

# HEADS UP

## A Weekly News Update from the Principal and Heads of School

Friday, 6 January 2012

Volume 8 Issue 14

### PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

*Because things are the way they are, things will not stay the way they are.*  
([Bertolt Brecht](#))

*Change means that what was before wasn't perfect. People want things to be better.*  
([Esther Dyson](#))

*Always remember that the future comes one day at a time.*  
([Dean Acheson](#))

Let me begin by wishing everyone a **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** As I said in an email to the faculty on January 1<sup>st</sup>, if we are able to maintain the enthusiasm into 2012 that I witnessed in the last five months of 2011, then I am sure we can go from strength to strength this year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome any new families joining the school this term. In addition you might also notice a couple of new faces on campus. Marie Carroll joins us from the College of The Bahamas and has taken up the position of School Counsellor. In addition Marie will be teaching IB Psychology. Clare Pitts joins us a 'teacher-in-waiting' for Year 5. Claire will take over this class in August but in the meantime she is going to help coordinate the PYP curriculum until our new PYP Coordinator is appointed. Clare has considerable PYP experience and joins us having just spent the last three months volunteering at an orphanage in South Africa.

I am also delighted to welcome back Susie Burnett and Cathy Roach – they were sorely missed last term and everyone is elated to see them both 'back in action'.

During the break, as well as playing some golf, I was able to work my way through all the suggestions that had been placed on the Strategic Plan board since August. Once these had been categorised and synthesised, I was able to place them into five categories that are now the foundations upon which the rest of the plan will be built. These foundations are as follows:

St. Andrew's -

- Our Mission and Core Values
- Working towards quality teaching and learning to improve student learning
- Striving to be a leading 21<sup>st</sup> Century International School
- A leading school in the local, regional and international educational community
- Going beyond the classroom

Over the next few months the plan will continue to develop on two fronts. Firstly, all of the suggestions will be placed into a *Vade Mecum* (Procedures Manuel) that will outline how we aim to achieve the goals set. Each documented item will come with a time line, in addition to showing who is responsible for making it happen and any anticipated costs. This will be the document that the teachers, ADCON, the Board and Foundation will use in the coming years to help shape our development. Secondly, we will be producing a generic document that outlines the major parts of the plan and in due course this will be distributed to all our stakeholders.

Needless to say, we will not be waiting until the plan is finally published in May before implementing some changes; indeed some of these have already started to happen. As I stated in *Heads Up* before the holiday, Mr. Toomer (IB Coordinator) is now overseeing all matters related to the IB Diploma (Years 12 & 13) which means Mrs. Robinson can concentrate on our Years 10 & 11 students. We are also initiating a review of our learning support, our admissions policy and looking at ways to improve teacher appraisal. I have also asked Mr. Outten to produce weekly reports on maintenance issues and to take a closer look at the overall security of the campus

One area that I believe needs attention here at school (and in the wider community) is our approach to environmental issues. It seems I am not alone in my thinking as I have been approached by a small group of teachers who would like to start a STA Eco-committee. If you are interested in joining this group, please let me know and I will pass on your name to ensure you are invited to the first meeting. Once the group is up and running, I will ask them to place regular updates in this forum.

Between now and the end of February my main focus will be on the recruitment of new staff to replace those who have decided to leave at the end of this school year. Many of you may have seen our advert in the local press and I will be traveling to London on January 17<sup>th</sup> to attend the Council of International Schools (CIS) and Search Associates (Search) job fairs to interview international candidates. As appointments are made they will be posted in future editions of *Heads Up*.

Glenn Canterford

# SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS

*A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE ST ANDREW'S COMMUNITY  
I HOPE 2012 IS A GREAT YEAR FOR US ALL*

## School Run Day Friday 13 January

Parents and Graduates are welcome to take part and should be on the field for a 7:00am start. Our hard working PTA prepares a light breakfast for all adults taking part. A letter has been given to students informing parents about the run times. Please remember the Nassau East gate will be closed for the duration of the runs.

Parents should **not** take students home before the end of the events including the announcement of the individual race winners and the winning Houses.

## National BGCSE Awards Ceremony

The following year 12 students will be recognized at the National BGCSE Awards Ceremony on Thursday 19 January 2012, at 10:00am, in the Church of God Auditorium.

**Students with 5 'A' passes or more:** Terrance Chand, Zoe Galanis, Maya Harrigan, Jamie Lavin, Jeremy Moxey, Kajol Ratanjankar, Emma Tuletta and Andrew Wilson.

