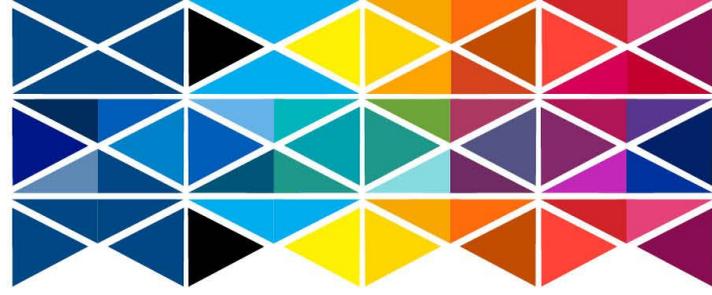




ST ANDREW'S
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



Newsletter: November 5th, 2018



INTERNATIONAL AND PROUDLY BAHAMIAN

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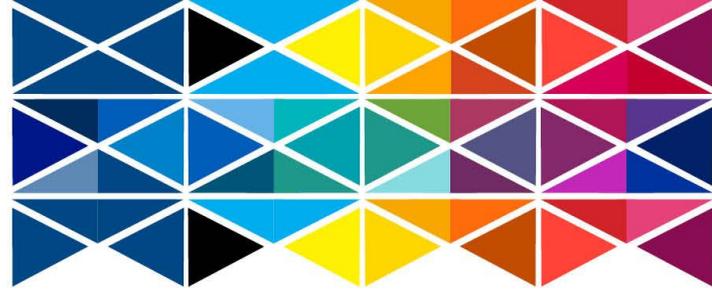
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together
we learn





From The Principal's Desk

Schools should be counter-cultural. In the business world today cutthroat ethics are commonplace: however, in our school core values are important such as being honest, as is saying sorry when you've upset someone, or cleaning up the mess you've made. These core values are the central pillar of a great education.



It is essential that we teach sound values, timeless principles that will prepare our students to be young men and women of integrity and stature. These values may seem old-fashioned, but they are the firm foundation that prepares our students to be global citizens. St Andrew's students understand and value courage, respect, humility and compassion. In addition, such values are in step with a fast moving world and are deeply aware of their responsibility towards their fellow citizens. We live in extraordinary times and I watch with concern the global trend toward polarization. Elections in a number of countries, Brazil being the most recent, show a trend towards nationalism. Incidents of racial violence are all too often in the news: the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting last weekend being one example. There seems to be a growing fear and intolerance of diversity rather than an appreciation of the richness that meeting people from different cultures can bring to our lives. Political leaders incite suspicion and promise that tall, impenetrable walls will be built in order to gain votes. Never in my lifetime has intercultural understanding been so important.

One of my favourite quotes of Nelson Mandela is "Education is the most powerful weapon with which we can change the world." Many years later this quote still has so much value. Education has the power to shape and change perspectives. Our SAIS school community students, teachers and staff is made up of a rich diversity of cultures and nationalities. Just this morning I heard a student say 'Ciao' to his mum as he jumped out of the car. As parents and educators in an international school we are in a unique position to enable the students in our care to be open-minded, balanced and, in the words of the International Baccalaureate Mission Statement, 'to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect'.

I, like so many, am inspired by activists who are responding to violence in the United States or marching in Europe against racism. That takes courage, courage born of strong values and principles, much more than simply clicking 'Like' to a Facebook post. They stand upon the shoulders of those who protested against Apartheid, for the right of women to vote or the abolition of slavery. We are in great need of optimists and idealists who want to change the world and make it a better place. Our students are the global citizens that will change the world for the better. As educators we nurture and encourage our students to be the advocates for positive change in our world.

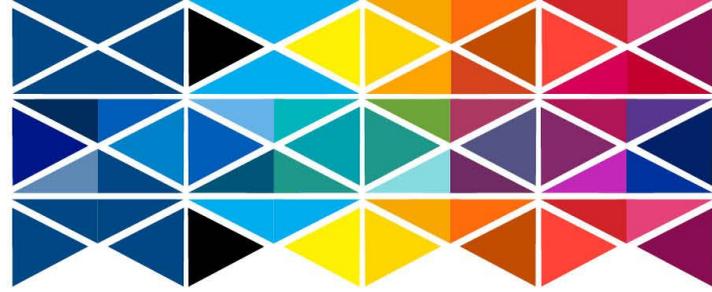
Principal

Andy Wood



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Primary News

Families and friends joined us for PK1's Sunshine Day on October 18th. Students sang and danced in the performing arts room and then led their visitors through a cycle of fun and engaging activities in their classroom.



