



Mar-Jam Preparatory School

ISSU

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NEWSLETTER



APRIL

****MAR-JAM CELEBRATES ITS SIXTEENTH YEAR****

Parents & Guardians:

Welcome back! I hope that everyone enjoyed the Easter Holidays. This issue of our newsletter finds us in the third and final term of this school year. It will be a very short but extremely busy term. It is very important that while perusing this issue, careful note be taken of the dates of upcoming school events.

DISMISSAL TIME

The school does **NOT** offer an after-school care programme.

Therefore your child must be picked-up at the appropriate time.

Please note the dismissal times for the various classes:

K1 ends at 1:30 p.m.

These students are expected to be picked up by 2:30 p.m. the latest.

K2 & K3 ends at 2:00 p.m.

These students are expected to be picked up by 3:00 p.m. the latest.



N.B: K1 - K3 ends at 1:30 p.m. every two-weekly Friday afternoon to facilitate Club meetings.

P1- P6 & Special Ed. Unit ends between 3:00 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.

These students are expected to be picked up by 4:00 p.m. the latest.

The teacher's playground duty ends at 4:00 p.m. No teacher will be on the school compound after this time to supervise your child.

Your cooperation regarding all dismissal times is crucial for the safety of your child.

DIRECTORS:

Mrs. Annette James
Clinical Specialist

Miss Heather Maragh
Administrator

BOARD MEMBERS:

Rev. Wesley Boynes - Chairman
Mrs. Kathy Buchanan
Mr. Greg Chong

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Principal

Miss Ethlyn Green
Admin. Asst./Bursar

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Mrs. Karla Campbell
Miss Lattamar Coombs
Miss Tasha Gordon
Miss Shirley Hamilton
Mrs. Marcel Haye
Mr. Dwayne Jackson
Mrs. Sharonda Henry-Jackson
Mrs. Rosalee Kerr-Ferguson
Miss Dalmarie Lawrence
Mrs. Patricia LeVel
Mrs. Rosemarie McDonald
Mrs. Michelle McKenzie-Hylton
Miss Shanellee McKenzie
Mr. Shane Oliver
Mrs. Carollyn Patch
Mrs. Gillian Rose-Bailey
Mrs. Joan Taylor
Miss Sandra Taylor
Miss Gail Whittingham
Mrs. Vernie Wisdom
Mr. John Spencer - *Music*
Mrs. Alicia Richards - *Spanish*
Mr. Glenville Graham - *Art & Craft*

ANCILLARY STAFF:

Miss Coleen Thompson
Mr. Louis Williams
Mr. Anthony Seymour

**JAMAICA DAY**

Jamaica Day was celebrated on Friday, February 29, 2008. We wish to thank all the parents, students and friends who celebrated with us as we highlighted some aspects of our Jamaican culture in tandem with the theme *Celebrating Jamaica: Celebrate Me, Celebrate my School*. It was a very beautiful day, filled with educational activities and entertainment for everyone.

We wish to acknowledge the following persons and express our heartfelt thanks for their contribution and assistance in making it a successful day:

Mrs. Oralette Duncan, Pastor Wesley Boynes, Mrs. Khalilah Maragh, Mrs. Suzanne Millwood, Mr. Damion Duckett, Mrs. Lyn McDonald, Miss Donna Callow, Mrs. Poonam Sharma, Mrs. Latika Rawtani, Mr. Roberto LoVecchio, Mrs. Sabrina Russell, Mr. Barrington Reynolds (Profi), Mrs. Monica Nunez, Mrs. Pearlina Moser, Mrs. Natalie Hoilet, Miss Elizabeth Robinson, Mr. Anil Dobhal, Mr. Earl Carr, Mr. Kirkland Hall, Miss Angela Stewart

PARENT / TEACHER CONFERENCES

Many parents took the opportunity to have a formal parent/teacher conference Wednesday, March 12, 2008 to discuss their child's/children's progress. We are happy to report that approximately 90 % of our parent population attended the conferences. We would like to thank you for your continued support in the collaboration between home and school.

POST G.S.A.T. EXAMS

Our Grade Six students have now completed the GSAT exams. We would like to remind parents that after you breathe a sigh of relief, encourage your children to keep working hard as they finish out the school year. Please remind them that the GSAT exam is just the first step in the academic ladder of success. The end of year exams in June are very important.

SPORT DAY

We wish to thank everyone who attended and patiently waited until the "showers of blessings" subsided so that we could host a successful Sport Day.

