

The Provi Press

Student Newsletter

March - April 2025

Issue # 2

WOMAN IS BOSS

Bright Futures for Providence's Class of 2025

Faith Ellis

On Wednesday the 30th of April the boisterous yet charming Class of 2025, both Form 5s and Upper 6s, had their graduation ceremony at St. Francis RC Church, Belmont. Cheers and applause filled the building as the cohort received their certificates marking the end of their secondary school journey and the beginning of exciting new chapters.

The Dean Ms. Shalto and her team of teachers diligently organized the ceremony and prepared the girls, while Mrs. Oblington hosted, earning appreciation from all attendees. The Class of 2025, elegantly attired in their uniforms, were honoured by their parents, relatives, friends, and the school faculty. It was a heartwarming ceremony that highlighted both the academic achievements as well as the personal growth of the girls as members of the school community.

Guest speaker Mrs. Maryam Ali, a former pupil of Providence Girls' Catholic, gave an inspiring speech. She talked about her lack lustre performance during her school years and the motivations that led her to England to pursue Child Psychology. Mrs. Maryam Ali is now an accomplished Child Psychologist and has opened the first nursing home in the country that focuses primarily on female dementia patients. Her achievements gave hope to those students who felt they may have fallen short in their school lives.



GRADUATION 2025



The Valedictorian speeches formally read by Kimora Coward for the Upper 6s and Imani Glenn for the Form 5s were both touching and witty as they spoke of their own memories as well as recalled the times of both fun and trial leading up to the momentous occasion. **More on next page**

Celebrating 165 years of Excellence in Education



GRADUATION 2025



Continued...

Father Mikkel Trestrail, the beloved School Chaplain, then led the moving final Mass. He shared the inspiring story of a young man named Carlo Acutis, a teenager who died of leukaemia in 2006 and is to become the first saint of this generation. His message served as a powerful reminder of faith, dedication, and the impact one life can have.

Following the speeches and Holy Mass the girls received their Certificates rewarded for completing Secondary School as well as Special Certificates for those who aided in community service and played a key role in their extra curriculars.

Principal Mrs. Krisal Gorin gave a moving and encouraging speech to the girls which created bursts of laughter from the audience as she recalled the events that transpired as the girls grew as women in the school. The ceremony closed quite fittingly with the singing of the school song, which the girls sang loud and proud.

As a member of the graduating Form 5 Class of 2025, I speak for myself and many others as I say it's a relief that the hardships of school life are coming to an end but the memories both joyous and saddening will remain with us as we take our leave.



GRADUATION 2025



Words of Wisdom

Imani Glenn



*Our Lady of Divine Providence
Award Winner 2025*

"We often try to avoid these parts of life, the struggles, the trials and tribulations. It is often that we run in the face of adversity. We have routines as humans, our comfort zone, our safe space, a place we could retreat to the second something goes wrong in life, but life is not a routine, it is not a bubble and most certainly it is not a safe place. It's these changes, big or small, that shape us, that make us.

Time heals, time grows and time changes us. It's something that passes by in the blink of an eye and we never fully treasure it, but, if we embrace all the little moments only then will we grow. So my dear graduates, be present, don't run from these moments, don't let them pass you by, be there in the moment and enjoy every second and remember that the rest is just confetti."

Kimora Coward



"Life is not perfect; we all have our ups and downs. What matters is our resilience, the ability to get back up and keep pushing forward. I have also learned that God never leaves his children undone. Difficulties often serve a greater purpose, guiding us toward a better path. Always remember, yes, we may be faced with challenges in our lives and start doubting ourselves and the work God has done, but it is important to note that God always has something bigger and better in store for his children even when we do not see or feel his miracles happening."

