

SAINT THOMAS MORE SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 7, 2025
THEME: THE POWER OF A SPARK
(Strength, Passion, Achievement, Resilience, Kindness)
Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/stmspark/242?mibextid=LQQJ4d>
Website: st.cec.edu.bs
Alumni: <http://cboe.cec.edu.bs/alumni/reconnect/>



THE ROSARY

During the month of October, the rosary is recited during homeroom periods and in Religion classes. The rosary is a special prayer.



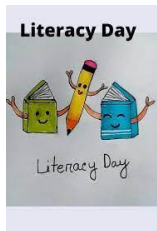
70 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Saint Thomas More School turns “70” in 2026. We are thankful to God for the lives that we have touched and the wonderful years of service our school has given to the Bahamian community. Please stay tuned for information regarding our 70th anniversary celebrations.



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.



LITERACY DAY EXPO & FLAG RAISING ASSEMBLY

Our Literacy Day Expo & Flag Raising Assembly under the theme “**One Flag, Many Stories**” has been rescheduled to **Monday, October 20, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. on the school grounds**. Students should wear a **gold**, **aquamarine** or **black** shirt along with long jeans (blue or black – no holes) and tennis. Our scholars are encouraged to bring a minimum of **\$10.00** to purchase a new story book. Chapter books will be available at a higher cost. Dayneth Taylor, a Bahamian author will also have books on sale. Additional information will be available in the Literacy Day flyer. You are welcomed to join us.



SCHOOL FEES

School fee slips **should have already been submitted to the office**. School fees can be paid at the Royal Bank of Canada (Online only) or First Caribbean International Bank (Online only). **Credit Card payments can be made using Tuitionpay.io. Please remember to submit the proof of payment to the office. Effective immediately, students will not be allowed in school until fees are brought up-to-date. Payment plans should be current.**

The proof of payment can also be emailed to the following persons:

Ms. Andrea Johnson (Bursar)	amjohnson@cec.edu.bs
Ms. Judith Russell (Bursar)	jrussell@cec.edu.bs
Dr. Renee Mortimer (Principal)	rmortimer@cec.edu.bs
Mrs. Santiala Ferguson (Vice Principal)	sferguson@cec.edu.bs
Mrs. Winifred Woods (Secretary)	wwoods@cec.edu.bs



SCHOOL FEE SCHEDULE (2025-2026)

The school fee and due dates for the 2025 – 2026 academic school year at Saint Thomas More School are as follows:

TERM	TUITION	SPECIAL FEES	TOTAL	DUE DATE
1 st term (2025-2026) (K to 6)	\$952.00	\$250.00	\$1,202.00	On or before June 30, 2025 PAST DUE
2 nd term (2025-2026) (K to 5)	\$952.00	\$250.00	\$1,202.00	On or before December 1, 2025
2 nd term (2025-2026) (Gr. 6)	\$952.00	*\$325.00	\$1,277.00	On or before December 1, 2025
3 rd term (2025-2026) (K to 6)	\$952.00	\$250.00	\$1,202.00	On or before March 3, 2025

***Includes \$250.00 for special fees and \$75.00 for the graduation fee.**

School Fee for the Year (K – 5):	\$3,320.40
School Fee for the Year (Grade 6):	\$3,395.40



BANKING INSTRUCTIONS

Please see instructions below on school fee payment options for persons who have online banking with First Caribbean International Bank (FCIB) or Royal Bank of Canada (RBC).

FCIB School Fee Payments:

Account Name: RCANB Special Catholic School Account
Bank Transit Number & Account Number: 09786 1126917 (Palmdale)
Account Type: Checking

RBC School Fee Payments:

Account Name: RCANB Catholic Education Centre
Bank Transit Number & Account Number: 05745 2897445 (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.**



TUITIONPAY.IO (CREDIT CARD PLATFORM FOR THE PAYMENT OF SCHOOL FEES)

INSTRUCTIONS

GO TO TUITIONPAY.IO

- Click on **Make a Payment** at the top
- Scroll all the way to the bottom

LOGIN TO PAY (For persons with Username & Password) – Follow further Instructions. This is for persons paying the actual school fee amount.

