



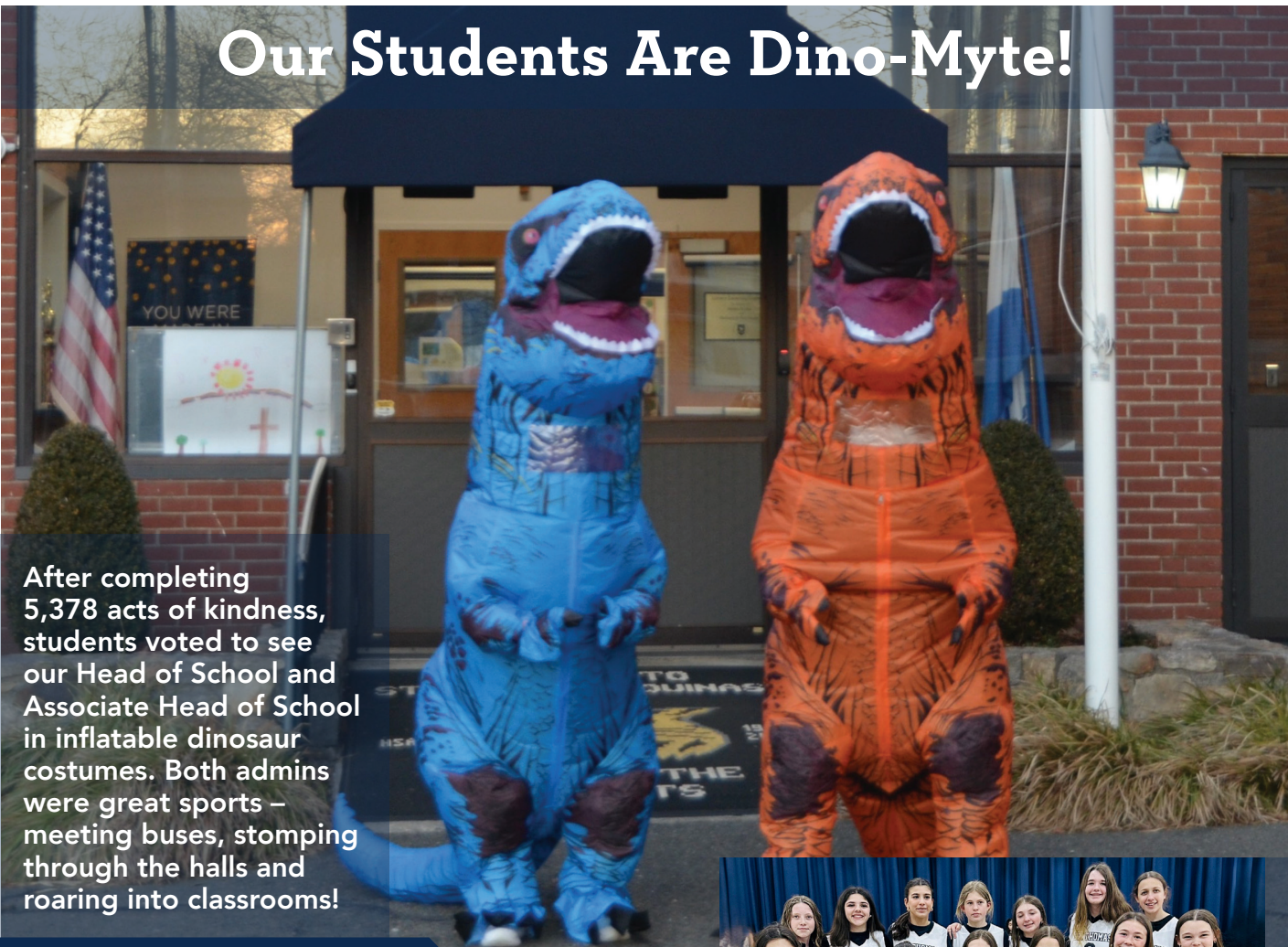
WILDCAT DEN

SEMI-ANNUAL CHRONICLE



Faith. Family. Foundation.

Our Students Are Dino-Myte!



After completing 5,378 acts of kindness, students voted to see our Head of School and Associate Head of School in inflatable dinosaur costumes. Both admins were great sports – meeting buses, stomping through the halls and roaring into classrooms!

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Lady Wildcats Dominate the Court!



Our Lady Wildcats have made us incredibly proud! Every one of our 5th-8th grade female basketball players advanced to the 2026 Diocesan Championship. Full story of their incredible seasons inside!



