

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS Regional Secondary School

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IMPORTANT DATES IN NOVEMBER

1	Living Rosary
4	Craft Fair Door Is Open
8	School Mass
12	Remembrance Day School Closed
13	Professional Day School Closed
20	Report Cards Sent Home
21	Grade 8 Retreat
23	Professional Day School Closed
24	Fall Grounds Clean Up
26-27	Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews
27	No Classes for Students

Under *Father Augustine's* and *Father Giovanni's* leadership, the Campus Ministry program is trying new initiatives. With *Mr. Keong* and *Miss Hughes* leading the way with the help of various staff members and the NET team, the Living Rosary has been resurrected at STA. What was particularly moving for me was the reciting of the first half of the Hail Mary said in the ethnic language of the proclaimer. It is a real tribute and reminder of the multicultural makeup of our school population. The Walkathon was a success again where the students had a great day walking and at the same time raising money so our WiFi system in the new school will be a state-of-the-art communication system.

Modern technology is one thing, but remembering our past is another. The Sisters of the Child Jesus, founders of our school, have commissioned a Welcoming Pole to be carved and placed at the entrance of the new building. They have secured the services of *Latash*, a local First Nations carver, to carve the pole. *Latash* will be carving the pole on the school grounds and will be giving demonstrations and explanations to students throughout the winter. Thank you to *Sr. Denece* for inspiring this project.

Have a great November!

Mr. John Campbell, Principal

WALKATHON

Thank you to the STA community for your generous contribution to this year's Walk-A-Thon. We have raised over \$43,000.00 this year.

We will still be accepting donations throughout the year, however, prizes for student fundraisers ends October 31st.

This year a portion of the Walk-a-Thon monies are going towards enhancing the WiFi capabilities in the present school and providing a state-of-the-art system in the new school.



LIBRARY NEWS

STA Library would like to thank *Talia Erdman* (grade 9), *Isabel Altamirano* (grade 9), *Amelia Hunt* (grade 10), and *Sonya Jones* (grade 10) for lending their time and effort to help build up STA's library collection through a recent shopping trip to the United Library Warehouse on Tuesday, October 16th. This team of junior students used their expertise and familiarity with books to select some new fiction and non-fiction titles that are slowly being accessioned into the collection. Pay attention to the announcements as we offer possibly more opportunities for students to get involved in shaping the library's collection.

Ms. Thorpe's English 10 classes came into the library in early October for book passes – we hope they come back to refresh their selections with some of the newly catalogued titles we are adding to the collection. *Ms. Macek's* Art 8 and Art 12 classes were also in the library recently as they did research for their current units.



Some of our new titles:

Anne of Green Gables a Graphic Novel, adapted by *Mariah Marsden*

"*L.M. Montgomery's* classic story finds whimsical new expression in this graphic novel – perfect for newcomers and kindred spirits alike."

Beautiful Boy by *David Sheff*

"What had happened to my beautiful boy? To our family? What did I do wrong? Those are the wrenching questions that haunted *David Sheff's* journey through his son *Nic's* addiction to drugs and tentative steps toward recovery."

Ms. Mattia & Mr. Mendoza

NEWS FROM LRC

The Learning Resource Department would like to thank all parents who attended our Learning Resource Parent Information evening on October 17. It was a great opportunity to connect and discuss this year's LRC Program with the over 50 parents who attended. Our breakout speakers included:

Sheila Therndyle - a Speech / Language Pathologist contracted by the school. Her presentation dealt with Social Emotional Learning. Her presentation is available here: <http://bit.ly/LRCSlides>. Additionally, she had a handout on executive functioning (<http://bit.ly/ExcFunctn>).

Anne Millard - a coordinator with North Shore Familyworks who spoke to parents on post-graduation transitions. She had a great roundtable discussion with families and offered advice to their concerns.

Nathalie Sagar - the school's Educational Psychologist, who spoke about Educational Assessments and the transition to post-secondary institutions. Her pamphlet is available here: (<http://bit.ly/PsychEdBro>).



