

HEADS UP

A Weekly News Update from the Principal and Heads of School

Friday, 24 February 2012

Volume 8 Issue 18

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

It is with great sadness I have to report the passing of one of our students. Reuben Cooper III (Year 2) died last weekend as a result of a complication with diabetes. Reuben was a shining light in Primary and will be missed by everyone who knew him. We would ask that you keep Reuben's family in your thoughts and prayers at this sad time.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with Mrs Sonia Adderley a teacher, who lost her father last weekend.

I am working to make sure we don't only protect the environment, we also improve governance.
([Wangari Maathai](#))

As I am sure many of you are aware St. Andrew's is due to undergo its reaccreditation with the Council of International Schools (CIS) and The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) in 2014. Continued accreditation to organisations like CIS and NEASC is vital to a school like ours because it shows that we have reached, or are working towards, bench-marks that are being demonstrated by some of the world's leading international schools.

Furthermore, if we take into consideration recent research that shows almost 99% of students graduating with the full IB diploma go on to higher education – a figure that is unmatched by any other national or international educational system – it is clear that as a school we must continue to strive to be the best we can possibly be and reaccreditation can only help in this process.

Although 2014 may still seem a long way away, the actual process leading to reaccreditation will start later this year with a preliminary visit from CIS/NEASC to assess if we are ready to begin the self-study. One element that will be central to the preliminary visit, and has always featured strongly in any accreditation team I have ever served on, is that of school governance.

Since last August I have been working very closely with, and taking advice from, the Board and the Foundation to ensure we have updated or introduced the appropriate policies and procedures concerning governance. Although this is a work in progress and we still have a number of issues to consider, I believe we took a big step forward recently when we (the Board, the Foundation and I) agreed on a procedure that outlines how Board members should be selected.

Although the document runs to a couple of pages, I think there are a number of parts worth reproducing here:

The School shall seek to appoint a Board whose composition reflects the expertise, resources and perspectives (past, present, future) needed to achieve the mission and strategic objectives of St. Andrew's. The School attaches great importance to the ability of nominees to serve with a genuine motive, independent of self-interest, and with fairness to all, and it shall seek nominees who it believes will serve the best interest of St. Andrew's through the knowledge or experience of the School or of the general management of other institutions or businesses. It is expected that a person nominated will be able to provide 'value added' to St. Andrew's and to serve free of compensation.

The year-to-year strategic objectives of St. Andrew's emanate from the Principal's office in conjunction with ADCON and are, in turn, considered by the Board and, if approved, are adopted and supported by the Board. Based on the adopted strategic objectives, the Principal and the Board Chairman will meet some 12 weeks prior to the AGM. They will assess the current make-up of the Board to determine what deficiencies, if any, exist within the Board that may be hindering SAS in achieving its stated goals and objectives.

After the above assessment the Board Chairman and the Principal shall discuss the results with the Foundation Chairman and then nominations shall be sought.

Nominations shall be sought in conjunction with interested bodies. A list of potential nominees shall be prepared by the Principal and copied to the Board Chairman and the Foundation Chairman. Potential nominees will be invited to meet with the Principal. Those potential nominees will receive a summary of:

1. *SAS's forthcoming goals and objectives, and*
2. *the policies and procedures relating to SAS governance*

Potential nominees will, after due consideration, advise the Principal of their interest or not in being formally nominated. The Board Chairman and Foundation Chairman, together with the Principal, may request a follow-up meeting with a nominee. When the consultative process is concluded the Principal and Board Chairman shall circulate the slate of nominees to the Foundation Chairman and the heads of other interested bodies, who may make recommendations with the final slate being competed and circulated at least 14 days prior to the AGM.

Although the wording may seem to make it a long winded process, the important points to note are the following:

- The selection of Board members will now be as a result of a methodical process.
- The nomination of Board members will be a process that all stake holders (including the PTA and Health & Safety) will play a part.
- The composition of the Board will reflect the future strategic goals of the school.

I am sure that many of you saw the advert in the local press that announced the school's AGM for Monday 5th March. However, in order to allow the above process to take place (albeit in a slightly abridged version this year) the Board and Foundation have agreed to push back the AGM by a couple of weeks. An exact date will be announced in due course.

If you are interested in helping take St. Andrew's forward and making our new strategic plan a reality by serving as a Board member, then I would be grateful if you could contact me by Monday 5th March so that we can begin the process of selection.

Staying with the topic of making the strategic plan a reality, there will be no Head's Up entry from me next week as I will be attending the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) annual conference that has a number of workshops on this topic.

