

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS Regional Secondary School

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VOLUME 25, ISSUE 7

MARCH 2018

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IMPORTANT DATES IN APRIL

1	Easter Sunday
2	Easter Monday School Closed
7	STA Registration Payment Session for New Grade 8 Students
9-13	Walkathon Spirit Week
12	STA Registration Payment Session for New Grade 8 Students
12	Jersey Day
16	Pro-D Day School Closed
19	School Mass
30	Spirit Day

Jesus Christ our Lord is Risen! The joy of Christ's resurrection has given us hope and has blessed our lives. As a Catholic school, we recognize the opportunities we have to help one another and to do the best we can at whatever we do. This sets us apart from our secular schools who can't rejoice in learning about the path Jesus has forged for us.

This past winter season has continued to be fruitful, at this time, our gymnastics team has lead the way in provincial honours! The wrestling teams also performed well at the provincials with a great experience had by all. Although we only sent one basketball team, the Senior Girls, to the provincial championships this season, the other teams performed admirably with many athletes having an opportunity to perform. The opportunities offered to our students could not have happened without the dedication and commitment from their coaches and sponsors. Success is not measured by the number of wins as much as it is measured on the number of athletes involved and the effort they put forth. The Arts are also putting their 'God given' talents to use. We are entering the performing phase of the year as our choirs and bands perform at the various Kiwanis Festivals. This year's play, "*Hoedown*", was a great performance. I saw how much work they put into rehearsals and it paid off.

In addition to the monthly "Doors Open" Sunday lunch program, our students involved in Social Justice had a unique experience at Thinkfast. Special thanks to the NET team for their assistance in making the event a success. Have a great April!

John Campbell
Principal

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Most recent photograph from the construction site on Monday, April 2.

STA WELCOMES NEW ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

St. Thomas Aquinas Regional Education Committee is happy to welcome Alumni, *Bria Marchenski* to the position of Alumni Engagement and Development Officer. *Bria* graduated from STA in 2011, she went to Western University and graduated from the Management Program, specializing in Human Resources. After university, *Bria* worked at Western University in their Alumni Relations and Development Department. She is happy to be back in North Vancouver and excited to be working for STA community.

If you have any questions or would like to get in contact, *Bria* can be reached at

bmarchenski@aquinas.org.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

A NEW TEACHER IN THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT!

The STA Science Department would like to welcome *Mr. Steven Jones* to our school. *Mr. Jones* is taking over for *Mrs. Pilar* as she begins her maternity leave. *Mr. Jones* has already begun teaching Biology 12, Earth Science 11, Science 10 and Science 9. *Mr. Jones* comes to us from all the way from England. He is an experienced classroom teacher who is already demonstrating terrific passion for his work and we are very pleased to have him as a member of our department.



CHEMISTRY CONTESTS

Canadian Chemistry Contest and Olympiad – Tuesday, April 17th at 9:00

TRU Chemistry Contest – Wednesday, May 17th during F block

UBC PHYSICS OLYMPICS

On Saturday, March 10th, nine grade 12 science students represented STA at the annual UBC Physics Olympics. With a total of 76 schools competing, it was the largest UBC Physics Olympics in recorded history! Accompanied by their team coach *Mr. Flores*, enthusiastic scientists *Zora Brough*, *John Choi*, *Ann Joby*, *Natasha Nock*, *Michael O'Keefe*, *David Onak*, *Jonathan Tubeo*, *Joshua Yellowley* and *Emilia Zerbe* took the Physics Olympics by storm! In advance of the big day, these students assembled an impressive piece of PVC engineering to hold a baking soda and vinegar ballistics reaction and a carefully crafted spinning top. While at the competition, the students worked on and answered Fermi questions and while the official

results have not yet been posted, our team is convinced that they did really well in this event. *Mr. Flores* commented that our students had a great time, and were very enthusiastic throughout the day. Even when things didn't go their way (such as when their ballistics assembly refused to fire), they always responded with humour and positivity. With attitudes like those, they are certainly ready for the world of university that awaits in just a few short months!



We are proud to announce that two of our senior science students, *Pablo Islas* and *Michael O'Keefe*, have been accepted to SHAD for the month of July. SHAD is an internationally-recognized summer program for elite students who are passionate about STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics), leadership, and making positive change in the world. *Pablo* will be attending SHAD at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec and *Michael* will be attending SHAD at Mount Allison in Sackville, New Brunswick. We congratulate them on this accomplishment and know that they will be excellent ambassadors for STA!

