



STA At-a-Glance

**Week 36: May 26 -
June 2, 2026**

STUDENT SAFETY

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Student safety remains our highest priority. As technology continues to evolve, schools must continually adapt the ways we protect students both physically and digitally. Over the past several years, we have been strengthening our school's digital infrastructure and implementing additional safeguards designed to create a safer online environment for students while they are at school.

This year, the school has undertaken a significant modernization of our network systems. Our updated wireless infrastructure now includes enterprise-level networking equipment with enhanced security, monitoring, and reliability features. These upgrades allow us to better manage and protect student access to the internet while using school devices and school networks.

Some of the measures currently in place or being implemented include:

- Enhanced firewall and threat-protection systems that actively monitor for malicious or unsafe activity
- Advanced content filtering to block harmful or inappropriate websites and applications
- Safe-search enforcement across supported search engines
- Ad and malicious-site blocking designed to reduce exposure to unsafe online content
- Network isolation measures that help prevent peer-to-peer device access between students on school Wi-Fi
- Separate guest-network systems with limited and scheduled access during school events and activities
- Ongoing traffic monitoring and security updates to respond to emerging online threats

These measures are intended to reduce risks and provide safer digital access for students using school-issued devices, classroom computers, and the school wireless network.

At the same time, it is important to recognize that schools cannot fully control internet access on personal devices when students are connected through cellular data rather than the school network. Families may wish to consider additional parental controls, device-monitoring tools, or limitations on cellular data usage during school hours if they feel those measures are appropriate for their child.

As many families know, this is now our third year operating under school-wide cell phone restrictions during instructional time. While student phones are not permitted during classes, students may still access their devices before and after school and at lockers during breaks. Enforcing these expectations consistently remains an ongoing challenge in schools everywhere, but we continue to believe these measures support both student learning and student safety.

Digital safety is a shared responsibility between schools, students, and families. We remain committed to reviewing our practices, improving safeguards where possible, and working together with parents to support safe and responsible technology use.

Thank you for your continued support.

KUDOS



Congratulation

Huge shoutout to the nine incredible riders from the **STA Mountain Bike** team who competed at Provincials in Quesnel, BC on May 21-22.

Our athletes battled everything Mother Nature could throw at them - blazing sun, pouring rain, thick mud, and relentless mosquitoes - and absolutely smashed it, finishing the week incredibly strong!

Here is how our riders placed against the best in the province:

Bantam Division (Grade 8)

- Indy T: 1st Place (Enduro) & 3rd Place (Cross Country) - Podium double-header!
- Olivia S: 10th Place & 8th Place - Two amazing Top-10 finishes!

Junior Division (Grades 9 & 10)

- Genevieve J: 35th Place in both of her races.

Senior Division (Grades 11 and 12) (Enduro / Cross Country)

- Carden T: 13th & 27th
- Charles S: 33rd & 10th (Top 10 in Cross Country!)
- Jack W: 30th & 56th
- Miles F: 46th & 58th
- Finn B: 61st & 70th
- William E: 81st & 76th

We are so incredibly proud of the grit, determination, and sportsmanship shown by the entire team this weekend. Way to represent STA on the provincial stage!

A special thank you to our **Head Coach, Guy Elliott!** The endless hours and countless miles you've put into training with the team have been greatly appreciated. We wouldn't be where we are without your dedication!

We also want to give a huge thank you to our assistant coach, **Andrew Watkins**, and team sponsor – **Marianne Hughes**, for always being there to assist Guy and keep the team running smoothly.

Last but certainly not least, to our amazing **parent volunteers** who came out and rode with us to ensure everyone stayed safe - thank you! It truly takes a village, and we have the best one.



2026 Youth Award & Scholarship Recipients

Mrs. Kate Arkiletian - winner of the **Awesome Ally Award**. Sponsoring the art club and empowering students to help create and paint the mural on the 100 level of the school.

Thomas M (Grade 11), **Alexa R** and **Kaley R** (Grade 9) – winners of the **Outstanding Squad Award** (STA Altar Servers). All students in this category have been recognized for their long-term commitment to altar serving not only at the school's monthly masses but also assisting at their local parishes.

Yonju H (Grade 8) - winner of **Rise Up Award**. She won for her ability to submit at the time a record seven entries to the voices visible writing contest, sponsored by the BC teachers of English language arts, and having all seven entries published. Yonju is already influencing some students to see if they can meet and beat her personal best.