And to finish my entry for this week, I would like to draw your attention to an important announcement from our School Nurse:

Health and Safety Concerns

We in the St Andrew's community are aware that there are concerns about respiratory tract illness such as coughs, colds and their complications which include Bronchitis and Pneumonia. Please be assured that we are in contact with the Surveillance Department of the Ministry of Health and are making every effort to ensure a clean and safe learning environment for our children.

How You Can Help

You may assist us by taking your sick child to the doctor and keeping him or her at home if they have a cough or cold, and then have them return as advised by a doctor. You might also find it beneficial to study the factsheet (to be found later in this edition of Heads Up) that outlines safety precautions and ways to minimize occurrences.

Glenn Canterford

SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS

National Pride Day

Today is National Pride day organized by our very vibrant Student Council. All students and teachers have been allocated to a continent and friendly team/continent competitions will take place throughout the day. Students will also have the opportunity to sample different foods from different countries and learn more about different cultures the diverse nature of St Andrew's School.

Mock IB and BGCSE Exams

These very important exams ended Friday 10 February, before the break. After marking and grading the exams, teachers are now busy completing 'Mock Reports'. These reports will come home next week.

“Individual and Collaborative Action is Required to HELP those in NEED”

CAS has been in several of the recent issues of Heads-Up. This resulted in me being given an invitation to a Year 5 class to watch some student presentations. Year 5 have been working on a unit called “World Wide Aid” and as part of this took part in some Community Service projects.

This week saw the students presenting their feelings about their experiences. I must admit that I was exceedingly impressed with every presentation that I saw. I was equally impressed with the variation of CAS activities that had been covered. The activities included teaching swimming, working at a soup kitchen, tutoring at a Blair Wood Academy, helping at a home for orphaned or abused children, helping at an old people's home, working with the Red Cross and even collecting Super Value stamps to give to help fund activities at the Ranfurly home.

I am going to finish here and add comments and photos from some of the Year 5 students. I would like to add that I hope these 10 year olds continue with these sorts of community service projects as I'm looking forward to working with them in Years 12 and 13.

Paul Toomer

ranfurly homes for children

The Ranfurly Home

Founded in 1956

Hermione, Countess of Ranfurly

Born 13 November 1813
Died 11 February 2001
Nationality: British

Cares for Abused, Neglected, Abandoned, & Orphaned Children

Ways to support:
Advertising
Gifts in Kind
Services
Volunteering

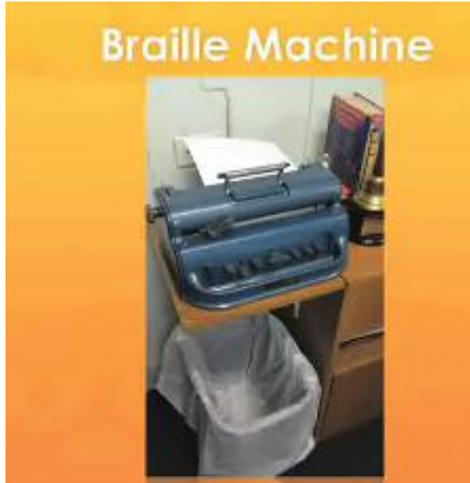
www.ranfurlyhome.org



“Just imagine if you are one of those poor or disabled people. When you imagine you understand! Living on a Bahamian island with water all around, I realised we were putting people in danger. A lot of people don't realise that, 60% of Bahamians can't swim. I teach every Thursday to try and prevent that. I found out most of them are terrified of the water.” Madison

“My experience at Bilney Lane felt scary at first, followed by excitement. I had never met orphans before this project. It has made me grateful for all the love and support that I get from my family and friends, and to appreciate my brother and sister even more.

At the orphanage I brought arts and crafts, books and games. The kids were really excited and we started drawing and colouring pictures. There were about five children aged from 3 to 9. There is a little boy who is in a wheel chair who shocked me by colouring with his feet and believe me he was pretty good at it. After reading a few books, the kids asked questions about the stories and said they enjoyed the reading time. After a game of basketball I signed out and promised them that I would be back next Saturday." Ashleigh



"When I went to the Salvation Army to make my donation I learnt that they needed a new Braille machine for the blind school. My donation would go to getting a new machine. I felt really proud at that moment because I finally knew what it was like to help someone truly in need." Caleb

"Liam and I decided to use our 'time and talent' to help at Stapleton school for disabled students. We were a little scared as we had not experienced children with mental difficulties and we didn't know if they would even be able to play baseball. We went and asked Mr. Wilson for help and he even

came over on the day to make sure we were ok. We had a few skills planned and nervously approached the activities but within a few



minutes we realised they were just like us and we became good friends and loved the atmosphere of the school and the students. Mr. Wilson was very cool and gave them some equipment so they can carry on. We will definitely go back so we can sustain the links and we are even considering helping with the disabled Olympics" Juwan



If you would like to help Jacob reach his goal of \$1000 in Super Value Stamps please drop them off at the school reception.

