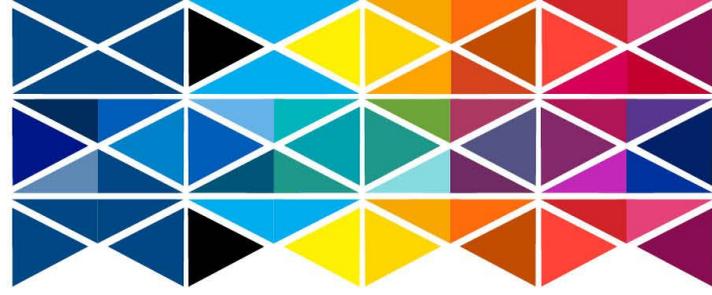




ST ANDREW'S
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



Newsletter: February 4th, 2019



INTERNATIONAL AND PROUDLY BAHAMIAN

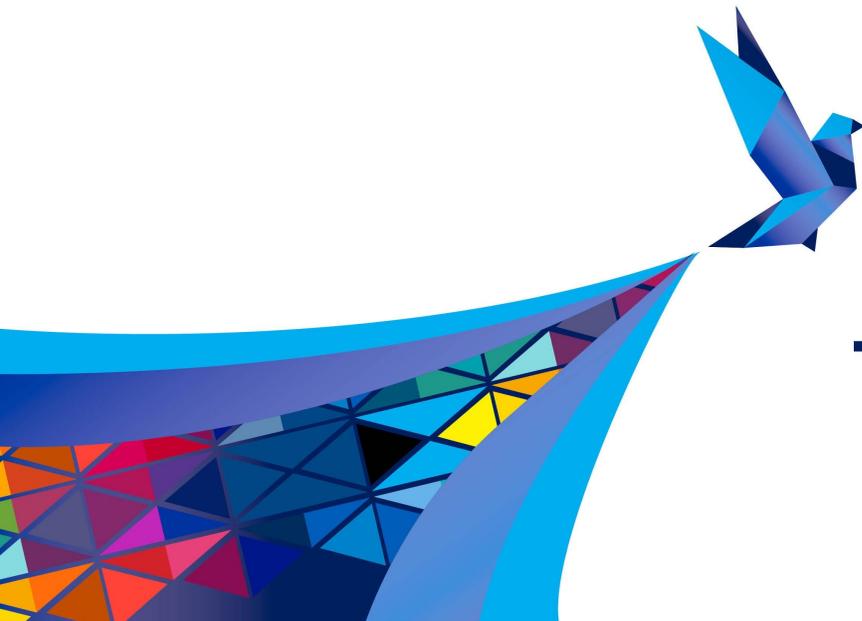
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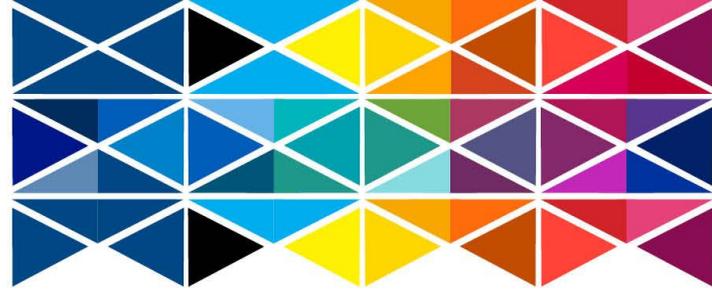
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together
we learn



From The Principal's Desk

I was raised on a sporting diet of cricket and rugby and haven't had much opportunity to watch American sports. Last night was a first for me – I was invited to Super Bowl party. I quietly Googled 'introduction to American football' so that I wouldn't look too ignorant when following the game. Folk here have strong loyalties and the energy amongst the crowd was tremendous. Everyone arrived long before the start to lay one dollar bets on squares, and enjoy the event. The crowd grew and grew. I had been told that the advertisements and mid game concerts were a big part of the whole occasion, but didn't expect there to be so many quite so many timeouts and ad breaks. It's an impressive and well-orchestrated experience. The game itself was slow moving until the last ten minutes when I saw what a great quarterback can do. Reeling off four passes, the final of which was a beauty to Gronowski, Tom Brady took charge when it mattered. Not many in the crowd seemed to be Patriots supporters, but few could deny their brilliance. All in all, it was a great evening.

