WE GROW AS WE LEARN

ST. CECILIA'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

"The SWAG"



Volume 70 | Issue 2

"THE POLISHED JEWEL OF THE GROVE"

October 2026

Website: http://saintcecilia.cec.edu.bs

Follow us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/stceciliascatholicschool

70 YEARS STRONG!

We are blessed.
We are St. Cecilia's!

★ One Faith, One Light: Our Legacy Continues. ★

Celebrating Our 70th Anniversary

1956 – 2026

The Hands That Polished the Jewel

Behind every polished jewel are hands that helped it shine. As St. Cecilia's School celebrates 70 years of faith, learning and service, we turn the pages of our history to honour the past principals who helped shape "The Polished Jewel of the Grove."

This month, we shine a light on two former principals—exploring their years of leadership, the milestones of their time and the memories they left in the hearts of the St. Cecilia's family.



"Every great journey begins with a single step, and every unforgettable story begins with faith."

One of the earliest educators associated with our beloved school. *Florita Greene* helped to lay the foundation for the institution, we proudly call *"Polished Jewel of the Grove".*

Mrs. Florita Greene

STC PIONEER

Meet the Jewel Keepers

Former Principals



Mrs. Julia Munroe

In 1975, Mrs. Julia Munroe became the first appointed Bahamian principal in Catholic schools in the Bahamas. She kept school fees minimal. In 1977, Mrs. Munroe introduced kindergarten.

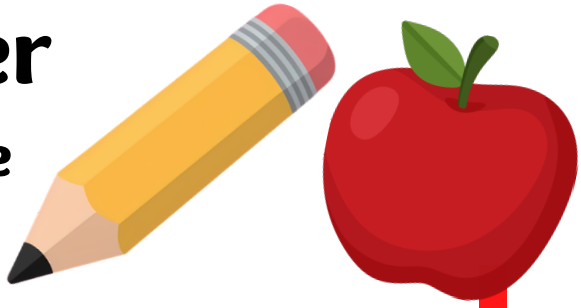


Mrs. Jacqueline Malcolm

In 1981, Mrs. Jacqueline Malcolm became the new leader of Saint Cecilia's. She was determined to improve the finance department. She purchased a piano for the school and encouraged and supported the formation of the STC percussion band.

Dates to Remember

Dates are Subject to Change



October 2026

02 Catholic Primary Schools Basketball Tournament begins
04 World Teachers' Day
08 Staff Meeting (2 p.m. dismissal)
15 Grade 6 - Grade Level Retreat
12 HOLIDAY - National Heroes' Day
19 Launch of "70 for $70" (PTA initiative for Pavilion Extension)
20 Funeral Mass - Sr. Mary Benedict Pratt, O.S.B. (Former Superintendent of Catholic Education) St. Joseph's Church (EARLY Dismissal - 12 noon)
22 Archbishop Patrick Pinder's Visit
26 STC Prefect Installation Assembly
27 Distribution of Progress Report Card
29 Mass - Grade 6
30 & 2 Nov. Mid-Term Break

November 2026

02 Mid-Term Break
03 School Reopens after Mid-term break (full day)
04 Founders'Day - 137th Anniversary of Catholic Education in the Bahamas
05 Grade 5 - Grade Level Retreat
9-12 Character & Literacy Week
07 The Celestial Race CBOE Scavenger Hunt & Block Party
12 Staff Meeting (2 p.m. Dismissal)
17 Writing Examination
18 Language Examination
19 Mathematics Examination
20 World Children's Day
22 Feast of St. Cecilia (Visit St. Cecilia's 9 a.m. Mass)
27 P.T. A. Old School Dance (70th Anniversary Celebrations)
29 First Sunday of Advent

December 2026

02 First Day of Second Term (School Fees Due)
02 Grade 4 - Grade Level Retreat
01-04 CBE Basketball Play-offs and Championship games
08 Mass: Feast of the Immaculate Conception
15 Christmas Production (St. Joseph's Hall 6 p.m.)
18 First Semester Report Card Distribution
18 School & Office Closes for Christmas Vacation
29 School Office Opens at 8 a.m.
30 School Office Closes at 1 p.m.

