

COMPELLED
BY MERCY

A VOICE FOR
DIGNITY &
RESPECT

PRINCIPLED
LEADERSHIP

INSPIRED
FAITH

EDUCATIONAL
COURAGE

Championing Mercy Values!



**MAY 2024
VOL. II**

*Welcome
to*
ST. CATHERINE ACADEMY

VISIT US!





WELCOME TO CAMPUS

MOTHER'S DAY LUNCH!



Quality Time with Mom

When it comes to mothers and daughters, a unique bond can be strengthened through regular one-on-one time. Our 2024 lunch with Mom allowed for quality time, creating memories that will last a lifetime.



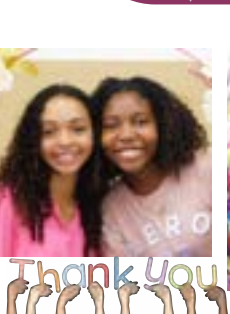


Welcome to Lunch with our Moms

There's nothing quite like enjoying a nice lunch with your mom, especially when you can catch up and bond over delicious food. Thanks to the leadership and hard work of the Student Council and Ms. Grant, the ambiance and company in the Mercy Center made for a memorable experience on May 10th, 2024. Sharing stories and laughs over a shared meal is a beautiful way to strengthen the bond between mother and daughter.



Moms & Daughters







Thank You



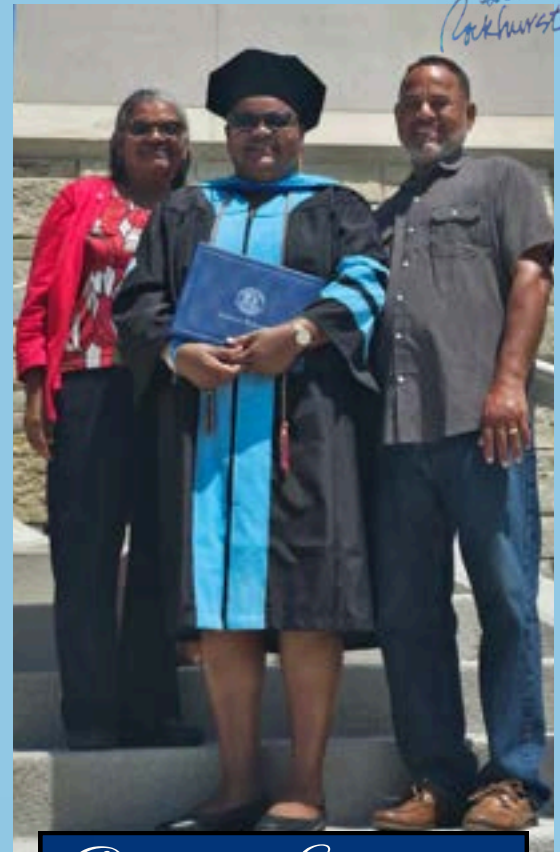


Congratulations!

Dr. Salome Grace Terry Tillet!

On behalf of the entire school community, we extend our heartfelt congratulations on earning your Doctor of Education degree. This significant achievement highlights your dedication to education and your commitment to lifelong learning.

Your accomplishment sets an important example for all our Mercy Girls, showing them the importance of hard work, perseverance, and the pursuit of education. We are proud to have you as our principal and grateful for your positive impact on our school community. Once again, congratulations on your achievement, and we look forward to the continued success and growth of our school under your guidance.



*Doctor of Education
Rockhurst University
May 11th 2024*

*Learning, Leadership, and Service in the
Jesuit Tradition*

SCA Alum becomes first Belizean JEDI KNIGHT!

Belizean BDF Major Roberta "Bobby D" Usher, an alumna of Saint Catherine Academy, has made history as the first Central American to complete the challenging School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS) program. Even during her time at Saint Catherine Academy, Major Usher was a formidable leader, earning the respect of her peers and teachers and becoming the student body president. SAMS graduates, known as "Jedi Knights," are equipped to tackle diverse challenges in military and government operations.



Major Roberta "Bobby D" Usher SAMS Grad with her brothers:

Hon. Henry Usher, Minister of Public Service, Constitutional & Political Reform, Religious Affairs, Major Francis Usher, Acting Commander BDF Air Wing, and Lt. Colonel PJ Usher, US Airforce



Usher Legacy at Saint Catherine Academy

Tanya Usher, Class of 1997, Valedictorian

Jane Usher, Class of 2001

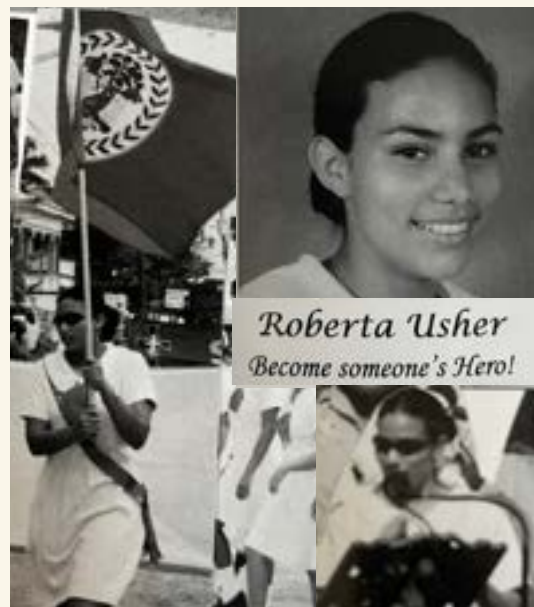
Miriam Usher, Class of 2002,

Roberta Usher, Class of 2003

**The Usher Siblings are the grandchildren of Jane Price Usher, Class of 1934, and children of Leni Jo Usher, Class of 1964*

Major Usher's accomplishment not only sets an important precedent for future Belizean and Central American military officers and represents a significant advancement for women in the military but also continues her family's legacy of service, as her sister, Jane Usher, serves as the Police Training School Commandant. Her success showcases the value of diversity and inclusion in strengthening military organizations. Major Usher's experience and skills gained from the SAMS program will significantly contribute to the BDF's professional development and operational effectiveness, further enhancing its capabilities and strategic readiness.

