



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS Regional Secondary School

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VOLUME 27, ISSUE 9

May 2020



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Student News	2-5
Career Education	6
Art Department	7
Graduates 2020	8
Graduation Update	9
News from the Academic Advisor	10
Community News	11-12



The Grade 12 Band students came to the school on Tuesday, May 19 during F block for a recording session in the school gym. The happy, smiling faces and the clean and neatly pressed uniforms was a joy to behold.

The melodies echoed in the hallways as the musicians recorded music for their Graduation Event in June. Additional photo on page 2.

We look forward to welcoming our students back to the school building during the first two weeks of June. The Administration has worked hard to fulfill the mandate from the BC Ministry of Education and the BC Ministry of Health to ensure that students and staff are safe.

Photo courtesy of Mr. Tim Horton

Student News



Band 12 students enjoying the opportunity to play together and practicing some social distancing in the bright warm sunshine. *Photos courtesy of Mr. Tim Horton*

IMPORTANT DATES IN JUNE

5	International Night
15	Presentation of Grade 12 Diplomas
1-5 8-12	Text book collection for students attending classes at school
12	Last day of classes for students
16 & 17	Text Book Collection & Locker Clean Out
22	11:00 am Graduation Mass 7:00 pm Virtual Commencement
25	Year books and report cards picked up
26	Last day for teachers

DEBATE SUCCESS



Grade 11 student *Jazz Day* joined the Fostering Debate Talent Group that is a nationwide organization getting youth involved in debate styles and challenges. The organization has invited students from throughout Canada to compete in a major event culminating in Ottawa (this year was virtual of course).

Jazz has been practicing debate since coming to STA and was encouraged to enter. She did and she shone. She made it to the semi finals, which is impressive for the first time around and for a grade 11 student.

Jazz, we are proud of you.



Congratulations to grade 12 student *Alyssa Almerling* who was nominated for the City of North Vancouver youth award. She was presented the "Rise Up Award". This award was special for overcoming adversity. Her example to young girls in the Guides of Canada organization was exceptional.

The "Rise Up Award" recognizes youth who have overcome adversity and recorded noteworthy achievements in some line of endeavor or have exhibited a commitment to personal change and growth such as making great personal strides, overcoming personal or societal barriers, or demonstrating or possessing outstanding music, scholastic, art or sports acumen.

Congratulations to grade 11 student *Mr. Camden Hussey* who was nominated for a City of North Vancouver youth award and won the "Kind Heart Award" for his fundraising efforts for North Shore Rescue. The Kind Heart Award recognizes youth who have demonstrated an act of bravery, selflessness or a notable deed for the betterment of another in the community.

Mayor Linda Buchanan issued the award on May 15, 2020. It read:

"As part of BC Youth Week, the City of North Vancouver annually recognizes youth and their supporters in our community. 2020 has been a particularly challenging year for everyone highlighting, now more than ever, the importance of community. I want to acknowledge your incredible personal achievements and the contributions you've made to better the lives of others. You are a true leader and a reflection of what makes our community great, our City great. Thank you for your perseverance and ongoing commitment to giving back. I wish you every success in the future."



STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Student council elections will take place in September, once school resumes. Students wishing to run for the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Communications & Technology and International Student Representative will be able to work on their campaigns throughout the summer.

Nomination forms can be obtained by contacting *Ms. Stagnitta* at: ms87@aquinas.org. More information will be forthcoming.



Additionally, any grade 12 students who would like to participate in the Connect Program, that welcomes our new incoming grade 8 students to the school, can forward their names to *Ms. Stagnitta* at: ms87@aquinas.org. Planning will begin during the summer.

GERMAN SPEAKING CLUB



The German speaking club has continued fun and relevant mid-day meetings recently enjoying an amazing presentation by Grade 10 student *Adelina Popa* on Spring and Summertime (Frühling und Sommer-zeit) weather and outdoor activities. There was also some very interesting social distancing vocabulary to learn. (Hamsterkauf = hamster buy = hoarding). We decided that it is a bit unfortunate that the very cute creatures have taken on the term for this less than saintly practice during the current pandemic.