School Reopens- January 4th, 2027

St. Cecilia's School

Announcement & Sympathy Notice





In Loving Memory of

Sister Mary Benedict Pratt, O.S.B.

STC expresses great sympathy on the passing of Sister Mary Benedict Pratt, O.S.B. Sister Benedict was the former Superintendent of Catholic Education. We give thanks for her faithful service and contribution to Catholic education.

Please note the funeral services will take place on

Tuesday, October 20, 2026.

Early Dismissal: 12:00 noon

Please collect your child by **11:45 a.m.** and no later than **12:00 noon.**

Staff will be attending the funeral and no one will be in place to stay with students collected late.

May her soul rest in peace.

ST. CECILIA'S SCHOOL

FAITH • EXCELLENCE • SERVICE

NASSAU, BAHAMAS

Home of the Strikers • The Polished Jewel of the Grove



70th Anniversary

One Faith, One Light, Our Legacy Continues

STAFF MEETING ALERT!

ATTENTION PARENTS!

Please take note of the following information:

Date:
Thursday, October 8th.

Early dismissal:
2:00 p.m.

Please collect your child **on time.**

The staff meeting will begin promptly at **2:15 p.m.**

All children must be collected by **2:15 p.m.**



Important: Early dismissal at 2:00 p.m. – Thursday, October 8th.

We Grow As We Learn

EARLY DISMISSAL 2:00 P.M.

Same Mission | Stronger Tools | Greater Results | STC STRIKERS WITH A GOAL (SWAG)



DATE	GIRLS	BOYS
OCT. 2nd (Friday)	STM vs. **STC**	XLS vs. **STC**
OCT. 9th (Friday)	**STC** vs. SFJ	**STC** vs. SFJ
OCT. 16th (Friday)	XLS vs. **STC**	**STC** vs. STM
OCT. 23rd (Friday)	STM vs. **STC**	XLS vs. **STC**
OCT. 29th (Thursday)	**STC** vs. SFJ	**STC** vs. SFJ
NOV. 6th (Friday)	XLS vs. **STC**	**STC** vs. STM
NOV. 12th (Thursday)	PLAYOFFS	PLAYOFFS
NOV. 17th (Tuesday)	CHAMPIONSHIPS	CHAMPIONSHIPS
NOV. 19th (Thursday)	CHAMPIONSHIPS	CHAMPIONSHIPS
NOV. 20th (Friday)	CHAMPIONSHIPS	CHAMPIONSHIPS

PLEASE NOTE:
4:30 p.m. is the start time for the first game, not necessarily the start time for every STC game.
On regular-season dates, the girls play in the 1st game and the boys play in the 3rd game.

CONCESSION STAND:
STC is responsible for the concession stand on **OCTOBER 16** and **OCTOBER 23.**

PARENTS & GUARDIANS:
You are encouraged to come out and support our student-athletes!

GO ST. CECILIA'S!
Let's show our STC spirit and cheer on our Girls' and Boys' Basketball Teams!

Beginning October 23rd, 2026 STC will play the 2nd and 4th games.


STC SWAG NEWS
St. Cecilia's School
PINK WEDNESDAYS
At the Polished Jewel of the Grove
Wear Pink & White
P — Pray for those affected
I — Inspire hope
N — Nurture courage
K — Keep supporting the fight against cancer
$2
DRESS-UP DAY
Students are to wear pink and white shirts, long jeans, and tennis shoes.
Strikers Supporting the Fight Against Cancer

ST. CECILIA'S PTA



A Message from the SWAG PTA President

On behalf of the SWAG PTA, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our wonderful parents and guardians. Your unwavering support, generosity, and dedication to St. Cecilia's School have made our fundraising initiatives successful year after year, and for that, we are truly grateful.

