



# St. Thomas Aquinas High School Newsletter

September 2011

**2011-2012 School Division Theme:**

**'EVER GROWING, LEARNING, AND LIVING IN CHRIST'**

- ✓ Principal  
Mr. D. Hagen  
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- ✓ Assistant Principal:  
Mr. Shawn Murdoch  
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- ✓ Counsellors:  
Mr. Colin Ash  
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- ✓ School Address:  
381 Grove Drive  
Spruce Grove, Alberta  
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- ✓ School Phone:  
780-962-1585
  
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780-962-1588
  
- ✓ School Web Site:  
<http://stachs.ca>

## Principal's Message

This year's school theme, "Ever Growing, Learning, and Living in Christ", is a call that will lead our school, and division, to create an atmosphere with our students for now and the future, both educationally and spiritually. What an inspiring theme!

This promises to be an exciting year as we move from St. Thomas Aquinas to St. Peter the Apostle. With this excitement, however, also comes the fact that we will no longer be known as St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School. I have had the privilege of working with students, staff and parents at St. Thomas for the past seven years. Although we all look forward to a new school we will miss STA as it is a great place to be! We are most privileged to work with the students and parents of St. Thomas this year, and we ask for your prayers and support during the year as we say congratulations to our last graduating class.

Parent involvement is encouraged at St. Thomas Aquinas. Education is a three-way partnership between school, student and parents. As with any partnership, communication is essential for a solid working relationship. We encourage parents to take advantage of all the different ways they can keep themselves informed of the happenings in the school community. I will post important dates and happenings on twitter: <http://twitter.com/principalsta>

God Bless,  
Mr. D. Hagen

## Easy Ways To Keep Up To Date

Studies find that one of the common elements attributed to student success in school is parental involvement in knowing what is happening at the school and keeping track of their son or daughter's academic progress. Parental involvement does not mean coming into the school everyday in order to know what is happening. Here are two easy ways to be involved in your child's schooling and progress.

**HomeLogic** is the most efficient way for you to stay up to date with your son or daughter's academic progress. School marks, assignments, newsletters and attendance can all be accessed on HomeLogic. Some teachers have created websites for their courses and information about these can be found within HomeLogic. If we have your email address in our system, we will also email the newsletter to you.

Of course you can use e-mail to contact your child's teacher (link on HomeLogic or on our website) or you can phone us and we can put you through to their voice-mail.

With all of the ways to keep in touch, we look forward to hearing from you during the school year. Welcome (back) to St. Thomas Aquinas!

**New School/Division Website!** Take a moment to visit STA's new webpage located at [www.stachs.ca](http://www.stachs.ca). This useful tool will provide you with information about the daily activities happening at STA, a means to learn more about your child's teacher on their individual web pages, and will connect you with resources to aid your son/daughter in their studies, and more.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**August 31** - Gr. 9's back at school  
**September 1** - All grades back at school  
**September 9** - Deadline for course changes  
**September 8** - School Opening Mass  
**September 22** - Awards/Meet the Teacher 6:30 - 8:30 pm  
**September 26** - School Council Meeting 6:00 pm

**October 1** - STA Sr. Volleyball Tournament (TLC)  
**October 7** - PD No School  
**October 10** - Thanksgiving No School  
**October 17** - Grade 9 retreat

## 2011-12 STA Staff

### Administration:

Mr. D. Hagen Principal  
Mr. S. Murdoch Assistant Principal

### Teaching Staff:

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Mr. N. Abe        | Mr. T. Koch       |
| Mr. B Allan       | Mr. G. Martin     |
| Mr. C. Ash        | Mr. S. McKennitt  |
| Mrs. V. Bjorge    | Mr. C. Mierau     |
| Mr. C. Boyko      | Mr. S. Ouellette  |
| Mr. D. Briner     | Mr. R. Paolinelli |
| Mrs. A. Coull     | Mr. L. Plante     |
| Mr. D. Considine  | Mr. D. Proulx     |
| Mrs. T. DeLancey  | Ms. J. Rehmann    |
| Mr. C. Delano     | Mr. D. Schreiber  |
| Mr. C. Donic      | Mr. C. Schroeder  |
| Miss K. Doran     | Mr. M. Tomkow     |
| Mr. T. Ezio       | Mr. B. Veldhoen   |
| Mr. M. Filipski   | Ms. J. Waring     |
| Mrs. L. Hetlinger | Mr. P. Wilson     |
| Mrs. N. Houle     |                   |
| Mr. M. Huculak    |                   |
| Mrs. S. Johnson   |                   |