Bright Minds at Work

Chasing Gold with the Math Olympiad

While you were plugged into Cortina, our 3rd-6th grade students were hard at work tackling the **Math Olympiad!**

Through an exciting partnership with our **Math Intervention and Enrichment Team at Learning Consultants Group**, 19 students are stretching their problem-solving skills, collaborating with peers, and taking on challenging math puzzles.



Bonjour to the French Honor Society

This year, St. Thomas proudly introduced **Jeunes Amis du Français (JAF)**, the National French Honor Society to recognize students who demonstrate excellence and enthusiasm in their study of the French language.

Through JAF, students deepen their appreciation for both the **French language** and the rich cultures of the **Francophone world. Félicitations!**

Third Grade is Making History

Our third graders brought history to life at the **Book Report Fair!** Students read biographies and wrote reports about famous Americans and influential women in history, then creatively designed coffee cans to resemble the historical figures they studied. From John F. Kennedy to Louis Armstrong and Frida Kahlo, the room was filled with remarkable figures from the past, as students proudly presented their reports with visiting families.



Young Minds, Big Discoveries

At St. Thomas, learning doesn't just happen at a desk – it happens through exploration, experimentation and discovery.

Our **5th Grade Science Fair** is a perfect example of learning by doing. Students dove into the scientific method – asking questions, forming hypotheses, testing ideas and analyzing results. Their projects covered an impressive range of topics. Some investigated the power of **sandstorms**, while others explored the mechanics behind **ski lifts** and the physics of **ball bearings**. One student even brought back the classic **Game Boy** to examine the technology behind it.



Innovation didn't stop there. Our **4th Grade Invention Convention** showcased the imaginative side of science and engineering as students developed creative solutions to real-world problems. Young inventors designed ideas such as **The Career Extender** which is a protective face mask for baseball players or the **Legendary Lego** which helps children better sort their Legos – demonstrating that big ideas can come from young minds.



And the excitement continues! Up next is our **Middle School STEAM Fair on April 23**. Stop by and see our students in action – you never know what you might learn.

Our Yearbook Club is hard at work. Get ready to order your Yearbook – scan or click on the code and enter code **3409426!**



LOVE LIVES HERE...

February at St. Thomas was a special time to shine a light on what our students live every day. Through the **Love Lives Here Campaign**, we celebrate the kindness, service, and values that define our school community year-round. From moments of everyday kindness to service beyond our walls and opportunities to give back, February highlighted how our students put their **Faith** into action.





A celebration of the kindness, service, and values we live every day at St. Thomas.

Through the **LOVE LIVES HERE CAMPAIGN**, we celebrate the kindness, service, and values that define our school community year-round – putting love into action in big and small ways.

FOR THE LOVE

FEBRUARY 6
"Lift Each Other Up" (Ski Club Kindness Activity)
 Kindness starts with knowing the people around us. This 10-question activity invites ski club members to connect with someone new on the bus, learn their story, and build a welcoming community.

FEBRUARY 12
"Think Kindness" Assemblies
 Harding | Halas Arts & Athletics Center
 K-4th: 9:00AM | 5th-8th: 10:00AM
Brian Williams, founder of Think Kindness, returns to St. Thomas! His nonprofit has inspired over 1.5 million documented acts of kindness worldwide. Brian first joined us in Feb. 2016, and we are excited to welcome him back 10 years later to continue our kindness momentum. *Parents are welcome to join assemblies.*

FEBRUARY 17 – 20
Kindness Week (Led by the Kindness Crew)
 A week focused on sharing kind thoughts, finding new lunch table friends, daily announcements recognizing students "caught being kind," and many acts of kindness.
 • *A kindness challenge from Brian Williams will be in full swing all week – game on!*

FEBRUARY 26
"Kindness Starts Online" Presentation
 Parish Conference Room: 7:00PM
 Join the Fairfield Police Department for an important conversation about digital kindness and online safety. Open to middle school students with their parent(s).

SHARE THE LOVE

FEBRUARY 3
"Magic of St. Thomas" Show
 Harding | Halas Arts & Athletics Center
 from 12:30-1:45PM (Show starts @ 1pm)
A magic show featuring Danny Magic for our PreK-4th grade students and community friends.

