



June 6, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We have come to the end of yet another academic year that was filled with exploration, discovery, creativity, innovation, and fun. Even during another year of social distancing, mask wearing, and constant sanitizing, your child had the opportunity to learn and grow in our community here at Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic Academy.

This year, your children had the opportunity to plant, water and watch their vegetables grow. They had an opportunity to create and build in Science and Math; they were able to create and demonstrate through words and song in English, Social Studies, Music and Modern Languages; they were able to run, jump and throw as they exercised their muscles each week in Physical Education; they were able to reflect, then construct physical reminders of the living Christ during Advent and Lent and they demonstrated respect and appreciation for the environment and those less fortunate through their various service projects. These are your children whom we hold in our care each day and help you to raise them to become who God has called them to be.

As we continue to navigate this world of COVID-19 protocols, we thank you for believing in us and trusting us to not only educate your child, but to keep your child safe. We understand that it has been financially and emotionally challenging for many of us during this time, however, you held fast and ensured that your child remained with us for the entire academic year, and for this, we say thank you.

My dear parents and guardians, as this academic year now ends, we must bid farewell to some members of our Crusader family. We first want to bid farewell to the parents of our graduating class. Some of you have been a part of our MSSCA family for more than 13 years and will perhaps find yourselves feeling quite strange come September when you don't have any drop offs to make! We love you and thank you for entrusting your child to our care for their primary and/or secondary education. We wish our graduates all the best as they begin the next chapter in their lives.

We also want to bid farewell to Mrs. Ainsa Hepburn and Ms. Roseline Cordis, who together, have taught in our school system for over 60 years! We congratulate them and thank them for their years of dedicated service to your children. We wish them all the best as they move into another phase of their lives.

Finally, I must also bid you farewell. Alas, I have come to the end of my journey with MSSCA and the Catholic Board of Education. I began my journey in Catholic education almost 31 years ago and it has been a wonderful experience. The twenty-one years I have spent in Grand Bahama working as first a Guidance Counsellor and then a Principal, have been the most rewarding in my professional career. I now pass the baton on to Miss Shannals Johnson who will continue to lead our school to greater heights. She, along with her team of administrators and teachers, will continue the legacy we have begun to build at Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic Academy.

With much love and respect,

Joye H. Ritchie  
Principal