



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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新年快樂
Happy Chinese New Year



STA Alumni night on Thursday, January 30 where fans watched the senior boys basketball game. Check out the score on page 10.

IMPORTANT DATES IN FEBRUARY

2	Door Is Open
6	Weekly Mass
6	Grade 9 Retreat
9-15	Catholic Schools Week
10	Spirit Day
11	School Mass
12	Open House
13-14	Catholic Educators Conference No Classes for Students
17	Family Day School Closed
20-21	Parent Teacher Interviews
21	No Classes for Students
26	Ash Wednesday School Mass

On January 30, the STA Alumni Board held its first Alumni Event for 2020. Over 70 alumni attended the Senior Boys basketball game against Collingwood. Using the power of our new STA scarves and an army of supporters, the Alumni were a powerful force to cheer on our boys. A reception of drinks and appetizers was held post-game in the Alumni Room, where our senior boys thanked the Alumni for attending. An Alumni Survey has now gone out to all of our alumni to ask for their feedback in planning future events. Stay tuned for more news.

With exams now a thing of the past, we prepare for a busy month of February. Catholic Independent Schools Vancouver Archdiocese (CISVA) celebrates Catholic Schools Week from February 9-15. Our annual Open House is February 12 and report cards will be distributed to students that day.

Wednesday, February 26 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent and we will celebrate Mass at the school. Families are invited to attend.

CHRISTMAS SPEECH ARTS ASSEMBLY

Presenters at our annual Speech Arts Assembly in December;

Daniel Zejer, Ben Marilley-Bodner, Edward Damery, Chloe Taylor, Destynée Teather, Olivia Jasionowska, Tammy Rodriguez, Daniel Wishart, Rachel Chong, Stephanie Kostamo, Tyler Yupangco and Georgia Gilmour.

Thank you to teachers *Mr. Prescott, Ms. Mattia and Mr. Campbell* who organized the event.



GOVERNOR GENERAL AWARD RECIPIENT



2019 Graduate *Paul Moolan* was the recipient of the Governor General's Academic Medal which was presented to him at the STA Speech Arts Assembly on Thursday, December 18.

The Medal is awarded to the student graduating with the highest grade point average from each high school and is presented by the school on behalf of the Governor General, *Julie Payette*.

The medals were created by *Lord Dufferin*, Canada's third Governor General after Confederation in 1873.

To maintain a spirit of universality across the country, the medals are awarded on academic marks only.

SCARVES UP!

What is Scarves Up?

Scarves Up! is a way for us to show our school spirit and encourage and recognize one another in the arts, sports and academics. Scarves can be purchased for \$15 from the School Store next to the cafeteria. Wear your scarf to cheer on and support our STA teams, fine arts activities and academic endeavors.

The next "*Scarves Up!*" day is Thursday, February 6. Students can buy a scarf this week on Wednesday and Thursday.

Stay tuned for more details!



STA ATHLETICS



FIGHTING SAINTS SPORTS ACADEMY AT NORTH SHORE TABLE TENNIS

The Sports Academy class took a break from their rigorous training for some table tennis action. The competition was fierce, and the girls had a great time. In the championship match-up the pride of Venezuela, *Marcela Rojas Gonzalez*, prevailed over a feisty *Caelan Prescott*.



TESSA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT



Pictured above are the STA Grade 8 girls basketball team with host team Holy Cross. See the links below for information about the tournament and the game outcomes for the teams that participated.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWbixUGulsI>

<https://tessabeauchamp.org/tagged/tessas-tournament>

STA Grade 8, Junior and Senior girls basketball teams participated in the Tessa Tournament in Surrey last weekend. This event is hosted each year at Holy Cross High School in memory of their student *Tessa Beauchamp*. Tessa was a beautiful, intelligent, compassionate, and athletic girl who passed away from cancer 8 years ago. She graduated from Holy Cross high school and was set to play basketball at Trinity University the following year. However, the cancer she thought she had beaten came back, so she was unable to attend Trinity. That January she passed away. The entire senior girls basketball team from STA attended her funeral and celebration of life ceremony held at the Langley Event Center.

