

HEADS UP

A Weekly News Update from the Principal and Heads of School

Friday, 28 October 2011

Volume 8 Issue 07

PRINCIPAL NEWS

St. Andrew's School P.T.A.



2012 Wall Calendar ***“Living the IB Learner Profiles”***

Cover Photo: Andrea Guerrero

On sale from TODAY at only \$20.00

**Eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, *however improbable*, must be the truth
(Sherlock Holmes)**

Since the beginning of the school year I have had a number of interesting and stimulating conversations with parents of primary and secondary students seeking more information about the PYP and the Diploma programmes. Interestingly, when talking about the Diploma, I am often asked the same question; ‘Why does St. Andrew’s offer an additional year at the end of Secondary?’

Well, the simple answer is, we don’t!

I think that some of the confusion is based two words - ‘Grade’ and ‘Year’ - that we use interchangeably at school and have different meanings to our parents’ dependent upon their geographical origin.

To help clarify this situation, given below is a table that compares ‘Years’ (used predominately in the UK) and ‘Grades’ (traditionally used in North American). In future, and to try and help remove some of this confusion, I have asked all staff to use the term ‘Year’ when referring to the progress and placement of students at St. Andrew’s.

Student's Age	St Andrew's	Courses studies at St Andrew's	US Grade System	Additional Information	
				HS = High School	KS = Key Stage
2.5 – 3	Pre School	IB PYP	Nursery	US = Pre-School	UK = Foundation
3 – 4	Pre-Recep	IB PYP	Nursery Pre – Kindy	US = Pre-School	UK = Foundation
4 – 5	Reception	IB PYP	Pre – Kindy	US = Pre-School	UK = Foundation
5 – 6	Year 1	IB PYP	Kindergarten	US = Elementary	UK = KS1
6 – 7	Year 2	IB PYP	Grade 1	US = Elementary	UK = KS1
7 – 8	Year 3	IB PYP	Grade 2	US = Elementary	UK = KS2
8 – 9	Year 4	IB PYP	Grade 3	US = Elementary	UK = KS2
9 – 10	Year 5	IB PYP	Grade 4	US = Elementary	UK = KS2
10 – 11	Year 6	IB PYP	Grade 5	US = Elementary	UK = KS2
11 – 12	Year 7	Middle School	Grade 6	US = Junior High	UK = KS3
12 – 13	Year 8	Middle School	Grade 7	US = Junior High	UK = KS3
13 – 14	Year 9	Middle School	Grade 8	US = Junior High	UK = KS3
14 – 15	Year 10	BGCSE	Grade 9	US = HS Freshman	UK = KS4 (Gases)
15 – 16	Year 11	BGCSE	Grade 10	US = HS Sophomore	UK = KS4 (Gases)
16 – 17	Year 12	IB Diploma	Grade 11	US = HS Junior	UK = KS5 ('A' Levels)
17 - 18	Year 13	IB Diploma	Grade 12	US = HS Senior	UK = KS5 ('A' Levels)

Strategic Plan Update: During the first seven weeks of the school year I have managed to meet, at least once, with all the committees/groups represented at the school. All have been extremely positive in offering help and advice, and the notice board in my office dedicated to the Strategic Plan now contains lots of 'post-its' with many exciting ideas and suggestions. In January, I will begin to synthesize this information with the aim being to publish our new Strategic Plan in May 2012.

Central to the academic aspect of the new plan will be the development of a whole school curriculum map. The importance of such a document that will detail the complete educational development of our students, from the ELC to graduation at the end of Year 13, should not be underestimated; nor should the task of producing it.

Our five year accreditation report from the Council of International Schools (CIS) clearly showed that our curriculum coordinators and team leaders have made significant progress in this area, but we now need a concerted effort to standardize these documents and ensure continuity throughout the school.

In an effort to assist in this process we will be conducting a whole school educational audit early next month. I have retained the services of a small independent educational consultancy company in the UK who will be visiting from the 8th – 15th November. As a consultant Geoff Lloyd (who holds an MA in school organization and heads *Lloyd consult*) has a wealth of experience that includes:

- Director of a UK Department of Education school improvement project from 2000 to 2004 that targeted improvements in a range of schools across the south of England.
- Setting up two new international schools in Norway.
- Numerous CIS accreditation visits including co-chairing a recent team visit to Zimbabwe.
- Running seminars for local authorities and school boards on school development.

