



# STA At-a-Glance

**Week 16: December 9 - December 16, 2025**

## GIVINGTUESDAY UPDATE



Thank you to all STA families and alumni who participated in our GivingTuesday challenge for the Giving & Gratitude Annual Fund. Your support helps us provide STA Saints with the resources and opportunities they need to learn, grow, and succeed.

**Our GivingTuesday campaign saw a 17% increase in participation with a total of \$40,876.66 raised.**

Thank you for believing in our mission and investing in the future of STA students.

## KUDOS

### **Congratulations to the STA Senior Boys basketball**

The STA Senior Boys Basketball team started off their season with some great wins, including the Burnsvie tournament win, where they beat St.Johns, WPGA, and SRT schools on their road to the finals. Shoutout to the boys and tournament MVP Gabe B and Tournament All Star Elye S.



### **Kudos to the STA Junior Girls Basketball teams**

Our Junior Girls came out firing at the Archbishop Carney tournament, winning their first two games - highlighted by a massive 75-15 victory in Game 2! Their grit and teamwork carried them into the championship final, where they battled toe-to-toe with Credo Christian through the first two quarters before ultimately finishing with a proud **silver medal** performance.

That momentum carried straight into league play against Howe Sound, where the girls fought through a nail-biter - the score swung within three points for nearly the entire game until they pulled away in the final three minutes. It was a tremendous effort, showing their ability to compete hard for all four quarters, ending in a well-earned 50-40 victory.

**Fantastic effort, Junior Girls - go Saints!**



The **Grade 8 Girls Basketball** team competed with heart and determination in another back-to-back tournament hosted here at STA this past weekend. They went up against large, established programs and rose to the challenge, pushing each opponent with grit and intensity. While the results didn't go our way, the team gained valuable experience and learned what it means to support one another through adversity. We're proud of their growth and

resilience, and we look forward to seeing them continue to develop.

**Matteo D** competed at the JP Fell Armoury this weekend, representing **North Vancouver** at the **Sapper Cup**. He earned a well-deserved win, putting in a great effort to help the North Vancouver team beat West Vancouver and secure the Sapper Cup.



**Kudos** to the students who volunteered at the **Door Is Open** this Sunday! In addition to making chili, green salad, fruit salad, and hot chocolate, they also spent time writing Christmas cards, decorating the space for Christmas, and then giving the Christmas cards to each guest with their meal. We also brought donations of socks, gloves, toques, sweaters, and jackets from our 12 Days of Giving. All of which was received very gratefully by the guests. Thank you to everyone for making a difference in the lives of those in need!

## OFFICE UPDATES

### Is your family extending the Christmas break?

If your family is planning to extend the Christmas break either by leaving prior to December 19 or returning to school after January 5, 2026, the student will need an extended absence form from the office. This form must be signed by a parent and each one of the student's teachers must also sign it and provide any noted homework assignments. The form must be returned to the office once completed.

The office staff will also require an email from the parents advising the school of the absence. Please email [office@aquinas.org](mailto:office@aquinas.org) with the necessary information.

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### **Art Exhibit and Christmas Concert (Choral and Band) - tonight, December 9 at 6:00pm**

We warmly invite all families to join us for our Christmas Choral and Band Performances and Art Exhibition on **Tuesday, December 9**. The **Art Exhibition opens at 6:00pm**, followed by the **Christmas Concert at 7:00pm**. After the concert, please stay for **refreshments and treats** at approximately **8:30pm**.

The Art Exhibit showcases the learning and expression that has occurred in the art studio throughout the fall term in Art 8, 9 and Art Studio 10, 11 and 12. The Band and Choral performances will entertain as you listen to both the sounds of the Concert and Jazz Bands and the beautiful harmonies of the Concert Choir.

This is a **free community event**, and all are welcome - we look forward to celebrating the season with you!

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### **School Merchandise available for Pickup**

Christmas has come early! If you ordered school merchandise to be picked up at school, please come to the school store on the 2nd floor from 2:30 - 4:00pm on the following dates:

- December 10
- December 12

Feel free to send your student for the pick up if that's more convenient for you.





## SHAD CANADA

**SHAD** is a month-long summer program for students currently in Grades 10 and 11 who are interested in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics). Students live on one of 30 Canadian university campuses for the

month of July and take on a wide variety of social and economic challenges with a STEAM lens. Working in teams and with mentors, participants develop STEAM-based solutions. Products, pitches, presentations to panels, this is an entrepreneurial experience with a social impact twist. Students also get to tour the city that they are visiting and participate in a variety of social activities. Not ready to leave home for a month? An online version of SHAD is also available.

