

**SAINT THOMAS MORE SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 6, 2026
THEME: THE POWER OF A SPARK
Strength, Passion, Achievement, Resilience, Kindness)**

Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/stmsparks/242?mibextid=LQQJ4d>

Website: st.cec.edu.bs

Alumni: <http://cboe.cec.edu.bs/alumni/reconnect/>



GOD IS LOVE

God listens each time you speak.
God helps you find, when you begin to seek.
God grants you peace, when chaos storms your way.
God is the light, God is the night, God is the day.

God gives you sight to see his grace,
God shines his light, upon your face.
God sends relief from stress and strain,
God is faith, God is hope, God will remain.

God knows your name, do not be afraid.
God speaks to you, when you kneel down to pray.
God lifts you up each time you fall.
God crowns you, God crowns me, God crowns us all.

God leads you home, he has a plan.
He will fill your heart, he will hold your hand.
God sends you angels from above.
God is great, God is good, God is love.

By Sally Larkin Green



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.



POWERSCHOOL

The PowerSchool portal is now open. 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.



SCHOOL FEES

Second term fees are now **PAST DUE**. Payments can be made through 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. Students will not be allowed in school on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 until fees are brought up-to-date. Payment plans should be current. A late fee of \$25.00 is assessed each month until the balance is paid in full.**

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 |
|--|----------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2 nd term (2025-2026) (K to 5) | \$952.00 | \$250.00 | \$1,202.00 | PAST DUE |
| 2nd term (2025-2026) (Gr. 6) | \$952.00 | *\$375.00 | \$1,327.00 | PAST DUE |
| 3 rd term (2025-2026) (K to 6) | \$952.00 | \$250.00 | \$1,202.00 | On or before March 2, 2026 |

***Includes \$250.00 for special fees and \$125.00 for the graduation fee.**



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**.

| |
|---|
| <u>*REGISTRATION, TESTING, CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIAL FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE AND NON-TRANSFERABLE.</u> |
|---|



RULES AND REGULATIONS – HAIR

The policy handbook of Saint Thomas More School speaks about the hair of our scholars. **All students with hair infractions (boys or girls) will not be allowed in classes.** 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**



STAFF MEETING

Our monthly staff meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 11, 2026. School will be dismissed at 2:00 p.m.** All classes/clubs are cancelled on this day. Parents are asked to collect students **on time** as our staff meeting will begin promptly at 2:15 p.m. Thank you for your usual cooperation.



VALENTINE’S DAY DRESS UP AND MINI FUN DAY

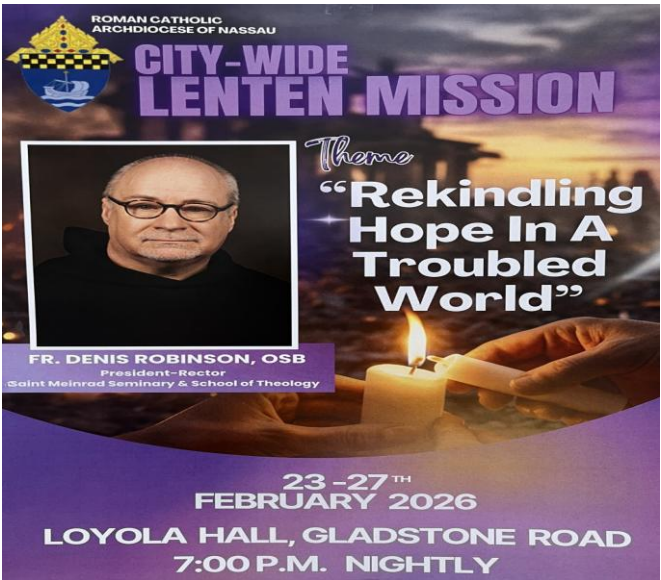
Students will be allowed to dress up in a red, white or pink shirt/blouse, long jeans (no holes) and appropriate shoes/tennis on Thursday, February 12, 2026.

