

CHRONICLES OF RABALAC

The Old Boys Newsletter for Calabar News



**THE POST MELISSA
XMAS EDITION**

TODAYS NEWS

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Melissa Relief Support



HAPPY NEW YEAR!



COBA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Old Boys,

As we reflect on this past year, we must give God thanks for bringing us through a very trying year for our country, our school, and also for many of us. Hurricane Melissa greatly disrupted our lives and, in particular, some of our educational institutions. Fortunately, Calabar did not suffer much damage; we still must repair some leaking roofs and damaged ceilings. Calabar, despite its own issues, stepped up to the plate, and students, teachers, and parents participated in a cleanup day at Westwood High School. In addition, the football team engaged with the Cornwall High School and Mannings football team, and the management team made a donation of JA\$100,000-00 to Cornwall and \$100,000-00 to Mannings. COBA has also pledged to support Westwood High School, which was severely damaged by Melissa, and we are hoping to combine all the collections from local and overseas old boys and make one donation in early January.

At the recent school graduation, COBA was very present, and each member of the graduating class (over 170 students) received a COBA pin. We want to thank 2nd VP Howard James for spearheading this initiative. We also had our annual Cocktails & Awards ceremony in November, and from all accounts, it was considered a successful event, despite the limited support from local Old Boys, probably because it had to be rescheduled twice due to the general elections and Hurricane Melissa. We thank the organising committee, chaired by Michael Roofe, for the excellent work done by the committee, and we look forward to the 2026 awards function.

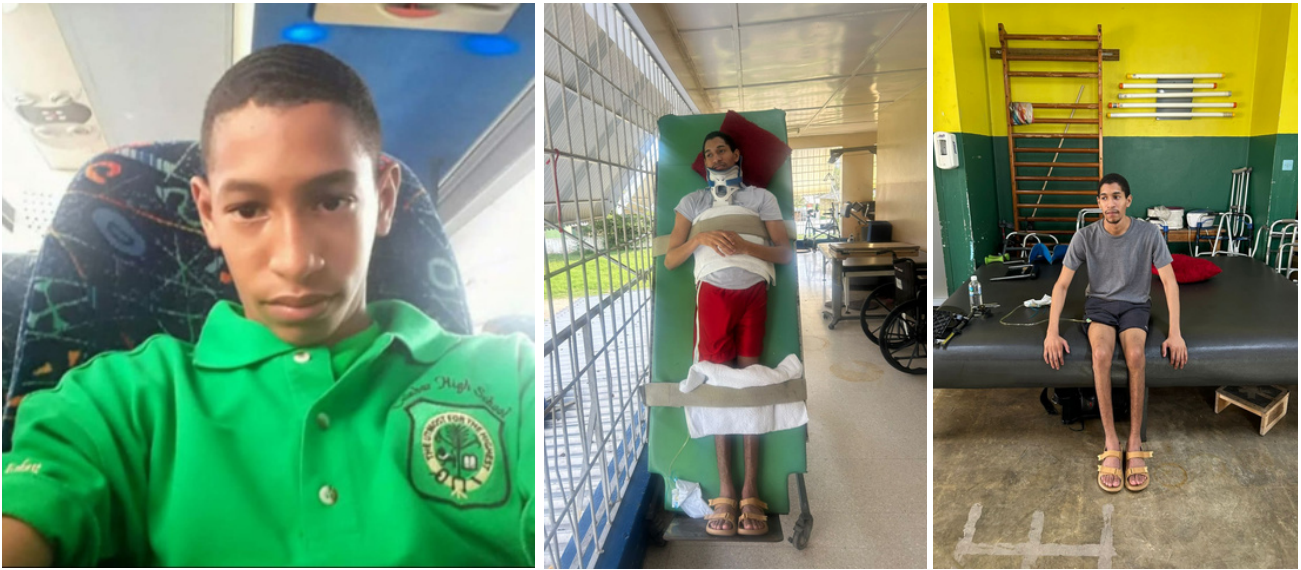
Our focus for 2026 will be the strengthening of the mentorship programme (we need more old boys to become mentors) and the restructuring of the library into a Resource Centre. We thank the old boys, especially those in the diaspora, for their continued financial support for Calabar, especially support for scholarships and extra-curricular activities. As we all work together to improve the learning environment at Calabar, let us pledge to do all we can in 2026.

