

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Aquinas College Family,

As the season of Advent unfolds, we are called to a time of reflection, hope, and preparation, echoing the timeless message of the coming of Christ. It is within this sacred period of expectation that I find great joy in celebrating our collective accomplishments, recognizing the vibrant and faith-filled spirit that continues to define Aquinas College.

This year has been a journey of extraordinary achievement for our community. Our students have excelled during various disciplines, showcasing the fruits of their hard work and dedication. From academic triumphs in Advanced Placement courses and national exams to breathtaking performances in the arts and commendable sportsmanship on the field, we have witnessed the embodiment of our school motto: "Excellence is Our Habit." Equally inspiring has been the unyielding support and passion of our teachers and staff. They have gone beyond their roles as educators, nurturing both the intellectual and moral character of our students. Through their guidance, our classrooms have become spaces of discovery, dialogue, and transformation, creating a dynamic learning environment that prepares our young Aces to lead with wisdom and integrity.

As we transition into the Advent and Christmas season, let us take this opportunity to marvel at the beauty of community and faith. Christmas is not just a time of festive cheer but also a profound reminder of God's boundless love for us—a love that calls us to share, to give, and to rejoice in the blessings we have been afforded. Let us reflect on the progress we have made as individuals and as a school family. Together, we have demonstrated resilience, creativity, and a steadfast commitment to upholding the Catholic identity of Aquinas College. These qualities not only honor our heritage but also guide us in building a future that is Christ-centered and inclusive. I am deeply grateful to each member of our community—students, teachers, parents, alumni, and supporters. The success of this semester is the result of our shared efforts and unity of purpose. Parents, your support of our mission has been instrumental, reminding us that the work of forming young minds and hearts is a partnership. To our alumni, your achievements inspire and remind our current students of the boundless possibilities that await them. I also wish to express my profound gratitude to our dedicated faculty and staff, whose tireless efforts create an environment where students not only thrive academically but also grow spiritually, emotionally, and socially. You are the backbone of this institution, and your contributions cannot be overstated. As we close the semester and welcome the holidays, I pray this season fills your homes with peace, joy, and cherished moments with loved ones. Christmas reminds us of God's eternal love, calling us to share His light through acts of kindness, gratitude, and faith.

May the New Year bring renewed strength, abundant blessings, and purpose to meet the challenges ahead. Together, let us return refreshed, inspired, and committed to the excellence that defines Aquinas College. On behalf of the administration and staff, I wish you a blessed Advent, a joyous Christmas, and a prosperous New Year. Let us carry the light of this season into all we do, ensuring our school remains a place of warmth, growth, and enduring faith.

