# STA At-a-Glance

## Week 10: November 3 - November 10, 2026

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**This year marks the 37th anniversary of the STA Craft Fair & Market**

To ensure our Christmas Fair runs smoothly, we need the support and participation of our school families. This is a large community event that requires many volunteers to make it a success. We encourage all parents to sign up for one or more volunteer positions and help make this special event possible. Every helping hand makes a difference. Please consider participating with your son or daughter.




**We still in need volunteers for Sunday 8:**

- 7:00 - 10:00am traffic, receiving crafters
- 4:00 - 8:00pm take down all decorations
- Cafe (school store) we need help in all shifts
- Cafeteria 1:00 - 4:00pm and 4:00 - 6:00pm clean up
- Parking lot all shifts

Parent participation opportunities can be found **here**.

Student participation opportunities are listed on the volunteer board on the 3rd floor near the office.

**Additional Participation Opportunities**

- Book Sale – We are collecting gently used books of all kinds, including: children's books, novels, cookbooks, educational books and more. Any books in good condition that can be enjoyed by another reader are welcome.
- Sign placement – Please pick up a lawn sign from the school office and display it at your workplace or home to help promote the fair.

Thank you for helping us make our Christmas Fair a success!




**The STA Annual Poinsettia sale is here until December 17**

Once again the STA Parent Association is proudly selling beautiful **Christmas poinsettias**, wreaths and seasonal arrangements. The funds raised will be used to improve and enhance STA student extra-curricular activities.

The order deadline is November 17 and plant pickups will take place on Wednesday, December 3. Pick-ups will be located at the back of the school, east end of the parking lot by the makers lab metal garage door.

We thank you in advance for your support.

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Dear STA Community,

The Social Studies, Visual and Performing Arts, and English Departments are pleased to collaborate and invite STA students to participate in the Royal Canadian Legion's annual literary and video/film competitions.

These competitions encourage students to explore themes of remembrance, service, sacrifice, and the experiences of Canadians, while developing their skills in writing, storytelling, research, and visual communication.

We are particularly excited to encourage participation this year because several STA students who entered last year went on to win at the regional level, with their work then being considered for the national finals. You may have read about some of these achievements in one of the STA-at-a-Glance publications last year. Their success reflects the quality and creativity of work produced by our students.

Students may participate in the Remembrance Day Literary Contest or the Poster and Video/Film Contest, depending on their interests and grade level. The competitions allow students to share their work with a wider audience while engaging meaningfully with Canadian history and the tradition of Remembrance.

Participation is optional and extracurricular. Students are welcome to work on their submissions independently, with teachers in the English, Visual and Performing Arts, and Social Studies Departments available to provide guidance and encouragement.

Teachers in these departments will share information directly with students, including submission guidelines, topics, age categories, and deadlines. Students who are interested in participating should submit their Literary or Poster entries with an **entry form** to their respective teacher on or

by November 12, 2026.  Video Contest entries must be entered **online** before December 15, 2026.

Students can speak with their teacher or **check** for more information or clarification about the requirements.  An entry form must accompany any submission.  We hope many of our STA students will consider taking part and have the chance to remember, reflect, and create.

Sincerely, The Social Studies, Visual and Performing Arts, and English Departments

Ms. Krajicek, Ms. Arkiletian, and Ms. Sawdon

St. Thomas Aquinas Regional Secondary School

# JOIN US – OPEN HOUSE

NOVEMBER 26 | 6:00 pm



## Applications now open until November 30, 2026

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|---|---|
| **OPEN HOUSE** | **Thursday, November 26, 2026** |
| **5:30 pm** | **Doors open** |
| **6:00 pm** | **Principal's Welcome, Main Gym** |
| **6:15 - 8:00 pm** | **School tours / Meet the teachers** |



St. Thomas Aquinas Regional High School
541 West Keith Road, North Vancouver
**cdonovan@aquinas.org | aquinas.org | 604 987 4431**