Major Usher's Master of Arts in Military Operations showcases her dedication, leadership, and intellectual prowess. Her admission to the SAMS program highlights her exceptional qualifications and commitment to military education and career. With the support of SOUTHCOM, BDF, and her determination, she achieved this significant milestone, opening new opportunities for advanced military education in the region. The graduation ceremony was attended by distinguished military officials, and the guest speaker emphasized the global impact of military education.



*Roberta Usher
Become someone's Hero!*



Top of the Class



3rd Highest Cumulative G.P.A.
Sophia Anne Abou-Nehra



Highest Cumulative G.P.A.
Valedictorian
Aspen Alicia Peralta



Second Highest Cumulative G.P.A.,
Salutatorian
Sapphire Jersha Jenkins

02



Congratulations to the Class of 2024 at Saint Catherine Academy! As you embark on this new chapter of your lives, remember to carry forward the proud tradition of being Mercy Girls. Your school has instilled in you the values of courageous leadership, principled action, and the importance of being a voice of dignity and respect. May you continue to inspire others and positively impact the world. We are proud of you and excited to see the great things you will achieve. Go forth and shine your light brightly!



Aspen Alicia Peralta	98.8850	Valedictorian	Joedi Haily Marin	14th
Sapphire Jersha Jenkins	97.5025	Salutatorian	Mia Paige Gordon	15th
Sophia Anne Abou-Nehra	97.0925	Parent Night Speaker	Sunny Liang	16th
Elizabeth Ann Coye	97.0825	4th	Ella Storme Heusner	17th
Maria Emilia Jiron Hernandez	96.8825	5th	Ahriyah Annique Lambey	18th
Zion Alisa Smith	96.8800	6th	Karley Gliselle Nicholson	19th
Jennelle Alanna Bowen	96.7700	7th	Adyson Giana Morris	20th
Shajay Shaina Swift	96.6875	8th	Sheila Esmeralda Anesly Ayala	21st
Juana Valentina Dussán	96.5525	9th	Karen Paola Simmons	22nd
Gabriella Sophia Musa	96.3475	10th	Megan Rae Flowers	23rd
Alyssa Kathleen Lodge	96.1825	11th	Shay-zah Estella Dominguez	24th
Angelina Lin Rivero	96.0375	12th	Reya Reyanna Chi	25th
Maayah Alauna Crawford	95.7500	13th		





Alumna

MRS. LISA CHANG

- Saint Catherine Elementary (SCE) 1980
- Saint Catherine Academy (SCA) 1984
- Graduation Guest Speaker 2024
- Mercy girl for life.

“My years at SCA are my fondest years- I hold a deep respect within me and an indebtedness for the lessons my SCA Teachers imparted.”

1984-1986 Saint John's College Junior College

Associate Degree in Biology and Chemistry

1987-1989 Florida International University

Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management

1998 Entrepreneur of Celebrations Party

Supplies

2006-2010 Member Board of Trustees Saint

John's College

2010-2012 Vice Chair of Board of Trustees Saint

John's College

2012-2016 Chair of Board of Trustees Saint

John's College

Lisa Quan Chang, the daughter of Simon and Bo Yee Quan. I am the third child of nine children. My years at SCA were my fondest years. I was young enough to be under my parents' roof, old enough to be allowed a bit of freedom to make some decisions on my own. In 1998, With the help of my mom and sister, Lupita, I started my own business, **Celebrations**. I struggled with the store as it started very small, 1/3 the size it is now, with the concept of Baby Showers and themed birthdays that were a bit new to Belize in those days. Now, I have the joy of an expanded party supplies store that I have enjoyed working in for the past 26 years. It is a venture that I love and is done in full measure. I feel fulfilled as a Mercy girl, and all I learned from my family business at Simon Quan was put to good use.



Mrs. Chang with her mom and sisters

My advice to the graduates: As you graduate and think of your future endeavors, remember always to be grateful and appreciative of all you have been taught and learned. This was the strong foundation that built your character, independence, critical thinking, good judgment, and compassion. Build your fortress of goodness upon it. Congratulations, Graduates!

Among my fondest memories was sports day. Sports day when the wildest competition was the tire race, and that was vicious... sprinting began to get to the first tires, which were aligned to each team, but the middle tire was for the first person who got there; at times, both would arrive there together, and the battle of the strongest, wildest, fastest or fiercest began, pushing and fighting to both be inside the tire sometimes being stuck and wiggling out. I was one of the smallest and was always chosen to be in this race. Another game was a three-legged race, and that, too, was one of the games I was good at.



Sprints are still held on the field.



“My girlfriends from my SCA family”



My memories also include when the break was over, when we ran before lining up to get a 5-cent matchbox of Pepitos (“Macobi seed”), throwing it in our pockets to eat and share in class. Note-passing was also funny. I was always caught passing someone’s note or answering someone’s whisper. I knew from then that I needed to walk a straight, honest, prank-free life since I could never get away with them.

SCA greatly influenced me. I have a deep respect and indebtedness for the lessons imparted. My love and loyalty to the school have compelled me to give back my time to SCA, my parish, and my community. My motto at SCA: “Everything done with pleasure is done in full measure.” My motto to date: “Everything done with pleasure is done full measure,” and adding on “Live, Laugh, Love! “

**Mrs. Lisa and some of her friends
from the Class of 1984**



I loved going to SCA. SCA has taught me discipline, respect, responsibility, reliability, and efficiency—almost everything that makes life successful. My class remained together from 2nd form when I chose Academics/Sciences. Because we were together, some of us from 1st form all the way through to 4th, we became very close, almost like sisters. To this day, most of my closest girlfriends are from my SCA family.

