

**SAINT THOMAS MORE SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER
MARCH 17, 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/>**



PRAYING LENT THIS YEAR

“Lent is a season of listening, fasting and conversion, emphasizing attentiveness to God, the vulnerable and the transformative power of words”. (Pope Leo XIV)

***Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of Lent. It is a season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday.**



LENTEN SACRIFICE

The students of Saint Thomas More School have begun the Lenten Sacrifice. **As is customary, each class is encouraged to make a monetary contribution to the Lenten jars.** The funds will be given to Saint Martin’s Monastery. Additionally, students may also donate at least two canned goods/non-perishable food items. The deadline is **Wednesday, March 25, 2026.** **Please be as generous as your means will allow.**



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

Third 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 Thursday, March 19, 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 date for the 2025 – 2026 academic school year at Saint Thomas More School are as follows:

TERM	TUITION	SPECIAL FEES	TOTAL	DUE DATE
3 rd term (2025-2026) (K to 6)	\$952.00	\$250.00	\$1,202.00	PAST DUE



SCHOOL FEE SCHEDULE (2026-2027)

The school fee and due dates for the 2026 – 2027 academic school year at Saint Thomas More School are as follows:

TERM	TUITION	SPECIAL FEES	TOTAL	DUE DATE
1 st term (2026-2027) (K through 6)	\$1,002.00	\$250.00	\$1,252.00	On or before June 30, 2026
2 nd term (2026-2027) (K through 5)	\$1,002.00	\$250.00	\$1,252.00	On or before December 1, 2026
2 nd term (2026-2027) (Grade 6)	\$1,002.00	*\$375.00	\$1,377.00	On or before December 1, 2026
3 rd term (2026-2027) (K through 6)	\$1,002.00	\$250.00	\$1,252.00	On or before March 1, 2027

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

PAYMENTS FOR THE ENTIRE ACADEMIC YEAR

A ten percent (10%) discount is available on tuition if fees are **paid up front** for the new academic year. This may be a viable option for some of our parents. You can alleviate the hassles of monthly and term payments. If you are interested, the payments are as follows:

Kindergarten through Grade 5	\$3,455.40
Grade Six	\$3,580.40



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)
- **Select Term:** *Click on Drop Down box to reveal the following options: First- Third Terms, Annual Payment, Capital Development, Payment Plan, Summer School, Examination, Books, Donations and the like.*

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 1st**)

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.**



LENTEN COLORING CONTEST

Our Lenten Coloring Contest takes place on Thursday, March 19, 2026 at a cost of \$5.00. Students who enter the coloring contest will also have an opportunity to receive Dairy Queen ice cream and a treat bag. All participants will be entered to win an Easter Basket. Please check with the classroom teacher for additional information.



P. T. A. SOUSE OUT

The *Parent Teacher Association* of Saint Thomas More School has planned a “**Souse Out**” as its first fundraising event on **Saturday, March 28, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** on the school grounds. **All proceeds will aid special projects from the school’s wish list.**

Each student received one (1) Chicken Souse ticket. To request additional Chicken tickets or to reserve Pig Feet or Stew Conch tickets, please come to the school’s office. Monetary donations are always welcomed.

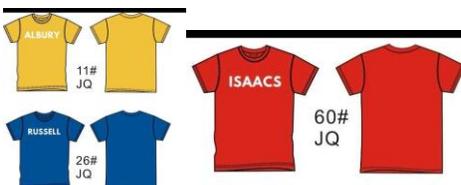


Chicken Souse: \$15.00 Pig Feet Souse: \$15.00 Stew Conch: \$20.00



HOUSE SHIRTS

House shirts are available in the office in limited supply. The cost is **\$15.00**.



Please note that if your child’s size is not available, simply purchase a plain t-shirt to represent the color of the house. Additionally, there are no shirts in the office for Hagarty house as there was an error on these shirts.



SPORT’S DAY (GRADES 1 – 6)

Saint Thomas More School’s Track and Field House Competition will be held on **Wednesday, March 18, 2026** at the old Thomas A. Robinson Stadium. Students in Grades 1 - 6 should assemble at 8:30 a.m. in their house shirts/house colors, P. E. short pants and tennis. All students should be picked up by **2:00 p.m.** Food and drinks will be on sale.

***KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS SHOULD REMAIN AT HOME UNLESS THEY ARE PARTICIPATING IN AN EVENT! THIS INFORMATION WILL BE SHARED WITH PARENTS!**



SPORT’S DAY (KINDERGARTEN)

Kindergarten Sport’s Day will be held on **Thursday, March 26, 2026** at 9:30 a.m. on the school grounds. **Kindergarten students should be properly attired in their house shirts, P. E. shorts and tennis.**

Students in Grades 1 - 6 are encouraged to wear a shirt (red, green, yellow or blue), P. E. shorts and tennis in support of our Kindergarten students.



