

## **Greetings St. Thomas Aquinas Community,**

At St. Thomas Aquinas, we remain committed to nurturing the virtues of kindness, love, and respect—inside our classrooms, on the playground, and throughout our wider community. These values are more than beautiful words; they are meant to be the heartbeat of everything we do. We strive each day to ensure that every student feels seen, heard, and deeply loved as we continue to live out our Catholic faith through both our actions and our words. When challenges arise, students are encouraged to stop, pause, reflect on their choices, and seek the guidance and support of a trusted adult. We ask for your partnership in reinforcing these messages at home. Kindly consider having a conversation with your child(ren) about:

- The Weight of Words – How words spoken in a moment can stay with someone for a lifetime.
- Seeking Help – Understanding that asking an adult for help is not “tattling,” but a brave and respectful way to resolve conflict.
- The Power of Kindness – Using their voices to include, encourage, and uplift others.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we continue to work together to make our school a place to Live with Love and Learn with Joy!

**Friendship/Valentines Day Dance-a-thon:** The Dance-a-thon will take place on Friday February 13, 2026. 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. All pledge envelopes which are 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](#)

**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.

**Carnaval De STA:** Welcome to Carnaval Week! We are excited to host a variety of culturally-based activities and contests as well as theme days for students in all grades. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to visit Bonhommes Cocoa Cafe. FDK to Grade 3 students can visit the Cafe on Monday February 9 and Grade 4-6 students can visit on Wednesday February 11. Items available for purchase include Hot Chocolate (\$2.00/cup), Terra Cotta Vanilla Heart Shaped Cookie (\$2.00/cookie) or a combo of both for \$3.00.

Ingredients include:

Hot Chocolate Ingredients: Cane sugar, modified milk ingredients, cocoa\*, salt, vanilla flavour

Terracotta Vanilla Heart Cookie Ingredients: Enriched wheat flour, soybean and modified palm oil margarine, sugar, liquid whole egg, soluble vegetable fiber (corn), colour, natural flavour.

Contains: wheat, soy, egg

We are looking forward to a fun filled week of school spirit and fun! Vive le Carnaval!

**Carnaval Presentation:** St Thomas Aquinas CES recognizes the value of engaging external organizations and individuals to further enhance the classroom curriculum to support student engagement, achievement and well-being. On February 19, 2026 , we will welcome Dr. Accordion from Prologue Performing Arts to our school. The "Dr. Accordion Carnaval Presentation" will be for all students as they learn about musical mindfulness; identifying their feelings and pairing them with music. With polyrhythmic clapping, and a live arranging session, musical decisions come to life in real-time. Featuring songs from Canada, Brazil, Bulgaria (and beyond!). This interactive show will immerse students in the exciting musical world of Dr. Accordion. There won't be any literature, giveaways, or supplementary resources in this presentation.

**Shrove Tuesday:** Tuesday February 17, is Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Tuesday. Traditionally, pancakes were eaten on this day to clear one's cupboards of goods such as sugar, flour, and eggs before the 40 days of fasting began. It is often a day of celebration that marks the end of Ordinary time in the Liturgical Calendar. CSC is proud to host a pancake breakfast on this day for all students. Coset forms have been sent home with all students. Kindly return the form by Friday February 13. Please see attached. *If your child requires an alternative pancake mix due to dietary restrictions, please contact the school office. Shrove Tuesday Consent Form*

**Bus Loop & Kiss 'N Ride:** The bus loop is at the front of the school building. Please do not enter the bus loop during morning entry (8:55 am - 9:10 am) and afternoon dismissal procedures (3:30 pm - 4:00 pm). The Kiss 'N Ride, located at the north end of the building, serves as a drop-off and pick-up loop. We kindly ask parents and guardians not to park, leave their vehicles unattended, or idle in this area. Please use caution in the parking lot and remain mindful of students, families, and staff.

With the addition of snow hills, the Kiss 'N Ride loop becomes narrower and more difficult to navigate. For this reason, families are asked not to stop before entering the loop or within the loop itself, as this creates a backlog of cars entering the parking lot area. If you are dropping off your child at the FDK doors, please drive all the way down toward the doors to allow for a smoother and quicker drop-off. *To ensure student safety, we strongly encourage all children to exit the vehicle on the sidewalk side.* Thank you for your continued support.

**Term One Report Cards:** Term One Report Cards will be available on the Parent Portal on Tuesday February 10. These can be accessed by visiting our school's website, <https://sta.ycdsb.ca/>, and clicking on the 'Parents' link at the top of the page. For detailed instructions on registering, using the portal and to seek support please visit, <https://sites.google.com/ycdsb.ca/ycdsbparentportal>. If you require a hard copy of the report card please contact the office.

**Parish News:** For parish news/updates please see the bulletin attached. [Feb 8 Bulletin](#)

**Upcoming Dates:**

- 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 17: Lunar New Year
- February 18: Ash Wednesday
- February 19: Dr. Accordion Presentation
- February 25: Pink Shirt Day
- February 25: CSC Meeting
- February 26: Spring/Sibling Photo Day
- February 27: Chess Tournament at the Optimist Club

**Have a great week,**

***F. Rossy***

**Principal**