

PRESS RELEASE

LYFORD CAY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL HONORS 2008 GRADUATING CLASS

Nassau, Bahamas – Friday, 30th May, 2008 – Eight individuals became only the third ever graduating class from Lyford Cay International School (“LCIS”), Nassau, Bahamas.

The International Baccalaureate (I.B) students were honored at a graduation ceremony held at the British Colonial Hilton hotel where the Honorable Carl Bethel, M.P, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture was the special guest speaker.

The Minister, an I.B Diploma graduate himself, congratulated all the students and in his inspirational speech to the students he remarked, “The principles of international understanding, mutual respect, tolerance and exposure to other cultures fostered by the International Baccalaureate Curriculum, and your own experiences in your multicultural school, I am sure will equip each of you well to play meaningful roles in helping our country adapt to change and avoid the vicious ethnic strife which has torn apart so many other societies from the Balkans to Africa.” He concluded, “Graduates, the most constructive advice I can give you for the future is to continue to be focused, rely on what you have been taught and foster the values instilled in you from your parents and teachers and continue to make your mark on the world.”

Principal Dr Paul Lieblich commented on the evening, "This is a momentous occasion for our seniors and a great accomplishment for the entire school. The graduation ceremony signifies the latest achievement in the development of the school which has progressed extensively over the last 5 years."

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Mr. William Schlei, Head of Secondary School, introduced the students and commented, "At 8 students, they are small in number, but it is worthy of note that there are 3 among them who are "lifers", and have gone to LCIS since Nursery School. Another is close, having arrived in 2nd grade. Four are Bahamians and another has lived here nearly all her life. The Senior class should not be measured by their numbers, however, but as Martin Luther King put it, by the quality of their character."

"We're only the third ever graduating class to come out of Lyford Cay," remarked LCIS Valedictorian Shaunda Blyden, "We have received a first rate education thanks to our parents, administration and teachers. We are prepared to move on and to take on whatever challenges come next in our lives. We have learnt the meaning of internationalism; to be risk-takers, to be principled, and to be caring." Shaunda, along with three other students, is a candidate for the prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma.

The Salutatorian's presented on the night were Donald MacKinnon and Natascha Vazquez. Natascha, along with Jordan Kemp and Fritz Stubbs have been students at LCIS for 14 years, joining the school in nursery.

The Jenny Guy Community Service award was presented to graduate Zearier Munroe for her commitment to the Creative Action Service requirement of the IB Program. Zearier earned the award for her caring and empathetic work with the elderly in Sandilands Geriatric ward.

Lyford Cay International School is the only school in the Caribbean offering the full range of International Baccalaureate programs.

For further information, please contact Rebecca Massey

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Information about the Graduating Class of 2008

The Graduates:

Shaunda Blyden

Is Bahamian. She has been a student at LCIS for 11 years. She is a Full International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidate taking IB English A1, IB Spanish B, IB Geography, IB Mathematics, IB Biology, IB Chemistry and IB Theory of Knowledge. Her Extended Essay topic was in English and examined the influence of post-colonialism on Caribbean poets. She has been admitted to Acadia University in Canada and plans to pursue a career in Pediatric Cardiology.

Courtney Bobbitt

Is American. She has been a student at LCIS for 4 years. She is an International Baccalaureate Certificate Candidate taking IB English A1, HS Spanish, IB Geography, IB Mathematical Studies, IB Biology, IB Chemistry and IB Theory of Knowledge. She has applied to the University of North Florida and plans to pursue a career in Pharmacology.

Jordan Kemp

Is Bahamian and American. She has been a student at LCIS for 14 years. She is an International Baccalaureate Certificate Candidate taking HS English, HS Spanish, IB Geography, HS Mathematics, HS Science, IB Visual Arts and IB Theory of Knowledge. She has been admitted to Polk Community College in Florida and plans to pursue a career in Marine Biology.

Donald MacKinnon

Is British. He has been a student at LCIS for 2 years. He is a Full International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidate taking IB English A1, IB Spanish Ab Initio, IB Geography, IB Mathematical Studies, IB Biology, IB Chemistry and IB Theory of Knowledge. His Extended Essay topic was in Geography and examined issues of waste management in the hotel industry. He has been admitted to Rollins College in Florida and plans to pursue a career in International Business.

Zearier Munroe

Is Bahamian. She has been a student at LCIS for 2 years, having transferred from Doris Johnson High School. She is a Full International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidate taking IB English A1, IB Spanish Ab Initio, IB Geography, IB Mathematics, IB Biology, IB Chemistry and IB Theory of Knowledge. Her Extended Essay topic was in History and examined the issue of identity politics in the 1972 Bahamas election. She has been admitted to York University and plans to pursue a career in International Business Administration.

Brandon Sims

Is American. He has been a student at LCIS for 3 years. He is an International Baccalaureate Certificate Candidate taking HS English, HS Spanish, IB Geography, HS Mathematics, HS Science, HS Chemistry and IB Theory of Knowledge. He has been admitted to Broward Community College and plans to pursue a career in Massage Therapy.

Fritz Stubbs

Is Bahamian. He has been a student at LCIS for 14 years. He is an International Baccalaureate Certificate Candidate taking IB English A1, HS Spanish, IB Geography, HS Mathematics, HS Science, IB Chemistry and IB Theory of Knowledge. He has been admitted to Acadia University and plans to pursue a career in International Business.

Natascha Vazquez

Is Spanish and Dutch. She has been a student at LCIS for 14 years. She is a Full International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidate taking IB English A1, IB Spanish B, IB Geography, IB Mathematical Studies, IB Biology, IB Visual Arts and IB Theory of Knowledge. Her Extended Essay topic was in Art and examined the sources and influence of public art in the Bahamas. She has been admitted to Champlain College in Vermont and plans to pursue a career in Journalism.