We are excited about the school year ahead and have planned a variety of fun-filled activities that we hope will bring our school community together while helping us achieve our goals. This year, our major fundraising project is the extension of the school pavilion and the addition of new benches, creating a larger, more comfortable shaded space where our students can safely sit while waiting for their rides after school.

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS TOGETHER

70 for $70
SPONSORSHIP DRIVE

As we proudly celebrate our journey toward St. Cecilia's 70th Anniversary, we are thrilled to launch our ***"70 for $70" Sponsorship Drive.*** Sponsorship letters will be sent home with students, and we encourage everyone to participate by collecting as many sponsorships as possible. Every contribution brings us one step closer to enhancing our school for the benefit of all students.

To add a little friendly competition and excitement, the student who returns the highest number of completed sponsorship sheets (a minimum of 10 sheets) will be entered for a chance to win a special prize!

We believe that when families, teachers, staff, and students work together, amazing things happen. Thank you for partnering with us as we continue to invest in our children and build a brighter future for St. Cecilia's School.

Together, let's make our 70th Anniversary year one to remember!

With gratitude,
Alexandria Ferguson
President, SWAG PTA
St. Cecilia's School

"When 'I' becomes 'we,' incredible things can happen."

THE COURAGE TO BELIEVE
1956
ST. CECILIA'S SCHOOL

St. Cecilia's School

$70 FOR 70

PAVILION AND BENCHES FUNDRAISER

Celebrating 70 Years

"One Faith, One Light, Our Legacy Continues."

LET'S GET EXCITED, STRIKERS!

KICKOFF: OCTOBER 19, 2026

ENDS: NOVEMBER 30, 2026

Help us extend our school's pavilion and add new benches!

PRIZES & SURPRISES!

Prizes for the **TOP 3 STUDENTS** who turn in the most completed sponsorship sheets!

Exciting prizes and surprises for students and classes!

Support our school. Help your class win!

Collect sponsors ♥ Turn in your sheets ♥ Make a difference



Together We Build a Brighter Tomorrow!

St. Cecilia's School

THE COURAGE TO BELIEVE
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ST. CECILIA'S SCHOOL

$70 FOR 70

PAVILION AND BENCHES FUNDRAISER

Celebrating 70 Years

"One Faith, One Light, Our Legacy Continues!"

Together We Build a Brighter Tomorrow!

Small Gifts Make a Big Impact!

Help us raise funds to assist with the extension of our school's pavilion and additional benches.

Student's Name: _____ **Grade:** _____



Sponsored by: _____



Sponsored by: _____



Sponsored by: _____



Sponsored by: _____



Sponsored by: _____



Sponsored by: _____



Sponsored by: _____



Sponsored by: _____



Sponsored by: _____



Sponsored by: _____



Sponsored by: _____



Sponsored by: _____



Sponsored by: _____

SAMPLE

Invest in Our School... Invest in Their Future!



Support ♥ Build ♥ Belong

ST. CECILIA'S SCHOOL

FAITH • KNOWLEDGE • SERVICE

WE GROW AS WE LEARN

1956

ST. CECILIA'S SCHOOL



Celebrating 70 Years

CALLING ALL STC ALUMNI!

It's time to come HOME TO THE *Polished Jewel of the Grove*
as we celebrate **70 incredible years** of
pride, tradition, excellence, and unforgettable memories!

We want your memories!

Rep your decade and your class!

Send in your old school photographs—from your school days, sports teams, graduations, special events, teachers, classmates, and all those moments that made being a Striker special.

WE ARE STILL THE SCHOOL WITH S.W.A.G

- 70 Years of Striker Pride
- 70 Years of Excellence
- 70 Years Walking in the Light

Once a Striker, Always a Striker!

