



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS Regional Secondary School

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Jersey day took place at STA on Thursday, April 12. Over \$1000 was raised for the Humboldt, Saskatchewan survivors fund. Office staff from left to right: Mrs. Zainul, Ms. Zeiroth, Mrs. Dougan & Ms. Sibau. Check out page 10 for other staff photo.

IMPORTANT DATES IN MAY

2-4	Grade 12 Retreat
7-11	HACE Week
10	March 4 Life
15	Grade 8 Social Studies Field Trip-Ft. Langley
18	School Mass
21	Victoria Day No School
24	Talent Show
25	Spirit Day International Night
30	Student Council Elections

Are we
there yet?

The picture above of our office staff is an example of the solidarity shown by strangers in the time of disaster. How we deal with tragedy by reassessing our own humanity is part of the human condition. At STA, the student council felt compelled to sponsor a "Jersey Day" to not only raise some funds, but to remember those who lost their lives in the Humboldt accident. The victims, most of them, are their age. This accident hits close to home and encourages us to draw closer to God to ponder understanding. *Bishop Hagemoen* of Saskatoon has been contacted and has said he will help direct the money through the local Humboldt pastor to the families in need at this time.

Looking in our own backyard, we also feel that charity begins at home. *Moe Tapp* is a former student at STA and has been an educational assistant at STA since before I arrived. Moe has a disease called EB and has suffered greatly all of his life. The pain he has experienced has persisted and blisters on the soles of his feet have made it increasingly difficult to get around. To make matters worse, his scooter has given up the ghost, thus limiting his independence and ability to take care of himself. Once again, the student council recognized the need, this time, one in our own back yard, and with the aid of Campus Ministry, rallied the student body to help purchase Moe a new scooter. To date, the students have raised over \$2,700 towards the scooter's price tag. Thank you STA community!

Graduation event planning and post-secondary acceptance offers are foremost in the minds of our grade 12 students. The Kiwanis Concert Band Festivals, Grade 12 Retreat, Physics at Playland and Camp Zajack are out trips that the students will never forget. An exciting time of year!

Please pray for our graduating students as they plan for life after high school. Last, but not least, See you at the International Night on May 25th.

Have a great May!

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

GREATER VANCOUVER REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR

From April 12 to 14, grade 8 students *Talia Erdman*, *Joseph Voulakis*, and *Rory Wimberley* participated in the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair (GVRSF) at UBC. Congratulations are extended to these three students for representing Saint Thomas Aquinas High School so well! We are especially proud to report that *Rory* was awarded a Gold Medal in the Junior Division (Discovery Category). He was also presented the Professional Engineers Award AND the Science World Award for a First Time Entrant Showing Ingenuity and Creativity. Both awards are on display outside the main office at the school. *Rory* has advanced to the Canada-Wide Science Fair (CWSF), to be held in Ottawa at Carleton University from May 12 to 18.



We wish *Rory* well as he goes on to represent STA in Ottawa next month.

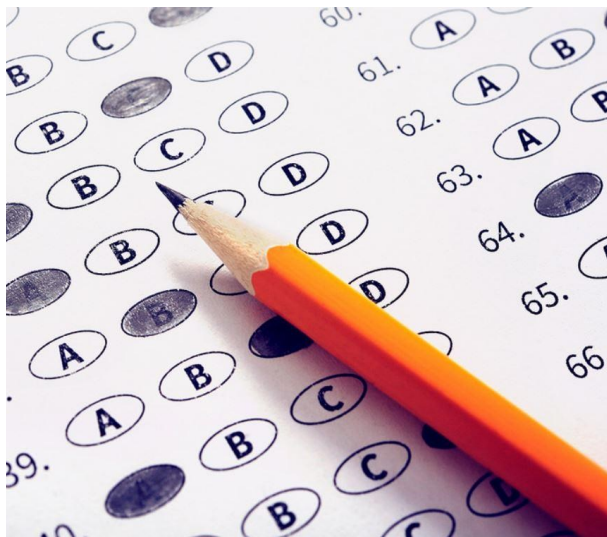
Support for the promotion and development of Science Fair programs throughout BC is made through participation at the Microsemi Science Fair Foundation Fun Run. Individuals or teams can register at www.sciencefairs.ca/funrun. This 5km Fun Run takes place on Sunday, May 27 at 9:00 am. The start and end are at Athletes Village Plaza, where *Rory's* project will be on display along with the other projects from the Vancouver Region. Admission to Telus World of Science is free to race participants on race day.

