



STA At-a-Glance

**Week 17: December 16 -
December 19, 2025**

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As we approach Christmas and the end of the calendar year, I would like to sincerely thank our parent community for your ongoing partnership and support. The weeks leading into the Christmas season are always busy, and I am grateful for the commitment you show in supporting your children and the life of our school. As we celebrate the birth of Christ, I hope the upcoming break provides your family with a welcome opportunity for rest, time together, and a slower pace. We look forward to the New Year ahead and to continuing our shared work of forming young people in faith, learning, and community. On behalf of the STA staff, I would like to wish you and your family a blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mieszko Krol

Principal



STA GIVING & GRATITUDE ANNUAL FUND

Year-end Donation: Make your gift count

Priorities for **2025-26**

Indoor/Outdoor Furnishings



New Chromebooks



Additional TV Monitors



Hudl Camera



Giving & Gratitude Annual Fund



Year-End Donations - 100% Tax Deductible

Thank you to our STA community who have participated with a gift this year to the Walkathon or the **Giving & Gratitude Annual Fund**. If you haven't yet had a chance to give to this year's Giving & Gratitude Annual Fund, please consider a year-end gift.

Depending on your marginal tax rate, a gift of \$250 could result in a tax credit of up to 53.5%.

Gifts of stocks/securities are simple and beneficial. By donating securities, the tax on the capital gains is eliminated. Reach out to **Sandie Atkinson** in our Advancement Office for a **Gifts of Securities** form to send to your broker.

KUDOS



Our **Christmas Concert and Art Exhibition** was a joyful and inspiring celebration of student talent. The Choral, Band, and Jazz Band performances filled the evening with energy and holiday spirit. The Art Exhibition showcased outstanding work from Grades 9 - 12, reflecting students'

creativity, skill, and growth throughout the fall term. Thank you to our dedicated students, staff, and families for making the evening such a resounding success.



Kudos to STA Concert Choir

Last Friday evening, the STA Concert Choir performed at Mt. Seymour United Church as an invited guest of the Men's Orpheus Choir. What a privilege for our school choir! It was a beautiful evening of Christmas spirit and song. Thank you to Ms. Rebane for your hard work with the choir and the amazing efforts of the soloists, strings, and choir members overall.

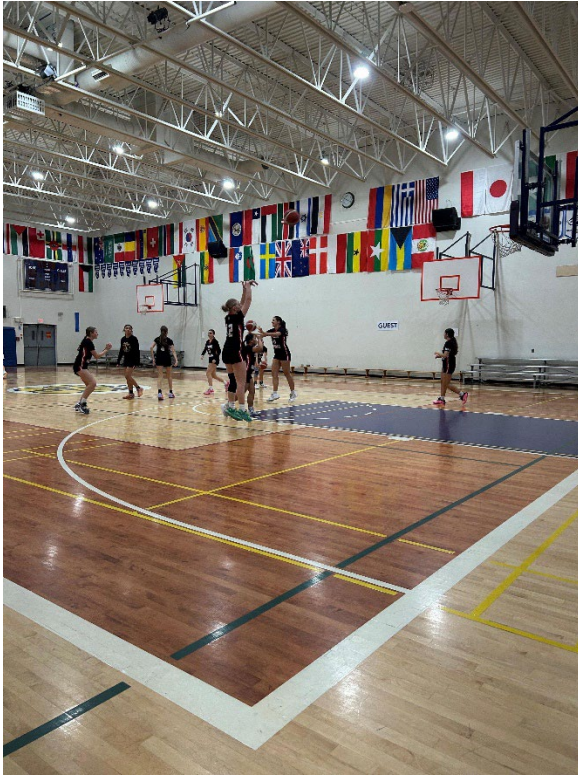


Congratulations to Audrey C and Jonathan W on their acceptance to The **Rideau Hall Foundation's Forum for Young Canadians National Summit 2026**. They will spend a week in March in Ottawa to visit and learn about the House of Commons, The Senate, The Supreme Court of Canada, and to meet with leaders and other students from across Canada to engage in civic life!

Kudos to the STA Junior Girls Basketball teams

The Junior Girls were back in action at the **Shamrock Tournament** this weekend. After a tough opening game against a strong Argyle team, the girls showed great resilience and responded with two impressive wins over St. Patrick's and Carney. The team is really coming together, with strong defensive pressure creating plenty of great scoring opportunities. Go Saints!





The **STA Senior Girls Basketball** team had an outstanding weekend at the **Shamrock Tournament**, going head-to-head with some of the top teams in the province and showing incredible determination on the court. Their effort, teamwork, and resilience stood out in every game, proving they can compete at the highest level. They should be proud of how they represented themselves and their school with such grit and spirit. Go Saints!

Congratulations to Grade 9 Boys Basketball team

The boys were at the **Capilano Tournament** last weekend. They had a great game on Thursday to win over Seaquam 50-41, unfortunately they fell short on Friday evening against Hamber. They made up for it on Saturday with a 46-41 win. Declan O received player of the game Saturday and all the lads played tremendously.





The **Life Skills students** spent a morning last week creating amazing artwork under the guidance of alumni Caroline Liggett '83. Each piece is a unique 'masterpiece'.

