STA At-a-Glance

Week 9: October 27 - November 3, 2026

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

This year marks the 37th anniversary of the STA Craft Fair & Market

To ensure our Christmas Fair runs smoothly, we need the support and participation of our school families. This is a large community event that requires many volunteers to make it a success. We encourage all parents to sign up for one or more volunteer positions and help make this special event possible. Every helping hand makes a difference. Please consider participating with your son or daughter.

Parent participation opportunities can be found **here.**

Student participation opportunities are listed on the volunteer board on the 3rd floor near the office.

If you are interested in helping to organize the event, please contact us **here**



Additional Participation Opportunities

- Book Sale – We are collecting gently used books of all kinds, including: children's books, novels, cookbooks, educational books and more. Any books in good condition that can be enjoyed by another reader are welcome.
- Sign placement – Please pick up a lawn sign from the school office and display it at your workplace or home to help promote the fair.

Christmas Craft Fair - CONFERENCE CALL
We will be holding a conference call on **Wednesday, October 28** at **7:00pm** to discuss the Christmas Fair, coordinate outstanding tasks, review what still needs to be done, and address any questions or needs as we prepare for the event.
All parents who are interested in helping or would like to learn more about the preparations are welcome to join.
Join Zoom Meeting **here**
Meeting ID: 847 7050 5590; Passcode: 9gPX9g

Thank you for helping us make our Christmas Fair a success!



The STA Annual Poinsettia sale is here until December 17

Once again the STA Parent Association is proudly selling beautiful **Christmas poinsettias**, wreaths and seasonal arrangements. The funds raised will be used to improve and enhance STA student extra-curricular activities.

The order deadline is November 17 and plant pickups will take place on Wednesday, December 3. Pick-ups will be located at the back of the school, east end of the parking lot by the makers lab metal garage door.

We thank you in advance for your support.



Dear STA Community,

The Social Studies, Visual and Performing Arts, and English Departments are pleased to collaborate and invite STA students to participate in the Royal Canadian Legion's annual literary and video/film competitions.

These competitions encourage students to explore themes of remembrance, service, sacrifice, and the experiences of Canadians, while developing their skills in writing, storytelling, research, and visual communication.

We are particularly excited to encourage participation this year because several STA students who entered last year went on to win at the regional level, with their work then being considered for the national finals. You may have read about some of these achievements in one of the STA-at-a-Glance publications last year. Their success reflects the quality and creativity of work produced by our students.

Students may participate in the Remembrance Day Literary Contest or the Poster and Video/Film Contest, depending on their interests and grade level. The competitions allow students to share their work with a wider audience while engaging meaningfully with Canadian history and the tradition of Remembrance.

Participation is optional and extracurricular. Students are welcome to work on their submissions independently, with teachers in the English, Visual and Performing Arts, and Social Studies Departments available to provide guidance and encouragement.

Teachers in these departments will share information directly with students, including submission guidelines, topics, age categories, and deadlines. Students who are interested in participating should submit their Literary or Poster entries with an **entry form** to their respective teacher on or

by November 12, 2026. Video Contest entries must be entered **online** before December 15, 2026.

Students can speak with their teacher or **check** for more information or clarification about the requirements. An entry form must accompany any submission. We hope many of our STA students will consider taking part and have the chance to remember, reflect, and create.

Sincerely, The Social Studies, Visual and Performing Arts, and English Departments

Ms. Krajicek, Ms. Arkiletian, and Ms. Sawdon

St. Thomas Aquinas Regional Secondary School

KUDOS

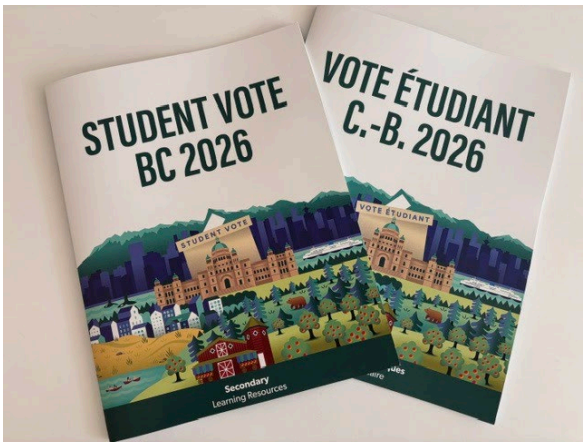


Congratulations to all of our runners who participated in the last North Shore XCountry meet last week! We had some "best runs" posted by several athletes and we narrowly missed out on the Junior Boys banner by a few points. Highlights of the season include several of our runners placing in the top 10 in their grade overall in league competition.

