



Arima West Government Primary School officially opened on 15th September 2009



Hon. Esther Le Gendre, Minister of Education, MP cuts the ribbon to formally open Arima West Government Primary. Looking on is MP for the area the Hon. Neil Parsenlal, Minister of Information.

The students, parents, teachers and staff of the Arima West Government Primary School were on hand to witness the official opening of their new model school building by Minister Le Gendre on 15 September, 2009. One could sense the restlessness of the students during the ceremony, but with the new facilities they received, there was obvious reason for excitement.

With a capacity for 625 students they can now boast, apart from the classrooms, of a spacious auditorium, pan theatre, science laboratories, a computer room and a library, an audio visual room, specialist rooms, and a cafeteria with a dining room over the site area of 9511.5m. There is also a playfield. All this at a building cost of \$34,536,389.82 and outfitted at a cost of \$4M.

“This is a foundation on which the Ministry of Education’s quest for excellence is laid. It speaks to the creation of effective schools, appropriate infrastructure and excellent teachers,” said Minister Le Gendre in her address to the school.

Through this, the Hon. Minister reminded students of the importance of having an environment conducive to the learning process as this may be the key to ensuring the continuity of the line of nationally-recognised talent out of Arima in the footsteps of cricketer Larry Gomes, former House Speaker Arnold Thomasos and calypsonian Lord Kitchener (Aldwyn Roberts).

Minister formally hands over school to the Brasso Seco community



The newly built Brasso Seco RC Primary School was formally handed over to the rural community of Brasso Seco, nestled in the scenic and pristine northern range by the Honourable Esther Le Gendre, Minister of Education on Saturday 19 September.

The formal handing over ended six years of the school being housed at the community centre. The school with a construction cost of \$3.5 million will accommodate up to 100 students.

The Minister of Education in her address reassured the community that the handing over of the school symbolised the Government’s philosophy that not one child will be left behind.

The Minister outlined the Ministry’s vision which focussed on schools and placed significant emphasis on the role for stakeholders and the community at large.

The Minister in closing her address reminded the community that notwithstanding the billions spent on infrastructure, training and social services the community also has a responsibility in fulfilling the government’s vision for education.



Examinations Division at work

Waiving of examination fees and free registration draw long lines at Ministry offices



The announcement on August 17, that effective January 2010 the Ministry of Education would waive all Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) examination fees for private candidates, drew large crowds to head office and education district offices throughout the island.

Students, eager to take advantage of the free registration, lined the streets and compounds from early morning, determined not to pay the late fee of TT\$162. The staff of the Examinations Division took it all in stride, preparing for the influx by providing tents and chairs for candidates while working through lunch hours and late into the evenings. Registration ended last Friday, 18 September.



Teacher Education graduates receive certificates



The Hon Esther Le Gendre, Minister of Education, stands among the graduates of the online course on Teacher Education for 21st Century Teachers. Also in photo are Professor Jeanette Morris, University of Trinidad and Tobago; Angella Jack, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Dr Marva Ribeiro, Project Manager, International Cooperation Initiative Unit, Ministry of Education.

In addressing graduates of the online course on Teacher Education for 21st Century Teachers at a ceremony held today, the Hon Minister of Education, Esther Le Gendre, MP, spoke about the need for quality education to be delivered in schools. "We look forward to the day when information and communication technology (ICT) aided teaching is a common place in every school and every teacher can, tell of their own success", the Minister stated.

The Minister is committed to the Ministry's plan to integrate ICT into the fabric of teaching and learning and noted that all secondary schools are now equipped with computers while two-thirds of all primary schools have computer labs.



If you have information of interest please contact **Candice Dubarry**, Communications Division, at **622-3646** or email info to **candicedubarry.moe@gmail.com**

The **Education @ Work** is also available on the website **www.moe.gov.tt**