### Special Education Staff:

Mrs. T. Lotz Special Education Coordinator  
Mrs. K. Kormos Teacher Assistant  
Mrs. D. Young Teacher Assistant

### Guidance Staff:

Mr. C. Ash Counselor - Grade 10 & 12  
Mrs. S. Johnson Counselor - Grade 9 & 11

### Support Staff:

Mrs. B. Marcinkoski Secretary  
Mrs. T. Picard Secretary  
Mrs. D. Shennan Administrative Secretary

### Custodians:

Mr. P. Sander Ms. R. Szautner  
Ms. H. Stuart Ms. W. Spencer

## Awards and Meet The Teacher

The annual Meet-the-Teacher and Awards Night will be held on **Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>** starting at 6:30 p.m. in the gym. Awards for last year's gr. 9-12 students will follow at 7:30 pm. We invite you to honour our award winners, visit the school, take a tour and meet the teachers. Please keep in mind this is not a parent-teacher interview, but rather an opportunity to celebrate and mingle.



## A Little About Our New Staff Members

Mrs. Karen Doran is not new to STA but is returning after filling in for Mrs. Fulford late last year. She is continuing to deliver a great Drama program at STA and we are very happy to have her back.

Mr. Dan Proulx is new to STA but not the teaching profession. He has taught the last two years in Sherwood Park. This year he is teaching Language Arts 9 and French. Welcome Mr. Proulx.

Mr. Chris Mierau is also new to STA. Mr. Mierau has been teaching for 16 years in schools in both Alberta and Saskatchewan. Although he is a Biology major, he has taught every math and science course from grades 4-12. Mr. Mierau will be teaching Science 9 & 10, Bio 20, and Chem 20 this year at STA.

## Policy Reminders & Clarification

A Senior Class Retreat, Graduation Exercises, Mass and Banquet are held during the spring of the Grade 12 school year. To be eligible to participate in the Senior Class Retreat, Mass and Banquet a student must:

- Meet and complete the grade 12 Alberta High School Diploma Requirements.
- Meet and complete Grade Designation (see below)
- Successfully complete 3 credits in Religion (in our district courses and classes) for each year attending St. Thomas Aquinas CHS
- All school fees paid in full
- Successful completion of Religion 35 or maintain an average of 50% (determined two weeks prior to the Religion 35 Retreat)

Participation in Graduation Exercises requires all of the above, plus the realistic possibility to complete all of the Alberta High School Diploma Requirements as dictated by Alberta Learning by 2 weeks prior to the graduation ceremonies. Eligible students can only participate once in the Senior Class Exercises, Mass and Banquet during their high school career. Grade 12 status does not guarantee participation. Alberta Learning will grant Diploma Certificates to students upon completion of all high school requirements. This document is mailed directly to students.

## Grade Designation

### Grade 12 student:

- I. Is registered in and maintains an English and Social Studies course at the 30-I or 30-2 level at St. Thomas Aquinas CHS or has already completed the English or Social course prior to the beginning of the school year;
- II. Has already attained a minimum of 60 credits prior to the start of the school year.
- III. Is registered in and maintains a Religion 35 course.

**Grade 11 student:**

- I. Is registered in and maintains an English and Social Studies course at the 20-1 or 20-2 level at St. Thomas Aquinas CHS or has already completed the English or Social course prior to the beginning of the school year;
- II. Has already attained a minimum of 30 credits prior to the start of the school year.
- III. Is registered in and maintains the Religion 25 course.

**Grade 10:**

Is designated as a student registered in the school who does not meet the criteria outlined for Grade 11 or Grade 12 and who has completed or is registered in Religion 15.