I enjoyed my classes that were taught by teachers who were engaging and caring. They were always available to guide and reteach if needed. Mrs. Alice Castillo was homeroom for 4A and always started mornings with the song "Morning has Broken." Sr. Caritas taught us to be "Women Fully Alive!" Sor. Cristina, our Spanish teacher, was on point with all her classes. No one can question her grading as she is always ready to explain where and how points were lost. Her classes were strictly Spanish, and everyone had a Spanish name; mine was Alicia Quan. In those days, the Mercy nuns were teaching in classes, interacting fairly, caringly, and lovingly with the students, and caring for their well-being with no rewards, awards, or fame expected in return. Their only reward is to see the girls succeed. I am one of these girls!



**Mrs. Lisa Chang
Graduation Ceremony
Class of 1984**



I am married to Wilfredo Chang, my high school sweetheart, and have three beautiful children, all of whom are Doctors. I have dreamt of being in medicine but was restricted by finance and time. Now, my dreams of being in medicine are multiplied by three. Life really is a blessing.





Sisters of Mercy

Sr. Leonor Franco



**“When your heart is set
on what you want, you
don’t count the cost.”**

*-Sr. Leonor Franco
Sister of Class
“L7”*

Sister Leonor Franco was born and raised in Belize and attended Holy Redeemer Primary School and Saint Catherine Academy. After receiving Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of First Holy Communion for the first time, she knew she was being called to dedicate her life to the Lord. By her third year of high school, she had decided to join the order and become a Sister of Mercy. She left the country at just 17 years old to travel to Rhode Island to attend the program for those who wanted to become sisters and had to study for eight years.

For this month's highlight, we had the privilege of hearing Sister Leonor's perspectives and involvement within our SCA community. Her insights shed light on the importance of mercy and the profound impact of a Mercy education rooted in the values of compassion, service, and social justice. As a Sister of Mercy, founded by Catherine McAuley, Sister Leonor exemplifies what it takes to embody these values in her daily life and work, and her input has deepened our understanding of how these core values are upheld at SCA and how they can be more fully integrated into our daily lives.



Sisters of Mercy

Sr. Leonor Franco



How SCA Students Can Better Demonstrate Mercy

First, one must understand that acts of mercy are not merely acts of service; they also require your love for Jesus to be the driving force behind these acts. You can consider these acts two-dimensional, requiring an interior and exterior motive. Let your first love for Jesus flow into your life, for your interior motive will sustain all you do. Once you have fallen in love with Jesus and walked with Him in all you do, mercy is truly lived out.

Colossians 3:23-24:

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."



Message for SCA Alumni, Students, and Future Students

Grow in your awareness of the presence of God in your life. Allow all that you have gained and will gain from your Mercy education at Saint Catherine Academy to shine through and guide all your future actions. In whatever you are called to do, let your spiritual awareness be active. Keep a record of how you have grown spiritually and learn to honor God in all you do. Lastly, never forget the spiritual aspect obtained from your Mercy education.



WORLD RED CROSS DAY- 2024



SCA RED CROSS CLUB PARTICIPATES IN SIDEWALK CHALK COMPETITION



Compelled By Mercy

SCA CLUB



World Red Cross Day is celebrated every year on May 8th to honor and commemorate the birthday of Henry Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross. The SCA Club's president is currently Kyeldani Pott, guided by club moderator Mrs. Karime O'Brien.

SERVICE

The day is dedicated to recognizing the enormous efforts of the Red Cross in providing humanitarian aid and support to people in need all over the world.



SUPPORT

As we approach 2024, it is essential to reflect on the significance of this day and the ongoing work of the Red Cross in improving the lives of millions of people around the globe.



SHOW-STOPPING ARTWORK

FIRST PLACE

Class 2DL Presenters: Audriel Sanchez and Summer Crichton

"Our chalk art depicted a hopscotch with various colorful images to represent the characteristics and attributes one must have to fully represent and embody what it means to be a Red Cross member or volunteer."



CLASS WINNERS

SECOND PLACE

Class 1RL "Our art includes several symbols, such as purple butterflies representing positive changes and hope, a river symbolizing resilience and the ability to overcome challenges, and a girl with a crack in her face depicting the emotions of sadness and loneliness on one side and the process of moving on on the other." Daylen Rosalez:



THIRD PLACE

Class 1CL, Eden Villanueva 1CL

Our art piece signifies all the positive things that come with The Red Cross Organization. The Cross on the globe represents the fact that the services provided are used worldwide and appreciated by many. The bright colors show that they are positive things from helping others.



The Crowning of Mary



May is considered the month of Mary

Crowning Mary with flowers in May is a way of honoring her as the Queen of Heaven and acknowledging her unique role in the life of the Church. It is a beautiful tradition that fosters a deeper connection with Mary and allows for a public demonstration of love and respect for her.



Inspired by Faith



Praying the Rosary

The rosary is a powerful prayer that allows us to meditate on the lives of Jesus and Mary and brings peace and tranquility to those who pray. On

May 16th, the entire student body gathered in the yard to pray the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary to encourage devotion to Mary and seek her maternal care and guidance.



Our Lady of Guadalupe Procession 2024

Written by Zalia Flowers



On May 19, 2024, Divine Mercy hosted the annual Our Lady of Guadalupe Procession to seek the intercession of Mother Mary for the safety of Belize from natural disasters, particularly hurricanes. The procession, held annually before the hurricane season (June-November), reflects the community's recognition of the significant impact of hurricanes on Belize. Students from various schools, including our beloved SCA, participated in the procession, emphasizing the collective prayers for protection from natural disasters. This event serves as a reminder of our ongoing prayers for the safety and well-being of everyone in the face of natural calamities.





On, Mercians!



**SCA Teachers
Mrs. Salazar and
Mrs. Gillett**

We are incredibly proud of the teachers, all the students, and parents who showed their support by participating in the eight-mile journey from Ladyville to Belize City during the Belize Cancer Walk 2024, hosted by the Belize Cancer Society. The Belize Cancer Society is crucial in providing education, advocacy, and support for individuals and families affected by cancer.



**CANCER
WALK
2024**

The cancer walk is so much more than just a physical event. It's a powerful symbol of our united dedication to raising awareness about cancer and standing in support of those battling this disease. Mercy Teachers and Students have demonstrated our unwavering solidarity with cancer patients, survivors, and their loved ones.

