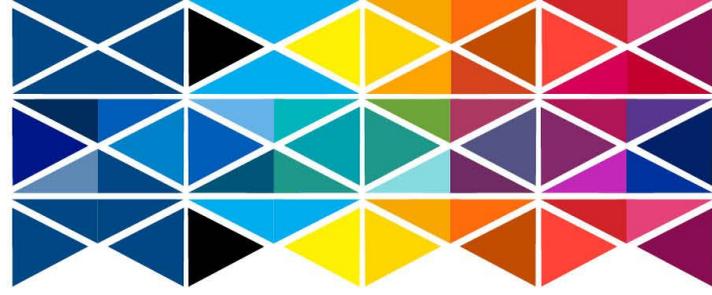




ST ANDREW'S  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



# Newsletter: September 10th, 2018



INTERNATIONAL AND PROUDLY BAHAMIAN

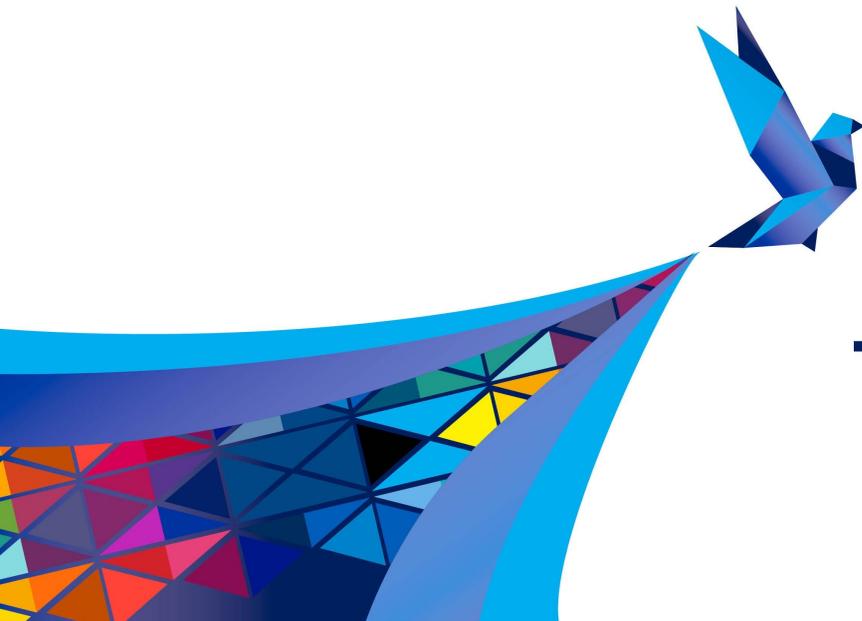
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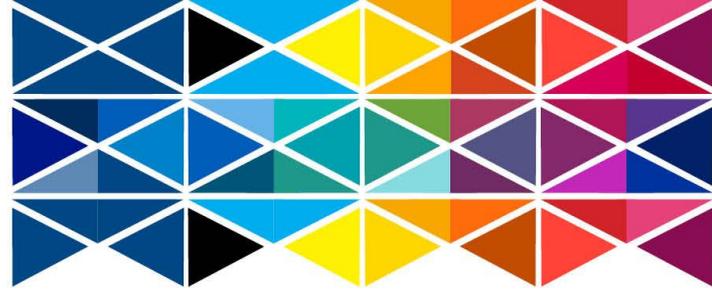
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together  
we learn





## From The Principal's Desk

I am always impressed as I walk around our school to see the enjoyment and energy that is evident in the classrooms. This is a happy and purposeful school. Our key focus is the quality of teaching and learning and it ought to be so in any serious educational institution. We want our students to be successful, to identify and realise their talents and to excel. In our student body there are budding artists, musicians, scientists and writers: each child is unique.



Talent is the raw material: nothing of real value in life is achieved without effort and perseverance. All our efforts will be in vain if our students do not take ownership of their learning and success. We are all inclined to work hard at those subjects we enjoy and one of the difficult but important lessons school teaches us is that we have to work equally hard at those subjects that do not come quite so easily. Without doubt school should be a happy place, but the fact that a student does not find a subject or teacher interesting a good reason to give up. Every runner experiences some boredom during training and has to force him or herself out of bed and set off training once again.

