



2018 - 2019 **ANNUAL REPORT**





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PARTICIPATING IN CARNIVAL IS ONE OF OUR STUDENTS' FAVORITE COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES. HERE, ABIGAIL BRUNEY '23 SHOWS OFF HER MAJORETTE SKILLS DURING THE CHILDREN'S PARADE.



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VIVIEN MORRIS '26 FINDS A BRITTLE STAR  
DURING THE FIFTH GRADE'S ANNUAL FIELD TRIP  
TO CAS CAY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY.





# Letter from the Head of School



Dear Antilles Community,

“Building Back Better and Stronger” was our mantra all year long as we continued with our hurricane recovery, and thanks to you and your generous support, we were able to maintain the level of excellence that defines Antilles while rebuilding.

Since tuition at independent schools and at Antilles only covers 85% of the cost to educate a child, we rely on Annual Giving to make up the difference. With enrollment numbers significantly impacted by 2017’s Hurricanes Irma and Maria, Annual Giving was even more essential this year to the operations of the School.

With your support, we were able to: send ten of our faculty members off-island for professional development; bring five speakers to campus to inspire reflection innovation, growth; upgrade the quality of our Jackson Fitness Center and Lower School courts; install a state-of-the-art sound system in our Prior Jollek Hall; create a new band room that supported our students’ incredible interest in composition and music; as well as install mold-free floors in nearly 20 classrooms

Thank you for the contributions that made this all possible.

We are thrilled to celebrate record-breaking percentages in giving from both faculty and parents, leading the way for friends of the School and alumni to follow. Your belief in Antilles, and your love of our campus, our teachers, and our programs truly shines through. To all who gave this year – I’m proud to say thank you on behalf of all the faculty and staff who make the experience come to life every day.

With gratitude,

Liz Morrison  
Head of School



# Board of Trustees

On behalf of the Board of Trustees for Antilles School, we are pleased to share the 2018-2019 Annual Report, which celebrates our continued progress in "Building Back Better and Stronger" after 2017's devastating storms. We have made significant strides toward recovery: a critical donation from the Marion and John Anderson Foundation; increased enrollment as families returned to the island; and a focus on restoring our facilities and improving our campus helped us begin the year with renewed optimism, and we are grateful to everyone who made that possible. Also important, the Annual Fund Campaign hit record participation levels, involving 99% of faculty and more than half our parent population - and a renewed interest in investing in our endowment from alumni and friends of the School.

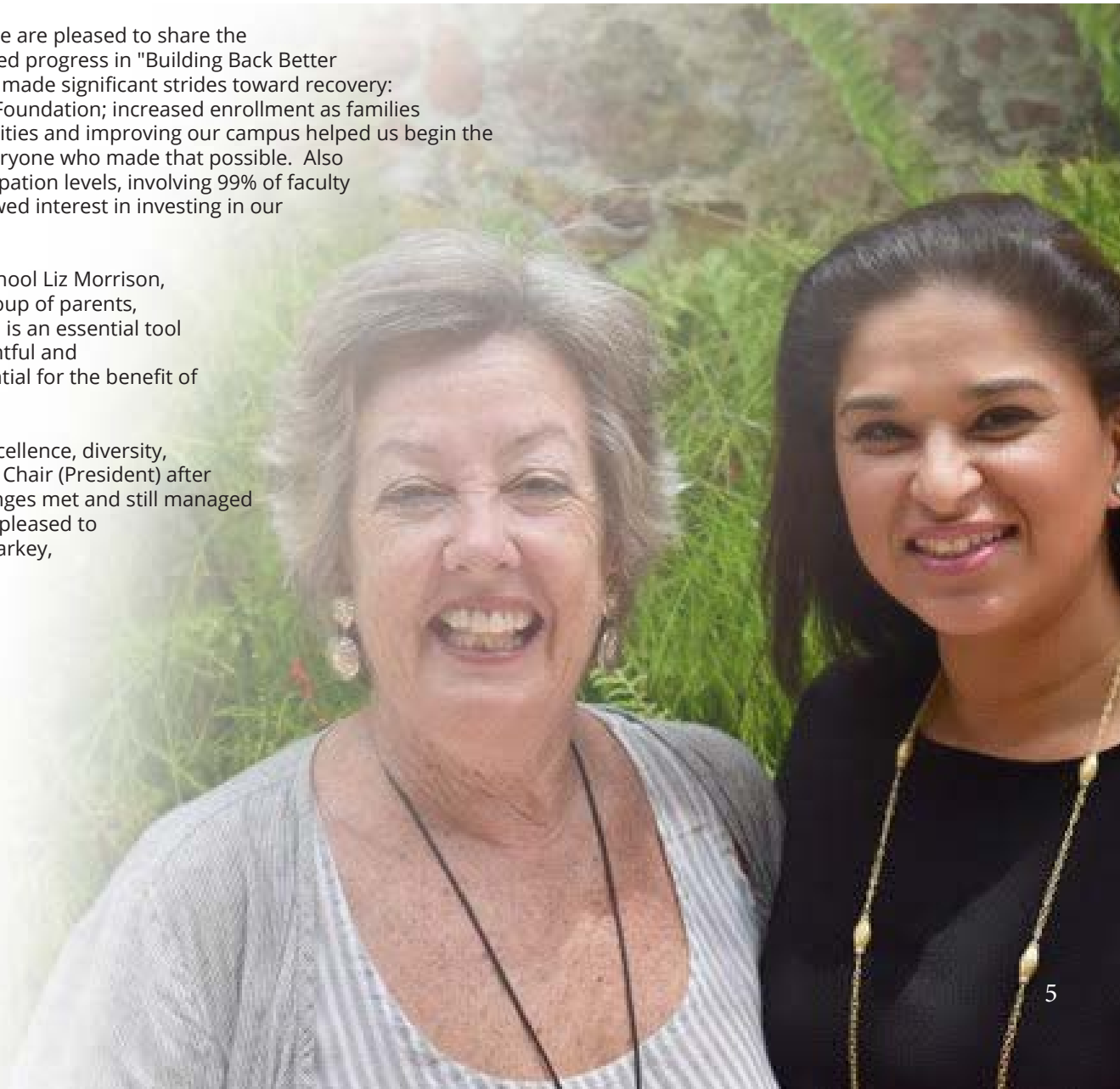
In a collaborative effort between the Board, Head of School Liz Morrison, Antilles Faculty and Administration, and a dedicated group of parents, we were also able to complete the Strategic Plan, which is an essential tool to keep Antilles moving forward with measured, thoughtful and progressive initiatives that maximize the School's potential for the benefit of our students, community, and future generations.

As a board, we strive to embrace the core values of "excellence, diversity, and community," and as Angelina steps down as Board Chair (President) after an amazing four years that have seen incredible challenges met and still managed to successfully contribute to sustainable growth, she is pleased to continue to support the incoming Board Chair Claire Starkey, who also promises to be a vibrant leader to this board.

With Gratitude,  
Angelina Daswani and Claire Starkey

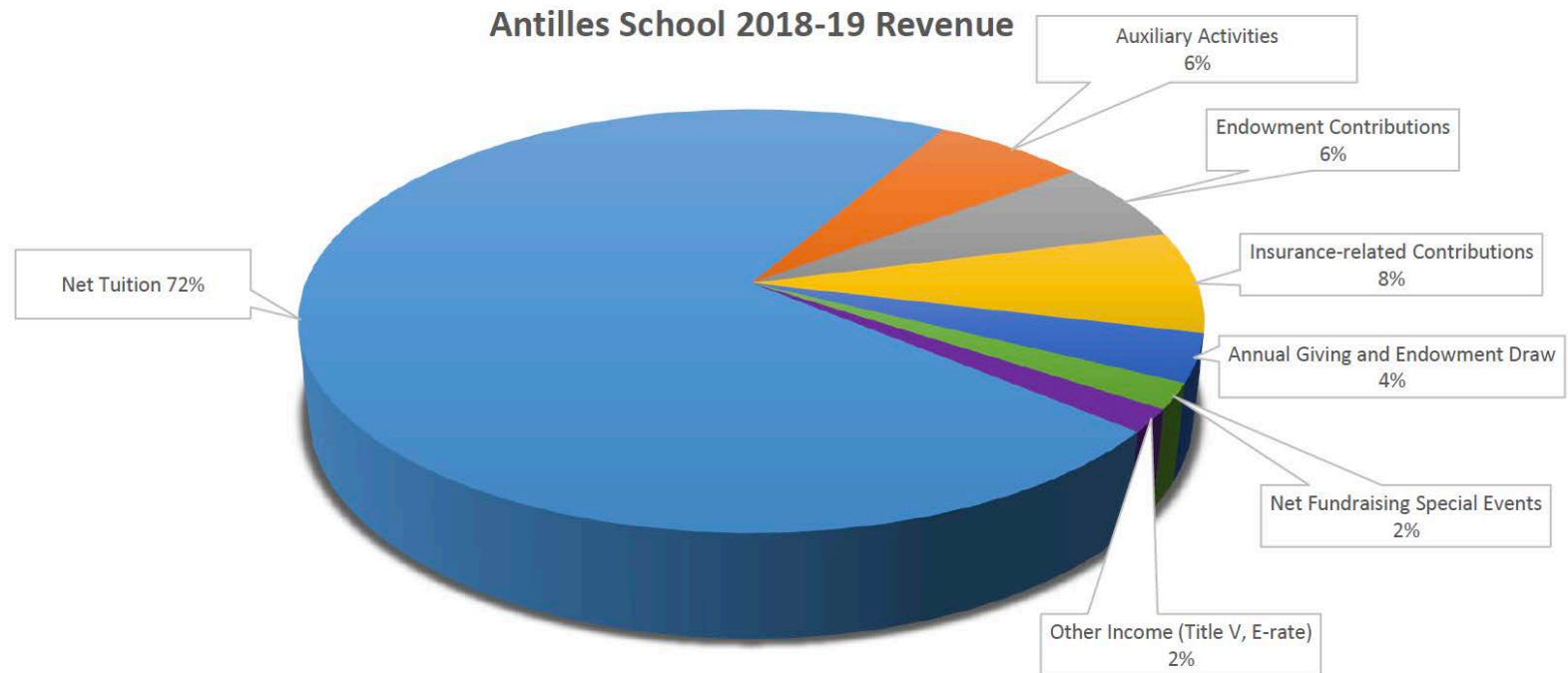
## 2018-2019 Board of Trustees

Angelina Daswani	President
Claire Starkey	Vice President
Kevin Williams	Vice President
Juanita Young	Treasurer
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Celso Vargas	





