volunteers and staff go down to the Door Is Open to make and serve chili to well over 100 people who are living on the downtown eastside. On Spirit Days the \$2 that students bring goes directly to purchase the food and supplies needed to provide this meal. The canned food donations go to the St. Vincent de Paul Society to also feed those less fortunate.

Thank you for helping us serve those in our greater Vancouver community!

DOOR IS OPEN

On the first Sunday of every month STA provides a meal to those living on the downtown eastside. We make chili, salad, fruit salad, and hot chocolate together, then serve it to the guests. The \$2 donation that students bring in on Spirit Days goes directly to buying the supplies for this meal. All students are welcome to come, as well as parents!

We meet at STA at 9:00 am, and return at 2:00 pm. Permission forms are available in the campus ministry office.

Join us on the following dates:

October 6
November 3
December 1
January 12
February 2
March 1
April 5
May 3
June 7

Email: ehughes@aquinas.org

with any questions, or to let us know if you would like to come!



GOOD SHEPHERD CANDY DRIVE

Students will receive a paper lunch bag in homerooms on October 31st and are asked to bring it back on Friday November 1st filled with candy for *Good Shepherd Ministry*. *Good Shepherd Ministry* is an organization that shares God's love with the less fortunate in the Downtown Eastside. The candies will be put in to small bags along with a prayer card, rehab information, and a note letting the men and women working and living in the downtown eastside know that there are people who care for them, and that God loves them.

For those who are trick or treating we are not asking for all of your haul, just a small portion. For those not trick or treating we ask if you can bring in some of the treats your family is giving out. *Good Shepherd* needs small chocolate bars and hard candies only. **Please no gum, chips, or licorice.**



Thank you for sharing.

NATIONAL EVANGELIZATION TEAM RETURNS TO STA

We look forward to welcoming this year's NET team next week! Once again, 5 young people, from around the world, will spend two days a week in our school.

Hosting is urgently needed for the 3 young ladies from October 4th-18th. They provide their own transportation. They mainly require meals and a place to lay their heads at night. Food allergies include yeast, peanuts, shrimp and raspberries.

Please contact
Sarah

at: bcschedule@netcanada.ca,
or Elizabeth
at ehughes@aquinas.org

if you're able to host them. Inviting them in to your home is a wonderful opportunity. See this testimony from an STA family who hosted last year:

We had the pleasure to host the Net team for the first time this past summer. it was a rewarding and fulfilling time for our family. Three boys stayed with us for almost 2 weeks and by the end of their stay, we got to know them fairly well. They were a great addition to the family during their stay.

Most evenings, we sat together at the table, broke bread and shared our day with each other. it was particularly wonderful for our children to hear what these young men had to do with their missionary work. They also had some off days from work and they took some time to chat with us about their own family. They even played chess with my kids and took them skateboarding.

The most special moment for us was just before we turn in for the night each day. We sat in a circle and took turns to make a short prayer - mostly of thanksgiving, reflections on the day or asking our lord for any discernments or guidance. Our boys are usually very shy and not vocal but by the 3rd night, they were really opening up. Thanks to our guests.



Thanks to our Lord. We would highly recommend members of the Catholic Community to take this opportunity to host the NET team because these young adults are such inspiration to the family. It was a humbling experience and we were glad to have the opportunity to host again this year to support their mission across our catholic schools and youth community.

STA FACT: *Did you know that STA students pray the Angelus each day before lunch. More information on the Angelus in the October issue.*

News from the Academic Advisor

WELCOME FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC ADVISOR

Students are welcome to drop in to meet with **Mr. Salituro** to discuss their post-secondary options, scholarship opportunities, transcript requests and a wide variety of other academic needs or concerns. Senior students are encouraged to 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



BC POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION NIGHT AT STA

Mark your calendar, October 22nd is PSI night at STA. All students in grades 11 and 12 and their parents are invited to attend this informative evening, as STA will be hosting eighteen different post-secondary institutions from around the province. The sessions will get under way at 7:00 pm and student recruitment officers from the following institutions will be present to answer all your questions regarding their various programs along with admission requirements.