Mr. Savage, Teacher Sponsor

THE MARY GARDEN



During the month of May, we took some time to move our existing Mary statue and start a Mary Garden. A Mary Garden is a garden filled with plants, flowers, and trees named for Our Lady and Jesus. They are designed to be places of beauty that remind us of our Lord and Lady, allowing us to experience God's creation, and inviting prayer and contemplation. So far we have included the following flowers:

Marigolds Mary's gold

Snapdragons Infant Jesus' Shoes

Sweet Alyssum Flower of the Cross

Roses The Rose symbolizes Mary herself - she is known as "The Mystical Rose," Roses and lilies were said to have filled Mary's empty tomb when it was opened by the Apostles

Columbine Our Lady's Shoes, said to have sprung up under Our Lady's feet as she went to visit Elizabeth. The dove-shaped petals of this flower invited -- and invites -- its use for decoration on the Feast of the Pentecost.

Hydrangea Ave Maria

Wisteria Virgin's Bower

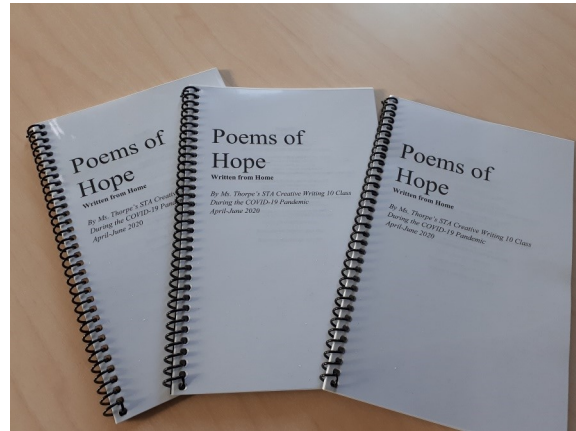
MS. THORPE'S CREATIVE WRITING 10 CLASS ASSIGNMENT

During this period of online school, Ms. Thorpe's Creative Writing 10 students wrote "Poems of Hope" that were truly inspirational.

These poems were then compiled into a small printed book that students could keep as a reminder of their resilience and strength during this difficult time.

Well done, Grade 10's!

Well done, Ms. Thorpe.



Message from the LRC Department

Dear Parents,

With the strangest school year ever now nearing its end, I'd like to thank all parents for their perseverance in helping their child through the last months of school successfully. As a whole, I think the STA community has done a tremendous job of making the most of a difficult situation.

I would like the opportunity to meet with Grade 8 - 11 parents before the end of the year regarding their child's Individual Education Plan. As usual, that meeting should be scheduled through the link sent out via email. Please have your son or daughter join us at the meeting - the goal-setting is much more meaningful if they are a part of the discussion. These meetings will be remote and through the Zoom platform.

Again, thank you for all your support this year! Have a restful, safe summer if I do not see you before the end of the school year.

Mr. Mike Field
LRC Department Head



News From The Career Education Department

Grade 12 Capstone Presentations

As part of the Career Life Connections course, all Grade 12 students must present a Capstone. The Capstone is a learning opportunity that allows students to reflect and share in personally meaningful ways about their learning journey. It is a showcase of their learning, growth, and development during their time in high school. This is their opportunity to celebrate all that they have learned and accomplished. As part of the preparation, students worked with a presentation coach to help develop the language about how they wanted to share their unique stories. During the last several weeks, each advisory teacher has been coaching students on how to assemble and present their ideas in a way that reflects their unique gifts and talents. Last week and continuing for the next two weeks, students have been presenting their Capstone presentations to their Grade 12 advisory teachers. The feedback has been wonderful. Students have been exceeding

expectations and have really used the opportunity to articulate a clear sense of what they have learned and accomplished while here at STA. We are so proud of this group as they are the first cohort of students to complete this requirement under very unusual circumstances. We are looking forward to hearing the remaining Capstone presentations and being able to celebrate the ongoing success of each STA graduate.

Mr. Jerome Francis



ARCHDIOCESE OF VANCOUVER LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

From the June 1, 2020 BC Catholic

A new face of evangelism in Vancouver will launch online this Pentecost Sunday.

With social isolation more of a concern than ever during the current time of pandemic, the Archdiocese of Vancouver is unveiling a new website to emphasize community and build up connections—for Vancouver Catholics as well as those who want to connect with them.

