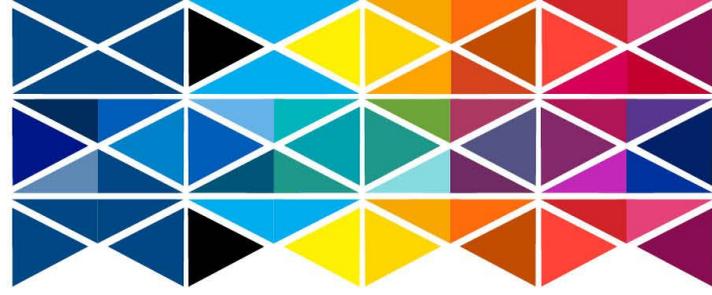




ST ANDREW'S
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



Newsletter: October 9th, 2018



INTERNATIONAL AND PROUDLY BAHAMIAN

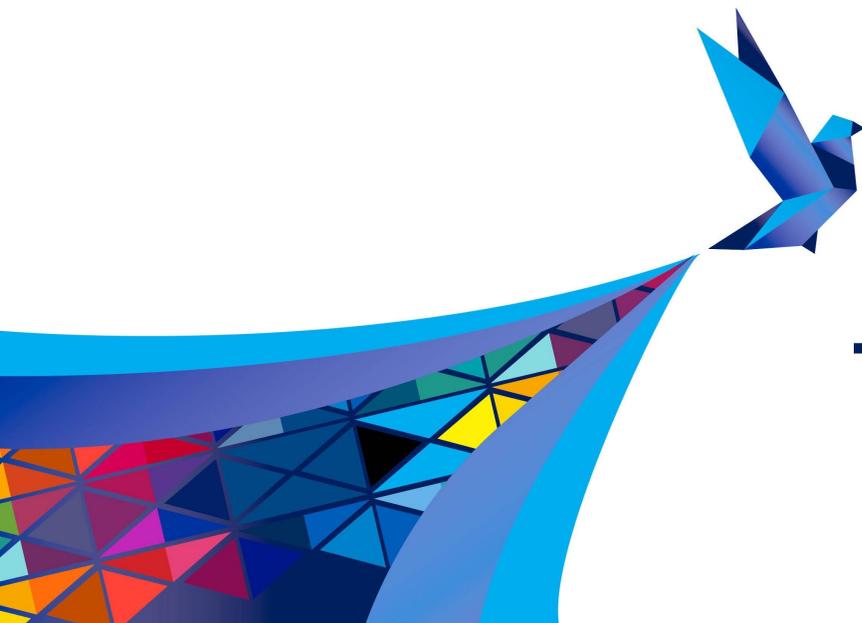
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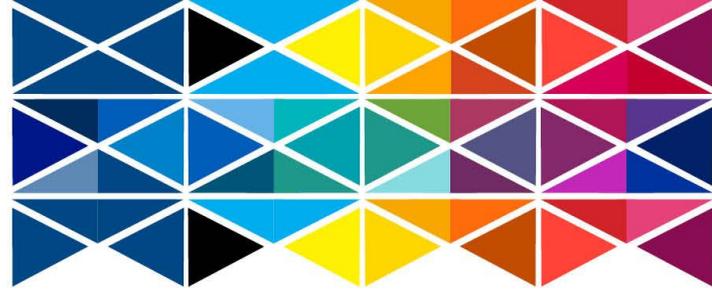
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together
we learn



From The Principal's Desk

I have so enjoyed seeing our students doing well in a wide variety of areas in recent weeks. The headlines in this week's Nassau Guardian was 'St Andrew's School is Most Outstanding. At the 2018 National Arts Festival Awards Ceremony that took place at Baha Mar, our St Andrew's students took home 19 National first place Awards including the 'The Most Outstanding Dance Award' to Charlotte Nevins, 'The Most Outstanding School in Dance' and, to crown it all, the Governor General's Award for The Most Outstanding School.' It was a very proud moment – this is the first time that St Andrew's has won this award.



Our Performing Arts Department, under the leadership of Mrs. Jackie Petersen. Mr. Ivan Carey and Mrs. Jen Roach, students work really hard towards this competition every year. It was fantastic to hear St Andrew's named winners in category after category, before scooping the biggest trophy I've ever seen.