**Students receiving subject awards:** Kajol Ratanjankar and Perez Willie. We are very proud of our students' academic achievement.

## Annual 'Enrichment' opportunities years 8, 9 and 10



**ST ANDREW'S MIDDLE SCHOOL  
SEEDS IN RESIDENCE & E = MC<sup>2</sup> 2012  
FACULTY of ARTS & SCIENCE  
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, KINGSTON, ONTARIO, CANADA**

St. Andrew's Middle School is excited to offer SIR 2012 for students in Year 8 and E = mc<sup>2</sup> for students in Years 9 and 10. Both programmes are residential enrichment programmes for highly able, motivated and gifted students in years eight and nine. SIR and E = mc<sup>2</sup> is an enrichment studies programme offered by Queen's University, one of the leading Canadian universities.

This innovative residential enrichment programme attracts gifted and highly motivated students from across North America and allows students to explore new subject areas, challenge their minds, change routines, check out what university is like, meet interesting people, broaden horizons, experiment with new ideas, arouse curiosity and stimulate participants to set high standards for themselves and their academic studies.

Students who are interested in applying to participate should complete the form attached to the letter that was sent home this week to all Year 8, 9 and 10 students and return it to Mrs. Dilletta.

For further information please contact Mrs. Dilletta, Dean of Middle School or browse the programme web site <http://esu.queensu.ca>.

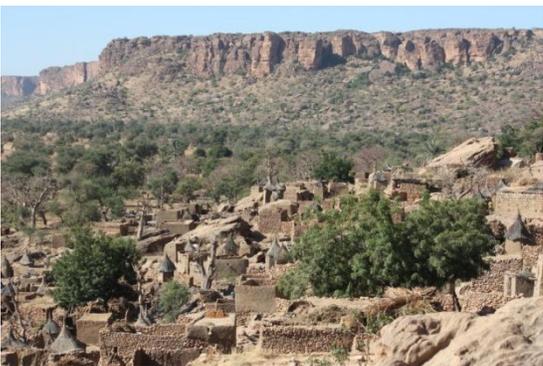
“If more people took just ONE DAY out of their year to HELP OTHER PEOPLE, it would have a HUGE IMPACT on the World” Year 12 student April-2008

I would like to start this piece by wishing everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year. At this time of year I often reflect on the past year and realise how lucky that I've been. During the break, while relaxing in Eleuthera, my wife read from her journal the extract from the same day but the year before. During this time in 2010 we were on a 3000km tour through four, French speaking, West African countries.

The quote above is from a Year 12 student who was part of a CAS trip that I led in 2008. It is one of my favourite quotes and came into full effect on December 27<sup>th</sup> 2010. I have been involved in many CAS trips and have always been ready to help people in need. This time it was me who required help!



We were in the Dogon Valley in Mali, an escarpment in the middle of the desert. There are a few small villages dotted around but no large town. The local people tend to be poor, living off an annual crop of millet.



We were driving from one village to the next when, trying to negotiate a sand dune, we came to a sudden halt. Within a few minutes I had managed to get our old Land Cruiser completely stuck in the sand. There was no way the three of us (my wife, the guide and myself) could move the car.



I was starting to panic; we were in the middle of a desert, during the midday heat, STUCK!! What were we going to do?? It would probably be a long, hot and thirsty walk to the nearest village.

Then, suddenly, out of what seemed nowhere about 30 teenage boys and young men appeared! Were we going to safe? Robbed? We've all heard the stories. We were just south of the Niger River and across the river there were active terrorist groups who had been known to take Western hostages. Now the panic really set in.

Much to my surprise and delight they got together and pushed the car up to the top of the sand dune, probably a distance of 100m. This was no easy task that took about 30 minutes; at the end they were hot and exhausted but very excited to have managed to get us out of trouble. We handed out bottles of drinking water and candies, much to their surprise and delight, shook hands, said our thanks and waved goodbye as we drove off.



This, to me, highlights the aims of the CAS programme within the IB Diploma and St Andrew's School, as it enables students to develop into adults who are:

- reflective thinkers—they understand their own strengths and limitations, identify goals and devise strategies for personal growth
- willing to accept new challenges and new roles
- aware of themselves as members of communities with responsibilities towards each other and the environment
- active participants in sustained, collaborative projects
- balanced—they enjoy and find significance in a range of activities involving intellectual, physical, creative and emotional experiences.