Although the information presented is based on the feedback of parents who have children in the LRC, it is valuable learning for all parents. *Next year, please know that all parents are welcome.* The next part of the year will be somewhat more intense, as teachers finish assessments for the Interim report cards. After Interim reports have gone home, LRC parents will have an opportunity to schedule a meeting with the LRC teachers as part of Parent Teacher Interviews. We look forward to discussing how we can further help your child.

Respectfully,
Michael Field & Denise Morris, LRC Coordinators

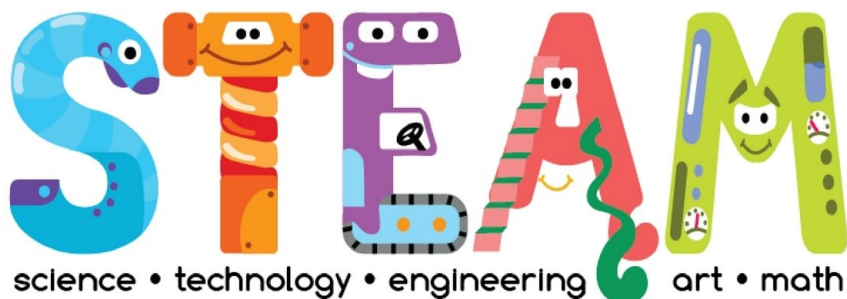
Science Department News

SCIENCE FAIR JUDGES NEEDED – WE WANT YOU!

We are looking for judges for our Sixteenth Annual Grade 8 Science Fair. This event will take place from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm on Monday, January 28. 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.



SHAD APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED!



SHAD is an internationally recognized, immersive summer program of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math)-based lectures, workshops, projects and activities. Students currently in grades 10 through 12 who are high-achievers in science are encouraged to apply for this month-long summer program at one of 17 university campuses across Canada. While at SHAD, students are encouraged to “recognize their own capabilities

and envision their extraordinary potential as tomorrow’s leaders and change makers” (www.shad.ca). Attending SHAD has the potential to be a life-changing experience, and it looks great on university applications, identifying attendees as elite students. It is also a very fun program, with lots of social activities. Last year, STA sent senior science students to Mount Allison University and McGill University to attend SHAD.

Online applications are due November 19. The admission process is competitive and takes into account both academics and extra-curricular activities. There is no cost to apply, and if necessary, financial support is available for successful candidates.

Please speak to Ms. Treacy or go to www.shad.ca for more information.

Student News

TALES OF AN URBAN INDIAN PLAYS OUT ON THE STREETS

Darrell Dennis' play 'Tales of an Urban Indian' took its audience for a ride. Our Honours English classes took part in a unique theatre experience. The play travelled through North Vancouver, over the Lions Gate Bridge, through the Downtown Eastside, and back over the Ironworkers Memorial Bridge. *Craig Lauzon*, of Royal Canadian Air Farce fame, was the sole actor in this production. The play relayed the story of a First Nation's man journey through childhood and beyond. Both entertaining and compelling, the experience certainly imprinted upon our STA students. Special thanks to *Ms. Carol Sawdon* for organizing this special event.



SPORTS ACADEMIES

The players are getting primed for the upcoming basketball season here at STA! Coach *Rans Brempong* (former National team, NCAA, and professional player) is getting both the girls and boys fundamentally strong. Nothing but the best people working with our student-athletes here at STA!! Go Saints!

Coach Rans
with Juliana
Clara & Kandie
Lazaro, also
keeping a close
eye on Ryan



News from the Academic Advisor

With university early admissions now open and entrance scholarship applications now being accepted, the academic advisor's office has been a tremendously busy place. Students are welcome to drop in to meet with *Mr. Salituro* or *Mrs. Paruzzolo* to discuss post-secondary applications and admissions, scholarship opportunities and a wide variety of other academic needs or concerns. Senior students and parents are encouraged 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 application deadlines. This information will be published in STA's daily announcements and visible on the STA website.