**Credit Load**

Grade 10 - Students are expected to carry a full course load (no spares), including Religion 15.

Grade 11 - Students are expected to carry a course load, including English 20-1 or 20-2 and Social Studies 20-I or 20-2 and Religion 25. Maximum of two 3 credit spares allowed.

Grade 12 - Students are expected to carry a course load, including English 30-1 or 30-2 and Social Studies 30-1 or 30-2 and Religion 35. Maximum of four 3 credit spares allowed.

**Dress Code**

As the summer weather continues, it is important to remind students that St. Thomas Aquinas expects **modest dress** while attending school. A general understanding to guide your decisions is that if you wouldn't wear your outfit to work or to church, you should not wear it to school. We ask that parents support this request and make sure they reinforce the general guidelines for dress described below:

- Length of shorts or skirts – appropriate modest length is required
- No halter tops, spaghetti straps, low cut or one shoulder shirts.
- No crop tops.
- No inappropriate logos, slogans, sayings.
- No low-waist hip style pants that expose the midriff or the backside.
- Hats & Hoodies taken off in the school.

Students who violate dress code will be asked to change into something appropriate immediately or will be sent home to change.



**Class times**

|                |                    |                            |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Block 1</b> | <b>8:42-10:04</b>  | <b>Block 3: 12:18-1:40</b> |
| <b>Block 2</b> | <b>10:09-11:31</b> | <b>Block 4: 1:45-3:07</b>  |

**Terry Fox Run**

St. Thomas Aquinas Students will once again be participating in the Canada-wide event dedicated to Terry Fox, one of our national heroes. STA's run will take place on Fri. Sept. 28th.

This year marks the 31st Annual Terry Fox Run for Cancer Research. Here at STA we are proud to recognize and support research for this cause. Initiatives started by people like Terry are vital in developing community, identity and positive involvement. This year's event will see the return of the "This shoe ran for..." campaign allowing students to cut out, color and dedicate a shoe to someone who heroically fought or is fighting the battle against cancer. In addition to this, the "Toonies for Terry" Jar will be placed in the office. Periodic announcements will recall Terry's journey across Canada allowing students at STA to understand both the support and the pain Terry endured up until his final steps in Thunder Bay. All of these initiatives will culminate into a successful and hopefully weather friendly day of running/walking which will take place around 1:45pm on Wednesday, September 28th. Initiative rewards will be handed out to dedicated fundraisers and goals will be put forward for students, but it will be the spirit of STA that will lead the charge and be the biggest reward!

**Cell Phone/PCD Policy Changes!**

STA has changed it's cell phones and PCD (Personal Communication Devices) policy.

School Policy is:

Students can use their PCD devices during all non instructional times within the school day, including spares.

Teachers may allow students to use their PCD devices during instructional time for educational purposes during class. Each individual teacher will set boundaries of use in their specific class setting. If a student abuses this privilege the following guide line will be followed:

**Consequences:**

Cell phone or PCD is confiscated and handed into the teacher. The student will meet with a teacher at the end of the block and the PCD will be returned to the student.

**Continued Offences:**

Cell phone or PCD will not be allowed for a period of one week in all classes. The parent will be notified by school administrator. If the abuse of PCD continues the student will not be allowed to use the device for the remainder of the term in any class.



*Failure of students to be cooperative with teachers and administration regarding this policy can result in suspension.*

## **Student Extended Absences**

If parents plan to have their child out of school for an extended period, please be sure to contact the office and have the student who will be missing pick up the parent acknowledgement letter. This acknowledgement needs to be returned to the office before the student is away. Teachers will receive notification of the dates the student will be missing from their class. Thank you.

## **HomeLogic” - Student Information Access for Parents and Students**

HomeLogic was instituted as a way for parents and students to keep track of student attendance, assignments and marks. In addition, it is an efficient way for parents to communicate with their child’s teachers and for the school to post messages.