CAPUANO UNIVERSITY	NICOLA VALLEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	KWANTLEN POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY	VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE	FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON UNIVERSITY
TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY	QUEST UNIVERSITY	CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE
VANCOUVER ISLAND UNIVERSITY	THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY	DOUGLAS COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BRITISH COLUMBIA	UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA	BRITISH COLUMBIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

OCTOBER UNIVERSITY VISITS AT STA

In addition to the BC post-secondary institution night on October 22nd, STA is excited to host information sessions from the following universities during the month of October:



Simon Fraser University – Applied Sciences: October 9 at 10:00 am

Northwest University – Seattle: October 9 at 2:00 pm



Corpus Christi College – October 16 at 8:45 am

Boston University – October 18 at 9:50 am

Western University – October 28 at 10:15 am



LANGUAGE CHALLENGE EXAMS

Students who have a first language other than English or have studied in a language other than English up to grade 8, might be interested in obtaining credit for their language by taking the Delta School District Language Challenge Exam. All universities in Canada accept the Language Challenge exam marks. UBC accepts Challenge credits for pre-requisite and requirements for courses and second-language requirements but does not accept Challenge marks as part of the GPA calculation for admission. It is highly recommended that you check with your intended university for their admissions requirements.

The deadline for applications to the 2019/2020 Language Challenge Exams is **November 1, 2019**. Exams will be held at Delta Secondary school on January 25 & 26th. Please see *Mr. Salituro* for more information or visit the Delta School District website at: www.deltasd.bc.ca/schools/secondary/challenge-exams/



STA ATHLETICS



The STA Bantam Girls Volleyball team hosted the very first tournament in our brand new gymnasium this September 20 and 21st. The eight team round robin tournament was well attended by fans and parents and on Saturday afternoon, in front of cheering crowds, our very own Bantam girls Red volleyball team made history by defeating St. Patrick's high school in the exciting final match, to claim the first tournament win for our new school!

Congratulations to the girls and we anticipate an exciting volleyball season ahead!"

Michelle Purkiss, Coach



*Come out and
support our
teams.*

BOYS BASKETBALL ACADEMY RETURNS!



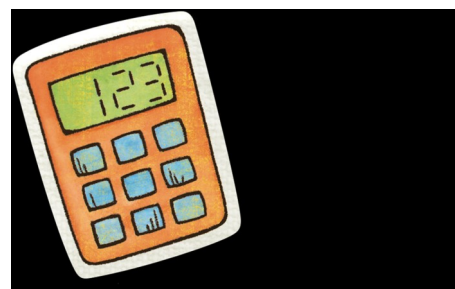
The Fighting Saints Basketball Academy is in full gear once again. Rans Brempong- former National Team and professional basketball player- is head coaching. “This should be an awesome year for the boys,” offered *Mr. John Prescott*. And, indeed, the boys are excited. *Evan Kischer*, a new player in the Basketball Academy shared that “*Rans* is a great coach. He’s helpful, has great stories, and is inspiring. In addition to the basketball portion of the Basketball, *Mr. Vachon* has joined the Academy coaching team this year as the strength and conditioning coach.

By: Guia Panopio

SCHOOL CLUBS

A new school club this year: **Math Challengers**.

Math Challengers is an enrichment, coaching and competition program promoting mathematics achievement among grade 8, 9 and 10 students. Students in this club will have the opportunity to compete, both individually and in teams, against students from other schools across B.C. in February.



Other school clubs are listed below and all students are encouraged and invited to participate.

STEM

CHESS

SOUND CREW

**PRAYER
CLUB**

**FOOD
FRIENDS
FEELINGS**

SKI

ANIME

CHOIR

CHESS

DEBATE

**GERMAN
SPEAKING
CLUB**

IMPROV

ART

DANCE

MUSIC

KNITTING

**STA
TIMES**

WRITING CLUB

**LIFE
&
JUSTICE**

STA STAFF RETREAT

STA staff spent Thursday, September 19 and Friday, September 20 at our annual retreat, this year taking place in Whistler. Our guest speaker for the Thursday sessions was *Stephanie Gray*. *Stephanie* is a Canadian pro-life activist. She spent 12 years as executive director and co-founder of the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform, and now writes and speaks on behalf of her ministry, Love Unleashes Life. *Stephanie* gave three independent presentations. The first was on God our Father; loving Father or judgmental Father? The next presentation was on “suffering” and the evening presentation on “joy”.

Team building through preparation and sharing of meals over the two days proved enjoyable and tasty.

We also had the opportunity to spend time with *Father Cannio Cardozo*, our new school Chaplain. *Father Cannio* attended our Thursday sessions, helped with dinner preparations and clean up that evening and celebrated Mass for the staff on Friday morning.

Friday sessions involved review of our upcoming CISVA school evaluation in December. While staff was away, many finishing touches were put on the new school site by the construction crew. The year is off to an incredible beginning.

Thank you for your ongoing support of your North Shore Catholic High School.