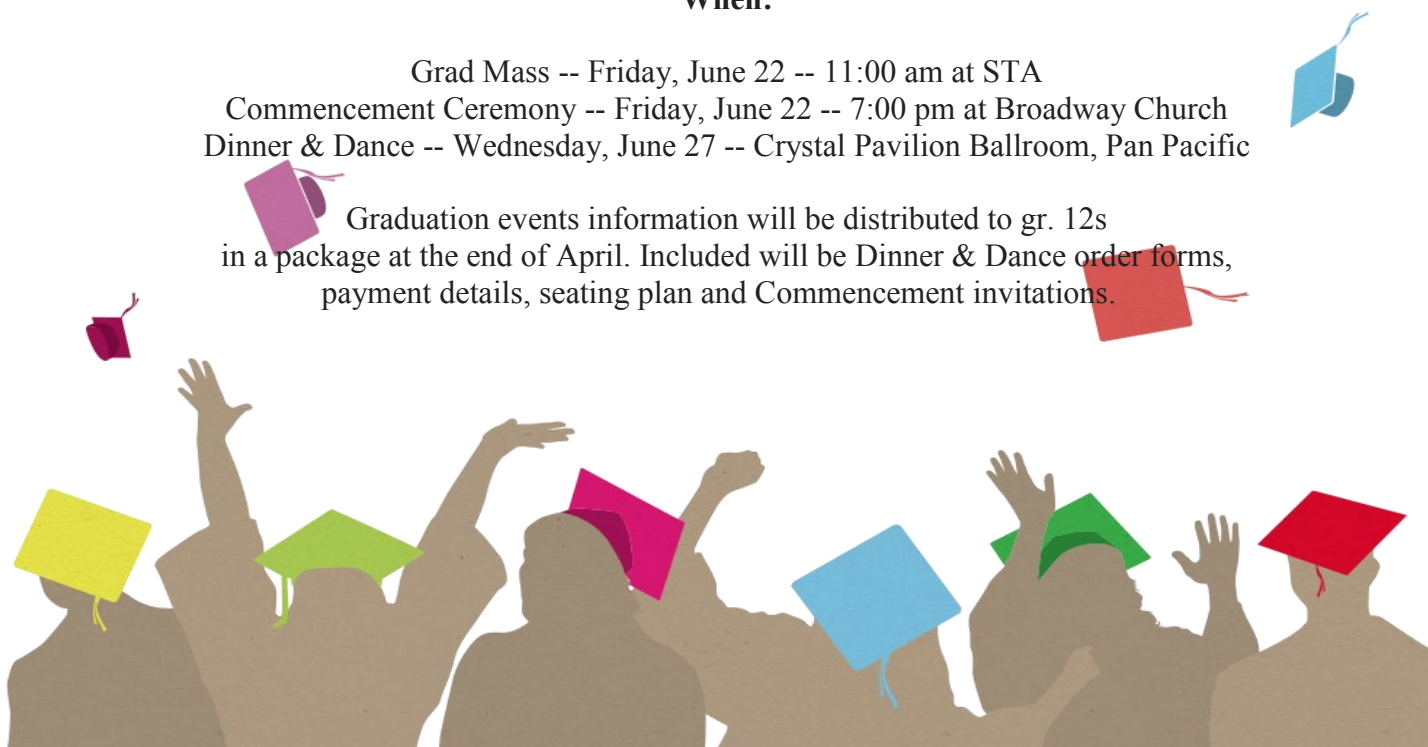
Student News

Looking ahead to . . . Grad 2018!

When:

Grad Mass -- Friday, June 22 -- 11:00 am at STA
Commencement Ceremony -- Friday, June 22 -- 7:00 pm at Broadway Church
Dinner & Dance -- Wednesday, June 27 -- Crystal Pavilion Ballroom, Pan Pacific

Graduation events information will be distributed to gr. 12s in a package at the end of April. Included will be Dinner & Dance order forms, payment details, seating plan and Commencement invitations.



ACTING 11/12 CLASS

The Acting 11/12 class performed at the school assembly on Thursday, March 29, to commemorate Holy Thursday. Silhouette Stations of the Cross with *Hunor Szabo* as Jesus in Tableaux narrated by *Maya Piscopo*.

Many thanks to *Daniel Goodwin* for light set-up and *Diego Altamirano* for sound set up with *Mr. Horton*. Many thanks to the PE department for their space sacrifice and *Mr. Lazaro* for the curtain set-up.

