

# HEADS UP

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

Friday, 30 November 2012

Volume 9 Issue 10

Our condolences to Mrs Michele Robinson and family on the recent passing of their uncle Thomas A Robinson.

### PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

*A choir is made up of many voices, including yours and mine.  
If one by one all go silent then all that will be left are the soloists.*

[Vera Nazarian](#)

*You have to expect things of yourself before you can do them.  
Michael Jordan*

WOW!!! What a week!!! If you were looking for some examples of what makes St Andrew's such a special school, then all you needed to do was step onto campus this week and your senses would have been flooded. It is clear that St Andrew's Week was a huge success and I am confident it will be even bigger and better next year.

The week started on Sunday with a lovely service at St. Andrew's Kirk that included readings from our Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl and a beautiful performance from the choir. I would particularly like to thank Rev. MacPhail for making all of us so welcome and providing such a motivational service.

In addition to various activities that took place in and out of the classroom, we had a number of events that deserve a special mention. On Monday, we were visited by a small team of professional racing drivers that are based in the UK and are funded by Formula One. Their ages ranged from 11 to 22 years old and their visit to The Bahamas coincides with Speed Week. Our students were given the chance to see one of the karts raced by the younger students and were able to ask a number of questions about their chosen profession.

Then on Tuesday afternoon we had our first Eco-Expo. Organised by our St Andrew's Eco Committee; more than thirty local eco-entrepreneurs 'set up shop' to display and sell their wares. Since this was the first time we have organised this event, I know the Eco Committee were a little unsure of the support the Expo would receive. If you were in school between 3.00pm and 5.00pm on Tuesday, you will have seen that their worries were unfounded. I have already received a number of requests to make this an annual event.

This was followed on Wednesday by a new community CAS project that saw our Year 7 students working with students from the Seahorse Institute. Each Seahorse student was paired with two Year 7 students and they worked together on a number of activities that was aimed at enhancing the socialization skills of the Seahorse student. All of our Year 7 students were given training prior to the commencement of this project that included how best to communicate with the students and their individuals likes and dislikes.

For many, however, I think the highlight of the week has been the Christmas Production. Tonight (Friday) will see the final performance but I am sure that if this is of the same quality as the first two nights it is going to be fantastic. Last year, I suggested that I would love to see a production that involved elements from every part of our community. If you have seen the show, you will know I certainly got what I wished for!

Given above, is only a small snapshot of the events that have taken place this week, which I am sure has been enjoyed by our faculty, students and parents. For me, however, the over-riding memory will be one of cooperation by all parts of the school. Events like this do not just happen. Since the beginning of the school year, there has been on-going communication between all parts of the school and it gives me a great deal of confidence that if we continue to work together we can continue to take St Andrew's forward in leaps and bounds.

Finally, please note there will not be a Heads Up entry from me next week, as I am going to look at a new educational programme being offered by an International Baccalaureate school in Washington DC.

*Dr Glenn Canterford*

## **Wanted!** Musical Instruments



Do you have musical instruments that aren't used anymore; hidden in back closets, under beds? Please consider donating to St Andrew's Secondary School instrumental programme. Woodwind, Brass, String and Percussion, old or new, shiny or bruised; we will happily accept all donations and put them to good use.



# SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS

## From the IB Coordinator

### Another Busy Week

This has been another very busy, yet successful week for our Year 12 students.

On Monday we had a visit from the Formula Kart Stars that was open to the whole school. We were joined by two of the UK's up and coming Kart racers and two graduates who are now professional racing drivers. Josh (age 13) and Alex (age 11) are ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> in the UK. Josh bought his old Kart with him and with Alex's help they give a detailed explanation of it, including the \$5000 price tag.



The racers wore their full racing suits, including very expensive crash helmets. During the hour and a half that they spent here they answered all sorts of questions and really reinforced that as trainee racing drivers they still had to maintain a high level of education as the sport is so high-tech these days.



Alumni, David Sweeting, enjoying the SAS Hurricane

Tuesday saw the first St Andrew's Eco-Expo which was a very busy and successful event. It was also the premier viewing of the SAS Hurricane. Primary students (and a very big kid) could have their photo taken in the Hurricane for a \$1 donation. All donations went into the Hands For Hunger collection box at the end of the event. The SAS Hurricane will be on display this weekend at Arawak Cay as part of Speed Week.



