

SAINT THOMAS MORE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 9, 2023

THEME: YET STILL I RISE!

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/stmspark242>

Website: st.cec.edu.bs



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Each new year brings us new opportunities to know *Him* more, to walk in faith and grow by *His* grace. May your 2023 be blessed in the Lord.



PRAYERS

Condolences are extended to members of our school family who lost loved ones recently. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. May the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.



SCHOOL FEES

School fees for the **SECOND** term are now **PAST DUE**. If you did not receive a fee slip, you may contact the school's office. School fees can be paid at the Royal Bank of Canada (Online only) or First Caribbean International Bank (Online only). **Please remember to submit a copy of the fee slip to the office after making a payment.** Students will not be allowed in school on **Monday, January 16, 2023** until fees are paid in full. Persons who are on payment plans should be up-to-date.

Please note that First Caribbean Bank, Palmdale closed its doors as of August 31, 2022. Our banking information remains the same. Effective Tuesday, January 3, 2023, First Caribbean Bank will only accept online school fee payments.

Credit Card payments can be made at the Catholic Education Centre, West Hill Street. There will be a \$5.00 fee assessed for the replacement of school fee slips and \$50.00 will be assessed to make partial payments.

TERM	TUITION	SPECIAL FEES	TOTAL	DUE DATE
2 nd term (2022-2023) (K-5)	\$882.00	\$250.00	\$1,132.00	PAST DUE
2 nd term (2022-2023)(Gr.6)	\$882.00	*\$310.00	\$1,192.00	PAST DUE
3 rd term (2022-2023) (K-6)	\$882.00	\$250.00	\$1,132.00	On or before March 6, 2023

*Includes \$250.00 for special fees and \$60.00 for the graduation fee.



BANKING INSTRUCTIONS

Please see instructions below on school fee payment options for online banking with FCIB or RBC.

FCIB School Fee payments:

Account Name: RCANB Special Catholic School Account

Bank Transit Number & Account Number: 097861126917 (Palmdale)

Account Type: Checking

RBC School fee payments:

Account Name: RCANB Catholic Education Centre

Bank Transit Number & Account Number: 057452897445 (Palmdale)

Account Type: Checking

BANKS OTHER THAN FCIB OR RBC

***If you do not have online banking with FCIB or RBC then you should use your respective bank's internet banking OR mobile app to do a third party online transfer/interbank transfer to FCIB or RBC.**



TUITION REFUND POLICY

The policy of the Catholic Board of Education regarding tuition refund is as follows:

If a student leaves **within 1 – 2 weeks** from the start of the term, the parent is entitled to **75% refund on tuition.**

If a student leaves **within 3 – 4 weeks** from the start of the term, the parent is entitled to **50% refund on tuition.**

If a student leaves **after 4 weeks** from the start of the term, there is **NO REFUND.**

***REGISTRATION, TESTING, CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIAL FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE AND NON-TRANSFERABLE.**



SECURITY MEASURES

Parents are **strongly advised** not to leave valuable possessions in their car at any time. It is important to be **PROACTIVE** and **PREVENT INCIDENCES** of theft occurring on our campus.



PROFILE OF THE BAHAMAS CATHOLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION GRADUATE

- *A Christian Leader*
- *An Academically Capable Person*
- *A Centered, Well Rounded Person*
- *A Loving Person*
- *A Lifelong Learner*
- *A Healthy Person*
- *An Environmentally Conscious Person*
- *A Financially Adept Person*



POLICY ON ABUSE

The education of a student is a partnership between the parents and school. Just as the parent has the right to withdraw a child if desired, the school reserves the right to require the withdrawal of the student if it determines that the parent or student partnership with the school is 'irretrievably broken'.

'Irretrievably broken' includes (but is not limited to) offenses including an assault, a threat whether written, spoken or by the Internet or inflammatory statements that harm the reputation of another. Disrespectful actions or words towards teachers, staff, parents, students or other school employees or visitors will result in suspension and probation or in serious cases that cause injury to persons or reputation, dismissal from the institution.

The school also reserves the right to place a student on probation or suspension or take whatever action it deems necessary for the safety of the school body where it is confirmed that the student was involved in a serious incident outside of school and allowing the student on campus could give rise to a serious incident during school.