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www.facebook.com/staacademics



NOVEMBER POST-SECONDARY VISITS AT STA

STA is excited to be hosting information sessions from the following post-secondary institutions in November. All sessions will take place in the library and are open to all students in grades 11 and 12. This is a great opportunity to meet one on one with recruitment officers and gain first hand knowledge of admission requirements, program offerings and campus life. Interested students must register at the academic advisor's office for each session.



SAINT MARK'S COLLEGE
CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE
THE CATHOLIC COLLEGES IN VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Monday, November 5th
10:00 AM



SAUDER
School of Business

Wednesday, November 7th
10:00 AM



UNIVERSITY OF
ALBERTA

Tuesday, November 20th
8:45 AM

NOVEMBER UBC OKANAGAN CAMPUS INFORMATION SESSION



REGISTER NOW AS SPACE IS LIMITED
you.ubc.ca/tours-info-sessions/visits-canada

DISCOVER UBC'S OKANAGAN CAMPUS

Where: Pinnacle Hotel,
138 Victory Ship Way

When: November 14,
6:30 - 8:00 pm

Learn about UBC's Okanagan campus - its close-knit community and world-class academic experience. Listen to current students share their stories about UBC. Meet with UBC advisors who will walk you through the application process. This is your chance to get your questions answered.

STUDENT RECRUITMENT AND ADVISING

Email: recruitment.ok@ubc.ca
Tel: 250.807.8521
Toll-free: 1.877.807.8521



you.ubc.ca

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Scholarships

Students are encouraged to search for scholarship opportunities in their intended field of study or at the post-secondary institution they intend to apply. Scholarship opportunities are posted in the daily announcements and on our social media accounts and published in the monthly newsletter. Please see these entrance scholarship opportunities offered to BC secondary school students below:

UBC PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS AWARD

The Presidential Scholars Award offers the most prestigious awards available to students who are entering UBC, including a one-time award of approximately \$5,000 and renewable awards of up to \$60,000 payable over four years.

SFU UNDERGRADUATE ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Valued from \$10,000 and up, to an amount sufficient to cover tuition and fees. Available to both domestic and international students admitted for the fall term to any undergraduate degree.

CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE CIRCLE OF FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIP

A full 2-year scholarship of up to \$25,000 (including tuition and co-curricular support). Personalized mentorship and participation in a dynamic network of scholars and respected industry leaders.

CAPILANO UNIVERSITY EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Capilano Excellence Scholarships are the premier entrance scholarships at Cap U. Up to 10 of these scholarships worth up to \$40,000 are offered each year and are awarded to deserving high school graduates.

**DEADLINE
December 1**

**DEADLINE
December 3**

**DEADLINE
January 15**

**DEADLINE
March 1**

Grade 12 students interested in applying for early admission offers from Canadian universities can begin applying for the Fall 2019 term. Students are encouraged to check for early admission deadline dates as these vary among post-secondary institutions.

UBC Early Admission Deadline: December 1

SFU Early Admission Deadline: December 3



STA ATHLETICS

STA FIELDHOCKEY TEAM

The senior girls field hockey team ended their rebuilding year season on a high note. After an early goal and dominating possession, they finished with a 3 -0 win over Rockridge. Another highlight this season was the invitation to the Bridgman Cup Tournament in Victoria. It was an honour to play amongst the best of the best at the prestigious event which is also the oldest field hockey tournament in North America. We finished higher than we were seeded, won our final match and were able to witness extraordinary athleticism and skill as we took in a university women's match between UVic and UBC. A special shoutout goes to our graduating seniors *Amber Hickey* and *Jane Darby* who was our top goal scorer this year. These two have been key team members these past five years and will be dearly missed. All the best ladies!



SENIOR BOYS SOCCER : PLAYOFF BOUND



After successfully claiming the 2018 BC Catholic Championship, the STA senior boys soccer team have punched their ticket to the North Shore/Burnaby/New West zone playoffs with an impressive league record of six wins and one loss, which placed them in a tie atop the North Shore league standings. The Fighting Saints began their campaign to qualify for the 'AA' provincial championships on November 2nd with a thrilling 1-0 victory over Collingwood. The boys now advance to play Cariboo Hill on November 6th followed by a potential third and final playoff game on November 8th. Look for full playoff and provincial results in the November newsletter.