*Outgoing Head Girl, Our Lady of Divine Providence
Award Winner 2023*

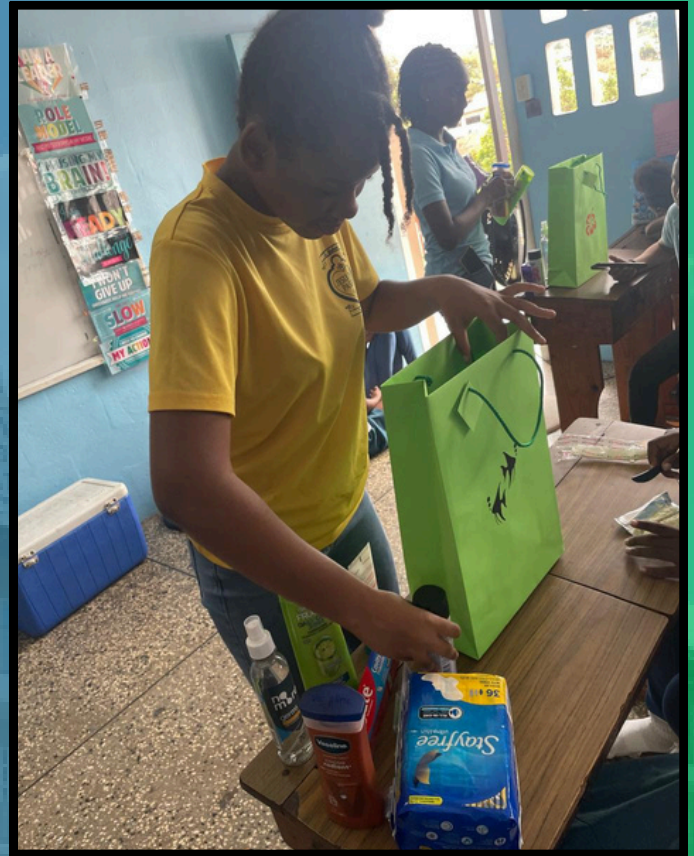


HE IS RISEN! AN EASTER REFLECTION

Mary Daisley

The 40 days of Lent mirror the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness. Lent is the season for prayer, fasting, and giving alms, which are three acts that bring us closer to God. This is also in preparation for Good Friday, when Jesus was crucified, died, and was buried for our sins. Lent provides an opportunity for us to reflect on our sins, seek forgiveness from God, give up habits that take our attention away from Him or fast from something we enjoy.

As Christians and Roman Catholics, we believe we were born into sin. The transition from Lent to Easter represents the sacrifice Jesus Christ made to wash us from sin, but also the sacrifices we make from habits that, in the end, bring us closer to living in His image. Easter is the celebration of Christ's resurrection. Though it is His resurrection, it is also a call for our own renewal. I believe it is a reminder that light triumphs over darkness, and from death comes new life because through Christ, there is eternal life. Pain and sorrow fade with each tomorrow, and there is always hope, because He lives!



We can experience the Resurrected Christ by actively living out our faith. Here are some helpful tips:

- Study scriptures from the Bible. This aids in our understanding of God and His plans.
- Join a youth group with others who are open to living out their faith.
- Give to those in need, whether it is in the Church or in your community.
- Pray daily. This allows a personal connection with God and deepens our relationship with Him.
- Adopt an attitude of gratitude. Find a reason each day to be grateful to God and praise Him for each little blessing.

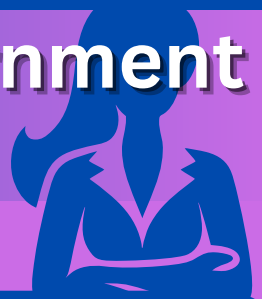
From these actions, we open ourselves to experience the risen Christ more deeply and return His light to the world around us.



Students of Form 2G prepare hampers for the needy

Leading Ladies - Women in Government

Anjali Khan



On March 19th, eight of our Provi girls headed to Bishop Anstey to attend a panel discussion on women in politics. We were introduced to three female politicians who have significantly impacted our Parliament: Renuka Sagrarsingh-Sooklal, Allyson West, and Pernelle Beckles-Robinson.