I wish for you and your family, a peaceful and Holy Christmas and a great 2026.

Regards,

President Major Desmon Brown

UPDATE!



Christian Chatrrie, Our Cricket Captain

If you remember, in our last newsletter (3rd Edition, July-September), we shared about Christian Chatrrie, our Cricket Captain, who suffered a tragic fall from a tree, resulting in a spinal injury.

We have an update about his condition from a supportive Old Boy (dated December 10th):

“I recently spoke with Christian's dad. There have been massive improvements, and he has regained upper-body strength and the ability to move himself from his wheelchair to his bed. He is also beginning to regain feeling in his legs, specifically his toes, and slightly moves his right ankle. Hopefully, he will start university in January 2026. He is still at Mona Rehab and will be going home for Christmas and will continue his physio at home for the holidays. Mentally, he is in a good place, but as is sometimes expected, has his low moments. But, he is strong.”

This Young Lion is the epitome of what it means to be a Calabar Lion. Let's continue to support in any way we can.

All donations can be sent directly to the 61 Foundation, as follows: Zelle: info@the61foundation.org (Please reference Christian Chatrrie when making your donation). For further information regarding this appeal, please do not hesitate to contact Simmo, +1718) 724-3774. Thank you for your generosity and for upholding the legacy of care and community that defines our great school. HERE, SIR!”

Local donations can be made to: Roger Robotham +1876-381-0613

Mentorship Activities

This report provides an overview of the mentorship activities conducted by the Calabar Old Boys' Association (COBA) at Calabar High School during the period September to December 2025. These activities aimed to support students' academic, personal, and professional development through guidance and group mentoring sessions.

Overview

Thirty (30) COBA mentors indicated an interest in being engaged with students across various grade levels through scheduled sessions. Notably, ten (10) of these volunteers would have been via a virtual platform...the rest were 'in-person'.

The Activities would have included:

- Weekly mentorship session (Grades 7 -9) focusing on academic planning, goal setting, and study skills, among other topics.
- Career guidance (upper school) in diverse fields such as law, engineering, and entrepreneurship.
- Personal development seminars addressing topics like time management, leadership, and responsible decision-making.
- Identify at-risk students requiring additional support and encouragement through the established school's channels.

Highlights

- 'In-person' mentors were assigned for all Grades 7 and 8. The others were spread across Grades 9 -13
- The school's administration requested a mentor for a specific Grade 9 class with special needs. This request was fulfilled, and the mentor-mentee interactions began to gain traction.
- Guest speakers/mentors, including notable Calabar alumni, offering inspiration and practical advice, were slated for the latter part of the term
- Likewise, virtual meetings were held with the COBA overseas interests and Calabar's administrative representative to kick- start the Virtual Mentorship Program in October / November and have it integrated into the school's calendar.

The mentorship activities were significantly impacted by the enigmatic Category 5 hurricane Melissa that wreaked havoc on the island. In addition to the gradual attrition in mentors' attendance, the first term's accomplishments ended with a whimper.

Conclusion

COBA's mentorship programme at Calabar High School for the September to December 2025 period was, to say the least, disappointing. Successfully fostering students' growth and strengthening alumni-student relationships, coupled with continued support and expansion of additional initiatives, are required to further benefit the school community in the upcoming calendar year and beyond.



Graduation: Class of '25



Graduation Ceremony, November 2025

The Calabar Old Boys' Association welcomed new Graduates to the Association by pinning 150 young men with complimentary COBA lapel membership pins at the recent 2025 Graduation Ceremony, symbolizing their transition from boys to men.

Contact
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www.cobajamaica.com

Manning Cup Season 2025



MANNING CUP 2025 / 2026

We just concluded the 2025 ISSA football U19 competition where we made it to the Quarter Final of both the Manning Cup and Walker Cup competitions. The unfortunately, we were unable to progress past the Quarterfinal stage this year but this can still be considered one of Calabar's most successful seasons in since winning the competition back in 2005. This is the first time playing so deep into the season since 2017.