Our Professional Development Day on Friday started with a workshop led by three psychologists from the Family Medicine Centre on the topic of creating a positive learning environment. We spoke about bullying, identifying and supporting students at risk and the impact of social media on the lives of our students. The Primary staff then moved on to a workshop on Growth Mindset, led by Eddie Bethel. The key idea is that our abilities and talents are not fixed but that throughout our lives we can learn new things and improve. We can exercise our brains and master new skills all through life. I was struck by the idea that our Learning Support students aren't defined and confined by their learning needs, but can do a great deal to manage themselves and operate at a high level. Many business and political leaders have learnt to manage their ADD or dyslexia and be successful.

The Secondary staff have systematically reviewed the assessment data for each student, looking at their performance relative to the CAT4 predictions and identifying students who are in need of support or extension. We use a range of interventions to assist students to set targets and raise their performance. In Primary we have been analyzing the MAP data (Maths and Literacy assessments which are externally referenced) to identify where we can support individual students or adapt the curriculum or teaching strategies.

Thank you to everyone, staff students and parents, who gave us feedback on the 5 or 6 day cycle survey. There was a resounding cheer in assembly when I announced the results: the students live with the timetable every day and their support for the change was overwhelming. Most importantly, they appreciated that they had been consulted and their opinion was taken seriously.

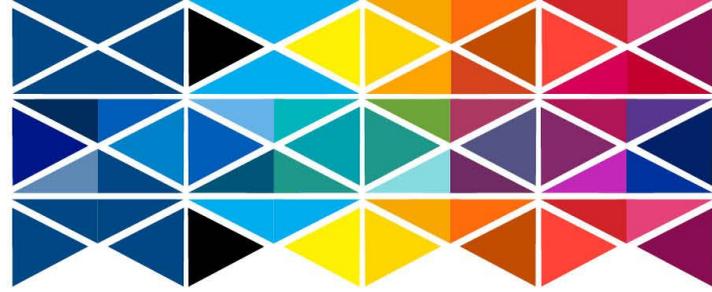
I'd like to thank Mrs Hall and all of the teachers for a thoroughly enjoyable Early Year and Infants' Sports Day. An event like this takes a great deal of planning and preparation and thank you to everyone who played a role: all the events ran like clockwork. There was a very happy atmosphere and the support from parents was tremendous. Many commented on how they enjoyed the 'big field' atmosphere.

Andy Wood

Principal

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Primary News

All primary families should have received their child's report card last week. Please complete the survey that will follow to share feedback regarding the new format and content. As with all improvements and changes, the goal is to provide the best learning environment and support for our students and their families. Your feedback helps us immensely.

A common recommendation throughout the year is for students to read each day. Reading is the most important thing students and their families can do each evening. As Dr. Seuss said, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more things that you learn, the more places you'll go!" The suggestion is that students should read or be read to for at least twenty minutes each day. The chart below explains why this is important for developing readers.

Helpful tips to Support Readers

During reading time:

- *Sit nearby and listen to them read
- *Offer support ([helpful video](#)) by reinforcing strategies to read new words and using a finger to track
- *Encourage your child to make connections and inferences, draw conclusions, ask and answer questions, and use context clues
- *Model fluent reading

Reading Aloud (Infancy - Kindergarten)		Kindergarten - 6th Grade		
		1 minute/day	5 minutes/day	20 minutes/day
30 minutes/week	30 minutes/day	180 minutes per school year	900 minutes per school year	3,600 minutes per school year
		8,000 words per year	282,000 words per year	1,800,000 words per year
130 hours	900 hours	Scores in the 10th percentile	Scores in the 50th percentile	Scores in the 90th percentile
If reading aloud begins in infancy, a child can enter kindergarten with 900 hours of literacy exposure.		If a student starts reading for 20 minutes a day in kindergarten, by the end of 6th grade they will have read for the equivalent of 60 days. The student reading five minutes a day would have read for the equivalent of 12 days.		
*approximate amounts based on average reading speeds				

Questions to ask after reading:

- *Why do you think something happened? What else could have happened?
- *How did the story make you feel?
- *What did you like/dislike about the story?
- *Does this book make you think of anything else you've read?
- *Were there any parts that surprised you?
- *What were you wondering as you read?

Research supports that there is an increased level of motivation and engagement when students are involved in the selection of the reading material. Using the five finger rule can help your child select an appropriate book. Open the book to any page and have your child begin reading. Hold up a finger for each word they don't know. If you put up more than five fingers before the end of the page, the book is too challenging for your child at this time. If the content really interests them, consider reading it together. If they want to choose a book to read independently, select a different book.

