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Newsletter Date

January - March 2026

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

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Dear Aquinas College Family,

The opening months of 2026 have already affirmed what we know to be true about our beloved institution: Aquinas College is a community defined by excellence, faith, and purposeful action. As we reflect on January through March, we do so with immense pride in the academic, personal, communal, and spiritual accomplishments that continue to distinguish our students and staff.

Academically, our scholars have demonstrated disciplined focus and intellectual maturity, rising to new challenges with confidence and integrity. In classrooms, laboratories, performance spaces, and athletic arenas, they embody the Profile of the Catholic Graduate — articulate, morally grounded, and prepared to lead. Beyond measurable achievement, it is their character, compassion, and commitment to growth that inspire us most.

Our school community has also been strengthened through meaningful partnerships and the unwavering support of our benefactors and stakeholders. We extend sincere gratitude to The Hon. Glenys Hanna-Martin, Minister of Education, Technical and Vocational Training of The Bahamas, for her continued advocacy for educational excellence. We are equally thankful to the Aquinas College Parent-Teacher Association, whose steadfast collaboration and generosity enhance the daily experiences of our scholars.

Special appreciation is extended to Shaad Collie and The VIPs, Ilsha McPhee, Shine242, and Ace-of-Spade (Aquinas College's Pop Band) for contributing vibrancy and inspiration to our school culture thus far in 2026. Their presence has enriched our institution's spirit and affirmed the value of creative expression and community engagement within Catholic education.

Spiritually, this period invites us into deeper reflection and profound awareness. As we now stand at the threshold of Holy Week, our Lenten journey takes on greater urgency and meaning. We are no longer simply preparing; we are entering into the most sacred days of our faith — the Passion of Christ. From the solemnity of Holy Thursday, through the suffering of Good Friday, and ultimately toward the hope of the Resurrection, we are called to walk more intentionally with Christ.

This sacred time challenges us not only to reflect, but to respond — to embody the virtues of sacrifice, humility, and love. It calls us to move beyond routine observance and to encounter the deeper truths of our faith: that true strength is revealed in surrender, true leadership in service, and true victory in faithfulness.

Now, as we enter the final leg of the second semester and approach the culmination of the 2025–2026 academic year, our focus must be sharpened and our resolve strengthened. The weeks ahead are decisive. They call for discipline, perseverance, and unity of purpose. I have every confidence that our students will meet this moment with the same determination and excellence that have characterized the year thus far.

To our parents, guardians, alumni, benefactors, faculty, and staff: thank you. Your trust, partnership, and generosity sustain the mission of Aquinas College. Together, we are forming young men and women who will not only succeed academically, but who will also lead lives of faith, integrity, and service.

Let us continue forward with courage and conviction. As we journey through these sacred days and toward the promise of Easter, may we remain steadfast in purpose, united in faith, and inspired by the enduring light of Christ.

The foundation has been laid. The path is clear. The future is bright.

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Dates To Remember

March 29 - April 3, 2026

Holy Week

April 13, 2026

School Reopens after Easter

May 4, 2026

AP Exams Begin

May 11, 2026

BGCSE Exams Begin

May 29 - June 4, 2026

2nd Semester Final Exams Begin

June 4, 2026

School closes for Summer Break



LENT
prepare. pray. fast. give.

Aquinas College community, continue its Lenten journey with hearts attentive to the quiet work God is doing among us.

Though Ash Wednesday has passed, its invitation remains. Lent is not a single day marked by ashes, but a sustained season of renewal. In the rhythm of campus life: lessons, practices, conversations, and commitments, we are reminded that this is a time to pause more intentionally, to reflect more deeply, and to live more deliberately.

For our students, faculty, and staff, Lent offers an opportunity to align our pursuit of truth with a deeper pursuit of holiness. It is a season to ask: How is Christ shaping my mind? How is He forming my heart? How am I called to serve others more generously?

Rooted in our Catholic and Dominican heritage, we recognize that growth often happens quietly—through daily prayer, small sacrifices, acts of mercy, and thoughtful study. These simple, faithful practices prepare us not only for the joy of Easter, but for lives marked by integrity, compassion, and purpose.

As we move forward in these forty days, may our Aquinas College community remain steadfast in hope, strengthened in charity, and united in the shared mission of seeking truth and bearing witness to Christ in all we do.

May this Lenten season continue to bless our campus with grace and renewal.

Step Into the Journey. Let Christ Shape Your Heart.

