



BRIEF REMARKS

by

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MINISTER OF EDUCATION

on the occasion of:

**C.R.Walker Senior High School's
Honour Roll Ceremony**

at

**C.R.Walker Senior High School
Baillou Hill Road
Nassau Bahamas
9:30 a.m.**

14th, January 2010

Salutations:

1. Permanent Secretary – Mrs. Elma Garraway

2. Principal - Ms. Paulene Adderley

3. Vice Principals: – Mr. James Clarke & Mrs. Beverly Beneby &
other administrators

4. Mrs. Juliette Barnwell –Chairman of the School Board
& Members of the School Board

5. Mrs. Marsha Thompson – President of the Parents,
Teachers Association & Members of the PTA

6. Dedicated Teachers

7. Other Stakeholders

8. Parents & Students

Good Morning!

This morning, I feel blessed to be in the presence of the intelligent and super talented Knights of the C.R. Walker Senior High School. Students, you are an inspiration to us all, and I am happy to celebrate your accomplishments at this Honour Roll Ceremony. Your pursuit of excellence in education has led you to this point and I encourage you to test the boundaries and to go beyond the stars. Students anything is possible if you remain focused.

Remaining focused, however, is not always easy. There are many distractions out there that can sidetrack us and keep us from rising to our fullest potential. Such things as: cell phones, overuse and negative use of the internet, Nintendo, playstation, television, partying, and deviant behavior and company can present major obstacles to your academic and overall success. If we added a lack of respect for authority to this, we have a definite recipe for failure. Respect and responsibility are necessary tools for success both in your school lives and personal lives. Begin to cultivate them now. It is critical that you take part of the responsibility for your life's journey by endeavoring to make good decisions always.

Students, we, at the Ministry of Education and your wonderful team of administrators and teachers here at your school seek positive outcomes for you. Your theme: ***“Inspired to Achieve, Empowered to Succeed”*** supports our vision for you. Through your school’s *core* and *optional* subject offerings, along with the knowledges and experiences provided by the *magnet programmes* such as: Academic Science, Nautical Science and Business & Marketing, we hope to give you the wings and the motivation to strive to be the best that you can be. You all have a great contribution to make and we will do everything that is in our power to help you to get there.

We are here this morning because many of you decided to take up the challenge of displaying excellence in all that you do. I am told that there are eighty eight (88) of you who have performed exceptionally well. Eight of you have been named to the **Principal’s List** having attained a GPA of 3.50 to 4.00, and the 80 of you have been named to the **Honour Roll** having attained a GPA of 3.00 to 3.49. This morning I want to congratulate and recognize the top achievers, those who have been named to the Principal’s List:

- *Shante Culmer* –GPA **3.78** (Grade 12)

- *Tamara Robinson*- GPA **3.70** (Grade 12)
- *Marlen Lopez* – GPA **3.70** (Grade 10)
- *Perez Rolle* – GPA **3.67** (Grade 12)
- *Edraneice Ferguson* – GPA **3.64** (Grade 10)
- *Quincy Arthur* – GPA **3.50** (Grade 12)
- *Justine Metayer* – GPA **3.50** (Grade 11) and
- *Winnesha Pinnock* –GPA **3.50** (Grade 11)

Congratulations! Keep up the high standards. I am sure that some of you are going to follow the example of your outstanding teachers here at C.R. Walker and pursue careers in education. We want our best minds in Education because teachers are the people who shape the future of our country. We congratulate all of the honourees and encourage those of you with GPA's below 3.49 to make it your goal to be a part of your school's next Honour Roll celebrations in October of this year by raising your individual GPA's several points higher. I believe that you can do it. I challenge you to extend the Principal's List by at least eight more students, and the Honour Roll by at least forty. I understand that forty six percent (46%) of the student population were able to achieve a GPA of 2.00 or above for the school year 2008/09. This represents almost half of the

students. This year I challenge you to work so that more than 50% of you will achieve a GPA of 2.00 or above. You can do it and I am counting on you. Set personal standards of excellence for yourselves, work hard to achieve them and you will eventually rise above this figure.

Knights of C.R. Walker, you have distinguished yourselves from others by not only achieving academically, but in other areas such as: athletics, culture, and in the performing arts as well. We applaud you for your outstanding efforts in:

- The Bahamas National Pride Art Exhibition – 1st and 3rd Place Winners;
- Northwestern District Debating Champions;
- Future Teacher Cadet Debating Champions;
- 100% Pass Rate in Royal School of Music Examinations up to Level 4;
- GSSA Senior Girls Volleyball, Basketball & Softball Champions 2008/09;
- GSSA Senior Boys Softball & Track & Field Champions 2009/09;
- 2 Track & Field Silver Medalists at the Carifta Games in St. Lucia;

- BAAA National Cross Country Champions –Senior Division;
- Best Banner & Choreography Winners at Junior Junkanoo 2008; and
- 2nd Place Winner in 2009 High School Alternative Energy marketing campaign Competition.

All of you may not have your names listed on the Principal's List or make it to the Honour Roll, but we are proud of each of you who has tried to make a positive contribution to your school. Remember that how your school is perceived by the public depends on the image you portray. When you walk in the streets remember that you wear the uniform of the C.R. Walker Senior High School. This school was named after an outstanding Bahamian, Dr. Claudiau Roland Walker, a man who made outstanding contributions to the Grants Town community. Remember that when you walk the streets and especially when you sing your songs -remember the lyrics that Christian Massive raps "Pull you pants up boy." So let us continue to accomplish great things and to show the public at large that the Knights have a lot to offer to their school, their society and to our country.

Let me take this time to commend Mrs. Paulene Adderley and her very capable administrative team for expertly guiding the C.R. Walker School family. Always remember that the teachers expect good leadership from you and expect you to adhere to the same standards of excellence that you require of them. Continue to give them your support and to help them to pursue their professional aspirations. Teachers, your contributions to the nation's youth are greatly appreciated, for they could not have gotten very far without your nurturing spirit and remarkable ability to get the very best from them. I ask you along with all parents to take this time to renew your commitment to our children and to their success. We also express gratitude to the many stakeholders who support the school and would have donated in a tangible way to its overall success. I am told that BTC has donated cell phones and phone cards for our top performers. We thank you for this and for partnering with us in highlighting the achievements of our students.

Ladies and gentlemen as we go forward into the school year 2010-2011, I ask that each of us make a promise to touch the life of a child somewhere and to make it better. Once again congratulations to the Honour Roll students and to

every student here. Continue to persevere, study diligently, polish your skills, and most importantly make a promise to yourself that you will stay on course. Remember that you are special and I am looking forward to even greater accomplishments from you this year.

Best wishes to all of you.