The Hurricane building team



At this event we launched our new club, Eco-Builders. This is a continuation of the Box Kart club but as the club has been so successful and such good fun that we will continue to work together; of course any new members are welcome. On Monday we built our first Pallet Composter and Vertical Pallet Garden and used these to show off our skills at the Eco-Expo.



Although our items were not for sale we are hoping to gain donations of recycled wood, old pallets, broken furniture and any other items that we can transform into treasures. We then want to donate these treasures to charity or sell them and donate the money. If you have anything that we can use, please let me know.

This week also saw Year 12 students playing an active role in several aspects of the school production, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever". Again I saw many of the Box Kart team singing in the choir, helping out backstage and doing various other tasks.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Year 13 student Emma Tuletta who represented the Bahamas Salsa Social Network which won the Florida Youth Ballroom Blitz in Orlando on 15th November. We would like to say a big well done to Emma and the rest of her team.

All of the above reiterate the balanced nature of true IB students and show that there is more to the Diploma than just academics. This is why Diploma students are in such high demand when it comes to universities and jobs.

Paul Toomer



Photo courtesy The Nassau Guardian

**Edline Grade Update today, November 30, 2012**

## From the Middle School Dean

### Trimester 1 Reports

Parents and students are reminded that Middle School Trimester 1 reports are scheduled to be sent home electronically on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Please contact the subject teacher and/or the Middle School Dean if you have any queries related to Trimester 1 reports.

### Homeroom Reports

Students will be completing homeroom reports before the holiday break. Homeroom reports are a reflective exercise where students review their academic, extracurricular and pastoral progress to date. Students then set goals and identify strategies for improvement going forward into Trimester 2. Homeroom teachers will also comment on the individual student homeroom reports. Parents are encouraged to discuss the Trimester 1 report with their sons and/or daughters and also help them to identify goals and strategies that they may use at school to help them achieve their goals.

**Trimester 2** commenced on Monday November 26<sup>th</sup> and will end March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Your son and/or daughter would have started their trimester 2 rotational subjects from Monday. Rotational subjects are Art, Drama and Life Skills for year 7, 8 & 9. Year 7 and 8 will also rotate in the subject areas of My Search (Extended Essay), CAS and PSE.

### 2013 BJC Examination Registration - BJC

All year 9 students have been given a letter to take home to parents about registration and payment for the **2013 Bahamas Junior Certificate Examinations (BJC)**. St Andrew's Middle School offers four BJC examinations for year 9 students. The examination subjects offered are **Mathematics, English Language, General Science and Social Studies**. St Andrew's Middle School curriculum **does not** follow the BJC curriculum and therefore exam preparation and review must be scheduled and completed independently by students who opt to sit the BJC examinations. The Social Studies examination requires students to complete coursework, and students are expected to complete this on their own. Students will write the BJC examinations at St Andrew's and an examination schedule will be sent home at a later date in the New Year.

The letter must be signed by parents and/or guardians and sent back to the homeroom teacher along with payment for the examinations. BJC subjects cost \$5 each, plus a \$5 entry fee per student. If you are paying by cheque please make it payable to St Andrew's School. Registration ends November 30 therefore all letters with payment should be in to the Secondary Office by November 30th.

**If parents have not registered by November 30<sup>th</sup> and you want your son/daughter to register for the BJC examinations you are asked to please send in the completed form and funds immediately and not later than Monday December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012.**

A receipt for the registered subjects will be sent home at a later date.

### SCHOOL UNIFORM REMINDER

**Cold weather option** for uniforms is as follows:

#### Girls

1. Navy blue or white tights
2. Navy blue trousers (not denim, corduroy or faded – not tight fitting or overly baggy)
3. The school sweatshirt or a plain navy V-necked sweater, cardigan or wind breaker. No hoods.

#### Boys

1. The school sweatshirt or a plain navy V-necked sweater, cardigan or wind breaker. No hoods.

### St Andrew's School Ties – Boys Only

A school tie must be worn from November 26<sup>th</sup> until the Easter vacation



St Andrew's School  
presents

The **WORST**  
Christmas  
Pageant  
**EVER!**

*Written by Barbara Robinson.*

*A Samuel French Production.*

Wed. November 28th to Fri. November 30th , 2012

St. Andrew's School Auditorium

at 7:00 pm.