Additionally, we are actively spreading awareness about the critical significance of early detection and prevention and ensuring access to top-notch care. Each step taken embodies hope, resilience, and the remarkable strength of our community.



"Congratulations to Mitchell O'Brien for taking home 1st place representing Class 3SC1! Way to go, Angelica's Dad!"



PURITY RENEWED

St John Paul II said that “the heart is a battlefield between love and lust” and that “only the chaste man and the chaste woman are capable of authentic love.” Chastity has to do with purity, and purity is a matter of the heart!

OUR JOURNEY

The main goal of the retreat was twofold. First, to have the girls recognize that God pursues their hearts because He desires a deep, intimate relationship with them. Second, the girls will grow in their relationship with God and the people around them, rooted in authentic love flowing from a purity of heart.

Psalm 24:3-4 highlights the need for clean hands and a pure heart, and Jesus said in the Gospel of Matthew 5:8 that only the pure in heart shall see God. Later, in the epistle, 1 Thessalonians 4:3, St. Paul emphasizes that the will of God is our sanctification. These three verses, along with the teachings of the Theology of the Body, formed the foundation of the retreat.





Walking in Purity!

Persevere in the Holy Spirit
Flee from impurity
Remove trigger points
Avoid idle time
Don't flirt with sin
Redefine sin

Have a holy fear of God
Build a culture of purity
Practice the virtue of chastity
Sacraments
Holy Adoration
Do not give up!!



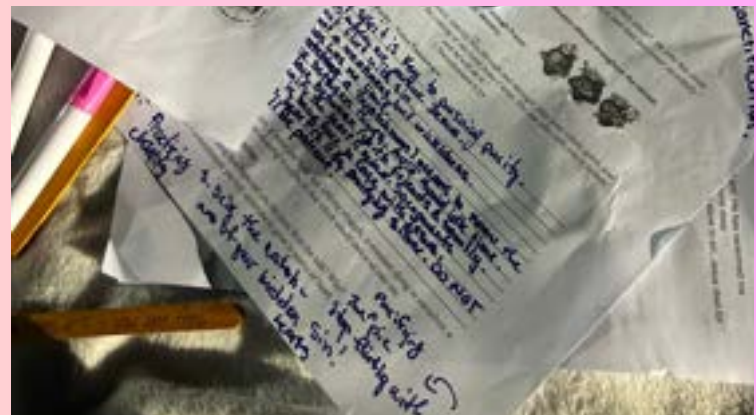
Campus Mini-Retreat

During the retreat, the girls learned that having a pure heart is essential to living in and navigating relationships with God, parents, friends, teachers, etc., and doing so as an expression of authentic love. They were given practical ways to walk and grow in purity of heart, as seen in the image above. Additionally, the girls were invited to begin their pursuit of purity by going to confession, praying the Litany of Chastity, and signing a Pure Heart commitment card, which they kept as a constant motivational reminder of the love they were made to give and receive.



The Rosary

The girls also explored with Mrs. Rocio Azueta how praying the Rosary leads to purity of mind and heart. Each girl received a Rosary and was guided through the three Hail Mary devotions.



Affirmations

The retreat ended with a powerful renunciation of lies and wounds, replaced with affirmations of the truth of who God says they are. It was held in collaboration with In The Gap Institute and SCA.



THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

BY MR. GIAN PARHAM



To be human is to be in a relationship. The challenge today is that many people don't know what that should look like or how to live it out. The Theology of the Body (TOB) is a series of scriptural catechesis, 129, to be precise, delivered by Pope John Paul II during the Wednesday audiences in the early stages of his pontificate. The Pope saw that young people, and humanity in general, have a profound desire for what is accurate, sound, and beautiful – love, but are struggling to give and receive such love.

The TOB cuts through the web of confusion about who we are and how we are to act by diving into Jesus' invitation to go back to the beginning to radically remember what we have radically forgotten. I.e., what it means to be human, male and female, created in God's image and likeness. St John Paul II, in the TOB, said this is possible because there remains "inscribed in the depth of the human heart a distant echo, as it were, of the original innocence [original experience of love between man and woman]."

Our daily interactions must then, in some way, be lived out through the lens of this original experience of love. Living this way, we enter into the reality that we are destined to share in the eternal exchange of love present in God. This is what it means to be made in the Imago Dei.

Therefore, St John Paul in the encyclical, *Redemptor Hominis* – "Redeemer of Man" noted that "Man cannot live without love. He remains a being that is incomprehensible for himself, his life is senseless, if love is not revealed to him, if he does not encounter love, if he does not experience love and make it his own, if he does not participate intimately in it." It is Jesus Christ that reveals man to himself and "man cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself." Let us then enter into an anamnesis (a radical remembering) of who we are so that we may be able to make a sincere gift of self through authentic love to everyone we encounter. Until next time....





Spanish Alive !