Volume 6, Issue 3 of 2024-2025

Newsletter Date

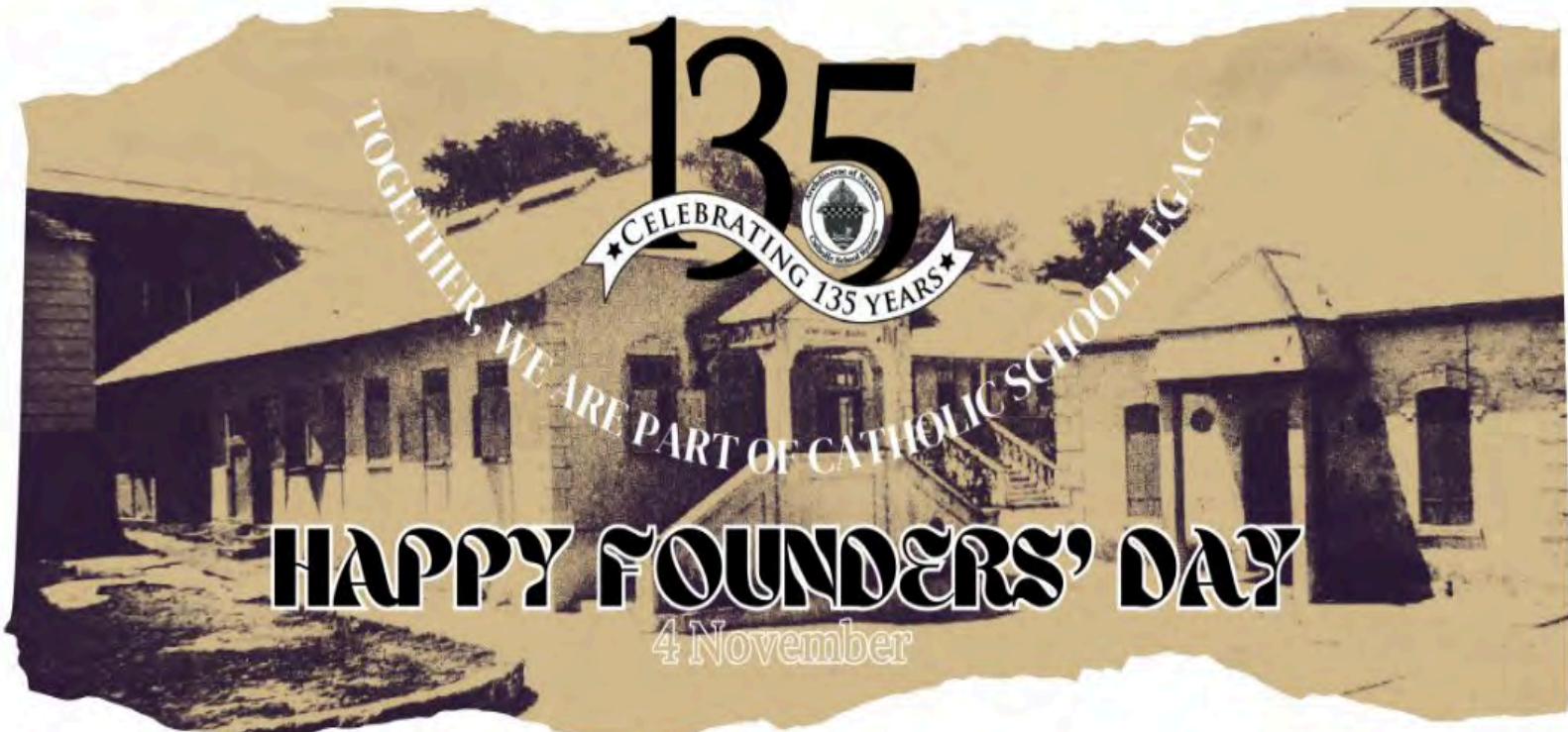
November-December 2024

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Dates To Remember

January 6, 2025
School Reopens - Full Day of Classes
January 9, 2025
Report Card Distribution (3-4:30 pm)
January 13, 2025
Aquinas College Entrance Exam (No School)
January 25, 2025
Aquinas College Open House
January 26 - February 1, 2025
Catholic Schools Week
January 28, 2025
Aquinas College 68th Anniversary & Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas



135



TOGETHER, WE ARE PART OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL LEGACY

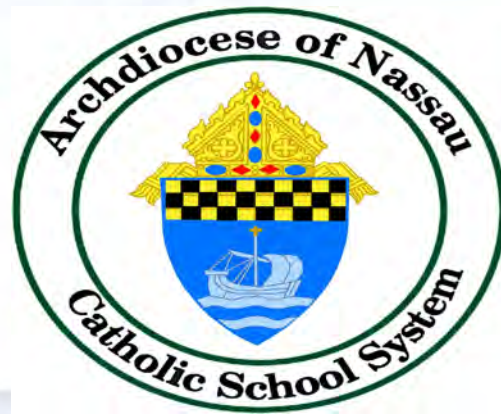
HAPPY FOUNDERS' DAY

4 November

Aquinas College ▪ Xavier's Lower School ▪ Sts. Francis & Joseph School ▪ St. Cecilia's School ▪ St. Thomas More School ▪ St. Francis De Sales School ▪ Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic School ▪ St. Augustine's College



On Sunday, November 3, 2024, students, teachers, and administrators from Catholic schools on the island of New Providence worshipped as a family at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral to give thanks for 135 years of Catholic education in The Bahamas. Founders Day, was observed on Monday, November 4, 2024, and will be celebrated throughout the entire 2024-2025 school year. Pictured are students, teachers and administrators representing Aquinas College, St. Augustine's College, St. Cecilia's School, Sts. Francis & Joseph School, St. Thomas More School and Xavier's Lower School.





