



STA At-a-Glance

**Week 17: December 17 -
December 20, 2024**

OFFICE UPDATE

January 2025 Exam Schedule - January 17-24, 2025

The mid-term exam schedule, including expectations, has been posted on the [website](#). Grade 8 and 9 students are expected in their respective classes on Friday, January 17 and Monday, January 20. All other 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.



Home Basketball games - December 17 and 18

The **Junior Boys Basketball** team plays their home opener tonight (Tuesday) vs Sutherland at **6:00pm** followed by the **Senior Boys Basketball** team who are playing Richmond Christian at **7:30pm**. Go Saints Go!

**Spirit Day - Christmas Pajama Day -
Wednesday, December 18**

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



Grade 8 Science Fair

Thank you to the all parents who volunteered to judge our Grade 8 Science Fair on **Friday, January 24, 2025**. Ms. Treacy emailed a preview of the judging booklet to all parent volunteers last Friday (December 13). If you did not receive the judging booklet preview, please email Ms. Treacy at treacy@aquinas.org confirming that you are still willing and able to judge our science fair.

Thank you for your involvement!

ALUMNI NEWS



Governor General Medal Winner

Congratulations to **Sophia Concepcion '24** who is the 2024 Governor General Medal recipient. The medal is awarded to the student with the highest academic standing in the graduating class. This year, Sophia is at UBC studying Pharmacology. Well done Sophia!

Alumni Christmas Reception - December 19 at 3:30 - 5:30pm

If you know of an alumni returning home for Christmas, be sure to encourage them to attend our Alumni Reception on Thursday in the STA Alumni Room. Registration is required [here](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS

Check out the school [calendar](#) for these and other events

December

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

20 - School Closed - Professional Development Day

21 - Christmas Break. School Re-opens Monday, January 6 with Day 1 late start schedule

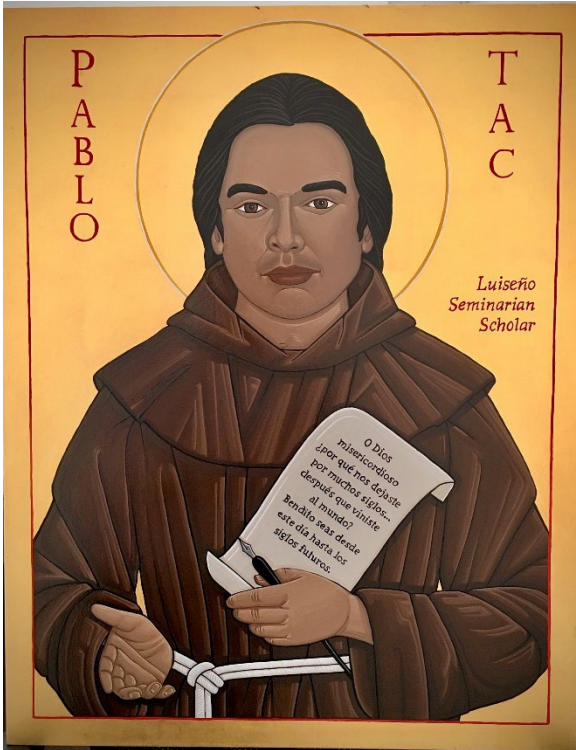


Find our **STA Tree** in the Forest of Miracles at the **Dundarave Festival of Lights** as we work together to end homelessness beautifully. Each tree represents a donation to the Lookout Society's North Shore Shelter. Find our tree by the Beach House restaurant and you can join in our donations at this [link](#).

Join the STA Sun Run Team for 2025!

Exciting news, STA students and teachers! We are gearing up for the 2025 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! **Team Name:** STA Team and **Access Code:** BSUWFG

STA CAMPUS MINISTRY



STA Chapel Icons - Pablo Tac (1822-41)

This Pablo Tac write up is the second in a series of 12 write ups on icons that can be found in the STA school Chapel.