The event will also highlight the "magic moments" that make St. Thomas such a special place. Spread the word and refer your friends to this magical afternoon – registration required for those outside the St. Thomas community. **SIGN UP** 

FEBRUARY 17
Love St. Thomas on Giving Tuesday
 Join in our annual *Giving Tuesday* campaign to support our school, with a goal of 100% participation to fund our operating budget. *No gift is too small—help us reach \$15,000!*



FEBRUARY 22 – 28
"Play the Pledge"
 All basketball teams will commit to playing with respect, encouraging one another, and honoring the game. This pledge will be spoken at the start of all practices and games, and each team member will be held accountable to the pledge.

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

FEBRUARY 6
"A PROM-ising" Way to Fill Buckets

- *Prom Package Assembly and Cheer Squad Sign-making* for the Night to Shine event hosted by the Tim Tebow Foundation. **Library from 2:30-3:00PM**
- *Pantry Project* – Bring in food staples to help stock partner food pantries.

FEBRUARY 9 – 20
"A Box of Blessings" Initiative
Decorate it. Fill it. Share it. In art class, students can design prayer boxes and will be asked to tuck in little notes of hope and cheer for anyone who could use it. These boxes will be mailed upon request to those in need.

FEBRUARY 11 & 20
Doing Good is Part of the Curriculum
 Service is woven into every grade level at St. Thomas. Up next: 6th Grade students will make dog toys for the Fairfield Animal Shelter and 8th Grade students will create "busy bags" for children receiving care at Memorial Sloan Kettering.

FEBRUARY 28
Day of Service
 Harding | Halas Arts & Athletics Center
 from 9:00-10:30AM
 Join us for a joyful day of service where students and families come together to fill bags of goodies packaged with heartfelt notes to share with Operation Hope.

... Faith in Action

We did it! In just two weeks, St. Thomas students completed an incredible **5,378 acts of kindness**. The challenge was inspired during our high-energy Think Kindness assemblies led by Brian Williams, who encouraged students to **Be Brave and Be Kind** in their everyday actions. Through stories, laughter and even a spirited **Rock-Paper-Scissors Kindness Match-Up**, students learned how small actions can make a big difference. *Kindness can be contagious!*



We make a little magic every day at St. Thomas, so for one special afternoon we opened our doors to our students and friends from the community for a magical experience. Families gathered for an entertaining show filled with laughter, amazement and plenty of surprises with **Danny Magic**.

We kicked off the month with a meaningful service activity for the Tim Tebow Foundation **Night to Shine Event** and wrapped it up with a school-wide morning of service. Together, students stuffed **190 bags** for **Operation Hope**, each filled with goodies for those in need. They also created posters and other uplifting messages to spread encouragement throughout the community.



Our students reintroduced our **Blessing Box** outreach ministry this February. Each box is lovingly decorated and includes handwritten messages, and words of encouragement from our students. Please email us at info@stasonline.net if you know of someone who could use hope, wishes or simply a reminder that they are loved and being prayed for!

At St. Thomas, acts of kindness and service happen all year long, with each grade participating in its own special program. For our 8th graders, stuffing **Buddy Bags for Memorial Sloan Kettering** became more than just a service project—it also created a meaningful connection. Parents and alumni joined in, including current parent **Dr. Kevin Curran** and STA alum **Lizzie Duggan (2014)**, both of whom work at MSK. *St. Thomas kindness is everywhere!*



Wildcat Girls Basketball: All Heart, All Hustle

From our youngest hoopers to our varsity standouts, St. Thomas girls' basketball brought the energy all season long. With **March Madness** in full swing, it felt only right that St. Thomas had a little madness of its own. The entire school community showed up in full force from a festive pep rally and a special blessing from Father David, to packed gyms at home and neighboring schools. Teachers brought handmade posters, students fired up the crowd, and chants of "Defense!" echoed through the stands. It was bracket-worthy energy, school spirit at its best and the perfect way to celebrate a season our girls will never forget - especially with two more **Diocesan Champion Banners (Girls JV and Varsity)** hanging proudly in the Harding-Halas Arts & Athletics Center.



5th Grade: Small but Mighty

Our 5th grade girls played like seasoned pros all year. Led by powerhouse coaching trio Christina Como, Michelle Durkos and Colleen Cimador (former Division I basketball record breaker and STA parent alum back for her third season), this team was relentless. They went 10-1 in the regular season, took home the **St. Thomas Tournament title**, and tied for first at the **St. James Tournament**. Entering the **Diocesan Tournament as the #1 seed**, they didn't let up—taking down even our own 6th grade squad along the way.

They capped off their run at the **New England CYO Tournament hosted at St. Thomas finishing 1:1** with a thrilling 24-23 comeback win over St. John's. Not bad for a team of all 5th graders playing up in a combined division. And their press? Absolute chaos – in the best way.



