



**St. Andrew High School for Girls
Academic Year 2016-2017**

Theme: Enriched in order to Empower

Focus: Strategies that Work

The 2015 -2016 Academic Year was undoubtedly a very busy one as we moved from one activity to the next in joyful celebration of our 90 years of sterling service to education. The theme for our 90th anniversary year “Enriched, Empowered, Abounding in God’s Favour” still resounds in our souls and spirits and I believe will continue to resonate with all members of the school family for many years to come.

Within the context of our 90th anniversary theme, the Focus for the 2015-2016 was “Maintaining the Tradition of Enrichment and Empowerment through a Better Understanding of our Students’ Development”. Most of us benefitted tremendously from the information garnered on the characteristics of the various generational groupings that are currently co-existing not only in our classrooms but in our staffrooms. Indeed, it was brought to our attention that our success with engaging our students would be dependent not only on our ability to understand and treat with the generational differences existing between students and teachers but also those existing among us as colleagues.

This insight inspired many of us to be reflective of our attitudes and actions as we sought to positively impact the lives of our students on a daily basis. The “busyness” of the anniversary year however, did not allow for the ongoing conversation and follow up activities that needed to take place so as to ensure that the strategies required could be adequately researched, shared and refined, to suit our particular teaching/learning environment. Consequently, some of us became quite frustrated when our daily encounters with some of our students did not yield the positive results whether academically or socially that we were expecting.

It is this reality that has resulted in our theme and focus for this year. It is very clear to us that with the best of intentions, it is not possible for us to give that which we do not possess. Hence oftentimes our plans for our students are not effectively actualized because in order to successfully enrich and empower them we must first enrich ourselves with the necessary skills and abilities required to empower us to achieve our goals both personally and professionally. **In all cases, enrichment must precede empowerment.**

This year therefore, the focus will be on researching, sharing and refining effective strategies for the successful engagement of our students. However our starting point will be on examining ourselves and identifying our own areas of deficiency - physical, mental, spiritual and social, that need to be addressed if we are to be able to maximize our own potential. It is in as much as we are able to identify and treat with these deficiencies on an ongoing basis that we will be empowered to fulfill our mandate clearly articulated in the school's mission: "To provide a secondary education for our students in a Christian environment... so as to equip them with healthy bodies, well trained minds, religious principles and ideals to serve their country as disciplined citizens, to enable them to earn a living and to live a "Life More Abundant."

Sharon Reid (Mrs.)
Principal
August 24, 2016

Additional Reading:

- 1) Focus papers for the past four years have been attached as they prove to be instructive and provide for us useful information which serves as the scaffolding on which this year's focus has been constructed.