The summer sports season has got going and our teams have achieved some impressive softball victories against strong competition. I watched our Senior Boys play against a highly competitive Queens College in the opening game of the season. We were ahead in the first few innings, but QC rallied and levelled the score and inched ahead. Our lads remained focussed and determined throughout, but after some very tense innings the opposition consolidated their gains and the game ended in QC winning 13-10. In other fixtures against St John's and Christian Academy we have secured strong victories. Our Junior Boys' team has been enjoying a winning streak, too.

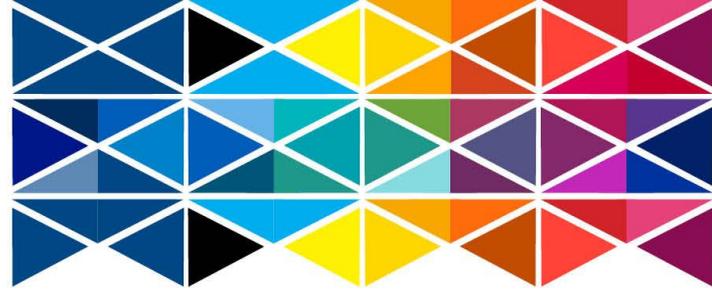
I regularly visit classes to do lesson observations to see monitor the quality of teaching and learning and have the unique privilege to see all the grades in action. My focus this month has been Mathematics teaching. During these observations I pay particular attention to the students and watch what they are doing. I am interested to see their learning skills, engagement in the lesson, problem solving, research skills, critical thinking and how well they take ownership of their success. I look for International Baccalaureate inquiry-based teaching: is the teacher asking probing questions, getting students to think for themselves and to learn to be responsible for their learning? Traditional teaching is focussed on the teacher talking and the students learning to do what they are told. In an IB school we ask higher-order questions that stimulate thinking and to set problems that the students have to work out how to solve independently. The teacher is guide and mentor. I ask the students how challenging they find the work and how they go about solving the problems they have been set. I have seen some very good and inspiring teaching and learning going on in the classes I have visited. I understand that students and teachers are on their best behaviour when the Principal is in the room, but all in all, I have been delighted to see that our standards are high.

The universities and workplaces of the future are looking for people who are able to think for themselves, take responsibility, be innovative, collaborate effectively when working in groups, ask searching questions and come up with a range of solutions to problems that haven't been thought of yet. Yes, good marks and results are important for college and university admission, but there are many more competencies that the workplace of the future will demand. These are skills that an IB education teaches. It is education for the future.

Andy Wood
Principal

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Primary News

Respect Week kicked off with an assembly led by our fifth grade students on the dangers of cyberbullying and how to be safe on the internet. Activities, discussions, and read alouds throughout the week placed an added focus on how we respect ourselves and others, and this will continue to be a large part of our social and emotional learning this year. We also set up an “Extra Ears” mentoring program that pairs students with a faculty member they feel comfortable speaking to, in addition to their homeroom teacher.

One of the qualities that sets us apart from many schools is our commitment to differentiation and student support. Differentiation has become a “buzzword” of sorts in the educational world. The goal of differentiation is to meet children at their current ability level and support them as they acquire new knowledge and extend their learning. Concepts and tasks are made more or less challenging depending on the abilities of the learners.

We use our mathematics, language arts, and unit of inquiry standards to measure where the typical student would find success and make modifications to extend or support from there. There is also another element to differentiation that relates to the process students use and the product they produce. Tasks can be differentiated to accommodate various learning styles such as auditory, spatial, kinesthetic, or linguistic and areas of student strength such as visual arts, performing arts, written expression, or engineering working models. Differentiation through the process, content, and product allows each of our students to share their learning in a way that appeals to their interests.

Pre-assessments and observations at the beginning of units of study allow teachers to see what their students currently know and inform the planning to support each child as they work towards mastery and application of taught standards and skills. MAP Growth Test results give teachers a great deal of data regarding their students. While we do not rely solely on one test to measure a child’s knowledge, these results across our curriculum areas identify areas of strength and weakness for teachers on both the class and individual level. Teachers met last week to closely examine and discuss the individual results of students and develop a plan moving forward to support and extend our learners based on this data. As a school, we will be using this data to track progress and identify any areas for professional development and support moving forward. Your child’s MAP Growth Test results will be sent home this week.

Our third grade classes have taken over the garden area in front of their classrooms. This links with their unit inquiring into plants. The students decided to take action to add flowers and vegetables to these garden plots. Thank you to all of the parents who have assisted our third grade gardeners with this project. Please check it out next time you are on campus. It looks wonderful!