MAKE A PAYMENT (For persons without Username & Password) This is for persons making Annual or Partial Payments, Capital Development fees and more.

- **Fill in the “Complete Form”**
- **Select School** (St. Cecilia's – St. Thomas More – Xavier's etc.)
- **Invoice Number** (Insert 5 zeros!) This information can also be used for the Zip Code/P.O. Box)

NOTE: For student email, enter the students firstname.lastname@cec.edu.bs (Eg. jane.doe@cec.edu.bs)

SELECT TERM:

- First (**June 30th**)
- Second Term (**December 1st**)
- Third Term (**March 2nd**)

SELECT GRADE (The student's current grade should be selected.)

SECOND PAGE – Fill in Parent Information

THIRD PAGE – Enter Credit/Debit Card Information

SUBMIT

For more information, please see the FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) or check the website at cboe@cec.edu.bs for updates.



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

- A security officer is posted on campus from **8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**, Monday through Friday.
- Please respect the authority of Mr. James Cepoudi who has been placed at Saint Thomas More School for your child's safety.
- The area on the side of the old church has been designated as **TEACHER PARKING**. Parents/guardians should find other places to park in the mornings and in the afternoons. The lanes in front of the pavilion area are for dropping off only. **Please do not ignore the "NO PARKING SIGNS"**.
- Parents should be considerate when driving on the school grounds and obey the parking rules. **DO NOT BLOCK THE ENTRANCE AND EXIT GATES**. We have very few parking spaces, so please limit your time on campus. Drop your child off and allow him/her to walk to the class. Please do not block the entrance of the rectory. Father Junior must be able to move in and out freely, especially in the mornings and afternoons.
- Visitors on the campus of Saint Thomas More School are first asked to **"Sign in"** at the Security booth then proceed to the office.
- Parents who are collecting students ahead of dismissal must report to the school's office to receive an early dismissal slip before proceeding to the classroom to collect the child.
- **Parents who are sending someone to pick up their child before dismissal must send an email to administrators giving authorization for such person to take the child. Authorization must be given before the child is taken from the premises of the school.**

- **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.**



RULES AND REGULATIONS – HAIR

The policy handbook of Saint Thomas More School speaks about the hair of our scholars.
All students must comply with the following rules and regulations:

GIRLS:

NO weave or hair extensions

NO hair beads or jewels

NO nail polish

NO hair coloring or dyes

***Braided hair is allowed but must be all natural – no shingles or locked styles!**

BOYS:

Traditional hair cut

Short and neatly trimmed

(No afros or braided hair, no locs, designs, faddish paths, dyes, tails or buds)

Hair length must be above the collar of the shirt

***Effective Monday, October 6, 2025, students will not be allowed in class until the hair infractions have been corrected. Let us comply with the rules and regulations of the school.**



STAFF MEETING/EARLY DISMISSAL

Our monthly staff meeting will be held on **Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 2:15 p.m.** Please **note that school will be dismissed at 2:00 p.m. for ALL scholars.** Afternoon activities and clubs will be cancelled on this day including after care. Scholars should be collected on time.



CHARACTER DAY/PREFECT INSTALLATION

Saint Thomas More School will celebrate *Character Day 2025* under the theme: “**Joy is Contagious: Catch It, Share It**” on **Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.** Students may wear a **positive word t-shirt, long jeans (no holes) and tennis** on this day. There is no cost for participating in this event. Each class will be asked to participate in an initiative that reflects the theme of **JOY**! The installation of prefects takes place after the Character Day assembly.



BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. We are encouraging students to participate in this initiative by wearing a pink t-shirt with long jeans (no holes) and tennis for a donation of **\$2.00**. **Students who are not participating should come in complete school/P. E. uniform.** We are happy to support persons in our school community who are survivors of Cancer.