Photo top right: *Lucas Borejszo*, Tournament All Star at BC Catholics
 Photo at right: *Lucas Borejszo*, grade 11 vs Sutherland



STA CROSS COUNTRY

SPOT THE CROSS COUNTRY STARS

Gianluca Bizzotto, Joshua Cox, Sophie Cox, Raine Fraser, Laura Harris, Justin Krohman, Emily Shaughnessy, Olivia Thorpe, Pasley Vandermye

Congratulations to *Joshua Cox, Paige Cox, Gianluca Bizzotto, Laura Harris, and Ella Maglierei* who will be representing STA at the BC Cross Country Championships to be held in Nanaimo on November 3.



STA SENIOR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

School spirit abounded as students prepared all afternoon to cheer on the Senior Girls Volleyball team when they hosted their final home game for the season on Tuesday, October 30. They took on Carson Graham Secondary and won 3 games straight to put us second on the North Shore. STA played Carson again on Thursday in the semi finals at Handsworth school where they owned the floor winning 3 in a row. The Lower Mainland tournament takes place Wednesday, November 14 and Friday, November 16. Mark the dates in your calendar and be ready to cheer some more.

The coaches: *Chris Spence & Laura Pickard.*

Go Saints!



STA GYMNASTICS



The STA gymnastics team has started training and is looking for a couple more coaches.

The team practices twice a week at Flicka in the Harry Jerome Rec.Center.

Competitions start in January and end with provincials in early March.

Students are still welcome to join the team, we will take new players until November 10.

Please email mhughes@aquinas.org for more information.

Campus Ministry

VALUE PROJECT

From October 10 - 13 five STA students (*Laura Harris, Jessie Cabada, Diego Altamirano, Gianluca Bizzotto, and Marco Bernardez-Lai*), who are passionate about making good happen, joined students from 9 other Catholic and Christian schools from throughout the lower mainland for the Value Project Summit. Organized by Signal Hill, the Value Project Summit is a four-day interactive workshop on the value of life and how to respond to crises that threaten it for students. The capstone project of the summit is a week-long "Value Every Person" media-campaign that students, with the aid and direction of a professional design team, create and implement back in their schools. STA's Value Week will be in December.



GOOD SHEPHERD MINISTRY CANDY DRIVE

Students will receive a paper lunch bag in homerooms on October 31st and are asked to bring it back on Thursday 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.



SCHOOL MASS WITH FR. RODNEY

This month's school Mass was celebrated by *Fr. Rodney Nootebos*, Vocations Director for the Archdiocese of Vancouver. We are very grateful that he took the time to come and be with us. He shared an engaging homily about finding happiness in Jesus. This mass also marked our first school mass with the NET team. *Josh, Kyle, Jackson, Elianna, Steffy, Julia, and Catherine* have been at STA two days a week for a few weeks now getting to know the students.



More Student News

GRAD NEWS

This holiday season, STA Grads 2019 will be fundraising with Purdy's Chocolatier! This program gives **25%** of the profit back to the individual student fundraiser and it's an easy way to complete your Christmas shopping. Every grad family has a Purdy's Catalogue so please find a Grade 12 to support! Customers may opt to fill out an order form (found in the middle of the catalogue - feel free to make copies) and pay by cheque (preferably) or cash. Please compile and return all forms with payments to *Ms Mattia/Ms Martins* or *Ms Liang*. Cheques are payable to STA. Alternatively, customers may wish to place their orders online by creating an account at fundraising.purdys.com. Once there, please enter 8228 as the customer number. Join the Grad 2019 Christmas campaign and place your order!