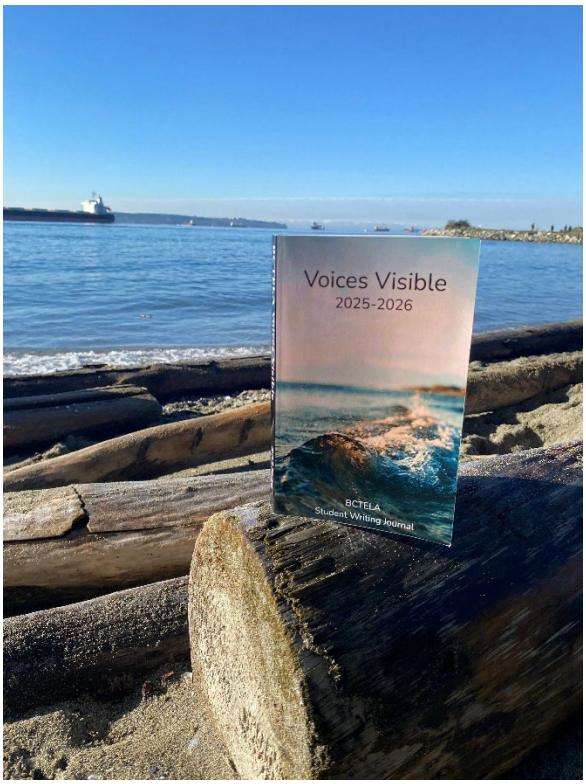
## KUDOS

**Voices Visible:  A Status Update**

Advanced copies of "Voices Visible", the anthology of creative student writing were given to delegates who are members of the British Columbia Teachers of English Language Arts on Friday, October 23, 2026.  One teacher from STA obtained a rare copy.

A record 113 students were published in this year's edition, with students from the 2025-2026 academic year getting published.  A few students submitted numerous entries, and were published multiple times.  Thank you to the students who entered their work and those who were published.  Copies will be mailed home over the next six to eight weeks to all students who were published.

The contest is open again to all STA students.  Go **here** for information on how to format student writing submissions and to submit writing.  Contest will close April 30, 2027.  For more information, please check with Ms. Sawdon, Mrs. Hurley or Mr. Mendoza.




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**Kudos to Gr. 8 Rugby Team**

The season for the first Grade 8 rugby team in over 30 years at STA has come to an end after a tough defeat to a strong Carson Graham side in the North Shore playoffs. The boys improved every week and learned valuable lessons on playing as a team and fronting up on defense. By the end of the season they showed tremendous courage and heart which will lay the foundation for future Fighting Saints rugby teams in the years to come. The 23 players who put on the red jersey this season should be proud of what they accomplished and we can’t wait to see them back on the pitch in Grade 9.

Thank you to all the staff, administration and especially the parents for supporting this great group of rugby players. A special thank you to coach and Gr 8 parent, John McCormack, for taking the time in coaching the team with Mr. Allen.

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**Congratulation to STA Cross Country Team**




Twenty-two STA runners competed alongside racers from over 40 schools at the **Vancouver Sea to Sky Zone Championships** on Wednesday, October 28. Each race had well over 200 runners and our Fighting Saints braved the crowded messy starts, rain and mud to tough out the course and in the end proved their grit, character and class. We are super proud of all of our runners! Eleven **qualified** for **provincials** taking place in Abbotsford on Saturday, November 7. Congratulations to grade 8s **Ben M** and **Oliver F** who finished 7th and 11th amongst 250 Gr. 8 through 10 runners and led our junior boys team of **Benny A**, **Rory S**, **Johannes W**, **Jake B** and **Kyle W** to a 6th place team finish and berth to provincials. Congrats to **Audrey S** and **Taylor M** who will race in the junior girls event and to **Joshua W** and **Massimo LP**, our two qualifying senior boys. Way to go Saints!

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**Another Win! Congratulations to Bantam Volleyball Red and Black Girl Teams**

They won Monday night against West Van and that put them into 1st place going into the playoffs!

Everyone is invited to come and watch:

- Red team's game this Wednesday, November 4, at 4:00pm vs Sutherland Red at STA
- Black team's game at 4:00pm vs Windsor Grey at Windsor Secondary school.

## OFFICE UPDATES

**Purdys Christmas Chocolate Sale until November 30**

Grade 12 students are selling Purdys chocolates as fundraising towards their Dinner Dance event in June. Yummy chocolate, gift giving and supporting a grad - it doesn't get any sweeter than that!

Click **here** to link to the 2026 Purdys Christmas Chocolate Sale. Pick up is **December, 9**.

**Instructions** for ordering Purdys Christmas Chocolates online

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**Graduation Photos by Custodio Photographers**
Information about Graduation Photos has been emailed home. All **Grade 12s** need to book an appointment to have their photo taken. Click here for more **information**.
Appointment times are available until **November 4.** Book early to get your preferred time!
Click here to book your **appointment**.

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**Attention, Grade 10 French students!**

Exciting news! Our **STA Europe 2027 trip to London, Paris, and Barcelona** is now welcoming interested **Grade 10 students taking French!**
This is a wonderful opportunity to explore three amazing European cities, experience new cultures, and create unforgettable memories!
**Spaces are limited and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.**
Interested students are encouraged to **see Mr.Domina or Ms.Stagnitta as soon as possible** for more information.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**November**
**4** - Grade 9 (only): Take Your Kids to Work Day
**8** - Christmas Craft Fair - 10:00am-4:00pm
**10 -** Remembrance Day Assembly - 11:00am - Families are welcome
**11 -** SCHOOL CLOSED - Remembrance Day - No classes in session
**12** and **19** - Food and Winter Wear Collection Drop Off at 8:00 - 9:00am
**13 -** Grade 8 Retreat
**16 -** Grade 12 - Career Exploration Day at 7:45am
**20** - SCHOOL CLOSED - Pro-D Day - No classes in session
**26** - Open House 5:45 - 8:45pm
**27** - Men's Hostel Ministry - Baked Goods or Sandwich Drop Off at 8:00 - 9:00am