Stations of the Cross











CELEBRATING



ACES *pride*

STUDENTS' SPOTLIGHT

CONGRATULATIONS



Aquinas College congratulates the 2026 World Scholars Cup teams who competed in the Nassau Regional Round on February 18–19.

Our 23 teams performed exceptionally, demonstrating that **Excellence is a Habit** at Aquinas College. Our senior and junior teams secured a total of 21 trophies and qualified for global rounds this summer. Words cannot express how proud we are of our **73 scholars** who participated in this competition.

Special congratulations to 11th-grade scholar **Nina Albury**, recipient of the 2026 **Jac Khor Award**, presented to the scholar with the highest overall score across all disciplines.

Congratulations to **Valentino Lloyd, Demarion Dawkins, and Caiden Moxey** — our Senior Champion Team — who secured first place in debates, writing, the challenge, and the Scholars' Bowl.

We extend sincere thanks to Mrs. Bain, Miss Iphill, and Mrs. Williamson for their dedication and support as chaperones.

Aces Pride! Excellence is indeed your Habit.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Aquinas College community extends sincere congratulations to its **103**-member track and field team, who represented Aquinas College in the **2026 BAISS Track and Field Meet.**



Our athletes exemplified remarkable school spirit, pride, and enthusiasm throughout the competition.
Aces Pride! Excellence is our Habit!

CONGRATULATIONS!

AQUINAS COLLEGE



Congratulations are extended to **Aquinas College's Senior Boys Soccer** team for their vigilant effort during the 2026 BAISS Soccer Championships. Our senior boys finished 4th during this year's season and we are truly proud of our youngmen's efforts.

Additionally, we congratulate coaches Ricardo Freemantle and **Morgan Wood** (*Aquinas College Alumnus*) for an excellent job of preparing our athletes for a season - despite a 4th-place finish, an honorable representation of themselves and Aquinas College.



*We are proud of your ongoing:
dedication to excellence.*



AQUINAS COLLEGE WINS 2026 JUNIOR MINISTER OF TOURISM FOR NASSAU



Aquinas College's eleventh-grade scholar, Valentino Lloyd Jr., has won the title of Junior Minister of Tourism for 2026.

Valentino, your exemplary representation of Aquinas College has been commendable, and your Aquinas College family takes pride in your achievements.

Aquinas College extends best wishes for continued success as you proceed to represent Nassau in the finals of the National Junior Minister of Tourism competition.

Excellence is your Habit. Aces Pride indeed!

CONGRATULATIONS CIERA KNOWLES!

OF 7T IS NOW
**THE BAHAMAS
NATIONAL JUNIOR
SPEECH CHAMPION**
FOR THE MINISTRY OF
HOUSING AND
URBAN RENEWAL

Ciera won The Bahamas National Junior Speech Championship after 3 separate competitions, over a 2-week period. The competition started out with over 150 students in 3 divisions from throughout The Bahamas.



The competitions were as follows:

- **The Preliminary (District round)** held March 19, 2026 – Ciera earned 1st Place in the Junior Division.
- **The Semi-finals** (the New Providence Championship round) held March 26, 2026 – Ciera won the title of The Urban Renewal Authority New Providence Junior Speech Champion.
- **The Finals** (the National Championship round) held March 27, 2026 with the final 9 competitors – Ciera won the title of The Urban Renewal Authority National Junior Speech Champion.

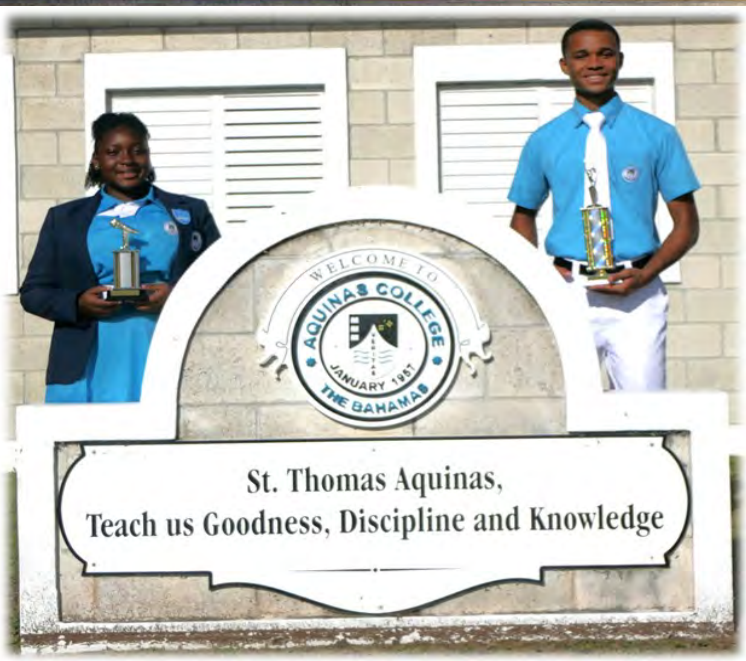
Aquinas College would like to recognise seventh-grade students **Caitlyn Moxey, Keldan Lloyd, and Galen Burrows** for their recent participation in the **2026 B.A.I.S.S. Spelling Bee**.