Senator the Honourable Renuka Sagrarsingh-Sooklal, an attorney with the People's National Movement, was appointed to the Senate in August 2020 and served as Minister in the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs. Though she contested the St. Augustine seat unsuccessfully in 2020 and 2025, she has contributed to significant legislation, such as the Anti-Gang and Cannabis Control Bills and strongly advocates for women in leadership.

Senator the Honourable Allyson West, a tax attorney and PNM member, has served in the Senate since 2017. She began as Minister in the Ministry of Finance, focusing on tax reform and revenue systems, and was later appointed Minister of Public Administration in 2019. West was also the PNM Coordinator for Cumuto/Manzanilla and remains active in public sector modernisation and community development.

Pernelle Beckles-Robinson is a veteran attorney and PNM politician, currently serving as Opposition Leader, MP for Arima and formerly Minister of Planning and Development. Since entering Parliament in 1995, she has held roles including Minister of Social Development, Culture and Tourism, and Public Utilities and the Environment. In 2016, she was appointed Trinidad and Tobago's UN Representative and later became Co-Chair of the UN Women Executive Board. Mrs Beckles-Robinson is respected for her dedication to public service and community development.

While the discussion mainly took the form of a Q&A session, it touched on important topics such as gender stereotypes, trials and tribulations and women's empowerment. I was particularly struck by the speakers' stories of perseverance and their varying experiences in the political world. It made me more aware of the barriers women overcame in leadership as the years have passed. We, as the next generation of young women, have incredible opportunities to rise and create meaningful change. The one takeaway I would like to pass on to my Provi community is: Failure is not rejection, it is redirection. Use fear and failure as fuel and walk in faith.

It's in her hands; it's in her stride—
She walks like legacy, talks like pride.
She bends the future like light through glass,
Breaks through ceilings no one thought she'd surpass.

Boss lady,
It's in her roots, her voice, her fire—
She rises bold, she climbs up higher.
Built the bridges, coded the core,
Laid down the science, opened the door.
Invented the windshield wiper, the home security,
The first computer algorithm—pure ingenuity.

Boss lady,
she's math, she's mind, she's might,
She's the voice in darkness turning on the light.
Angela Davis with fists in the sky,
Refused to bow, refused to lie.
Brilliant, with a cause in her chest,
Taught us resistance is power expressed.
Maya Angelou, wings of word and flame,
Rose from silence to make the world say her name.

Boss lady,
poet, prophet, phoenix in lace—
Taught us to rise with dignity and grace.
Harriet Tubman with freedom in her stride,
Led her people like the stars were her guide.
Malala stood though the world said no,
with books as armour, she let her wisdom show.
Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote justice into law,
A quiet storm with a steel-core draw.

Boss lady,
from court to clinic, from mic to mic,
She's every form of power alike.
We young women with dreams on our tongue,
We stand on shoulders of those who sang
and bled and spoke and wrote and fought—
We are the revolution they never forgot.

Boss lady,
it's our turn now to lead the way,
To shape tomorrow from today.
not just a name, not just a stance—
It's the legacy of giving dreams a chance.
It's the echo of a thousand fierce and free—
Boss lady,
We are history, and history is she.



Favourite Memories

I have too many great memories to choose from in my years attending Providence but most of them are linked to my time in the Drama Club. While the special days of Drama competitions and Haunting House displays were great, Mrs. Oblington created a safe, expressive, joyous family through the club that I got to enjoy weekly after school.

Accomplishments

- Top honours in the CSEC Spanish examination
- Most Outstanding Student in Social Studies.
- Bachelor's degree in Psychology with minors in Criminology & Criminal Justice and Spanish at the University of the West Indies. I graduated with Upper Second-Class Honours.
- I'm currently working toward my Master's in Counselling Psychology because my work has always been about more than surface-level beauty. It's about total wellness.
- In 2020, I launched District Aesthetics Holistic Wellness Medical Spa, a business built on my belief that self-care is more than a luxury, it's a form of mental health care. I specialize in advanced and medical-grade skincare treatments, trained by internationally recognized skincare brands. More than anything, I pride myself on creating a space where people feel seen, supported, and empowered.