Parents and students will be issued a secured login name and password with which they will log in to the HomeLogic site. Once logged in, they will have access to their child’s marks, attendance records and assignments as posted by teachers. It is important that you do not share your login or password information with anyone, as with it, they can access your child’s information.

As part of the implementation process we need to have one e-mail contact address for a parent of each child. Please provide the school with an email address that is parent specific by either contacting the school office staff at 780-962-1585 or completing and returning to the school the enclosed form as soon as possible. Within the month of September a letter will be mailed out to parents detailing the “HomeLogic” site and provide the login name and password.

We hope that this will be a useful tool for further enhancing the communication between the school and parents. The more informed you are as a parent, the closer we can work together to maximize student success.

## **Counsellors’ Corner**

If you are calling the school to speak to one of the counsellors, please be advised that Mr. Ash will be the grade coordinator for students in grades 10 and 12 and Mrs. Johnson will be grade coordinator for students in grades 9 and 11.

The last day for students to request timetable changes will be Friday, September 9. If you have questions regarding your child’s timetable, please contact Mr. Ash or Mrs. Johnson.

ELAA Post-secondary Fair will be held, September 20 from 7:00 to 8:30 at the Tri-leisure Centre. Representatives from over 20 post-secondary institutions in the province will be able to answer your questions. All are welcome. Counsellors will organize a post-secondary/ scholarship seminar for grade 12 students. The seminar will take place at lunch. Dates will be announced.

## **Religion Courses**

At St. Thomas Aquinas High School, we believe our religion classes are the most important courses we teach. Religion 9, 15, 25, and 35 allow us to enter into conversation and active engagement with our students about our shared faith experiences. Daily prayer, Religion courses and celebrations make us a distinct Catholic community of which we are very proud. Our administration, staff, and school council wish to emphasize the importance of catechetics in our school by requiring that students successfully complete Religion courses as a prerequisite for participating in grade 12 graduation retreat, mass, banquet, and commencement ceremonies. All STA students need to pass their Religion class at each grade or they will be required to repeat the course.



## **School Council**

The first School Council meeting will take place on Tuesday September 26, 20 at 6:00pm at the school.

## **STUDENT ID CARD**

### **Pictures—September 6**

Students must have their ID cards on them while in the school, which includes hallways and classrooms. They must have an ID Card in order to sign out textbooks and library materials.

Smart Photography will be in the school sometime in the near future to take picture re-takes for any students who might have missed picture day on September 6. Information about the cost of portrait packages, if you wish to order one, will be available in the office beforehand and must be paid to Smart Photography on picture day.

## **Student Council**

The first Student Council meeting will be Tuesday, September 13 at 11:30 in room 147. All students interested in helping make STA a great place to be should attend. Speeches for Student Council president will be at 1:25 on September 28. Votes will be cast Block 1 on September 29. Mrs. Bjorge, Mrs. Houle, Mr. Veldhoen and Mr. Wilson are looking forward to working with the students to plan some great events this year .

## **School Newsletters**

Each month the school newsletter is posted on the STA website and on the HomeLogic page. This year we would also like to send parents an email reminder when the newsletter has been posted.

In order to make sure that parents receive this message, we need to make sure we have a current email address. If you have a change or update, at the back of the newsletter you will find a page to fill out and return to the school with this information or you can email [tpicard@ecsr.ca](mailto:tpicard@ecsr.ca) with your update.

## Anti-Froshing Campaign

At St. Thomas Aquinas we have **ZERO** tolerance for froshing. In addition, we work in partnership with the local RCMP to prevent froshing from occurring. We consider incidents of froshing to be forms of bullying, harassment and assault and operate against the Catholic principles of this school. Parents, we need your help to reinforce the dangers of froshing with your children. Please make sure that if your child is froshed or threatened in any way, it is reported to the school office so that we can involve our RCMP liaison officer and take a serious stand against this dangerous and demeaning practice.

### Which team is which?

Sports teams include: **Senior** - Gr. 10, 11, and 12. **Junior Varsity (JV)** - Gr. 10 and 11 and **Junior** - Gr. 9. The grade nines compete in the WCJHAA league and our senior and JV teams compete in North Central ASAA.