Science Department

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

On Monday, January 27th the STA Science Department held its Eighteenth 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 from St. Anthony's and grade 6 and 7 students from St. Edmund's. 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. Finally, thank you to *Mr. Horton* for documenting the day in pictures and to our custodians, *Arthur* and *Ruel*, for helping us with takedown.

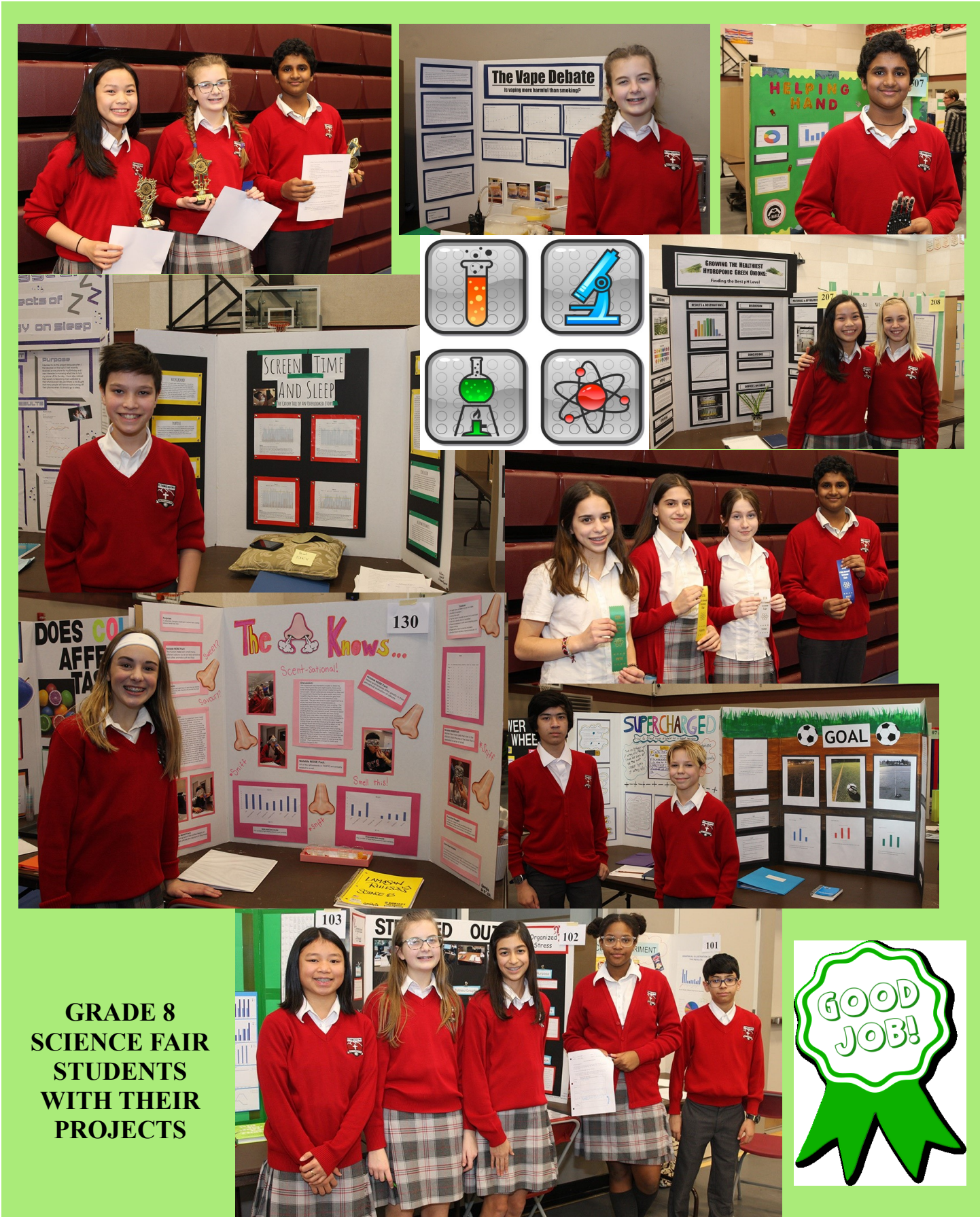
The following is a list of our three overall award winners, as well as the top five projects in each of the five categories at our Science Fair. Our three overall winners will compete at the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair at UBC this April 2nd through 4th. We know that *Rhiannon*, *Abigail*, and *Niketh* will represent STA well and we wish them the best of luck!