Financial aid is available. More information is [here](#).  
Deadline to Apply: **Monday, January 5, 2026**

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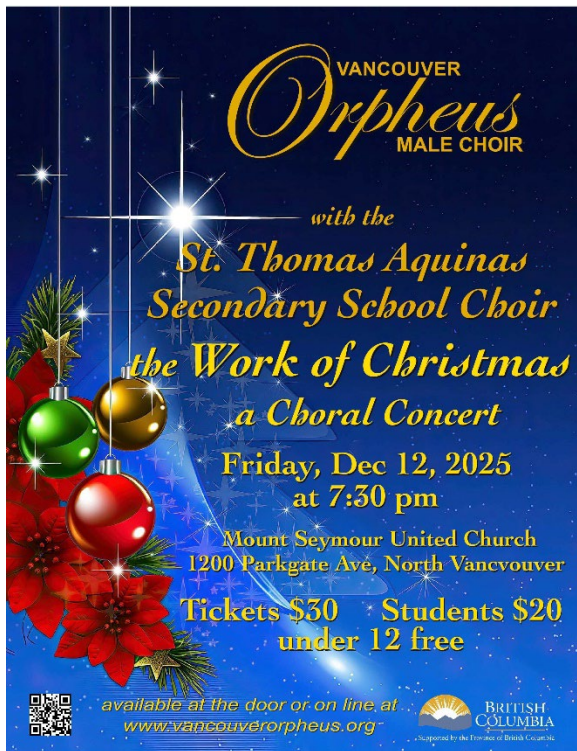
### Join the STA Sun Run Team for 2026

Exciting news, STA Parents, Guardians, Students and Teachers! We are gearing up for the 2026 Sun Run and YOU are invited to be part of our amazing STA Team! Here's your chance to get active, represent our school, and enjoy a fun challenge together. Whether you're a seasoned runner or just starting out, this is a great opportunity for everyone! Click on **Register Today** and then choose a **Team Division -**

**Join a Team** (- Team Division - In Person 10K - YOUTH (18 and Under) and scroll to STA (High school) (Tony Domina) and Access Code: **YNZCFE**. Everyone is welcome! Let's come together as an STA community, have fun, stay active, and show our school spirit on race day!



## UPCOMING EVENTS



## December

**11 and 18** - Men's Hostel Ministry - Baked Goods or Sandwich Drop Off at 8:00 - 9:00am

**11** - Advent Penitential Services in the gym during block A and B

**12** - Monthly School Mass at 11:00am. Families are welcome to attend

**12** - STA Concert Choir with Orpheus Men's Choir at Mount Seymour United Church

**17** - Spirit Day - Ugly Christmas Sweater / Pajamas

**18** - Speech Arts at 10:45am-12:00pm. Families are welcome to attend

**19** - Pro - D Day - SCHOOL CLOSED

**20** - Christmas Break. School Re-opens Monday, January 5 - Day 1 Late Start

## CAMPUS MINISTRY

### Youth Alpha - Wednesday, December 10 at 3:15pm in room 409

The Alpha Youth Series is all about creating a space where you can explore your biggest questions about life and faith in a way that feels open, real, and respectful. It's a place where real conversations happen, and friendships can grow in an inclusive, welcoming environment. We will go through the series together as a team, discussing and learning about ourselves and our faith. Starting this Wednesday, come join us in the room 409. Fr. Lucio from Holy Trinity parish and various other STA leaders will be there to support you! See Gabby R, Gaby M, Ephraim C, Paige K or Ms. Hughes if you have any other questions.



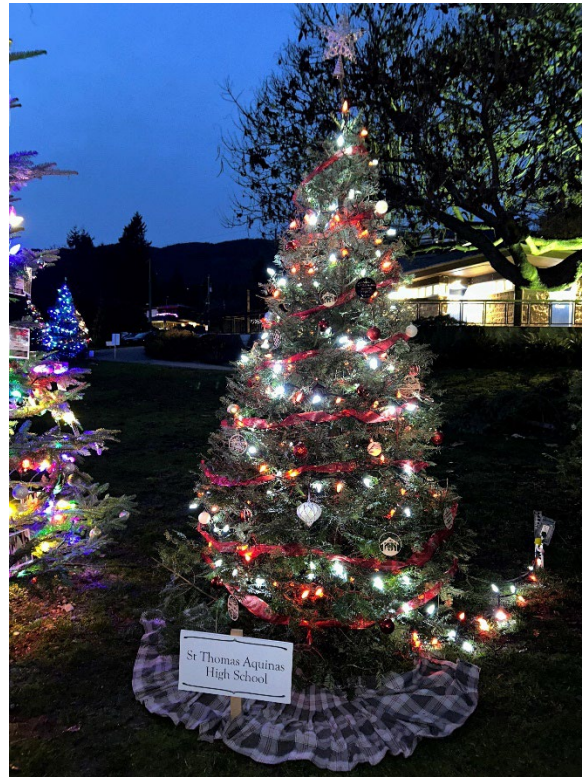


This **Friday, December 12** we are celebrating the **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe!** We will have our school Mass at 11:00am, all parents and family are welcome to join. Students will receive a prayer card in their first block and lunch in the cafeteria will be Mexican food! Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!