#HomeOfTheStrikers | #StrikerPride | #70YearsStrong | #SchoolWithSWAG | #OnceAStrikerAlwaysAStriker

From the Desk of Nurse Boodle

Caring for our students every day in every way.

Healthy minds, healthy bodies, brighter futures.



Nurse Latoya Boodle
latoya.boodle@cec.edu.bs

IMPORTANT

REMINDER

Medication Administration & Student Health Reminders

- Classroom teachers are NOT permitted to administer medication to students.
- All prescription medications must be brought to the Business Office and vetted by the school nurse before administration, according to school procedures.
  DO NOT SEND MEDICATION IN YOUR CHILD'S BAG.
- Students who use asthma pumps are reminded to have an extra pump available in the Business Office in case of an emergency.
- All medications must be properly labelled, clearly identifying the student's name, medication, dosage, and relevant instructions.
- Staff members should refer all medication-related concerns to the school nurse or Business Office and should not administer medication independently.

Sick Certificate

If a student is absent for a day or more, he/she should bring a note from his/her parent or a doctor's certificate stating why he/she was out of school. Students will not be allowed in classes without a note/certificate.

Important Message from the Desk of Nurse Boodle

Topic of the Week

Impetigo

A common skin infection that can happen in young children.

What is Impetigo?

Impetigo is a contagious skin infection caused by bacteria. It often starts as a small red bump and can quickly turn into a sore, blister or honey-colored crust. **It's common in young children** and spreads easily through close contact or touching.



Example of impetigo



Example of impetigo

Signs & Symptoms

- Red sores or bumps (often around the nose, mouth, or hands)
- Blisters that may burst
- Honey-colored crusts (looks like "honey" or "golden" scabs)
- Itching or mild discomfort
- Sometimes fever (less common)



Treatment

- See your pediatrician for the right treatment.
- Antibiotic cream or oral antibiotics may be needed (depending on the severity).
- Keep the area clean and dry.
- Avoid scratching to prevent spreading.



Prevention

- ✓ Keep skin clean and dry.
- ✓ Wash hands often.
- ✓ Avoid sharing towels, clothes or personal items.
- ✓ Keep nails trimmed.
- ✓ Teach children not to scratch sores or blisters.



Important!

Any rash that appears on a child should be checked out by a Pediatrician.





Before your child returns to school, they **MUST** be cleared by their pediatrician first and bring the clearance slip along with them when they return.

Healthy Skin ♥ Happy Kids ♥ A Safer School

Together We Keep Our School Healthy!







BIRTHDAYS CUPCAKES ONLY!

Permission must granted by administration for students to bring cupcakes to school. Birthday cupcake forms are available in the oiffice. All classroom teachers must be informed prior o tce have birthday forms, which parents should complete and return to the classroom teacher ahead of time.

Students will be allowed to bring cupcakes to school. All classroom teachers and the office have birthday forms, which parents should complete and return to the classroom teacher ahead of time. **NO PARTY BAGS! NO MASCOTS! NO BALLOONS!**

School Fee Information



The fees for the 2026-2027 school year are as follows:

Term Fee - $1,113.00 (per term)
(June 30, December 1, March 1)

Annual Fee - $3,081.60
(Due by Sept 1)

Payment Plan
Monthly Fee - $338.90 (10 months)
(June 30 -March 30)



1ST TERM SCHOOL FEE

Please be reminded that students will not receive their textbooks if payment has not been made.

First Term Fees were due June 30, 2026.

Tuition Refund Policy

If a student leaves within **1-2 weeks** from the start of the term, the parent is entitled to 75% refund.

If a student leaves within **3-4 weeks** from the start of the term, the parent is entitled to 50 % refund.

If a student leaves after **4 weeks** from the start of the term, the parent is not entitled to a refund.

Registration, Capital Development Fund Fee, testing and special fees are non refundable and non transferable.