The new site, called Behold, marks a major shift in direction for the archdiocese's evangelism and communication work as it concentrates on weaving faith and culture in an online format.

Behold will include articles, videos, and other media

on subjects ranging from the sacraments to faith, culture and hearing God's voice. Information and links to local events and services such as marriage preparation, counselling and faith studies will also be included.

The link to the site is:

Beholdvancouver.org



Art Department

To come together as a community and infuse hope into the broader community the Grade 8 and 10 Visual Art classes were given a challenge: to create a poster that would be displayed in the windows of the school, using imagery or text that symbolizes hope, strength, helping and/or community. We looked to the beautiful murals that have been popping up along Robson Street for inspiration.

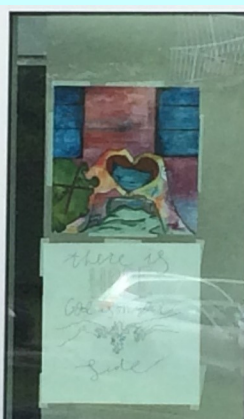
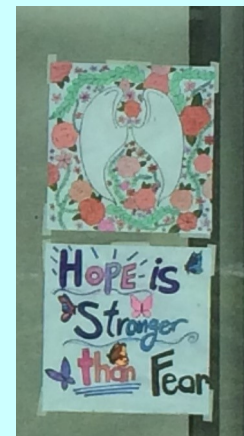


The creative challenge of this contest was how to create a poster that would be visible at a distance. Students were encouraged to use bold colour and text paired with strong, simple imagery to convey their messages with whatever materials they had at home.

Please take the time to drive or walk by the school to have a look at the results - they will bring a smile to your face!

The posters are on display in the 2nd floor windows facing Keith Road.

Ms. Arkiletian, Art Teacher



GRADUATES 2020

UBC MUSIC SCHOLAR



Congratulations to grade 12 student *Caelan Prescott* who has received an entrance scholarship from the UBC Music Department in the Faculty of Voice and Opera.



ATHLETIC ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Athletic Entrance Scholarships abound and the following students have been awarded the following placements:

Back row left to right: *Ava Bosa* - Douglas College for Women's Volleyball
Caleigh O'Flaherty - Illinois State University for Women's Track & Field
Isabella Cesareo - University of Toronto for Women's Swimming

Front row left to right:
Jessica Clarke - Washington State University for Women's Basketball
Michael O'Flynn - Acadia University for Men's Soccer
Gemma Cutler - Simon Fraser University for Women's Basketball



GRADUATION UPDATE

IMPORTANT GRADUATION DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

MONDAY, JUNE 8

Grad gowns and caps distributed to grade 12 students, done at STA.



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

Register to attend the Presentation of Diplomas filming by emailing grad@aquinas.org to confirm your attendance. If we have not heard from you, your name will be removed from the script and PowerPoint.

MONDAY, JUNE 15

8:45 am—2:15 pm Presentation of the Diplomas to graduates in STA gym.

Graduates will be filmed in groups of seven.

Each grad may bring up to 5 family members to witness the presentation.

MONDAY, JUNE 22

11:00 am Virtual Graduation Mass

Mass will be celebrated by *Archbishop Miller* in school convent.

Mass to be livestreamed via STA Youtube channel.



MONDAY, JUNE 22

7:00 pm Virtual Commencement

Ceremony to include traditional speeches from our principal, Archbishop's representative, address from the parents, and valedictorian. Graduates and their friends and families near and far will be able to watch this mix of livestream (STA Youtube channel) and prerecorded footage of graduates receiving diplomas.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 24

Morning (time to be determined)

Graduates who received awards announced the evening of Monday, June 22 may come into the school to have a photograph taken with the trophy/plaque. Please arrange your photo appointment by emailing grad@aquinas.org on Tuesday, June 23.



NEWS FROM THE ACADEMIC ADVISOR

With the academic advisor's office now back open for the month of June, students and parents are welcome to meet with *Mr. Salituro* regarding their academic needs, including university applications and admission requirements, obtaining transcripts, scholarship opportunities and a wide variety of other academic concerns. We continue to encourage both students and parents to follow our social media accounts on both Instagram and Facebook to keep up to date with new scholarship and bursary information along with news on post-secondary admission updates. Students are also reminded to check their email regularly as these updates will be sent out by email as well.