Bryan K (Grade 11) - winner of the **Give Back Award** for volunteering over 100+ hours at the Westview pharmacy for a year and a half.

Rory K (Grade 8) - winner of the **Give Back Award** for his over 160+ hours of volunteering for Hollyburn Sailing Club of West Vancouver. He was teaching his young audience some of the fundamentals of sailing.

Gaby M (Grade 12)- winner of **Youth Centennial Scholarship** worth \$1 000. Gaby is a dependable member of the student council (co-VP), and enthusiastically helps to lead the council to support the students at STA. She is heavily involved with campus ministry initiatives at school, serves at the Door is Open, and helps as a leader on retreats. She is also involved in leading youth ministry at her parish, Christ the Redeemer. She wants to be a teacher and will do a great job at continuing to forge strong positive connections between school, education, and her wider communities.

All of them were recognized in a ceremony sponsored by the city of North Vancouver at the Pipe Shop at the Shipyards District in Lower Lonsdale on Thursday, May 7, 2026. Here is a [website](#) for more information on their awards and scholarship program and to think about nominations for next year!

Thank you Mr. John Mendoza and Mr. Jeremy Keong for nominating our students and teachers during past years.



Choral Concert

Yesterday's choral concert was a truly uplifting event, showcasing the beautiful voices and harmonies of three talented feeder elementary school choirs: Holy Trinity (Director – Katie Gemmel; Accompanist – Melissa Fernandes), St. Pius X (Primary Choir Director – Dr. Gina Oh; Intermediate Choir Director – Miss Guan), St. Edmund's (Director – Maryna Prysazhnyuk), and the St. Thomas Aquinas Concert Choir (Director – Siiri Rebane).

Each performance was filled with heart, enthusiasm, and musicality, reflecting the dedication and hard work of the students and their directors. The concert finale, "Let the River Run," was especially moving, beautifully highlighting the unity, collaboration, and spirit of the evening.

Congratulations to all the students, directors, accompanists, and supporters who made this memorable celebration of music possible.

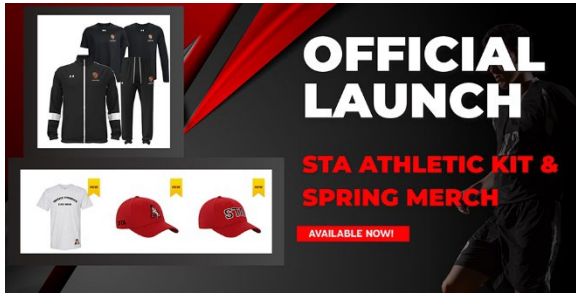
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

STA Campus Ministry's Annual International Night - This Friday, May 29 from 6:00pm - 9:00pm

You are invited to enjoy food from around the world, provided by our own STA families, and entertainment from our Jazz Bands to celebrate our school community! Bring your family and friends to enjoy an evening of delicious food, culture, and community. Doors open at 6:00pm. Admission is \$4 per person or \$10 per family, food tickets are \$2 each. Cash and card accepted. All proceeds from the event are donated to support our neighbours in need locally and globally. See you there!



OFFICE UPDATES



Athletic Foundations Collection

To showcase our brand and school spirit in a consistent and polished manner, STA is pleased to announce our **Athletic Foundations Collection**. All students who are planning to participate on an athletic team for 2026-27 are asked to purchase a kit from the collection to wear to and from all games/meets. Click [here](#) to view the site.

The kit is not sport-specific so students can wear the items across all team participation, and tops for Spirit Days.

The kit consists of:

- Warm-up jacket
- Warm-up pants
- Choice of a short- or long-sleeved warm up shirt (with an option for personalization)
- The cost for the kit is \$122.50

The window for ordering these supplies online is May to July, with a pickup at the end of August. Incoming Grade 8 students will also be informed of this process.

2026 Exam Schedule - June 8 - 16

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

Classes will not be in session during exam week.

Students should contact [Mr. Salituro](#) or the [school office](#), in regards to any exam conflicts.

Service Hours Submissions Are Past Due Now

Students in **Grades 8 - 11** are required to complete their **16 service hours** and submit all forms to their Religion teacher by now. Please be aware that students who do not meet this requirement will be assigned to complete service hours at the school during exam week.