*"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving."
~Mother Theresa*

6 x \$4.00 =
\$24.00

197 X
\$1.00 =
\$197.00

Total: \$221.00

From the University Counselor

Local Scholarships

Each year the Ministry of Education and The Lyford Cay Foundation Awards thousands of dollars to Bahamian Students wanting to pursue undergraduate studies at accredited Universities and Colleges abroad and locally.

Application forms will be available in a few weeks and can be obtained from:

- The Guidance Department
- The Ministry of Education (Shirley Street)
- Lyford Cay Foundation
- www.lyfordcayfoundation.org
- www.bahamaseducation.com/scholarships

Students may use this time to gather supporting documents if eligible for the following awards.

Criteria for Eligibility and Required Supporting Documents

Ministry of Education Scholarships

National Merit Scholarship

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Academic Merit – based on grades, test scores, rigor of academic program, honors, awards and recommendations.
2. All applicants must possess a minimum High School grade point average 3.0 in order to qualify for this award.
3. Leadership/Contributions to the school and community.
4. Acceptance in an approved accredited institution pursuing an approved course of study.

REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Copies of all academic certificates. (GCE, BGCSE, SAT, ACT, IB, AP, etc.)
2. Transcript
3. A 250 word essay on your career plans
4. Two (2) letters of reference: one from your high school teacher/college lecturer or professor, AND one from a community leader
5. A recent copy of the relevant pages from your passport as proof of citizenship
6. Copy of National Insurance Card
7. Letter of acceptance from the institution you plan to attend (can be submitted after application deadline)
8. Certificate of medical fitness (can be submitted after notification that you have received the award)

All Bahamas Merit

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. A minimum secondary school cumulative GPA of **3.50**
2. Have sat a minimum of seven (7) BGCSE including English Language and Math;
3. A minimum combined SAT 1 score of 1200 in Critical Reading and Math;
4. Accepted at an accredited College or University

REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Copies of all academic certificates. (GCE, BGCSE, SAT, ACT, IB, AP, etc.)
2. Transcript
3. A 250 word essay on your career plans.
4. Two (2) letters of reference: one from your high school teacher/college lecturer or professor, AND one from a community leader.
5. A recent copy of the relevant pages from your passport as proof of citizenship.
6. Copy of National Insurance Card
7. Letter of acceptance from the institution you plan to attend (can be submitted after application deadline)
8. Certificate of medical fitness (can be submitted after notification that you have received the award)
9. A current resume that clearly outlines your work, school, leadership, community and extracurricular activities
10. Verification of Bahamian citizenship
11. Documentation of any financial aid you are receiving from other sources, including your college or university, other scholarships and grants.
12. Essay - Explain your career aspirations, your educational plan to meet these goals and the contribution you would like to make to the development of The Bahamas after graduation.

National Technical Scholarship

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Minimum required GPA of 2.5

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- Same as above

Lyford Cay Foundation Scholarships

- The Lyford Cay Foundation Academic Scholarship – For Colleges and Universities in the US, UK and the Caribbean
- The Canadian Lyford Cay Foundation Academic Scholarship – For Colleges and Universities in Canada
- Technical Training and Vocational Scholarships

University Preparation and Career Exploration Calendar of Events

College Night

Tuesday March 20th, 2012

Year 11: Parents & Students

Topic: Selecting a College – Creating a Short List & Financial Aid and Scholarship Opportunities

Time: 7:00pm

Venue: Library

Career Fair

Monday April 23rd, 2012

Years 9 & 10

Students will have an opportunity to speak with professionals from a variety of fields about career options

College Night

Tuesday May 8th, 2012

Year 10: Parents and Students

Topic: College Admissions Test (SAT and ACT) & College Tours

Time: 7:00pm

Venue: Library

Annual 'Enrichment' opportunities years 8, 9 and 10

We have two large groups of students taking this opportunity to attend these worthwhile enrichment trips. Thank you to Mrs Dillette for organizing these trips to Queen's University each year.

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, 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 Teachers' Gradebooks close December 16, 2011
2: November 28 - March 9	2: January 23 - June 15
3: March 12 - June 15	
School reports sent home electronically after each trimester is completed.	School reports sent home electronically after each semester is completed.

2011 - 2012 Test Dates

Test Date	Test	Registration Deadline
April 04 th , 2012	SSAT	March 30 th , 2012
April 14 th , 2012	ACT	March 9 th , 2012
May 05 th , 2012	SAT	May 8 th , 2012

Good News Operation Smile (Photographs next week)

Hello,

My name is **Natalie Hernandez**, a Year 12 student at St. Andrew's. Over the February break I am going to Phnom Penh, Cambodia with Operation Smile. Operation Smile is a group that goes around the world to perform free surgeries for under privileged children with cleft lips and cleft palates. My mission partner and I will be the student educators on the trip, where we will teach the families about Burn Care and Prevention, Hand Washing, etc. This is my 5th mission.

