

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 MAY

1-3	Grade 12 Retreat
6	Staff Meeting, Early Dismissal
9	March 4 Life
9-11	School Play
13	Spring Choral Concert
14	New Parent/Student Evening
15	School Mass
17	Pro-D Day, No School
20	Victoria Day, School Closed
23	Talent Show
	Spirit Day
24	International Night
27	Grade 12 Grad Transitions
30	Living Rosary



Fourty years and counting! The picture above is of the alumni staff who have graduated from STA over the years, have been under the influence of *Mr. Chris Campbell*, and have come to give back to their community. What a tribute to the great man who “Bleeds STA”. When many people can’t imagine working for 40 years, working in the same place for 40 years is a true accomplishment...and we are richer for it. Moving into the new school in September will be another major accomplishment as it will take a month to transfer his museum (office) to the new site.

I was at the Grade 12 Retreat in Cultus Lake and the students are ready to take the next step from the hallowed halls of STA. Graduation event planning and post-secondary acceptance offers are foremost in their minds. The Kiwanis Concert Band Festivals, Fine Arts Performances, Physics at Playland and the school play, “**Girls of St. Mary’s**”, are culminating activities that the students will never forget. An exciting time of year!

Last, but not least, See you at the International Night on May 24th.

Have a great May!

John Campbell, Principal

STA 2019-2020 REGISTRATION

NEW STUDENTS

New grade 8 students/families to STA who have not yet registered must do so in person at the STA office.

RETURNING STUDENTS

Registration for returning students is now over due. If you have not registered yet please do so as soon as possible. If you have any questions or concerns contact the STA office at office@aquinas.org or 604-987-4431.



Student News

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

Written by Kristinn Black

Mr. Prescott's grade 10 PE class got an inspirational treat from a Canadian athlete. The class was exposed to wheelchair basketball and got the opportunity to meet the Women's National Team point guard, *Tara Llanes*. *Tara* had the class captivated as she told them her story. Growing up in sunny California, *Tara* played every sport possible. She fell in love with the life of an athlete and became an international BMX racer. Unfortunately, a tragic biking accident in 2007 left *Tara* with a broken neck and back. *Tara* did not give up; she fought. After years of rehab, physio, and dedication she found a new passion: Wheelchair basketball. *Tara* worked hard to be the best, and is now competing at the national level. *Tara* is a prime example of what it means to be a fighter. We wish her and her team the best of luck this summer in the Paralympic Qualifier in Peru!



STA GRADE 10 BAND MUSIC FESTIVAL RESULTS



STA's Band 10 has just completed competition at the Sun Peaks Cantando Music Festival and were awarded the Silver medal for their musical performance. To compete against other schools from all of BC and Alberta it is a tribute to the hard work and dedication that these Band 10 musicians put into make their performance sound remarkable! Congratulations to all Band 10 students for bringing prestige and honour to the school and in particular, to themselves.

SUCCESS AT KIWANIS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Congratulations to grade 9 student *Ainslee Dalzell* who performed at the Kiwanis Music Festival on April 19 and April 26, in vocal categories.

On April 19 she placed first in the age 14 and under Ballad Category, singing "*I'm Not Afraid of Anything*". On April 26 she performed in the Solo Category/Musical Theatre-Comedy Category singing "*I Can Hear the Bells*" from *Hair Spray* where she placed second. *Ainslee* has been nominated to participate in the 2019 Performing Arts BC Festival in Chilliwack, May 26-30, 2019. She was one of two competitors chosen in the entire field of Junior Musical Theatre category.

**MUSICAL
THEATRE**

What a wonderful way to share and exhibit your talents.

STA STUDENT PUBLISHED

Grade 11 student *Helene Hennig* has had her STA Times Spring edition article on feminism published in the Post Millennial on line. Below is the link to our Spring STA Times.

<http://www.aquinas.org/index.php/announcements/sta-times>

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THERAPY DOGS VISIT STA

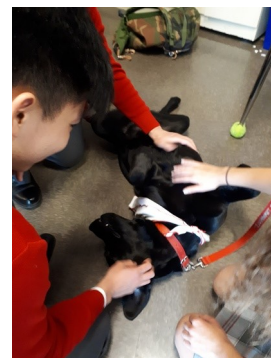
On Monday, April 8th during lunch hour, St. Thomas Aquinas High School hosted therapy dogs from the St. John's Ambulance Therapy Dogs program. The purpose of bringing in five dogs and volunteers was to encourage meaningful interaction among students, staff and the dogs, which in turn, helped alleviate stress and anxiety within our school community.