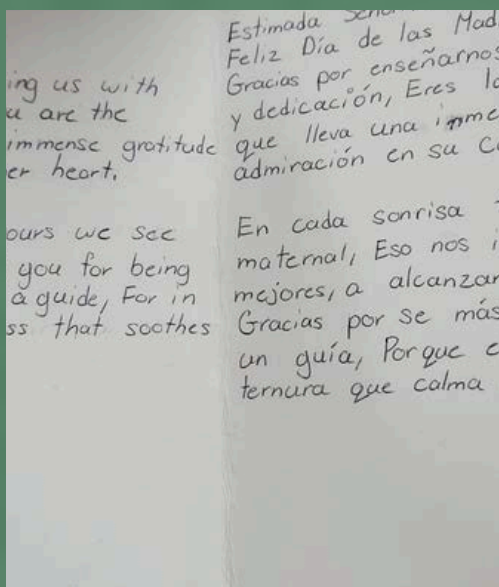
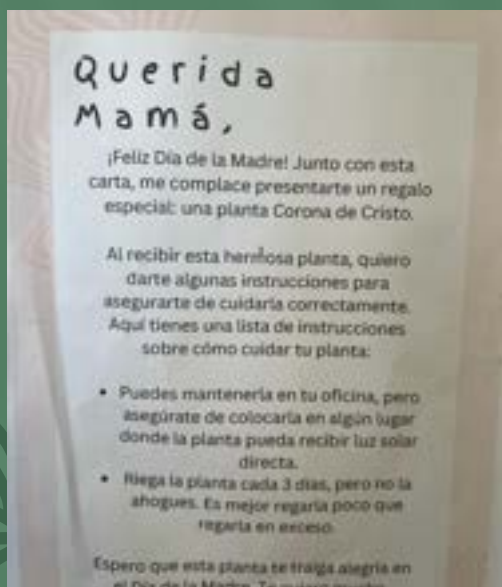
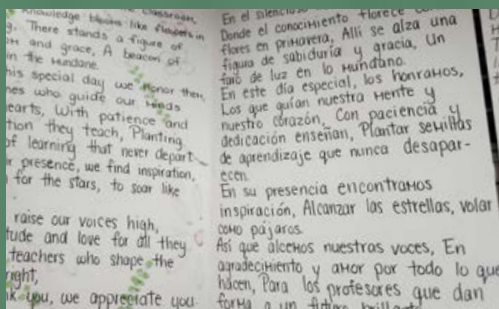
Project-Based Learning Activity



Ms. Botes with her lovely gifts



By repurposing plastic bottles into flower pots, our girls divert waste from landfills and reduce the demand for new plastic products. This helps minimize environmental pollution and contributes to a more sustainable lifestyle. Recycling is a budget-friendly way to add greenery to your home or garden while reducing expenses. It also allows you to unleash your creativity and personalize your living space. Students could choose different bottle shapes, sizes, and colors to create unique flower pots that reflect their style and personality.



THANK YOU TEACHERS!





Leading Champions



Monday Assembly
May 2024



Theme of the Assembly

Assemblies are a regular occurrence in our school, providing a unique opportunity for students to develop essential leadership skills. When students take on the responsibility of leading school-wide assemblies, they contribute to the school community and cultivate valuable skills that will benefit them in the future.



Nurse

Alison Williams

Leadership stems from individuals who advocate for their voices and drive change. We invite guest speakers to educate our school on the topic of our assembly. These speakers raise awareness about important issues that may be overlooked, informing the entire school body. Our guest speakers share personal stories to humanize the issues and connect with us on a deeper level. They also provide valuable techniques and advice to empower the young women of our school.

DONE BY: BRINYCE RICHARDSON



Monday Assembly
May 2024



One of the key skills that students develop when leading school-wide assemblies is public speaking. Presenting information to our peers can help build confidence and effective communication skills that are essential to our growth as leaders.

Leading school-wide assemblies encourages teamwork and collaboration. Students often work in teams to brainstorm ideas, allocate responsibilities, and execute their plans. This collaborative effort fosters a sense of camaraderie and teaches students the importance of cooperation and shared responsibility, skills crucial in any team-based environment.





COMPELLED BY MERCY



"BELIZE'S SOCIAL ISSUES: A CLOSER LOOK AT THE CHALLENGES FACING THE NATION"



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



**ADVOCATING FOR
THE ELDERLY**

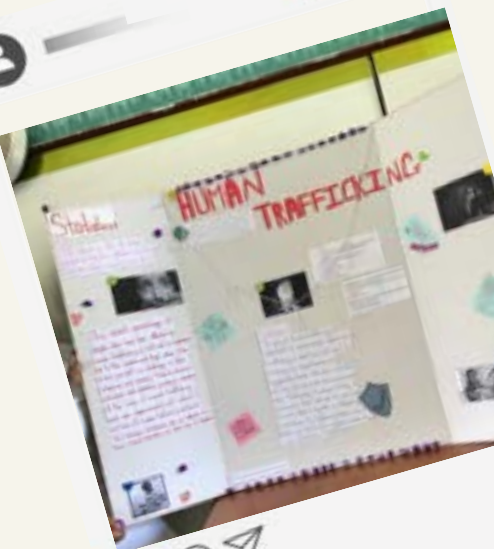
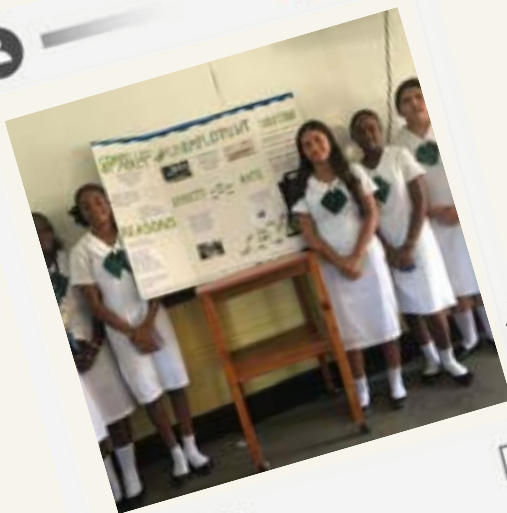


ALCOHOLISM

Over the past two years, our Mercy Graduate Portfolio has undergone thoughtful revisions to integrate our core Mercy values. Each form is now dedicated to a specific Mercy value, with the first form centered on "Compelled by Mercy." Students come together in collaborative groups to pinpoint urgent social issues in Belize. They diligently gather comprehensive data and factual information and then proceed to propose considerate solutions for these issues. Leveraging their creativity and critical thinking skills, the students develop innovative and visually engaging tri-folds to present to their peers and teachers.