The 2024-2025 Bahamas Association of Independent Secondary Schools (B.A.I.S.S.) held its annual service of thanksgiving. Aquinas College's Head Boy **Dellon Evans and Head Girl **Sa'niyah Rolle**, were among the student-leaders honored.**





ACES

PRIDE



2024 BAISS Aquatics CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to our
Swim Team.

We Are So Proud of Your Efforts!





World Scholar's Cup TOC - 2024





Junior Scholars Results

Lexani Virgil, Hannah Hilton, Marena Strachan, and Jakhari Jones - (Silver) Individual Debates

Jamauri Jones - (Gold) Individual Debates.

Jamauri and **Jakahai Jones** - (Gold) Team Bowl.

Marena Strachan, Hannah Hilton, and Lexani Virgil - (Gold) Team Bowl.

Hannah Hilton - (Silver) Individual Writing

Jamauri Jones - (Gold) Individual Writing.

Individual Scholars Challenge

Hannah Hilton - Silver medal

Marena Strachan - 2 Silver Medals

Marena Strachan - Silver Medal Challenge Winner

Team Debates

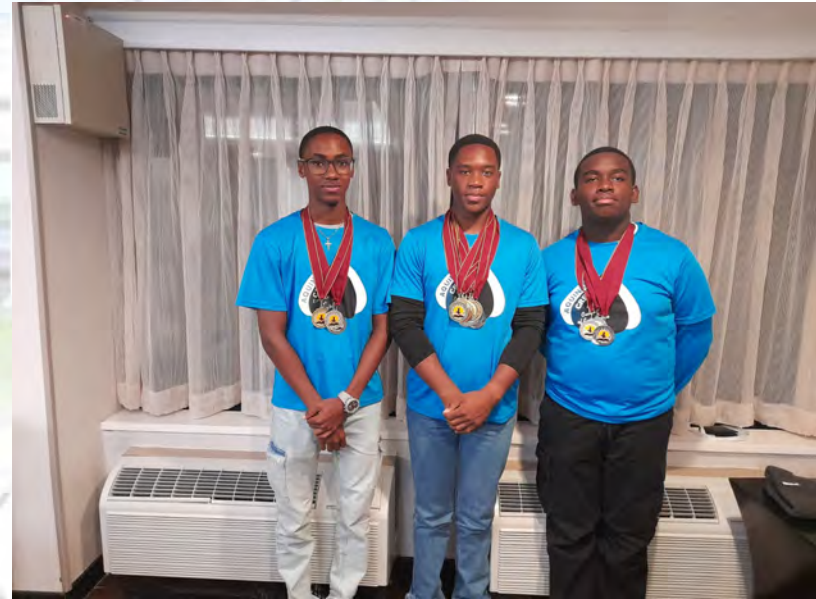
Marena Strachan, Hannah Hilton, and Lexani Virgil - Silver Medal

Jamauri and **Jakhari Jones** - Gold Medal

Team Writing

Jamauri and **Jakari Jones** - Gold Medal

Congratulations Juniors! We are proud of you.





"World Scholars Cup has opened up the flood gates of unprecedented connections, unforeseen friendships and unconventional learning. Over the course of our World Scholar's experience we have grown not only as individuals but as a diplomatic team of sorts. Persons who were once shy and sheltered now take on new challenges at will and offer themselves to be at the forefront of conversations. Lumar Saunders and Laurence Burnside, for example, often drifted to the back of the class in past years but today they stand as Youth Parliamentarians, Debate Champions and student leaders whom their peers can model themselves after. Additionally, WSC has given us a broader world view through interactions with scholars from over sixty six countries. Cultural exchanges through food, dance and simple conversations along with seemingly random facts have shown us the world as a whole instead of viewing it through a fragmented lens. World Scholar's is intense, it's academic and it's nuanced. But most importantly, it's an unadulterated global experience." ~ **Lumar Saunders, Dellon Evans, Cadez Poitier, Torin Ferguson, Johnathon Martin, Jeremy Nairn, Ruben Strachan, Jayden Clarke, and Laurence Burnside.**



