



St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School,
February 2019 Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Students,

We are officially half way through the school year. On Thursday, February 14th, our high school report cards will be sent home. On Monday, February 25th, our elementary report cards will be sent home. Elementary informal interviews will be held on **Wednesday, February 27th from 3:00pm - 5:30pm**. I would also like to take this opportunity to invite all parents of grade 8 students to a **High School information Session** on this same evening. It will begin at **5:30 and will be held in the library**. The session will cover important topics such as: Pathways (academic/applied/locally developed), the high school credit system, graduation requirements and compulsory & elective courses.

It is hard to believe that we have already started to plan for next year. Our **Open House will be hosted on Thursday, February 7th at 6:30pm**.

Open House Schedule	
Time	Event
6:30 – 7:00	Registration packages will be handed out in the main foyer
7:00 – 7:30	Presentation in the Atrium
7:30 – 8:30	Organized Tours of the School

This evening is open to all students interested in enrolling at STA particularly in our grade 7 and 9 programs or if they are new to our school. We will also be holding a used uniform sale during our Open House. The sale will run from 6:00 to 8:30.

All students in grades 8 to 11 will participate in our annual Course Fair on Wednesday, February 27th. The Course Fair will familiarize students with course options and facilitate the course selection process. Students will complete course selections on-line through My Blueprint. We are targeting a full submission of course selections by all students by the end of March so that we can begin timetabling and the staffing process.

On Wednesday, February 13th, students in grade 9 and 10 will be participating in a presentation facilitated by the Ontario Provincial Police. Students in grade 7 and 8 will participate in the session on Thursday, Feb 21st. The session will cover important information related to Internet safety and the responsible use of technology.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Danny Palumbo



Notes from the Chapel

"To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible."

---St. Thomas Aquinas

St. Thomas Aquinas Feast Day – Jan 28th

(This is an excerpt from "St. Thomas Aquinas" by Catherine Fournier, © Copyright 1997-2010 Domestic Church Communications Ltd. See www.domestic-church.com for more information.)

Saint Thomas Aquinas is one of the most famous saints of the Catholic Church. He is called a 'Doctor of the Church.' He was a theologian, and philosopher.

A theologian is someone who spends their life thinking about Jesus' life. They figure out things about God and the Catholic faith through prayer and study. Theologians help everyone learn about God.

Saint Thomas' love of God and learning wasn't always respected. His parents sent him to a monastery when he was five years old to study and learn. His teachers were surprised by how quickly he learned and his great faith. But when Thomas announced that he wanted to become a Dominican, his family tried to stop him. His brothers captured him and locked him up in a castle. His mother, sister and brothers kept him there for two years!

Finally, they changed their minds, and at last Thomas was allowed to join the Dominicans. Even there though, he still had some trouble. Thomas was a very big man with a kind and humble manner. Because he didn't talk very much, everyone thought he was stupid. They called him 'the ox.'

But when they heard him preach everyone realized how wise and pious he really was. After he became a priest, Thomas studied in Paris and then taught at universities in many cities of Europe. He wrote more than 40 books and several beautiful hymns. All of his work praises God and has helped many people understand their faith better.

At the end of his life, Saint Thomas stopped writing. He had a vision of Heaven and decided that compared to the great glory of God, his writing was 'like straw.' Three months later, on his way to see the Pope, he died. He is now in Heaven, and after a lifetime of studying and writing about God, he is in the presence of God.

God bless you and your family,



Mark your calendar on **Thursday, Feb 07, 2019 at 7 PM** for our open house for all students entering Grade 7, 8 & 9 in the fall. Students and parent(s)/guardian(s) are invited to tour the school, meet teachers and administration staff, and find out about all our great programs here at STA.

In conjunction with the Open House, our Parent Council will be hosting a gently used uniform sale. Check it out... great deals to be had!

Resiliency for Parents:



Resiliency is important for parents too. Adults can increase their parenting resiliency in two practical ways. One is by not being afraid to ask for help. That could include professional help, but really, informal help may be even more important because we use it more often. No other society has ever assumed that all the responsibility for raising children would fall on the shoulders of one or two people. Traditionally, relatives, friends and neighbours have always assisted parents with child-rearing. We all parent better with the help of others. Another way to boost your parenting resiliency is to learn more about raising children. Learning about child development will help you understand and parent your kids through various ages and stages. Parenting courses, such as Triple P - the Positive Parenting Program - are good resources because they can help you increase the number of strategies in your parenting "tool kit". These courses are not for "bad" parents, they are for all parents who want to boost their parenting skills. One of the biggest benefits of taking a parenting course is discovering that you are not alone and that other parents struggle with the same kinds of issues that you face. That takes some of the pressure off and helps people feel better about themselves as parents.

February Dates to Remember:

- Feb 01, Semester 2 begins
- Feb 04, Catholic School Council Meeting in the Library, 6:45 PM
- Feb 07, OPEN HOUSE for 2018-2019 registration at 7 PM
- Feb 08, Grade 7/8 Literacy Day
- Feb 12, OPP Presentation for Grade 9 & 10
- Feb 14, Grade 9 to 12 Report Cards go home
- Feb 14, Friendship Candygrams Grade 7/8
- Feb 15, Student Senate meeting
- Feb 18, FAMILY DAY
- Feb 21, OPP Presentation for Grade 7 & 8
- Feb 21, Grade 9 to 12 Dance
- Feb 22, Dress Down Day, all proceeds to the Student Senate
- Feb 25, Grade 7/8 Report Cards go home
- Feb 26, STA hosting JR Boys EOSSAA Basketball
- Feb 27, 7/8 Parent/Teacher Interviews, 3:00 to 5:30 PM
- Feb 27, Gr. 8 going into Gr. 9 parent info session, 5:30

SAFE SCHOOLS PROCEDURES

With the safety of all our students at the forefront, we remind all parents of the importance of communicating with the school when your child will be late or absent.

Parent / Guardian Responsibility:

- **Communicate planned pupil absences or lateness to the school on a timely basis.**
- **Provide complete and current emergency information to enable the school to make any necessary follow-up contacts.**
- **Report to the Office when dropping off or picking up a child during school hours.**

Student Responsibility:

- **Students must report to the Office when arriving at school after the beginning of morning or afternoon classes.**

School Evacuation / Emergency

In case of a school evacuation or school emergency, updates will be posted on the front page of our school website at **www.sta-**

Dates for SEAC – 2018-2019

- Wednesday, February 27th, 2019
- Wednesday, March 27th, 2019
- Wednesday, April 17th, 2019
- Wednesday, May 22nd, 2019