- **Gr. 8 boys:** Oliver F (1st), Pablo Y (2nd), Benny A (5th)
- **Gr. 9 boys:** Rory S (7th), Jake B (10th)
- **Gr. 10 girls:** Audrey S (4th)

We are off to Zone championships this Wednesday in an attempt to earn spots at Provincials. Go Saints!

Building an Engaged Citizenry



Last week, our **Grade 10 Social Studies students** participated in Student Vote for the municipal elections, where more than 60,000 students cast a ballot from 470 schools, within 94 municipalities and regional districts throughout the province! You might be interested in seeing the **results**. This coming week, they will have the opportunity to cast their ballots in the Student Vote for the provincial elections. Through CIVIX's Student Vote program, students are learning about the democratic process and the importance of participating in our civic life. These experiences encourage students to think critically about the issues that affect their communities and the role they can play in shaping the future. We also hope this learning extends beyond the classroom, sparking meaningful conversations at home as students discuss election issues with their families and reflect on the importance of exercising their right to vote. By engaging young people in democracy today, we are helping to foster informed, thoughtful, and active citizens for tomorrow.

Grade 10 Social Studies: Provincial Election Student Vote

Grade 10 students in Mr. Grossi's and Mr. Oluic's Social Studies classes recently participated in CIVIX's Student Vote program for the provincial election in addition to the municipal election. From a Catholic worldview, voting is an opportunity to exercise our responsibility to the common good by making informed choices that respect human dignity and promote the well-being of all members of society.

Parents are invited to explore the Student Vote results **here**.



Thank you to all of the STA students who worked hard to bring in donations for the Walkathon, and thank you to the STA families who encouraged their efforts and made donations themselves. This year, students raised $51,000. After 10% is set aside for the Grad Legacy Project, and a further $2,000 is provided to Student Council for activities throughout the year, there is approximately $44,000 for students to decide how we will invest the money for activities, enhancements and learning.
Congratulations to the following Homeroom classrooms who raised the highest funds. Students in these classrooms will be treated to a pizza lunch tomorrow, October 28.

- Grade 8: Ms. Bianchi
- Grade 9: Mr. Ferry
- Grade 10: Ms. Price
- Grade 11: Mrs. Hurley
- Grade 12: Mr. Grossling

Swim Team Success at the October 24 Meet!

Congratulations to our swim team on a fantastic meet on October 24! Our swimmers earned several top-10 finishes, including Roberto's 6th-place finish in the 50m freestyle with a personal best, Luisa's 5th-place finish in the 50m backstroke, and Ronan and Rayin placing 8th and 9th, respectively, in the same event. We also celebrate Roberto's 6th-place finish in the 50m breaststroke, Rayin's 9th-place finish in the 100m freestyle, and Luisa's 9th-place finish in the 50m butterfly!



Congratulations as well to Owen (50m backstroke), Rayin (50m freestyle), and Chloe (50m breaststroke) on achieving personal best times, and no disqualifications. Way to go, everyone!

Next up: ZONES! Best of luck to our swimmers as they prepare for the next stage of competition. We're proud of your hard work and dedication!

Kudos to the Caring Club students who had the first of their monthly visits to Venvi Hollyburn Care Home on the weekend! They organized fun entertainment and visited with the residents. Lots of smiles all around!

OFFICE UPDATES



Purdys Christmas Chocolate Sale until November 30

Grade 12 students are selling Purdys chocolates as fundraising towards their Dinner Dance event in June. Yummy chocolate, gift giving and supporting a grad - it doesn't get any sweeter than that!

Click **here** to link to the 2026 Purdys Christmas Chocolate Sale. Pick up is **December, 9**.

Instructions for ordering Purdys Christmas Chocolates online



Graduation Photos by Custodio Photographers
Information about Graduation Photos has been emailed home. All **Grade 12s** need to book an appointment to have their photo taken. Click here for more **information**.
Appointment times are available until **November 4.** Book early to get your preferred time!
Click here to book your **appointment**.



Reminder to all Grade 9 students and parents: Take Our Kids to Work Day is 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.
We have a small number of students who have not been able to find a placement for this day. If you are able to host one or more additional students at your workplace please contact Mrs. Purkiss.
Thank you for your support of this important Career Education opportunity.