# Financial Report & Graphs

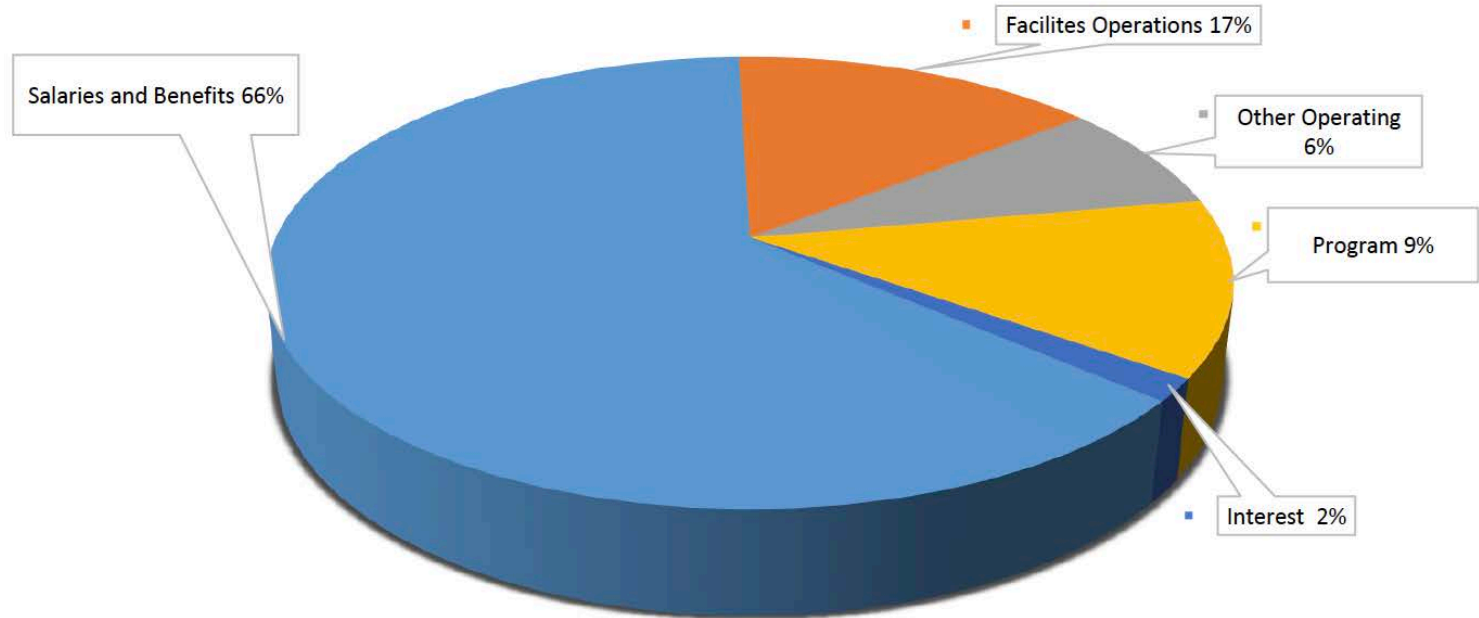


<b>Revenue</b>		
Tuition and fees	8,282,281	86%
Financial aid and scholarships	(1,344,539)	-14%
Net Tuition	6,937,742	72%
Auxiliary Activities	618,683	6%
Endowment Contributions	601,750	6%
Insurance-related Contributions	747,454	8%
Annual Giving and Endowment Draw	349,547	4%
Net Fundraising Special Events	187,462	2%
Other Income (Title V, E-rate)	167,214	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,609,851</b>	<b>100%</b>



# Financial Report & Graphs

Antilles School 2018-19 Expenses



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## Expenses

Salaries and Benefits	6,382,546	66%
Facilities Operation	1,635,086	17%
Program	831,895	9%
Other Operating (legal, insurance, etc)	611,313	6%
Mortgage Interest	149,010	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,609,851</b>	<b>100%</b>

# Jog-A-Thon

Started 35 years ago by former Lower School head Polly Watts, the event has evolved over the years into a fun, community event that meets everyone at their own level. Students run or walk at their own pace, parents volunteer where they can, and we're fortunate to have a range of contributions from parents, friends, and alumni that helped us raise more than \$14,000.

Looking forward to the next school year, **Early Learning Center & Lower School Director Jean Barrows** said she's excited to put the funds toward diversifying classroom libraries, improving student access to technology, and the continuation of resources and programs that help our students stay excited about learning.

Online subscriptions such as *Newsela*, for example, are used from third grade through Middle and Upper School. Along with giving students real-time access to information about current events, *Newsela* also allows students to read at their own level.

"What's wonderful with a program like this is that it is designed to meet each child where they are," Mrs. Barrows said. "As a teacher, you get to see and track the progression of reading, and with access to so many articles about current events, it's a great way to keep our students constantly engaged with the world around them."

**\*\*We wanted to acknowledge that there were many donations made in cash for which we may not have known the donor. Thank you for your support.**

## DONORS

Kesha Abramsen-Webbe	Joedna and Randy Fagan	Stephanie Oriol
Jeanette Acuna	Katie Mallette	Nicole and Dion Parson
and Elijah Joseph Acuna	Melina and Christopher Forvour	Peak Medical Corporation
Alpine Securities USVI, LLC	Monet Francis	Emily '02 and Tony Pearsall '02
Anonymous/Cash	and Steve Gardner II	Jacqueline A Peoples
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Claudelle Mathurin	Marie Thomas Griffith	Chantal Richards - Figueroa
Christine Barbich	and Sal Griffith, Sr.	Dr. Tess Richards
James T. Boschulte, Jr.	Ocia and Brent Gumbs	Kathleen Richards
Kamela and Jonathan Boyenne	Cassandra and Alvord Harris	Lorraine and Brandon
Julie Brasawell	Michael Harris	Richardson
Jeanne Brennan Wiebracht	Alvord Harris	Meaghan '98 and
and Matthias Wiebracht	Nicole and Eric Hatfield	Cyril Richardson
Micaele Breton	Michelle and Andrew Hayden	Blenda Riddick
Kayla and Jim Bruzzese	Jamie Hazzard	Nancy Rivera-Sosa
Caribbean Hematology & Oncology	Angie and Kory Hill	Nir Ronen and Natalie Lo
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Karen and Tony Coffelt	Carlyn '02 and Wesley Ledee	Donald and Deborah Schnell
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Tim Creegan	Loren and Mathew Mahaffey	Christine Sheehan
Debi Davis	Mary Lou Mallette	Jesse and Phil Spillane
Susan Lesmerises DeGraff and	Beth Marshall	Kelly '99 and Ryan Uszenski
Christopher DeGraff	Maureen and Evan Martinez	Jeffrey Wagner
Sophia Del Rosario and Steve	Ryan McCarthy	Cory Watkins
Kalpee Teresa and Ryan Diehl	Bianca and Nigel McClammy	Christina Ghaly-Wilson
Marcellette Dingle	Marlene McMillan	and Kemar Wilson
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Shannon McCarthy	Mary Elizabeth McNamara	Beth and Justin Workman
and Jeffrey Euwema	Robert Mitchell	Amy Yuan and Allen Yu
	Kia and Kelly Moore	Pamela Zbasnik
	Brianne Beatty	Emily and Howard
	Derrick O'Neal	Zimmerman





# Endowment Funds and Donors

## ENDOWMENT

Marion & John E. Anderson  
Foundation  
Chanel  
Angelina and Vivek Daswani  
Peter Kellogg

## KAREN BERTRAND SCHOLARSHIP

Penelope Carpenter '08  
Sebastiano and Julie Cassinelli  
Filippo Cassinelli  
Gail and Michael de Haas  
Per Fog '63  
Rachael Gargano '04  
Charlotte Hancock '05  
Amy and Stephen James  
Claire Starkey and  
Tom Klotzbach  
Divya Lulla '05  
Kerstin McConnell '83 and  
Bill McConnell '85  
Jeff McGuinness  
Donald Pomeranz  
Kim Holdsworth and  
Bob Schmidt  
Richard Spenceley  
Kholoud Suid

## ST. JOHN STUDENTS ENDOWMENT

Estate of Dr. Hans Tiller

## WILLIE WILSON SCHOLARSHIP

Penelope Carpenter '08  
Darby Carstarphen  
Sebastiano and Julie Cassinelli  
Per Fog '63  
Aysha Gregory '05  
Amy and Stephen James  
Claire Starkey and Tom Klotzbach  
Andrew Luszcz '01  
Kerstin McConnell '83 and  
Bill McConnell '85  
Jeff McGuinness  
Jaughna Nielson-Bobbitt '01  
Donald Pomeranz  
Kim Holdsworth and Bob Schmidt  
Richard Spenceley  
Kholoud Suid  
Kelly '99 and Ryan Uszenski

The Class of 2018 included two of Antilles' longest serving faculty, Karen Bertrand and Willie Wilson. Together, they taught generations of our students, and even generations of our families, inspiring artistic talent and intellectual curiosity.