***Additional information will be available in the Pre-Valentine Dress Up and Mini Fun Day letter.**



CITY-WIDE LENTEN MISSION

The Catholic Archdiocesan Lenten Mission will be held from **Monday, February 23, 2026 – Friday, February 27, 2026** under the theme **“Rekindling Hope in a Troubled World”**. It will begin promptly at **7:00 p.m. nightly at Loyola Hall, Gladstone Road. You are invited to attend.**



SCHOOL DISMISSAL

There are two (2) dismissal times: They are as follows:

- Kindergarten – Grade 2: Pick up at **2:50 p.m.**
- Grades 3 – 6: Pick up at **3:00 p.m.**

Parents should wait near the security booth until their child is brought to the pavilion area by the teacher (Kindergarten – Grade 3).



KINDERGARTEN AND GRADE ONE REGISTRATION

Registration for Kindergarten and Grade One began on **Monday, January 5, 2026 and will continue until Thursday, February 12, 2026.** 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
- Transcript: Grades 1 to 5

***Registration for Grades 2 – 5 will be based on space availability.**

| |
|--|
| <p>The test for Kindergarten is Friday, February 13, 2026. The test for grade one is Thursday, March 12, 2026.</p> |
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70th ANNIVERSARY T-SHIRTS

We are excited to celebrate our school’s 70th Anniversary this academic year. To mark this milestone, commemorative t-shirts are available in the office in limited supply. Additionally, t-shirts can be ordered. These shirts will be worn each month until the end of the year.

To this end, parents and supporters who are interested in ordering the 70th Anniversary t-shirts should complete the order form below and send it to the office along with the funds.

Get your shirts and help us to celebrate **“70 Years of Excellence”!**

70th ANNIVERSARY T-SHIRT ORDER FORM

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Children Sizes (\$12.00)

_____ XS _____ S _____ M _____ L

Adult Sizes (\$15.00)

_____ S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ 2X

_____ 3X _____ 4X

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Total: \$ _____



ARCHDIOCESAN SPELLING CONTEST

Congratulations are extended to Early Harry Parcon (4S), the winner of the 59th Annual Archdiocesan Spelling Contest. Special recognition is extended to **Maria Subin (5C)** and **Liam Woods (6J)** who performed well in the competition.



EXIT PHOTOS/CLASS PHOTOS/CLUB PHOTOS

Grade six photos will be taken at school on **Monday, March 2, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.** The payment for the grade six package is due on or before **Friday, February 27, 2026.**

Class photos for Kindergarten – Grade 6 will also be taken on **Monday, March 2, 2026.** All students should be **properly attired** in **complete school uniform.**

Club photos will be taken by the Social Media Committee at a later date.



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



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.**



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.**



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 **will not be allowed** at school.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Students are to be dressed in complete uniform at all times. Girls are allowed to wear one pair of **KNOB** earrings and a watch. Hair extensions, nail polish, body piercings and tattoos are not permitted. The boys are allowed to wear only a watch. Boys are not allowed designs or plaits in their hair or earrings. No other jewelry is allowed.

Girls in Kindergarten to Grade 3 must wear jumpers with a wide flare skirt with the school's STM monogram on the upper left breast of the jumper, along with a white Peter Pan collar blouse.

Girls in Grades 4 - 6 must wear wide flare skirts with a navy blue belt. A white Peter Pan collar blouse with the school's STM monogram on the left pocket is to be worn.

Boys in Kindergarten to Grade 3 must wear navy blue dress pants (**short**), a black belt and a white cotton shirt with the school's STM monogram on the left pocket.

Boys in Grades 4 - 6 must wear a navy blue dress pants (**long**), a black belt and white cotton shirt with the school's STM monogram on the left pocket.

***ALL STUDENTS MUST WEAR NAVY BLUE SOCKS AND BLACK SHOES WITH THE SCHOOL UNIFORM. White socks should be worn with the P.E. uniform. ALL STUDENTS SHOULD COME TO SCHOOL DRESSED IN THEIR P. E. ATTIRE FOR CLASS. P. E. KITS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE FOR \$30.00.**



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. This privilege can be taken away at any time.**

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



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 drink water. Other snacks can be eaten during the lunch period. We look forward to your complete cooperation.



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. 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 wonderful 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**. After school care provides students with homework assistance for all subjects.

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.