Needless to say, the activity was a smash hit, with students and staff lined up outside waiting for an opportunity to meet the dogs. In turn, the school raised \$100.70 to donate to the St. John's Ambulance Therapy Dogs program. Thank you to the St. John's Ambulance Therapy Dogs program volunteers

who brought their dogs in, and to the female volunteers from *Mrs. Neuls'* new girls' mentorship program who helped with the therapy dogs' visit during the lunch hour. Most importantly, thank you to *Ms. Georgina Haaf* and *Ms. Riley Helm*, who helped

organize this event as part of their grade ten Career and Life Connections 10 experiential learning project. It is encouraging to see our junior students rise to the level of our senior students where they are planning and organizing high caliber events that resemble some of the better practices already happening at other schools.



SCIENCE DEPARTMENT NEWS

GREATER VANCOUVER REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR RESULTS



From April 4th to 6th, grade 8 students *Diego Islas* and *Sierra Larson* participated in the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair at UBC. Congratulations are extended to these students for representing Saint Thomas Aquinas High School so well!

BIOLOGY 11 FIELD TRIP TO THE VANCOUVER AQUARIUM



On April 25th, Mr. Lamasan's Biology 11 students went to the Vancouver Aquarium to interact with live tidal pool sea animals from BC's marine invertebrate phyla and to explore the concepts of biodiversity and animal classification by examining key morphological characteristics and their development. They also learned about animal adaptations, habitats and interactions within ecosystems.

MICHAEL SMITH SCIENCE CHALLENGE RESULTS



On February 13th, 34 of our Grade 10 Science students wrote UBC's Michael Smith Science Challenge. This extremely challenging contest is written by elite grade 10 science students all across Canada. Congratulations are extended to *Gabriel Ong* and *Joshua Heuchert* who both scored in the top 10% of all students who wrote the contest (no small feat!) and **EXTRA SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS** are extended to *Chloe Taylor* who scored in the top 3% of all students who participated – an STA first!

THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY CHEMISTRY CONTEST



Chemistry 11 and 12 students with a current mark of at least 80% are invited to write the Thompson Rivers University Chemistry Contest on May 15th. This contest is an excellent review for final chemistry exams. Students who would like to write the contest should speak to *Ms. Treacy* on or before May 13th.

Dear Parents,

Although there is still much to be done over the final two months of the school year, it is also time to review student goals and plan programs for the upcoming school year. Some important items of note:

- 1) Course Selection** - Grade 10 and 11 students should have already completed their course selection. However, you may have found that an LRC block cannot be chosen as a course in Powerschool. If your son or daughter is eligible for an LRC block, please select a placeholder course which can be switched out in place of a Learning Assistance Block later.
- 2) Exams** - As usual, writing exams in Rooms 201/202 is open to students who have an Individual Education Plan and/or receive LRC services. Eligible students who have not written exams with the LRC in the past need to speak to Mr. Field to confirm a place.
- 3) IEP Meetings** - A online booking form will be sent out to LRC parents shortly. Parents will have a choice of a 20 minute time slot on May 15, 16, 22, or 23. If you do not receive the email, please contact Mr. Field (mfield@aquinas.org) and we will arrange a time to connect about your child's Individual Education Plan.

Mr. Field
LRC Co-coordinator

PARIS & NORMANDY IN THE SPRING

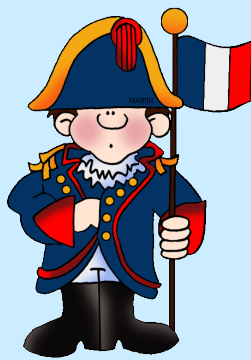
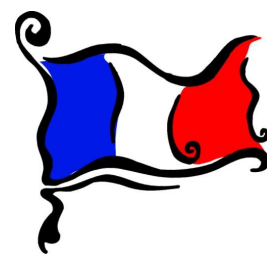


Ms Botteselle, Mr. Vesco and Mr. Savage accompanied a group of 22 senior students on a 9 day tour of “Paris and The Chateaux” at the beginning of Spring break.