Pablo Tac was a member of the Luiseno First Nation in southern California. He was born at Mission San Luis Rey de Francia and attended the Mission school. In 1834, he travelled to Rome to study and a few years later he entered a Franciscan seminary to study for the priesthood. His plan was to return to southern California upon his ordination. Unfortunately, after his first year in the seminary he died from an epidemic that hit Rome in 1841.

As a student Pablo wrote an early account of life at Mission San Luis Rey entitled "Indian Life and Customs at Mission San Luis Rey". In addition, he authored a dictionary of the Luiseno language.

By all accounts, he was a faith filled young man. In 2019, a petition was started to request that the Diocese of San Diego open an investigation into Pablo's life as a first step

towards canonization.

Advent Candle Light Masses

Students and their families are invited to our school chapel to celebrate the season of Advent with morning Masses by candlelight on **Thursday, December 19 at 7:30am**. Take a little bit of time this advent to encounter God's love and receive his peace in the quiet as we focus on how his light overcomes the darkness of our lives. The Mass is only lit by candles to turn our focus to Mary bringing the Light of the World into the darkness of the world.



KUDOS



A big congratulations to all the **Grade 8, 9, 10** and **Senior Concert bands, Brass Quintet, Concert Choir, Junior and Senior Jazz bands** and **Visual Artists students** on a very successful concert and art exhibit!

What a wonderful evening full of song, art and music!



Congratulations Drama Students

Congratulations to the drama students and Ms. Kostamo on a wonderful evening of entertainment! The hard work and talents of our drama department were on display! A special thanks also to our talented sound crew!



On Thursday, December 12, **STA's Wrestling** team competed at Elphinstone Secondary School on the Sunshine Coast against all of the North Shore. The athletes gave their all, with Samiar B., Ramtin F., Gelareh G., and Amirhossein M. leaving undefeated.

Special recognition goes to Gelareh G., who showcased incredible dedication by coaching, refereeing, and wrestling during the meet.

Despite the long day, the team represented our school well, both on and off the mats, even staying to help clean up the gym afterward. Congratulations to all our wrestlers on a great performance!



The **Grade 9 Boys Basketball** team is off to a strong 5-2 start this season, including a perfect 2-0 league record. The boys recently competed in the Capilano University Tournament, winning two of their three games (vs Langley Christian & Templeton). Up next is a key league game vs Carson Graham and the upcoming Pitt Meadows Air Show Tournament, showcasing some of the best teams in the province, including a Friday night game vs the defending BC Champion: Holy Cross. Good luck, boys!



Photo by Maksimas Viskontas

The high-octane **Grade 8 Boys Basketball** team is off to a tremendous start, having already competed in the prestigious St Georges Saints Invitational tournament, which featured the highest-ranking high school programs in the province. They remain undefeated in North Shore exhibition and league play and are determined and united as they look forward to a busy January schedule featuring them in the ultra-competitive St Patrick's Invitational and a full slate of North Shore league play.

The **Grade 8 Girls Basketball** team continue to learn and grow together with newer and more experienced players really coming into their own as a team. Last week saw a narrow loss to Collingwood and a win against Seycove. Games resume in the new year. Go Saints!



Congratulations to Cyprien who has graduated from the Education Assistant Program at Capilano University. We are so proud of you Cyprien and wish you all the best in your chosen career path!!

PARENT ASSOCIATION / VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITES

Wanted: 1 Parent Judge for the Grade 8 Science Fair Friday, January 24 8:00am-4:00pm

Training for judges will be provided on the day of the event, as will morning snacks and lunch! While you do not need to have a background in science to be a wonderful science fair judge, this is certainly an asset. In addition to signing up on the **Parent Participation Portal**, parents are also asked to email Ms. Treacy at treacy@aquinas.org so that in mid-December she can email you a preview of the judging booklet. In that email, please also indicate the name of your Grade 8 son or daughter (if you have a child in Grade 8) so that we can ensure you don't evaluate your own child's project. If possible, please bring a calculator and a clipboard. Your child doesn't need to be in grade 8 in order for you to volunteer!