Community News

MLI is looking for families in North Vancouver to host Japanese International Female Students from October 17 - 21. The girls will be attending a daily program at Saint Thomas Aquinas Regional Secondary. For this group, we will be assigning two girls to each host family (Double Placement). For hosting a double placement, we require 2 separate beds either in one bedroom or in two separate rooms. Group students need 3 meals and morning/afternoon Drop off/pick up. If you have only sons and no daughter at home during this time, to be host with us your sons age should be 12 years or younger. In case of being a mother to both girls and boys at your own family, age of your sons is not a matter of concern. Families will be compensated \$360 in total for 4 nights. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact *Maya Sterling* at:

msterling@mliesl.com or call or text (604)340-6736



CIVIC VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

CANADIAN FEDERAL ELECTION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There are still lots of jobs available for Monday October 21 Election Day. Students, parents and friends would be gladly accepted to assist on the day. You must apply online at:

Elections.ca



STA CRAFT FAIR



@craftfairSTA

Mark your calendars! The STA Christmas Craft Fair is just around the corner!

The STA Craft Fair is the second largest fundraiser at the school. With funds raised from this year's community event, we can complete the purchase of equipment needed for a smooth-running cafeteria.

Here's how you can help!

PROMOTE THE FAIR ON SOCIAL MEDIA

This year we have an active Facebook campaign designed to raise awareness and increase traffic to the Fair. By following the Craft Fair on social media and re-posting the messages you read, you'll be helping to spread the word and increase the reputation of the Fair. Follow the STA Craft Fair on the links below:

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

PROMOTE THE FAIR WITH A LAWN SIGN

Lawn signs are now available for pick up at the school office. Can be installed on any private lawn from now until November 3rd...help us spread the word!

BAKE & FREEZE!

Bake and freeze from now until the Fair. We are looking for a wide range of goodies to sell from shortbread, gingerbread cookies, lemon or pumpkin loaves, fruit mince tarts, savory tarts, chocolate crinkles, peppermint fudge, as well as vegan and gluten free baking.

Get your student involved for service hours... 12 cookies, 1 loaf, 1 cake, 12 muffins – each is worth 1 service hour. Goodies must be nut free and not require refrigeration. Drop off times will be the Saturday, November 2nd, 8am-4pm and Sunday, November 3rd, 8am – 10am

VOLUNTEER!

The portal is now open and spots are limited. Sign up for the day and time that suits you.

Any questions regarding the above can be directed to: aquinascraftfair@gmail.com

STA PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

The STA Parent Association (PA) meets on the first Thursday of every month at 9:15 am, Room 207 of the Convent. All parents and guardians are invited to attend.



NEW! PARENT INFORMATION SERIES

I am pleased to announce a series of Parent Information Sessions devoted to topics of relevance to parents of our students. You are encouraged to come to these events, meet other parents in our school community, and learn more about the topics being presented.

Mr. T. Horton, Vice-Principal



**NORTH SHORE
EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**

**SESSION #1 – WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 16
7:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. at S.T.A.
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

Presenters: *Mr. T. Horton, Vice-Principal S.T.A.*
Ms. Jocelyn Hewson, Public Education Coordinator NSEM

What is your school's response plan in the event of a community-wide emergency?

What is your role as a parent in the event of a school emergency and response?

How prepared is your family at home for a community-wide emergency?

Nothing is more important to us than the safety and well-being of our loved ones in time of emergency.

We invite you to come and hear more about these topics, and to learn how to more prepared as parents to care for your family in time of emergency.

To register for this session click the link: <http://www.aquinas.org/index.php/parents/register-information-night>

THE MOVE IS DONE.

The transition from old facility to the new school only happened thanks to the outstanding efforts put forth by **Principal John Campbell**, our IT administrator **Mr. Joe Galat** and his assistant **Mr. Sam Tyson**, our incredible custodial staff **Mr. Alan Lazaro**, **Mr. Arthur Garcia**, **Mr. Garland Landicho**, **Mr. Ruel Delgrano**, office manager **Mrs. Barbara Dougan**, alumni **Mr. Jack Coyne**, **Ms. Julie Wheeler** and our current students **Amanda Crane**, **Isabella Galat**, **Samantha Scalabrino**, **Rudi Kischer**, **Dayton Bowen**, **Gabriel Sutherland** and **Jack Gerber**.

Words are insufficient to describe the long hours, many miles and sacrifice of their September long weekend holiday to allow staff and students to enter the new school on September 3.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



STA Newsletter Subscriptions

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