First Place: *Rhiannon Henley*

Second Place: *Abigail Cruz*

Third Place: *Niketh Poori*

	BIOLOGY	BOTANY	CHEMISTRY	PHYSICS	SCIENTIFIC APPLICATIONS
FIRST	<i>Rhiannon Henley</i> The Vape Debate	<i>Abigail Cruz</i> Growing the Healthiest Hydroponic Green Onions	<i>Melissa Sayyad</i> Bones That Fizz Away	<i>Nicolas Delgado</i> Power Wheel	<i>Niketh Poori</i> Helping Hand
SECOND	<i>Sarah Altamirano</i> Stressed Out	<i>Clara Yang</i> Electromagnetic Waves: Effect on Plants	<i>Jaxon Jennex</i> Up In Flames	<i>Nathan Canvin</i> Best Battery?	<i>Chase Kalanchey</i> Why Don't My Markers Work When I Need Them?
THIRD	<i>Anthony McDaniel</i> Screen Time & Sleep	<i>Alex Jaffe</i> Planteria: How Do Bacteria Affect Plants?	<i>Sienna Hagedorn</i> Re-Think Your Drink	<i>Nathan Coley</i> Battery Life	<i>Ava Rhone</i> Cookie Chemistry
FOURTH	<i>Solbi Ahn</i> Baroque Brain Boost	<i>Taylor Lum</i> Hot Cold Wheatgrass	<i>Jonathan Schmidt</i> Tooth Ache	<i>Tyler Yupangco</i> Short Circuits: The Best Battery	<i>Tia Gelo</i> Chew On This
FIFTH	<i>Cherrie Wong</i> Remember?	<i>Sarina Mahmoodian</i> Do Plants Really Experience Pollution?	<i>Zhina Malekzadeh</i> Soda Gases	<i>Zak Sharp</i> Shoe Sole Compression	<i>Fabiola Marcano</i> Fastest Calorie Burning Machine



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 26th, 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

SEWING CLASS PROJECTS

Students learned to create and improve their technical sewing skills at **Made By Me Sewing**, 949 West 3rd Street, North Vancouver. *Christine*, the owner and instructor, taught the students how to make their awesome backpacks. We love how each bag is unique. Students should be very proud of their work.



Parent Teacher Interviews

Report cards will be issued to students on **February 12**. Parent/Teacher Interviews take place February 20 & 21.

February 20, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm—8:30 pm

February 21, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm, 3:30 pm—5:00 pm

There will be no classes for students on Friday, February 21.

Parents will be able to sign up for Parent/Teacher Interview online a:

<http://www.aquinas.org/pti/>

All details are on the student report card. Please be sure to have your user name (student's last name) and password (student's five-digit school ID number found on the report card) at hand in order to log in to the program.

Students are encouraged to attend interviews with their parents.

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 to discuss any academic needs including post-secondary applications and admissions, obtaining transcripts, scholarship opportunities and a wide variety of other academic concerns. We also encourage parents and students to follow our social media accounts on both Instagram and Facebook to keep up to date with new scholarship and bursary opportunities 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

UPCOMING SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

BC Excellence Scholarship

\$5000 scholarship awarded to 55 students across BC, recognizing well-rounded graduates demonstrating community service and leadership, both inside and outside of their schools, as well as commitment and aptitude for their chosen career paths. Only one student can be nominated per school. See the academic advisor's office for nomination details. Nomination deadline is February 12th.

Capilano University Entrance Scholarships

Use the online search tool to find a full list of scholarships, bursaries and awards offered through Capilano University. Application deadline for all entrance awards is March 1st. See the site below for a full list of award opportunities.

<https://www.capilanou.ca/admissions/fees--finances/financial-aid--awards/scholarships-bursaries--awards/future-students/>

Rick Blight Leadership in Action Scholarship for Athletes

Five \$1000 scholarships will be awarded to current grade 12 athletes who have demonstrated both a dedication to leadership in their sport and ongoing investment in their personal mental wellness and/or that of their sports team or community. Application deadline is March 6th. Apply online at the site below.