Please participate in the Fun Run and come visit *Rory* at the plaza!

SCIENCE EXAMS; CHALLENGES & CONTEST

Michael Smith Science Challenge Results

On February 14, 14 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 *Christine Weiss* who scored highest among the STA students who wrote the contest.



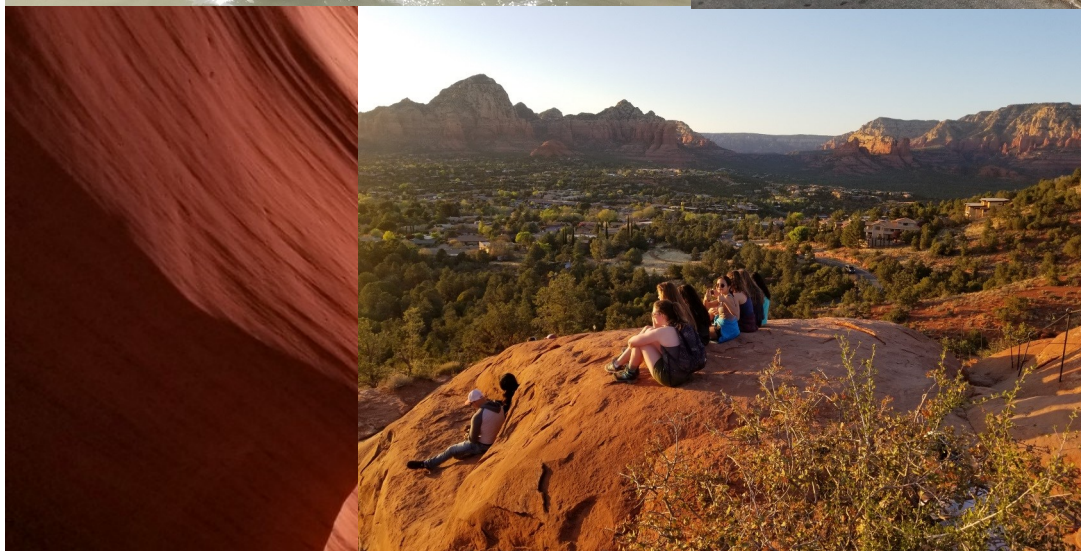
Thompson Rivers University Chemistry Contest

On May 16, select grade 11 and 12 chemistry students will be writing the Thompson Rivers University Chemistry Contest. This contest is an excellent review for the students' final chemistry exams.

Student News



GEOGRAPHY 12 FIELD TRIP



The Geography 12 students travelled to Arizona and Utah for 6 days in April. The trip started with a magical stop among the red rocks of Sedona where they explored mesas and buttes, Navajo Spiritual Vortexes and St. John Vianney Parish. The following day we were off to the Grand Canyon. A two-hour hike down into the canyon revealed breathtaking vistas as the students travelled back thousands of years in geologic time. The adventure continued on to Utah and Zion National Park. Throughout the park were some of the most interesting landscapes ever to be scene. The park buses brought the students to the Temple of Sinawava where we hiked up to the Narrows one of the most legendary slot canyons in the world. On the way back down the group stopped at Weeping Rock where water that fell to the earth over 900 years ago has finally made its way through aquifers to rain out of the side of the canyon. Tuesday saw the highlight of the trip when we were led by a Navajo guide through the infamous Lower Antelope Canyon. Words can not describe the beauty as light bounced off the sides of the sandstone canyon. A quick stop at Horseshoe Bend was the final geologic feature highlight then it was back to Phoenix. Our final night was filled with swimming, pin-ball board games and pool.