Throughout time the concept of responsibility in education has always been a hot topic. When a child does not do their homework; is it the fault of the child or the parent? When a child fails an assignment; is it the fault of the child or the teacher? Or if a child does not obtain their international qualification; is it the fault of the child, the parent, the teacher or the school?

If our children are to succeed, each must assume their respective responsibilities. A teacher must prepare for their classes, create stimulating lessons, encourage and motivate their students, grade work and provide constructive feedback. The student must be punctual for lessons, do their homework, study hard, be an active participant in their learning and make the most of every opportunity presented to them. The parent must guide, and encourage their child to do his or her work, hold them accountable for their actions and support the institution to which they belong. This can never be a one sided partnership – student, teacher and parent must all work together to reach the ultimate goal. The three way partnership is paramount and there are no shortcuts to success.

One of the mindsets we see all too often is that people don't take responsibility for their lives and their actions and prefer to play the blame game. It seems that every aspect of society demonstrates examples of this; "I am unemployed because of the government has not given me a job", "I failed my exams because my teachers were poor", "What's the point of having integrity when everyone around me is corrupt" etc.

I'd like to end where I started: nothing of real value in life is achieved without effort and tenacity and each of us is responsible for our success. Nelson Mandela started life herding cattle in the African countryside and attended a humble rural school.

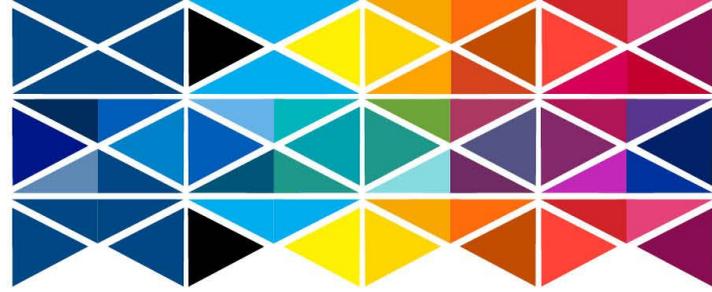
Congratulations to our Head Boy, Will Cash and Head Girl, Celine Osborne on their appointment as our senior student leaders

Andy Wood  
Principal



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## Primary News

It sure is wonderful to have our classrooms and playgrounds filled with cheerful, energetic children again. While the elements of inquiring, exploring, sharing, collaborating, and creating remain the same, there have been some notable changes. All our students have grown and matured over the summer! Our PK2 students are proudly wearing and showing off their dresses and uniform shirts and shorts. Grade 2 students have joined the junior school and moved over to the older playground, and grade 5 students began classes upstairs, with a new fifth grade team. Grade 6 students transitioned to the secondary school and have already made their way back to say “hello” and visit. Additionally, our Learning Support Department continues to evolve and grow to meet the needs of our students.



As a school, we have welcomed a new Principal, Mr. Andy Wood, as well as a new Vice Principal / Head of Secondary, Mr. Gordon McKenzie. We have also expanded our Primary Leadership Team to include Mrs. Luna Deller, Director of Teaching and Learning - Juniors. She and Mrs. Catherine Azikiwe, our PYP Coordinator and Director of Teaching and Learning - Infants, bring immeasurable strengths to the primary school.

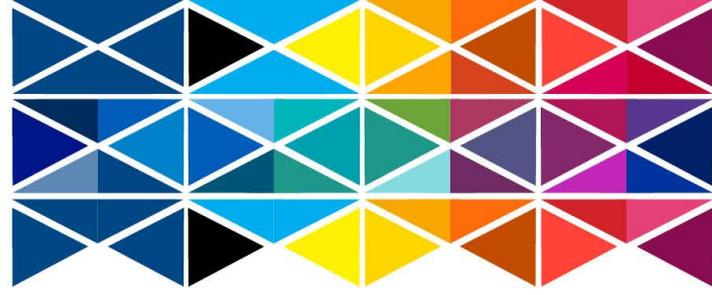
We are committed to maintaining strong connections among our community. Internally, we have increased opportunities for teachers, specialists, and administrators to meet regularly to plan for, evaluate, and adjust our curriculum and instruction. Families will also receive weekly newsletters from their child’s teacher to share a closer look at what students have been discovering and learning about. We hope that these newsletters help to facilitate conversations about your child’s educational journey, spark at-home inquiry, and keep families connected to our classroom happenings.