To celebrate their careers and service, and to continue their legacy at Antilles, a generous group of donors established a \$20,000 matching gift challenge to launch two endowed scholarship funds.

Honoring Karen, who has inspired and cultivated artistic talent in Antilles students, and opened possibilities and opportunities, The Karen Bertrand Scholarship provides small financial stipend for students who share Karen's passion and creativity. The 2018-2019 award winner was **Evelyn Woods '20**.

Through his inimitable story-telling and interest in history, Willie Wilson has invited students to explore their ability to write and communicate creatively. The Willie Wilson Scholarship also provides assistance for students who share Willie's appreciation for intellectual curiosity. The 2018-2019 award winner was **Anika Hahnfeld '20**.

Congratulations to our first set of winners, and thank you to the donors who made this possible.



# Annual Fund



Antilles School is able to thrive and excel thanks to the philanthropy of parents, faculty, staff, alumni and friends. All gifts to Antilles help to advance the mission of the school to the pursuit of educational excellence and a purposeful life. We foster a sense of community, embrace diversity and creativity, seek to develop the whole child, and prepare students for success in college and beyond. Since Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria, Antilles continues to build back better and stronger. With a full recovery goal of three to five years, we focused in

2018-2019 on hardening our facilities, rolling out an aggressive strategic plan, and building both our Annual Fund and endowment. We are extremely proud of our progress and grateful to our donors who helped make this a record year for the Annual Fund, with 52% parent participation and 99% faculty/staff participation! This report acknowledges gifts received during the fiscal term of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 and is produced by the Advancement Office. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this report is accurate and complete, however errors do occasionally occur. If your name has been mistakenly omitted, misspelled or listed incorrectly, please accept our sincere apologies and contact the Advancement Office

Adrianne Baird Butler  
Advancement Associate  
abairdbutler@antilles.vi  
340-776-1600, ext. 1802

## 1950'S SOCIETY \$10,000 and Up

Mike Allietta  
Alpine Securities USVI, LLC  
Marion & John E. Anderson  
Foundation Black Diamond Holdings  
Black Diamond Advisors  
Angelina and Vivek Daswani  
Harborside Corporation  
Peter Kellogg  
Claire Starkey and Tom Klotzbach  
Mary Lou Mallette  
Prior Family Foundation  
Ritz-Carlton St. Thomas  
Luise Strauss  
Estate of Dr. Hans Tiller  
Ingrid Widvey, Blue Procurement Services, LLP

## FOUNDERS SOCIETY \$5,000 to \$9,999

Anonymous  
Baker Magras & Associates, Inc.  
Dennis Boone  
Calypso Realty  
Drive Green VI Nissan  
First Bank  
Marianne and Tim Goodell  
Sarah and Don Hancock  
Leslie and Tim Hartzell  
Kellerhals Ferguson Kroblin, LLP  
Marshall Sterling, Tunick Insurance Services  
Kerstin '83 and Bill McConnell '85  
Heenu and Monesh Mohanani '88  
MSI

## FINCH SOCIETY \$2,500 - \$4,999

Anonymous  
Banco Popular  
Beverly's and Caribana  
Barbara Birt  
Blue Water Construction  
Kamela and Jonathan Boyenne  
Judy and Robert Brady  
Tina and Shane Brunt  
Discover Fund Management, LLLP

Dudley, Topper and Feuerzeig, LLP  
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Gerda Gottlieb  
Grand Jewelers  
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Amy and Stephen James  
Local Color  
Joann and Berisford Lynch  
Katie Mallette  
Ann and Ted Nicolosi  
Shannon Harris Oriol and Jean-Pierre Oriol  
Cecilia Penn, MD and Averad Penn  
Pro Solar Systems, LLC  
Meaghan '98 and Cyril Richardson  
Carol Baker-Robinson and Donovan Robinson  
Kim Holdsworth and Bob Schmidt  
Seven Seas Water Corporation  
Tru Staffing Partners, Inc  
Celso and Julia Vargas  
VIYA  
Cory Watkins  
Juanita Young and John Phillips  
Emily and Howard Zimmerman

## HEAD OF SCHOOL CLUB \$1,500 - \$2,499

Beep Business Service  
Sebastiano '82 and Julie Cassinelli  
Filippo Cassinelli  
Cathy and Jeffrey Chase, MD  
Cyclone Fencing  
DCM Corporation  
John Foster Real Estate  
Erole Hobdy, MD  
In House Maintenance & Management Services  
Vicki Jones and Michael Williams  
Krystle Garcia-LaPlace '03 and Frank LaPlace  
Wendy and Michael McCaffrey  
Liz and Tom Morrison  
Jorie Roberts and Daryl Dodson  
Minu and Navin Sakhrani  
Springline Architects  
TOPA Insurance Services, Inc.  
Madel and Gabriel Villegas  
The West Indian Company Limited  
Kelly '99 and Ryan Uszenski



# Annual Fund

## HURRICANE CLUB \$500 - \$1,499

Jean and Shep Barrows  
Sunny Murphy Brown and  
Jason Brown  
Dee Baecher-Brown  
Kayla and Jim Bruzzese  
Darby Carstarphen  
Lisa Cherian  
Gail and Michael de Haas  
Per Fog '63  
Michele and Mark Fracasso  
Alexandra and  
Leigh Goldman  
Amy Gurlea  
Katherine and Omar Haneef  
Ronald Henry  
Karen Nelson-Hughes and  
Kevin Hughes  
Jennifer and Michael Johnson  
Ava and Kelly Kendall  
Daniella Scarpa Schmeiske  
and Marcello Laport  
Kevin Likens  
Julie and Mark Lonski  
Andrew Luszcz '01  
Damien Lysiak  
Margaret and  
Pretlow Majette  
Carol and Stephen Malo '70  
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Rachel and Paul Prewitt  
Caroline Reid  
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Richard Spenceley  
Jesse and Phil Spillane  
Stanley Switlik  
Ian Tacquard  
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Alfred Gilbert

## FRIENDS Up to \$499

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Elijah Joseph Acuna  
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Jones George  
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Andrew Geever  
Verna Araujo  
Crystal Arrington  
Nisha Aubain  
Jamie and Shawn Aubain  
Margaret and Morgan Avery  
Gerald Balboa  
Kim Ballowe  
Christine Barbich  
Thomas Barrows '06  
Rolf Baumgartner '79  
Sharon and Joel Bearden  
Brianna Beatty  
Kent Bernier  
Karen Bertrand and  
Willie Wilson  
Heather Newton-Blum and  
Kevin Blum  
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Colin Butler  
Emily Campbell  
Shanda and Vernon Caracciolo  
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Hannah Carty  
Simone and Donald Cochrane  
Craig Cochrane  
Karen and Tony Coffelt  
Michelle and Eugene Connor  
Tom Cortese  
Tim Creegan  
Jillian and Christopher Curreri '93  
Mark Daniel  
Debi Davis

Sue Lesmerises DeGraff and  
Christopher DeGraff  
Jessica and JP de Jongh '07  
Sophia Del Rosario and Steve  
Kalpee  
Helen Dembinski  
Ann and Scott Derrickson  
Maria Eliff and Carlos DiBlasi  
Teresa and Ryan Diehl  
Marcellette Dingle  
Marjorie Dodson '09  
Luba Dolgopolsky  
Colleen Doumeng  
Kim and Brian Duff  
Alan Eberhart  
Deryka Edmead  
Megan Elliot  
Ruby Esannason  
Joedna and Randy Fagan  
Nikki and Cobia Fagan  
Jill Farley  
Poonam Sajwani Fatnani  
Chantal Richards-Figueroa  
Nancy Firestone  
Melina and  
Christopher Forvour  
Ena Foy  
Robin Fredey  
Tiffany Fritz  
Monet Francis and Steve  
Gardner II Rachael Gargano '04  
Keya Chongasing-Garner and  
Curtis Garner  
Andrea Gilbert  
Meredith Goldsmith and  
Robert Goldsmith, III  
Aysha Gregory' 05  
Marie Thomas Griffith and  
Sal Griffith, Sr.  
Ocia and Brent Gumbs  
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Shawn '88 and Nils Hahnfeld  
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Jamie Hazzard  
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Natalie Lo and Nir Ronen  
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Virginia Martin  
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Claudelle Mathurin  
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Ryan McCarthy  
Bianca and Nigel McClammy  
Jeff McGuinness  
Marlene McMillan  
Katie McNamara  
Mary Elizabeth McNamara  
Katheryn and Glen Melbourne  
Ena Miller  
Viviana and Brent Mills  
Robert Mitchell  
Margaret and Robert Mitchell  
Serena Mohanani '19  
Vikram Mohanani '19  
Sameer Mohanani '19  
Matseliso Monamane and  
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David Morgan  
Terry Murphy  
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Brandon Richardson  
Blenda Riddick  
Michelle and John Riggle  
Rebecca and Carlos Rodriguez  
Deirdre West-Roy and Nate Roy  
Nisha and Sanjay Rupani  
Jenny Sabatino  
Erin Salzbrun  
Lane and Kristopher Sammy  
Donald and Deborah Schnell  
Jessica '02 and  
Michael Schnell '02  
Heather and Greer Scholes  
John Schramm  
Lucy Serge  
Velma and Lawrence Sewer  
Harshita and Deepak Sharma  
Punky Sharp '67  
Thames and Randy Shaw  
Christine Sheehan  
Brittanie Sibilly  
Amanda Smith  
Paula Smith and  
Lionel Warrell  
Kelli and Ryan Smolarz