<https://crisiscentre.bc.ca/scholarship/>

Re/Max Quest for Excellence Scholarship

Sixteen \$1000 scholarships will be awarded to grade 12 students from across western Canada to recognize pursuits in leadership and community contributions. Application deadline is March 9th. Apply online at the site below.

<https://www.remax-western.ca/blog/2020-quest-for-excellence-bursary-program-now-open/>



ACADEMIC ADVISING 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 and student access to ministry transcript services for post-secondary applications. For more information, please visit:

www.aquinas.org/index.php/academics/advising

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 11th 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:

<https://www.capilanou.ca/programs--courses/get-started/visit-capu/explore-capu-info-night/>

LRC DEPARTMENT NEWS

Dear Parents,

Now that students have gotten through their exams, there is some time to reflect on the goals that were set at the beginning of the year. The Learning Assistance Department is looking forward to meeting and discussing the first term, as well as your child's Individual Education Plan.

Parent-Teacher Meetings - During the usual parent-teacher interviews, parents will have an opportunity to register for a meeting time with the teachers of your child's LRC block (one of *Mr. Barber*, *Ms. Stevenson*, or *Ms. Price*). These meetings will be 10 minutes in duration and coincide with the two days you will be meeting the rest of your child's teachers (February 20 and 21). Discussions in these meetings should focus on how your child utilizes their Learning Assistance block.

Individual Education Plan Meetings - Your child's Individual Education Plan meeting will be scheduled separately. These meetings will be 25 minutes in duration and will go over February 19, 20, 21, 24 & 25. A separate scheduling link will be emailed out to parents (outside that of Parent-Teacher Interviews), so they can select a time slot during one of those five days. These discussions will be with Mr. Field and should concentrate on your child's program or IEP.

Please note that there is not a complete overlap between those students who have a Learning Assistance Block, and those who have an IEP (some students have one without the other). The scheduling link for the IEP meetings will only be sent to those families whose child has an IEP.

Mr. M. Field
LRC Department Head



STUDENT NEWS



HARVEST PROJECT

A small group of STA students had the chance to learn about our community and the good work of the Harvest Project. They were met by a few Notre Dame students for a tour of the facility and a chance to not only deliver some much needed items but also help unpack and sort donations.



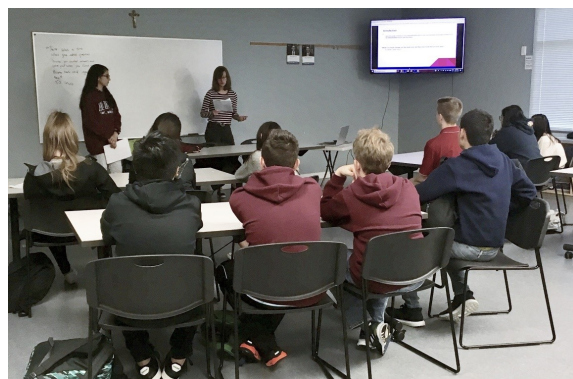
STA STUDENTS HELP FIGHT HOMELESSNESS ON THE NORTH SHORE



Christmas Spirit abounded as our Campus Ministry students decorated the STA tree at the Dundarave "Forest of Miracles". All proceeds of this event went to the North Shore Lookout Society, who provide assistance to the homeless on the North Shore.



In early December a group of STA students participated in the 2019 CISVA Life Conference, titled "**Brave Engagement**". The Conference was centered around student-led presentations on different topics. Each school came up with a topic and presentation to then share with students from other schools. The presentations were on: social media and mental health, pornography, peer pressure, how to have life-affirming conversations, the environment, and identity. It was a well-run conference, that empowered the students and gave them opportunities to make connections with students from the other high schools.



STA students, parents, alumni and staff helped decorate, serve and clean up for the Christmas lunch at the *Door Is Open* this season. Volunteers were cheerful and welcoming, patrons were grateful, as always, for the wonderful work done at this site. STA students continue with their monthly lunch preparation and serving.

Next volunteer opportunity will be for the Easter meal event in April.



NEWS FROM THE ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Did you know we're active on social media?