School fees can be paid through the online portal at www.TuitionPay.io or at Royal Bank of Canada or First Caribbean International Bank. After making the payment, please email all fee receipts to the following email addresses:

Mrs. Griffin - marie.griffin@cec.edu.bs
Miss Culmer - vculmer@cec.edu.bs
Miss Minnis - tminnis@cec.edu.bs



GRADE 6

Tuition remains the same for sixth graders except for the 2nd Term. An additional $110 is added for graduation fees, bringing the total to $1,223.00.

In addition to Awards Day, Grade 6 teachers will plan extra activities for the **Grade 6 SWAG Package** at an additional cost.

These activities may include a Grade 6 luncheon, a class T-shirt, professional photos, and other student activities and paraphernalia.

These additional activities help our graduating students create lasting memories and feel a sense of achievement as they move on to the next phase of their education.

Participation in some of the activities is optional.

UNIFORM

GIRLS:

Jewellery - small ear-knobs and wristwatch

Kgn- Grade 3

- Pink Jumper
- White Peter Pan Shirt
- Pink Necktie
- White Socks and Black Shoes
- Absolutely NO weave or extensions

Grades 4-6

- Pink Skirt (below the knee)
- White Peter Pan Blouse
- Crest (on left Pocket)
- Pink Necktie
- White Socks and Black Shoes
- Absolutely NO weave or extensions

BOYS

Jewellery: None-Smart Wristwatch ONLY

KGN - Grade 3

- Short Navy Pants – knee-length
- White collar shirt
- Necktie
- Crest (on left pocket)
- Blue Socks
- Black Shoes

Grades 4-6

- Long Navy Pants – (no jeans of any sort)
- White-collar shirt
- Necktie
- Crest (on left pocket)
- Blue Socks and Black Shoes

P.E. Kits, Sweaters and Jackets are on sale in the office.



Cell phones and smart watches are not allowed in school!

Lunch

Please be informed that the school will NOT allow food to be warmed in the microwave for safety reasons. We kindly encourage you to purchase a thermos for your child to keep their meals warm.

The breakfast and lunch program is outsourced to a private vendor. Breakfast is served from 7:45 to 8:15 a.m. Grits, tuna, sausage, corned beef, cereal, pancakes and other items are available.
Lunch orders are taken during the homeroom period.

Absolutely NO hair extensions.





Please adhere to the school rules.

- No extensions will be accepted. *(This is inclusive of, but not limited to braids and locks.)*
- No hair colour (bleached or dyed hair is unacceptable).
- No beads allowed.
- Schoolboy cut ONLY. No designs inclusive, but not limited to arrows/roads.

If a student is identified as having any infraction, the parent/guardian will be called to pick up the child to correct the named violation.

Thank You Parents

For entrusting your child / children to us.
We truly appreciate you.

ST. CECILIA'S SCHOOL

DROP-OFF & PICK-UP POLICY



OPTION 1

3rd STREET DRIVE-UP

1. Drive up to the stage.
2. Make a U-turn.
3. Let the child(ren) off by the office entrance.

OPTION 2

4th STREET DRIVE-THROUGH

1. Enter through the northern gate (Coconut Grove Avenue).
2. Stay to the right. Drive up to the white picket fence.
3. Let the child(ren) off as quickly as possible.
4. Leave through the southern gate (Palm Tree Avenue).

GATE LOCKED AT 3:30 P.M.

Drop-Off & Pick-up Areas

Kindergarten & Grade 1
Classrooms

Grade 2
Pavilion (morning)
Grade 2 Class Porch Area (afternoon)

Grades 3, 4, 5, & 6
Pavilion Area

rainy days

Students will remain in the classrooms. Students names will be called over the PA system for collection.

MORNING DROP-OFF:

(If students are brought to school early)

Parents/guardians, please remain with your child/children until 8:00 a.m., when the security guard and office personnel arrive.

