

**EDITORIAL**  
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## Grand Lucayan tipping point for PM & FNM



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### YOUR WEATHER



**88°F**  
Variable cloudiness

SUNRISE: 6: 55 a.m.  
SUNSET: 7:31 p.m.  
HIGH TIDE: 3:02 a.m. - 3:50 p.m.  
LOW TIDE: 9:14 a.m. - 10:13 p.m.  
WINDS: E at 12 mph

See Page 10 for full round-up

## The Freeport News BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS & SERVICE GUIDE

Whatever you're looking for, these local businesses ask you to consider them first.

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# A SAD DAY

The Ministry Of Education  
**JACK HAYWARD HIGH SCHOOL**



PEREZ HEPBURN



FRANKLYN COOPER

## JHSH and GB community mourns the loss of two brilliant students

• Grieving mother shares heart wrenching message

**SHARELL LOCKHART**  
FN Reporter  
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students, politicians and Ministry of Education officials mourned the tragic loss of Gade 12 students Perez Hepburn and Franklyn Cooper.

The duo considered bosom buddies were described as brilliantly young men, who died tragically in a traffic accident on Settler's Way and Frobisher Drive shortly after 4:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 2.

Minister of State for Grand Bahama, Sen. J. Kwasi Thompson; Marco City Member of Parliament Michael Pintard; School Crisis Psychologists, District Superintendent for Eastern Grand Bahama and the Cays, Yvonne Ward; District Superintendent for West Grand Bahama and Bimini, Ivan Butler; District Education Officer for East Grand Bahama and

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Tear-stained faces and the reverberating cry, "gone too soon" added to the gloom felt across Jack Hayward Senior High School campus on Monday, September 3 as Principal Bronwen Smith, teachers,

## Safety priority for police as students return to school

**ABRIA COOPER**  
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After weeks on summer break, students across the Commonwealth of The Bahamas returned to school on Monday (September 3) and senior officials of the Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF) Northern District were on hand to not only welcome the youngsters but sensitize the public on school safety, at St. George's High School.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Samuel Butler, who led the team, noted that the RBPF were out in full force in school zones on the island.

"I'm really pleased, first of all, that we are able to connect with stakeholders and connect with Parliamentarians," he said.

He added that police were also able to speak to the school's principal and vice principal, along with greeting students entering the school grounds.

ACP Butler furthered that the RBPF wanted to dispense safety tips to students for the upcoming year.

"We recognize that providing public safety to our children is very important," he said.

He added that the RBPF also wanted to bring a message of motivation and purpose to the students.

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**GRAND WELCOME** – Teachers and administrators of Sister Mary Patricia Russell Junior High School greeted students and parents returning to school to begin the 2018/2019 new year, yesterday – Monday, September 3. (PHOTO: JENNEVA RUSSELL)

## GRAND WELCOME for SMPR Jr. High students

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Sister Mary Patricia Russell Junior High School (SMPRJH) Principal, Joyanne Pennerman along with staff held a 'Grand Welcome' back reception for students and parents Monday

(September 3) morning.

Dedicated to excellence in academics, athletics and the arts as well as making the learning experience exciting – Pennerman, administrators and teachers beautifully decorated the SMPRJH entrance with purple, gold and white balloons.

Poised and smiling ready to kick-off the new academic year on a cheerful

note, new and returning students were sharply attired in their uniforms, complete with their book bags equipped with school supplies, keen on excelling.

According to Pennerman, "Firstly, I am quite pleased with the enthusiasm of the teachers, administrators and staff, who orchestrated the Welcome

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## Thompson assures students' safety at Walter Parker

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Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister, Senator J. Kwasi Thompson visited Walter Parker Primary School on students' first day of the 2018/2019 school year. Noting that while there were still some structural concerns being addressed, Thompson said it was a big day for students and he wanted to welcome teachers, students and parents back to school.

"We're thankful that we have had a safe summer and we just want to emphasize the importance of education," he added.

Sen. Thompson said that the government is very keen on improving education for the country, particularly in Grand Bahama.

"Which was why we made BTVI tuition free and also why we are working on the University of The Bahamas (UB) to make available tertiary education for our



**SEN. J. KWASI THOMPSON**

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