Many daily routines can naturally support support reading. Ask your child to read recipes, grocery lists, or board game instructions and playing cards. Create a comfortable space to curl up with a book and provide a selection of reading material such as comics, magazines, books, and child-friendly newspaper articles. Visit the library and create opportunities for your child to see you reading. Additionally, bedtime stories provide a nightly opportunity to show your child the value of reading.

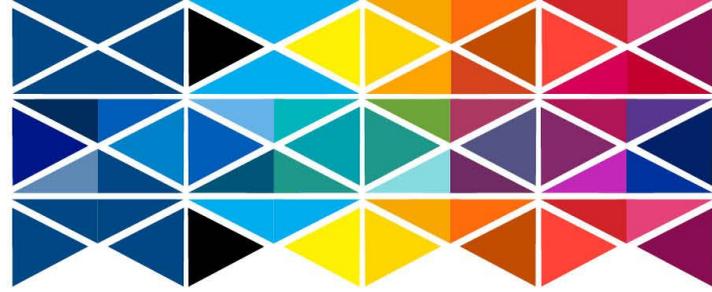
Happy reading!

Jessica Waugh

Vice Principal & Head of Primary

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Secondary News

This morning I attended the Ministry of Education Annual National Awards Ceremony. It was an enormous pleasure to hear students from all over the Bahamas present, sing and play to honour students with high BJC and BGCSE examination results. The pride I saw from students in attendance for their achievements, their uniforms and their schools was impressive. I was there to particularly support three of our special Hurricanes: one in grade 9 and two in grade 11. Tyler Johnson received honourable mention for her impressive 7 As and 1 B in the BJCs. Marina D'Alessandro won the subject award for BGCSE French. Our Deputy Head Girl, Alexa Delaney received honourable mention for garnering 6 As and 1 B in the BGCSE exams. Although not recognised at this ceremony, Alexa also earned 2 A*s, an A and a C at International GCSE last year and so, for me at least, is the most successful and well-rounded student of her age in the Bahamas. Both Alexa and Marina will complete the full IB Diploma next year and further add to their suite of pre-university qualifications and achievements. Well done to all!



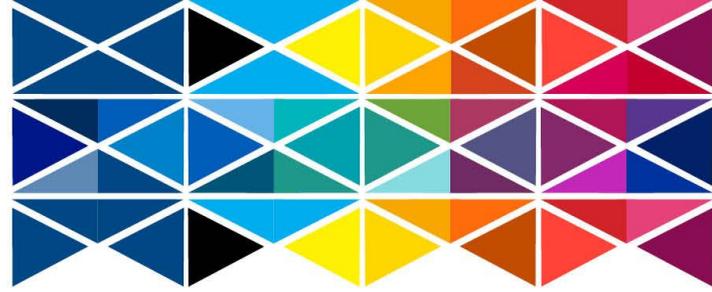
This week we celebrate Chinese New Year in School. We will have a special assembly on Thursday led by students in Lucayan 2 and a performance of a Chinese song from students in our Mandarin classes. It is important to me that students continue to develop their international-mindedness by understanding the culture and festivals of others around the world. I wish a heartfelt 新春快乐 身体健康 阖家安康 年年有余 to all of our Chinese families! I wish you every success and happiness in the year of the Pig.

This is an extremely important and exciting time of the school year for grade 8 and 10 students as they choose the subjects they will study for the next two years at St Andrew's. All students and parents have been given the booklets which outline the varied and challenging programmes we offer. We look forward to seeing all grade 8 and 10 students with their parents at our Options Information evenings on the 7th and 12th of this month. If you haven't already confirmed your attendance, please do so by calling Mrs Melita Carey in the Secondary School office.

Gordon McKenzie
Vice Principal & Head of Secondary

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Public Relations & Alumni News

The alumni of St Andrew's school continue to have a local or global impact as they tend to secure top positions in their field of work. Many businesses in the Bahamas are owned or operated by former St Andrew's students. Our alumni truly make up the fabric of our Bahamian community. As we continue to celebrate 70 years of "*ethics & excellence*", we are always delighted to share their stories of success.

