

HEADS UP

A Weekly News Update from the Principal and Heads of School

Friday, 31 August 2012

Volume 9 Issue 01

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

WELCOME TO SCHOOL YEAR 2012 – 2013!!

When you start using senses you have neglected, your reward is to see the world with completely fresh eyes (Barbara Sher)

The school year might only be seven days old but it has got off to a great start and if this is an indication of what is to come, we are in for an exciting, jam-packed ten months. In the coming weeks, I will go into more detail about some of the developments that have, or are about to take place in the school but listed below is a brief summary.

Facilities: If you have visited campus since the beginning of term, you will have noticed that the Primary Music and Secondary Art rooms have undergone major renovations. As I stated in my letter to all parents this week, goal five of our strategic plan clearly states that we aim to 'ensure that our technology and facilities adhere to modern standards of education for years to come'. By building these 'show' classrooms we now have the benchmark for all future development. If you have not visited either of these rooms I would encourage you to do so! In a future edition of *Heads Up* we will be highlighting these rooms and will include some photos. In addition, there has been a great deal of work 'behind the scenes' that we hope is helping make our campus a better and safer place to be. There is still much to do but as Lao-tzu, the Chinese philosopher, once said 'a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step'.

CIS/NEASC Re-accreditation: Towards the end of last term, we received notification from the Council of International Schools (CIS) and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) that the process of re-accreditation (due in 2014) will begin with a preparatory visit from both organisations in early October. In order to prepare for this visit we are required to forward a multitude of information about the school and I am extremely grateful to everyone who helped me prepare this documentation – either during the summer break or since we returned to school.

Code of Conduct: Towards the end of last school year the Primary and Secondary management teams spent a great deal of time reviewing and updating the school's code of conduct. Although it is still a work in progress we believe this restructured version is more in line with the school and IBO philosophy. Once complete a copy will be posted on the website. Nevertheless, there are two key points I would like to bring to the fore today and these are that there will now be **zero tolerance to bullying and stealing** and these standards will apply to **all members** of the school community. St. Andrew's has a reputation of being an open, fair, safe and welcoming school and we would ask that everyone – be it faculty, parents or students – treat each other and their property with honesty and respect.

Curriculum Review: This year we will be undertaking a review of a number of areas in the hope of enhancing vertical and horizontal articulation of the curriculum. Our long term aim is to produce a whole school curriculum map that will be readily available to all parts of our community. In an effort to enhance the parents understanding of the curriculum we will also be introducing a new initiative called **School for Parents** – more details to follow.

Enjoy the weekend, and I look forward to bringing you more details about these exciting new developments in the coming weeks.

Dr. Glenn Canterford
Principal

St Andrew's School Faculty and Friends Choir wants you!

It's back!

The St. Andrew's School Faculty and Friends Choir is being revived. To all teachers, parents, and alumni: If you enjoy singing and laughter, you are invited to join this choir. It is not a professional group; there are no auditions and nobody will ask you to return to your shower or keep your day job.

Our first rehearsal / meeting will be next week Friday at 7:40am. I know you may think this is a wee bit early, but it is a wonderful way to begin your day...guaranteed you will leave with a smile!

At next week's practice we will discuss the time, day and frequency of our rehearsals. If anyone is interested in accompanying this choir at the piano, please let me know.

Looking forward to hearing you next Friday! Rehearsals are in the Secondary School Music, Room 63A.

Jackie Petersen

SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS

From the IB Coordinator

“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 welcoming back our Year 12 and Year 13 classes. I would also like to say congratulations to our IB Class of 2012 for a job well done. During the summer I heard of several scholarships that have been awarded to our students, which is a tribute to their effort in the Diploma Programme. One of them obtained over \$35,000 a year.



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 I have used it before in Heads Up. The reason I have returned to it is the result of an email that came to me from the parent of one of last year's IB Graduates. I often receive emails about past and present students but this was one that just made me stop and reflect, as well as bringing a tear to my eye! Below is part of the email that highlights the values of the full IB Diploma programme, especially CAS, along with the type of student that St Andrew's is producing. I think a lot of us would

struggle with this commitment, as adults, let alone as a teenager away from home for the first time.