Pink Fridays will take place on the following days:

- **Friday, October 17, 2025 \$2.00**
- **Friday, October 31, 2025 \$2.00**

Chauntell Williams and family are on campus to sell shirts in support of Cancer Awareness Month **beginning Monday, October 6, 2025** and throughout the month of October. The shirts will be sold from the Social Hall Pavilion near the exit gate from 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

The cost is as follows:
2T – 5T \$10.00
Children \$15.00
Adults \$20.00



SAINT THOMAS MORE CHURCH ANNUAL BAZAAR, RAFFLE AND BINGO

The Parish Community of Saint Thomas More Church will hold its **Annual Bazaar, Raffle and Bingo** on **Saturday, October 25, 2025 from Noon until 10:00 p.m.** There are six (6) prizes including the top prize which is a 2025 Chevrolet Groove. Raffle books are available in the school’s office.

All raffle books along with the funds should be returned to the school’s office **on or before Thursday, October 23, 2025**. The school’s office will also be opened during the Mid-term break on Friday, October 24, 2025 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and on Saturday, October 25, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. to receive raffle books. Please note that the raffle will be drawn at **10:00 p.m.** on the bazaar date. Bouncing Castle, conch fritters, hot dogs, hoop-la, conch fritters and other items will be available. Thank you for your usual support.



RAFFLE INCENTIVES

The incentives for the top three (3) sellers over fifty (50) books are as follows:

1st Prize	\$700.00 School Fee Credit
2nd Prize	\$600.00 School Fee Credit
3rd Prize	\$500.00 School Fee Credit



OPEN HOUSE AND DISTRIBUTION OF PROGRESS REPORTS

Open house and distribution of progress reports will take place on **Thursday, October 23, 2025 from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** in your child's classroom. **Please note that the distribution of progress reports will not begin until 1:30 p.m.** Parents should examine these reports thoroughly and adhere to any recommendations for improvement. **Students may leave once the progress report card has been collected.**

***Progress reports that are picked up show children that parents care about their academic success.**

***Students with outstanding school fees for the first term will not be allowed to collect progress report cards.**



POPPIES

The British Legion-Bahamas Branch receives poppies from its Headquarters located in Ottawa, Canada every year so that the legacy of Remembrance Day and the Poppy remains intact throughout the Bahamas. These poppies are sold for the purpose to care for our elderly Bahamian World War II Patrons.

Students are encouraged to support the sale of poppies from **October 20, 2025 – November 7, 2025**. Remembrance Sunday is on *November 9, 2025*. **A donation of \$1.00 - \$2.00** will be accepted. **Thank you for your support!**



MID-TERM BREAK

School will be closed from **Friday, October 24, 2025– Monday, October 27, 2025** for the Mid-term break. Classes resume on Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.



FRUIT, VEGETABLE AND WATER INITIATIVE

Saint Thomas More School will continue 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 drink water. Other snacks such as yogurt, fruit snacks and nuts can be eaten during the lunch period. We look forward to your complete cooperation.



P. T. A. EXECUTIVE TEAM

Our first general **P. T. A.** Meeting was held on **Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** in the hall. The new officers to serve on the P. T. A. team from 2025 – 2027 are as follows:

President	Charliece Rolle
Vice President	Christopher Tynes
Treasurer	Dahlia Johnson
Assistant Treasurer	Le’Jon Ferguson
Secretary	Dominica Simms
Assistant Secretary	Kenica Wood
Chaplain	Petra Ferguson
Council Member	Chanel Ferguson
Council Member	Tequila Knowles
Council Member	Zakia Adderley
Council Member	Sharell Brown
Council Member	Felicia Joseph
Council Member	Martina Bosfield
Council Member	Shirley McKenzie
Council Member	Jameko Dean
Council Member	Devaughn Moss
Council Member	Alphanique Newbold
Council Member	Natasha Bain
Council Member	Gayvelle Davis
Council Member	Tasha Cooper
Council Member	Eyvonne Mackey
Council Member	Corridon Hanna
Council Member	Rechilda Santelices
Council Member	Angelo Hamilton
Council Member	Jacklano Williams
Teacher Representative	Nicolasena Davis
Teacher Representative	Juanita Bullard

***Congratulations are also extended to our class parents from Kindergarten – Grade 6 who volunteered as liaison agents. These individuals will also play a role on the executive team.**

A special “Thank You” is extended to Rohan Kerr, our former P. T. A. president for his hard work and commitment to the task for the last two years. Mr. Kerr will continue to assist the efforts of Saint Thomas More School.