SENIOR BAND TRIP TO CALIFORNIA

The Senior Concert Band has returned from a highly successful six day trip to southern California. Their itinerary included two days in Disneyland with a performance and a worship, Sunday Mass at St. Anthony Claret in Anaheim, a workshop at San Diego State University, a workshop with the US Navy's Band South West, and sightseeing in San Diego. A total of 59 Grade 11 and 12 students participated in the trip.

The Music Department would like to extend a huge thank you to the adults who chaperoned the trip including *Mrs. Bingham, Ms. Chiang, Mr. Heuchert, Mr. Mendoza, Mrs. Nieckarz, and Ms. Tanoto.*





Photos: clockwise beginning at left, Mass, workshops at Disneyland, US Navy Band South West San Diego and San Diego State University. Photos courtesy of Mr. Horton.



SOUNDS OF YOUTH: DOWNTOWN JAZZ

The St. Thomas Aquinas Senior Jazz Band will be performing at the Coastal Jazz Festival on Saturday, June 23, 1:00 pm at Robson Square, downtown Vancouver. The event, *Sounds of Youth*, is an initiative dedicated to showcasing some of Metro Vancouver's best high school jazz combos and big bands.



Come out and support our musicians. More event details at:

<https://www.coastaljazz.ca/venue/sounds-of-youth-stage/>

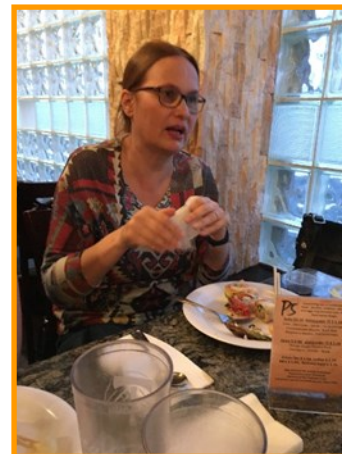
Event is free, begins at Noon and ends at 5:00 pm.

Presented by: Tom Lee Music & Anthem Properties.

CHAMBER CHOIR VOICES DELIGHT IN SEATTLE

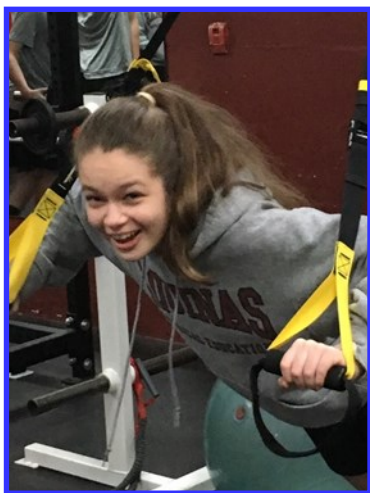


The Chamber Choir, under the direction of *Siiri Rebane*, recently travelled to Seattle to participate in a festival hosted at the University of Washington. The students also benefited from a fantastic workshop at the University of Puget Sound- under the direction of *Dr. Hughes*. At left you can see the students giving an impromptu performance at the Museum of Flight.



PE 10 CLASS

Look at these PE 10 students combining some old school lifting techniques with cutting edge strength and conditioning.



STA STUDENTS RECEIVE ART AWARDS

We are proud to announce that two STA students won North Vancouver Canadian Legion Remembrance Day Contests. *Mr Derrick Fry* from the North Vancouver Branch presented awards to *Kaitlan Schneider* and to *Colby Watton*. *Kaitlan* won two first place awards. One for her entry in the Intermediate Poem Category and another for her drawing in the Intermediate Black and White Poster Category

Colby won first place for his drawing, shown at right, in the Senior Black and White Poster Category. His drawing was selected and placed first not only for North Vancouver but also for the Howe Sound region.



STA STUDENT QUALIFIES FOR SENIOR NATIONALS IN SWIMMING



While most of us are sleeping, *Isabella Cesareo*, is up and training away in various pools on the North Shore. Well, her years of hard work have paid off!!! She qualified for the Senior National Championships in her 2 favorite events- 200 metre and 100 metre backstroke.

Way to go *Isabella*!!