Grade 12 service hours are past due and must be completed before credit is granted for Capstone.

Thank you for supporting this important endeavor. Community service is a key part of what defines us as a Catholic school.

More information about service hours, including the required form, can be found on the [school website](#).

Lost and Found Collection - until June 1

Lost and found items are on display on the second floor. All labeled items were returned to individual students.

After June 1, all unclaimed items will be donated to the Salvation Army.





STA Graduation Events

- Graduation Mass: Friday, **June 5**, at 11:00am in our school gym (Click [here](#) to watch highlights of the 2025 Grad Mass). All Grade 11 & 12 students are required at Graduation Mass. Grade 8, 9 and 10 students are welcome to attend.
 - Commencement Ceremony: Thursday, **June 18** at Massey Theatre at 7:00pm
 - Dinner and Dance: Friday, **June 19** at the Westin Bayshore at 6:00pm
- Graduation packages were distributed to Grade 12s on Monday, April 27. Thank you to

those who have handed in their Dinner Dance order forms/payment (to Ms. Mattia in the library) and filled out their Future Plans writeup (online in Grad Google Classroom). If you have not yet done so, please do so by the end of the day today. Dinner & Dance ticket purchase due today.

Thank you for your attention to these important deadlines!

Paris, London and Barcelona - Spring Break 2027

We would love to have you travel with us! Sign up [here](#) and feel free to contact [Mr. Domina](#) with questions.



BLOCK TALK SERIES



KEEPING KIDS SAFE ONLINE

Learn how to support the prevention of child exploitation

Date: Thursday, May 28, 2026

Time: 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Location: Virtually via Zoom



Register here:

burnaby.ca/safecommunityseries

A guest speaker from **PLEA Community Services Society of BC** will provide an overview of commonly used apps and platforms, share practical online safety strategies, and offer guidance on having open, age-appropriate conversations with children and youth about their online activities. Topics include online safety for children and youth, signs of luring and grooming, and what caregivers can do to help prevent harm and respond to concerns.



IN COLLABORATION WITH



[This presentation is open to the public]

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

May

26 - Art Exhibit - doors open at 6:00pm in the foyer of the 2nd floor (outside the gymnasium).

Spring Band concert begins at 7:00pm

27 - Grade 10 Retreat

28 - Talent Show at 10:45am. Families are welcome

29 - Men's Hostel Ministry - Baked Goods or Sandwich Drop Off at 8:00 - 9:00am (last one for current school year)

29 - Spirit Day (International Dress that celebrate a family's heritage) and International Night at 6:00pm

June

2 - STA Athletic Awards Evening at 5:30pm

4 - Last Day for Cafeteria Services

5 - **Grad Mass** at 11:00am at STA Gym. All Grade 11 & 12 students are expected to attend. Families are welcome

7 - The Door Is Open (last one for current school year)

9 - **16** Final Exams

18 - **Grade 12 Commencement Ceremony** at 7:00pm at Massey Theatre, New Westminster

19 - STA Grad 2026 Dinner and Dance at 6:00pm at Westin Bayshore, Vancouver

25 - Last day for Students and final learning updates published. Award Assembly and Yearbook Distribution

CAMPUS MINISTRY



Grade 10 Retreat - Wednesday, May 27

The Grade 10 Retreat is tomorrow! Students will go to their first block class as usual. They do not need to wear their uniform, but must dress appropriately. Pizza lunch and snacks are provided, students are encouraged to bring a water bottle.

All STA students! You're invited to join the **Alpha Youth Series - every Wednesday at 3:15pm in Room 409**

Alpha is a place to share a meal, watch a short video, and talk honestly about life, faith, and meaning. It's relaxed, open, and a great space to explore big questions with friends. If you'd like to finish this school year in a meaningful way, come join us.



Bring a friend - we'd love to see you there!

2026 Man's Destiny
SON & FATHER EVENING

SON & FATHER EVENING

St. Joseph: A Model of Son and Father Relationship

Includes Barbeque and Son & Father Corn Hole Tournament!

June 13, 2026 from 6-9 pm at St. Matthew's Parish

Open only for graduating grade 12 young men & their fathers (or father figures)

St. Matthew's Father & Son event - June 13 at 6:00-9:00pm

RCAV's Knights of Columbus Man's Destiny Event Team is pleased to invite all graduating sons from our CISVA Secondary Schools, together with their fathers, to a special Son & Father Evening on June 13, 2026 from 6:00-9:00pm at St. Matthew's Parish.