Tickets: \$10 for Adults \$5 for Children and Students

Sold at Main Office beginning Nov. 19th



**The primary art teacher wants to help YOU clean out your closets!!**

She is looking for the following items:

- blocks, Lego, or other building toys
- old frames (ugly or broken ones too!)

Please drop off any of these items to the primary art room (room 20 - upstairs primary block).

# PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

**Please Remember: The INFANT SCHOOL is a 'Nut Free' section of the school!**

We express sincere thanks for your efforts in keeping the Early learning Center "Nut Free." **However, it has become necessary to ensure that all classes in the Infant School (Years 2 to Pre School) are nut free.** Parents of Years 1 and 2, please refer to yesterday's letter. We do remind and encourage you to ensure that food items containing nut or nut traces not be included in lunch or snack items sent to school as we do have a number of students with severe allergies to nuts. It is indeed our duty to protect all students from harm while in our care.

## 3-Way Conferences



Three Way Conferences will be held on **December 6<sup>th</sup>**. Students are expected to come to school for their conference time wearing their full regular (not PE) uniform. These conferences allow you to spend time with your child and his/her teacher sharing and reflecting on progress and achievement thus far. The classroom conferences will centre around your child's portfolio and he/she will have a central role in discussing his or her learning. The conferences are scheduled to be 30 minutes long with an overlap of 15 minutes which means that when you are beginning your conference another family will be finishing up. You are also invited to visit specialists.

Specialist visits are offered to allow your child to show and discuss with you their learning in this area. Due to the number of families that visit, specialists do not offer sign up times but instead invite you to visit at your convenience. Please understand that it may not always be possible to have detailed and individual discussions with everyone. If you have a need to speak at greater length with a specialist teacher, please contact her via email to arrange it. Families may visit specialists as follows: Years 5 and 6 may visit the IT teacher. Years Pre Reception to 4 may visit the art and music teachers. (Due to illness, our Spanish teacher will not be available for conferences at this time).

**Sign Up Sheets are Posted!**

Catherine Dias (art) [Catherine.dias@st-andrews.com](mailto:Catherine.dias@st-andrews.com)

Zena Hutcheson (IT) [zena.hutcheson@st-andrews.com](mailto:zena.hutcheson@st-andrews.com)



Maggie Hess (music) [Maggie.hess@st-andrews.com](mailto:Maggie.hess@st-andrews.com)

Liz Phillips (PE) [Elizabeth.phillips@st-andrews.com](mailto:Elizabeth.phillips@st-andrews.com)

Jen Roach (PE) [Jennifer.roach@st-andrews.com](mailto:Jennifer.roach@st-andrews.com)

Yiorgo Coyle (PE) [yiorgo.coyle@st-andrews.com](mailto:yiorgo.coyle@st-andrews.com)

## The ELC's Holiday Production "A Patchwork of Celebrations"



We invite you to join the ELC on **December 10<sup>th</sup>** as they perform "**A Patchwork of Celebrations**". The production will take place at 4pm in the school's hall. ELC students will be dismissed at 12:30 on the 10<sup>th</sup> to allow them to go home, rest and get prepared for the big afternoon. There is no cost and all are welcome.

### St Andrew's Cheerleaders Perform at Atlantis

On Friday November 23<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012 our primary and secondary cheerleading teams performed jaw-dropping tricks and stunts in front of an enthusiastic crowd of basketball fans. "The Battle for Atlantis" provided our girls an amazing opportunity to showcase their talents and hard work. Congratulations to the teams and to Mrs. Jen Roach, Miss Jessica Waugh and Miss Emily Waugh, their coaches. **GO ST ANDREW'S!!!**





**Dates to Remember**

Friday Nov. 30 ..... International Day

Friday Nov. 30 ..... 'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever'

**Thursday Dec. 6 ..... 3-Way Conferences**

Monday Dec. 10 ..... ELC Holiday Concert (4:00pm)

Tuesday Dec. 18 ..... Holiday Celebrations & Santa's Visit

**Wednesday Dec.19 ..... Noon Dismissal for Christmas Break**

[My best to you,](#)

Yvette Simms

## **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](#)**