STA At-a-Glance

Week 4: September 22 - September 29, 2026

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Students have the chance to make a lasting impact not only on our school, but around the world through the STA Walkathon. 10% of proceeds from each Grade are set aside for their Grade 12 year where students decide on a charity to make their collective donation to. The student goal this year is $60,000. If students reach this goal, then ALL students will enjoy a non-uniform Spirit Week. Please encourage your children to participate. Family and friends can make a donation **here**.

We are also looking for volunteers in a variety of roles. If you are able to walk the route with our students, serve as a crossing guard, stamp hands at checkpoints, or help with our post-Walkathon lunch, please go to the **Parent Participation Portal** to register. You will be credited for your volunteer hours.

KUDOS

Kudos to Junior Girls Volleyball Team 🥇

The team competed in the Days of the Dome tournament in Burnaby last weekend and had a fantastic tournament!

After dominating in their pool, the girls went on to finish the tournament winning all their games and coming in first 🥇 ! The players came out on top out of nine teams and only conceded one set. Woo!

Congratulations to the amazing start of the season team! Thanks to coach Laura Pickard and team sponsor Ericka Reyes

OFFICE UPDATES

Dear Parents and Guardians,

A friendly reminder to please follow the parking regulations around the school. The commercial loading zone is reserved for commercial vehicles and loading during school hours, and the no-parking zone directly in front of the school has a five-minute limit and is intended to remain available for student drop-off and pick-up.

Please do not park, wait, or drop off students in the alleys surrounding the school. We also ask families to be considerate of our neighbours by keeping driveways and access points clear and making thoughtful, neighbourly decisions when parking in the area.

Bylaw officers were in the area last week and may issue tickets to vehicles that are not following posted regulations. Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us maintain a safe and respectful relationship with our neighbours.

Sincerely,
Mieszko Krol
Principal

Grade 12 Parents - Graduation Information Night
Please join us **this evening** at **6:00pm** for our very important Grade 12 parent information meeting. We look forward to seeing you and providing you with details about the year. Mr. Salituro will also be presenting important grade 12 post-secondary information.

Grade 9 - Immunization Clinic
The clinic will be administered by a team of nurses from Vancouver Coastal Health in the school's auxiliary gym on **Monday, September 28** at 9:30am. The students will be called down by class through the morning.

Orange Shirt Day and Truth and Reconciliation Assembly
In recognition of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on **Tuesday, September 29** students are welcome to wear **Orange Shirts** with their uniform kilt or trousers.
A **Truth and Reconciliation Assembly** will take place at **11:00am** in the school gym. Families are welcome to attend.

Accessing STA Information: the school's yearly **calendar** is posted on the school's **website**. Please ensure the **office** is informed of any address changes during the summer.
PLEASE NOTE: Administration Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm.

Overdue Activity Fee
Student activity fees are past due. The forms were emailed to all families as part of the Welcome Back Package in August. The activity fee and form should be **returned to the office as soon as possible.**
If you have misplaced the form, please **email** the office and we will provide you a copy. Thank you for your prompt attention.

School Attendance Reminders
We require your help to ensure that we know the whereabouts of students at all times during the school day.
Email: **office@aquinas.org**
Absence from School

- Parents/guardians please email before 8:45 am every day to inform the office of your child's absence. Written notification is a Ministry requirement.
- If a student will be away from school for an extended period of time due to personal/family reasons, we require:
  - parent/guardian to email the office with the dates and reason for absence
  - student to complete an Extended Leave of Absence form. This can be collected from the office. The student must have all their teachers sign the form and submit it to the office before their leave of absence.
- If a student will be away from school for extracurricular activities (e.g. sports, dance, drama academies/clubs), please email the dates in advance.

Late Arrivals and Appointments

- If a student arrives late, they must sign in at the office before going to class.
- We require a valid reason from parent/guardian for a student arriving late (please email the office; refer to school handbook for examples).
- Unexcused lates will result in the student serving a lunchtime detention. Repeated tardiness will result in consequences involving administration.