Stay connected to the latest news and follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

And if you're an alumni of STA, reach out to our Alumni Officer at alumni@aquinas.org. She would love to hear from you.

alumni

The first STA Alumni event for 2020 took place on January 30 at the Senior Boys Basketball game against Collingwood. We lost a heart breaker by 1 point, 68-67. *Rory Goodwin* had a great game as did *Jansen Balmaceda*. It was a very good team effort .

Over 70 Alumni were in attendance, with front row seats, and were recognized during the half-time. They enjoyed a post game social in the Alumni room on the fourth floor.

Check out photos of the gathering on the STA website and look for future events at the school and elsewhere in our community.

ALUMNI NEWS

Article by *Steven Chase* STA Grad '87

'I think we're largely forgotten': Nearly 80 years ago, Canadians fought the Battle of Hong Kong
- *The Globe and Mail*, December 27, 2019

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-i-think-were-largely-forgotten-nearly-80-years-ago-canadians/>



TOQUES RAISE CASH FOR NORTH SHORE RESCUE

After kicking off a successful sock campaign in 2019, St. Thomas Aquinas Grade 11 student *Camden Hussey* is back in 2020 with a line of toques to benefit North Shore Rescue. Find out more about his fundraiser by reading the article in the link below:

<https://www.vancouverisawesome.com/vancouver-news/teens-toques-raise-cash-north-shore-rescue-2014143>



Community News

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Catholic Schools Week, the time of year when the Catholic Independent Schools Vancouver Archdiocese promotes and celebrates Catholic education, will take place February 9-15, 2020.

Students should be at their best though out the week as we will be hosting Masses at the North Shore Parishes during the weekend of February 8 & 9 and holding our annual Open House on Wednesday, February 12. Teachers will attend the annual Catholic Educators Conference on February 13 & 14. The days will consist of Mass, workshops and breakout sessions for teachers, priests and religious, teaching assistants and support staff. Students will benefit from two extra days of rest and studying at home. The school will be closed on February 13 & 14, the office will be open on February 14.

The custodians and staff will be working hard to make the school welcoming with extra signage and posters throughout the school. We request that students be mindful of these efforts and continue to respect the environment that has been created for them.



STA OPEN HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12



Bring your friends and let them see and explore what STA is all about.

Day time student led tours: 10:00 am –2:00 pm

Evening Department Head Overviews: 7:00 pm—9:00 pm

GRADE 8 PLACEMENT EXAM

Parents who wish to enroll a student in Grade 8 for September 2020 should pre-register the student to write the placement exam taking place on Friday, February 21. The exam begins at 8:30 am and students have until 12 noon to finish. This is not an entrance exam, rather a placement exam to determine the level of knowledge of your students. Studying is not required; having a good nights sleep and eating breakfast are a benefit. To register contact the STA office at:



604-987-4431 or bdougan@aquinas.org.

FULL TIME PARENT PARTICIPATION PROGRAM POSITION AVAILABLE IN THE CAFETERIA: THURSDAY AND FRIDAY AFTERNOONS, SHIFT IS 12:30 PM—3:00 PM. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS SHOULD CONTACT ZITA PANZETTA AT:

panzetta@shaw.ca



STA PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Next meeting: **Thursday,**
February 6 at 9:15 am,
Room 207 of the Convent.



*All parents and guardians are
invited to attend.*



KAY MEEK CENTRE

March 12, 13, & 14 at 12:00 & 7:00 PM.
In Association With Scorpio Productions

STA DRAMA DEPARTMENT

It's that time again STA! Faithful to the original tale by *J. M. Barrie*, St. Thomas Aquinas Theatre Company presents **"Wendy: A Peter Pan Story"**. This is a play about a 12-year old orphan who longs to know more about her family. Because she believes so strongly in Peter Pan, when the clock strikes midnight on her 13th birthday, he comes to her and takes her away to Neverland. And now, in only a matter of weeks, STA proudly presents this production. Written by our very own *Cos Natola*, **"Wendy"** has been newly revised, and sports a brand new musical score. Don't miss **"Wendy: A Peter Pan Story"**, as presented by the STA Theatre Company, at the Kay Meek Centre in West Vancouver, for six performances only, March 12, 13, & 14 at 12:00 noon & 7:00 pm. Ticket information will be coming soon.

STA Newsletter Subscriptions

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