Senior Scholars Results

Team Debate

Aryielle Bain, Johnathon Martin, and Ruben Strachan - Silver Medal
Jeremy Nairn, Cadez Poitier, Lumar Saunders - Gold Medal

Top Debators

Asher Fawkes - 95th Overall
Laurence Burnside - 25th Overall
Dellon Evans - 12th Overall

Team Bowl

Dellon Evans, Johnathon Martin, and Lumar Saunders - Silver Medal
Jayden Clarke, Asher Fawkes, and Aryielle Bain - Silver Medal
Laurence Burnside, Jeremy Nairn, and Cadez Poitier - Gold Medal
Ruben Strachan and Torin Ferguson - 2nd place Gold Trophy winners

Writing Champions

Jeremy Nairn - Silver Medal
Torin Ferguson and Dellon Evans - Gold Medal

Scholars Challenge

Jeremy Nairn, Torin Ferguson, Jayden Clarke, Asher Fawkes, Lumar Saunders,
and **Laurence Burnside** - Silver Medal
Dellon Evans - 2 Gold and 3 Silver Medals

Individual Challenge

Dellon Evans - Gold Medal

Team Debates

Dellon Evans, Lumar Saunders, and Johnathon Martin - Gold Medal
Cadez Poitier, Jeremy Nairn, and Laurence Burnside - Gold Medal

Champion Scholar

Dellon Evans - Gold Medal and Placing 27th overall out of 1500 seniors in the Senior division

Congratulations to our Senior Scholars, who did a phenomenal job this WSC season. You have made Aquinas College and the Bahamas so proud. Excellence is our Habit!

The Aquinas College community congratulates **Gianna Burrows, who is being honored for her outstanding performance in the 2024 Bahamas General Certificate of Secondary Education Examinations.**



Continue making Excellence Your Habit!

Band Performance

**Our school band welcomes guests to
New Providence at the Lynden
Pindling International Airport (LPIA).**



Aquinas College 12th Grade senior class participated in the University of The Bahamas' Open House.



ALUMNI

Corner



Congratulations to Aaron Smith Aquinas College's Class of 2018

2nd Quarter Seahawk Scholar



Aaron Smith



HOMETOWN: NASSAU,
BAHAMAS
MAJOR: MS SPORT
MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

*Grad Assistant –
Athletic Game Day
Operations*

Omicron Delta Kappa



The National Leadership Honor Society

This certifies that

in recognition of conspicuous attainments and service in
collegiate activities the Omicron Delta Kappa Society
has this day conferred membership on

Aaron Smith

Through its Circle at
Keiser University
December 13, 2024



Michael Thomas
CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Jennifer A. Waller
PRESIDENT (AND CHIEF) EXECUTIVE OFFICER

KU Flagship Campus

KEISER UNIVERSITY

Seahawk Scholar-2nd quarter 2024/25

Faculty /Staff member nominating student: Dr. Lorenda Beuker

Reason for nomination: Excellence in Academics/ Program and Student Leadership



Name: **Aaron Smith** Hometown: Nassau, Bahamas

Year in College: 2nd Yr Grad Major: MS Sport Mngt. Operations GPA: 4.0

Internships/Externships/Jobs: Graduate Assistant – Athletics Game Day Operations

Plans after graduation: He wishes to further his career in collegiate athletics as a game operations director or compliance director.

Aquinas College proudly celebrates the remarkable achievement of Gabrielle Shannon, a 2016 graduate, who was recently honored at the 2024 MSME Honors Ceremony. This prestigious event, hosted by the Small Business Development Centre (SBDC) in collaboration with the Zonta Club of Nassau, recognized Gabrielle's outstanding contributions as a Bahamian entrepreneur.



Continue making Excellence Your Habit!



Season's Greetings

The gift of love.
The gift of peace.
The gift of
happiness. May all
these be yours at
Christmas.

OPEN DOES NOT MEAN OVER

Maintain COVID-19 Protective Measures



LET'S KEEP EACH OTHER SAFE