As great as the castles were (everyone had their favourite one) the students learned much else and humbly saw Notre Dame Cathedral complete with Lenten organ music (twice by chance).

They walked the same streets that Jacques Cartier sailed from in Saint Malo and spent a whole day on the beaches and museums of Normandy slightly in advance of the 75th anniversary celebrations this June.

Amazing tour thanks to the students, the weather and EF Tours.





STA ATHLETICS

PENTATHLON CHAMPION

Written by Kristinn Black

On March 16th STA's very own *Caleigh O'Flaherty* switched out her basketball shoes for spikes as she travelled to Montreal to capture the gold medal in the Canadian U18 Indoor Track and Field Championships. *Caleigh* competed in a pentathlon- a grueling five task event. *O'Flaherty* started off the competition with a strong time in the hurdles. From there, she attained personal bests in both high jump and long jump. In addition, her shot put measurement was also a personal best. She closed off the competition with a brilliant time in the 800 metre run to capture the gold and the National Championship. Way to go *Caleigh*!



JUNIOR GIRLS SOCCER

After an easy 6-0 win over Whistler and a 4-0 win over Seycove, the girls beat Handsworth in penalty kicks 3-2. In the final, missing three of our starters and one of our other starters injured, the girls still were decisive in control over Sutherland but missed some lucky breaks. In the end, however, they won in a shootout by a score of 3-2. Congats to *Eva Sikich* who was the MVP.

And a special thank you to *Mrs. Nadia Botteselle* for all her help. She was a tremendous help whether it was getting donuts for the girls, being the umbrella supplier, or just being an all around wonderful support.



STA SENIOR GIRLS SOCCER SPRING SEASON

The Senior Girls Soccer Team is having an outstanding season. They started their season by winning their pool at the BC Catholics and playing for gold for the first time ever. They beat LFA 1-0, St. Pats 4-0, Immaculata 3-0 and lost to Notre Dame. STA played STM in the final and lost in a shoot out, after holding the Knights scoreless through regulation time and extra time. The girls should be very proud of their silver medal. It is the first ever medal for STA girls soccer at the Catholics. *Mary Beth White-Bothe*, *Pasley Vandermye*, and *Olivia Thorpe* were named all-stars and special congratulations to *Sofia Panzetta* for recording 4 shut outs in 5 games!

In league play, the STA Fighting Saints have won the North Shore Championships for the second time in the last three years, having won games against Rockeridge, Seycove, Collingwood, Howe Sound, Whistler and Windsor.

The girls are now trying to qualify for the Provincial Championships in Campbell River at the end of May.

Great job girls!!

Melisa Savino and Fernando Grossling
Coaches



NEWS FROM THE ACADEMIC ADVISOR

As students are finalizing their course selections and building their schedules for the 2019-20 school year, we encourage and welcome all students and parents to arrange to meet with *Mr. Salituro* or *Mrs. Paruzzolo* to discuss any academic needs, including university admission requirements and a wide variety of other academic concerns. Follow our 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



Students writing Advanced Placement exams at STA in May are reminded to take note of their exam date and time. Exam dates and times are set in accordance with the AP College Board and cannot be altered for any reason.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMS

Week 1	Morning Session 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Afternoon Session 12:30 PM – 4:00 PM
May 7	Spanish Language & Culture	Physics 1: Algebra Based
May 9	Chemistry	Psychology
May 10	United States History	Computer Science Principles Physics 2: Algebra Based
Week 2	Morning Session - 8:30 AM	Afternoon Session – 12:30 PM
May 13	Biology	Physics C: Mechanics
May 14	Calculus AB Calculus BC	
May 15	English Language & Composition	Macroeconomics

SUMMER SCHOOL 2019

Registration is now open for students interested in summer school courses through the North Vancouver and West Vancouver School District. For more information on summer school registration, please see the academic advisor's office or check the summer school course offerings and register directly at following locations:

North Vancouver School District <http://www.sd44.ca/school/summer/Pages/default.aspx>

West Vancouver School District <http://westvancouver.schools.ca/summer-learning>



GRADE 12 GRADUATION TRANSITIONS PORTFOLIO PRESENTATIONS

A reminder to all grade 12 students that the Graduation Transitions portfolio presentations are scheduled for Monday, May 27th beginning at 12:20 PM. Students are asked to check with the academic advisor's office for the time and location of their presentation.



SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS REGIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL SPECIAL SCHEDULE for GRAD PORTFOLIOS 2019

Monday, May 27, 2019 40 minute classes	
8:25 A. M.	WELCOME
8:30 A. M.— 8:40 A. M.	DAILY HOMEROOM
TRANSITION	10 MINUTES
8:50 A. M.— 9:30 A. M.	BLOCK D
TRANSITION	10 MINUTES
9:40 A.M.—10:20 A.M.	BLOCK C
TRANSITION	10 MINUTES
10:30 A.M.—11:10 A.M.	BLOCK B
TRANSITION	10 MINUTES
11:20 A.M.—12:00 P.M.	BLOCK A
DISMISSAL Grades 8-11	NOON
12:20 P.M.— 3:00 P.M.	GRADE 12 PORTFOLIOS
DISMISSAL Grade 12	3:00 P.M.

GRAD 2019 –ACHIEVEMENTS/AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS

Post secondary institutions admission and scholarship offers are beginning to arrive in email and post boxes of our grade 12 students. Here are a few we know of, please let us know of others as you may receive them.

Rebecca Clarke to University of Calgary—Hockey Scholarship

Congratulations to *Laura Harris* who was recently awarded both the City of North Vancouver Youth Centennial Scholarship (\$1000) followed by a first place award for the *Bonnie McLaren* scholarship (\$2000), presented by the North & West Vancouver Soroptimists. As a result of her first place finish, Laura was also awarded an additional \$350 which she has chosen to donate to *Challenger Baseball*, a division of Baseball BC that provides children with cognitive or physical disabilities to enjoy the full benefits of participation in baseball.

Luigi Sammarelli is the recipient of a \$1000 bursary from the *Charlene Reaveley Children's Charity*, a local, nonprofit organization offering support and assistance to families with children across B.C. experiencing the loss of a loved one.

Currently there are 7 students in Art 12 that have been accepted into various highly competitive Art & Design programs at Emily Carr (ECUAD), Capilano University (CapU) & BCIT. This is phenomenal for STA and we are so proud of our senior art students.

<i>Alyssa Duro</i> - ECUAD	<i>Dominique de Guzman</i> - ECUAD	<i>Thomas Corbet</i> - CapU	<i>Mia Salcedo</i> - BCIT
<i>Joyce Tubeo</i> - ECUAD		<i>Christine Luk</i> - CapU	<i>Teena Sutherland</i> - BCIT

Parent News

GRADE 11 PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR GRAD 2019 EVENT

GRAD MASS RECEPTION

Friday, June 21

Volunteers needed to:

Decorate/Set-up/Serve/Clean up

A monetary donation of \$15 per person would also be greatly appreciated to help cover the food and decorating expenses. Cash, or cheques made out to STA, are welcome and can be dropped-off at the school office marked "Grad Mass Reception".

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

6:30 pm – 9:30 pm DECORATE & SET-UP IN SCHOOL CAFETERIA

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

8:00 am – 9:30 am SET-UP OUTSIDE

9:00 am – 11:30 am SET-UP IN THE CAFETERIA

11:30 am – 1:30 pm SERVE

1:30 pm -2:30 pm CLEAN UP

All help is greatly appreciated!

Questions and replies to:

Maureen Lum: mlum40@gmail.com (gr 9 parent)
and

Kika Souza: kika@proactive-tech.com (gr 10 parent)



STA DRY GRAD EVENT

Wednesday, June 26 & Thursday, June 27

The STA 2019 dry grad committee has been working diligently to organize the dry grad event. The tradition of having Grade 11 parents volunteer for this is the backbone of our community. We hope you will come forward and help our 2019 graduates.