### Bussing and Parking

The bus transfer terminal for all school busses is at Greystone School (the public middle school east of us on Grove Drive). Students transferring busses must do so at Greystone rather than attempting to walk to or from STA. Century Road is very busy and crossing can be dangerous.

**Student parking passes will NOT be issued. Instead, students must fill out a parking form identifying their license plate number and make and model of car they will be driving. With a shortage of parking spaces it is important that only STA students are using the parking lot.**



Parking privileges will be removed for stunting, parking incorrectly, blaring music, failure to yield to busses and speeding. Failure to obey the parking signs and/or unregistered vehicles will result in vehicles being towed.

### LUNCH HOUR & Intramurals

Student lunch hour is scheduled from 11:31—12:13 pm. Since all students in the school have their lunch hour at the same time, the cafeteria is a very busy place. Therefore, students are encouraged to pre-buy their lunch in the morning so that it will be ready at the pick-up window at lunch time.

The cafeteria is available, but we would strongly encourage students who bring bag lunches to eat in our alternate areas throughout the school.

The gym will be available for recreational and intramural activities throughout the entire lunch hour. This provides students with an excellent opportunity to get some exercise and visit with friends.



### Extra-Curricular Activities Starting Soon

Students at St. Thomas Aquinas will soon have an abundance of extra-curricular opportunities.

Intramurals will kick the year off with noon-hour Dodgeball starting mid-September. Lunchtime intra-murals provide students with an opportunity to participate in team sports no matter what their level of athletic ability.

Football and Volleyball are well underway for the 2011—2012 Season. Your coaches are:

Football: Mr. S. McKennitt

Volleyball: Sr. Boys: Mr. Ouellette, Sr.

Girls: Mr. Ezio, JV Girls : Mr. Ash, JV Boys: Mr. Schroeder, JR. Girls: Mr. Mierau, JR. Boys: Mr. Tomkow



### One Last Swing at Summer

Mr. Delano will be coaching the 2011 STA Golf Team. The top 4 boys and 4 girls from a tryout tournament will have the possibility to move on and represent our school at the North Central Zone 3A/4A Golf tournament. Good luck to all our student athletes!



### Office Matters

#### **1) Demographic Updates**

If you have any information that has changed since the spring regarding your child's demographics (address, phone number etc) please contact the office.

#### **2) Medical Alerts**

If there is new information about allergies or medical conditions that we need to be aware of please update that information with one of the secretaries.

#### **3) Guardianship**

Students not living with a parent need to provide the school with guardianship papers in order for us to release attendance, marks, etc to a guardian.

#### **4) Messages and phone calls**

- If your child is away from school, please call or email the school and let us know of the absence. If you are aware of the absence the night before you may leave a message on the answering machine.
- Please try and convey all messages to your child before they come to school. It is very difficult to ensure students receive all messages. Of course, we are very willing to relay emergency messages to your child.

## **Life Teen**

At Holy Trinity Parish, LIFE TEEN serves our grade 9-12 youth each and every Sunday night. We begin with the heart and soul of our Catholic faith: the celebration of the Sunday Mass from 6-7pm, and a LIFE Night from 7:30-9pm afterwards, where we might sing Karaoke, have a discussion about what the Church teaches about



love or suffering, or we might have a guest speaker sharing his or her testimony about God's grace acting in his or her life.

Whatever a particular LIFE Night might bring, we guarantee that there will be plenty of surprises, opportunities to develop strong and

healthy friendships, and most importantly, it is a place to encounter Jesus Christ. We'd love for you to join us: there is a place here for you in our youth ministry.

We kickoff LIFE TEEN on Sunday, September 18th, with Parking-Lot-Palooza, a tailgate party in the Church parking lot. We'll also collect items for the pregnancy crisis center (September 25th), look at the ways God shares his grace with us (October 2), check out the "Original Facebook" (October 9.) We're also working towards a short film competition and awards ceremony on October 30th. For more information, contact Mike Landry at 780-960-0135 or [mllandry@ecsrd.ca](mailto:mllandry@ecsrd.ca); or go online to <http://www.htyouth.ws/lifeteen>.