House quizzes were expanded this year to include some team-building elements. In addition to answering history and general knowledge questions, house teams had to construct free standing towers using only newspaper and a bit of masking tape, cross a "river," and create posters to cheer on their team at the swim gala. The afternoon was filled with races involving swimmers from kindergarten through 12th grade.

On October 29th, teachers dug deeper into inquiry-based learning. Sessions throughout the day emphasized and reinforced how inquiry can enhance teaching and learning in the core subject areas.



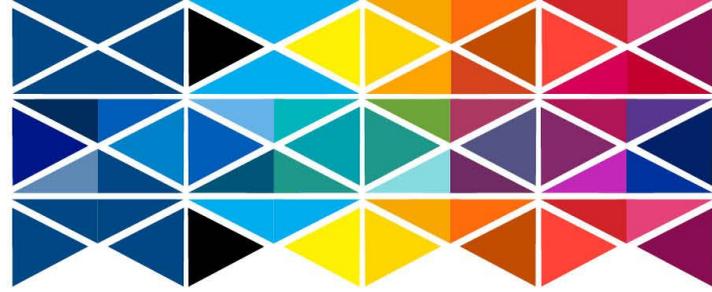
Bringing curiosity and inquiry together to best support student learning is essential to creating lifelong learners. We strive to foster students' innate creativity, imagination, and sense of wonder throughout the school day. Recently, a group of children decided they wanted to build a campfire so that they could go camping and have s'mores during playtime. They had to investigate the use of different materials and after some trial and error, they shared their finished product. Their initial idea and creation provided days of fun for all of the students playing in this area.

We look forward to having you join us for our Three-Way Conferences at the end of this month. During these conferences, students and teachers meet with parents to share progress so far this year. Students will highlight their strengths and recent achievements, as well as their current learning goals.

Jessica Waugh
Vice Principal & Head of Primary

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Secondary News

Each week during our Secondary School Day 3 assembly, the students from one Advisory Group lead a presentation on an internationally-relevant topic. Past themes have included homelessness, literacy and 'Space Week'. Last Friday, a group of grade 11 and 12 Carib students gave an engaging, multi-modal talk about the Hindu festival of Diwali which begins this week. As well as discussing the origins and practices of this 'festival of lights', students explained how Diwali is celebrated here in The Bahamas and throughout the Caribbean. It was this link between international and local culture which impressed me most: another example that we are *'International and Proudly Bahamian'* and I invite any interested parents to come along to assembly.



Our school vision demands that the whole community play its part in *"nurturing lifelong learners and empowering internationally-minded individuals."* There is more to this than Geography or learning foreign languages and I talked to students afterwards about the hidden values of international-mindedness: that an appreciation of different cultures will encourage you to be more understanding and tolerant of any differences. That understanding helps to build empathy and that empathy leads to respect for others.

Leaders in international education often warn about settling for 'the cultural iceberg': teaching only about the symbols (such as food, flags, clothing and festivals) which are easy to see in a country, but don't always give outsiders a deep understanding of what that nation's people value or believe in. Currently, we have groups looking at identifying the 'deeper' aspects of Bahamian culture so that we can be sure these are taught, celebrated and valued here at SAIS. I would appreciate working with any parents who feel they can contribute to this work.

Monday 29th October was a 'Continuing Professional Development' Day here in school. Secondary teachers spent the day looking at data and reports from the CAT4 tests which I mentioned in my last newsletter. They also worked in cross-curricular groups, discussing effective methodology and planning engaging lessons. In the afternoon teachers spent time in groups which I have set up this year to improve specific areas of Secondary School practice. These include our Code of Conduct, how we help ease the transition for new students and the international and Bahamian issues discussed above.



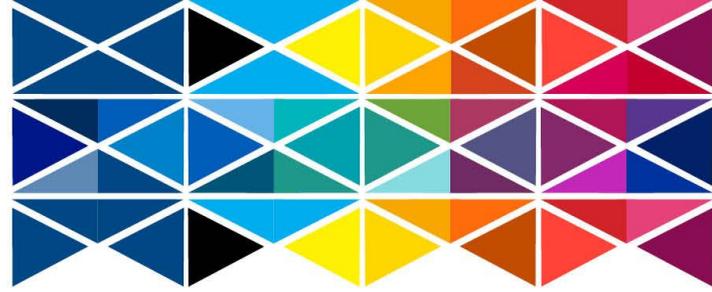
I hope as parents you can appreciate the value of these days in improving the quality of the international education your children receive with us.