FEBRUARY LUNCH MENU

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Chicken Fettuccine | BBQ Meatballs, Mashed Potato & Veg. | Chicken & Fries | Pre-Valentine Dress Up & Mini Fun Day | PIZZA (No School for Kindergarten) |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| Cheeseburger or Hot Dog & Fries | BBQ Chicken, Macaroni & Cheese & Veg. | Fish & Fries Ash Wednesday Beginning of Lent | Staff Professional Day (No School) | MID-TERM BREAK (No School) |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| MID-TERM BREAK (No School) | Fish Fingers, Peas and Rice & Corn | Chicken & Fries | Curry Chicken, White Rice & Veg. | CHEESE PIZZA |



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY

LOVE

- 5 First Thursday Mass at 9:00 a.m. (Church)
- 6 Grade Level Retreat (Grade 2)
- 11 Grade Level Retreat (Grade 1)
- 11 Staff Meeting/Professional Development; (2:00 p.m. dismissal)
- 12 PRE-VALENTINE’S DAY DRESS UP AND MINI FUN DAY
- 13 Kindergarten Entrance Exam (NEW STUDENTS)
No School for KC & KS
PRE-VALENTINE’S DAY RAFFLE DRAWING
- 18 ASH WEDNESDAY (Beginning of Lent)
- 19 Staff Professional Day
(No School for Students)
- 20-23 MID-TERM BREAK
- 24 School resumes at 8:30 a.m.
- 27 Dress Up: 70th Anniversary T-shirt, Jeans (no holes) and tennis

MARCH

FAIRNESS

- 2 First Day of Third Term
School fees are due: (\$1,202.00)
- 2 PICTURE DAY – FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM
- 5 Mass at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Stations of the Cross
- 9 Commonwealth Day
- 11 Staff Meeting/Professional Development; (2:00 p.m. dismissal)
- 13 Grade Level Retreat (Kindergarten)
- 13 Stations of the Cross at Saint Thomas More Church; 9:00 a.m.
- 17 Saint Patrick’s Day Dress Up (Shades of Green); \$2.00
- 18 Saint Thomas More School Inter-House Competition
Old Thomas A. Robinson Stadium (Grades 1 – 6)
- 20 Stations of the Cross at Saint Thomas More Church; 9:00 a.m.
- 20 Progress Report Distribution; 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- 20 Dress Up: 70th Anniversary T-shirt, Jeans (no holes) and tennis
- 24 Living Stations of the Cross (Outdoors)
- 26 Kindergarten Sports’ Day; 9:30 a.m.
- 26 Easter Vacation for Students; (3:00 p.m. dismissal)
- 27 Staff Retreat (School is closed.)
- 30-3 ^{APR.} HOLY WEEK

APRIL

CLEANLINESS

- 5 EASTER SUNDAY
- 6 EASTER MONDAY HOLIDAY
- 7 Feast of St. John Baptist de La Salle
(Patron of Teachers)
- 13 School Resumes at 8:30 a.m.
- 16 Mass at 9:00 a.m.
- 22 Spring Production; 7:00 p.m. - Loyola Hall, Gladstone Road
- 24 Numeracy Day; 9:30 a.m.
- 24 Dress Up: 70th Anniversary T-shirt, Jeans (no holes) and tennis
- 29 ARCHDIOCESAN WRITING EXAMINATION
- 30 Archdiocesan Track & Field Meet (Field Events) – Selected Students

MAY

RESPECT

- 1 Archdiocesan Track and Field Meet; Old Stadium (Grades 1 – 6)
- 1 Marian Morning Devotions Begin
- 5 ARCHDIOCESAN MATHEMATICS EXAM
- 6 Staff Meeting/Professional Development; (2:00 p.m. dismissal)
- 7 Language Arts Final Examination (Grade 6)
- 8 Mass at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Crowning of Mary
- 10 Mother’s Day
- 11-15 G. L. A. T. (Grades 3 & 6)
- 20 Grade Six Reflection Day
- 22 Lupus Awareness Day; Dress Up Day; \$2.00
(Shades of Purple, long jeans & tennis)
- 25 WHIT MONDAY – PUBLIC HOLIDAY
- 28 Language Arts Final Examination (K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
- 29 STAFF APPRECIATION DAY
- 29 Dress Up: 70th Anniversary T-shirt, Jeans (no holes) and tennis

