

Education



WORK



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Celebrating our Retirees ... the Journey Continues



All Ministry of Education staff retiring in the year 2009 were invited to the Cascadia Hotel and Conference Centre on December 5th 2009 for a formal appreciation ceremony to celebrate their years of service to the Ministry. The night's theme of Celebrating our Retirees - The Journey Continues, was extolled in the address by guest speaker Dr. Jennifer Rouse, Director of the Division of Ageing in the Ministry of Social Development. She spoke of retirement as not being a destination, but a time for a short rest, as was expressed in the theme, the journey continues on past the point of retirement. During the ceremony all retirees received a token of appreciation from the Ministry. Those having served more than 40 years were presented with their tokens by the Honourable Minister herself. Following the presentations, Madam Minister spoke of her appreciation for all of the combined years given to the Ministry by those retiring that day.

On exit from the hotel's ballroom, retirees and their guests, as well as the Ministry's executive and other staff members were greeted by the rhythmic sounds of a tassa group which ushered them onward to the poolside cocktail reception. This second half of the evening's proceedings continued over cocktails and hors d'oeuvres as many reminisced about their days at the Ministry. The gala night then progressed as Carib Santa Rosa parang group built the atmosphere as couples danced the night away to the Latin beat. This was followed quickly by the local calypso stylings of

David Bereaux and Friends who surely made the crowd sway, at the very least, and join in the choruses... "ah, that is the rod of correction," many mouthed. As the entertainment closed off the evening, most left for home with tokens of appreciation in hand, and new memories for the journey onward.

Many thanks to the men of General Administration (GA) who showed up at just the right moment to assist with last preparations on the day. Also many thanks to the group of volunteer ushers and other volunteers throughout the Ministry who made the Retirees Function 2009 a reality. -NS



Student involvement a recipe for success



Crosssection of the audience who enjoyed the day's activities.

Every two years the Sixth Form Government School in St. James hosts an open day or a sports day with full staff and student involvement to give the public a taste of the schools skills and talents.

In December 2009, the staff, students and community participated in an open day to highlight the various skills the students gained from every aspect of the school's curriculum. Literature, drama, sociology, languages and accounting were some of the subjects employed by students as they reenacted King Lear, recited a French poem, performed Spanish musical items, and even a skit on accounting.

According to the Principal, Mrs. Marcelle Mapp, the various interactive school activities are all about empowering and motivating the students, which in turn, contributes towards high exam results with a 90% pass rate in 2009 and a 94% pass rate last year. Mrs. Mapp also said, that of a student population of 220 students between the ages of 17 years to 19 years, thanks to the interactive sessions that the students indulge in, the school can boast of not having one case of violence for the year thus far. In addition to the academic studies, every Wednesday students are encouraged to take part in various clubs and student enhancement courses to develop and promote self confidence and high self esteem.

"Student involvement curbs violence, and students who are most involved are the most successful", said Mrs. Mapp who also encourages her teachers to be more interactive with students outside the classroom environment so as to create a caring and holistic atmosphere for the students. -CF



Violence in schools – Students talk it out

In a forum hosted by the Ministry of Education in December, students from seven schools along the East West corridor met at the Centre of Excellence, Macoya, in a “Let’s Talk It Out” session attended by the Honourable Esther Le Gendre, Minister of Education and Chief Education Officer, Mr. Peter O’Neil.

The aim of the session was to give the students a chance to voice their concerns about the violence in schools, express ideas and opinions and to partake in a discussion and workshop segment. In a camaraderic move amongst students, many apologised for various violent incidents that occurred to other students in the area. “I am very sorry for the loss of a student of your school” was the heartfelt statement expressed by Trevor Creig, a student of St. Joseph College as he conveyed sympathy to a student from the St. Augustine Secondary, the school attended by a student who was recently stabbed to death on the Priority Bus Route. Other students engaged in conversations, exchanging peace offerings and even exchanging a hug of love and unity. Surprisingly enough, many of the students actually admitted that a lot of the violence that occurred among students was due to poor parenting and the violent music of Kartel and Mavado that they listen to on a frequent basis.

Minister Le Gendre listened attentively to the young voices as they made suggestions and asked questions, and assured them that she intends on continuing the “Let’s Talk It Out” sessions. Schools in attendance included El Dorado East, El Dorado West, St. Joseph College, St. Joseph Secondary, Hillview College, St. Augustine Secondary, and Tunapuna Secondary. -CF

Teachers and students talk HIV, AIDS and Health and Family Life Education

The Ministry of Education has devised a number of strategies for the implementation of the Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) curriculum in primary and secondary schools. Among them was the World AIDS Day Symposium entitled *Let’s Talk? HIV, AIDS and HFLE*, held 2 December, 2009. The Symposium targeted teachers from the primary and secondary schools for exposure to presentations of research papers on HIV and AIDS education in schools. The symposium also included a fishbowl exercise where teachers and students discussed issues relating to HIV and AIDS education. It is expected that this exercise would have empowered teachers to teach students about HIV and AIDS, as well as give students the opportunity to have a say in the implementation process.

The information gathered from the day’s proceedings would inform further, teacher training and preparation for implementation of the curriculum.



2009 Retirees Ceremony

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