

February 2017

Dear Colleague,

We are writing to invite you to a very special assembly and conference of local, national and international thought leaders: **Purposing Our Boys With A Brighter Future**. Our specific mandate is really quite simple – to purpose our boys with a brighter future and to engage more fully in their academic, civic, social and spiritual development. The stakes could not be any higher and your attendance and participation would help to strengthen our efforts and deepen our resolve.

The crisis among our boys is continuing to escalate and its impact is being felt in our schools, our families and our communities. The sponsoring South Eleuthera organizations recognize that this has become a moral imperative and one that we can no longer ignore. Declining performance in school, conflict and violence, substance abuse and the absence of fathers are patterns and trends that must be interrupted. We do hope that we can count on your support and that you will set aside the time to join us as we identify those concerns that merit our immediate attention; explore ways in how we might respond; create and establish new avenues and networks to share our experiences; and draw from the insights of others who have faced similar challenges and who have successfully implemented programs and structures to combat the forces that are threatening our boys.

The attached conference abstract describes in more detail what our stated goals will include. Conference attendance is by invitation only and will present to those planning to join us with a unique opportunity to be the change we all know is needed. Conference presenters and attendees will represent a range of practitioners and theorists who are each prepared to share their thoughts and to help promote and lead much of the strategic and tactical thinking that desperately needs to occur.

As noted in the attached material, we plan to gather on the **Island School Campus on Cape Eleuthera on the evening of March 29, 2017** for a reception and opening presentation. We will then reconvene for two full days of discussion, planning and exchange on **March 30th and March 31st**. Some of our participants are coming from as far away as England and the U.S. and it is essential that attendees commit to participating fully and throughout each planned session and activity. The benefits we believe will be significant.

To ensure that our time together is as productive as possible, we are limiting the number of attendees. We want the time we spend with one another to be as useful as possible. Our principle aim is to maximize our efforts while conducting an open, honest and comprehensive inquiry into the state of our boys. To confirm your attendance please RSVP to mitzisweeting@islandschool.org or contact Ms. Mitzi Sweeting at 242-334-8551. Additionally, please indicate how you would like to be listed – your full name, title, professional and association. Please also include your contact details.

Clearly, we are all very busy attending to the demands of our respective positions. Our boys and their families are asking for our help and while they may not know who to turn to and when, it is incumbent on each of us as educators, community leaders and as concerned citizens to respond to their call. Please set aside the time to join us and be part of the change we all hope to see.

Regards,

The South Eleuthera Sponsoring Organizations