In the first round, we finished runners-up in the group behind Mona High, eventual Walker Cup finalists. We tied for the 3rd most goals scored (50) alongside KC. Only JC and Mona scored more goals than us. We played an attacking brand of football that was exciting to watch, so much so that many of the preseason favourites feared playing us.

Even though we ran out of steam in the latter stages and our inexperience came to the fore, what we were able to achieve this year was a step in the right direction and bodes well for the future of the Calabar football program.

Jeremy Miller
Manning Cup Coach

EDITORIAL

This season has been CHS's best performance in years. Going forward the school and coaching staff, deserve our full support. Well done, the Young Lions.



Back (from left to right): Daniel Dawkins, Jemario Hanson, Dujaughn Martin, Jaheim Rankine, Obryan Marks. Front (from left to right): Kedar Miller, Sheldon Pusey, Anthony McDonald, Jaden Edwards, Mikhail Munroe, Jaiquin Stewart



Obryan Marks



Jaden Edwards



Kimani Thompson



Young & Old Lions Supporting the Team!

CHAMPS Track & Field Team 2026

The Track and Field Team's Camp began on December 19th and ended on January 3rd. The team has been training very well. The sprinters have been improving in all classes, as well as the jumpers, who went through their paces, training hard. The throwers, meanwhile, are also improving and looking quite good. Our middle and long-distance boys will definitely be a factor this year. Head Coach Julian Robinson is upbeat and is putting in the work along with Coaches Hawthorn, Harley, Gayle, Messias, and Walsh.

Former Calabar athletes and standouts, Malik James-King and World Championship Silver Medalist, Orlando Bennett, visited the Young Lions, assisting them in their respective disciplines.

The team still requires our assistance, especially for the Champs camp, which is estimated to cost approximately JMD\$1.6 million. Any help, no matter how small, will do the Young Lions and the school's legacy well.

Ewan Shaw - Manager
Track & Field Management
Committee



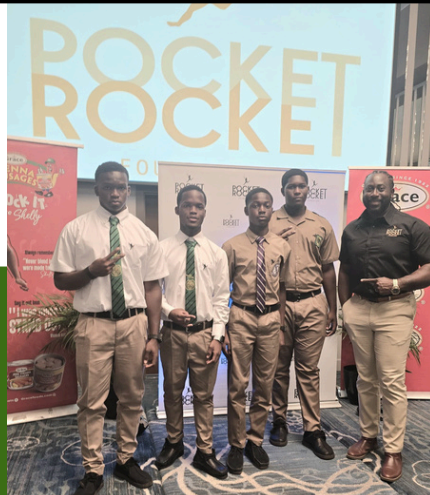
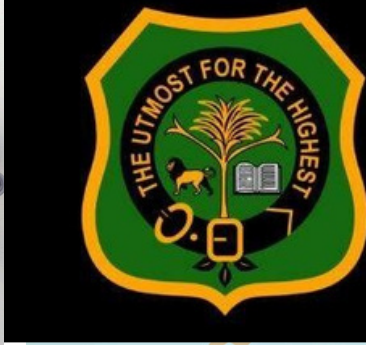
**TO ASSIST THE TRACK TEAM, PLEASE CONTACT:
CRAIG FRANCIS, 876- 358-7300 / EWAN SHAW, 876-579-4436.**



In 2020, Calabar High School won an award for Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Tech Challenge for institutions in Jamaica. The competition was open to high-school students between Grades 7 and 12 to design, build, programme, and operate robots and compete in a head-to-head challenge in an alliance format. The school now has a robotics programme. Here, students work with robots.



It was the first for new GOAA CEO [Lance Lyttle IAP](#), who sat down for a half-hour interview where he discussed future projects at MCO and the importance of an airport's role in the community. He also received a warm welcome from the sports world. [University of Central Florida](#) Hall of Famer [Shaquem Griffin](#), [Orlando Magic](#) executive [Esu Ma'at](#), and [Orlando City Soccer Club](#) Founder [Kay Rawlins](#) each presented him with a custom jersey from their respective sports organizations. Here's a video that kicked off the event: <https://lnkd.in/eYPVxf9>.