As usual, if you have any questions or concerns, please speak with your child’s teacher. If you would like to discuss something further, please follow up with the Director of Teaching and Learning for your section, and if concerns remain, I am always willing to meet with parents in order to best support your children. Maintaining open lines of communication is our priority, and when combined with strong home-school partnerships, your child is sure to have a successful year.

Jessica Waugh  
Vice Principal & Head of Primary

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## Secondary News

The Secondary School year at St Andrew's is off to a great start! Many students have moved up into Grade 6 from the primary school, Grade 9s are beginning their BGCSE and IGCSE courses and of course Grade 11 students are beginning the IB Diploma programme and proudly wearing their blue shirts for the first time. We have close to 40 new students and 5 new teachers who have joined the St. Andrew's family in Secondary and of course our Grade 12 IB students have now entered their final year with us.



Although this will now be my sixth year at St Andrew's, it is of course my first in the role of Vice Principal & Head of Secondary. I want to say a thank you for the many words of support and well-wishes I have received from parents so far. As I have already communicated to both students and teachers, I'm very proud to serve in this role at a school with such a rich and impressive history. St Andrew's has become very important to me (it's already the longest I have taught in one place) and I'm very much enjoying the role so far. I wanted to share a few messages with you in this first Secondary update about what I'll be focusing on in these early months of the year so that you can help students make the best possible start to this next step in their journey with us.

I believe strongly that a school which gets the basics right will best prepare its students for the many challenges that they will face in the future. I have already made clear to students my expectation that their uniform and appearance meet school guidelines at all times. These expectations are clearly set out in the students agenda. I also emailed this information to parents last week; if you did not receive it please get in touch and I will be happy to send it out to you. Students who consistently fail to meet these expectations will receive sanctions in line with our Code of Conduct. Many students, particularly boys, are wearing soft, canvas shoes such as Vans to school. These are not appropriate and offer little protection in the event objects are dropped or liquids spilled. Next year I will add more detail to the uniform policy about footwear but in the meantime I would ask that when such soft shoes wear out or become too small, that you replace them with a sturdier, more formal black shoe.

The groups that students join at 8.15am and return to at 3.05pm will now be known as Advisory Groups and the teachers who facilitate them as Learning Advisors. I feel this more accurately describes the great student support work which goes on at these times and, along with the individual 'One to One' meeting your child will have with their Advisor every two weeks or so, is another example of St Andrew's commitment to support and deal with students as individuals. If you have not already heard from your child's Advisor, you will no doubt receive a call in the coming days. Please support your child's progress by ensuring they are on campus (having already eaten breakfast) in enough time to be in their Advisory Groups by 8.15. They will be marked late if they are not. Each Advisory Group will also be responsible for preparing and delivering a student-led assembly throughout the year and groups have already chosen their date and theme. This experience will help build teamwork and leadership skills (and I'm sure students will be happy to hear less from me!).

I would like to invite you to our annual Back to School afternoon on Tuesday 25th September at 2.30pm. This is a chance for parents to come into school, meet the teachers your children will be working with this year and learn a little about the courses they will be taking. Mrs Sonia Adderley, Director of our Middle Years Diploma programme and Mr Scott Lowe, Director of the IB Diploma and Alternative Pathway programme will give presentations to parents new to these areas.

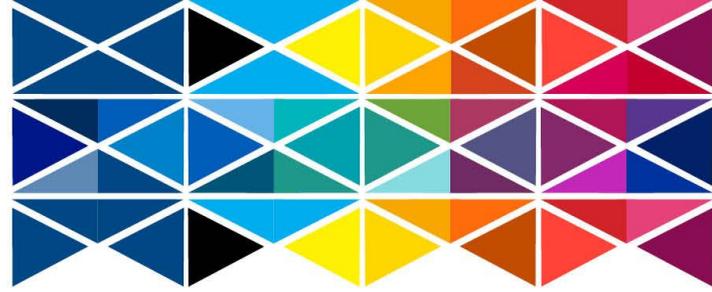
The last thing I want to bring to your attention is the Respect Week that we have planned for 17-21st September. In my first assembly I made it clear to students that I will not tolerate any behaviour which might disrupt or inhibit the happiness, learning and progress of other students. This focused week, which will include-subject based activities and a special assembly, will give students a chance to reflect on how they treat one another and set the tone for other related activities, events and procedures which will follow.