MEDICATION

Only prescribed medication will be issued from the school’s office. The medication should be sent in a Ziploc bag that is labelled and should have the correct dosage and spoon. The medicine should be collected at the end of the day. Over the counter medication without a proper label **will not be allowed** at school.



BASKETBALL SEASON

The basketball season opened on **Friday, October 3, 2025**. All parents, guardians and students are encouraged to attend future games at **Loyola Hall** beginning at **4:30 p.m.** to support **Team “Sparks”**. The entrance fee is as follows: **\$3.00 (Adults); \$2.00 (Children under 12)**. **Students going on the bus are asked to dress in their P. E. shirt, long jeans, and tennis.** The bus leaves the campus at 2:45 p.m. The cost for taking the bus is \$5.00. Parents should collect students from the hall by 7:30 p.m. **Consent forms are available in the office.** The basketball schedule for the boys and girls is as follows:

Friday, October 3, 2025	Girls (STC); Boys (SFJ)
Friday, October 10, 2025	Girls (XLS); Boys (XLS)
Friday, October 17, 2025	Girls (SFJ); Boys (STC)
Friday, October 24, 2025	MID-TERM BREAK
Friday, October 31, 2025	Girls (STC); Boys (SFJ)
Friday, November 7, 2025	Girls (XLS); Boys (XLS)
Friday, November 14, 2025	Girls (SFJ); Boys (STC)
Friday, November 21, 2025	Playoffs
Tuesday, November 25, 2025	Championships (Game 1)
Thursday, November 27, 2025	Championships (Game 2)
Friday, November 28, 2025	Championships (Game 3) If Necessary



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.**
- A child who is **off sick** for any reason should not return to 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.**
- **Students are encouraged to keep masks in their school bags as they will be needed if the scholar becomes sick during school hours.**
- All medical information is **private and confidential.**



HEALTH ASSESSMENT

It is important for all scholars to be healthy in the school environment. Students should **remain at home** if they are exhibiting any of the following symptoms:

- Fever (Above 100.4° F)
- Sore Throat
- Headache
- Loss of Taste or Smell
- Persistent Cough
- Fatigue/Lethargy
- Shortness of Breath/Difficulty Breathing
- Body Aches/Pain
- Nausea/Vomiting/Diarrhea



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*



P. E. KITS

P. E. kits are now available in the school’s office. The cost is \$30.00 for the set.



D. E. A. R. (DROP EVERYTHING AND READ)

Our students will **Drop Everything And Read** from Tuesday – Friday between the hours of 8:45 a.m. – 8:55a.m. **There will be no movement on campus at this time.** Students are encouraged to have reading books available in their desks as well as in their school bags. Our members of staff will also read to our students over the P.A. system. We look forward to your complete support with our reading initiative.



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 at 3:30 p.m. and charged the daily rate.** After school care provides students with homework assistance for all subjects.



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) are available in the school’s office in limited sizes.



G. L. A. T. RESULTS

G. L. A. T. results for the year 2025 are now available in the school’s office between the hours of **8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.** Parents/guardians will sign for the results.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Please remember to set your clocks **back one hour** before going to bed on **Saturday, November 1, 2025**. Time changes on Sunday, November 2, 2025 at 2:00 a.m.