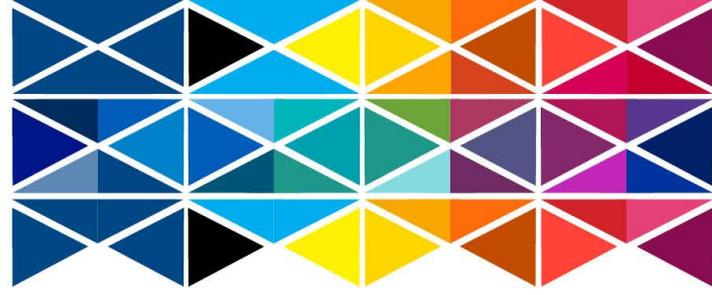
We look forward to seeing you all later this month at our Swim Gala on October 19th.



Jessica Waugh
Vice Principal & Head of Primary

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Secondary News

As always, it's an exciting few weeks for Secondary School students. Softball season has begun and our teams have already recorded impressive results; a group of brave grade 8 students were invited to sing songs in Mandarin for the Chinese Ambassador and the Deputy Prime Minister of the Bahamas at a celebration of the Chinese National Day at the Hilton Hotel, and field Trips are already going out to The Tourism Industry Conference, the CFAL Junior Investor Programme launch and various Shakespeare in Paradise shows. The most significant event however was St Andrew's receipt of the overall title 'Most Outstanding School' at the E. Clement Bethell National Arts Awards evening at BahaMar. This is a simply incredible achievement and students should be rightly proud and delighted with their success. Special thank you to Miss Petersen, Mr Carey and Mrs Roach for their guidance and tireless support for these students and the arts in general.

Our annual Scholarship Reception took place on Monday 1st October which saw our six newest scholarship students sign their certificates and officially become part of the St Andrew's family. These students have a track record of excellence in academics, athletics or the arts and broaden the diversity of our student body: this year several students have come to us from family islands.

In order to help us meet the needs of individual students and challenge each one appropriately, we employ a benchmarking Cognitive Ability Test known as the CAT4. This is an electronic test of verbal and non-verbal reasoning, as well as spatial and quantitative reasoning. It does not test 'taught topics' and so students cannot study for this. The results provide a rounded profile of ability so we can target support, provide the right level of challenge and make informed decisions about students' progress. It provides a unique profile of strengths and weaknesses across the four areas. The test also makes helpful predictions on likely student outcomes in IGCSE and IB DP examinations. Students in grades 6, 8 and 9 as well as new students in other grades will be taking this test, which lasts around 2 hours, from the 15th-18th of October. Feedback reports will be shared with students and parents in November.

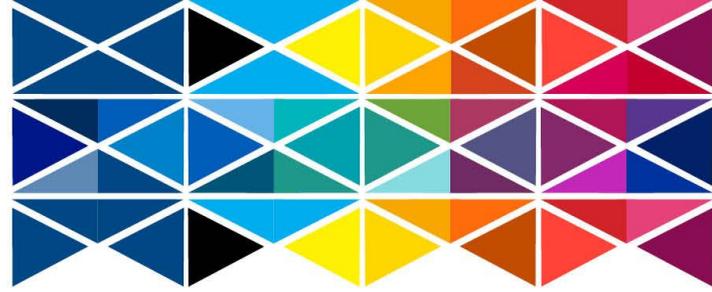
Another way in which we support students at St Andrew's is through the Study Buddy programme. This was first introduced by Mr Cooper, who I'm delighted to say has returned to teach here at school, and he now co-manages this initiative along with Ms Taylor. Students who feel they can support another student in a particular academic subject area are paired up with other students who need a bit of help. The 'mentor' student earns hours towards their CAS Service commitment and builds valuable coaching and leadership skills, while the learner receives precious guidance and catch-up tuition in an area where they have been struggling. These sessions happen in the library mostly after school but also at lunchtime. If your child could benefit from this programme, in either role, please encourage them to get in touch with Mr Cooper or Ms Taylor.

Respect Week took place in school from 17th to 22nd September. As well as an assembly led by grade 11 and 12 students from Arawak house in which Dr Wayne Thompson gave a passionate and inspiring talk about the impacts of bullying, other 'Acts of Kindness' activities were promoted among our students. I am concerned about the insults and 'roasting' which many young people nowadays feel it is normal and harmless to trade amongst one another and much of this seems to go on using social media. I encourage all St Andrew's parents to monitor online access and social media use at home in the evenings and at weekends in order to best protect your children from the unpleasant consequences this can lead to.