“Isabelle is also assisting a girlfriend that she meets 3 X per day and 7 days per week. Katarina is paraplegic and needs to be taken out of bed, put on the toilet and clothed each morning, and helped with her books as she can only lift about 2kg, and then met once per day for the toilet again and put in the shower, do toilet needs and put to bed at night!! Isabelle is her girl for now. It is quite a “personal” job so no boys can really help out, but other girls they meet might be helpful. Katarina is lovely and attracts people to her easily as she is so comfortable in her state. They went to a water park together; Isabelle spent the night at her place a few evenings before school to get to know her needs. They plan to go skiing together this winter even!!! Isabelle thought they could eventually become best friends in Boulder! I'm so proud of my Isabelle for having such a generous and willing heart!

Thought you'd like to hear the kind of girl that a St Andrew's education and the IB programme has delivered onto her next phase in life!”

It seems appropriate that this email came in the week of the Opening of the Paralympics in London, an event that hopes to celebrate athletic success as well as raising awareness of the ways to help people with challenges. I shall certainly be watching as an ex-student of mine, from Bermuda, is in London and has qualified to compete in the women's 100m, 200m and 400m. I still find it hard to believe that the little girl that I once taught and helped around the school is now a very independent and athletic woman, who has a very strong chance of winning a medal for her country. I am as proud of her as I am Isabelle!



(Photos from the Opening Ceremony)

Paul Toomer
IB Coordinator



From the Dean of Middle School

Welcome to St Andrew's Middle School! Year 7, 8 and 9 students have returned with enthusiasm, energy and ready to take on the challenges of the academic year ahead!

St Andrew's Middle School welcomed new middle school students to our campus on Wednesday August 22nd, 2012. Mikhail Bethel, Raquel Bethel and Alia Knowles joined Mrs. Kathryn Dillette – Dean of Middle School in leading the orientation session for the new students who are joining us from all corners of the globe!



Mikhail Bethel – former MS Head Boy sharing information about St Andrew's with new students

The first day of classes was full of activity for the Middle School as students gathered together in homerooms, received timetables, attended classes and met new and old friends and faculty! The pastoral care of our students is vested in the homeroom system and the organizational structure of our Middle School. The student's homeroom teacher works closely with each student through individual and class discussions, review of student agendas, helping students organize and prioritize their academic demands and also act as the first point of contact for parents.



Year 8 Murray Creating Business Cards



Year 7 Johnson Organizing Day 1



Year 9 Bridgewater Discussing Homeroom Expectations

All Middle School students look forward to lunch time as seen below on the faces of this group of year 8 girls on the first day of school. St. Andrew's students are encouraged to eat a healthy lunch, make use of reusable drink and lunch containers to reduce waste and to remember to properly hydrate during the day!



Important Dates and Other Reminders for Middle School Parents

September 4th PTA Donuts for Dads 8:00am

September 20th Secondary School "Back to School Afternoon" 2:30 pm

EDLINE – All parents and students should have activated their EDLINE accounts.

Please contact Patricia Watkins in the IT Department if you have questions or concerns with EDLINE activation

Please contact:

Mrs. Kathryn Dillette – Dean of Middle School

Email: kathryn.dillette@st-andrews.com

Telephone: 677-7829

Mrs. Rachael Williams – Middle School Curriculum Coordinator

Email: rachael.williams@st-andrews.com

Telephone: 677-7828

Middle School Trimester 1

Tips for Developing Middle School Organizational Skills

Middle School can be overwhelming at times for students and developing good organizational skills will help them as they try and manage their busy academic schedules.

Organizational skills are also important for future success in upper secondary, university and in life! Although some students are by nature more organized than others, parents can put routines and systems in place to help a child become more organized.

Here are a few tips that parents of Middle School students can use:

Use Checklists

Check the agenda with your child on a daily basis

Help organize homework assignments

Set a designated study space

Set a designated study and/or quiet reading time

Conduct a weekly clean up of book bags

Prepare for the day ahead

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

**Welcome!
and
Welcome Back!**



A number of new students and their families have joined us as well as new faces to our primary faculty. I wish you a warm welcome to St Andrew's School.

Welcome back to all returning students, their families, faculty and staff.

As we embark on the journey of this new school year, let us all consider....

“You can teach a student a lesson for a day; but if you can teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives.” Clay P. Bedford

Dates to Remember

Tuesday 4 September..... PTA Donuts for Dads 8:00am

Thursday 6 September Primary Parent Orientation Evening

Thursday 13 September PTA Annual General Meeting 7:00pm

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](#)