Pocket Rocket Foundation

At a recent ceremony, students were the scholarship recipients from the Pocket Rocket Foundation to help with their education journey.





Museum Tour

Back in September, Young Lions just starting the Calabar journey, were taken on a museum tour by OB Paul Moses, inducting them into the Calabar way. Paul educated the young men on the great past students and their role and responsibility while attending our great institution. The enthusiastic and excited Young Lions expressed their gratitude for the tour and learning.



**STAY COOL.
STAY SHARP.
STAY HYDRATED**
with
CALABAR PURIFIED WATER.

J\$1,000 PER CASE

Calabar Water is now available on campus
perfect for study time, sports, and lunchtime.

PERFECT FOR SCHOOL DAYS, GAMES, AND BEYOND

Why Choose Refresh?

- + Fuel the Green & Black, proceeds support school spirit activities
- + Bottled to strict quality standards
- + Crisp, clean taste

HYDRATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

Scan to follow @CalabarHigh for updates

Water Fundraiser
The school ran a water fundraising campaign to support the school. All proceeds go to the various sporting programmes.

Accommodation Renovation
Earlier in the year, the School Challenge House had a touch of renovation completed, which included repairing the perimeter fencing. Volunteers took time out to help with the work.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Senior Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions Jeremy Taylor is to be appointed Director of Public Prosecutions in the Turks and Caicos Islands. He was the frontrunner of the three Jamaican prosecutors who were interviewed for the post. A King's Counsel, Taylor has featured in several high-profile cases.

- Taylor has been a prosecutor in Jamaica for more than 20 years, prosecuting complex criminal cases.
- He studied law at the University of the West Indies, Mona, and the Norman Manley Law School.
- Before his legal career, Taylor was trained as a teacher at the Mico Teachers' College and taught at his alma mater, Calabar High School.



Jeremy Taylor

Calendar of Track & Field Events, Jan – Mar 2026

JAAA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED Dec. 19 - Jan. 5, 2026

2026		
JANUARY		
3	Ted Dwyer Classics & Pentathlon Challenge	EXED Community College
9	OnDiRun/ JC Sprint Fest 200	Jamaica College
10	Jamaica College Invitational	Jamaica College
17	Douglas Forrest Invitational	Stadium East
17	JAAA/PUMA Fuller Anderson Meet	GC Foster College
17	Manchester High School/Charlie Fuller Field Events Meet	Manchester High School
17	Montego Bay Comets Development Meet	Montego Bay, St James
17	World Class Development Meet	Jamaica College
23	OnDiRun/ GC Foster Sprint Fest 100	GC Foster College
23	Javelin Fest	Jamaica College
24	Central Hurdles Relays & Field Events	GC Foster College
24	McKenley/ Wint Invitational Meet	Calabar High School
24	Big Shot Invitational Meet	Excelsior High School
24	Dr. Sanders Invitational (INDOOR)	New York, USA
31	STETHS Invitational Meet	Santa Cruz, St. Elizabeth
31	Queen's/Grace Jackson Track Meet	National Stadium, St Andrew
31	NY International Showcase (INDOOR)	Staten Island, New York

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS		
DATE	EVENT	VENUE
2026		
FEBRUARY		
1	Milrose Games	New York, USA
7	Fervet Distance Carnival	Jamaica College
7	JAAA/PUMA Development Meet	Jamaica College
7	Youngster Goldsmith Classics	National Stadium, St. Andrew
14	Camperdown Classic	National Stadium, St. Andrew
14	King of the Ring	Excelsior High School
14	Western Relays	GC Foster College
16-17	Eastern Championships (REGIONAL MEET)	National Stadium, St. Andrew
20-21	Corporate Area Development Meet (REGIONAL MEET)	Jamaica College
17-21	Western Champs (REGIONAL MEET)	GC Foster College
21	S.W. Isaac Henry Invitational	National Stadium, St. Andrew
24-25	Central Championships (REGIONAL MEET)	GC Foster College
28	Gibson McCook Relays	National Stadium, St. Andrew