Caitlyn, Keldan and Galen, you represented Aquinas College well. In addition, we thank **Miss Lashawna Thomas**, English/Literature teacher and Spelling Coach, for her hard work and dedication in training our young spellers.



CONGRATULATIONS!

ARYIELLE BAIN & VALENTINO LLOYD



Aquinas College congratulates 12th-grade scholar **Aryielle Bain**, who secured **second** place, and 11th-grade scholar **Valentino Lloyd**, who secured **third** place, in the 2026 Red Cross Speech Competition.

Well done, Aryielle and Valentino!
 We are proud of you.
Excellence is your habit! Aces Pride indeed!

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Aquinas College community
congratulates 12th-grade Senior Prefect

Jaa' Rolle

who has been formally recognized by the
Ministry of Education for achieving six or more A's
in the 2025 BGCSE National Examinations.



Jaa', we are proud of your continual pursuit of
EXCELLENCE. Aces Pride indeed!



The Aquinas College community extends its
CONGRATULATIONS

to the 8th and 9th-grade scholars,
(left to right)

**Ashe-Ann Riffin • Darielle Seymour • Marvin Evans
Morgann Beneby • Kyla Escarlan • Ty'Janae Deveaux**

who have been officially recognized by the
Ministry of Education for attaining **five or more A's**
in the **2025 BJC National Examinations.**

We are proud of your ongoing dedication to excellence.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Aquinas College Debate Team has advanced to the finals of the National High School Debate Competition!



The energetic team of Asher Fawkes, Bria Beneby, and Valentino Lloyd competed in the semi-finals of the National High School Debate Competition and defeated the team from Andros and the Berry Islands. Valentino Lloyd was declared the best speaker in the semifinals of the debate.

As a result of their victory, the reigning 2025 champion, Team Aquinas College, has once again advanced to the finals of the 2026 National High School Debate Competition.

Congratulations, and heartfelt gratitude is extended to Mrs. Yvette Sweeting, Debate Team Coach, as well as Kylah Talor and Ethan Mackey, the alternates on the team. You have once again exemplified that Excellence is our Habit at Aquinas College!

*Congratulations to Breanna Balfour,
Demarion Dawkins, and Jaa Rolle,
Aquinas College accounting scholars, who placed third
in the 2026 Accounting Bowl Competition.*

Job well done! Your Aces family is very proud of your achievements.

Thank you to Miss Heather Iphill, Business Studies teacher and team coach. We appreciate your dedication.



Aquinas College in the News:

Kylah Taylor elected president of the High School Leaders (HSL) Program

KYLAH TAYLOR



Kylah Taylor, a Grade 11 student at Aquinas College, was recently elected president of the High School Leaders (HSL) Program.

Kylah, your Aquinas College family is incredibly proud of you. Your role as a young leader is an inspiration to us all, and we are confident you will continue to excel.

Congratulations, Kylah!

“It is my hope to strengthen engagement among members, and between members and their communities, hopefully through

volunteerism. HSL’s aim is to shape the leaders of tomorrow. And as its president, I feel an obligation to make that happen.”

– *Kylah Taylor*

CONGRATULATIONS!

TED^x IMMERSE EDUCATION

**GLOBAL SPEAKING
CHALLENGE WINNERS**



Aquinas College proudly recognizes **Kylah Taylor, Valentino Lloyd, Ethan Mackey, Asher Fawkes, and Jaliah Nairn**. These students were selected to participate in the **2026 Immerse Education/TED Talks - Learning To Be Heard - Global Speaking Challenge** International Competition.

Participants from across the globe engaged in the event. Aquinas is pleased to announce that these five distinguished scholars emerged as **winners** of the international competition. Furthermore, they have been awarded a **20% scholarship** to attend the **TED Talks Summer School Program**.