6th Grade: Never Back Down

This 6th grade team had one defining trait: grit. Coached by STA veteran Anthony Galbo, alongside new STA families, Athanasios Venetis and Mark Guilfoile these girls simply refused to quit.

Their season was highlighted by a first-place finish in the **St. Mary's Tournament** and then a statement **win over St. James in the Diocesan Semifinals**, punching their ticket to the final game where they played their hearts out. Game after game, they proved they could hang with anyone!



7th & 8th Grade: Built to Compete

Our Varsity Squad – stacked with players who've been winning together for years put together another impressive run under coaches Peter Rausch, John Joyce and Eric Lenhart.

With fast breaks, sharp passing, and confident shooting, they controlled the pace and kept fans on their feet. Their season culminated in their **4th consecutive Diocesan Tournament Win** and trip to the **CYO Finals in Bridgeport** (the third year in a row for our 7th grade players), where they battled St. John's in front of a packed house at Lauralton Hall. Though they fell just short, their run was nothing short of electric.

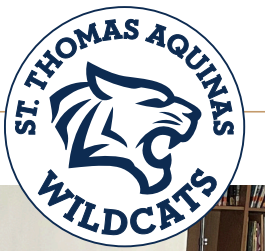
To quote Beyonce, **"Who Runs the World" GIRLS!**

Wildcat Ski Club Hits the Slopes

Over 70 students from **Pre-K through 8th grade** took to the slopes of Mohawk Mountain over five Friday nights in January and February, carving turns, building skills, and making memories along the way. Now in its **5th season**, the Wildcat Ski Club has grown into one of the most popular programs at St. Thomas, giving students a chance to enjoy winter outdoors, learn to ski/snowboard and bond with friends. It is not just the kids having fun – our parents love joining in on the adventure, too!

There's no better way to see the magic of the Ski Club than through the eyes of the students themselves. We asked a few members why they love hitting the slopes, and here's what they had to say:

- **Sienna H, Grade 4:** "Ski club is SNOW much fun. I love being with my friends on the mountain on a Friday night, and I love the yogurt parfait!"
- **Beibhinn T, Grade 8:** "Ski club isn't just about the skiing and how good you are at it, it's about the friends and the time you spend with them. I'll miss it."
- **Isabelle & Emilia H., Grades 7 & 5:** "We love ski club. It is SO MUCH FUN to ski with your friends. The bus ride is fun too – I love to go over the jumps and ski down with laughter. I already can't wait for ski club next year!"
- **Current Parent:** "My two children are new to skiing and St. Thomas as of last year, so the fact the school provides such a great, safe environment for the children is just excellent."

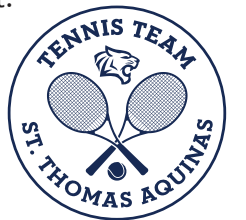


Hooray for the Cheer Squad

During Catholic Schools Week, St. Thomas welcomed the debut of our new **Cheer Squad**, made up of over 20 students from **grades 1-4**. Don't let their size fool you – these pint-sized spirit makers are some of the cutest, mightiest cheerleaders! With bright smiles, boundless energy and cheers that light up the room, they bring school spirit to every event.

Students Rallying Around Tennis

The **Tennis Team** is back in action, with **48 students from grades 3-8** hitting the courts at the Fairfield Bubble. Starting in March, students enjoy weekly practices to sharpen their skills, along with inter-team games and a match-up against Hopkins School. With rackets in hand and teamwork on display, it's shaping up to be a season full of energy, fun and friendly competition. **Game. Set. Match.**



Just in case you missed the biennial update on the State of the School.

Scan or click on the QR code



Exciting Updates Across Campus

School Store is Back

It's official – our **School Store** has made a triumphant return! After being closed since 2017, this beloved tradition is back thanks to the leadership and vision of our **National Junior Honor Society**, now proudly serving as our **Student Council**. The store opened its doors for the first time this year on **March 13th**, and students can now snag pencils, key chains, erasers and more every other **Friday from 7:30-7:45 a.m.**



JANUARY JOY: Snow, Saints & Spirit

January may have brought snowstorms our way, but St. Thomas students and families bounced back with full energy for **Catholic Schools Week**. The week kicked off with a special Mass celebrating our patron saint and the **150th anniversary of the Parish**, bringing our community together in reflection and gratitude.

