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GB Tourism office essential to island's sports branding

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YOUR WEATHER



81°F
Variable clouds with couple of showers

SUNRISE: 6:43 a.m.
SUNSET: 5:22 p.m.
HIGH TIDE: 2:46 a.m. - 3:04 p.m.
LOW TIDE: 8:54 a.m. - 9:21 p.m.
WINDS: ENE at 13 mph

See Page 10 for full round-up

MIDNIGHT MADNESS



Come on Down
TODAY
Nov 28th
SAVE BIG
• Christmas Gifts
• Decorations

Dolly Madison HOME CENTER
STOREWIDE SALE

8AM TO MIDNIGHT - TODAY!



Principal challenges parents/guardians to register students for national exams

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As the deadline nears for students to submit applications for the Bahamas Junior Certificate (BJC) and Bahamas General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) for the 2018 sitting, a local principal is appealing to parents and guardians to make special efforts to register their children/wards for the examinations.

Chester Cooper, Principal, Eight Mile Rock High School took the initiative.

"I am appealing to parents to ensure that their students register for the Bahamas Junior Certificate (BJC) and Bahamas General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) examinations.

"Eight Mile Rock High School opened registration for the national examinations in September of this year, in order for one to have the eligibility to sit the examinations, that, commences in April 2018.

"To date, only six students have registered for the BJC examination, and four for the BGCSE. The deadline for early registration for these examinations is December 8, 2017.

"It is extremely important that students sit these examinations as they need at least four BJC's as part of the requirement for graduation. Presently we have 78 students in the ninth grade and 85 in the 12th grade at Eight Mile Rock High," noted the principal.

The Bahamas High School Diploma (BHSD) was first introduced by the Ministry of Education in September 2014, however it was not distributed for first time until June 2017.

According to the Ministry of Education's website, (www.ministryofeducationbahamas.com), the Ministry recognizes education as being essential to enhancing the quality of life of the people of The Bahamas.

As emphasized on the website: "The specific focus of the Department of Education therefore is to prepare young people to become active, globally competitive, caring and compassionate citizens, with the capacity to



CHESTER COOPER,
Principal, EMR

continuously improve the quality of life for themselves and others. In an effort to ensure that all students have an opportunity to do this, as well as to graduate, it is the Ministry's desire to see more students qualify as graduates from high school. The Ministry has therefore introduced a new initiative to assist students with qualifying to graduate."

In order for a student to graduate from a public high school within The Bahamas, he or she must attain the following:

- Four subjects in the BJC examinations, inclusive of Mathematics, English language, a science, social studies or career and technical education subject
- A minimum of 27 credit hours in Grades 10 through 12. Fifteen of the credit hours must be completed in core subjects while 12 must derive from pathway courses.
- A cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0 over their three years in Grades 10 through 12.
- Complete 30 hours of unpaid community service.
- Complete 20 hours of job readiness training
- Maintain a ninety percent of higher attendance and punctuality over a three year period (between Grades 10 through 12).

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UNITED FOR ONE COMMON CAUSE – Kevin Delancy, President and Founder of HIV/AIDS Survivors Benefit (HASB) and Afrika Karamo-Miller, Chairperson, Grand Bahama AIDS Awareness Committee (GBAAC) are joining forces this Friday in recognition of World AIDS Day.

AIDS organizations, support groups set events linked to World AIDS Day

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ness Committee (GBAAC), have made a concerted effort to collaborate this coming Friday.

The organizations commit to the common objectives of spreading knowledge, understanding the disease, and educating the masses on it.

Kevin Delancy, President and Founder, HIV/AIDS Survivors Benefit (HASB) welcomed the joint arrangement with GBAAC, at a local level, supporting their initiatives in celebration of World AIDS Day as well.

"World AIDS Day 2017, all over the world, our brothers and sisters will be standing in solidarity, to celebrate World AIDS

Day.

"This year HASB in conjunction with the Grand Bahama Health Services (GBHS) will host a small ceremony on the Rand Memorial Hospital (RMH) grounds. During that time, we will conduct rapid testing, this Friday December 1, beginning at 10:00 a.m.. Educational material and condoms will be distributed as well.

"The event is open to the public and we encourage all to come out. World AIDS Day is a time when we reflect on the disease and continue to raise awareness about it, while at the same time fighting against the stigma and

the discrimination wherever it rears its ugly head. It shows its ugly head a lot here on Grand Bahama. I know all to the well about the stigma associated with it.

"We also want to raise awareness on the fact that persons must know that they can survive the disease, once they take their medications on time. I am a 32-year survivor therefore I can attest to that.

"HASB has been running the Positive Impact Initiative for the entire year and I believe that we have done a good job in trying to educate the community through-

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BATTLE TEAM WINNERS' WARRIORS- Members of Team Saints' Warriors, who won the St. Paul's Methodist College Battle of the Multiplication Tables received words of encouragement, rewards and a delicious pizza lunch courtesy of Aliv LTE Network sponsors. In back row second from left is Alvi Media & Community Officer Talia Wildgoose. Grades 4 and 5 teacher Natasha Thompson is third from left and at right is Aliv Customer Care Director Allison Levarity. (PHOTO: JENNEVA RUSSELL)

Battle of Multiplication draws high praise

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son held a 'Battle of the Multiplication Tables Competition' which allowed students to apply their mathematical skills.

With reading, writing and arithmetic being the foundational building blocks of educational development, Aliv LTE Network Customer Care Direc-

tor Allison Levarity and Media & Community Champion Talia Wildgoose commended Thompson for doing all that is necessary to make learning fun for her students. Aliv sponsored prizes.

According to Thompson, students can find mathematics to be a difficult subject, especially as

it concerns learning multiplication tables, hence she has put an innovative twist on standardized teaching methods, which assist students in developing new skills and concepts, as well as correctly applying each one.

During the 'Battle of the Mul-

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Female student, age 15, found!

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Last evening, just prior to press time, distraught family members of a 15-year-old student got the good news that she was safe.

Family members and friends had been searching for 15-year-old Ashleigh Alana Swann who was reported missing on Thursday (November 23).

Swann's mother Denise Beckles had tearfully told *The Freeport News* that she longed to have her daughter safe and at home.

Beckles informed that Swann, an 11th grade student at Jack Hayward Senior High School, was staying with her father and grandparents at 62 Bruce Avenue and #26 Maxim Court, Ponce De Leon Drive, Grand Bahama.

The Freeport News was initially told that the last time the father saw his daughter was



ASHLEIGH ALANA SWANN

Thursday morning when she left for school.

"She went to school on Thursday and never came home," her mother reported prior to hearing of her daughter having being found.

Beckles disclosed that the father had contacted her on the

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