Gordon McKenzie
Vice Principal & Head of Secondary

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70th Anniversary/Alumni News

70th Anniversary

Plans are well underway for our upcoming 70th Anniversary celebrations scheduled during “St Andrew’s Week”. Our first 70th Anniversary event, a beach day on Blue Lagoon Island was a huge success with multiple requests for this to be an annual event.

Our upcoming events include a St Andrew’s Kirk Service scheduled for November 25th, a 70th Birthday Celebration on campus scheduled for November 30th and a signature 70th Anniversary evening under the stars at Palm Cay scheduled for December 1st. This cocktail and dinner event will feature a live band, DJ and auction, with many prizes and surprises including a weekend stay at Palm Cay. We look forward to seeing you at each of our events.

Click [here](#) for more information on our upcoming events.

Alumni Highlights

In September, we hosted an alumni breakfast social for classes of 1948-1988. It was a wonderful occasion for our alumni and friends to reconnect and revisit our campus. Our upcoming alumni social for classes of 1989-1998 is scheduled for November 3rd at 10am in the school hall. This event is for our alumni and friends. We hope to see you all there.

Our Alumni Feature

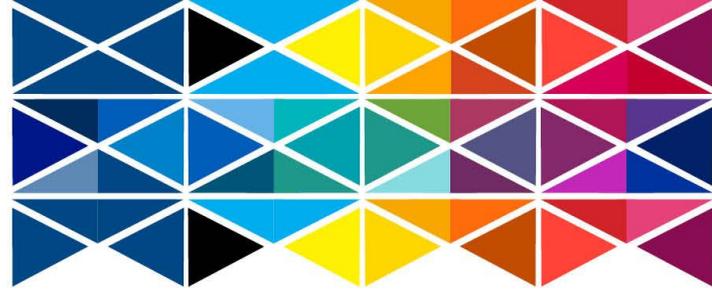


Alanna Rodgers Class of 2005	Davinia Blair -Class of 1996
<p><u>Achievement:</u> -Founder of Hands for Hunger and Tru Bahamian Food Tours -She received a 43 IB score during her final year at St Andrew’s School and was recognized internationally for her achievement.</p>	<p><u>Achievement:</u> -Executive Director of Small Business Development Center at the University of The Bahamas</p>

Tamika Cartwright
Director of Development & Public Relations

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ECA News

Creative Arts

Pride of place in the Extra Curricula world goes to our Creative Arts team and our wonderfully gifted students. The 2018 E Clement Bethel National Arts Festival Awards Ceremony took place at Baha Mar and St Andrew's students took home 19 National Awards, The Most Outstanding School in Dance and the Governor General's Award for **The Most Outstanding School!**. Our very own I.B. student Charlotte Nevins received the "Hubert Farrington" Award which recognises the most outstanding dancer. Our gifted students and teachers now move on to the production of the play Elf and we wish them every success.

Sports

In the sporting arena we are now in the softball season and battling hard to make the play-offs. Our senior girls started the season with a great win against St.Annes and then had a let-down at Q.C. Our Senior Boys sent St.Johns packing and had a great win against NCA. The Junior Boys have had two tough losses but are motivated and young. These losses will stand our boys in good stead as they mature and get stronger. Basketball practices have started and are Mondays and Wednesdays. Do we have the next Michael Jordan in our school? Did you know that Michael did not make his school team when he first tried out at the age of thirteen? Our InterHouse swimming gala is on October 19 starting at 12 noon. Come on out to support your kids and House. Parents race is at 2.40pm.

Highlighting Students

Jordan Cheetham

So over the summer I went to Denmark and played in a high standard soccer tournament. I liked the tournament because it had a lot of competition but everyone was friendly and cheerful. I made a lot of friends in Denmark because we had to stay in the same hotel and room. I also enjoyed exploring Denmark. Overall I think I could of done better but we made it to the semis so I was happy.

Mario Johnson

My name is Mario Johnson, I am 16 years old and I recently represented The Bahamas Men's National Team in the CONCACAF Nations League against Belize. Although we didn't win it was a great experience and I feel I can only build on this and use this experience to better myself and hopefully pave the way for myself in the future. As a team I feel we can only use this experience to mature and gain confidence. Former St.Andrew's students on the team were: ReJohn Ene, Raymorn Sturrup, Ethan Willie and Terry Delancy. We represented our school well.

Till the next time,

Peter Wilson

Director of Co-Curricular and Student Leadership

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