In his 'spare time' Mr. Lloyd is also board chair of a middle school in the UK that was recently judged 'good with outstanding features' by OFSTED.

I am hoping that Mr. Lloyd's written report will provide valuable feedback in terms of continued curriculum development and will highlight areas that need further professional development. A summary of the report will be included in Heads Up at a later date.

Dr. Glenn Canterford
Principal

SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS

Golden Girl visits St Andrew's School



Debbie will be coming back to join us on Friday, 11th November for Remembrance Day.

PTA Halloween Bake Sale and Uniform Release

Today our hard working PTA held one of their major fundraisers for the year. The many hours of preparation for the event were appreciated by our happy students and their teachers. All monies raised are spent on enriching our school and its programmes and we thank our PTA for their efforts. Well done!!

Parent, Teacher Conferences Tuesday & Wednesday 8 & 9 November

All students from year 7 through year 13 received a letter and parent sign-up sheet for our first set of Parent Teacher Conferences. After the successful 'Back to School' afternoon when parents found out **WHAT** their child was doing in each subject the conferences give parents and opportunity to find out **HOW** they are doing in each subject and more importantly **WHY!!!**

National Arts Festival Winners



Congratulations to both Jason Ren who won solo piano for all of the Bahamas in his age group and Emma Van Wynen coming 2nd. Jason and Emma also won for the duet competition in their age group.

Jared Fitzgerald also received a Merit for finishing 3rd.

The following students, although not placing, did a great job; Edward Fitzgerald and Rachel Cates. Well done to all of our musicians St Andrew's, especially Ms Petersen, is proud of you!!



Student Leaders



Yesterday we recognized our recently elected Middle School Deputy Head Boy; Nikolaus Holmberg and Deputy Head Girl Raquel de Cardenas. We asked our recently elected Head Boy Mikhail Bethel and Head Girl Ashlyr Russell to join us for a photograph. I'm sure that the students and faculty have elected student leaders that will make us all proud. Congratulations!!

BREEF

On Wednesday, BREEF educator Charlene Cary came to school to give Year 8 students an outstanding interactive presentation on sustainability and the beautiful Bahamian Ecosystem. Charlene came in as a part of the students' "Week Without Walls" (WWW) preparation to help them understand the importance of preserving the rich natural heritage of the Bahamas. The students participated in a quiz game on the many types of fish native to the Bahamas, fish that they will have an opportunity to swim with in Lutheran. Students left the presentation feeling inspired and full of ideas for their WWW!



OUR BAHAMAS

- The Bahamas is a coastal state
- 21,991.98 miles of coast
- 10,070 sq km Land
- 14 major islands
- 100% Caye
- Approx. 350,000 population
- 85% under 35 years
- all live on the coast



I am a risk-taker and proud of it!

In support of the PTA calendar competition I would like to talk about one of the ten traits of the IB Learner Profile. I personally feel that being a risk-taker is one of the most significant. To me it is an important life skill to learn and develop; after all, I would not be working as an international teacher if I didn't take risks!

Thinking back through my life, some of my fondest memories and defining moments have been when I have taken a risk to make them happen. I am not talking of the types of risk that danger or have a chance of injury or loss but the type that enable you to live fullest. I believe that everything great requires a little bit of risk to make it be worthwhile.



put you in life to the happen and



Students need to take risks to develop as learners and people; they need to be able to fall down, pick themselves up, brush themselves off, think about what happened, learn from it and move on. After all, the IB defines a risk-taker as someone who "approaches unfamiliar situations and uncertainty with courage and forethought, and has the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies. They are brave and articulate in defending their beliefs."

How do students become risk takers?

It's all in the mind!!

We need to start by looking at risk the correct way. If I stand in front of one of my classes and tell a joke that I think is funny and no one laughs (which happens way too frequently) I have just taken a risk. I may be a little embarrassed but does anyone really care or remember? Not at all. Does it mean I have failed? No. I just need to remember not to tell that joke again and to try something different. I have gained important feedback, experience and learnt from it.