FIGHTING SAINTS SPORTS (GIRLS) AND BASKETBALL (BOYS) IN BUBBLE BALL ACTION

On April 24 both the Girls Sports Academy and the Boys Basketball Academy put away the regular balls and put on the BUBBLE BALLS! The competition was fierce and fun as bodies were rolling around everywhere. Check them out below as they prepare to attack the opponent....



Spring Fine Arts Evening
Monday, June 4, 2018
6:00 pm-8:30 pm (approx.)
Doors open at 5:30pm.

Donations at the door are being collected for a performing arts scholarship.



TO ENSURE THAT ATTENDANCE MESSAGES ARE RECEIVED BY THE OFFICE
PLEASE USE THE EMAIL ADDRESS:

office@aquinas.org

Mrs. Brickell will be on an extended leave for the remainder of the 2017-18 school year.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND COOPERATION IN THIS WAY.

News from the Academic Advisor

As students are finalizing their course selections and building their schedules for the 2018-19 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

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AP EXAMS



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.

Week 1	Morning Session 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Afternoon Session 12:30 PM – 4:00 PM
May 7	Chemistry	
May 8		Physics 1 – Algebra Based
May 9		Physics 2 – Algebra Based
May 10		Chinese Language & Culture
Week 2	Morning Session - 8:30 AM	Afternoon Session – 12:30 PM
May 14	Biology	Physics C: Mechanics
May 15	Calculus AB Calculus BC	Computer Science A
May 16	English Language & Composition	Macroeconomics
May 17		Statistics
May 18	Microeconomics	

SUMMER SCHOOL 2018

Registration is now open for students interested in summer school courses through the North Vancouver and West Vancouver School District. Check the summer school course offerings 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>



GRADUATION TRANSITIONS 12

Special schedule for Grad Portfolios 2018 at right.

A reminder to all grade 12 students that the Graduation Transitions portfolio presentations are scheduled for Friday, May 11 beginning at 12:20 pm. Students are asked to check with the academic advisor's office for the time and location of their presentation.



Friday, May 11, 2018	
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	NOON
12:20 P.M. 3:00 P.M.	GRADE 12 PORTFOLIOS
DISMISSAL	3:00 P.M.

STA ATHLETICS

STA TRACK & FIELD

Take your mark, set, go!



Track is off and running with over 50 athletes on the team comprising of sprinters, middle distance runners, jumpers and throwers. We will be working with varsity coaches at SFU every Wednesday to sharpen our competitive edge. We have had a good results at our North Shore friendly meets and the Preliminaries start April 24th-May 2nd, North Shore Championships May 15th at Swanguard and BC Championships May 31, June 1, 2nd in Langley.



Go Saints!

Alumni News

The following is a message from *Fred Sharp*, father of STA grad of 2014, *Natalie Sharp*:

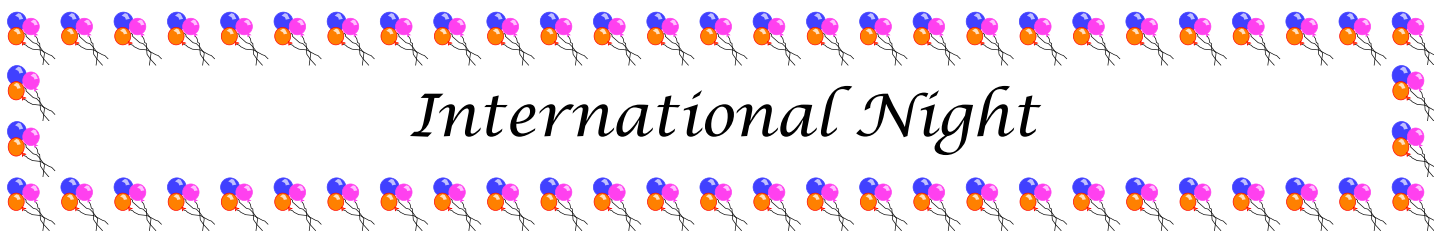
The Miracle Season is playing at Esplanade and International Village until THURSDAY, April 19. I urge you to see it, and also the STA volleyball team and your drama students. While it has received lukewarm critical reviews for its sentimentality, it is an inspiring story about life conquering grief, how a community rallies together in the face of adversity; it is also receiving high rating from viewers (what do critics know?). It is particularly apt for high school girls. *Natalie* is a member of the cast. She has received many fan mails, including this one from an unknown STA student:

*"Hi Natalie! I don't know if you know me but I'm a grade 12 student at STA and I went to SAS elementary school. I just wanted to say that I'm so proud of you! I saw **The Miracle Season** last night and you were amazing! It reminded me of watching you on the senior girls volleyball team when I was in grade eight. Everyone at school talks about the movie and how proud of you they are. Anyway, I just felt that I should send this because I always looked up to you and you're just killing it right now!"*

Community News



STA Staff support Humboldt, Saskatchewan on jersey day. Top row, left to right; Mr. Savage, Mrs. Nix, Mr. Grossling, Ms. Rodericks, Mr. Vesco, Ms. Glinsbockel, Mr. Lamasan, Ms. Paxton, Mr. Mendoza, Middle row; Mrs. Magee, Mr. Tapp, Ms. Botteselle, Mrs. Botteselle, Bottom row, Ms. Jafari, Mr. Domina, Mrs. McAllister.



International Night

STA would like to invite you and your entire family to the community event of the year!

International Night will be held on **Friday, May 25 from 6:00 – 9:00 pm** in the STA Gym. Come sample some delicious food from around the world, enjoy entertainment including the STA Jazz Band, and be part of the multicultural community that is STA.

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 are seeking help in the following areas:

ORGANIZING A TABLE

If you would like to be responsible for organizing a table, 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 or **Mr. Flores** at jflores@aquinas.org. You will receive PPP Hours for organizing a table.



PROVIDING FOOD AND ASSISTANCE

If you are able to provide food for a minimum of 10 people, or work at a table on May 25, please contact **Brenda Dayton** at dayton.brenda@gmail.com.

As in previous years, we are hoping to host 12 to 15 national tables which will be decorated with cultural artifacts and serve national food. Currently, we only have confirmed coordinators for the following national tables: Canada, South Africa, Korea, Philippines, and China. If you do not see your nation listed, please bring food for the United Nations table or please organize a table for your nation. All

proceeds go to charity; there are no PPP hours for donating food or serving at one of the tables.

ATTENDING THE EVENT

Even if you are unable to host a table or donate food, please bring your family to International Night for an outstanding evening of fun! The entrance fee is \$2 per person or \$5 per family. Food tickets are \$2 each. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy some delicious food, fellowship, and entertainment.

Thank you for your help and support in making International Night a success!

STUDENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

St. Pius X School will be hosting its Spring Fair on May 12. Volunteers are needed to help make the event a success. There are several different areas where STA students can help which include: kitchen, Cafe, set-up and Take-Down and Beverage Table. Students can choose 1 - 2 hour shifts or more between 8 am - 3 pm. This is a great opportunity to fulfil student service hours.

To volunteer, please contact Stephanie Wallin at:

2010st.piusx@gmail.com or stuffi72@yahoo.com.





STA PARENT ASSOCIATION PLANT FUNDRAISER

The STA Parent Association would like to remind you that if you ordered plants through the Plant Fundraiser, they will be delivered to STA on Tuesday, May 8 and pick up will happen on Wednesday, May 9 before and after school (in time for Mother's Day that following weekend).

GRAD MASS RECEPTION

FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 2018

STA has a tradition of grade 11 parents hosting the upcoming grad mass reception.

We are asking for volunteers to help with:

Decorating/Set-up/Serving/Clean up

Download and print the volunteer form at:

http://www.aquinas.org/application/files/2315/2399/8862/Grade_11_Volunteers_Mass.pdf

Return the completed form to

the school office immediately, or email Silvia or Ingrid at:

silvia.savage@gmail.com or pibrown@shaw.ca

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

Any contribution would be greatly appreciated! Just think, next year at this time, you will be thankful some grade 11 parents have stepped up to make your child's graduation memorable!

Thank you.



PARENT VOLUNTEERS

STA Newsletter Subscriptions

Please notify the office (604-987-4431 or office@aquinas.org)

if you move or change your e-mail address.