I wish your family every success for their best year (so far) at St Andrew's International School.

Gordon McKenzie  
Vice Principal & Head of Secondary

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## 70th Anniversary/Alumni News

### 70 Years, Our Legacy Continues.....

Our campus is buzzing with excitement as we get set to celebrate our 70th Anniversary! St Andrew's School will turn 70 years old on November 30th and will be celebrating this milestone with six major events. Dive into a Blue Lagoon Beach Day, get ready to celebrate on campus at our 70th birthday party, enjoy an evening under the stars at Palm Cay, worship with us at the St Andrew's Kirk, bring out your Hurricane Pride in a Fun Run, Walk, House competition and trade show and end the celebration with us at our "Old School" end of year concert bash on campus. Click [here](#) for more details on our events.



Our 70th Anniversary is a great way for us to celebrate the success of our school, our students and our alumni. It is also an opportunity to revisit our history while preserving our heritage and fostering community partnerships for the further development of our school. So far, our partners for our 70th Anniversary fundraising initiatives are Corner Bank, Palm Cay and Blue Lagoon. We invite you to partner with us. All funds raised through these celebrations will go towards improving our shared space on campus. We look forward to each of you supporting our 70th Anniversary celebrations and fundraising initiatives in either of the following ways:

- Attendance at our 70th anniversary celebrations
- Donating to our annual fund
- Being a 70th anniversary sponsor
- Donating a raffle/auction prize for our Gala evening at Palm Cay
- Securing a booth at our Fun Run, Walk & Trade Show (to advertise your business)
- Advertising your business on our website (Over 500,000 views)
- Purchasing a banner space (wall opposite Solomon's Food Store)
- Attending our Alumni Social Events

For more information on how you can support please contact Tamika Cartwright at 677-7823 or by email at [Tamika.Cartwright@st-andrews.com](mailto:Tamika.Cartwright@st-andrews.com)

The alumni of St Andrew's is well woven into the fabric of our Bahamian community. From leaders to entrepreneurs to world class athletes, St Andrew's School has and continues to produce world class graduates. This month we feature alumni Peter Blair and Daniella Cash.



Name: Peter Blair (Scholarship Student)  
Achievements:  
Assistant Professor at Clemson College of Business  
  
Ph.D. Applied Economics, University of Pennsylvania (Wharton) 2015  
MSc. Physics, Harvard University 2008  
BSc. Mathematics & Physics, Duke University 2006

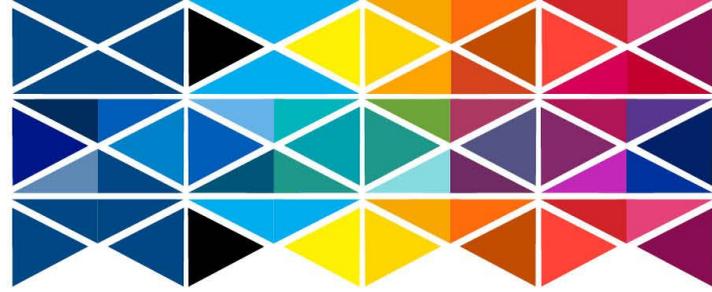


Name: Daniella Cash  
Achievements:  
-Completing her Ph.D at Louisiana State University Specialization: Cognitive and Brain Science  
-M.S. May 2014: University of Alabama in Huntsville Specialization: Experimental Psychology Thesis: Disentangling the Three Theories of Unconscious Transference.  
-B.S. May 2012: Florida Southern College Major: Psychology Minor: Sociology, ESOL certified Graduation with distinction

Tamika Cartwright  
Director of Development & Public Relations

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## ECA News

### Extracurricular Activities

The heartbeat of a school is usually all the activities that are offered outside the timetabled academic lessons. At St Andrews we believe in the well rounded student where he/she immerses themselves in all the available opportunities to develop as a student. A student who can develop their self esteem, enjoy success in the areas that interest them and, most importantly, build up relationships with their peers. At St Andrews we do this in many ways. Today I'm going to give you a snapshot of what goes on.