Attention Grade 9 students and parents: Take Our Kids to Work Day - Wednesday, November 4

Wednesday, November 4 is the provincial Take Our Kids to Work Day (TOKTWD). As part of the Career Education 9 curriculum, all Grade 9 students will have the opportunity to spend the day with a parent, guardian, or family member at their workplace. This experience allows students to observe and participate in the workplace, ask questions, and gain valuable insight into different careers and working environments. Participation is a mandatory component of the Career Education 9 curriculum, and students will complete a summative assignment reflecting on their experience following the event.

Please complete the attached google link to let us know where your child will be placed on this day. If your child does not have a placement, please indicate on the google form so we can help to find a placement for them. We are also looking for parents and guardians who may be able to host additional Grade 9 students at their workplace. If you are able to welcome one or more students to your workplace, please complete the appropriate section on the form to let us know and we will be in contact with you. Thank you for supporting our Grade 9 students and helping make this a meaningful and valuable learning experience.

Grade 9 TOKTWD Registration

Sincerely,
Mrs. M. Purkiss and Ms. Price Career Education 9 Teachers

What is QUEST?
Quest is an acronym for **Q**uiet, **U**nplugged, **E**ducation, **S**tudy **T**ime.
The purpose of QUEST is to create a **quiet**, **focused environment** that **mirrors the reflective atmosphere of the Chapel**. It takes place during Chapel Mass, once per week.
Just as the Chapel provides a space for spiritual growth and contemplation, QUEST offers students an opportunity for **uninterrupted, device-free time to concentrate on their studies or personal reading**.

This initiative is **designed to foster mindfulness, independence, and a sense of calm**, allowing all students to benefit from a dedicated period of stillness and productivity during their day.

The Saints STAtion

Our dedicated Parent Association is opening the school store for back-to-school nearly new uniform sales and pick-up of any school merchandise and/or athletic kits that were ordered in the Spring.

- **Dates**: Monday, Wednesday and Friday
- **Time:** 3:00pm - 4:00pm

Payment: Cash, Debit and Credit Card

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 28 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. For more information, please visit **here**. Financial aid is available.

Early Application Deadline: **November 8** (Apply by this date to receive an early decision in the first week of December and, if admitted, secure guaranteed placement at one of your top 10 campus choices.)
Final Application Deadline: **January 6**

Attention for Grade 11 and 12 students: LONDON • PARIS • BARCELONA!
STA EUROPE TRIP Spring 2027- JOIN THE ADVENTURE!
The excitement is growing **- 25 STA students are already registered!**
Thinking of joining? Save $150 when you register by October 12, 2026!
Already registered? Bring a friend!
Refer **1 friend** → **$50** discount
Refer **2 friends** → **$100** discount
Experience London, Paris and Barcelona with your STA friends and create memories that will last a lifetime!

Mr. Domina

UPCOMING EVENTS

September:

22 - Grade 12 Parents Night at 6:00pm - 7:30pm. Grade 12 Students are encouraged to attend

24 - Meet the Teacher - Grade 8 Parents at 6:00pm - 8:00pm

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

28 - Grade 9 Immunization Clinic hosted by VCH

29 - Orange Shirt Day (orange shirts may be worn over the uniform kilt or trousers)
29 - Truth and Reconciliation Assembly 11:00am. Families are welcome to attend

30 - SCHOOL CLOSED - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

October

4 - The Door Is Open

7 - Walkathon - EARLY DISMISSAL at 12:00pm

7-9 - Grade 11 Retreat to Camp Stillwood

12 - SCHOOL CLOSED - Thanksgiving Day
20 - Photo Re-takes and Grade class photos
23 - Provincial Pro-D Day - No classes in session

PARENT PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITES

Join the Cafeteria Team! – Volunteers Needed

Dear Parents,

Our team provides an essential service to our staff and students. We rely on parent support to make this service. For parents with daytime availability looking to connect with the school community while getting a peek into their child's day, this is a great opportunity!

We are finalizing our schedule and still have a few spots available. We offer two types of positions:

- **Full-Time:** A regular weekly shift from September to June (2.0 to 2.5 hours, depending on the day and your family's PPP requirement). This completely fulfills your annual PPP requirement.
- **On-Call (Part-Time):** Flexible coverage for parents unable to commit weekly, stepping in when managers or full-time volunteers need extra support.

Thank you for supporting our students!

Please contact **Claudia Montagut** (Cafeteria Coordinator) at if interested or have any questions.