Many thanks to the following persons who did a fantastic job of marshalling the events and for keeping us entertained and updated with the races: *Mrs. Charlene Plummer, Mr. Dale Nemhard, Mrs. Sally LoVecchio, Pastor Wesley Boynes, Mrs. Michelle Miller, Mrs. Donna Hussey and Miss Dawn Hibbert.*

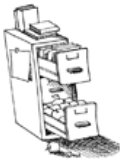
Congratulations to all HOUSE teams:

First Place - BLUE HOUSE

Second Place - GREEN HOUSE

Third Place - RED HOUSE





ENROLMENTS
2008 - 2009
(New Students)

Families interested in enrolling their children for the 2008-2009 school year are being encouraged to collect and complete registration forms before May 30. Please inform friends and neighbours of this date.

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS:

Birth Certificate
 1 recent passport size picture
 Immunization Card
 Registration Fee. (\$ 500)
 Completed registration forms
 Copy of Student's most recent report card
 Completed Recommendation form

Registration will not be complete until all the necessary documents are handed in.

SCHOOL FEES

School fee for the Summer Term (*third and final term for the school year*) is now due. Please remember that your tuition keeps the school financially sound as well as it allows us to provide such an excellent program. We ask that you make every attempt to remit your payments in a timely manner. Failure to do so will result in your child not being able to sit the End of Year Exams.

ILLNESS

If your child has a fever, please keep the him/her out of school until he/she is fever free for 24hrs.

RE-REGISTRATION
2008 - 2009
(Returning Students)

All students currently enrolled at Mar-Jam Preparatory School must re-register for the 2008 - 2009 academic year.

Re-registration guarantees you a place in our enrollment for September. A fairly accurate enrollment count prevents overcrowding, helps us plan our budget for the next year, order sufficient resource materials, and hire and/or redistribute teachers as necessary.

The non-refundable re-registration fee for current students is \$100.00 for the first child and \$50.00 for each additional child.

Re-registration: June 9 - 13, 2008



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
TRANSFORMATION

The Ministry of Education and Youth in Jamaica is currently undergoing a transformation. This transformation has necessitated change within our organization as well. We ask that you cooperate with us so that we can keep abreast of the new system.

All things are difficult before they are easy.

- Thomas Fuller

EVENTS & DATES TO
REMEMBER

Education Week (May 4 – 9)

Read Across Jamaica Day (May 6)

Teachers' Day (May 7)

P.T.A. Meeting (May 14)

Grade 4 Literacy/GAIN Tests
(May 14 –15)

Children's Day (May 16)

Mid-Term Break (May 22 – 23)

Labour Day (May 23)

Grade 3 Diagnostic Tests
(June 3 - 4)

End of Year Exams (June 16 – 25)

Class Parties (June 26)

Prize Giving (June 27)

Valedictory Ceremony (June 30)

Collection of Reports (July 23)

APPLAUSE, APPLAUSE

Congratulations to the students and teachers of the instrumental music group who entered the J.C.D.C. Festival Competitions 2008 for qualifying to move on to the next level of the Competitions.

Congratulations:

Shadae Lake, Edward Miller
Ibrac Reynolds, Jabulani Boynes
Aliana Davis, JoHanna Taylor
Lancerene Falcnor, Samantha Dadd
Bhavesch Melwani, Jatony McEachron
Nicholas Bailey, Kyle-Rae Patch
Sian Graham-Connolly
Raynaldo Marchallick
Bianca Dale, Arthur Williams

THE BENEFIT OF CONVERSATION WITH CHILDREN

Studies have shown the relationship between language development in early childhood and later success in reading. Parents and other family members have great influence on a child's development of language and other pre-literacy skills.

More than 40 families were observed over several years to study how, and how often, parents talk with children. Researchers found a tremendous variety in the amount of words spoken to children in the first three years of life and in the quality of feedback they received. These verbal interactions with adults are major predictors of how prepared children will be to succeed in school.

The way some parents talk teaches children about language, although they may not realize it. This is called "incidental teaching," and it occurs when a parent responds to a topic introduced by the child, and then prompts the child to elaborate or relate the topic to other words and experiences. The "teaching" concludes when the parent expresses appreciation of the child's use of language. These brief, but frequent encouragements help children learn.

Other parents may not make the most of the teaching opportunities offered by conversations with their child. These parents may discourage the child from practicing language skills by talking at, rather than with, the child or by stopping or correcting the child too often. Frequent prohibitions limit a child's opportunity to learn words and to explore the world they describe.

The frequency of parent/child interactions impact on learning. Frequent, positive talking during everyday activities exposes children to more words and expressions, and more chances to practice and receive approval. Children who are often discouraged from speaking or exploring will limit themselves and their growth.



SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

A child who is routinely read to is much more likely to become a reader than a child who isn't read to.

Why is raising a reader so important?