For a short moment in time we were members of a small community in an African desert. Without knowing it, the other members of that community followed one of the main aims of CAS by showing responsibility towards some temporary members to their community, even though they were total strangers. Please remember this when you see someone who is need a little extra help; you may also need it one day.

### Model United Nations (MUN) Competition

Our Model United Nations club will be representing St Andrew's and The Bahamas from January 25 to 29 in The Harvard University MUN competition, a first for St Andrew's and The Bahamas.

### 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, 24 October 3:30pm	X
Monday, 14 November 3:30pm	X
Monday, 5 December 3:30pm	X
<b>VACATION: 19 Dec 2011 - 3 Jan 2012</b>	
Monday, 16 January 3:30pm	
Monday, 6 February 3:30pm	
<b>VACATION: 13 Feb - 17 Feb</b>	
Monday, 27 February 3:30pm	
Monday, 19 March 3:30pm	
<b>VACATION: 2 Apr - 13 Apr</b>	
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 Teachers' Gradebooks close December 16, 2011
2: November 28 - March 9	2: January 23 - June 15
3: March 12 - June 15	<b>School reports sent home electronically after each semester is completed.</b>
<b>School reports sent home electronically after each trimester is completed.</b>	

### 2011 - 2012 Test Dates

Test Date	Test	Registration Deadline
January 07 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	SSAT	December 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2011
January 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	SAT	December 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2011
February 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	ACT	January 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2012
April 04 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	SSAT	March 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2012
April 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	ACT	March 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2012
May 05 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	SAT	May 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2012

### 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.

### BAISS Sports

The basketball season continues and although traditionally basketball is our weakest sport our teams continue to compete well and make progress. I have enjoyed all the games I've watched.

### Important Secondary School Events

Friday 13 January ..... Annual School Run Day  
Monday 16 January ..... Edline Export  
Thursday 19 January ..... National BGCSE Awards Ceremony  
Wed 25 - Sun. 29 January ..... Model United Nations team competes in Harvard University Competition  
Monday 30 January - Friday 10 February ..... IB & BGCSE Mock Exams  
Monday 6 February ..... Sports Day at TAR Stadium  
Tuesday 7 February ..... Edline Export  
Friday 10 February ..... Teacher Curriculum Planning meetings school closes at noon  
Monday 13 - Friday 17 February ..... Winter Break

**Frank Coyle**  
**Head of Secondary School**  
**Email: [frank.coyle@st-andrews.com](mailto:frank.coyle@st-andrews.com)**

# PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

As we begin a brand new year and a new start at school following a break, resolutions, goals and the best intentions become the focus. New beginnings and fresh starts are wonderful opportunities refocus our energies, take on new challenges or let go of the things that hold us back. I wish for the entire primary community the very best for 2012.

## The School Run

You may want to start your fitness resolutions by joining us next Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup> for our **Parent, Teacher, Alumni Run/ Walk** which begins at 7AM. Below are times for the primary section of the Run Day.



**All students in years 3 through 12 are expected to wear their house uniform throughout the day. The infants wear their usual PE uniform.**

### Primary School

- |                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| • Infant School Run/ Walk | 9.30am – 10.00am |
| • Year 3                  | 10.40am          |
| • Year 4                  | 10.50am          |
| • Years 5 & 6 walk        | 10.55am          |
| • Years 5 & 6 run         | 11.10am          |
| • Junior School awards    | 11.30am          |

**NOTE: At 10:00am the back entrance to St Andrew's School (Nassau East entrance) will be closed to all vehicles until 2.45pm. PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO USE THIS ENTRANCE**

Students in the **Infant School** will go down to the field right after 9.00am that morning. **Junior School** students will go to the field at 10:30am.

### Students Take Independent Action



Rhys Hayward and Isabella Watson (Year 3) held a bake sale for the Bahamas Humane Society just before Christmas. Here is a photo of them handing over the money to Mr. Grant.

## **Primary School Edline Update Calendar**

**29<sup>th</sup> September**

**10<sup>th</sup> November**

**8<sup>th</sup> December**

**26<sup>th</sup> January**

**15<sup>th</sup> March**

**10<sup>th</sup> May**

**7<sup>th</sup> June**

### **Dates to Remember**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January

Year 6: Morning of the Arts

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January

School Run Day

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:

**[PTA News and Events](#)**

**[Health and Safety News and Events](#)**

**[Community News and Events](#)**