FOLLOW

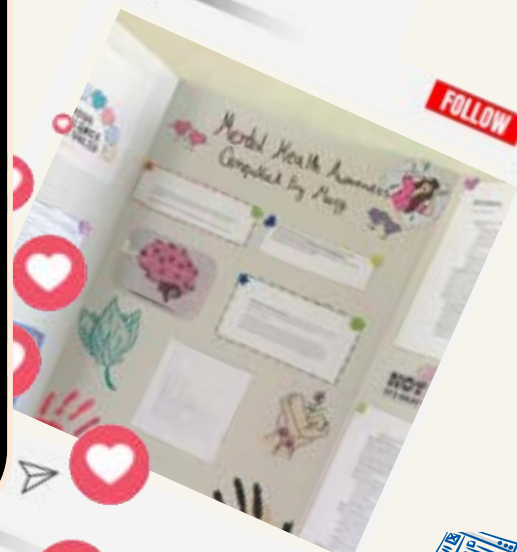
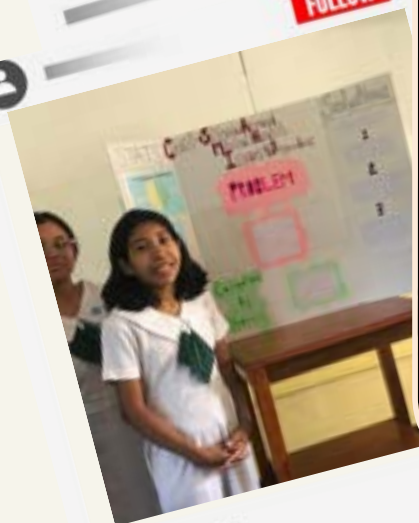


Solutions found

CLASS IRL GROUP FOCUSED ON UNEMPLOYMENT, AND PROPOSED TO CREATE MORE OPPORTUNITIES AND ENHANCE SCHOOLING WITH THE HELP OF FUNDRAISERS. MEANWHILE, GROUP IN ICL ADDRESSED DRUG ABUSE, SUGGESTING INCREASED AWARENESS, SUPPORT FOR THOSE STRUGGLING WITH ADDICTION, AND ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION IN CLUBS TO KEEP INDIVIDUALS ENGAGED.

What did they learn?

THROUGHOUT THE PROJECT, THE GIRLS DISCOVERED THAT IN BELIZE, AT LEAST 20% OF THE POPULATION IS UNEMPLOYED, AND THE ALARMING RATE OF DRUG ABUSE INCREASED IN 2013.



DONE BY: BRINYCE RICHARDSON

Debate Team



Catherine's Orators championing Mercy values with engaging debates!



Catherine's Orators 2024

Being a voice for dignity and respect is a cornerstone of the team's ethos. They engage in discussions prioritizing empathy and understanding, creating an atmosphere where every voice is heard and valued. By embracing the mercy value of educational courage, the team fearlessly tackles challenging topics, demonstrating a commitment to learning and growth. Their inspired faith in the power of dialogue drives them to seek understanding and common ground, even in the face of contentious issues, as ambassadors of the mercy values, embodying principled leadership, compassion, and educational courage. Their commitment to these values serves as an inspiration to their peers and a testament to the transformative power of debate.

As a dedicated group, the team has set out to demonstrate principled leadership, compassion, and educational courage in every aspect of their debating endeavors. The team upholds the values of fairness, respect, and integrity in all their interactions.

SCA Mentors



*Mrs. Marin &
Mrs. Usher*



OAS

REGIONAL *ESSAY* COMPETITION



ENTER TODAY!

**FCCA 2024
TOPIC**

**"HOW CAN MY
COUNTRY AND CRUISE
LINES WORK
TOGETHER FOR MORE
SUSTAINABLE CRUISE
CALLS?"**



ALL SAINT CATHERINE ACADEMY STUDENTS IN FCCA PARTNER DESTINATIONS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FCCA FOUNDATION FOR THE CARIBBEAN 2024 ESSAY CONTEST. FURTHER DETAILS WERE SHARED ON CLASS MICROSOFT TEAMS.

If you're a student passionate about sustainability, then an exciting opportunity is waiting for you! An essay competition has been announced, inviting students to share their thoughts on the topic "How can my country and cruise lines work together for more sustainable cruise calls?" This is an excellent platform to showcase your critical thinking, research, and writing skills while addressing a pressing issue. Participating in this competition will not only help you hone your skills but also contribute to creating a more sustainable future. So, if you're interested in making a difference and participating in the change, don't miss this opportunity to share your ideas and win exciting prizes!

Fostering Innovation and Environmental Consciousness: STEAM Education at SCA and the Creation of Recyclable Trash Receptacles

Bring innovation and excellence to wherever you are.

In recent years, there has been a growing emphasis on integrating STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) education into school curriculums to foster innovation, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills among students. At St. Catherine of Academy (SCA), this approach has been embraced wholeheartedly, focusing on empowering Mercy Girls to become agents of positive change in their community.



Bottle caps reimagined



Tri-fold boards reborn



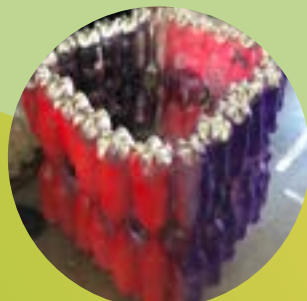
Cans with new life



Soda Bottles with new purposes

As the world continues to grapple with environmental challenges, initiatives like this one exemplify the potential of STEAM education to shape a brighter, more sustainable future.

The initiative to create trash receptacles from recyclable school supplies and soda containers exemplifies the practical application of STEAM principles at SCA. By repurposing materials that would otherwise contribute to environmental waste, students not only engage in sustainable practices but also gain hands-on experience in design, engineering, and environmental science. This project underscores the school's dedication to instilling a sense of environmental stewardship in its students, empowering them to become conscious global citizens.





SAINT CATHERINE ACADEMY

Mission to Recycle

By: Kalaya Molina

The recycling project by the students served as a comprehensive platform for the practical application of interdisciplinary knowledge and skills. Through this activity, the students engaged in scientific exploration, investigating the composition and breakdown time of plastics and other materials. Their research methodology included leveraging online resources and design applications, which not only enriched their scientific understanding but also honed their digital literacy skills. Furthermore, the integration of mathematical concepts in the measurements and structural design of their receptacles showcased their adeptness in quantitative reasoning. Additionally, the students' adeptness in exploring their artistic creativity to enhance the aesthetic appeal of their receptacles underscored the intersection of STEAM disciplines with the arts.