Thank you to all the parents who donated toothbrushes and stuffed animals for children on our trip and thank you to the St Andrew's Operation Smile Club who raised \$540.00. Your donations are much appreciated.

Prince Harry (British Royal Family) Ceremony

Prince Harry is visiting The Bahamas next weekend. A ceremony planned by the Ministry of Education will take place on Monday 5th March at 8:30am. We decided that our Middle School Prefects and Student Council reps will be the Secondary School 'ambassadors' at this ceremony. A letter will be coming home with our ambassadors outlining specific details.

Celina Gomez (Year 8) will be playing saxophone for The Bahamas All Stars Band at the ceremony. We wish Celina and the band well!!

PTA Spring Fair Saturday 24 March 11:00am to 3:00pm

Parents please mark this date in your diary. Our hard working PTA needs your support with this fundraiser. Teachers are signing up for "The Jail" and "The Dunkin' Stool" parents and students can have some fun with our teachers.

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

Our Junior Girls' Basketball Team played their first championship game on Tuesday but unfortunately lost to SAC. Fortunately championships are decided on "the best of 3" games so I hope the girls can win the next two games.

The Soccer season has now started and as yet our 4 teams remain undefeated.

BAISS Track and Field Competition

Over 93 students will represent 'The Hurricanes' this year. This is almost one quarter of the Secondary School. Parents can opt to allow non-athletes to go to the TAR Stadium to support on Friday 2 March, a letter has been sent home. There are no classes for Years 7-12 on Friday 2 March, Year 13 have classes as usual.

Important Secondary School Events

Monday 27 February *Edline Export*
Wed 29 February, Thurs & Fri 1 & 2 MarchBAISS Track and Field Competition
Monday 5 March..... Prince Harry Ceremony
Monday 5 – Friday 9 March PTA Photos

Monday 19 March..... *Edline Export*
Thursday 22 March..... Parent Education Session 7:00pm
Saturday 24 March PTA Spring Fair
Tuesday & Wednesday 27 & 28 March..... Parent Teacher Conferences
Wed, Thurs & Fri 20-30 March..... Creative Arts Department Expo and Production
Monday 2 – Friday 13 April..... Easter Vacation
Friday 9 March End of Trimester 2

Frank Coyle
Head of Secondary School
Email: frank.coyle@st-andrews.com

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

This week's Primary School edition of Heads Up is dedicated to our wonderful student, classmate and friend, Reuben Cooper III. He is forever in our hearts. Our condolences are extended to his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Cooper and his sister Reune (8P).

Our Friend Reuben



The Year 2 students are missing their friend Reuben Cooper very much this week, and in music class we all decided to send him a message by writing a song. The students of each class wrote down some thoughts and memories of Reuben to make up the lyrics, and every student added one note to our melody. We put the song together in one day and the students are very proud and happy, as they should be. We miss Reuben's smile, voice and energy, but hopefully this song can help us remember him as the happy and caring young man he was.

-- Mr. Z



REUBEN'S SONG

It's not the same at school today
'Cause we can't see you run and play
Can't see your smile, can't hear your laugh
You're just here in a photograph

Always so good to everyone
Wish we knew just why you've gone
Here's a message we want to send...
You will always be our friend

We've known you since Reception Class
You're great at music, sports and Math
Always the first to raise your hand
And always getting covered in sand

Always so good to everyone
Wish we knew just why you've gone
Here's a message we want to send...
You will always be our friend
You will always be our friend
You will always be our friend

[Click !\[\]\(07e95c4c760ed8b72579d140ce510c89_img.jpg\) to hear year 2 sing Reuben's song!](#)

Primary School Edline Update Calendar

29th September

10th November

8th December

26th January

15th March

10th May

7th June

Dates to Remember

Friday 2 nd March	SASTA Pajama Day Fundraiser
Friday 2 nd March	Health and Safety "Wellness Chat"
Tuesday 6 th March	Pre-School/Pre-Reception Sports Day
Wednesday 7 th March (<i>new date</i>).....	Junior School Sports Day
Friday 9 th March	Infant Sports Day
12 th – 16 th March	Primary School Yearbook Photos
Thursday 22 nd March	PTA Parent Education Evening
Friday 23 rd March.....	Junior School Soccer Tournament
Saturday 24 th March.....	PTA Spring Fair
Friday 30 th March.....	Reception Science Fair

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](#)