EVER GROWING, LEARNING, and LIVING IN CHRIST

## **Welcome to Holy Trinity Community Parish!**

We are a vibrant, growing faith community of over two thousand families, serving the Spruce Grove, Stony Plain and Parkland communities. Holy Trinity Catholic Church is located north of Highway 16A on Boundary Road. We invite you and your family to join us in the Eucharistic celebration (Mass) at one of the following days/times: Saturday: 5:00 p.m. Sunday: 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

Our Pastor is Fr. Paul Terrio, and our Associate Pastor is Fr. Jader Assolari. Our parish team also includes Deacon Pat Hessel, Youth Ministers Mike Landry and Ali Wulf, Pastoral Assistant (responsible for sacramental preparation) Anne Gauthier, and married couple, Paul and Carol Quist, who work in Family Ministry. Currently we offer the following youth groups:

K4J (Kindergarten to Grade 4);  
CHALLENGE for girls and CONQUEST for boys (Grades 5-8);  
EDGE (Grades 7 and 8)  
LIFETEEN (Grades 9-12) and  
Young Adults (ages 18-35, married and single).

We are pleased to be able to offer a number of opportunities for young people and adults to explore, enrich, and celebrate their faith. We would be happy to answer any questions and provide you with further information. Please feel welcome to contact the church office at 960-0135.

The Holy Trinity Annual Parish Supper and General Meeting will be on Saturday, October 1 beginning with 5 p.m. Eucharist at the church followed by supper at 6:30. Cost for supper is \$16 per adult.

For more information, please consult the parish bulletin, which can be viewed at the parish website, [www.trinitycatholic.net](http://www.trinitycatholic.net).



# St. Thomas Aquinas High School

## School Email Contact

In order for the school newsletter to initiate contact, please indicate your name, child's name and email address below. You may list more than one email address as necessary OR you may email your address(es) to [tpicard@ecsr.d.ca](mailto:tpicard@ecsr.d.ca)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Updating Office Records** - please fill out any categories below that need to be updated for our office records.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Information \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Medical Concerns \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Evergreen Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 2

Box 4265, Spruce Grove, AB T7X 3B4  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Holy Trinity Church, 200 Boundary Road, Spruce Grove  
Ph: (780) 962-5627 Fax: (780) 962-4664 Toll Free: 1-800-825-7152  
Website: [www.ecsrd.ca](http://www.ecsrd.ca)

September 1, 2010

Dear Families of Schools in the Evergreen CSRD #2 District:

Effective September, 2010, the amendments to the *Alberta Human Rights Act* will become effective. The amendment reads as follows:

*11.1 (1) A Board as defined in the School Act shall provide notice to a parent or guardian of a student where courses of study, educational programs or instructional materials, or instruction or exercises, prescribed under that Act include subject-matter that deals with primarily and explicitly with religion, human sexuality or sexual orientation.*

Our schools have adjusted our registration forms to include the following statement in order to satisfy the notification expectations of Alberta Education as outlined in the *Guide to Education* :

**"NOTICE TO PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF RELIGIOUS PERMEATION"**

*"The Alberta Human Rights Act requires a school board to give notice to a parent or guardian when courses of study, educational programs, instructional materials, instruction or exercises include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion.*

*All of the schools in this district are Catholic Separate Schools, the essential purpose of which is to fully permeate Catholic theology, philosophy, practices and beliefs, the principles of the Gospel and teachings of the Catholic Church, in all aspects of school life, including in the curriculum of every subject taught, both in and outside of formal religion classes, celebrations and exercises.*

*Every course of study and educational program, all instructional materials, instruction and exercises will at all times include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion.*

For a complete explanation of your rights under the new legislation you can access the *Guide to Education* at [www.education.alberta.ca/admin/resources/guidetoed.aspx](http://www.education.alberta.ca/admin/resources/guidetoed.aspx).

Should you have further questions, please contact your school principal for relevant clarification.

Sincerely yours,

Cindi Vaselenak  
Superintendent