### House System

The House System encourages participation in a wide range of activities and, a lively school spirit, particularly in the junior school, is exhibited in all competitions. The Sports Cup consists of team sports and the school run, sports day and swimming gala. Dates can be found on the calendar and parents are welcome to come out and participate. The Indoor Cup consists of quizzes, a spelling bee and performing arts at various times of the year.

### Inter-School Competition

We became the Hurricanes in 1995 and as you can see by clicking above we have had some stellar results. In the secondary school we are a member of the B.A.I.S.S where we compete against 13 independent schools. Sports are seasonal, with students competing in softball, basketball, soccer and volleyball. We also compete in the track and field meets and swim gala. Students who excel can go on to compete in the nationals and, some cases, represent our country. In the primary school we compete against Lyford Cay, Windsor and QC in both soccer and swimming. We offer 2 academies, basketball and soccer for students who wish to improve their skills.

#### Clubs

We offer a diverse number of activities and clubs at St Andrews, including House Service projects, early and interact clubs, discovery and eco clubs, world scholar club, Model United Nations, spelling bee, English stretch and challenge, dance club, salsa club, dive club, dominoes, chess, freedom writers, FBLA, international seekers, CFAL Junior investor club, Queen in me, study buddies and college application essay prep club. New clubs are added or removed depending on interest of the students. More information can be obtained by contacting me at peter.wilson@st-andrews.com.

### The Arts in Action

Greetings from the Creative Arts! Each month we will be highlighting featured groups or students who are participating in, or have achieved outstanding results in and outside of St Andrew's School.

This month I am excited to have received great news that the Boys Choir (Primary) and Carlotta Casu (Grade 7 - dancer) have been asked to perform for the "Final Awards and Honours Concert September 27th at 7pm Baha Mar Ballroom and the Art Exhibition."

The Awards Ceremony and Concert is a celebration of the 2018 National Arts Festival, which was completed between February and June of this year. During this festival our students received 19 National Wins! Please look at the attached link to see St Andrew's outstanding results from this past 2018 Festival. National Arts Festival 2018

In other news, St Andrew's Performing Arts is proud to announce "Elf, The Musical." This show which will feature students from Junior and Secondary School. Auditions will be held on Monday, September 10th at 3:30pm. Students seeking main parts, are asked to prepare a scene, which is accessible from Schoology, and a song of their own choosing. Students, who wish only to be in the ensemble / chorus, are asked to prepare just a song. These auditions will be closed to the public, but we look forward to seeing all family and friends at the performances, December 10th - 12th.

#### Creative Arts Clubs offered at St Andrew's School

Secondary School Choir - Day 6 at 1:10pm in Music Room

Secondary School Chamber Choir - Day 4 at 1:10pm in Music Room

School Orchestra - Will start after Christmas Holidays

Primary Boys Choir - Day 6 at lunch

Primary Select Choir - Day 2 at lunch

Glitz Club - Jewellery Making - Grades 1 - 6 - Sept 12 - Oct 17 (six sessions) See Mrs Rolle for more information

### Highlighting Students

This is where I need your help parents. We will be highlighting students who have excelled in sports, performing arts, service in the community or holding a position of responsibility in the school. I do not know all our students accomplishments. When your son/daughter does something that you would like to be recognised in the community please LET ME KNOW. Today is Alexander....

Hi,

My name is Alexander Damien Gomez and I play Water Polo for the Bahamas National team at the Under 16 and Under 18 level. Over the course of the summer I had the privilege along with 4 other teammates to be selected to take part in the Water Polo Junior Olympics which is held annually in the state of California, where nearly 780 teams participate. In June, we traveled to Texas to join the Houston team, Storm, and we played in a qualifying tournament where we finished in third and qualified for JO's in late July, being placed in spot 44 out of the 48 teams. By the end of Junior Olympics, we rose to the 24th spot. I gained a lot of experience traveling all around California, playing in San Jose and San Diego, and mixing with all different types of personalities. This experience also showed the importance of teamwork and tolerance when things do not always go your way.

Let's all have a great year, working together, as we all push our students, children to be the best they can possibly be.

Peter Wilson

Director of Co-Curricular and Student Leadership

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