



## Bullseye! Ministry of Education and EFCL on target *3 new schools delivered on first day of new term*



Hon. Esther Le Gendre, Minister of Education, MP cuts the ribbon to formally open St. Mary's Government Primary. Looking on is MP for the area the Hon. Peter Taylor, Angella Jack, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and members of the Education Facilities Company Limited.

**On September 01, 2009 the Ministry of Education started the new school year 2009-2010 on a high note of success, as three new schools across Trinidad opened their doors to their students. Minister Le Gendre was there at the start, first at St Mary's Government Primary School in Moruga and later that day at the Tranquility Government Primary School in Port of Spain. The Education Facilities Company Limited (EFCL) has delivered the Tranquility Government Primary, the SWAHA Hindu College and the St Mary's Government Primary as promised, on the first day of the new school year.**

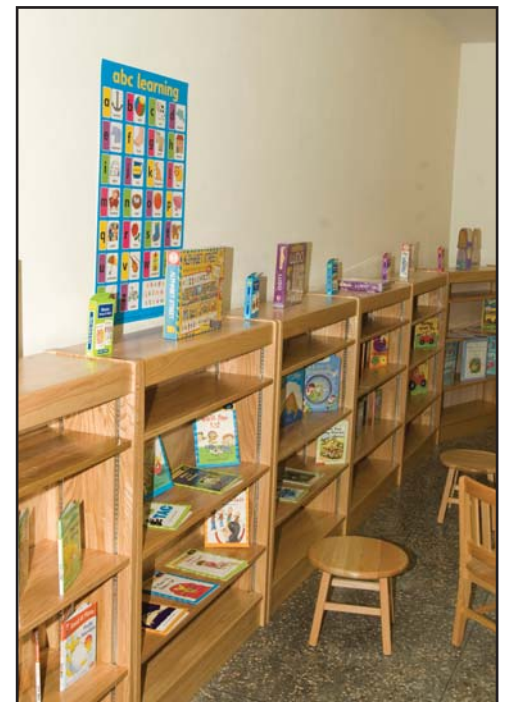
As the Trinidad and Tobago education system continues its transformation, so too the infrastructure will be geared

towards meeting the needs of a student in the 21st century. The St Mary's Government Primary in Moruga can now be categorised as a model school, and is the second of its kind in the country. The first was formally opened in Icacos in April 2008. The current primary school students at St. Mary's, Moruga can now benefit from the use of air-conditioned specialist rooms, a sound-proofed music room and pan theatre, a networked computer laboratory, a fully-equipped science laboratory, an audio-visual room, a library, and an art and craft room. There is also a cafeteria incorporated into the multi-purpose building. These new school facilities are designed to support the seven subjects taught at the primary level. The specialist rooms will facilitate language teaching, as Spanish will be

taught at the primary level which supports the goal of Spanish becoming the first foreign language in Trinidad and Tobago.

This school's design is a model which will be followed for all primary schools in the country, as these are the facilities necessary to cater to an enhanced curriculum of activities. According to Minister Le Gendre, "...it is the curriculum, especially at this primary school level, which holds the key to the quality of our education ...It is designed to develop students socially as well as prepare them for further education, lifelong learning and the needs of the global society of the 21st century."

*continued overleaf*



St Marys Government Primary - Interior



St Marys Government Primary - Exterior

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In all of this, the EFCL fulfilled its duty by delivering the quality of accommodations needed to support the Ministry's mandate of quality education for all. Apart from the four aforementioned new primary schools opened earlier this month, there are another 15 currently in different stages of construction. Also, over the July-August period of 2009, repairs took place at 202 schools, bringing the number of school repaired for the year so far to 495.



On the first day of the new school year, Minister Le Gendre proudly cut the ribbon to formally open the St. Mary's school in Moruga. The Minister later unveiled a plaque which will serve to remind future

generations of the significance of that date in their school community and of the promise to future schoolchildren of Moruga. Their newly networked computers will serve to expand learning opportunities beyond the limits of their town and into the global community.



Tranquillity Government Primary - Exterior

## Educators participate in OAS Course on Teaching Democratic Citizenship

The Ministry of Education of Trinidad and Tobago continues to partner with international agencies, such as the Organisation of American States (OAS), to ensure that our educators keep abreast of the latest developments in the field of education.

As such, the complete programme on Teaching Democratic Citizenship, is being offered through the University of the West Indies Open Campus as part of a 3-year pilot project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency and administered by the Department of Education and Culture of the OAS.

The first module completed was a distance course which consisted of two thirteen-week phases. The first phase of which was an online course which provided educators with knowledge and skills needed to complete the second phase, which is a follow-on practicum, in their classrooms.

Fifty educators from the islands of Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago participated in the first phase of the module. Commencing this month, over 200 Caribbean educators will be guided by mentors through the 13-week practicum of the second phase entitled, "Education for Democratic Citizenship in the Caribbean". Dominica is expected to participate in this second phase.

Overall, the course is designed to ensure that the classroom can become an incubator for the cultivation of democratic cultural practices in and among emerging generations of Caribbean citizens. The OAS is working with stakeholders across the Caribbean, including Ministries of Education of participating territories, to promote the sustainability of these efforts after the pilot project ends in early 2010.

For more course information, please check website: [www.oas.org/en/sedi/dec/educadem/edcc](http://www.oas.org/en/sedi/dec/educadem/edcc)



**MOE'S PSA QUEEN MEETS EDUCATION MINISTER:** The Honourable Minister of Education, Esther Le Gendre, MP, greets Alicia George-Baptiste, the Ministry of Education's representative at the recently held Public Service Association (PSA) Queen Pageant. Ms George-Baptiste is a clerk/typist at the Barataria North Secondary School, and has been employed at the Ministry for the past six years.

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The **Education @ Work** is also available on the website [www.moe.gov.tt](http://www.moe.gov.tt)