Nancy Rivera-Sosa  
Kholoud Suid  
Sally Winters and Phil Sutfin  
Sonya Swan  
Sara Szymanski '13  
Abraham Tarapani '00  
William Thayer  
Cheryl Todman  
Teresa and Stephen Ethen  
Verian and Stewart Tuttle  
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Elisabeth Anderson '96 and  
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Jeffrey Wagner  
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and Matthias Wiebracht  
Shelby Williams '10  
Toni and Kevin Williams  
Jeannine and Justin Wilson  
Christina Ghaly-Wilson and  
Kemar Wilson  
Beth and Justin Workman  
Amy Yuan and Allen Yu  
Pamela Zbasnik  
Kristen and Jim Hines

## IN KIND GIFTS RECEIVED

Anonymous  
Fruit Bowl  
Bellows International  
Pizza Amore  
Corinne Van Rennsleear -  
Rotary St. Thomas East  
Tap & Still  
Krystle Garcia LaPlace '03  
and Frank LaPlace  
West Indies Corporation

# 2019 Maritime Ball



Our 2019 Maritime Ball was a huge success – because of the incredible generosity of so many, we were able to meet our ambitious overall fundraising goal of \$200,000 to support the people, programs, and experiences that make Antilles so unique, and our \$50,000 Fund a Need Challenge goal to purchase a new school van. Meanwhile, behind the scenes, the Antilles community came together to build many of the sights, sounds, and experiences of the event.

The vision of our art teachers inspired a cadre of student masterpieces for our silent auction - along with a life-size mermaid made by our Middle Schoolers out of recyclable materials. Our parents added volunteer hours setting up and decorating the Mark C. Marin Center, while our **IT Director, Justin Wilson**, added the technology needed inside to make browsing and bidding online seamless.

We appreciate the dedication of our Board of Trustees for helping to build our sponsor list, our powerhouse group of student volunteers for jumping in where we needed them most, and our events and facilities team for working around the clock to deliver an experience -- restaurants, live entertainment, and more -- like none other.

We are grateful to our restaurant partners for coming on board once again to showcase our island's best dishes (**French Quarter Bistro, Thirteen, Raw, Sunset Grille, Hull Bay Hideaway, Grand Palazzo Club, Rockstone Grille, Salt & Vinegar, Twisted Cork, My Brother's Workshop Café and Bakery, Sabroso and Suga Mama's**) and to our event sponsors for providing the opportunities that made the night so successful. From being able to book an amazing charity band, to auctioning off a dazzling diamond bracelet, our sponsors truly gave us the chance to set the bar a little higher.

We also appreciate the nearly 400 guests who came out, bought a raffle ticket bid on a live auction experience or silent auction item, sponsored, or raised a paddle for our Fund A Need Challenge. As part of the gala proceeds, our goal for the night was to raise \$50,000 towards a school van and by the end of the night, we were more than halfway there – raising \$36,000.

A campaign to raise the remaining \$14,000 launched in the weeks that followed, and once again, we saw tremendous support from our School community. We were able to wrap up in less than a month and close the purchase before the end of the school year, giving us the summer to get it ready for the road!

We can't thank everyone enough who made this possible - from those who raised their paddle at the gala, to those who stepped in to quickly close the gap, we couldn't have done it without you!



# Gala Sponsors

## ADMIRAL

Alpine Securities USVI, LLC

## COMMODORE

Blue Procurement Services

## HELMSMAN

Drive Green VI Nissan  
MSI

## NAVIGATOR

International Private Bank  
Baker Magras & Associates, Inc.  
Calypso Realty  
First Bank  
Kellerhals Ferguson Kroblin, LLP

## CAPTAIN

Banco Popular  
Beverly's and Caribana  
Blue Water Construction  
Discover Fund Management, LLLP  
Dudley, Topper and Feuerzeig, LLP  
Dynasty Dazzlers  
Fintrac  
Guardian Insurance Corporation  
Local Color  
Partners 4 Kids  
Perpetual Motion Management  
Pro Solar Systems, LLC  
Royal Caribbean  
Grand Jewelers  
Sea Glass Properties  
Seven Seas Water Corporation VI  
Natural Medicine  
VIYA

## SAILOR

A.H. Riise  
Beep Business Service  
Cyclone Fencing  
DCM Corporation  
Frank's Electric  
In House Maintenance &  
Management Services  
John Foster Real Estate  
Ann and Ted Nicolosi  
Jorie Roberts and Daryl Dodson  
Springline Architects  
The West Indian Company Limited  
TOPA Insurance Services, Inc.  
VI Oncology & Hematology, PC

## TEACHER TICKET SPONSORS

Baker Magras & Associates, Inc.  
Beep Business Service  
Caribbean Surf Company  
Frank's Electric  
Jenn Events  
Jessica Schnell  
Frannie and Bill Newbold  
Nick Goodell  
Partners 4 Kids  
Perpetual Motion Management  
Petrus Gas  
Sarah Loewenstein  
Webb Construction

## RESTAURANT SPONSORS

French Quarter Bistro  
Grand Palazzo  
Hull Bay Hideaway  
My Brother's Workshop  
Raw Sushi Restaurant  
Rockstone Grille  
Sabroso  
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# Rebuilding After the Storms



In September 2017, Antilles School sustained over \$5 Million in damage as a result of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Immediately after Hurricane Irma hit the Virgin Islands on September 6, 2017, School staff, contractors, and our community worked diligently readying the campus for students by clearing debris, deep-cleaning flooded classrooms, relocating damaged classroom spaces to usable classroom spaces, and putting classrooms back together again with all their classroom supplies and materials.

We planned to reopen school on Monday September 18, 2017, but were delayed after Hurricane Maria hit the Virgin Islands on September 19-20. Once again, we readied the school and reopened on Monday September 25, 2017 with over 325 students returning on that first day. That was just the beginning – over the past two years, we have continued to recover and repair, replace, create, and improve our facilities in an effort to come back better and stronger than before.

Post-hurricane repairs and renovations include:

- Removed over 100 bins of hurricane debris, each bin containing over 40 cubic yards of debris
- Mark C. Marin Center: ripped out and replaced the gym floor, replaced all basketball goals and volleyball netting set-ups, repaired the roof and exterior walls, replaced water-logged roofing insulation, replaced solar panels and inverters, replace exterior lighting, replaced all interior tile floors with high-gloss epoxy floors, replaced power generator, replaced catering kitchen equipment and redesigned the kitchen space and concessions space, replaced air conditioning units
- Jackson Fitness Complex: replaced ceiling tiles and carpet, painted all walls, replaced all exercise equipment with state-of-the-art equipment
- Fencing: in the process of demolishing, repairing, and replacing chain-link fencing across the entire 27-acre campus



# Campus Investments

- Exterior lighting: replacing damaged lighting with state-of-the-art solar lighting campus-wide
- Campus signage: removing and replacing signage campus-wide
- Demolished tile floors and replaced with epoxy floors across all classroom buildings
- Replaced and repaired gutters and roofs on all campus buildings
- Constructing retaining walls and drainage systems campus-wide to mitigate the possibility of future flooding (in process)
- Library: removed and replaced all carpet, replaced tile with epoxy flooring, painted interior, caulked and sealed all doors and windows, replaced waterlogged bookshelves, replaced damaged books, replaced damaged ceiling tiles
- Prior Jollek Hall: rebuilt stage, replaced tile floors, replaced and repaired exterior shutters, replaced sound system, and upgraded theater lighting
- Music room: removed and replaced tile and carpet, installed soundproofing, purchased new musical instruments for the entire band
- Replaced Early Learning Center outdoor playscape
- Technology: purchasing and installing replacement phones, replacing damaged Public Announcement (PA) system, replacing damaged computer servers, replacing system switches (in process)
- Potable water system: re-piped water supply lines across the entire campus, upgraded water treatment process per US Environmental Protection Agency standards as a public water supply, cleaned and repaired damaged cisterns
- Athletic field and outdoor court: cleared debris, replaced athletic field water pump and irrigation system, re-sodded the entire field to repair the extensive damage caused by severe flooding, installed covered seating for spectators and storage shed for athletic equipment





# US Presidential Scholars



We couldn't be happier this year to celebrate the recognition of **Sharan Chawla '19, Maggie Huang '19, and Grace Randall '19** as US Presidential Scholar nominees.

Presidential Scholar nominees represent less than three percent of all graduating twelfth graders in the United States - and less than one percent are selected by the U.S. Presidential Scholar Committee as winners based on outstanding standardized test scores, overall academic achievement, compelling essay, and their impact on both the School community - and larger community.

What's more, Maggie, Grace, and Sharan join an impressive list of Antilles alumni who have not only been nominated for the award, but have gone on to represent our region. For one school to have three nominees at once is rare.

"It shows what Antilles brings to the table," **Deborah Brandstatter Marks '75**, Antilles' first presidential scholar -- and winner -- shared.