**"We must strive to do ordinary things
extraordinarily well."
Mother Catherine McAuley**



Educational
Courage

SCA PROM

By: Kyeldani Pott, Marcella Vidal, Rihanna Tucker



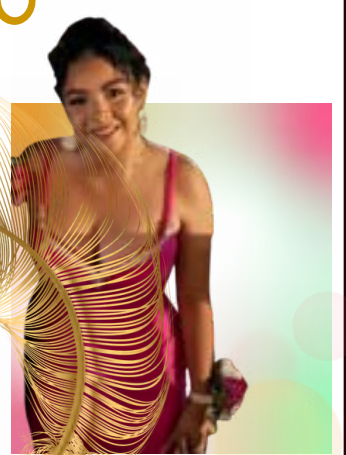
This year's prom, held on May 18, was a night to remember. The theme, "Timeless Elegance," set the stage for an evening of sophistication and grandeur, transporting attendees to a world of classic beauty and refined charm.

The night's highlight was undoubtedly the Prom Queens announcement, each representing the pinnacle of grace and elegance from their respective classes. This year, the coveted titles were awarded to Ella Heusner from the class of 4A, Megan Flowers from the class of 4SC2, Adanna Mendoza from the class of 4B2, and Lastly, Keosha Thompson from the class of 4B1.

Written by: Leah Codd



Prom night





Saint Catherine Academy

SENIORS PROGRAM 24'

By: Akasha Molina



WE LOVE OUR SENIORS!!





By: Aarushi Harjani

SENIORS PROGRAM 2024!



This year, the student council chose Throwbacks in the TropiXX as the theme for Seniors Program 2024!

The Seniors Program is an event that celebrates the graduating classes. It brings the students together for a day filled with fun entertainment and performances.

It's a time for everyone to participate in enjoyable activities and create lasting memories.

With their dances and attire, each class had the opportunity to showcase the theme,

Throwbacks in the TropiXX.

The girls did a fantastic job in their performances for the classes of 2024, making the program even more vibrant and exciting!



By Kalaya Molina



The **Peer Helpers** organized a Flashback Friday event on Friday, May 24. This day was all about students dressing in period attire to honor historical fashion. SCA girls dressed as various eras, such as the 2000s, 80s, 90s, and 70s. For many of our teachers, it was a day full of unforgettable clothes that brought back memories. Seeing everyone dressed up, including a few of our own teachers, was a very fun experience.



Our Teachers!



THANK YOU, PEER HELPERS, FOR PLANNING SUCH A FUN DAY, WHERE STUDENTS GOT TO DISPLAY THEIR CREATIVITY.



Peer Helpers



By: Aarushi Harjani
Akasha Molina



What is Peer Helping?

Peer Helping involves training students within an organization to support their peers struggling emotionally, academically, or socially. Students are taught core skills that empower them to do so. The concept of Peer Helping is based on the fact that when a young person is seeking help, validation, or guidance, they turn to a peer first and reach out to their parents much later, if at all.

SCA's Peer Helpers are all about prioritizing mental health!!!



Mental Health Month

May is considered Mental Health Month. At SCA, our Counselor, Ms. Jones, and the Peer Helpers take Mental health very seriously.

This month, the Peer Helpers organized activities that brought our school community together.

Some activities that took place were No Assessment Day, Burden Boxes, DIY your own stress Ball, Flashback Friday, Mother/Daughter Lunch, PenPal Day, Flea Market, and much more.

Peer Helpers Presents				Activities for May	Mental Health Awareness Month	
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Burden boxes and consider around campus	2	3	
	4. Post it board: Write something you can change that will improve your mental health.		6. Splash a coin with your class	8. Source up Strength Session	10. Mother/Daughter Lunch	
	12. No assessment day with stress dog		14. DIY stress ball activity: Students can create their own stress balls using balloons and string	16. Source up Strength Session: The Color Match Challenge		
18. JO JO PAPER! DAY: Lighten a letter to lighten up someone's day	20. Peer Helpers Bake Sale		22. Take a bit of competition	24. Parent Support Session	26. Delightful children can be found around campus (start making parents who!)	28. FREE Film Market
30	31					

May Calendar



Flea Market!

SENIOR STUDENTS AT SCA DISPLAY HEARTWARMING ACT OF KINDNESS TOWARDS VISUALLY IMPAIRED VALEDICTORIAN

BY ZAZIL MARIN



ALYSSA FISHER

With tremendous pride, we recognize and celebrate an incredible act of kindness and sorority that exemplifies the spirit of our senior students. A group of seniors from SCA had the privilege of acknowledging and celebrating the accomplishments of Ms. Alyssa Fisher, the visually impaired valedictorian from Wesley College.

The heartwarming display of sisterhood and support that was shown to Ms. Fisher serves as a testament to the strong bonds that exist within our school community. The seniors not only cheered for Ms. Fisher's impressive academic achievements but also took proactive steps to ensure that she felt included and valued. Their actions remind us of the importance of empathy, compassion, and unity in creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all.





Ms. Fisher's story also sheds light on the challenges that visually impaired students face in their academic journey. It's a reminder for us to consider how we can support blind students in our community, particularly those in Belize. Here are a few ways that we can make a difference:

1. Volunteer your time with the Belize Council for the Visually Impaired (BCVI): offer to assist visually impaired students by supporting the programs and resources offered by the BCVI.
2. Advocate for accessible resources: Raise awareness about the need for accessible materials, such as braille books, audio resources, and tactile learning tools. Encourage educators and administrators to make accommodations that support the learning needs of visually impaired students.
3. Promote inclusivity and understanding: Foster a culture of inclusivity by educating others about the experiences of visually impaired individuals and promoting mutual respect and understanding.
4. Create opportunities for social inclusion: Organize events and activities that are inclusive and accessible to all students, regardless of their abilities. Encourage interaction and collaboration among students to foster a sense of belonging.