Alumni Feature



The Hon. Brent Symonette

The Hon. Brent Symonette is a Bahamian businessman and Minister of Financial Services, Trade and Industry and Immigration. He served as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bahamas from 2007 to 2012. He also served as Member of Parliament for the St. Anne's constituency



Pia Farmer

Pia Farmer and her husband John Farmer (Class of 71) founded Custom Computers Limited, a leading technology company in Nassau which has been in business for over 30 years. In the past 3 years, Pia has led the introduction of 100% electric vehicles to The Bahamas through their EASY Group of companies. In 2010, Pia was appointed Honorary Danish Consul to The Bahamas. For the past 4 years Pia served on the Board of Directors of St Andrew's International School, acted as Secretary of the company and led the Board's Marketing sub-committee.

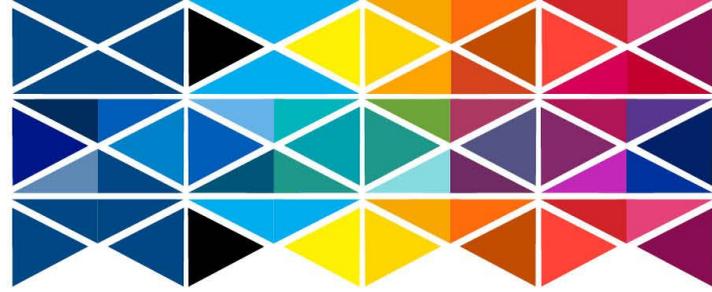


Geoff Andrews

Geoff Andrews, now retired, was the Public Accountant at Deloitte, past President and current treasurer of the Rotary Club of East Nassau and also serves as the Deputy President of the Bahamas National Trust. He serves as Chair of the Finance Committee on the St Andrew's International School Board of Directors. Geoff was recently appointed as the Chairman of the Board of the Small Business Development Center.

We love to hear what our former students are up to. Email us at alumni@st-andrews.com and tell us your story.





ECA News

Our Sports Day was a hectic affair. All Junior School students participating in at least 4 events and at least fifty percent of our Secondary School. We had 3 competitions going on and the results, after 5 hours of fun-filled competition the were as follows;

PRIMARY 1 A 2 L 3 T 4 C SECONDARY 1 C 2 T 3 A 4 L OVERALL 1 A 2 C/T 4 L

I will leave it to Mr Carey, House Leader for Arawak ,whose comments could apply to all Houses.

Congratulations to my fellow **ARAWAKS** on winning Sports Day 2019! It was a very competitive and exciting day filled with house spirit and good sportsmanship. When it came down to it, being the overall winner was not the greatest achievement for the Arawak house. For me, seeing the students encouraging and supporting one another, willingly stepping in to fill a slot that needed to be filled, and cheering for those in and outside of their house made the day a true success. Congratulations to all of our student athletes on a job well done!

We have had a large number of students trying out for the soccer teams and games will start the week of Feb 11. Come out and watch some games if you get the chance. All games start at 4pm. Our Primary Academies are continuing with Basketball on Monday and Soccer on Thursdays. It's not too late to join!

Now over to one of our talented students-Caitlin Russell

Over the weekend of January 19th, Marathon Bahamas held the 5K (3.2 miles) on Saturday put on by the Susan G. Komen charity, the Marathon, Half-Marathon and Relay-Marathon on Sunday. Many students and teachers competed in either of these events. Josh Browning, Sara Thompson, Gabriel Moultrie, Nicole Ratcliffe, Emily Taylor, Imani Davis, Ms. Fathergill and many more, were some of familiar faces that I came across whilst running the 5K course, and Ms Grinling as she had completed the Half-Marathon. The 5K course started at Montague Beach, took us along the familiar streets of Nassau and then up and over one of the Paradise Island bridges, then a short tour of the torustistic island before bringing us back around to the finish line near Scotiabank. The race started at a seemingly early 7AM and I completed the 5K course with a time of 45 minutes coming third in my age group, receiving a bronze medal. This was a massive accomplishment as last year I had not even come under one hour. There were many times throughout the course in which I wanted to start walking, and there were some times I did, but soon enough I picked up my pace and began to jog as something that Judith Orloff once said kept popping up in my mind. 'Surrender to the experience.' Once I first heard these words, nothing immediately hit me, but as I thought about it more, it began to make sense. As you go through life, or as I went through this course, I let myself go. I surrendered to the pain, I surrendered to the experience and I wasn't thinking about the shooting pain traveling up my left calf as I took each step, or the shin splints that soon followed. I was allowing the pain to be present, and surrendering to it.

Till the next time.....

Pete Wilson

Director of Co-Curricular and Student Leadership

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