"Our students have the aptitude, but we nurture their passions, give them the pathways, and provide the support needed to make them successful. Then, they show the world what they're made of."

We received word in January that Sharan had become one of six overall finalists representing the category of Americans abroad. In the final stage of the competition, there are only two winners - one male and one female - chosen.

"My motto this year has been, 'hard work beats talent when talent fails to work hard,' and I've tried to really stick to that. I'm honored to have made it this far - the news is really amazing - and it's just proof that you have to follow your dreams, work hard, and anything is possible," said Sharan, who is part of Duke University's incoming freshman class.

# National Merit Scholarship Program

In May, Maggie and Grace were also named National Merit Scholarship Program winners.

First nominated as semifinalists in September 2018, Maggie and Grace were recognized among the approximately 15,000 academically talented students across the country that advanced to the next round of the National Merit competition and will now be evaluated by the Scholarship Program Committee.

Winners were announced in mid-May and are selected based on a variety of criteria, including academic accomplishments, leadership qualities and community activities, among others.

"The numbers are in and there is no question that these two young women are smart – in fact, in the top 1 percent of all high school seniors," **Antilles Head of School Liz Morrison** noted. "Even more wonderful to see, however, is their joy of learning, their insatiable appetite for pondering ideas, and their intellectual generosity. Whatever their goal, these young women work hard to attain it, and we are proud to celebrate their accomplishments. We can't wait to see what the future holds for them."

When the two were named semifinalists, we shared Grace's aspiration to attend Princeton, while Maggie, whose passion is computer programming, has her sights set on Carnegie Mellon. The two have been inseparable since meeting in their sophomore year – and now share a home, which the Randall family was quick to provide when Maggie opted to stay on-island and finish high school after her parents relocated to the mainland for work.

Both Maggie and Grace have also been recognized as Advanced Placement Scholars – due to their outstanding performance last spring on four Advanced Placement exams.

We're also going to be keeping our eye on the **Class of 2020's Divyesh Gurnani**, who was also recognized in the fall of 2019 as a National Merit semi-finalist.

Each year, approximately 50,000 juniors are recognized by the National Merit Scholar program for their high PSAT scores. The majority of these students receive letters of commendation from the organization while the remainder - about 16,000 students whose scores put them in the 99th-percentile of others within their state or region - are named National Merit Semi-finalists, and advance in the overall competition

"Junior year is supposed to be a big one in high school. There's no special formula, you just have to work hard and it's important to also keep your head on track. At Antilles, that's of course made so much easier by our supportive teachers, who really help us along - especially when they see you want to learn," said Divyesh.

Winners are recognized in their senior year of high school, so be sure to stay tuned for more on Divyesh's progress!





# Mathcounts



With only Antilles in the running last year for St. Thomas-St. John, our mathletes were guaranteed a showing at the territorial Mathcounts competition – and had a more than 50 percent chance of filling the roster for nationals

But this year, the addition of Bertha C. Boschulte Middle School improved the field to two – and with the pressure on to repeat, our mathletes still showed their mettle through the sprint and target rounds, and dominated the individual competition in February to take eight out of the district's top 10 spots!

"Working and learning together as a team is one of the best parts of the experience," **Ronit Totwani '23** shared. "We all want to go to nationals, especially the eighth graders who won't be able to compete next year - but the system we have of practicing, the way we support one another, and the hard work of our coach helps us all feel ready to go out there and do our best."

Ronit soon got his wish.

Facing off in May against St. Croix's mathletes in a bid for the National Mathcounts Competition, our team then took seven of eight top territorial Mathcounts spots, and swept the top four, giving Antilles the chance to field an all-Hurricanes team at the national competition in May.

"Through this extraordinary national program, our students have the opportunity to meet with others who love math as much as they do, and who also love the challenge of solving difficult problems that are well above the curriculum of Middle School Mathematics. Our students learn how to graciously love the subject and to be humble moving forward," said **Mathcounts coach Michele Humphries**, who has coached the Virgin Islands' National Mathcounts team for the past two decades.

The opportunity to travel and explore new places is also an added bonus. The national competition routinely rotates sites, giving our students the opportunity to experience some of the largest cities in the US, including Orlando, Chicago and Washington, D.C.

"The Mathcounts organization plans special events for the mathletes including a rocket launch at Cape Canaveral in Florida, dinner behind the scenes at Disney World, dinner at the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, and visits to aeronautical venues," Michele said. "We have a lot of fun visiting with others, learning from others, and encouraging others to visit our beautiful islands."

Joining Ronit at nationals were **Aisha Khemani '23**, **Julien Loewenstein '24**, and **Ariel Paul '23**. This year's competitors also included **Madelyn Avery '24**, **Dhruv Rupani '24**, **Bonham Geller '23**, and **Ashmit Bhagchandani '23**.

# Literary Spotlight

## Alumni Spotlight | Kacen Callender

There's a reason that **Kacen Callender '07** has stayed in the world of young adult books.

"When I was just in publishing, and reviewing them, I thought about what I would want to read as a teenager, and what would inspire me. But as a writer, I was inspired by my experience growing up, dealing with emotions, and my emerging identity. Giving weight to identities that don't get a lot of representation can really help a child's self-esteem, and help them exist as much as anyone else," Kacen said.

Kacen's book, *The Hurricane Child*, is the 2019 recipient of the Stonewall Book Awards' Mike Morgan & Larry Romans Children's & Young Adult Literature Award, which is given annually to English-language children's and young adult books of exceptional merit relating to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender experiences.

"My experience," Kacen said, "Junior high school and high school was that period in time when I was reading everything I could, hoping to see myself. This award; it's an overwhelming honor, but more than that, it's made me even more determined to keep producing work that will help kids."

Over the past few months, Kacen has continued to take the literary world by storm.

They have a second young adult novel, *This Is Kind of an Epic Love Story*, on shelves now, along with a third novel due out in November entitled *Queen of the Conquered*. A fourth, *Felix Ever After*, is due out in May of 2020. Meanwhile, their next middle-grade novel, *King and the Dragonflies* is due out in February of 2020.

Asked what inspires the books and characters, Kacen's answer is simple.

"I'm just very motivated," they said.

Kacen was born and raised on St. Thomas. They hold a Bachelor of Arts from Sarah Lawrence College, where they studied Fine Arts, Japanese, and creative writing, as well as an MFA from the New School's Writing for Children program. Along with being a Stonewall Book winner, their debut *The Hurricane Child* was also a Lambda Literary Award winner and was named a Kirkus Best Book of 2018.





# Music



## Lower School

Dressed in their madras “marketwear,” second and third graders took their parents on a tour of historical St. Thomas with songs about the market, buying fruits and veggies, and playing games in the school yard.

Decades ago, singing these traditional tunes helped children pass the time in between classes, according to **music teacher Verna Araujo**. Meanwhile, classic ring and hand games - “Miss Mary Mack,” anyone? - leveled the field on the playground and gave all children something they could do together.

Mrs. Araujo brings the traditions of cultural music back throughout the year and gives students the chance to showcase what they’ve learned during our Lower School’s end-of-year performances, which also feature skits and folk songs, and even a theatrical reenactment of the 1878 Labor Riots on St. Croix.

During class, students get to pull from their surroundings by studying indigenous plants around campus and the role they play in the evolution of musical genres like quelbe. The coconut palms that frame many of our open spaces, for example, can be used for their leaves, bows, and shells, offering a few of the different sounds you’d hear in an old-time scratch band.

Each year, as a special treat, Mrs. Araujo organizes a special exchange between third graders and visiting senior citizens, who also offer a glimpse in the history, traditions, and culture of the Virgin Islands.



## Middle and Upper School

120 band students (+) 30 different instruments (+) 10 months of practicing and working hard = 1 incredible Spring Concert!

Our **Director of Bands Brandon Reburn** and dedicated musicians gave us the chance this year to experience everything from classical compositions to some definitely dance-worthy Caribbean favorites, which were arranged for the steel pan by our older ensemble students.

Asked after what helped the event - which was held in April - fall together, Mr. Reburn credited the personal initiative taken by each student to practice, come for extra help during flex time, and to seek him out on shorter weeks. Eight months ago, thinking about pulling off a concert of this magnitude was daunting, but by the end, the students' enthusiasm and excitement could not be contained, he said.

"Having Mr. Reburn personally encourage you to be a part of the showcase also definitely helps," said **Serena Mohanani '19**, who took advanced composition for the steel pan. "He was so hands-on throughout the process, making it easier to learn how to break up some of the more popular songs we wanted to rework and rearrange so that it fit all of the moving parts that a steel pan piece consists of. Learning how to compose songs was a new challenge, but he's right - it was extremely fulfilling seeing the end result because I got to see what's like to take a song that I knew and turn it into a completely different piece. The entire experience was one that I didn't expect, and one that I would never trade."

Look for new growth in the Middle and Upper School program next year, when Antilles adds a jazz ensemble to compliment four concert bands and a full steel pan orchestra.

"Our goal is to have students advance not by grade level, but by their skill level," Mr. Reburn said. "And there's no doubt we have the interest, the dedication, and the heart to make that happen. It's exciting to see what this is going to look like next year."





# Performance



A little more than a decade ago, Charlotte Amalie High School graduate Shawntay Henry wowed Poetry Out Loud judges, became a national spokesperson for the competition, and showed the world the caliber of talent coming from the Virgin Islands.

