



STA At-a-Glance

Week 38: June 9 -
June 16, 2026

GRADUATION MASS FOR THE CLASS OF 2026



To the refrains of "*Light Your Candle*" sung by the STA Choir (and conducted by Mrs. Siiri Rebane), 129 Grade 12 students celebrated their Graduation Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Regional Secondary School in North Vancouver on Friday, June 5.

Surrounded by family, friends and staff, Father Patrick Tepoorten, the Archbishop's Representative to STA, and Pastor of St. Pius X in North Vancouver, spoke on Ezekiel 2. The passage is a fascinating, gritty text to bring to a graduation. Most graduation

speeches lean heavily on "the world is your oyster" and "follow your dreams." Ezekiel 2 is the exact opposite: it's God telling a young prophet, "*I am sending you to a stubborn, rebellious crowd. They might not listen to a single word you say, but you need to speak anyway.*"

For a graduate stepping out of the protective bubble of school into a complicated, unpredictable world, this chapter offers an incredibly grounded, resilient framework for life.

Father Tepoorten used the passage to remind graduates to keep these promises in their hearts:

1. **True integrity is doing what is right** regardless of whether you get immediate applause or results.
2. **Don't let fear paralyze you.** Challenging times will happen, but don't let them stop you. Walk with Jesus beside you.
3. **Standing on your own.** Graduation is an opportunity to assume a posture of readiness, responsibility, and maturity. Embrace your future.
4. **Understand before you speak.** Internalize deep knowledge, understand the complexities of your field, and grapple with the hard realities of life before you can change anything.

Ezekiel 2 tells graduates that their value isn't tied to validation from a stubborn world. It challenges them to stand up, expect a fight, focus on their own character, and measure success by their faithfulness to their purpose and relationship with God, rather than the world's applause. The school community wishes our 2026 graduates all the best in the next phase of their lives. Special thanks to Campus Ministry coordinator Ms. Elizabeth Hughes for organizing another successful event, as well as the following STA staff: Mr. Woitowitsch, Mrs. Arkiletian, Ms. M. Hughes, Mrs. Rebane and all STA staff who were helping with setting up and taking down. A heartfelt appreciation to Parent Association and all volunteers.

KUDOS



Photos by Jackson F

What an absolutely unforgettable night! With over 300 athletes, parents, and fans packing the room, this year's Athletic Awards Night was the ultimate celebration of grit, growth, and STA pride.

Together, we honored the unstoppable forces of our sports programs, handing out hardware for **Team MVPs**, **Most Improved**, and **Most Inspirational** players. This year shattered records, with more students than ever before wearing the STA jersey and representing our school with pride.

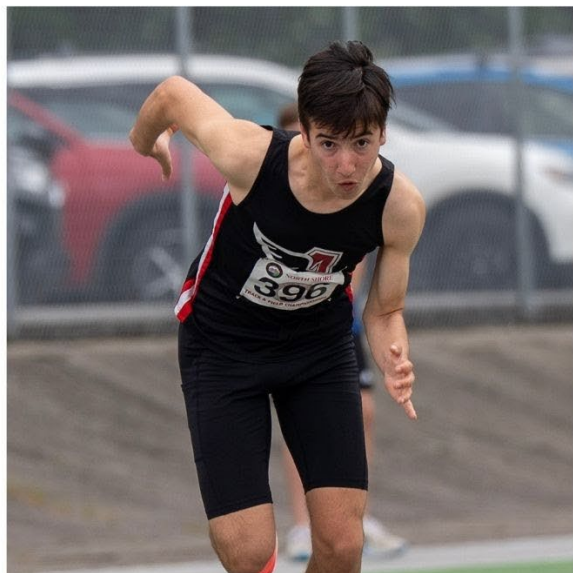
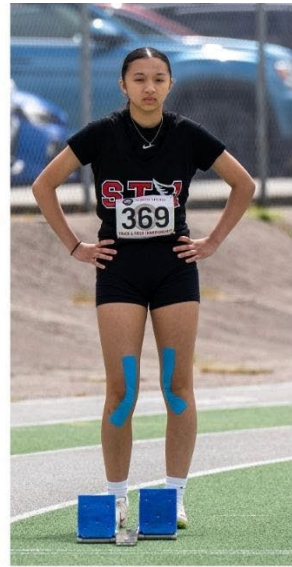
An event this massive doesn't just happen by magic. A massive shoutout and thank you goes to the incredible **Ms. Sandie Atkinson**, **Ms. Sabrina Baily Matiru** and Ms. **Paola Puelle** and **the team of parent volunteers** for working tireless hours behind the scenes to bring the night to life.

Our rockstar student crew also stole the show:

- **Jackson F** captured every epic moment behind the lens.
- **Danika W** put together a phenomenal, memory-filled slideshow.
- Our dynamic Masters of Ceremonies - **Zoe W**, **Maddie O**, and **Gaby M** - kept the energy electric all night long!

To our dedicated coaches, supportive parents, and fearless athletes: *thank you*. You didn't just make this a great year; you made it historic. Go FIGHTING SAINTS!