Join Team STA - 2027 Vancouver Sun Run
Canada's largest 10K returns on **Sunday, April 18, 2027**, and time is almost up to save! **Special pricing ends this Saturday, October 31.**
STA students, parents, staff, families, and friends are invited to run, jog, or walk together.
Team name: STA (High School)
Team access code: KQEAET
Register before the deadline and help us build a great STA team. Go Saints!
Mr. Domina

UPCOMING EVENTS

October

30 - Spirit Day - Hallowe'en Theme
November
1 - The Door Is Open - 9:00am
4 - Grade 9: Take Your Kids To Work Day
8 - Christmas Craft Fair - 10:00am-4:00pm
10 - Remembrance Day Assembly - 11:00am - Families are welcome
11 - SCHOOL CLOSED - Remembrance Day - No classes in session
12, **19** and **27** - Men's Hostel Ministry - Baked Goods or Sandwich Drop Off at 8:00 - 9:00am
19 - Grade 8 Retreat
20 - SCHOOL CLOSED - Pro-D Day - No classes in session
26 - Open House 5:45 - 8:45pm

STA Parents are invited to participate as panelists in our upcoming **Career Exploration Day**. This special event is designed to help our Grade 12 students explore a variety of educational paths and to gain inspiration for their future learning. We would be delighted to have you share your education and career journey with our students.



Format

- This event is for Grade 12 students, and their attendance is mandatory. They are expected to complete a short assignment post-event as part of their Capstone graduation portfolio.
- Students will work in small groups.
- Panelists will be paired with another professional in their field, or in a complementary field, so students are aware of the synergies between professionals. We will share this pairing with you in advance.
- Parent participation hours (1.5) will be provided for your participation.

If you are interested in participating, please complete the Google form **here** by **November 6**. Thank you for your continued support in helping our students learn, grow, and dream big!



Halloween Safety and Spirit Day Reminders

As Halloween approaches, we encourage all students and families to celebrate safely. This Friday, students are invited to participate in our **Halloween Spirit Day** by wearing costumes that are fun, **appropriate, and modest**. For safety and respect of our learning environment, please remember:

- **No masks** (faces must be identifiable)
- **No weapons or replicas** of any kind
- **Costumes should be respectful and school-appropriate**

Let's make it a safe and spirited day for everyone at STA!

For those participating in Spirit Day, students are required to donate a canned good or a minimum of $2. Collections will be taken during first period. For those students who don't provide a donation, a full school uniform is required.

Students can enjoy the Haunted House organized by the Student Council, on the first floor. Participation warning: there will be flashing lights, a fog machine, smoke, and fake blood. Cost: $2 (cash only).

PARENT PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITES



Join the Cafeteria Team!

- **Full-Time** volunteer positions available for this school year (this will fulfill 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) if interested or have any questions.

STA Parent Association Needs YOU!
Next Meeting - Thursday, November 5 at 9:30am at Boardroom



We welcome and encourage all parents to get involved and volunteer at our school. The primary focus of the STA Parent Association is to strengthen our school community by supporting annual events and activities at STA. We achieve this by involving ourselves with activities that connect students, parents and families. Monies raised by these activities are used for the improvement of our school or the enhancement of student extracurricular activities. Through these activities, the Parent Association also provides parents with opportunities to volunteer within our school community. Further details on the Parent Association can be found on the **website**.

CAMPUS MINISTRY



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 every **Monday**.

Candy Drive for Good Shepherd Ministry

On Friday, students will receive a brown paper bag in their first block class. Students are invited to bring this bag home, fill it with candy, and return it to the Campus Ministry office next week! We will make candy bags with a note for Good Shepherd Ministry Volunteers to distribute every night on the downtown eastside. Our candy donations allow the volunteers to show those living on the streets that they are not forgotten, that they are seen and cared for. Thank you for sharing your candy!





All Soul's Day - November 2
All Souls' Day is also known as The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, which is celebrated on November 2. This is a day of prayer for those who have died. Catholics are encouraged to pray for the faithful departed, to remember them, and to give thanks.

During the month of November, we will be offering our weekly school masses for the deceased loved ones of our community. We invite you to include the names of your loved ones at this **link**.

The **Door Is Open** is a Catholic Charities outreach service that provides meals and services to residents and transients in the Vancouver's eastside. Students prepare and serve a meal to those living on the downtown eastside while earning service hours. The school bus will depart from STA on **Sunday, November 1** at **9:00am** and return at approximately 1:30pm. Uniforms are not required. Students must register and submit a permission form with the Campus Ministry office by **Friday, November 30**.
Spots are limited!



CAFETERIA



STA Administration and **Cafeteria Staff** introduced several new menu items since September. Today we sent a **survey** to all students to ask for their feedback on which menu items they enjoy the most and would like to see become part of our regular rotating menu. If your son/daughter visits the cafeteria, please encourage them to take a few moments to complete the survey.