

**Greetings St. Thomas Aquinas Community,**

Welcome to the month of February! February is Black Heritage Month. It is a time to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of people of African Ancestry to the development and culture of the Church and of Canada. It is a month to honour Black Excellence as we celebrate resilience, innovation, and determination to work towards a more inclusive and diverse Canada.

**Winter Walk Day:** Winter Walk Day is taking place on Wednesday February 4th in schools across Ontario! Students and families are encouraged to walk or wheel to school during this day, or any day during the month of February. The aim is to celebrate active school travel and to spend time outside in all seasons – especially the cold ones! Be sure to wear the proper winter gear to keep warm! Learn more about Winter Walk Day at <https://ontarioactiveschooltravel.ca/winter-walk-day/>.

**Friendship/Valentines Day Dance-a-thon:** On Friday February 13, 2026, St. Thomas Aquinas will be having a Valentine/Friendship Dance-a-Thon Fundraiser. Each class will have a 30-45 minute dance session in the gym! We have set a school goal of \$6000 to purchase various resources for our school. Each student has received a pledge envelope which is to be returned by Friday February 13, 2026.

There are three different ways to donate:

**Option #1:** The community is strongly encouraged to utilize the York Catholic District School Board's on-line payment system for donations to the school at [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org). This is a safe and secure method to make an individual donation to the school through an on-line payment method and receive a tax receipt immediately.

**Option #2:** Individual pledge cheques of \$25 or more are eligible for a tax receipt through the board. These cheques will need to be made payable to York Catholic District School Board.

**Option # 3:** Cash or Cheques. Cash or cheques under \$25.00 do not qualify for a tax receipt. If writing a cheque, please make it payable to St. Thomas Aquinas CES.

Please see the attached flyer and letter for further information. Thank you for your continued support of our school initiatives. [Dance-a-thon Flyer](#) [Friendship/Valentine Dance-a-thon Letter](#)

**Carnaval De STA:** Carnaval Week will take place from February 9-13. We are excited to host a variety of culturally-based activities and contests for students in all grades. The following theme days will be taking place each day:

\***Monday February 9:** Fleece & Flannel Day (Wear your best plaid outfit)

\***Tuesday February 10:** Lite & Bright Day (Wear your brightest colours)

\***Wednesday February 11:** Sport & Spirit Wear Day (Wear your favorite Team Jersey or team colours or Spirit Wear)

\***Thursday February 12:** Tuque & Scarf Day (Wear your favorite tuque and/or scarf)

\***Friday February 13:** Red, White & Pink Day (Wear these colours to celebrate Valentine's Day)

Additionally, students will have the opportunity to partake in Mask Decorating and Colouring Contests. Vive le Carnaval!

**Valentine Treats:** If you are purchasing Valentine treats for your child's(ren's) class, a reminder to please refrain from sending any food related items to school as we have many students with various allergies. Any food items brought in will not be distributed and will be returned.

**SAVE THE DATE Grade 6 Composite Photo:** On Wednesday March 4 the grade 6 students will be taking their composite photo. Girls are encouraged to wear a white collared shirt and boys are encouraged to wear a tie.

**Parish News:** For parish news/updates please see the bulletin attached. [Feb 1 Bulletin](#)

**Upcoming Dates:**

- February 4: Winter Walk Day
- February 5: "You're the Chef" Session #3
- February 9-13: Carnaval Week
- February 10: Term 1 Report Cards available to parents via Portal
- February 12: "You're the Chef" Session #4
- February 13: Valentine/Friendship Dance-a-thon
- February 14: Valentine's Day
- February 16: Family Day (no school)
- February 17: Shrove Tuesday hosted by CSC
- February 18: Ash Wednesday
- Feb 19: Dr. Accordion Presentation

**Have a great week,**

***F. Rossy***

**Principal**