Poppies are on sale this week for \$1 in advance of our Remembrance assembly on Friday. This assembly will be led by a group of grade 6-10 Lucayan students and will be attended by students from g2-12. Please note that boys and male teachers must wear ties to school from Monday November 26th until Easter. Ties are available in the school shop - the blue tie with white stripes is the only tie on sale and may be worn by all Secondary School grades.

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Gordon McKenzie, Vice Principal & Head of Secondary





70th Anniversary/Alumni/Public Relations News

As part of our recent Community Partnership with Palm Cay, St Andrew's was invited to be a part of Palm Cay's ground breaking ceremony for One Marina held today. The Minister of Works, The Hon. Desmond Bannister was in attendance as well as the Palm Cay Development Team and numerous real estate agents.



On Saturday we hosted an Alumni Social featuring Classes of 1989-1998. It was a time for alumni, administrators, faculty and staff as well as 70th Anniversary sponsors to tour our campus, reminisce on the legacy of St Andrew's School and learn about our programme and future school development projects. One of our 70th Anniversary sponsors, Corner Bank was in attendance.



Join us for our upcoming events as we celebrate our legacy of "Ethics and Excellence" during our 70th Anniversary year. Be sure to reserve your tickets for our Palm Cay Gala.

Event: 70th Anniversary Church Service

Date: November 25th

Time: 10:00am

Location: St Andrew's Kirk

Event: 70th Birthday Celebration

Date: November 30th

Time: 11:30am

Location: St Andrew's School

Event: Palm Cay Gala Evening

Date: December 1st

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Palm Cay



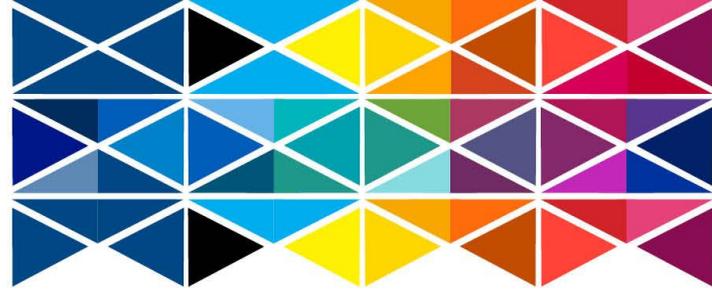
[Click here for more details.](#)

[Click here to see our auction / raffle prizes.](#)

Tamika Cartwright
Director of Development
& Public Relations

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ECA News

November already and we are well and truly getting immersed in the school year. Our students are undergoing a CAS afternoon on the 8th November where they can experience the effects of being involved, making a difference and helping those less fortunate than themselves. As you are aware CAS is an integral part of the I.B. and to some of you who have young children at our school this is a long way away BUT creating that mindset early will produce a more well rounded student who will become a more caring individual in both their personal life and being a member of our society.

SPORTS

On the sporting front we have just had the All School Swim Gala and we had 3 competitions going on. After all the results were tallied Lucayan and Taino shared the spoils. Please note that the BAISS Swim Gala is on November 16th at St Johns pool with a 12 noon start.

In the Secondary School we have just completed the regular season in softball. Our Senior Girls and Junior Boys battled well but just came up short of the play-offs. The Senior Boys have just beaten SAC and have finished their regular season with a record of 8 wins and one loss. We will match up with QC in the play-offs.

The Basketball season and soccer practices are starting up and students will be aware of the practice days. I expect students to juggle their commitments as I know many of them have other activities to consider.

We will be starting up the Primary Academies shortly. As soon as I know the days I will send out the information.

PERFORMING ARTS

Many of our students are involved in the upcoming production of Elf. Many facets go in to making this event a success and we hope that many of you will come out and support our talented students and teachers.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

This month we are highlighting Alexis Osazuwa's achievement in horseback riding. She is currently at a competition in Orlando, Florida, and last week she was in a Mariposa Horse show, receiving two first place finishes and Champion in the Puddle Jumper 1 class!

She also competed in Cross rails over fences and cross rails under saddle and placed 2nd, 4th and 5th. These points will count towards St. Andrew's in the inter school sports competition.

Please remember to send me any news on our great students. Till the next time.....



Peter Wilson
Director of Co-Curricular and Student Leadership

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