By actively supporting and advocating for the needs of blind students, we can create a more inclusive and welcoming environment for everyone in our school community. Let's continue to celebrate the remarkable achievements of individuals like Ms. Alyssa Fisher and work together to ensure that all students have the opportunity to thrive and succeed.



2023-2024 Team Photo



**Team Captain
Emma Solano**



Best Hitter- Emaun Marin



**MVP- Zanyah Hall
(District)**



**MVP- Akili Jones
(Nationals)**



VOLLEY BALL **Facts**

Volleyball players practice all year round.

The SCA volleyball team has been on a winning streak for years.

St. Catherine Academy girls won their 29th consecutive Belize City volleyball championship in the tournament for Central Secondary Schools Sports Association. (Districts)

The St Catherine Academy girls won their 20th consecutive National Secondary Schools Sports Association (Countrywide) volleyball championship



Player Positions

Zazil Marin- Libero

Sheila Ayala- libero

Emma Solano- outside hitter

Lissany Castillo- setter

Jaycee Usher- setter

Sara Safa- setter

Jayda Ferrera- opposite hitter

Emaun Marin- opposite hitter

Blessed Omamurhe- middle blocker

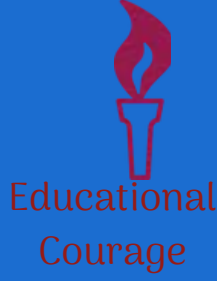
Hiam Safa- middle blocker

Zanyah Hall- middle blocker

Akili Jones- outside hitter



FOOTBALL TEAM 2024 Season LEADERSHIP



Team Captain

"I honestly didn't expect to be made captain so soon. Watching the previous captains, I always looked up to them but never thought I could be one someday. When I first became captain, I was a bit nervous and didn't feel like I deserved the level of respect a captain is supposed to have. However, as time went on, I grew into my new role and made sure to promote sportsmanship and the idea that it's okay to fail sometimes as long as you have fun and learn from it. I strive to keep our team in a place where we can lift each other up and help each other with our weaknesses. With that in mind, I've really enjoyed my time as captain and look forward to continuing to learn and grow as a leader and player with our team."

—Thaedra Holder



Thaedra Holder



Team Photo

Join us in wishing Jeslin Moran the best of luck as she gears up for her tryout with the national football team! You've got this, Jeslin! #TeamJeslin
#NationalTeamTryouts

Done By: Kyanna Garay



Saint Catherine Academy's Top goal scorer



Davae McCaulay

**"KICK THE BALL, GIVE IT
YOUR ALL,
ON THE FIELD, STAND TALL.
WITH EVERY PLAY, YOU'LL
SHINE BRIGHT,
IN VICTORY, WE'LL BASK IN
YOUR LIGHT!"**

Throughout the season, Davae McCaulay consistently demonstrated her outstanding skill and sportsmanship, making significant contributions to the team's success. Whether executing game-winning plays, providing motivational support to teammates, or showcasing her strategic thinking, Davae has been a great asset to our team.

With each game she played, Davae worked tirelessly to hone her skills, which paid after having earned the title of "top goal scorer" for the NSSSA football season. Her achievements have set a high standard for excellence, and as this promising mercy girl continues to improve, be ready to see much more from #9 in the future!



SCA DADS



A VOICE FOR
DIGNITY &
RESPECT

BECAUSE EVERY DAD IS A HERO

AN INVITATION FROM THE SCA
PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

3 REASONS TO ATTEND THE FATHER & DAUGHTER DINNER

Parent Support Group
Father Daughter Dinner



DINNER AND FUN NIGHT

Entertainment

GAMES & PRIZES

\$35 per person

June 8 6:30-9pm

IMPORTANT TO KNOW

Will be held in the SCA Gazebo

Audition with your dad to enter the
TALENT SEARCH competition

Scholarships will be offered as
prizes, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place

TikTok Competition will be held ongoing
via the SCA Facebook Page

TikTok contest, the duo with the most likes on
the Facebook page with the final winner
announced at the dinner.

Dads are Important

DONE BY: BRIANNE WILLIAMS



A VOICE FOR
DIGNITY &
RESPECT

Digi WALLET



DigiWallet is Belize's most comprehensive and cutting-edge mobile wallet solution! With over 190,000 DigiCell mobile users and 90% nationwide LTE and fiber coverage, DigiWallet will offer all Belizeans easy and safe access to the widest array of financial services via the most reliable and secure networks. It will replace the need for bank cards and cash with an easier, safer, and more secure payment method.

Using Digi Wallet at SCA also allows us to conduct a wide range of mobile payment transactions. It will revolutionize the payment experience and payment service industry at Saint Catherine.
So why not use it your school too!!





WHAT'S NEXT?



Mommy Daughter Dates

1. Dinner
2. Movie
3. Pedicures
4. Baking
5. Starbucks
6. Frozen Yogurt
7. Overnight Trip
8. Bookstore
9. Zoo/Museum
10. Picnic

A LOOK AHEAD



JOIN US!

Reminder: Zero-tolerance to bullying

Reminders:

- Use social media responsibly
- Take care of the earth
- Be kind and of service to others
- Be respectful
- Exercise and eat healthy

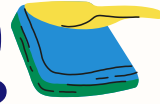


Upcoming dates:

- May 30- Parents' night
- June 1-Graduation
- June 3-Last teaching day
- June 4-7-Undergrads review
- June 8- Father/Daughter Dinner
- June 10-13- Undergrads exams
- June 15- Incoming Student Orientation
- June 18-Grades Verification *2pm-3pm)
- June 20- End of Year Mass
- June 24- Distribution of report cards



from the office



Alumnae office

- Class reunions
- Giving back
- Fun events...

+501 615-0017



How to help Mercy girls.

- Scholarships
- Feeding program
- Uniforms
- Home assistance to students' families



223-1758/223-4908



administration@sca.edu.bz

Vacancies

- Secretary
- Maintenance (Mercy Center)
- IT Technician
- Teachers (any area)

Send documents to
administration@sca.edu.bz

JOIN OUR TEAM