Congratulations to Kylah, Valentino, Ethan, Asher and Jaliah, the winners in the 2026 TED Talks Global Speaking Challenge.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Aquinas College extends congratulations to
Shaun Lewis



The Aces family congratulates its 7th-grade archery competitor, **Shaun Lewis**, who secured **second place** in the inaugural Bahamas Archery Federation's Archery in the Schools National Championships.

Aquinas College is bursting with pride as scholar-athletes **Alanna Murray** (11th grade) and her brother **Alexander Murray** (10th grade) make waves together.

This dynamic sibling duo has just secured their spots at **Carifta Swimming 2026** and will compete in **Martinique** this **Easter**.



Alanna Murray
11th Grade



Alexander Murray
10th Grade

Alexander will compete in the **boys 15-17 division of competitive swimming**, and his events will include 50m and 100m freestyle, 50m and 100m butterfly, and 50m **breatstroke**. Also, Alexander will represent in all relays. **Alanna** will take part in the **open-water girls 16-18** division, which involves a **5km ocean swim**.

Alanna and Alexander, your Aquinas College family shines with pride. As you head to Carifta, know that the entire school stands behind you, cheering every stroke and every finish.

Aquinas College *in the News:*

Dr. Brian Bruess, President of the College of Saint Benedict (CSB) and **Saint John's University (SJU)**, visited Aquinas College on Thursday, 5 March, accompanied by his wife, **Dr. Carol Bruess**, SJU/CSB representatives, and **Bahamian alumni**.

They met with 11th- and 12th-grade students to discuss the SJU/CSB experience and answer questions about college preparation.

“SJU/CSB does not ask its students to choose between a good life and the common good, but asks students to pursue the good life for the greater good.”

Thank you, **Dr. Bruess** and team, for visiting Aquinas College. We value our partnership with SJU/CSB and look forward to continued collaboration.

During the visit, **Dr. Bruess** presented **seven students** with acceptance letters and scholarships, continuing Aquinas' strong connection with SJU/CSB.

Currently, 18 Aquinas College alumni attend CSB and SJU, and 34 students from the Class of 2026 have received scholarships and acceptances as of this spring.



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

AQUINAS COLLEGE GENTLEMEN'S CLUB HONOREES



TAMAR ARMBRISTER



ALVIN BULLARD



MICKYLE SAUNDERS



GARY COOPER



CAYDEN BANNISTER



CHRISTOPHER CAMBRIDGE



SLYDIKO MCKENZIE



ETHAN MACKEY



JOSHUA SEYMOUR

The Aquinas College Family proudly celebrates these outstanding young men for their dedication, discipline, and commitment as members of the Gentlemen's Club Program.

Your leadership, character, and pursuit of excellence continue to inspire those around you. As you move forward, may you continue to uphold the values that define greatness – integrity, resilience, and purpose.

We are proud of you as you continue making excellence your habit.



AQUINAS COLLEGE

Building Men of Character
and Excellence

CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to 7th Grade scholar,
Jaya Marie Rolle, the former Head Girl

of Eva Hilton Primary School, who
was invited to address the students of her former school
on the theme *“Effort to Excellence.”*

CONGRATULATIONS!

AQUINAS COLLEGE



Aquinas College extends congratulations to 12th Grade Cosmetology Students: D-ahjæ Mackey, Amelia Hepburn, and Shiloh Saunders, as well as their cosmetology teacher Dr. Monique Marshall, and model Edessa Brown (10th Grade) for their 2nd place finish at the 2026 Battle of The High School - Hair Fantasy Show Competition, held at the Andre Rodgers National Stadium this past Sunday, March 29, 2026.

Your Aquinas College Family is truly proud of you; continue to make

Excellence Your Habit!

Message from
Tahlia Peterson

Class of 2026
Aquinas College Scholar



My experience within the Debutante Program has been everything but prosaic. Entering this program has allowed me to be free in my skin and hone my talents unapologetically. As a growing young lady, I often felt as though I had no one in my corner. The shell of myself felt vacant up until 2024, and I started to find my footing. Then, in the exigence of my 11th-grade year, I was selected to be a part of such a prestigious program.

I was ecstatic, a rush of joy and anxiousness ran through me. Throughout the duration of my experience, I learned how to dress in a flattering manner for my body type, and how to conduct a presence that exudes regality. Even more so, when I won Senior Overall Debutante Winner, it set a fire within me that the little girl who wanted to do so much had made her first step. This program has catapulted me into the young lady I am today, *setting off for college* and acquiring knowledge to enhance my future. I would not have been able to do it all without Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Curtis, Ms. Butler, and Mrs. Chipman. Thank you for grooming me to be a young lady of excellence, and to the current young ladies, remember:

Poised, Polished, and Prepared



COMMUNITY
SERVICE



CONGRATULATIONS!