We need 20 volunteers for this event to be a success. The areas volunteers will be needed are as follows:

1. Grade 11 Liaisons – Volunteers required **NOW**
Grade 11 parents interested in joining the current Grade 12 committee to help coordinate the Grade 11 volunteers.
2. **Wednesday, June 26, 2019**
Pan Pacific Hotel, Canada Place, Vancouver 5:45 - 8:30 pm - Greet grads, help with bag check
10:30 pm – 12:00 am Take attendance, organize grads getting changed and boarding the buses.
3. **Thursday, June 27, 2019**
Castle Fun Park, Abbotsford
12:45 am – 5:00 am: greet grads, take attendance & chaperone at venue. At the end, take final roll call, get grads onto bus and back to STA.

Please reply to *Anthony Slowey* at

aslowey1166@gmail.com

by Friday May 3rd, 2019 if you can help.

Thank you in advance for your help Remember, next year will be your turn to enjoy!

STAFF RECOGNITION ASSEMBLY

On Tuesday, April 16, students showed their appreciation to staff members who were recognized for their years of service to STA. The following staff were acknowledged:



5 Years	15 Years	16 Years
Nancy Trigueros	Siiri Rebane	Angela Brickell
Nadia Botteselle	Karen Magee	20 Years
Jay Dear	Mikaela Kitchner	Barbara Dougan
Tanya Zainul		30+ Years
10 Years		Judith Jordan
Ruel Degrano		Chris Campbell
Andrei Florut		



Community News

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

Dear Parents,

This year's International Night is coming up soon! It will be held on Friday May 24th.

International Night is an excellent opportunity to meet STA families, to celebrate the cultural diversity of our school community, and help raise funds for charity. International Night is 100% charitable. The funds go directly to local charities, such as the Door Is Open, where STA provides a meal each month.

We currently have confirmed tables for Canada, South Africa, China, Venezuela, Korea, Philippines, Italy, England, Hungary, and Mexico! We are seeking help in the following areas:

1. **Organizing a Table:** If you would like to be responsible for organizing a table of a country not named above, which includes contacting STA families for your nation, providing food, and serving food on the night itself, please contact **Ms. Hughes** at ehughes@aquinas.org. You will receive PPP Hours for organizing a table.
2. **Providing food and assistance:** If you are able to provide food for a minimum of 10 people, or work at a table for any of the countries on May 24, please contact **Brenda Dayton** at dayton.brenda@gmail.com.





ST. PIUS X CELEBRATES RETIREMENT

The St. Pius X School community invites you to a Mass of Thanksgiving in recognition of *Mr. Fabio Battisti*, our retiring principal, and his 22 years of service to our school and parish. Mass will be celebrated at 5:00 pm on Saturday, June 8th at St. Pius X. Following Mass there will be a light reception from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm in the parish meeting room. Please RSVP by May 16th using the link to Google forms <https://forms.gle/H7Qvp9835hwGxcTW9> or by email to mbyrne@saintpius.ca.



STA THEATRE COMPANY
proudly presents

The Girls of St Mary's
written by
Cos Natola

SPECIAL BRAND NEW THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY PRODUCTION

May 9 thru 11, 2019
Kay Meek Centre
\$15.00 for adults
\$10.00 for students
be there or be square
ho ho har har hee hee hee!!
staged in association with Scorpio Productions © 2019

THE GIRLS OF ST. MARY'S

It's that time again!
St Thomas Aquinas Theatre Company proudly presents
Cos Natola's rollicking 1950's style musical play, **The Girls of St Mary's**.
Running May 9 - 11 at the Kay Meek Centre for the Performing Arts. This STA production will offer a fresh and original approach to St Mary's. Our Art Department participated in construction of the colourful set.

Come to Mom's Pop Shop and meet Mom, Marcie, Slug, Tone, Johnny, Billy, Diana, Susie, Molly, Angela and the rest of the gang.

You will have the time of your life.

This year we are going paperless!
Here is the link to buy your e-tickets:

<https://www.vtixonline.com/the-girls-of-st-marys/1482/>

USED UNIFORMS

STA used uniforms are available for sale through the school. If you have a uniform you would like to donate, please drop it to the STA office.
Graduating students who no longer want their black sweaters, these are greatly valued and sought after.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.



STA Newsletter Subscriptions

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