Athletic Director Nick Allen



Photos by Jackson F

2025-26 STA Track & Field Top Performers

Four months, from winter's chill to summer's promise, STA's Track and Field team has run, jumped and thrown their way from formative practices to winning the North Shore Championship. Fighting on they went, to give their best, at the Vancouver Sea to Sky championships, culminating with 15 athletes sent to compete with the best at the BC Track and Field Championships. Our athlete's spirited and season best performances impressed their competitors, no less their teammates, coaches, and families, who cheered on.

With pride and thanks, we celebrate the efforts and accomplishments of our Fighting Saints at the BC Track & Field Championships; and in a special way our athletes graduating this spring, who's five year legacy lives on in the athletes they led, who will fight on next year.

A humble thank you and well done for our **coaching staff's** generous work with our athletes February to June - Mr. Savage and Mr. Tapp (Throws), Mr. Domina (Middle Distance), Ms. Morris, Mr. Cheng, Ms. Halsall, Ms. Esmail (AWE athlete coordinator and coaches), Ms. Voloshin and Ms. Mcleod (Hurdles, and Long, Triple and High Jump); and a special shout out to our **team captains** who shared their passion, skill, joy of effort, and leadership setting a great example for our up and coming athletes - Aidan J , Rehan K, Georgia K, Sara M, Maddy O, and Clair U

Seniors:

- **Georgia K** (Grad 2026) - 400 Meter Hurdles 30" (SB - 1:10.56)

Juniors:

- **Isabel E** - 100 Meter Dash, 200 Meter Dash (SB - 12.87), Long Jump (SB 4.97), 4x100 Meter Relay (SB - 52.45)
- **Matteo M** - 100 Meter Dash AWE-II (SB - 21.30)
- **Ryan L** - 100 Meter Dash AWE-II, Shot Put AWE-II (SB - 21.17)
- **Hannah MW** - 100 Meter Dash AWE II (SB - 29.12)
- **Ava W** - 4x100 Meter Relay (SB - 52.45)
- **Bella L** - 4x100 Meter Relay (SB - 52.45)
- **Kyla P** - High Jump (SB - 1.35m)
- **Luc T** - 100 Meter Dash (SB - 11.62), 200 Meter Dash (SB - 23.22), 4x100 Meter Relay (SB - 45.48)
- **Max H** - 4x100 Meter Relay (SB - 45.48)
- **Joshua W** - 4x100 Meter Relay (SB - 45.48)
- **Spencer B** - 4x100 Meter Relay (SB - 45.48)

Bantam:

- **Isabel A** - 100 Meter Dash (SB - 13.50), 200 Meter Dash (SB - 28.25), 4x100 Meter Relay (SB - 52.45)
- **Johannes W** - 200 Meter Dash (SB 25.36), 400m Dash (SB - 56.12)
- **Ramil B** - 100 Meter Dash AWE-II (SB - 20.50)

Coach Steve Vachon

STA Student Talent Show

The 2026 STA Talent Show hosted by Student Council was a huge success! A total of spectacular seven acts performed, and 12 students participated. Three gift cards were given out with the amounts of \$25, \$50, and \$100. Our third place winner was **Justin P.** He had the audience moving with his vocals singing, Risk It All by Bruno Mars. In second place, the winners were **Jordan P, Jonathan W, and Aidan J.** These Grade 12 boys all sang so beautifully, accompanied by Jonathan on the keyboard. And our first place winner was **Alina W.** Alina performed a song called Drowning Love on the keyboard. Her confidence, elegance, and grace secured her first place win of a \$100 gift card. We are so incredibly proud of all of the acts that performed. Their courage, gifts and dedication to their talent made the show so memorable.



Congratulations to Penelope A (Gr 8)!

Penelope won first place in the Gr.7-9 category of the CBC's national First Page student writing challenge. Over 1 200 students entered the national competition which has students writing the first page of a novel set 150 years in the future. Students were asked to imagine "how current events and trends - from the ethics of artificial intelligence to climate change - have played out in the year 2176." Penelope's story "*After 10 pm*" can be read [here](#). Read more about the contest [here](#).

We have exciting news! **Shane A** was chosen and will be presenting at **TEDx West Vancouver Youth** on June 20 at the Kay Meek Arts Centre, West Vancouver.

This year's theme challenges young people to question assumptions, reimagine what's possible, and write their own definitions: of achievement, identity, community, and the future. Because the most powerful ideas don't just fit into the world. They change it. Featuring young speakers sharing ideas worth spreading across science, art, community, and everything in between, this event is designed for curious minds and everyone who believes in their potential.



SHANE ARDEHALI

Shane is a Grade 8 STA student, and a Mensa Canada member since age 5. At 10 years old, he became a published author of 'Adventures of Ezza the Rover in Space', and sequels are already in the works. Shane plays tennis, practices taekwondo, swims, and spends his free time reading.



Thank you to Martha Pulido

As a graduating gift to STA, Grade 12 parent Martha Pulido has spent 50+ hours restoring the statues of Mary and St. Joseph and Jesus which reside inside of the convent. Thank you, Ms. Pulido, for your time and talent towards the restoration.