SAINT JOSEPH’S CHURCH BAZAAR AND RAFFLE

The Parish Community of Saint Joseph’s Church, Boyd Road will hold its **Annual Bazaar and Raffle** on **Saturday, May 9, 2026. To this end, we have been asked to assist our sister parish with the selling of fifty (50) raffle books.** The prizes are as follows:

1. 2026 Jetour X50
2. Yamaha Dirt Bike XTZ125
3. Caribbean Cruise for Two
4. Round Trip Airfare for Two to Fort Lauderdale
5. \$500 BTC Certificate, \$500 BPL Certificate, \$500 Water & Sewerage Gift Certificate
6. \$500 Sun Oil (car) Gas Certificate, \$500 Super Value Gift Certificate
7. \$300 BTC Certificate, \$300 BPL Certificate, \$300 Water & Sewerage Gift Certificate
8. \$300 Sun Oil (car) Gas Certificate, \$300 Super Value Gift Certificate
9. \$200 BTC Certificate, \$200 BPL Certificate, \$200 Water & Sewerage Gift Certificate
10. \$200.00 Sun Oil (car) Gas Gift Certificate, \$200 Super Value Gift Certificate.

Each ticket is \$5.00. There are five (5) tickets in each book for a value of \$25.00 for the book. Raffle books are available in the office. All raffle books along with the funds should be returned to the school’s office on or before Monday, April 20, 2026.



OPEN HOUSE AND DISTRIBUTION OF PROGRESS REPORTS

The distribution of Progress Report Cards takes place on **Friday, March 20, 2026 from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** **Students may leave once their reports have been collected.** Parents should examine these reports thoroughly and adhere to any recommendations for improvement. Students who are in danger of retention will be identified once again. It is important that all students do their very best in this final semester. Additionally, appointments can be scheduled with our Guidance Counselor. Her email address is jhamilton@cec.edu.bs.

Please note that students with outstanding balances will not receive Progress Report Cards until financial obligations have been met.



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



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).



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 on the following dates: **March 20, 2026, April 24, 2026, May 29, 2026, Thursday, June 11, 2026.**

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

_____ Total: \$ _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____



SPRING PRODUCTION

Saint Thomas More School’s Spring Production is set for **Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at Loyola Hall, Gladstone Road under the theme “The Beat Goes On: A 70’s All Star Tribute – 70 Years Strong)”.**

The classes involved in the Christmas Production are as follows: **KC, KS, 1B, 2C, 3AB, 4G, 5H, 6J, 6S** along with selected students from other grade levels. It will begin promptly at **7:00 p.m.**

All participants are asked to be at the hall no later than 6:00 p.m. The evening promises to be a grand event and we do hope that you will join us. The cost of admission is \$15.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children (12 and under), which is payable at the entrance. School will be dismissed at NOON so that preparation can be made for the event. Please come out and support the production. Refreshments will be on sale.



NUMERACY DAY

Saint Thomas More School’s Numeracy Day will be held on **Friday, April 24, 2026** at **9:00 a.m.** on the school grounds. **All students should be properly attired in their 70th Anniversary t-shirts and P. E. shorts OR P. E. kits.** Additional details will be forthcoming.



SUMMER CAMP

All students from Kindergarten – Grade 5 are strongly encouraged to attend the summer camp program at Saint Thomas More School. **It will be held for three (3) weeks from June 22, 2026 - July 9, 2026, Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** Language Arts, Writing and Mathematics will be emphasized along with other activities. The brochure and application forms are available in the office.

The cost for the three (3) weeks of Summer Camp is \$300.00 which is due on or before Friday, June 19, 2026. Weekly payments of \$110.00 are due every Monday.

Online payments should be made directly to the school fee account. Please remember to reference the child’s name and indicate that the payment is for Summer School.

The online payment should be emailed to: amjohnson@cec.edu.bs, rmortimer@cec.edu.bs, jrussell@cec.edu.bs, sferguson@cec.edu.bs and wwoods@cec.edu.bs.

RCANB Special Catholic School Account

Account Number: 1126917

Checking Account

Transit Number: 09786

First Caribbean Bank



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ESSAY RESULTS

Congratulations are extended to **Aiden Knowles (6S)** and **Autumn Ingraham (5H)** for placing first and second, respectively in the Knights of Columbus Essay Competition which was held on Sunday, February 15, 2026. Our Sparks Family salutes your efforts.





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



PAYMENT PLAN

Parents who would like to remain on the payment plan for the **2026-2027** academic year and those who would like to join the payment plan should submit the request in writing to the principal at rmortimer@cec.edu.bs by **Tuesday, May 26, 2026.**



POWERSCHOOL

The **PowerSchool** portal will help you to track your child’s grades. Please email serguson@cec.edu.bs to assist you with setting up your PowerSchool account.



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 **is not allowed** at school.



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.



MARCH LUNCH MENU

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
16	17	18	19	20
Chicken Fettuccine	BBQ Meatballs, Mashed Potato & Veg.	Inter-House Sports Competition (Old Stadium)	Curry Chicken, White Rice & Veg.	CHEESE PIZZA
23	24	25	26	27
Spaghetti & Meat Sauce	Steamed Pork Chop, Peas and Rice & Veg.	Nuggets & Fries	Curry Chicken, White Rice & Veg.	EASTER BREAK BEGINS



EASTER BREAK

The Easter break will begin for scholars on **Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.** School resumes on *Monday, April 13, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.*

Students with outstanding school fees will not be allowed on campus. Please keep your child home to avoid any embarrassment.



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH

FAIRNESS

- 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)
- 19 Lenten Coloring Contest: \$5.00
- 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.
- 17 Spring Into Reading Initiative
- 22 Spring Production; 7:00 p.m. - Loyola Hall, Gladstone Road
Dismissal at Noon
- 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