This is how successful people develop; if something doesn't work they get rid of it and try something else and move on. The problem is that we usually only see the completed and polished item and have no idea of the setbacks and attempts during its development. Last week I played with a friend's new Iphone 4S and asked Siri loads of questions. Was this outstanding piece of technology developed without engineers taking risks and having several attempts at getting it right?

The key to becoming a successful risk taker is to start small. Try food never eaten before, play a new sport, ask a question in class that you normally ask or talk to someone that you don't know. Just get in the saying yes to and attempting new things. Be prepared to go outside of zone. Some things might not be as good as you expected, but you'll how often you find something great. People will not remember the didn't work but will remember when you start being successful.



that you've would not habit of your comfort be surprised things that



Risks by their very nature can be frightening, which is natural. That's why starting small and working up is the way to go as it will break down the fear, bit by bit. All teachers were nervous when they stood in front of their first class; this is the same for most professionals. Fear just needs to be understood as it has a habit of getting in your head and holding you back.

Once you build up the habit of trying new things, you'll want to experiment with some bigger risks. You'll be more willing to volunteer to give a solution, do presentations or even stand up in front of your peers and talk. You'll be able to explore new ideas and problems, gaining confidence as you go. Just be careful as you can end up traveling around the world, seeing and experiencing amazing things and living life to its fullest.



Paul Toomer - IB coordinator

Edline

Edline was introduced last academic year and improved communication between home and school and improved student learning. Teachers, students and parents will be even more expert in its use this year. This software allows our students and parents to access teachers' grade books no matter where they are; Europe, North America etc anywhere there is internet. Like last year teachers' grade books will show updates every 3 weeks and an EDLINE 3 week grade update schedule will be in next week's Heads Up.

EDLINE 3 WEEK GRADE UPDATE SCHEDULE

Parents will expect to see your grade book updated as shown below

DAY, DATE & TIME	STATUS
Monday, 26 September 3:30pm	X
VACATION: 14 Oct -1 7 Oct	
Monday, 24 October 3:30pm	X
Monday, 14 November 3:30pm	
Monday, 5 December 3:30pm	
VACATION: 19 Dec 2011 - 3 Jan 2012	
Monday, 16 January 3:30pm	
Monday, 6 February 3:30pm	
VACATION: 13 Feb - 17 Feb	
Monday, 27 February 3:30pm	
Monday, 19 March 3:30pm	
VACATION: 2 Apr - 13 Apr	
Monday, 23 April 3:30pm	
Monday, 14 May 3:30pm	
Monday, 4 June 3:30pm	

Status x = completed

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRIMESTERS	UPPER SCHOOL SEMESTERS
1: August 25 - November 25	1: August 25 - January 20
2: November 28 - March 9	2: January 23 - June 15
3: March 12 - June 15	School reports sent home electronically after 2 semesters are completed
School reports sent home electronically after all 3 trimesters are completed.	

Inter house Swim Gala

Just before the Autumn break the Swim Gala was held. Once again it was a well organized and enjoyable event. Carib House won the Middle School competition and Carib House tied with Arawak House for first place in the Upper School competition. Well done to all competitors and of course our PE department.

BAISS Interschool Softball

This Week's Results

Junior Girls beat NCA 16-5 and beat Aquinas 8-6. As mentioned earlier our junior girls went undefeated during the regular season winning the pennant.

Junior Boys lost to NCA 11-4 and beat Aquinas 22-1.

Senior Girls lost to QC 11-17 and beat BA 27-7.

Senior Boys beat JPW 17-15

The 2 girls teams have made the playoffs and the senior boys need one more win from their last 2 games. Unfortunately our junior boys won't make it even though they defeated Aquinas in their last game. The junior boys are a very young group but I'm sure that the experience they gained this year will hold them in good stead in next year's competition. Good luck to all of our teams. **PLAYOFFS begin Monday 7 November**

Good News SALSA COMPETITION

In June 2011 our "Salsa Club Dancers" competed in a competition and Emma Tuletta, now in year 12, won the competition. Well done Emma.