Last month, we were honoured to have Archbishop Richard Smith celebrate our school Mass alongside 9 of our North Shore priests! It was a pleasure to have the new shepherd of our Archdiocese with us. In his homily he gave a beautiful reminder and encouragement to trust in God and have courage.



Find our **STA Tree** in the Forest of Miracles at the **Dundarave Festival of Lights** as we work together to end homelessness beautifully. Each tree represents charitable donations through the West Vancouver Community Foundation. Every dollar given supports the work of vital front-line agencies right here on the North Shore to prevent homelessness and provide emergency shelter. Find our tree by the Beach House restaurant and enjoy the beauty of all of the trees lit up together!



<p>DOOR IS OPEN RCAY MEN'S SHELTER HARVEST PROJECT COVENANT HOUSE</p>	<p><b>DAY 1 - DEC 3RD</b> <b>HYGIENE ITEMS</b> <small>(FULL SIZE TOOTHBRUSH, TOOTHPASTE, DEODORANT, SHAMPOO, RAZORS, ETC)</small></p> <p><b>DAY 2 - DEC 4TH</b> <b>WINTER ACCESSORIES</b> <small>(TOQUES, GLOVES, SCARVES)</small></p> <p><b>DAY 3 - DEC 5TH</b> <b>COFFEE &amp; TEA</b></p>	<p>SPECTRUM MOTHERS SOCIETY GOOD SHEPHERD MINISTRY NORTH SHORE FAMILY SERVICES QUEEN MARY HAMPERS</p>
<p><b>DAY 4 - DEC 8TH</b> <b>WRAPPED CHRISTMAS GOODIES</b> <small>(CHOCOLATES, COOKIES)</small></p> <p><b>DAY 5 - DEC 9TH</b> <b>BOX OF GRANOLA BARS</b> <b>BOX OF CEREAL</b></p> <p><b>DAY 6 - DEC 10TH</b> <b>TOYS</b></p>	<p><b>12 DAYS OF GIVING</b></p> <p>HELP US CARE FOR OUR NEIGHBOURS IN NEED BY BRINGING IN NEW ITEMS TO GIFT!</p>	<p><b>DAY 7 - DEC 11TH</b> <b>BACKPACKS &amp; CROSSBODY BAGS</b></p> <p><b>DAY 8 - DEC 12TH</b> <b>SOCKS, UNDERWEAR, &amp; T-SHIRTS</b></p> <p><b>DAY 9 - DEC 15TH</b> <b>HOODIES</b> <small>(TEENS &amp; ADULTS)</small></p>
<p><b>DAYS 1 - 5</b> <b>3 ITEMS = 1 SERVICE HOUR</b></p> <p><b>DAYS 6 - 12</b> <b>1 ITEM = 1 SERVICE HOUR</b></p> <p><b>SUGGESTED VALUE PER SERVICE HOUR = \$10 - \$30</b></p>	<p><b>DAY 10 - DEC 16TH</b> <b>SWEAT PANTS</b> <small>(TEENS &amp; ADULTS)</small></p> <p><b>DAY 11 - DEC 17TH</b> <b>BABY ITEMS</b> <small>(DIAPERS, WIPES, ETC)</small></p> <p><b>DAY 12 - DEC 18TH</b> <b>HOME MADE SANDWICHES &amp; BAKED GOODS</b></p>	<p>THANK YOU FOR YOUR THOUGHTFUL DONATIONS OF NEW ITEMS!</p> <p>WITH EACH DONATION YOU ARE BRINGING GOD'S LOVE TO THOSE IN NEED!</p>

**12 Days of Aquinas Christmas Giving** Campus Ministry's **12 Days of Christmas Giving** is back again this year! We are collecting donations of NEW items to support our neighbors in need through various organizations this advent season. Bring in new hygiene items, toques, gloves, scarves, coffee, tea, Christmas goodies, granola bars, and cereal this week! Drop your items off at the campus ministry office anytime. Thank you for your support!

**STUDENT & PARENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**Art Exhibit and Christmas Concert -  
tonight, December 9 at 6:00pm**

Students and parents can earn volunteer hours by providing homemade baked goods to be shared at the event. There is no limit to the number of hours students can earn.

- One dozen baked goods = 1 volunteer hour
- Drop-off: At the office during the school day, or in the cafeteria between 5:00pm and 7:00pm



Click [here](#) to sign-up and review the current opportunities in the portal. Your support is truly appreciated.