Tradition and fun were in full swing with our classic school-wide **bowling event**, the always-exciting **8th grade volleyball showdown** – the **Campbell Soups** versus the **Fritz Crackers** – and a lively **Guess the Teacher** contest.



FEBRUARY FUN: Sweethearts, Donuts & Dodgeballs

February at St. Thomas was full of twists on classic fun! Our **Sweetheart Dance** went all out as a **Father-Daughter celebration**, complete with music, laughter and even a donut wall that had everyone smiling (and snacking). But moms weren't left out. Our **Mother-Son Dodgeball Tournament** brought energy, teamwork and laughs, with custom t-shirts for moms. Although the moms looked the part, that was not enough to beat out their kids!



February also gave our students a chance to shine on stage at our **Talent Show**, which was an amazing success. From cheerleading routines and dance performances to impressive instrumental pieces, students wowed the audience.

MARCH MOMENTS: Reflection, Celebration & Community

March at St. Thomas was full of meaningful experiences and community spirit. Our **8th grade students** delivered a moving **Living Stations of the Cross** on **March 27th**, accompanied in song by the **St. Thomas Tunes**. This year, the entire school contributed with creative renderings of each station on display, making the performance a true school-wide reflection.

Our middle school students proudly represented St. Thomas in the **Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Parade** and we welcomed families for a successful **Open House**.

On the Horizon

SPRING SPOTLIGHT: Willy Wonka Takes the Stage Performances – May 15 & 16

This spring, the spotlight shines on the St. Thomas Musical as our talented students bring **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory** to life! With 80 students from grades 4-8 participating, the production promises music, laughter and a chocolate-filled adventure for the community.

Jackson S., a St. Thomas student since Pre-K and seasoned performer, stars as the iconic Willy Wonka, bringing charm and experience to the stage. Alongside him are the four **Golden Ticket** winners, including the one who ultimately wins his heart and inherits the factory, Charlie Bucket, played by Owen T. Together with an ensemble of Oompa Loompas and other whimsical characters, this will be a performance to remember.

Our beloved director, Kerry Lambert, says, "Behind our curtain lies a factory full of surprises... Oompa Loompas, golden tickets and a cast of students whose imagination is sweeter than chocolate." Reflecting on his role as Willy Wonka, Jackson connected with the famous line, "There is no life I know to compare with pure imagination. Living there, you'll be free if you truly wish to be." To Jackson the quote means that in anything you are passionate about, imagination and creativity will help you get the most out of the experience.



Tickets go on sale soon for the performances on May 15 & 16 in our Harding-Halas Arts & Athletics Center. You don't want to miss this SWEET experience!

Our Faculty Shines – Receiving Foundation Grants

Congratulations to three of our teachers on receiving educational grants from Foundations in Education. Their awards will support new 2026-2027 programs that will benefit our students and enrich their learning experiences.

- **MRS. DURKOS – Stories in Motion, Bringing French to Life**

This grant will establish a mobile French learning station that includes a book library, resource cart and video-creation studio. Students will read, write and perform original French skits and use the studio equipment to record and produce their work as engaging digital media, bringing language learning to life.

- **MS. MORRISSEY – Voices of Faith, Enhancing Arts Through Sound Innovation**

Students will gain hands-on experience with the technical aspects of theater, including sound design and production. This program provides an important pathway for students to contribute differently to the arts while playing a vital role in bringing productions to life.

- **MR. PIOREK – Broadcasting Radio Station**

This grant will launch a student-run school radio station and broadcasting course, giving students the opportunity to create live programming and share content based on their passions and interests.



St. Thomas is Cruising – Join in on the Fun

April 25th Auction – A Yacht Rocking Night

Get ready to set sail at our **Yacht Rock Spring to Auction Event** on Saturday, April 25th, from 6-10PM at Black Rock Yacht Club. This annual evening is a community highlight and a vital fundraiser supporting St. Thomas' operating budget.

Can't make it aboard in person? No problem! Log in at bidpal.net/springtoauction to bid on incredible packages – from golf at Martha's Vineyard and the Country Club in Brookline, MA to gourmet dinners and a sparkling diamond pendant. We have gone overboard on our auction packages this year!

Looking to make an even bigger splash? Corporate sponsorships are available, but the program closes April 6th – so act fast and check out the program at stasonline.net/giving/corporate-sponsors-program.

Don't miss your chance to join the crew for a night of fun, music and fabulous prizes.

Special ticket pricing for grandparents, alumni and parent alumni!