Next week Saturday 5 November a "Youth Ballroom Blitz" is taking place in Orlando Florida and our Salsa dancers will be representing St Andrew's and the Bahamas. The "Youth Ballroom Blitz" Competition is sponsored by "The World Dance Arts Foundation". We wish our dancers well. The Salsa club meets every Tuesday after school and if you wish to join please contact Mrs Indira Francis, details from me. The Salsa club is an enjoyable way to build confidence and to keep fit, if you watch "*Dancing with the Stars*" you know what I mean.

Good News

Parents, if you have good news to share with us about our students, e.g., weekend activities not sponsored by the school, please email me directly. Over the holiday, if students represented The Bahamas or their clubs, in different areas, please let me know.

Important Secondary School Events

Friday, 28 October PTA Halloween Bake Sale
Tuesday, Nov 1 thru Thursday Nov 17 Three year 8 www trips to The Island School Eleuthera
Tuesday, & Wednesday, 8 & 9 November Parent, Teacher Conferences
Friday, 25 November Year 8 girls 'Beauty Sleepover'
Sunday, 27 November Service at the Kirk (11:00am)
Wednesday, 30 November St Andrew's Day
Thursday, 1 December Boys wear ties (until Easter)
Wednesday, 30 November - Friday 2 December Seussical Jr The Musical
Friday, 16 December School closes at noon

Frank Coyle

Head of Secondary School

Email: frank.coyle@st-andrews.com

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Year 5 Healthy Choices Field Trip

The students of Year 5 brought closure to their Healthy Choices Unit by visiting the grocery store (Super Value-Winton) during a field trip before the break. Students were given a group task and budget to plan a specialized diet for a particular individual. Students created a shopping list and then headed off to the grocery store to purchase their items. Upon returning to school, students unpacked their grocery items and prepared their specialized meal. Students of Year 5 visited each other's classes for a "Healthy Choices Buffet". It was an experience that they will always remember!

Tamika Cartwright



Thanksgiving Food Drive in aid of



Hands 4 Hunger, Great Commissions
Outreach, Bilney Lane Children's Home &
Salvation Army

**Please send in nonperishable food
items such as: rice, flour, grits,
oatmeal, baby food and other canned
goods by Thursday, November 24.**

Meetings with the Principal and Head of Primary

The information below was included in a letter to all parents sent on Monday 24th October. Please return a completed form or contact Mrs. Thomas if you would like to attend a meeting.

Dr. Glenn Canterford, Principal, and Mrs. Yvette Simms, Head of Primary, will host a series of meetings with the parents of our primary school students. These meetings are intended to provide us with an opportunity to get to know you better, to share relevant information with you regarding your child's education and they will serve as an open forum for communication. It is our hope that you will make plans to join us as we value your voice in working toward a Strategic Plan for the future of St. Andrew's School.

Please note the following meeting dates and times. You will be informed of the venue of each meeting closer to the date as numbers will determine our choices. *Please complete the attached form and return it to Mrs. LeKeisha Thomas in the main office on or before the Thursday morning prior to your meeting date.*

Monday, October 31, 2011 – 9:00AM to 10:30AM – Parents of Year 6

Monday, November 7, 2011 – 9:00AM to 10:30AM – Parents of Year 5

Monday, November 14, 2011 – 9:00AM to 10:30AM – Parents of Year 4

Monday, November 21, 2011 – 9:00AM to 10:30AM – Parents of Year 3

Monday, November 28, 2011 – 9:00AM to 10:30AM – Parents of Year 2

Monday, December 5, 2011 – 9:00AM to 10:30AM – Parents of Year 1

Monday, December 12, 2011 – 9:00AM to 10:30AM – Parents of ELC, Pre-School, Pre-Reception, Reception

Dates to Remember

Friday 28th October (**today**) PTA Halloween Bake Sale

Monday 31st October

IFS orders due

November 14th – 18th

Health and Safety Committee's: Road Safety Week

Thursday 24th November

Thanksgiving Day

Friday 25th November

Junior House Basketball Tournament

Wednesday 30th November

St. Andrew's Day

Thursday 31st November

Primary Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences

My best to you,
Yvette Simms
Head of Primary

COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS FROM THE ST ANDREW'S FAMILY

Please click on a group's link below to view information from the group:

[Community News and Events](#)

[Health and Safety News and Events](#)

[PTA News and Events](#)