IMPORTANT DATES

Place and pay for your orders by Friday, November 23

Pick up orders on Tuesday, December 11 in room 307

JAPANESE CULTURAL EXCHANGE AT STA

This year marked the 10th anniversary of students from Kurume Shin-ai school in Japan coming to STA. On October 12th we welcomed 77 female Japanese students. At the school assembly the Japanese girls shared dance and karate performances as well as a slideshow of what their school day is like. After the assembly the Japanese girls attended senior classes and had lunch with their STA partner. In the afternoon STA students were able to participate in cultural sharing activities which included things like a Japanese Tea Ceremony, origami, calligraphy, and traditional Japanese games.



Alumni News

ALUMNI DANCE



The Alumni Dance, held on Saturday, October 13, was a huge success. See if you can spot a few alumni students, parents and staff. Hint: alumni *David Coles*, served as DJ for the evening.

Thank you to *Bria Marchenski* and her Alumni Team for pulling together a fun evening.

For those who missed the dance, stay tuned for more Alumni events for you to attend in the near future.



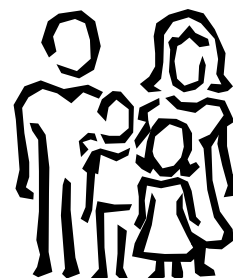
BACK TO THE
80s



Community News

STA PARENT ASSOCIATION

Parent Association meeting coming up this Thursday, November 1 at 9:15 am in the convent, all parents are invited to attend. The Parent Association is still looking for a parent to take over the Chair position. For more details about the position please contact Ericka Kamali at: ekamali2000@yahoo.ca
The Chair position is a Full Time Parent Participation credit.



CAREER FAIR AT STA

The St. Thomas Aquinas Career Education department is hosting a Career Day event for our Grade 8 and 9 students at STA during the day on December 5, from 9:30 am - 1:00 pm. We greatly value the talent from the STA community (Alumni, Parents, etc.) and ask you to volunteer at our Career Day Event. We are looking for those passionate about their field of work, as well as looking for a variety of careers from our presenters whether that be traditional or non-traditional type jobs. It is important that we begin to plant seeds about the various possible career paths available to our students so they can begin to think about and explore those career fields. We will host a lunch that all presenters are invited to.



If you are able to attend as a presenter please let us know ASAP by contacting bmarchenski@aquinas.org with your relation to the school (Alumni, Parents, Parishioner on the North Shore, etc) along with a quick bio of yourself and career.

PRISON MINISTRY



Please start collecting new Christmas cards for our Prison Ministry. Every year, in religion class, our students write Christmas cards to prisoners. The students do not sign the cards with last names nor do the recipients know where the cards have come from. Many Christmas cards are starting to arrive in the mail this time of year from various charities. There will be a box outside the office window to drop them in.
Thank you!

DON'T FORGET, DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4. TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR BEFORE YOU GO TO BED SO YOU WILL NOT BE LATE FOR MASS & MISS THE STA CRAFT FAIR.

STA CRAFT FAIR DOORS OPEN AT 10:00 AM,
WRAPS UP AT 4:00 PM.





STA POINSETTIA SALE

It is time once again for the STA Poinsettia Sale!
We have a variety of sizes and styles, and this year, we've included a larger 10inch poinsettia.
This link provides the information and ordering form:

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

The last day to order is November 16! After ordering, please provide a cheque or cash to the STA office, attention to Angela. ****Print the confirmation form and attach it to your payment****. Providing the confirmation form along with payment significantly helps administration of the order.

Pick up day is November 28/29 beginning at 2:45 pm.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

We are looking for 2 volunteers to help with organizing the pick-up of the poinsettia plant orders from the school. This involves a 2 hour (parent participation credits are earned) commitment on Wednesday November 28 and/or Thursday November 29, starting at 2:45 pm. Volunteers will be asked to help check off orders as they are picked up by parents. If you would like to volunteer, sign up via the Parent Participation portal (link below).

<https://portal.onvolunteers.com>

The school code is "stta". If you are new to the volunteer system, you can register on the login page after entering the school code.

Thank you in advance for your involvement and time.

Maureen Lum, STA Poinsettia Sale Coordinator



STA Newsletter Subscriptions

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