Besides promoting language development in children, readers also develop the skills and habits necessary to succeed in school and succeeding in school most often impacts the ability to succeed throughout life. It isn't surprising to hear that top ranked high school and college students were not only read to as children, but became readers themselves.

A reader develops the ability to write in correct grammatical form and understands the power of the written word. A reader develops strong reading comprehension and strong vocabulary skills. A reader develops the ability to express oneself in a much more confident, creative, and easy manner. Reading enhances self-esteem and builds confidence. A reader develops an imagination, a curiosity, and the ability to think "outside the box."

Reading promotes knowledge and education.

Knowledge and education, in turn, promote values and a higher level of thinking. So in essence, readers, through their continual pursuit of knowledge and love of the written word, develop the skills, habits, and traits most commonly associated with success and successful people.

Please help your child to become a better reader by ordering books from the Scholastic Book Club catalogues.

Open a book and start reading today. Lay that foundation. Show them how to take magical journeys to the farthest reaches of our universe -- all with a simple object called a book. [Raising a reader](#) is truly one of the most precious gifts we can bestow on our children.

**"Few children learn to love books by themselves. Someone has to lure them into the wonderful world of the written word. Someone has to show them the way."
-- Orville Prescott from "A Father Reads to His Children"**



Mar-Jam Preparatory School P.T.A. News

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ISSUE I

COUNCIL MEMBERS

EXECUTIVES

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Natalie Hoilett

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Anil Dobhal

Welcoming Committee
Lyn McDonald

School Events Committee
Peat Taylor

Communication Committee
David Russell

About the P.T.A. - The Mar-Jam Parent/Teachers' Association is an organization of parents and teachers of Mar-Jam students. All parents and teachers are automatically members of the PTA, which is headed by a Board of [Officers](#).

The mission of the Mar-Jam Parent/Teachers' Association is to provide the channel for parent participation in the life of the school thereby ensuring that the school provides a quality learning environment for its students in all spheres of development – intellectual, physical, emotional and spiritual.

Specifically, the PTA seeks to achieve this goal by:-

- *fostering the partnership between parents, teachers and administrators
- *involving parents in school life as they relate to education, sports and recreation, membership, special projects and fundraising
- *facilitating the success of the School's mission statement

At our last P.T.A. meeting, a new P.T.A. Executive body was elected. Your new P.T.A. Council looks forward to working with you to provide the channel for participation in the life of the school thereby ensuring that the school provides a quality learning environment for its students in all spheres of development - intellectual, physical, emotional and spiritual.

We wish to thank the previous P.T.A. Executive body for their hard work and effort for the past three years and congratulate them for their accomplishments.

Projects undertaken by past P.T.A.

1. paving of the parking lot
2. construction of P6 classroom
3. construction of playhouse
4. air-condition unit for Music room
5. beautification of school grounds
6. renovation of Resource Room
7. painting of all classrooms
8. construction of girl toilets
9. teachers' bonus
10. computers (10)
11. water cooler

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shoes, accessories....

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Ocho Rios

974 - 3937

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**Place your ad in our monthly
newsletter.**

Our newsletter is distributed to
the entire Mar-Jam School com-
munity.

Advertisement is subject to ap-
proval.

Ad size: 3.5" x 2"

Cost: \$350 per month

Please submit your advertise-
ment by the first Monday in
each month for inclusion in the
issue.

Send your ad to:

marjampta2008@yahoo.com

Mark your calendars and be sure to attend.....

Our PTA Meeting

May 14, 2008 @ 4:00 p.m.

Proposed projects of the new PTA will be announced.

WHY SHOULD YOU COME TO PTA MEETINGS?

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE PTA!

Each and every parent of a child in Mar-Jam Preparatory School is a
member of the PTA! Your comments/questions are always welcome.

WE NEED NEW PEOPLE AND FRESH IDEAS IN THE PTA!

Have new ideas? PTA is a great forum to talk about things. We al-
ways have time for open discussion at the end of the meetings.

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHERE ALL YOUR FUNDRAISING MONEY GOES?

Come to a meeting to help decide what the money is spent on.

If you can't attend meetings but still want to be involved in the PTA,
look for our newsletters that come home in your child's backpack for
volunteer opportunities or just send your name and e-mail address
to us and we'll add you to our e-mail list for volunteer opportunities
and other school related information.

E-mail addresses are kept confidential!

All of the committees would love to have more hands and heads!
Please contact any of the people listed if you would like to help.
Thank you for choosing us and we look forward to working with you
all.

The new PTA executives welcome your comments or suggestions
drop us a note via Ms. Green in the office or via e-mail at:

marjampta2008@yahoo.com

***Parent involvement is the difference between an
ordinary school and an extraordinary school!***