MARCH		
6-8	JAAA Carifta Trials	National Stadium, St. Andrew
7	NACAC Road Running Championships	TBD
7	QWICK Meet	GC Foster College
14	GC Foster Classic	GC Foster College
TBA	Melbourne 5K	Kingston
20-22	World Athletics Indoor Championships	Kuaway Pomorze, POL
21	Velocity Fest #18	National Stadium, St. Andrew
21	Greater Portmore Primary School Track Meet	Greater Portmore, St Catherine
24-28	ISSA/Grace Kennedy Boys and Girls Championships	National Stadium, St. Andrew

CALABAR ALUMNI FLORIDA

Presents

GREEN & BLACKNESS

Day Experience

DAY - FETE
FOOD . DRINKS . GAMES
RAFFLE & MUCH MUCH MORE

Guest of Honor
100m World Champion

OBLIQUE SEVILLE

JERK
CHICKEN/PORK
BBQ CHICKEN
\$20

ESCOVITCH
FISH MEAL
\$25

**TICKETS
SOLD
HERE!**

FEB 21 2026 - 12PM TO 6PM
MARKHAM PARK, SOUTH FLORIDA
16001 SR84, Sunrise, FL

MUSIC BY DJ RADCLIFFE

More Special Guests to come...

MORE INFO: CBARFLA.ORG 954-779-6324



Chapter News – 2025 in Review

ATLANTA CHAPTER, INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

We had our annual general meeting in February 2025, and the following members were elected to the executive body: President – David Anderson, Vice President – Geddes Alexander, Treasurer – Kenneth Brown, and Secretary – Wayne Daley. The members at large are Ian Laing, Mark Coote, Kevin Young, Ralston Fisher, and Paul Samuels.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Ian Laing, Denys Williams, Michael Thelwell, Carlton Hopkins, Kenneth Brown, Kevin Young, John-Paul Clarke, and Noel Davidson.

FUNDRAISERS

We held several fundraising events. Started out with the second annual Domino and Board Game Event in April at Tropics Sports Club. This was followed by the 5K Run/Walk with the Queen's High School Alumnae in May, and the 11th Annual Golf Tournament in June. Our annual Founders' Day celebration in September was held at the Roswell Park River Walk, with Sian Wilson, the principal, serving as the keynote speaker. There was a terrific turnout for the event. The annual Giving Tuesday fundraiser started earlier due to the damage to the school by Hurricane Melissa.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships were awarded to twenty-nine students, totaling \$30,000. Students were recognized and rewarded for their academic achievements, and students showing academic promise and needing financial help were assisted.

ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund for Calabar High School, established within the COBA Atlanta Chapter, Inc., reached a milestone of \$100,000. The money is managed by the investment firm, LPL Financials.

DONATIONS TO CALABAR HIGH SCHOOL

We continued our tradition of donating school supplies for the students, faculty, and staff at Calabar High School. Among the packages delivered to the school were fifty pairs of black polishable shoes. In addition, over fifty pairs of gently used and new football boots were donated to the football program.

TEACHER AND STAFF APPRECIATION

In April, we donated \$2,500 to the Teacher and Staff Appreciation event. We collaborated with other COBA chapters.

