

Excerpts from the Cayman Prep & High Schools Director's Graduation Speech 2011

Students, it is a time for you to make choices and use the many skills we have taught you, heed the words of advice we have offered you, remember the example we have set for you and the ethical values we believe we have instilled in you, in order to guide you in your next steps in life. Let us look back over some of the significant events of the past year.

(The tragic loss of a student and a teacher during the school year was also observed.)

We have much to celebrate and much to report, starting with the external exams. We started the academic year by celebrating the record-breaking achievement of our Year 11 graduating class of 2010. These students scored a 100% pass rate in their external GCSE and IGCSE examinations, with 92% of them achieving 5 or more of the higher A* - C passes, and the top 14 students excelling with over 10 of these A* - C passes.

We are proud of our top-scoring A-Level student, Mona Hussein, who gained the newly introduced highest award of A* from Cambridge University in both Chemistry and Physics and an A grade in Biology. Mona is now studying medicine at Imperial College, London.

Equally impressive were the results of our Sixth Form students who took the Cambridge AS-level examination in our newest subject, Marine Science. Not only did they do well, we proudly congratulate Kalyn Teeling and Cody Panton who tied for first place world-wide and received 'Top in the World' exceptional performance awards from the Cambridge for gaining the highest marks in the world in Marine Science at AS-Level in June 2010.

The school has led the way academically, and now we have the facilities to match. This time last year ...I remember many people asking me, 'Do you think the building will open on time?' We opened as planned on 1st September, ... with all furnishings in place and the curriculum being delivered as planned. Credit is due to the many individuals groups and committees, too many to name tonight, who contributed to this wonderful achievement over the many years of long term planning meetings, discussing the variety of options for the school, including how to and where to build.

Now in our new High School building we have 5 world class science laboratories, a beautiful library with reading and research facilities, two fully equipped IT Labs and 10 new classrooms.

Our old building has been refurbished to provide 2 beautiful Art rooms and the new Butterfield Drama Studio. One of the old IT labs is now a modern language laboratory and the other will be refurbished over the summer to provide additional

composition and recording facilities for music. Sixth Form rooms will be improved thanks to a generous donation from Rawlinson and Hunter.

Every classroom throughout the school has an interactive whiteboard, constantly in use for a variety of innovative lessons.

These academic successes are not confined to the High School. In the Primary section, we are using internationally recognised on-line testing methods as part of our students' assessment. These tests have been administered in Year 3 and in Year 6. The tests we employ are the widely-used CAT (Cognitive Abilities Test) and two tests which specifically measure Progress in Maths (PIM) and Progress in English (PIE).

When compared against international recognised age-level scores, as expected, our students performed very well, with the vast majority scoring well above the average scores for their age groups.

The Primary School KG section had an unexpected visit recently from the office of ESAU, the Cayman Islands Educational Standards and Assessment Unit, which is responsible for inspecting or evaluating all schools in Cayman. According to their report they came to examine 4 separate aspects of the provision in the Kindergarten section.

The four areas examined were:

- Leadership and Management
- Children's Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Teaching and its Impact on Learning
- Health, Safety and Welfare

The ESAU team concluded that the school deserved the highest level on their grading scale in each of the 4 areas. Well done to our kindergarten teachers!

Drama: Our students enjoy drama at both Primary and High School sections. The recent production of the musical *Aladdin* at the High School was inspirational, providing opportunities for our music, art and drama students to showcase their exceptional talents. I know that many of you came to see it, some on several occasions!

We enjoyed many successes in both school sections in the NCFA (National Children's Festival of the Arts)

On the art and craft front, our Primary School children won a long list of prizes at the NCFA and in various competitions sponsored by local companies. We were also

recognised at both Primary and High School levels for our impressive contribution to the annual Art at The Governor's Festival.

At High School level, The Young Musician of the Year was awarded to Isabella Rooney (voice) in Year 7.

The NCFA Rotary Central Award for a Caymanian Essay, was won by Sarah Potkins Y11

Our young award-winning Steel Pan players, *Pantasticq* under the instruction of Mr Earl La Pierre, have thrilled us with their performances and successes this year. Not only did they win their Junior category during Pirate Week but they went on to outstanding success in the NCFA Steel band Competition 2011.

- Junior Solo Section: Trophy winner for the highest award gold: Ethan Whittaker
- Junior Solo Section: Runner up, received silver, Adam Stoner
- Junior Steel Band section earned silver and gold awards.
- In the Open Band section: Overall Trophy winners for the highest gold award plus runner up, gold, for their second piece.

Sports:

High School students who have successfully represented the Cayman Islands in their chosen fields this year include:

- Lara and Geoff Butler and Catriona McRae (swimming)
- Alex Fraser (squash)
- Jessica Lloyd and Lauren Hill (gymnastics)
- Polly Serpell and Charlotte Hinds (horse riding)
- Josh Baker, Ian Currie, Tom Mann, Dan and Andy Hall, Sebastien Legras and Justin Hislop (rugby)
- Alex Leonard and Marc Reid (tennis)
- Tom Hanson (inter-schools sailing)
- Ed Baker, Gabriel Solomon and John Tweedie (cricket)
- Our under 17 football team who were finalists in the first PSA football league

In the Primary School we have an equally long list of sporting successes. Here are just a few notable achievements of the past school year:

- Both boys and girls teams have won inter-Primary soccer competitions.
- Our sailing team was victorious.
- We retained the inter-school swimming trophy.
- In tag rugby our teams were victorious.
- In athletics one of our Year 6 boys won a gold medal.
- Whilst not winning the league, our cricket team performed very well.
- The girls continued to improve as a force in their netball league.

- Our students take part in a relatively new team sport: Roller hockey.

Scholarships:

In our own Sixth Form Programme, scholarships were awarded by local companies to the following students:

- Ogier Scholarship - Tawny Douglas
- Dragon Bay Scholarship - Eilidh Bridgeman
- Rawlinson and Hunter Scholarships - Shaneil Vassel-Whittaker and Alex McCallum
- Conyers Dill and Pearman Scholarship - Rashana Singh
- Red Sail Sports Scholarship - Hannah Griffin
- London and Amsterdam Trust Company Scholarship - Chevis Dilbert

External Scholarships:

- The Rawlinson and Hunter Undergraduate Scholarship - Abigail Stoddart
- Kathryn Schirn earned a scholarship to the United World College in Costa Rica