TICKETS ON SALE NOW
Scan QR code or click link:
bidpal.net/springtoauction

COMING SOON *Our Daily Bread: Recipes from the STA Community*

There's nothing more nourishing than a family meal shared with loved ones – and we want to celebrate that! We're excited to bring back this St. Thomas tradition with a community cookbook.

Parents, grandparents, relatives and faculty are invited to submit favorite recipes – from snacks to desserts – along with optional photos.

To participate, scan or click on the QR code or email STAourdailybread@gmail.com.



Recipe collection fully launches in May!

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who shared their insights during our focus groups, surveys and Zoom sessions. Your feedback has been invaluable, and we're busy weaving it all together. Keep an eye out for the final Strategic Plan this August, which will guide the next four school years. *We couldn't have done it without you!*

Alumni from Jingle Bells to Joyful Blessings

Holiday Cheers at The Seagrape!

Over 60 alumni and parent alumni families joined us at **The Seagrape on Sunday, December 21, 2025** for an evening full of merriment! **John Gnibus, Class of 2014**, organized the event and shared that it was "a great night of reunion and fun, with St. Thomas Aquinas alumni and families reconnecting and catching up with each other."

Overall, it was night of laughs and memories, all accompanied by fan-favorite STA DJ Peter G. A few highlights are pictured here or connect with us on Social Media for a full play by play on video. See if you can recognize some old classmates!

This was our **second year** hosting a "Holiday Event" and we're excited to grow it in the years to come. If you have ideas or want to get a head start on planning the 2026 event, reach out to us at info@stasonline.net or connect with John directly at john.gnibus@aon.com.



Alumni Mass & Senior Send-Off

Continuing the spirit of celebration, we're thrilled to welcome everyone to our **Alumni Mass on Sunday, May 3rd at 12PM!** We'll honor the STA Class of 2022 as they head off to college, share where they're going, and celebrate all of our alumni.

Stick around after the Mass for school tours, STA swag and surprises – you never know which K buddies or favorite faculty might pop in!



ALUMNI – We want to connect with you

Scan or Click code to connect with us here



Do you have an exciting story to share or an idea for the Wildcat Den? Please connect with us at info@stasonline.net

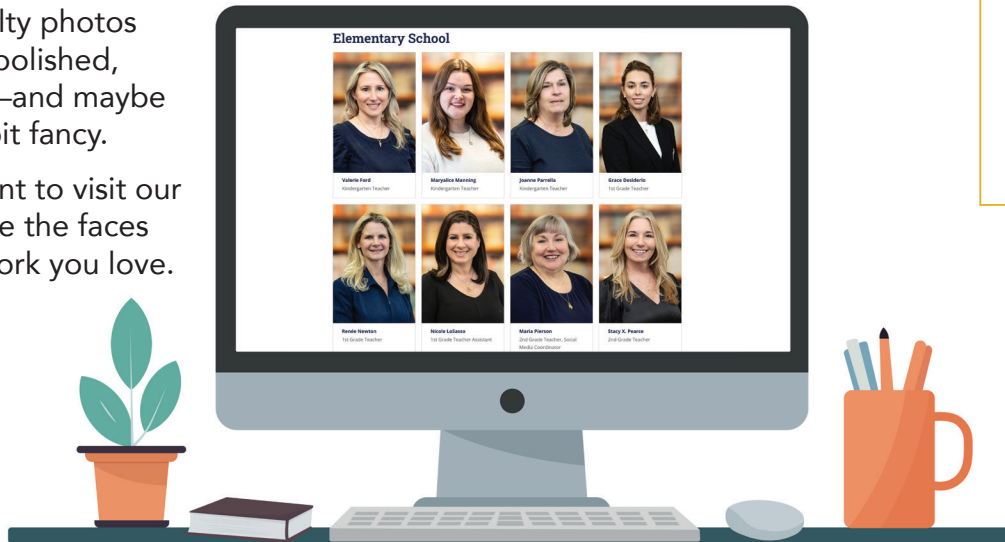
UPCOMING EVENTS

- 5/9 First Communion
- 5/25 St. Thomas Marching in the Fairfield Memorial Day Parade
- 5/28 Kindergarten Graduation & 8th Grade Class Night
- 5/29 8th Grade Graduation
- 6/11 Last Day of School

New Look, Same Committed Faculty!

Have you checked out our updated faculty photos yet? They're polished, professional—and maybe even a little bit fancy.

Take a moment to visit our website to see the faces behind the work you love.



GIVE To St. Thomas

Scan or Click on the code to donate today



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

1719 Post Road, Fairfield, CT 06824

203.255.0556



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