



St. Thomas Aquinas CES

Week at a Glance: September 23-27

Live with Love!

Learn with Joy!

Greetings St. Thomas Aquinas Community,

Welcome to the season of Autumn! This season brings us a warm palette of beautiful and changing colours as well as a renewed sense of awe and wonder for Mother Nature's beauty. May the transition into the new school year and season continue with a sense of gratitude, joy and hope.

Open House/CSC BBQ: Thank you to all our families and staff for a great evening. It was a pleasure to meet everyone and have our school community gather as we look ahead to another successful year. Thank you to our Catholic School Council for organizing the BBQ for our school. It was a fun evening of coming together at St. Thomas Aquinas.

Catholic School Council: 2024-25 NOTICE OF ELECTION: The Catholic School Council elections and meeting will take place on Tuesday September 24, 2024 at 6:30 pm. **If you are interested in becoming a member of 2024/25 CSC a nomination form must be completed and brought to the office. Please see the attached link for a copy of the nomination form (hard copies can also be found in the office). The deadline to submit a nomination form has been extended to Monday September 23, 2024.** Forms may be dropped off in the office or sent via email. Successful candidates will hold their elected position for a term of one year and will be expected to attend scheduled meetings. [CSC Nomination Form](#)

Hot Lunch Program Term 1: The Hot Lunch program is now available for purchase. Nonna's Lakeside Lunches will be offering Hot Lunch every Wednesday and Quick Pizza will be offering cheese pizza every Friday. Orders can be placed online through our School Day Cashless System or through cash or cheque.

- Nonna's Lakeside Lunch orders are due Thursday September 26th
- Quick Pizza orders are due Monday September 30

Please contact the school office if you require a hard copy of order forms.

Terry Fox Walk/Run: The annual Terry Fox Walk/Run will take place on Wednesday September 25 (rain date is September 26). Our school goal is \$1190.00. Donations can be made at the following link: <https://schools.terryfox.ca/StThomasAquinasSchoolKeswick>. Students and staff are invited to wear red and white or Terry Fox T-shirts on this day.

Dental Screening: The Dental Screening Program will take place on **Thursday October 24, 2024**. All students in JK, SK, Grade 2 and Grade 7 will be screened along with any other student that has requested the screening. Please see the attached link for further information. Please contact the school if you have any questions. [Dental Screening Parent Information](#)

Cell Phone Policy: In alignment with the recently introduced Ministry of Education policy memorandum, the Provincial Code of Conduct has been updated to address the use of cellphones and other personal mobile devices. These revisions are designed to restrict the use of all personal mobile devices during instructional time in order to prevent distractions and maximize learning time. All cell phones are to be kept in student backpacks throughout the school day. Please see the attached letter for further details. [Cell Phone Use Information](#)

Dress Code: School dress code is important at St. Thomas Aquinas. All student attire must be in keeping with our Catholic teachings and beliefs, and reflect principles of modesty. Tops, pants, shorts and skirts must cover the entire midriff. The following items are not part of the school dress code:

- Halter tops, tank tops, spaghetti strap tops (narrower in width than 3 fingers) or tube tops
- Half t-shirts, tops with cut-outs, tops made of mesh or netting type material
- Short shorts or skirts
- Low necklines, front or back
- Language and/or representation (pictures) on attire that indicates gang affiliation and/or depicts violence, profanity or discrimination of any kind whatsoever or that otherwise demeans an identifiable individual or group

Please refer to the school website for additional information on appropriate dress when at school <https://sta.ycdsb.ca/our-school/dress-code/>

Safety Awareness Week: The week of September 30 - October 4, has been designated as “Safety Awareness Week” for the YCDSB. As part of our safety initiative at St. Thomas Aquinas, we will be practicing safety procedures with students and staff. During this week, we will be rehearsing a variety of emergency school procedures to acquaint students and staff with the precautionary steps to take in the event of such things as a warning of severe weather, or an intruder. In addition, throughout the year we will hold practice drills to acquaint students with various emergency protocols. Teachers will review these procedures with students in class prior to our practice drills.

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation: On Monday September 30, 2024, St. Thomas will commemorate the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day). Students will be involved in lessons and discussions within the classroom along with morning announcements and prayers. Staff and students are invited to wear Orange shirts on this day to acknowledge the impact of the residential school system, raise awareness and honour Indigenous communities, and to promote reconciliation.

Luke 4:18 Thanksgiving Food Drive: The Luke 4:18 Social Justice Committee is organizing a Thanksgiving food drive in support of the local food bank. Non-perishable food items (canned goods, cereals, granola bars, powdered milk etc.) are being collected from October 3rd to October 10th. Our school goal is to collect 350 non-perishable items. Upon reaching this goal all students will enjoy an extra recess. All items can be dropped off to your child's classroom or the front office. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Parish News: For Our Lady of the Lake Parish news, please see the attached bulletin. [Parish Bulletin](#)

Upcoming Dates:

September 23: CSC Nominations due in the office (deadline extended)

September 24: CSC meeting in the library at 6:30 pm

-FDK Trip to Homestead Orchards

September 25: Terry Fox Walk/Run (Red/White or Terry Fox T-shirts)

September 26: Terry Fox Walk/Run (rain date)

September 27: P.A. Day (no school)

September 30-October 4: YCDSB Safety Awareness Week

-CCAT Testing (Grade 4)

September 30: National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day)

October 3-10: Luke 4:18 Food Drive

October 4: Picture Day [Photo Day Flyer](#)

Have a great week,

F. Rossy

Principal