Also, we are looking for full-time **traffic duty volunteers** for this school year 2026-27. We have many shifts available (any adult family member can support the role so you can have some flexibility in your volunteering).
If you are interested, please email **Karen Lo**.

AI WORKSHOP

OPTIONS SOLUTIONS
Educational Consultants

vaseem
THE AI GUY

Thriving with AI: A Workshop for Families

AI is already part of your family's world, shaping how students learn, how parents work, and how information is created and shared. Yet, most families have not had the opportunity to sit down together and explore how to use it thoughtfully, confidently, and responsibly.

Event Overview:
This interactive back-to-school experience brings parents and students together to build a shared AI toolbox for school, home, and the future.

Over 90 minutes, families will explore how AI works, where it can be genuinely helpful, and where greater care and critical thinking are required. Students will learn how to use AI as a tool that supports, rather than replaces, their own ideas, judgment, creativity, and learning. Parents will gain greater insight into how their children may be using AI and practical ways to guide productive tools to navigate AI.

Before the Workshop:
All workshop participants will receive a pre-workshop survey designed to gauge AI readiness, capturing current knowledge levels, concerns, and how teens are already using AI. The results will be used to tailor the session to Options families.

Together, parents and students will gain:

- A shared language for talking about AI
- Practical prompting tools and techniques
- Strategies for evaluating the accuracy and reliability of AI-generated information
- A clearer understanding of responsible AI use in school
- Family guidelines for privacy, judgment, boundaries, and digital responsibility
- Greater confidence using AI as a tool for learning, problem-solving, creativity, and preparation for the future
- Clarity on the future of AI in the workforce

Session Facilitator:
Options Solutions will host the online session facilitated by AI educator Vaseem Baig, based in Ontario. Vaseem is internationally recognized for his skill of helping individuals, families, and organizations build practical and responsible fluency with artificial intelligence. His approachable teaching style creates a welcoming environment where students and parents can explore AI together, ask honest questions, and develop skills they can begin using immediately.

After the Workshop:
We hope this workshop inspires ongoing family conversations about AI. One month later, we'll gather again on Nov. 3rd at 7:00 pm for a bonus 30-minute follow-up session where parents and students can ask new questions and continue the discussion.

Join Us:
This is a hands-on opportunity for families to experiment, ask questions, and learn alongside one another.

- Tuesday, Sept. 29th from 7:00 - 8:30 pm
- Held via Zoom
- $75 + GST per family (includes the bonus follow-up session)
- Contact Options Solutions to register

www.optionssolutionsed.com info@optionssolutionsed.com 604-922-8456

Grade 11 Retreat to Camp Stillwood - October 7-9

The grade 11 retreat is happening from October 7 - 9. This retreat is a vital component of our school's program, we look forward to all of the students enjoying a fantastic opportunity to connect, reflect, and grow together as a community. All students in Grade 11 are expected to attend as this is a graduation requirement. Gr. 11 students received the permission forms last week.

STA Men's Hostel Ministry - Friday, September 25 at 8:00 - 9:00am

Thursday morning we will begin our food collections for the Archdiocese of Vancouver's shelter. This is your opportunity to feed the hungry and help those in need by making sandwiches or baked goods at home. Then bring the food you make at home to the **STA Campus Ministry office** before school starts on Thursday. You can make as many as you like, 12 sandwiches or 12 baked goods equals 1 service hour. Please individually wrap each sandwich or baked good, and they MUST be home made to receive service hours. Thank you for your generosity in feeding the hungry!

All students are invited to Alpha! Alpha is hosted by students in grade 11 and 12, with a desire to create a space for all students to explore their faith! Come for Jesus and junk food in room 409, starting **Monday, September 28**.

STA CAFETERIA

Breakfast and lunch are available at the **STA School Cafeteria** every day!
All food is prepared daily, with a selection of daily menu items and daily specials. Students can purchase items with cash, debit or credit card. STA gift cards can also be purchased at the office and used in the cafeteria.
Breakfast items are bacon or sausage egg sandwiches, hash browns, tater tots and pastries.
Daily menu items include hamburgers, hotdogs, fries, poutine, a variety of salads, a variety of sandwiches and wraps, veggies & dip. Please click **here** for weekly updates.