KIMBERLY GANESH
CLASS OF 2017

Advice for the Boss Ladies Rising Behind Me

To every young woman stepping into her power: put your faith in yourself and tackle life without doubt. Don't let fear of competition or oversaturation stop you. There's more than enough space for you. When it comes to your dreams, especially your own business, imagine putting the same time and energy into it that you would give to someone else's. That's how you grow. That's how you thrive. And please, don't wait for the "perfect" time to start. It won't come. Start with what you have, right where you are, and take the leap.



Favourite Memories

- Visiting the nearby St. Andrew's Home for the Aged to distribute lunches and engage in conversation. It was very insightful to learn from the ladies and their memories. Also sang for them for Christmas as a class.
- Partaking in school events such as Cookout, Bazaar and Sports Days. I was on the disco committee for "Neon Reloaded" as well.

Accomplishments

- Providence Award for English Language.
- First in Accounting based on CSEC Merit List.
- Merit List for CAPE Exams - 9th in the Caribbean
- Opened my own business, Pedilees' during a worldwide pandemic specializing in natural footcare products and pedicure services. - October 2020
- Article in the Women's Newsday Featuring my business, Pedilee's.
- Opened my own Pedicure Station at a spa in Woodbrook, Serenesoma recently.



LEANNA KHAN
CLASS OF 2018

Advice for Upcoming Boss Ladies

With everything, find time to balance both your education, skills and social life and stay true to your passion.

"The only way to do great work is to love what you do" -
Steve Jobs





DOMINIQUE PATTERSON
CLASS OF 2019

Favourite Memories

One of my fondest memories from my time at Providence was spending time with friends beneath the beautiful poui trees in the schoolyard, a simple yet meaningful part of my school experience.

Accomplishments

- Diploma and Advanced Diploma in Business Management and Marketing in 2020.
- Bachelor's degree in Business Management in 2022
- Founded my own salon, Chelz Beauty Salon, offering hair and luxury nail services.

These experiences have not only allowed me to develop valuable skills but have also granted me the opportunity to purchase my first new car and travel the world, experiences for which I am deeply grateful.

Advice for Upcoming Boss Ladies

As I reflect on my journey, my advice for aspiring leaders is to build strong, positive habits from a young age. These habits, such as setting realistic budgets to foster long-term savings, establishing both yearly and five-year goals, and beginning investment savings early, can lay a solid foundation for success.

In both personal business ventures and when working for a company, I believe in the importance of always striving for excellence. Focusing on quality over quantity leads to more significant, lasting rewards.

Lastly, believe in your own strengths and capabilities. Don't wait for external approval, as your vision may not always align with others' perceptions. Remember, every successful product or service began as an idea in someone's mind before it became a reality. Trust in your potential and keep moving forward.

SPORT AND FAMILY DAY 2025



On Wednesday, 10th March, the PGCS community met at Fatima Grounds to kick back and relax at our Family and Sports day.

After the dust settled and all competitions were completed, St. Gabriel emerged as the overall winners of the day.



Calling All Collaborators!



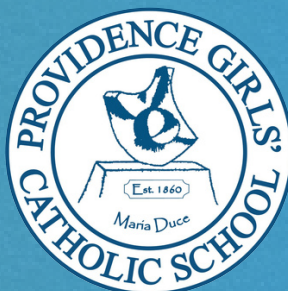
Do you have important/exciting news or a creative piece that you would like to share with the school? Then send your art, pictures, information, and /or articles to Mrs.Oblington on Teams or doblington@gmail.com

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Celebrating 165 years of Excellence in Education