[Here](#) is the website for more info.



Science and the Supernatural

Neuroscience, Near-Death Experiences, and Eucharistic Miracles

Join us for four fascinating talks given by Dr. David Neima, which will explore the remarkable intersection between faith and science, highlighting recent discoveries and emerging evidence that resonate with core theological teachings, offering thought-provoking insights into the nature of the soul, near death experiences and medical investigations into Eucharistic miracles.

Near Death Medical Data for Life After Death

7pm - Thursday, February 26
St. Thomas Aquinas High School
541 West Keith Road, North Vancouver

Medical Examination of Eucharist Miracles

7pm - Thu, March 12 (St. Thomas Aquinas High School)

Big Bang Theory and Cosmological Constants

7pm - Thu, April 16 (St. Thomas Aquinas High School)

The Fossil Record and Intelligent Design

7pm - Thu, June 4 (St. Thomas Aquinas High School)

All are welcome. To register for attendance in person or online, please contact adriana.landberg@gmail.com.

For more information, please contact jessicachoo@mac.com.



Dr. David Neima is a medical ophthalmologist who began his career in 1972. His background includes research in neurophysiology and several years as a general practitioner before specializing in ophthalmology. He continues to practice part-time and has participated in numerous medical mission trips. Married for 51 years, he and his wife have four children and four grandchildren. Raised in an atheist household, Dr. Neima became an evangelical Christian at university and entered the Catholic Church 32 years ago.

These talks and discussions aim to deepen our understanding of Catholic doctrine. They offer an opportunity to engage with others who are striving to live their faith well in everyday life. The goal is to build intellectual confidence in understanding and defending the faith, with sessions designed to provide instruction in theology and philosophy applicable to ordinary life.

Oliver Tuey '24 recently spoke at an STA Student Business Club meeting, where he shared valuable advice for students considering business studies at university. Drawing from his own experiences, Oliver discussed what future business students should know to succeed in their first year of university. He is currently studying at the UBC Sauder School of Business.

PARENT ASSOCIATION / PARENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Help needed:

- Parents can provide **homemade** baked goods (one dozen per hour). Drop the baked goods to the school office on May 26 to the cafeteria between 5:00-7:00pm
- Spring band and art event on Tuesday, May 26 at 5:00-9:00pm
- International Night on Friday, May 29
- Athletic Celebration Night on June 2
- Grad Mass set up on Thursday, June 4 at 3:30pm-8:30pm and variety of shifts between 8:00am - 5:00pm on Friday, June 5
- All of these opportunities have been created in the portal.

Click on the [Parent Participation Portal](#) to register.



Volunteer Opportunity: Help Our School Bus Sparkle!

Are you looking for a rewarding and flexible way to contribute to our school community? We're expanding our friendly bus wash team and seeking one additional parent volunteer to help keep our school bus looking its best! It's a straightforward, satisfying task – no experience necessary! You'll be working alongside another volunteer just 1-2 times per month, for only a few hours. This small time investment conveniently fulfills your **entire monthly volunteer requirement!** Enjoy flexible scheduling to fit your availability.

Ready to roll up your sleeves and make a visible difference for our students every month? Please contact [Carmen](#) to learn more or sign up!

Parent Support Group

Our school's **Parent Support Group (PSG)** administers, reports, and applies for gaming grants from the BC Provincial

Government and uses the grants to fund extracurricular activities for our students. BC Gaming guidelines stipulate that parents of the school decide how these funds are disbursed. Our PSG uses guidance from staff and administration to best determine need. At STA, we have a PSG committee of three parents and will soon hold an election to fill three vacant roles.

Potential candidates who would like to join the PSG should understand their role and responsibilities prior to seeking election. All elected members of the PSG will need to familiarize themselves with the [Community Gaming Grants – 2026 Program Grant Guidelines](#).



Community Gaming Grants
2026 Program Grant Guidelines

For more information about the role of the PSG, click [here](#). If you are interested in a role on the PSG for the 2026-27 school year, please complete both of the forms below before **Monday, June 8**.

- To complete a nomination form, click [here](#).
- To complete an application, click [here](#).

For more information, contact psg@aquinas.org.