Aquinas College Anchor Club

Wins the 2026

ANCHOR CLUB OF THE YEAR!

ANCHOR CLUB OF THE YEAR!

Under the leadership of 11th grader, Anchor Club President Chloe Armbrister, Aquinas College Anchor Club wins the 2026 **Anchor Club of the Year!**

Special commendations are extended to Aquinas College Anchor Club **President Chloe Armbrister**, Advisors Mrs. Welch and Mrs. Edwards for a stellar Anchor Club year. As a result of their hard work and dedication, our Aquinas College **Anchor Club** secured the 2026 **Anchor Club of the Year Award** and first place in the following Bahamas District Anchor Club Awards:

1. **Anchor Club of the Year** – First place
2. **Community Service** – First place
3. **Pick-me-up** – First place
4. **Anchor Visibility** – First place
5. **Brain Health and Safety** – First place



Congratulations, President Chloe and Aquinas College Anchors.

You have achieved a mammoth task. You have served your school and community with distinction and are deserving of the accolades.



TEACHERS' SPOTLIGHT

Aquinas College Welcomes Mrs. Shasha-Gaye Allen

The Aquinas College community is pleased to extend a warm welcome to **Mrs. Shasha-Gaye Allen**, who joins our esteemed **Social Studies Department**. Mrs. Allen brings with her a wealth of knowledge, experience, and a passion for education that will undoubtedly enrich the academic journey of our scholars.

Her commitment to excellence and dedication to student development align seamlessly with the values of Aquinas College. We are confident that her guidance and mentorship will inspire our students to achieve success both locally and on the global stage.



Mrs. Allen, we warmly welcome you to the Aquinas family—where excellence is not just pursued, but practiced daily.



ALUMNI



Corner

Congratulations



CEANNA DEAN

NAMED TO THE FALL 2025

DEAN'S LIST

AT GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY



MAJOR:
Biological Science



UNIVERSITY:
Georgia State University



FROM:
New Providence



Ceanna Dean of New Providence was named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List at Georgia State University.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, degree-seeking students must have earned a GPA of at least **3.5** for a minimum of nine semester hours of academic credit taken at Georgia State during the fall or spring term with no incompletes for the semester. Eligible students must have a minimum GPA of **2.0** for all classes taken at Georgia State.

Your dedication, hard work, and excellence continue to set you apart. Aquinas College is proud of your achievements and wishes you continued success on your academic journey!

Aces Pride! Excellence is indeed your Habit.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Aquinas College extends congratulations to
Ilsha McPhee and **Shaad Collie**
& **The VIPs**

for their recent musical accomplishments at the
2026 Elevation Awards. Ilsha, recognized as Female Artist
of the Year, and Shaad Collie, honored as Producer of the Year.



The Aces family takes pride in noting that the Aquinas College Music Program, under the esteemed guidance of Mr. Jacob McPhee, significantly contributed to the development of your musical talents and careers. If music is the essence of life, then continue to perform with vigor.

CONGRATULATIONS



Aquinas College congratulates former Student, **Lindsay Thompson**, and former teacher, **Pia Farmer**.

CONGRATULATIONS CERTAINLY ARE AN APPROPRIATE WAY BY RENOWNED BAHAMIAN JOURNALIST LINDSAY THOMPSON TO SHOWCASE THIS CREATIVELY WONDERFUL MANNER USED TO AVERTISE A PRODUCT.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Pia Farmer**, (my former Spanish Teacher at Aquinas College), and the team at Easy Car Sales for celebrating 10 years with an ELECTRIC CANVAS Art Competition. The competition encouraged local artists to design an original mobile masterpiece to fully wrap an EV from the newest Brand, HONGQI.



HE IS RISEN!

Celebrate the Joy of Easter

Easter in the Catholic Church & Christian Faith

Easter is the most sacred celebration in the Christian calendar. It marks the **Resurrection of Jesus Christ**, a triumph of life over death, and hope over despair.

Through His resurrection, we are reminded of:

- ✝ God's infinite love
- ☀ New beginnings
- 👉 Salvation and eternal life

Wishing You a Blessed and Joyful Easter

May your heart be filled with peace,
your home with love,
and your life with renewed hope.

OPEN DOES NOT MEAN OVER

Maintain COVID-19 Protective Measures



LET'S KEEP EACH OTHER SAFE