PROJECTS SUPPORTED

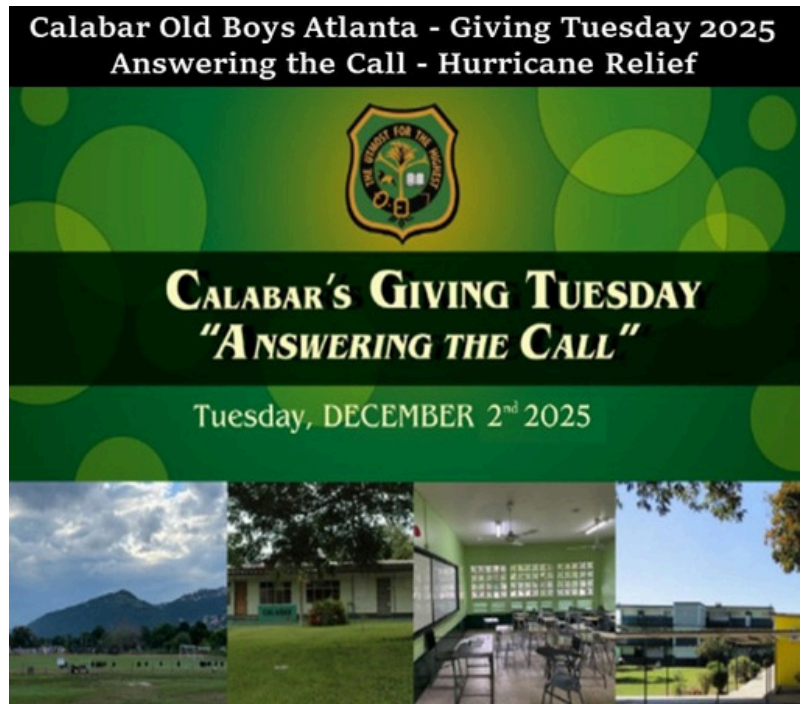
1. Renovation of the Guidance Counselor's office in collaboration with the class of 83
2. Repairs to the Grade 7 block of classrooms in collaboration with the class of 83
3. Repairs to the Track House in collaboration with COBA New York Chapter
4. Mounting the lions on pedestals at the school entrance with COBA NY Chapter

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

\$10,000 was donated to support the Breakfast Program run by the PTA to ensure that students have a nutritious meal to start the day.

OTHER PROGRAMS SUPPORTED

1. School Challenge Quiz Competition
2. Robotics
3. Alumni Sports Day
4. Basketball
5. Track and Field
6. Band
7. Cadet





61 for 61 FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

The Calabar Alumni Association of New York, is launching a 61-day fundraising campaign starting December 1, 2025 thru January 31, 2026. We invite you to consider a symbolic donation of \$61 or more meaningful tribute to the school's iconic address at 61 Red Hills Road. Funds raised will go directly to a critical infrastructure project to transform an underutilized space on campus into a state-of-the-art Academic Resource Center.

DONATE NOW

Here's how you can donate:
(Put your email or phone number AND "Resource Center" on the memo line so we can say thank you)

December 1, 2025 - January 31, 2026


DONATE                             



61 Foundation

Well done to the 61 Foundation on attaining 501c(3) charitable status in the United States. 61 Foundation is headed by Seretse Gibson, President and Stanley Simpson Jr., Vice President.

<https://the61foundation.org/>



THE 61 FOUNDATION

Our best today for a brighter tomorrow



The 61 Foundation



MOUNTING OF TWO LION MONUMENTS AT CALABAR

- The installation of a lion monument at Calabar High School, along Donald Phillipbert Boulevard.
- Jointly funded by CAANY, COBA Atlanta, and alumnus Corville Stoddart.
- The lions were mounted as a symbol of wisdom and to honor Dr. Donald & Audrey Phillipbert and Mr. Dennis Sherwood.

SCHOLARSHIP / ACADEMIC SUPPORT

- Dennis Sherwood Scholarship: supported 30+ students across all grade levels with uniforms & textbooks.
- Participated in the mentorship session of Grade 11 students along with the Guidance Counselor (Feb 26, 2025).
- Donated a tablet to the “most improved” student during Alumni Day (March 30, 2025).
- Participated in Career Day presentation at Calabar High School (April 7, 2025).
- Athletics & Sports Support
- Funding toward housing (\$1,645 USD) for the Calabar track team at UWI (Mar 12, 2025).
- Sponsored \$5,771 USD in accommodation for the Calabar Track & Field Team at the Penn Relays (Apr 25, 2025).
- Supported the 4×200m relay team (Nickecoy Bramwell, Keano Charles, Shaquane Gordon, Jamal Stephenson) who set records at Puma NY International Showcase (Jan 25, 2025).
- Participated in the Athlete Appreciation Luncheon in Brooklyn for those representing Jamaica at the CARIFTA Games (Apr 22, 2025).
- Participation funding for Calabar students to attend the Pocket Rocket Foundation Student Athlete Summit (May 28, 2025).