Directed by *Mrs. McAllister*



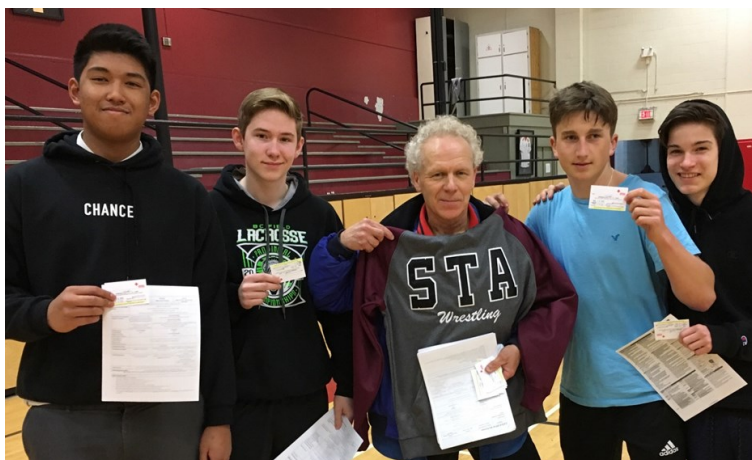
PE 10 CLASS NEWS

GRADE 10 PHYSICAL EDUCATION STUDENTS GET CERTIFIED FOR FIRST AID

The grade 10 students spent a full morning last week becoming certified in First Aid.

Our instructor, *Mark*, was outstanding and the grade 10's earned his praise as well!

Thank-you to *Mr. Vachon* for once again organizing this opportunity for the students.



Physical Education 10 students *Eloisa* and *Christine* are the table tennis class champions. They are shown in the photograph with the terrific instructor from North shore Table Tennis Club. The Club is three blocks away from STA and is open every day after school for drop ins.

FIGHTING SAINTS BASKETBALL ACADEMY- NEW COACH



Dany Charlery graduated from Brandon University in 2010, where he had a stellar basketball career. He was a 5 time Canada West All-Star, an All-Canadian, an all-CIS Final 8 All-Star, and CIS MVP Runner-Up. *Dany* still holds ranks in the CIS Canada West stats, including all-time leader in games started at 108, second in career steals, third in steals/game, and sixth in points scored. During the 2006 Brandon University silver medal run, TSN included one of *Dany's* dunks in their TSN Top 10.

We are thrilled to welcome *Dany Charlery* to our Fighting Saints Basketball Academy coaching staff. *Dany* was a prolific player and now is a very successful coach at the university level. He has had one session with the boys and he's already showed the boys many subtle ways to improve their game.

If your son has not applied for the Fighting Saints Basketball Academy he can pick up a form from the school office or email *Mr. Prescott* at:

(prescott@aquinas.org)





STA ATHLETICS

STA WRESTLING

The wrestlers competed tough at the BC Provincials in Port Alberni over the March 1-3 weekend. It truly was the best of the best! All who made it should be congratulated but special mention goes to *Anastacia Redpath* who placed 6th, *Gabriel Sutherland* who placed 5th and *Dazle Gumabao* who placed 3rd.

A special mention and a Gold Medal goes out to *Anthony Vesco* who stepped up to take on a sport this season that he was unfamiliar with. His dedication, willingness to learn and great manner with the kids made the successes of this season possible!



STA STUDENT NAMED TO PROVINCIAL BC BASKETBALL TEAM

Jessica Clarke Selected to for U17 BC Provincial Basketball Team

STA's very own *Jessica Clarke*, grade 10, will be representing British Columbia this summer! *Jessica* had a great season with the STA Senior girls' team and has been training hard in the Fighting Saints Sports Academy and her BC United Basketball club. Congrats to *Jessica* and good luck to her this spring and summer.



STA ALL STARS



Congratulations to *Gemma Cutler* and *Jessica Clarke* who represented STA at recent All-Star game in Burnaby. All the best up and coming players from the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley participated. Check out the group photo and try to pick out the Fighting Saints all-stars.

STA ATHLETICS

STA GYMNASTICS

The gymnastics team had 17 athletes qualify and compete at the Provincial Championships which were held on March 8, 9, and 10 in Burnaby. The girls competed in 4 events each while the boys competed in 6 events each. Ribbons are given out for the top 10 finishers in each individual event and then for top 10 overall in each level. The points are then added together and trophies are awarded for team placings.

With over 50 schools represented STA claimed three of the 8 trophies! The combined boys and girls team placed second in the province and were awarded a trophy. The boys (combined levels) team placed first and earned a trophy. The level 2 boys combined totals earned them a first place trophy.