OFFICE UPDATES



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS REGIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL
FAITH | COMMUNITY | EXCELLENCE

January 2026 Exam Schedule

		Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Monday, January 19	8:25 AM	Career Education 8 and 9 Workshop		English 10	Religion 11	Religion 12
	12:25 PM					
Tuesday, January 20	8:25 AM			Literacy Assessment 10 Religion 10 Projects		History 12
	12:25 PM		Science 9	Literacy Assessment 10 Religion 10 Projects	Chemistry 11 Life Sciences 11	AP Computer Science Honours English 12
Wednesday, January 21	8:25 AM			Foundations of Math & PreCalculus 10 Workplace Math 10	PreCalculus 11 Foundations of Math 11	PreCalculus 12 Foundations of Math 12
	12:25 PM	Religion 8	Social 9			Comp Cultures Literature 12
Thursday, January 22	8:25 AM	Math 8 Math 8/9			English 11 Honours English 11	Anatomy 12 Physics 12
	12:25 PM		Math 9	Literacy Assessment 10 Religion 10 Projects	Marketing 11	Psychology 12
Friday, January 23	8:25 AM				Physics 11	Chemistry 12 Philosophy 12
	12:25 PM			Science 10		Literacy Assessment 12 Political Studies
Monday, January 26	8:25 AM	Science Fair				Calculus AP Calculus Literacy Assessment 12
	12:25 PM	Science Fair				Literacy Assessment 12

AM EXAMS: Students must be in the gym for morning exams at 8:25am

PM EXAMS: Students must be in the gym for afternoon exams at 12:25pm

January 2025 Exam Schedule - January 19-26, 2025

The mid-term exam schedule, including expectations, has been posted on the [website](#).

All classes will not be in session during exam week.

Students should contact Mr. Salituro at salituro@aquinas.org, or at the school office, in regards to any exam conflicts.

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 with the necessary information.



Spirit Day - Wednesday, December 17

Students can come dressed in **Ugly Christmas Sweater / Pajamas** in exchange for a canned good or \$2+. Collections will take place in first block and all proceeds go to the STA Campus Ministry. For those students who do not participate, full school uniform is required.

Please remember to dress modestly as students who are not in compliance with the dress code may be asked to return home to change.

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**



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

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

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

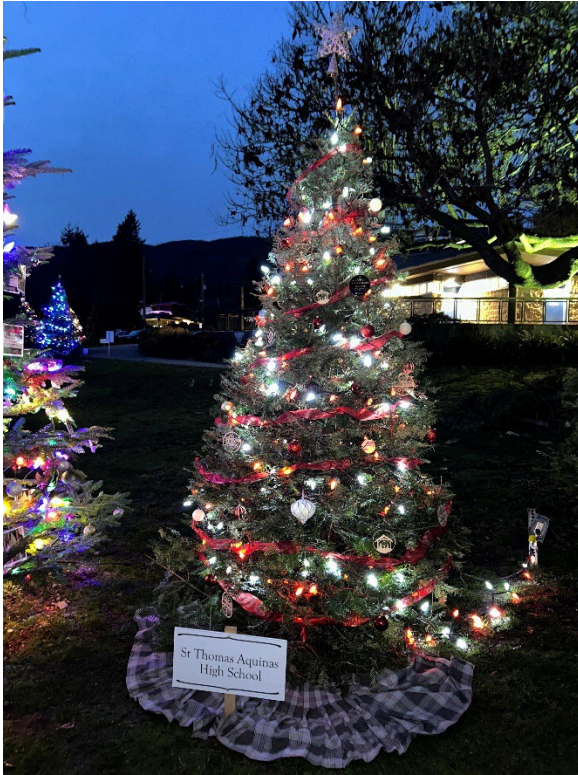
ATHLETICS SURVEY

Athletics Survey

This survey is for all Student - Athletes and their Parent / Guardian(s) involved in a Fall sport such as Cross Country, Swimming, Boys Soccer, Girls Volleyball, Boys Volleyball, Girls Field Hockey, and Rowing. If you had more than one child participate on a team, please do separate surveys. The information collected will be kept confidential and used to improve the athletic program at St. Thomas Aquinas. If you would like to meet with the Athletic Director to discuss the survey further, please contact Nick Allen at nallen@aquinas.org.



CAMPUS MINISTRY



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!

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!

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

PARENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Help Needed

- **Parent Judges for the Grade 8 Science Fair** - January 26, 2026 (your child doesn't need to be in grade 8 in order for you to volunteer)
- We are looking for a full time volunteer to help **wash/clean the school bus** a few times per month. There would be two of you, and we are preferably looking for a male helper. If interested in finding out more please contact **Carmen**
- The **landscaping team** is looking for a part-time volunteer (min 3hrs/month) to ensure that the gardening equipment, fuel and supplies are in good working order. Commitment is from February-November each year. All associated costs are reimbursed. Please contact **Kathleen Jessop** for more information
- **Cafeteria** - full time shifts available: Tue, Wed and Friday (11:30pm - 2:00pm). Please contact **Claudia Montagut** if interested
- **Traffic duty volunteers** - full time shifts: mornings: Mon (8:45am - 9:30am) and Tue-Fri (8:00am - 8:45am) and afternoons: Mon-Fri (2:45pm - 3:30pm). If you are interested please contact **Karen Lo**

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

