

Greetings St. Thomas Aquinas Community,

Thank you to the STA community for a successful Friendship/Valentine Dance-a-thon Fundraiser. We are pleased to announce that we have raised about \$8500 in support of various initiatives and resources for our school and students. Students will be receiving the school wide incentives of an extra long recess, a Hawaiian Fun Day with a Free Pizza Lunch and a movie afternoon with a treat in the coming weeks. Winners of the top fundraising prizes, class pizza lunch winners and Principal for the Day will be announced this week. On behalf of the STA Staff, a ***BIG THANK YOU*** for your continued support of the many initiatives at the school.

That's a Wrap - You're the Chef a Resounding Success!: This past week, students enjoyed the last of 5 sessions of the You're the Chef cooking program. Over the last few months, students in grades 4 & 5 had a wonderful time learning culinary skills and how to cook healthy, delicious, and easy to make recipes with their friends. From smoothies to Rice Vermicelli with Greens, all recipes were enthusiastically enjoyed by everyone. We would like to send a special thank you to our wonderful volunteers, York Region Public Health, and Zehrs for the funding and resources to run the program. A big Thank you to Mrs. Clements, Mrs. Swirla and Mrs. Cuccurullo for their dedication, enthusiasm and initiative in bringing this program to our school and students.

Spring & Sibling Photo Day: Spring & Sibling Photos will take place on Thursday February 26. All students will have a Spring Photo taken. If you wish to have a sibling photo taken, please fill in the sibling information below and return it to the school with the eldest child in the family. **Please note that sibling photos are for siblings that are currently attending STA.** After photo day you will receive proofs containing all the information you'll need to view and order your photos online. **Forms are due in the office by Tuesday February 24, 2026.** [Spring Sibling Photo Form](#)

Donation of Gently Used Books: The Literacy & Numeracy Day will take place on Wednesday March 25. More details will follow. At this time, we are asking for donations of gently used books. These can be dropped off at the front office.

Cell Phone/Personal Mobile Device Use & Online Interactions: A reminder that in alignment with the Ministry of Education policy memorandum, [PPM 128](#), cell phones and personal mobile devices, including smart watches, are not to be used during the instructional day. If you choose to send your child to school with cell phones/personal mobile devices, they are to be turned off and stored in their back pack. They are not to be taken out or left to ring/vibrate in pockets or in desks. Please see the attached letter for further details. [Cell Phone/Personal Mobile Devices Use Information](#)

In addition, kindly monitor the screen time and online interactions and have a conversation with your child(ren) about responsible online behaviour. Please remind your child:

- That they have a responsibility to be respectful and kind in all online spaces.
- Never to take or share photos of others without consent.
- Never to post, alter, or share images with the intent to embarrass or hurt others.

Students at this age are still developing the maturity to understand the impact of their online actions. For this reason, we encourage families to actively monitor social media use at home. Thank you for your ongoing partnership in supporting our students as they learn to be safe, respectful, and responsible online.

Student Pick up: A reminder when picking up your child during the day, please ensure that you are signing them out with the office staff. This will ensure student safety as office staff monitor this. For the safety of our students, parents/guardians are reminded that they are not permitted to walk to their child(ren)'s classroom. Parents/guardians are asked to wait in the front lobby for their child(ren). We kindly ask that if possible, to pick up before 3:20 pm as the end of the day is quite busy and buses begin to arrive at this time for student pick up. Thank you for your support.

Parish News: For parish news/updates please see the bulletin attached. [Feb 22 Bulletin](#)

Upcoming Dates:

- February 23: Beginning of Lent Liturgy
- February 23: Nonna's Hot Lunch Makeup Day (from Feb 18 snow day)
- February 25: Pink Shirt Day
- February 25: CSC Meeting (virtual)
- February 26: Spring/Sibling Photo Day
- February 27: Chess Tournament at the Optimist Club
- March 3: Love of Dance Showcase
- March 4: Grade 6 Composite Photo
- March 10: STREAM Center Trip (Gr. 4 Sauve)
- March 12: Junior Division Movie Trip
- March 16-March 20: March Break

**Have a great week,
F. Rossy
Principal**