"She delivered a rendition of the poem Frederick Douglas, which I heard on NPR radio, and it was so haunting that I stopped. It affected me," Antilles' Poetry Out Loud coordinator John Riggle said of his first encounter with Poetry Out Loud. "That year, the field of competition included 1,500 high schools and 200,000 high school students and a 10th grader from the Virgin Islands proved that she was the best in the country."

John brought the program to Antilles soon after and over the past decade, has put two more VI contestants onto the national stage, and helped hundreds more discover the world of great poetry while offering them a platform for building confidence, public speaking skills and self-expression.

In February, we celebrated our tenth in-school competition, and were blown away by our talented contestants: **Anushka Chandirimani '22, Karina Sakhrani '22, Margaret McConnell '21, and Maggie Klotzbach '22, Anika Hahnfeld '20, Kathleen Russell '20, Trinity Riggle '19, and Bethany Vazquez-Smith '19.**

"I think it all starts with picking the right poem - your poem is really important because that's half the game," said Anika, who won Antilles and went on to take second in the territorial competition. "Then, it's about working on how you deliver it. Even if I've practiced a million times, when I'm on stage, I want to make it sound like I'm reading it for the first time, because it is in that first time that you're always the most expressive. You're feeling the words, listening to how they sound, thinking about how they can be said - that's the part you want the audience to see."

Interestingly, the thrill of the stage turned into something more when Anika was invited later this year by the VI Council on the Arts to recite a poem at the historic Fort Christian in honor of International Museum Month - something that she described as even "more visceral" than she expected.

"It wasn't just that it was a different venue. It was that it was *the* venue," she shared. "The history of the fort, the history of our community, it was all around me as I stood in front of the audience and I could feel the power of that in every second of my performance. It electrified the moment, changed my expression, and made the entire experience even more special."

Scan the QR code to see Anika perform "To Be of Use" by Marge Piercy.







# Fine Arts Festival

The talent, passion, and creativity of our students were on full display at this year's Fine Arts Festival - an all-school, wall-to-wall painting, sculpture, music and theatre extravaganza that gave parents and visitors a chance to experience each component of our Fine Arts program.

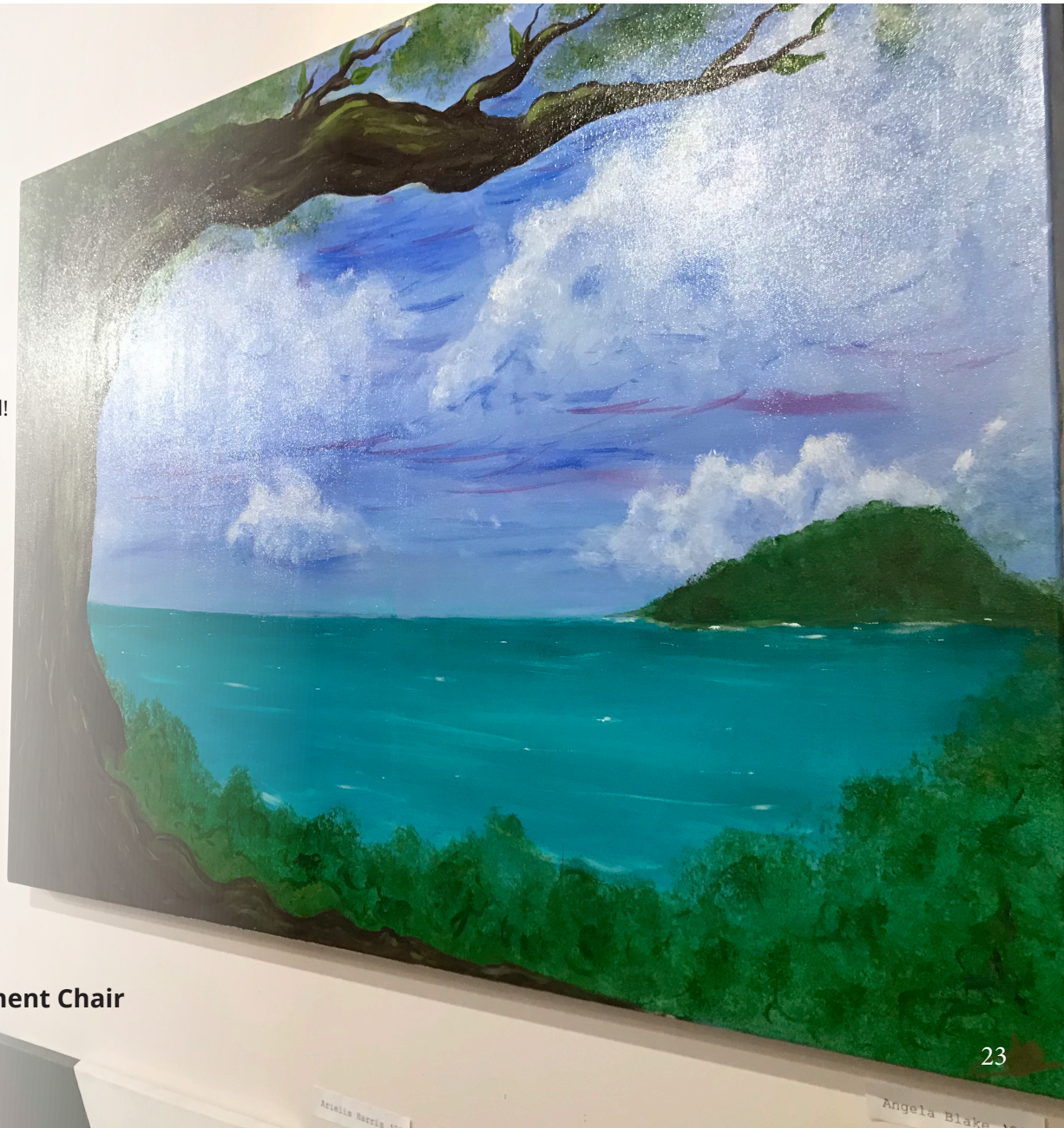
Some of our favorite features included: the transformation of the Early Learning Center amphitheater into a game room, the interactive art stations set up for our younger students on the deck or in the library, the live music that greeted visitors in the Middle School art gallery, and the carefully curated flow of the Upper School visual art space

Being able to move from gallery spaces in the Early Learning Center to the Upper School also allowed us to see up-close the progression of our students in skill and expression - truly wonderful!

The QR code on this page allows you to connect with a few of the pieces and performances by watching our event video.

“I have always referred to the Fine Arts as applied courses. They are not necessarily complimentary to core classes, but rather help students demonstrate a deeper understanding of the knowledge gained in those classes. It also offers them the opportunity to apply that knowledge into one area of context for which those students show a creative passion.

**Brandon Reburn | Antilles' Fine Arts Department Chair**





# Raising the Bar



A powerhouse senior class helped propel Antilles to several league championships, but seeing them go off to college isn't something that worries **Athletic Director Mark Daniel**. Throughout the year, the upperclassmen worked hard to train their younger peers in the fundamentals of each sport, building, as Mark says, a level of continuity that could bring Antilles just as many wins next season.

Antilles had a banner year for athletics, winning eight competitive championships: boys and girls' varsity volleyball, flag football, junior varsity boys and girls' volleyball, co-ed soccer, elementary girls basketball, and elementary co-ed soccer.

Asked what set his team apart from others this year, **JV boys volleyball coach Theo Dorsett** said each player was committed to learning the fundamentals of the game and understanding how to control the ball. Rallying behind the experience of seasoned players **Joshua Crawford-Berry '22** and **Lucas Rodriguez '22**, the team gained momentum this fall after sweeping Antilles' JV volleyball tournament, and according to Coach Theo, never let their guard down.

"We also have some great athletes coming up behind them, especially the seventh graders who we hope to see return next year," Coach Theo said. "With what they've learned, they can be the leaders, teach control, and help win more games."

Along with fielding several top individual athletes, second place finishes in some sports showed how far other teams – such as girls' junior varsity basketball – have come this year.

"We earned a second place finish in the league, upsetting some powerhouse teams along the way," Mr. Daniel said of the girls' JV basketball team. "This season was a tremendous victory for our young program. With six seventh graders, and one sixth grader on the roster, we truly built our way up and refused to let anyone break us down. Lead by our passionate, hardworking, dedicated captain **Kashish Chainani '22**, the girls showed a tremendous amount of effort and heart in the face of what proved to be insurmountable circumstances. I can't wait to see what they do next year."

Meanwhile, for the first time in years, our boys' volleyball team also headed to Orlando for a tournament that exposed each player to a higher level of competition, and allowed for new networking opportunities with stateside teams.



"We have a chemistry - we know how to play on the court together," **Jacques Liegeard '19** and **Joseph Sibilly, Jr. '19** said of the trip.

"But with the seniors moving on to college, what's left is a much younger team, and it was great to have the opportunity to go and help them continue to build by learning from other stronger teams."

Now Mr. Daniel said the goal is to maintain that level of play.

"On both the junior varsity and varsity levels, we are now at the point in our program where we can seriously begin to look into the future," Mr. Daniel said. "We can see the talent that's coming up and nurture them, we can recruit to fill holes, and we can put in place some of those extra things our kids need to really succeed, like developmental programs and training."

Having access to the Mark C. Marin Center for those practices and programs has been critical, Mr. Daniel said. The gym often doubles as a premiere event space, and while the rental income is a critical component of Antilles' fundraising strategy, **Head of School Liz Morrison** has been rolling out a more balanced model, with programming as the priority, and event bookings falling during holiday breaks or the summer months.

A total remake of the space, with new rims, nets, and floors gave the program another leg up.