There were many top 10 ribbons won by STA gymnasts. In level 1 boys, *Ben Labreche* and *Santiago Apostol* earned 4 ribbons each. *Jonathan Ibbot* earned 1 ribbon. The level 2 boys, *Josh Gali*, *Oliver Radburn*, and *Jacob Nieckarz* all earned 7 ribbons each. In level 3 *Mattias Feigl-Schmidt* earned 7 ribbons.

In level 1 junior girls *Grace Haines* earned 1 ribbon, as did *Cara Bauermeister*. In level 1 senior level *Rachel Li* earned 3 ribbons. *Emily Hogan* earned 4 ribbons and scored a perfect 10 for her floor routine, this was the only perfect score given out at provincials! In level 2 *Amelia Hunt* earned 4 ribbons, *Chelsea Kim* earned 1 ribbon, and *Kiana Burran* earned 1 ribbon. In level 5 *Alexis Romero* earned 5 ribbons.

Team Members include: *Amelia Hunt*, *Kiana Burran*, *Emily Hogan*, *Regina Ahn*, *Grace Lee*, *Chelsea Kim*, *Alexis Romero*, *Jon Ibbot*, *Grace Haines*, *Cara Bauermeister*, *Rachel Li*

Coaches: *Pam Mutsaerts*, *Rachel Mutsaerts* (Grad 2012), *Peter Dougan* (Grad 2013), *Pilar Encinas & Will Markwick* (Grad 2014), *Monica Bowman* (Grad 2016), and *Adriana Schemel*, mother of *Alexis Romero*.

Congratulations to all the gymnasts for another wonderful season!



News from the Academic Advisor

As application deadlines approach for post secondary admissions, 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 university application and admission requirements, 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.



Follow us @staacademics

www.facebook.com/staacademics



STA COURSE SELECTION 2018

Parents and students are strongly encouraged to attend STA's course selection information evenings which will take place in the gym on April 18 and 19 at 7:00 PM. The April 18th session will be the grade 11 course selection presentation for all current grade 10 parents and students, followed by the grade 12 course selection presentation for all current grade 11 parents and students on April 19th. With many BC universities currently in the process of changing their criteria for admissions, both parent and student attendance at these sessions would be most beneficial. Course selection will be available online for all students the following week from April 24-27th.



The US College Expo is coming to Vancouver on

Sunday, April 22. If you are a student considering post secondary studies in the United States, this event will provide both students and parent with information on the US college admissions process, from selection, application, financing and student athlete considerations. This years' event is taking place at the Sheraton Wall Centre beginning with a US college admissions panel discussion from 4:00–5:00 pm, followed by a public exhibit from 5:00–7:00 pm. Registration is available online at:

<https://uscollegeexpo.com/vancouver-sheraton-wall-centre>

GRADUATION TRANSITIONS 12

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.

SPECIAL SCHEDULE for GRAD PORTFOLIOS 2018

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.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT 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	

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Engineers and Geoscientists BC

are offering six scholarships valued at \$2500 each, based on academic standing, extracurricular activities, financial need, responses to essay questions. Students must be planning to enter an Engineering or Earth sciences program in September 2018 at one of the following universities:

BCIT, SFU, UBC, UNBC or UVic

Application deadline: June 28, 2018

Application available at:

egbc.ca/Scholarships



Hebden Chemistry Bursary

One \$500 bursary is available based on financial need and extracurricular involvement.

Student must be planning to continue studying chemistry at a recognized post-secondary institution

Application deadline: April 27, 2018

contact *Ms. Treacy* for more details at:

treacy@aquinas.org

Community News



The STA Parent Association is pleased to let you know that the annual Plant Fundraiser is ready to be launched! STA families will have the next 5 weeks to place their orders. Plants 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). Click the link for more information.

<https://stthomasaquinas.growingsmilesfundraising.com/home>

VANCOUVER SUN FUN RUN

Registration for the STA Sun Run Team is now open.

\$40 plus tax for adults and \$32 plus tax for students.

Register at

<http://www.vancouversun.com/sunrun/index.html>

Select **Youth Team** and we are *Saint Thomas Aquinas*!



CELL PHONE SURVEY COMING



In our efforts to improve school culture at STA we are reviewing the STA cell phone code of conduct.

We would like input from all stakeholders, please look for an upcoming survey in mid April.

HOMESTAY NEEDED

The NET (National Evangelization Team) members have been an excellent addition to the Campus Ministry team this year. They spend two days a week at STA helping with retreats, masses, and music. These kind-hearted young adults rely on the generosity of local families for their accommodations. If you are able to host 2-3 team members for a week between now and May please email:

ehughes@aquinas.org

STA Newsletter Subscriptions

newsletter@aquinas.org

Please notify the office if you move or change your e-mail address.