BIRTHDAYS

Parents should request permission from the classroom teacher to have cupcakes and/or party bags on the occasion of a child’s birthday. Forms are available from the classroom teacher and the school’s office. **A kind donation of a new storybook to the school’s library is requested of students choosing to celebrate their birthdays at school.**

***NO MASCOTS! NO BALLOONS!**



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

The parent portal is now opened. This system will help you to track your child’s grades. Please email sferguson@cec.edu.bs to assist you with setting up your PowerSchool account.



OFFICE HOURS

Office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Students should be collected **no later than 15 minutes** after dismissal unless they are engaged in a supervised after school activity. Please pick up our scholars on time.



CHERYL’S KITCHEN

The breakfast and lunch program have been outsourced to Mrs. Cheryl Ford Major 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 **\$3.00**. Tuna, sausage, mackerel, corned beef, grits and pancakes will be offered. Eggs are available upon request. **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 proceed to the kitchen to place their orders.



OCTOBER LUNCH MENU

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6	7	8	9	10
Spaghetti & Meat Sauce	Steamed Pork Chop, White Rice & Veg.	Chicken & Fries	Curry Chicken, White Rice & Veg.	Pizza
13	14	15	16	17
National Heroes Holiday	Cheeseburger or Hot Dog & Fries	Nuggets & Fries	Curry Chicken, White Rice & Veg.	Pizza
20	21	22	23	24
Cheeseburger or Hot Dog & Fries	BBQ Chicken, Mashed Potato & Veg.	Chicken & Fries	Pizza	Mid-Term Break
27	28	29	30	31
Mid-Term Break	Chicken Fettuccine	Nuggets & Fries	Curry Chicken, White Rice & Veg.	Pizza

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.
COOKED FOOD SHOULD NOT BE BROUGHT ONTO THE CAMPUS.

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



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER

LEADERSHIP

- 8** **Staff Meeting/Professional Development**
(Dismissal at 2:00 p.m.) (Afternoon activities are cancelled.)
- 9** **Grade 6 Retreat**
- 10** **Game Day at Loyola Hall, Gladstone Road; 4:30 p.m.**
- 13** **NATIONAL HEROES DAY**
(Public Holiday)
- 14** School resumes at 8:30 a.m.
- 15** **Character Day Assembly; 8:30 a.m.**
- 15** **Installation of New Prefects; (following Character Day)**
- 16** World Food Day
- 17** **Cancer Awareness Dress Up (Pink) \$2.00**
- 17** **Game Day at Loyola Hall, Gladstone Road; 4:30 p.m.**
- 23** **Progress Reports (1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.)**
- 25** **Saint Thomas More Church Raffle and Fair**
- 24-27** **MID-TERM BREAK**
- 28** School resumes at 8:30 a.m.
- 31** **Cancer Awareness Dress Up (Pink) \$2.00**
- 31** **Game Day at Loyola Hall, Gladstone Road; 4:30 p.m.**

NOVEMBER

APPRECIATION

- 1** **Feast of All Saints**
- 2** **Feast of All Souls**
- 3-28** **Spelling Contest Eliminations in Schools**
- 4** **Founders' Day & Monthly Mass; 9:00 a.m.**
136 Years of Catholic Education in the Bahamas
- 6** **Grade Level Retreat (Grade 5)**
- 7** **Game Day at Loyola Hall, Gladstone Road; 4:30 p.m.**
- 12** **Staff Meeting/Professional Development**
(Dismissal at 2:00 p.m.)
- 13** **Grade Level Retreat (Grade 4)**
- 14** World Diabetes Day
- 14** **Game Day at Loyola Hall, Gladstone Road; 4:30 p.m.**
- 18** **Writing Final Examination**
- 19** **Language Arts Final Examination**
- 20** **Mathematics Final Examination**
- 20** **World Children's Day**
- 21** **Basketball Playoffs; Loyola Hall, Gladstone Road; 4:30 p.m.**
- 22** **FEAST OF ST. CECILIA**
- 23** **FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING**
- 25** **Basketball Championships Begin at Loyola Hall**
- 27** **THANKSGIVING/HARVEST SERVICE**
- 30** **First Sunday of Advent**