AFTERNOON PICK-UP:

You are reminded to collect students no later than **3:15 p.m.****

- Clubs are dismissed at **3: 45 p.m.**
- Students should not be on campus after **4:00 p.m.**, as the security guard leaves at **3:30 p.m.** and the office staff leaves at **4:00 p.m.****

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our students safe and ensuring a smooth drop-off and pick-up experience.

SAFE STUDENTS • STRONG COMMUNITY • ST. CECILIA'S FAMILY

Bell Schedule

ARRIVAL		DISMISSAL	
1st Bell	8:15 a.m.	Kindergarten	2:45 p.m.
2nd Bell	8:30 a.m.	Grades 1-6	3:00 p.m.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Parents Attire on School Campus

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we continue to create a positive and respectful learning environment for our students, please be reminded of our school's dress code policy regarding attire worn on campus.

We believe that appropriate dress plays a significant role in maintaining a focused and respectful atmosphere. Therefore, we kindly ask that all parents adhere to our dress code guidelines when entering the school campus. Inappropriate attire, including but not limited to clothing with offensive graphics or language, excessively revealing outfits, and items that do not align with our school values, **will result in you not being allowed to enter the campus.**

We appreciate your support. Together, we can ensure that our school remains a place where everyone feels comfortable, welcomed and focused.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



GOOD NEWS PLANNER 2026/2027

Students in Grades 1 through 6 received a student planner. Parents, please take the time to review the General Rules for All Catholic Primary Schools.

JUDY'S Kitchen

BREAKFAST IS SERVED DAILY
BETWEEN 7:45 AND 8:15 A.M.

PLEASE NOTE THE CAFETERIA PRICE CHANGES

BREAKFAST	LUNCH
$3.00	$5.00

BREAKFAST ITEMS


TUNA


CORN BEEF OR SAUSAGE AND GRITS


PANCAKES


CEREAL

LUNCH

MONDAYS	Grill Cheese, Ham, Tuna Sandwich or Wraps
TUESDAYS	Pasta
WEDNESDAYS	Chicken & Fries
THURSDAYS	Pizza
FRIDAYS	Dinners



BEEF HOT DOGS ARE SOLD DAILY FOR $4.00



FRUITS, VEGGIE SALAD AND FRUIT SALAD ARE SOLD DAILY



DRINKS



WATER ONLY ON WEDNESDAYS

Water & Switcha are available.





WE SERVE DELICIOUS FOOD MADE WITH CARE BECAUSE YOU MATTER!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

♥ ENJOY YOUR MEALS! ♥

AFTERSCHOOL

POP ICE ARE SOLD AFTERSCHOOL



Good Food, Great Prices, Happy Hearts! ♡

Judy's KITCHEN LUNCH MENU OCTOBER

Options may change, however, students will get a 24 hours notice.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
			Thursday 1st Pizza	Friday 2nd Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes & Vegetables
Monday 5th Grill Cheese or Ham Sandwich	Tuesday 6th Spaghetti	Wednesday 7th Chicken & Fries	Thursday 8th Pizza	Friday 9th Curry Chicken, White Rice & Vegetables
Monday 12th Hot Sandwich or Wrap	Tuesday 13th Spaghetti	Wednesday 14th Chicken & Fries	Thursday 15th Pizza	Friday 16th Fish Fingers with Fries
Monday 19th Grill Cheese or Turkey Sandwich	Tuesday 20th Sandwich / Hot Pattie Day	Wednesday 21st Chicken & Fries	Thursday 22nd Pizza	Friday 23rd Curry Chicken, White Rice & Vegetables
Monday 26th Grill Cheese or Tuna Sandwich	Tuesday 27th Spaghetti	Wednesday 28th Chicken & Fries	Thursday 29th Pizza	Friday 30th Mid-Term Break

Hot Pattie and Twist are available every Tuesday and Thursday.

Good Food
Bright Minds
Happy Students!