REGISTRATION

Registration for Kindergarten and grade one takes place from **Wednesday, January 4, 2023** until **Friday, January 27, 2023**. Please bring along copies of the following documents:

- **Birth Certificate**
- **Baptismal/Christening Certificate**
- **Relevant Passport Pages**
- **National Insurance Smart Card**
- **\$50.00 Registration Fee (Non-refundable)**
- **A passport size photo**

***Registration for Grades 1 – 5 will be based on space availability.**

THANK YOU

Saint Thomas More School was able to donate canned goods to Saint Martin Monastery and other persons in need. Additionally, various items were given to the Nazareth Centre, Sandilands Geriatric Hospital and the Department of Corrections by way of our Advent Party. These events could not have happened without the generosity of our wonderful parents, grandparents and supporters. Saint Thomas More School is indeed grateful for your acts of kindness.



Harvest Celebration



Presentation: The Nazareth Centre



Presentation: Sandilands Geriatric Hospital



Presentation: Department of Corrections

ARCHDIOCESAN SPELLING CONTEST

The 56th Annual Archdiocesan Spelling Contest will take place on **Thursday, February 2, 2023.** The following students will represent Saint Thomas More School in the competition: **TreyVaun Kerr (5H), Donte Pratt (6J) and Ayden Russell (6S).** The alternates are **Uri Sebastian Botin (4G) and Alexander Ford Jr. (5H).**



L-R: Alexander Ford Jr., Ayden Russell, TreyVaun Kerr, Donte Pratt, Uri Sebastian Botin,



COLD WEATHER

Please be advised that buttoned-down **navy-blue jackets** or sweaters should be worn during the cold season. ***Hooded sweaters and jackets are discouraged at Saint Thomas More School.** Jackets (\$45.00) and P. E. kits (\$30.00) are available in the school's office in limited supply.



SICKNESS PROTOCOLS

- **Children with a fever, cough, runny nose or congestion are not allowed in school regardless of a possible history of allergies or asthma.**
- Other symptoms of concern include headaches, muscle aches, sore throat, diarrhea, nausea/vomiting and the like.
- A child who is **off sick** for any reason **will not be allowed back into school** until he/she is **free of all symptoms**.
- **When a doctor's letter confirming that a child is fit to return to school has been requested, a copy of this letter must be reviewed by the school nurse before the child can be admitted to school.**
- Nurse Hawkins' email address is: ehawkins@cec.edu.bs. All medical information is private and confidential.



CANS 4 KIDS

Saint Thomas More School has teamed up with **Cans 4 Kids** Bahamas. We are asking all families to get on board by saving your aluminum cans and bringing them to school. Let us help to keep our Bahamas clean and teach our children about the need to reduce, reuse and recycle. Your donations of cans should be communicated to the classroom teacher. Thank you for your support of this initiative.



POWERSCHOOL PORTAL

The PowerSchool portal is closed. It will reopen on or before **Monday, January 16, 2023.**



AFTER SCHOOL CARE

After school care runs from 3:00 p.m.– 5:00 p.m., Monday – Thursday. The facilitators are Mrs. Chea (tchea@cec.edu.bs) and Miss Philips (sphilips@cec.edu.bs). The cost is **\$10.00 per day.** Persons who are not engaged in an afternoon activity will automatically be **placed in after care and charged the daily rate.** After school care provides students with homework assistance for all subjects.



FRUIT, VEGETABLE AND WATER INITIATIVE

Saint Thomas More School continues with the fruit-vegetable-water initiative at break time. We are focusing on healthy food choices. Every student at break time is encouraged to eat fruits, vegetables and water. Other snacks can be eaten at lunch time. We look forward to your complete cooperation.

DEVICES ON CAMPUS

Students are allowed to bring devices on campus (laptops, tablets) once the classroom teacher has given approval. **Cell phones are not allowed at school.**

***At no time should students be on social media while using devices on campus.**



JUDY’S KITCHEN

The breakfast and lunch program have been outsourced to Mrs. Judy Armaly and her team. All matters dealing with breakfast, lunch and snacks should be addressed in the kitchen. Breakfast is served from 7:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. at a cost of \$2.50. **Parents are allowed to purchase breakfast from the kitchen.** Lunch orders are taken during the homeroom period. Students who arrive late and wish to order lunch should report to the kitchen to make their lunch purchases. This should happen **after** the D.E.A.R program.