TEACHER & SCHOOL SUPPORT

- Donated \$2,500 USD for Calabar High School’s Teacher Appreciation Day (May 6, 2025).
- Alumni Support
- Participated in the UJAA 17th annual church service. (November 2025).
- Participated in the celebration of life ceremony of elder lion Mr. Clementson Stephens (Class of 1952).
- Attended the COBA Cocktail Party and Awards Ceremony (November 2025).

Cocktail Party & Awards Ceremony



CALABAR OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

COCKTAIL PARTY AND AWARDS CEREMONY

UWI REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS
2 HERMITAGE ROAD, KINGSTON 7

6:00PM | LOUNGE SUIT & COCKTAIL DRESS | TICKET PRICE \$10,000

SATURDAY **NOV 22** 2025

FOR TICKETS CALL | WHATSAPP 876-346-9385




MEET THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER



officialcalabarchighschool

MR. BRUCE JAMES, O.D.
President & Authorised Athlete's Representative
MVP Track Club
UWI REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS,
2 HERMITAGE ROAD, KINGSTON 7

6:00PM | LOUNGE SUIT & COCKTAIL DRESS | TICKET PRICE \$10,000 | SATURDAY **NOV 22** 2025

TO RSVP CONTACT 876-346-9385
TICKET OUTLET | CAFE 61

Sponsors: Jamaica Plumbing Supplies | Atlantic Hardware | Sterling Asset Management | Baker Tilly | ASCO Project Consultants

We were thrilled to welcome Mr. Bruce James, OD, President and Authorised Athlete's Representative of MVP Track Club, as our keynote speaker to the Calabar Old Boys' Association Cocktail Party & Awards Ceremony, held on Saturday, 22nd November 2025, at the UWI Regional Headquarters.

Hurricane Melissa

Devastated the Western part of the island and the school did their part by assisting our sister school, Westwood High and others closeby, including Mannings.

GIVING TUESDAY

Support for Westwood High School

In the wake of Hurricane Melissa, many buildings at Westwood High School were severely damaged. The Calabar High School Guidance Counselling Department, in partnership with Sons of Herb, is launching a fundraiser on Giving Tuesday to assist in the rebuilding efforts.



Bronze
Supports 1 student



Gold-Supports
10 students

SILVER \$500
Supports 5 students

Sons of Herb



CALABAR HIGH SCHOOL

DISASTER RELIEF DONATION DRIVE

A CALL TO ACTION

Help Us Support Students and Communities Affected by Hurricane Melissa. To provide essential aid and help families rebuild their lives.

WHAT'S NEEDED?

- Non-Perishable Food Items
- Drinking Water
- Mosquito Repellant
- Tarpaulin
- School Bags & School Supplies
- Items of Clothing (Adult & Children)
- Personal hygiene items
- Cleaning Supplies
- Toys, Story Books, Colouring Books ect.
- Flashlights, Batteries, Radios
- Monetary Contributions (Bursars Office)

DONATE NOW

CALABAR HIGH SCHOOL
61 Red Hills Road
(Admin Building)

IT'S A CALABAR THING

On December 20th, Old Boys gathered for an impromptu 'Rabalac Lyme'. It was a good turnout, especially on short notice. Watch out for future Lyme's as we build camaraderie, networking, and Calabar fellowship.

Rabalac Xmas Lyme



Contact Us:

COBA PR/Communications Cttee
kwamemamcpherson@gmail.com/onlysimpson5@gmail.com
www.cobajamaica.com/coba-newsletter

www.cobajamaica.com

We would like ALL Old Boys to support the CHRONICLES OF RABALAC newsletter, and for YOU to send us any information related to any Calabar High or Old Boy activity. **THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER!**

When you do, please add some blurb to any image(s). This way, we can convey to the wider Old Boy community all relevant content for information and support.

Public Relations Committee, COBA

ARTICLE SUBMISSION '26

Next 1st Qrtr Deadline Date: 15th March

2nd Qrtr Deadline Date: 15th June

3rd Deadline Date: 15th September

4th Qrtr Deadline Date: 15th December

CALL FOR MENTORS!

Would you love to assist and guide our Young Lions? Be a Mentor.

Contact: Ian Myrie, COBA

**Next Newsletter, 5th Issue,
January - March 2026**