"This was our blank canvas," Mr. Daniel said of the Center. "We had the facility, we had the equipment, and after that, we needed to ensure that we had the right quality coaches who would put in the time, and come in to work with the players. And we were fortunate to be able to achieve that. In some sports, we are not yet on the same level with other schools, but with the right coaching and continued practice, we can get to a point where we're comfortable."

Increased playing opportunities and continued training are the next steps to success, Mr. Daniel said.

"Playing over the summer, during breaks, in the off-season - by doing that, we won't be as shell-shocked going in during the year," he explained. "We won't have to be nervous or worry, we can just get right out there and do our thing. And I believe that we can continue to go far - there's a lot more championships in us yet!"





# Thriving in College



**Joshua Farrell '17 | New York University**

## **Major: Jazz Studies (Performance) and Business Marketing**

This past year has been filled with incredible opportunities. I have been fortunate to connect with some amazing artists and collaborate on projects with them as well. Not only has music given me the opportunity to play and record with some of my favorite artists, but this year I have truly learned the importance of networking and building relationships.

I have gotten the chance to perform at many venues in the city of New York alongside friends, but more importantly, tremendous artists in their own right. In the month of June, I toured with the VI Jazz Collective, which is a newly formed group in collaboration with United Jazz Foundation, under the directorship of Dion Parson, to New York, New Jersey, and Maine. The members include my former band mates of the VI Youth Ensemble, and I must say it was fun performing/traveling with them. We had the chance of starting the tour in our hometown, St. Thomas, and shortly after, traveled to New York to play at Dizzy's Club Coca Cola and after, mix and master our own performance at the Stevens Institute in New Jersey.

It has been a pleasure to impact the lives of people through the music and hear from them first-hand the effect that the music has had on them. One of my favorite moments from the summer is having younger drummers come up to me and ask me questions about how they can improve, or what books to check out. So I have started giving drum lessons to young drummers in New York which is a great opportunity in itself because I remember when I was once young with no instruction, but simply a passion for the music.

I look forward to making more music with my brothers of the VI Jazz Collective and many other artists, who I have plans to work with as well.

To anyone who has dreams, I say keep chasing them and making plans to achieve them.



# Thriving in College

## Paige Clarke '16 | Dartmouth College

### Major: Government

During my Spring semester as a senior at Antilles, I began interning at Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett's office on St. Thomas. The experience greatly influenced my decision to attend Dartmouth College, where I'm now in my final year, majoring in Government with a double minor in Hispanic Studies and Markets, Management and Economy.

Throughout the course of this internship, I became increasingly more interested in potentially pursuing a career in the political sphere. During my freshman year at Dartmouth, I took a wide variety of Government classes - ranging from commodities and trade in Latin America to the foundations of democracy - which further cemented my interest in the field.

I spent my freshman summer in an immersion program in Santander, Spain and as Dartmouth runs on a trimester system, I took off my sophomore winter and returned to Congresswoman Plaskett's St. Thomas office. During this internship, I took part in the territory-wide recovery efforts following Hurricanes Irma and Maria and was able to witness the tangible, positive impacts that were made by Congresswoman Plaskett's office

This past winter, I once again returned to Congresswoman Plaskett's office, but interned in the D.C. location. While working in the D.C. office, I attended hearings and briefings, aided in the legislation process, and gained a deeper understanding of careers in the political sphere, as well as many other valuable experiences. This exposure increased my interest in Law School and while home this summer, I have been interning at KFK, PLLC while studying for the LSAT.

During my time at Dartmouth, I have continued to pursue sailing. I am currently the Dartmouth Sailing Team Captain as well as the President of the New England Intercollegiate Sailing Association. Overall, I am looking forward to my last year of Undergraduate studies.



# A Year of Assemblies



Gathering on Friday mornings throughout the year, Middle and Upper Schoolers heard about a range of cultural traditions and experiences from religious leaders, local historians, visiting musicians, Army veterans, and even a few of their peers.

We are grateful to each of our presenters, who exposed us to new ideas and perspectives, and gave us the chance to learn more.

## Finding Common Ground

Being an activist doesn't mean forcing others to accept your opinion. It means being able to sit at a table with someone who thinks differently and find common ground.

While learning about the legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., **Attorney Casey Payton** helped us understand more about the breadth of the Civil Rights Movement with a presentation on the 1963 Children's Crusades that showed: how peaceful can still mean powerful, how taking "action" can simply mean doing the right thing, and how the voices of young people can be strong enough to make a difference.

(Scan the QR code to hear more)

## The Language of Music

The opportunity to re-connect with a college classmate led **Staff Sgt. Joie Byrd** to Antilles this fall, where she spent two days on campus mentoring Middle and Upper School flute students who share her passion for music.

Educational outreach is actually Sgt. Byrd's favorite part of being in the **U.S. Army's Old Guard Fife & Drum Corps**, which has continued to preserve the musical history and traditions of the armed forces for more than 50 years.

A tool once used mostly for communicating in battle, music also plays a role in connecting communities in times of celebration, sorrow, and ceremony.

## Lightening the Load

Removing from his olive rucksack a combat helmet and field vest **Lieutenant Colonel Howard Zimmerman P'27, P'29**, showed students that it is possible for them to "lighten their loads" despite the obstacles - or baggage - they might be carrying around.

The powerful visual during a presentation on Veteran's Day also showed that everyone, at one time or another, hits moments of difficulty and disappointment. Rather than blaming others, Howard empowered our students to take responsibility.

"Anytime you hit a roadblock or obstacle, it's not a stop sign," Howard said. "It just means you have to readjust and say, good. I can do better next time. And then, you actually do."



# A Year of Assemblies

## The Festival of Lights

Beyond the celebration, Diwali is at heart a time for people to come together, to share blessings, build new friendships and, above all, to give and forgive.

"You pray for yourself and your family, but you also pray for your next door neighbor, your friends, even people you've disagreed with," **Kanta Vasandmalani P'14, P'09** said when speaking to Middle and Upper School about the holiday. "Because, it is in the giving that we receive - and that is a message that we should be celebrating every day, taking that light within us and spreading it out into the world."

Thanks to Kanta for sharing more about the significance of Diwali, and to our Middle and Upper School students for helping us celebrate with these special performances

## The Real Miracle of Hanukkah

The real miracle of Hanukkah isn't about the oil that lasted for eight days, it's about the resiliency of the Jewish people and the determination of one community to survive, **Rabbi Michael Feshbach** shared while speaking to Middle and Upper School students about the evolution of the holiday.

"Of all the cultures that came into contact with the ancient Greeks as they sought to expand their empire, it was only the Macabees who were able to maintain their own identity.

And they were able to do that by being open to change - they let in new ways, but they were Jewish first. That strength, that sense of self - that power is the real miracle," he said.

## Chinese New Year

Pig books, stuffed animals, and even pig art was on display this year as **Lower School librarian Carol Wax** celebrated Chinese New Year with a tribute to the Year of the Pig and a reading of Yeh-Shen, the world's oldest known version of Cinderella.

Our Middle and Upper School also learned more about the significance of the holiday, celebrated this year on February 5, from **Maggie Huang '19**, who shared her own family's traditions and how they come together each year over food, gifts, and laughter.

Encouraging students to embrace the spirit of the New Year, Maggie spoke about setting new goals, letting go of past disappointments, and looking to the future with a positive outlook.



# Enhancing the Conversation

**By: Assistant Head of School Shannon Harris**

According to the National Association of Independent Schools' Principles of Good Practice for equity and justice, member schools such as Antilles are expected to create and sustain diverse, inclusive, equitable, and just communities that are safe and welcoming for all. This includes valuing the representation and full engagement of individuals within our community whose differences include - but are not limited to - age, ethnicity, family makeup, gender identity and expression, learning ability, physical ability, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

We've established the foundation of our commitment in our stated mission and core values of Excellence, Diversity, and Community. To individually and collectively demonstrate this commitment, we need to intentionally engage in ongoing reflection, listening, strategic planning, action, and accountability.

Reflecting on the promises we make as a School, we are examining the ways we meet and exceed those promises, and the ways in which we fall short. Embracing diversity is wonderful and it is not enough. A diverse environment is a description, a fact. An inclusive community in which each member feels seen and valued is a higher aspiration. If we seek to prepare our students to be culturally competent leaders in the world, we have to embrace a sense of urgency over gradualism, easier said than done. One avenue to move forward is having Antilles students participate in the NAIS Student Diversity Leadership Conference, a multiracial, multicultural gathering of upper school student leaders from across the country.

"It's an incredible opportunity for us to immerse ourselves in a new, welcoming community of committed student leaders to learn more about pressing topics facing young people in our country," **Isabel Villegas '19** said about her experience in 2018. "I am incredibly grateful to have met so many students both very similar and different from myself, and to be able to participate in discussions that can help us ensure Antilles is an inclusive community for every student."





# Enhancing the Conversation

Led by a diverse team of facilitators, participating students develop cross-cultural communication skills, design effective strategies for social justice practice through dialogue and the arts, and learn the foundations of allyship and networking principles.

In 2017, we had two students travel to Anaheim, California to represent Antilles School for the first time. **Maggie Klotzbach '21** who is the co-president of our School's Diversity Club said, "I would describe SDLC as an incredibly worthwhile and eye-opening experience. It gave me the opportunity to express my own ideas and opinions, as well as gain insight into various other perspectives. I also acquired so many new concepts and activities that I could take back with me, and it revitalized my passion for leadership in the Antilles community."