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SUMMER SCHOOL OPTION

MATH

WORKPLACE MATH 10,11
FOUNDATIONS AND
PRECALCULUS 10
FOUNDATIONS MATH
11
PRECALCULUS 11
CALCULUS 12

SCIENCE

SCIENCE 10
CHEMISTRY 11,12
ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY 12
PHYSICS 11

ASCEND Online Summer School

REGISTRATION
BEGINS
MAY 15TH.

Register at
ascendonline.ca/summer
You can start once
registered and finish
by August 1st.
Or call 1-888-599-5775
ext. 2

Call if other courses are needed
no cost for high school students

HUMANITIES

ALL ENGLISH 10'S
LITERARY STUDIES 11
ENGLISH 12
SOCIALS 10,11
WORLD HISTORY 12
COMPARATIVE RELIGION 12

CAREERS

CAREER LIFE
EDUCATION 10
CAREER LIFE
CONNECTIONS NO
CAPSTONE-2 CREDITS

STA SUMMER MATH CAMPS

STA will not be holding any summer math programs this year.



STA SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS

for SOCCER, VOLLEYBALL, FIELD HOCKEY will not take place this year.

We look forward to welcoming you to try outs in September.



Community News

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT RETURNS

International Night is Back On...But Virtual! – 5 June @ 7:00 pm

As you may know, International Night at STA is a long-standing tradition and well-attended by the STA community: students, parents, teachers and Alumni. It is also one of the school's three major fundraisers. We were disappointed to have to cancel International Night originally, until one of our teachers developed the idea to hold it virtually and involve local businesses instead. We are partnering with 4 North Shore businesses for our community to purchase a meal and enjoy some international culinary treats from the comfort of your own home. While enjoying your meal, you'll have the opportunity to connect through YouTube to watch a live performance of the Senior Jazz Ensemble, and our own crooner, *Adam Lucas*. The event will be hosted by Grade 12 Grads, *Sophia Kostamo* and *Edward Damery*.

Follow this link to see our restaurant sponsors and get details on how to place your order:

<http://www.aquinas.org/index.php/student-life/international-night>

STA Alumni Activities - on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

STA School Activities - on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

We hope you can participate.

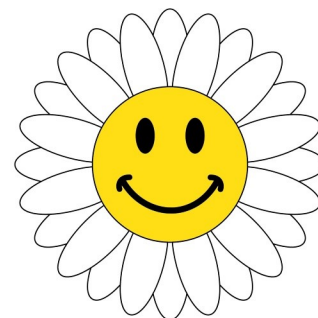


STA PARENT ASSOCIATION

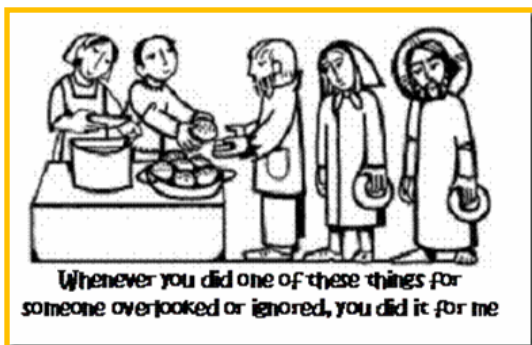
The Spring Plant sale was well supported by the STA community and an order for over \$7,500 of product was placed yesterday. We thank all families who participated in the fundraiser.

What an excellent opportunity to remain connected with the school.

May your gardens be brimming and overflowing this summer.



DOOR IS OPEN: SANDWICH DROP



The last Door Is Open sandwich and baking drive will take place on Saturday, June 6.

Donations of sandwiches and baked goods can be dropped off to STA between 1 pm and 2 pm on Saturday, June 6 for delivery to DIO on Sunday, June 7.

Thank you for your ongoing support of this initiative.

HOW TO PARENT THROUGH COVID-19

A huge thank you to Louise Clarke @Your Parenting Partner for sharing her expertise on how to parent through COVID-19 - and always - to over 65 parents on Tuesday evening.

If you couldn't attend, you can listen to the recording and view the information shared by Louise on the link below.

<http://ow.ly/1O7k50zSHi7>



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