**December**
**6** - The Door Is Open
**8** - Art Exhibition and Christmas Concert (Bands only)
**9** - Learning Updates published to myEd BC
**10** - STA Choral Concert and Drama Showcase
**17** - Parent Teacher Student Interviews at 3:30pm
**18** - Parent Teacher Interviews at 10:00am - 3:00pm - NO CLASSES IN SESSION
**December 19** - **January 3** - Christmas Break - SCHOOL CLOSED

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STA Parents are invited to participate as panelists in our upcoming **Career Exploration Day**. This special event is designed to help our Grade 12 students explore a variety of educational paths and to gain inspiration for their future learning. We would be delighted to have you share your education and career journey with our students.

**Format**

- This event is for Grade 12 students, and their attendance is mandatory. They are expected to complete a short assignment post-event as part of their Capstone graduation portfolio.
- Students will work in small groups.
- Panelists will be paired with another professional in their field, or in a complementary field, so students are aware of the synergies between professionals. We will share this pairing with you in advance.
- Parent participation hours (1.5) will be provided for your participation.

If you are interested in participating, please complete the Google form **here** by **November 6**. Thank you for your continued support in helping our students learn, grow, and dream big!

## PARENT PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITES



**Join the Cafeteria Team!**

- **Full-Time** volunteer positions available for this school year (this will fulfill your annual PPP requirement).
- **On-Call (Part-Time):** Flexible coverage for parents unable to commit weekly, stepping in when managers or full-time volunteers need extra support.

Thank you for supporting our students!

Please contact **Claudia Montagut** (Cafeteria Coordinator) if interested or have any questions.

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**STA Parent Association Needs YOU!**
**Next Meeting - Thursday, November 5 at 9:30am at Boardroom (in the main office)**



We welcome and encourage all parents to get involved and volunteer at our school. The primary focus of the STA Parent Association is to strengthen our school community by supporting annual events and activities at STA. We achieve this by involving ourselves with activities that connect students, parents and families. Monies raised by these activities are used for the improvement of our school or the enhancement of student extracurricular activities. Through these activities, the Parent Association also provides parents with opportunities to volunteer within our school community. Further details on the Parent Association can be found on the **website**.

## CAMPUS MINISTRY



**Grade 8 Retreat - Friday, November 13**

The Grade 8 Retreat is happening! All grade 8s will be going to Squamish for the day to grow in community and explore their faith outside of the classroom. Permission forms went home with Day 1 religion classes today and will go home with Day 2 religion classes tomorrow. Please return the permission form to religion classes on Thursday and Friday.

Students do not need to wear their uniform, but need to be prepared to be outside rain or shine. The only thing they need to bring is a water bottle. Pizza lunch and snacks will be provided.
Students go to their first block at the usual time and will return for 3:00pm.

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All students are invited to Alpha! Alpha is hosted by students in grade 11 and 12, with a desire to create a space for all students to explore their faith! Come for Jesus and junk food in room 409 every **Monday**.




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**Candy Drive for Good Shepherd Ministry**

Students are invited to bring candy from home and return it to the Campus Ministry office! We will make candy bags with a note for Good Shepherd Ministry Volunteers to distribute every night on the downtown eastside.

Our candy donations allow the volunteers to show those living on the streets that they are not forgotten, that they are seen and cared for. Thank you for sharing your candy.

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**Food and Winter Wear Collection - Thursday, November 12 at 8:00 - 9:00am**

On our upcoming food collection dates (November 12 and 19), we are also collecting new and gently used men's and women's jackets, coats, and shoes. These donations will assist individuals served by the Archdiocese of Vancouver's Ministries, including the Catholic Men's Shelter, The Door Is Open, the Migrant Farm Worker Ministry, and the ministry supporting those released from prison.

Thank you for your generosity!



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**All Soul's Month - November**
All Souls' Day is also known as The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, which is celebrated on November 2. This is a day of prayer for those who have died. Catholics are encouraged to pray for the faithful departed, to remember them, and to give thanks.

During the month of November, we will be offering our weekly school masses for the deceased loved ones of our community. We invite you to include the names of your loved ones at this **link**.

## JOB POSTING

Our Advancement team at STA is expanding! Are you a natural relationship builder with a passion for driving meaningful change? STA is seeking an energetic and strategic Advancement Officer to join our team. In this pivotal role, you will connect generous donors and alumni with initiatives that shape the future of our school.

If you thrive on cultivating relationships, telling compelling stories, and securing philanthropic support, this is your opportunity to turn generosity into measurable impact. Read more about the opportunity **here**.

**How to Apply**: Submit your resume and a brief cover letter by November 30 to **Sandie Atkinson**, Advancement Director.