In 2018, we had five students travel to Nashville, Tennessee. Among those students, **Janae Boschulte '21** also described it as an eye-opening experience and added, "I learned so much about different people and their experiences. I really hope it's an opportunity for other Antilles students."

Putting institutional resources behind diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice work is a powerful statement that yields action, and it was an honor for me to be able to create a fund that would support Antilles staff and students being able to participate for years to come. I saw this effort as a demonstration of our commitment to an inclusive School community.

It's imperative that we're able to explore our own identities and sharpen our cultural competency, an indisputable 21st century skill that serves not only the individual but also every person and environment they encounter. My hope is that as we have students and staff participate annually, all will return to campus empowered and equipped to lead and hold each other accountable to being true to our School's stated mission and values.

The relationships that must be cultivated in order for us to be the most effective teachers or advisors go way beyond the content. It's about the student experiences and identities that show up in the classrooms. We can't be truly excellent without being culturally competent and responsive.

I am grateful for the support received as this effort continues to build. Trustee **Carol Baker-Robinson's** two children - **Taylor '18** and **Brad '22** - have participated in the conference, which she has described as an informative, inspiring, and life-changing experience. From there, Carol mobilized her resources to support my vision of the PoCC/SDLC fund and in presenting the School with a \$10,000 check from The Ritz-Carlton, she spoke about the value that these efforts have in helping our students to "walk the walk on this crucially important topic."

"I throw my glass, that others might throw their jade."

I read that Peter Gruber said this about his philosophy of philanthropy and - while I could never compare my giving to the Grubers' generosity - that line has stuck with me. I am reminded that although my gift may be small, I can still contribute and perhaps launch something beyond my capacity to give. In this case, I've been able to fund my own participation and offer some "glass" for others. I am most appreciative of our donors who can offer their treasure toward this effort, and I am excited to return this year with a new group of students: **Anika Hahnfeld '20**, **Araba Penn '22**, **Eesha Ved '21**, and **Milan Sakhrani '20**.

“Shannon Harris is our fearless leader with this initiative, having poured time and care into being the inspiration for change.”

**Liz Morrison, Head of School**

# Black History Month Festival

It was just about 10 years ago that **Briana Adams-Seaton '12** and **Jean Forde '12** organized Antilles' first Black History Month Fair.

"At our previous school, the highlight of every year was the Black History Month Fair," Briana said. "It was a time where we engaged with local storytellers and historians, and enjoyed local food and music. When Jean and I came to Antilles together in Middle School, we talked about bringing the experience with us – and in ninth grade, we finally proposed it. The rest, like they say, is history."

While the theme of the celebration varies, it has continued over the past decade to include storytellers, musicians, re-enactments, biographies, student-produced videos, and poetry recitations that honor the accomplishments and legacies of impactful African-Americans. This year's event added a special art exhibit that gave students the chance to explore themes such as unity and equality, while expressing their hopes for the future.

"In planning this, it's important for us as a group to always think of ways of including the entire School community and giving anyone who wants to participate a safe platform for expression," organizer **Kevin Hughes, Jr. '19** said of this year's fair. "Themes like forgiveness, which we used this year, are something we can all relate to, and gives us all a chance to be a part of the conversation."

As Briana and Jean had envisioned 10 years ago, guest speakers at the event also help weave together the history with Caribbean culture, traditions, and thought.

"My favorite memory from the first year was when the Charlotte Amalie High School Jazz Band performed a medley of Bob Marley's greatest hits," Briana shared. "I'll never forget the look on the faces of our students as they sang along and swayed to the music. That moment felt like a true embodiment of the 'community' in our School's motto – and it was simply amazing to be a part of it."

This year we were honored to welcome **Federal Public Defender Melanie Turnbull, VI** storyteller and author **Yohanse Henley**, and culture bearers **Dara Monifa Cooper** and **Yisrael Petersen** who made us laugh, taught us how to listen to one another, and, of course, shared the best way to tie on mocko jumbie stilts. It was wonderful to see how, through music, re-enactments, videos, biographies, and art, our students were able to tell the stories of impactful African-Americans and celebrated their accomplishments, while reflecting on their own hopes for unity and equality.





# Celebrating VI History Month

Throughout March, our Pre-kindergarten classes showed us how they celebrated VI History Month in the classroom!

First, our early learners shared their love of going to the beach and, designing their own beach bags, shared the most important things to take along for a day near the water. (Snacks, snorkel, sunscreen, and suits were among the top must-haves).

Going over their favorite beaches on island, our classes learned about the history of Lindbergh Bay. Formerly known as Mosquito Bay, the area was renamed after renowned aviator Charles Lindbergh made a stop on St. Thomas after completing his first solo flight across the Atlantic.

Lindbergh was invited to visit by Governor Melvin H. Evans and without an airport on St. Thomas at the time, two sites -- Sugar Estate and Mosquito Bay -- were tested for him to land on. So great was the excitement surrounding the visit that the property was officially renamed from Mosquito Bay Estate to Lindbergh Bay.

Our students were also excited to learn how Fort Christian, built between 1672 and 1680, has been used in the past centuries and why it's such a significant historical monument. Red, strong, 300 years old, and designed to protect St. Thomas from marauders, the Fort is now a museum that houses some of our territory's most important historical treasures.

Along with learning the words to The VI March, our students also wrapped up the month by getting to know more about composer Alton Adams, Sr. -- the US Navy's First African-American band master and VI native -- and how he was able to convey a feeling of hometown pride and camaraderie through his lyrics.

Students identified most with Adams' description of the territory's sandy beaches, green hills, and bright blue waters. Other things that are green blue and sandy? Iguanas, the sky, and the play area in the ELC, where students also said they love to visit every day.

We were excited to wrap up the month with a weekend tour of historic Charlotte Amalie, hosted by our Parent Association and organized by **Lorraine Richardson P'26**. Along with understanding more about the structure of our town, we also learned how our buildings -- such as Blackbeard's Castle and Fort Christian -- were set up to protect it. The political evolution of our islands, and its people, were also brought to life by guide Garfield Marshall, who spoke about everything from the Danish occupation to the 1878 Fireburn and the figures who fought for laborers' rights.





# There's No "I" in TEAM

## Parent Association Support | International Dinner & Family Volunteer Day

We were thankful this year for the leadership and support of our Parent Association, a dedicated group of Antilles families, whose goal of increasing the level of parent participation in activities, fundraising, and the organization of School events, culminated this year in a few signature experiences that helped to bring our entire community together.

The newly formed PA is a take on our old Parent Teacher Association, which has been responsible for decades for organizing the traditional Antilles School International Dinner. The dinner started out as a potluck for families more than 30 years ago, and has migrated from the St. Thomas Yacht Club, back to campus. The event truly showcases the ethnic diversity of our School by spotlighting food and traditions from all over the world - and gives our entire island community the chance to come out, connect, and enjoy a fun evening on campus.

Classroom baskets organized by parents also helps raise funds for the PA, which then supports everything from Teacher Appreciation activities to student leadership conferences.

"This community-wide event really also brings us together as a School," says **Aparna Nagpal '81**, who has helped organize the event for the PA. "We love seeing families dress up in their traditional cultural clothes, there are dances and performances, and just this great opportunity for us all to get to know one another better. It's been one of my favorite events since I went to school here, and I know everyone just loves coming together and enjoying the night."

Parents volunteering at the event also had the chance to put their hours toward the PA's Three for Me initiative, which this year inspired families to give three hours or more to the school. A family Volunteer Day in November was one of the organization's most attended events, bringing out more than 100 parent volunteers to help man volleyball tournaments, work the Duck Derby, or improve campus.

In just one day, volunteers logged a combined 225 hours and were able to complete, among other things:

- \* Painting the field house interior and exterior, and adding a rubber floor upstairs
- \* Planting outside Lower School classrooms
- \* Painting and cleaning the Lower School Gazebo
- \* Constructing a brand new Lower School greenhouse
- \* Painting the green room and other parts of Prior Jollek Hall.

Thank you, Parent Association - and to all families who supported us this year!





**\$70K** INVESTED IN  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
FOR FACULTY AND STAFF

**8** ATHLETIC  
CHAMPIONSHIPS

**125**  
COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY  
ACCEPTANCES OVER THE LAST YEAR:



**20** BAGS OF RECYCLING SORTED  
PER WEEK = 700/YEAR

**GREEN  
TEAM**

700 LOCAL SEEDLINGS  
(PALMS, SUNFLOWERS, AND HERBS)  
HARVESTED FOR STUDENT  
DISTRIBUTION AND PLANTING

**7:1**  
STUDENT-TO-TEACHER RATIO  
**8** STUDENT AND FACULTY MEMBERS  
ATTENDED NAIS PEOPLE OF COLOR CONFERENCE

HELPING US TO GROW A MORE CULTURALLY COMPETENT COMMUNITY

**20**  
VISUAL &  
PERFORMING  
ARTS  
OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR STUDENTS  
GRADES PREK3-12

AVERAGE  
CLASS SIZE  
**15**  
STUDENTS

**3** PRESIDENTIAL  
SCHOLAR  
NOMINEES **& 2** MERIT  
SCHOLAR  
FINALISTS

**\$100K**  
IN NEW EQUIPMENT FOR  
JACKSON FITNESS,  
WHICH OFFERS HEALTH, WELLNESS,  
AND NUTRITIONAL OPTIONS FOR  
STUDENTS AND FACULTY

**453**  
STUDENTS

2018 - 2019

**YEAR AT A GLANCE**