JANUARY LUNCH MENU

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9	10	11	12	13
Spaghetti & Meat Sauce	Majority Rule Holiday	Nuggets & Fries	Curry Chicken, White Rice & Veg.	Pizza
16	17	18	19	20
Spaghetti & Meatballs	Pork Chop, White Rice & Veg.	Chicken & Fries	Curry Chicken, White Rice & Veg.	Pizza
23	24	25	26	27
Spaghetti & Meat Sauce	Pork Chop, Kraft Dinner & Veg.	Nuggets & Fries	Curry Chicken, White Rice & Veg.	Pizza
30	31			
Spaghetti & Meatballs	Pork Chop, Yellow Rice & Veg.			

Some of the other lunch items are as follows:

Hot Lunch	\$4.50
Pizza	\$2.50 (per slice)
Meat Only	\$2.50
Fries Only	\$2.50
Corn Dog	\$2.50
Tuna Roll/Hot Dog/	\$2.00
Ham & Cheese Sandwich	\$3.00
Turkey & Cheese Sandwich	\$3.00
Green Salad	\$3.00 (Available upon request)
Cheesy Bread	\$2.50
Apples	\$1.00 (Sold at break time)
Beverages	(prices vary)

FAST FOOD LUNCHES SUCH AS MCDONALD'S, WENDY'S, KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN, SUBWAY, BURGER KING AND THE LIKE ARE NOT ALLOWED ON THE SCHOOL'S CAMPUS.

Please note that there will be no warming of food. Students can purchase hot lunch from the kitchen, bring a packed lunch or utilize a thermos for hot meals.

BAHAMAS PRIMARY STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Congratulations go out to **Alexia Bain (6S)** for being selected as Saint Thomas More School's Student of the Year. Alexia will be among the best and the brightest nominees in the 2023 Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Awards Program.



SPARKS BASKETBALL

Congratulations go out to the boys' basketball team who was the runner-up in the Catholic Archdiocesan Basketball tournament. The team was coached by Mr. Taylor. We also salute our girls' basketball team that was coached by Mr. Neilly. Coach Coakley assisted with both teams.





IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

JANUARY

PERSEVERANCE

- 2** NEW YEARS' DAY HOLIDAY
- 3** Faculty and Staff Retreat
- 4** School Resumes at 8:30 a.m.
- 10** Majority Rule Holiday (No School)
- 11** School Resumes at 8:30 a.m.
- 4-27** Registration for Admission to Kindergarten/Grade One
- 16** Aquinas College Entrance Examination; (No school for grade 6)
- 20** Grade 6 Retreat
- 24** Saint Francis de Sales Feast Day
- 27** Saint Augustine's Entrance Examination; (No school for grade 6)
- 28** Saint Thomas Aquinas Feast Day
- 29- 4 (Feb.)** Catholic Schools' Week

FEBRUARY

LOVE

- 3** Kindergarten Testing (New Students)
(No School for Kindergarten)
- 3** Grade 5 Retreat
- 14** Valentine Dress Up (Red and White; \$2.00)
- 15** Staff Meeting/Professional Development; 3:00 p.m.
- 17** Grade 4 Retreat
- 22** ASH WEDNESDAY – BEGINNING OF LENT
- 23** Professional Development Day (No School for Students)
- 24-27** MID-TERM BREAK
- 28** ARCHBISHOP'S HOLIDAY (NO SCHOOL)

MARCH

FAIRNESS

- 1** School Resumes at 8:30 a.m.
- 3** Grade 3 Retreat
- 6** First Day of Third Term
School fees are due: (\$1,132.00)
- 13** Commonwealth Day
- 15** Staff Meeting/Professional Development; 3:00 p.m.
- 17** St. Patrick's Day Dress Up (Shades of Green; \$2.00)
- 17** Grade 2 Retreat
- 24** Grade 1 Retreat
- 30** Progress Report Distribution
- 31** Easter Vacation for Students: 3:00 p.m. Dismissal

APRIL

CLEANLINESS

- 2-7** HOLY WEEK
- 7** Feast of St. John Baptist de La Salle
(Patron of Teachers)
- 9** EASTER SUNDAY
- 10** EASTER MONDAY (PUBLIC HOLIDAY)
- 17** School Resumes
- 18** ARCHDIOCESAN WRITING EXAMINATION
- 21** Kindergarten Retreat