SACRED ART RESTORATIONS.

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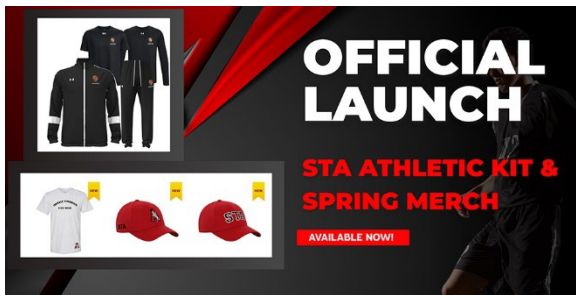
OFFICE UPDATES

STA Graduation Events

- **Commencement Ceremony:** Thursday, **June 18** at Massey Theatre at 7:00pm
- Dinner and Dance: Friday, **June 19** at the Westin Bayshore at 6:00pm

The important final details about the upcoming Commencement Ceremony and Dinner Dance are [here](#).

We thank you in advance for taking note of arrival times and deadlines for those students wishing to take the school bus to Commencement.



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.

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](#).

Now Due: STA Textbooks, Library Books and Sport Team Uniforms

All school textbooks/library materials and sport team uniforms need to be returned to the appropriate teachers immediately. If the items are lost, the replacement cost must be paid. Teachers have sent emails to students (and their parents) for items which have not been returned.

Due Day: Thursday, June 25 to return or pay the replacement cost.

If the item(s) is(are) not returned or replacement cost paid, students will not be able to collect their yearbooks.

Did you rent an instrument for Band?

Band students who have rented school instruments please return the instruments to the band room ASAP! All band students with a Long & McQuade rental need to return it to them not the school. All music students need to take their personal instruments home this week.



Is Your Child Finished With Their Locker?

The combination locks provided to the students at the beginning of the year belong to the student. Please remind your child to remove their lock from their school locker. Students should bring the combination locks back to school on the first day of school, September 8.

Reminder

This is a reminder that if students are attending extra help or studying at school they must be in full uniform.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

June

8 - 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 - Award Assembly and Yearbook Distribution at 9:00am.

Last day for Students and final learning updates published.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

2024 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 from 6:00-9:00pm at St. Matthew's Parish.

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

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES



Volunteers Needed at Keats Camps

Summer camp begins in less than a month, and Keats Camps urgently needs volunteers. Our greatest need is for the week of **June 29 - July 6**, when only one volunteer is currently registered. Additional volunteers are also needed throughout the summer for program support, counsellors, Mariners Inn (gift and sweets shop), maintenance, and other camp ministries.

Most volunteers are **17 years of age or older**, but we are happy to discuss opportunities for younger individuals who are willing to serve.

Volunteers can serve for a week, multiple weeks, or longer. While even a few days can help, a full week is especially valuable.

Volunteer Summer Staff fill a wide variety of important roles, including:

- Skippers and First Mates (counsellors who stay in cabins with campers)
- Program team (games, activities, crafts, special events, character roles, cabin support)
- Mariners Inn staff (gift and sweets shop)
- Maintenance and groundskeeping (experience is an asset)
- Painting and facility upkeep
- Boat driving (where qualified)

Please prayerfully consider serving or sharing this opportunity with someone who may be interested.

Register here: <https://keatscamps.com/staff-volunteers/>

Or contact Keats Camps at 604-925-6799

BE PREPARED. GET TRAINED

Canadian Red Cross Training Partner

READY FOR A FUN, SAFE SUMMER?

CANADIAN RED CROSS
YOUTH LEADERSHIP & CPR/FA COURSES

WITH
DR. LAURA TIBERIO ND MSOM

DRLTIBERIO@GMAIL.COM

AT [CHRIST THE REDEEMER CHURCH, WVAN](#)
CLICK FOR MAP
ALL REGISTRATIONS DUE 1 WEEK BEFORE CLASS

CPR/FIRST AID COURSE - SCAN TO REGISTER

Youth Leader Stay Safe Course
FRIDAY, JUNE 5
SCHOOL PRO D DAY
9AM-2PM | \$85 | GR 4+

Youth Leader Babysitting Course
FRIDAY, JUNE 26
SUMMER BREAK
8AM-3PM | \$95 | GR 5+

Teens/Adults
Blended Online + In Person CPR, Emergency or Standard First Aid Courses*
FRIDAY, JUNE 26
CPR | 4-7PM | \$90 | GR 8+ IN SEPT
EMERG | 4-8:30PM | \$135 | AGE 15+
STAND | 4-9PM | \$200 | AGE 16+

*SELF-PACED ONLINE LEARNING BY JUNE 25 FOLLOWED BY IN PERSON SKILLS ON JUNE 26

3 YEAR CERTIFICATE UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION

REGISTER TODAY!

YOUTH CLASSES
SCAN TO REGISTER

PARENT ASSOCIATION / PARENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Parent Association Monthly Meeting - Thursday, June 11 at 9:30am

The STA PA welcomes new and returning parents at Alumni Room.



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!