



# Mar-Jam Preparatory School

**ISSUE II**

## NEWSLETTER

**FEBRUARY 2007**

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### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

*Black History Month*  
*Mid-Term Break*  
*School Fee*  
*Arrival & Dismissal*  
*Applause, Applause*  
*GSAT*  
*Illness*  
*Parent's Pledge*  
*School/Parent*



### **Parents & Guardians:**

It seems as if we blinked our eyes and half of the school term is gone! I want to encourage you to visit with your child's class teachers to find out how he/she has progressed since the beginning of the new term and how you can support them.

Each time I visit the classrooms, I'm in awe of the learning that is taking place and the creative lessons that our teachers are providing. I wish for you to join me and congratulate all the teachers for the wonderful job they have been doing.

### MID-TERM BREAK

School will be closed on the following days for the mid-term break :

February 21 - Ash Wednesday  
February 22 - 23 Mid-term

Classes will resume on February 26, 2007.

### PARENTS' NIGHT



We would like to thank all the parents who made the effort to attend our annual Parents' Night held on February 2, 2007. It was quite an exciting night and we look forward to see you when we next have this event.

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH (FEBRUARY)

We are celebrating Black History Month this year with special emphasis on black entertainment personalities from Jamaica involved in theatre. Please encourage your child/children to find out more about the person assigned to their class.

**K1 - K3:** Louise Bennett-Coverley  
**P1:** Charles Hyatt  
**P2:** Ranny Williams  
**P3:** Leonie Forbes & Fae Ellington  
**P4:** Joan Andrea Hutchinson  
**P5:** Oliver Samuels  
**P6:** Rex Nettleford  
**Unit:** Madge Sinclair



**DIRECTORS:**

Mrs. Annette James  
*Clinical Specialist*

Miss Heather Maragh  
*Administrator*

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Rev. Wesley Boynes - *Chairman*  
Mrs. Kathy Buchanan  
Miss Peta Goldsmith  
Mr. Greg Chong

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Mrs. Belinda Lue  
*Principal*

Miss Ethlyn Green  
*Admin. Asst./Bursar*

**TEACHING STAFF:**

Miss Dania Black  
Miss Leita Baldie  
Mrs. Carleen Bygrave-Byfield  
Mrs. Terry-Ann Christie  
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 Letrecia Munroe  
Mr. Shane Oliver  
Mrs. Carolyn Patch  
Mrs. Gillian Rose-Bailey  
Mr. John Spencer  
Mrs. Joan Taylor  
Miss Sandra Taylor  
Mrs. Karla Ward-Campbell  
Mrs. Vernie Wisdom  
Mrs. Alicia Richards - *Spanish*  
Mr. Glenville Graham - *Art & Craft*

**ANCILLARY STAFF:**

Miss Coleen Thompson  
Mr. George James  
Mr. Louis Williams

**SCHOOL FEE**

School fees for the second half of the Easter Term for those on the payment plan becomes due after the mid-term break.

Please remember that your tuition keeps the school financially sound and allows us to provide an excellent program.

**SCHOOL EVENT DVD**

Copies of the International Students' Day celebration, the Prefect Inauguration and the Tea Party are available for sale. Contact the school for further information.

**HOUSE FUNDRAISERS**

Houses will be fundraising during the term. Please support them.

**ILLNESS**

If your child has a fever, please keep the child out of school until he/she is fever free for 24hrs. Fever is an indication that a person is contagious.

**ARRIVAL TIME**

School begins at 8:30 a.m. Instruction begins at 9:00 a.m. Children who arrive late are missing instruction and material for which they are responsible. Late arrival also disrupts classes which have already started. Please make every effort to be at school on time as the school gates will be locked at 9:00 a.m.

**DISMISSAL TIME**

**The school does not offer an after-school care programme.** Therefore your child must be picked-up at the appropriate time.

We would like to **remind** all parents of the dismissal times for the 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.

**P1- P5** ends between 3:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. These students are expected to be picked up by 4:00 p.m. the latest.

**The Units** end at 3:15 p.m.. These students are expected to be picked up by 3:45 p.m. the latest.

**P6** ends at 4:00 p.m. and these students are expected to be picked up by 4:30 p.m.

The teacher's playground duty ends at 4:00 p.m. All students must leave the school compound by 4:30 p.m. No teacher will be on the school compound after this time to supervise your child.

Please make every effort to have your child/children home early.

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



**APPLAUSE,**  
**APPLAUSE**

We would like to take this medium to congratulate some of our past students who continue to 'Strive for Excellence' in their respective high schools.

**Shanice Hnds** has made the honour roll and received a special award for Mathematics in her recent examinations at Westwood High School.

**Mchael Hussey** was recently featured in the Gleaner's 'Top Performers of 2006'. He was praised for being an environmentally aware student at Campion College.

**Joshua Ardito**, one of the students featured on GO GSAT.com is a 2006 scholarship awardee whose testimonial may be viewed on this website. He continues to do well at Campion College.

We are proud of all these student and wish them well in their future endeavours.



**TCIL YOUTH \$\$\$**  
**PROGRAMME**

We are asking all parents from Grades 4, 5 & 6 who are interested in the programme to complete and return the application form sent in

an earlier correspondence.

A meeting will be held to explain the programme in more details.

**PREP 6 ALL STARS**

**A True Gem**

**Anna-** smart, and plined who waves' She is worker who has consistently out-done her peers academically. She is a true gem.



**Lisa** is a talented disci- student has been 'creating in Prep 6. the silent



**Mr. G**

**Justin** is the ultimate 'star student' of Prep 6. He is competitive and has reigned as a top performer in the class since the beginning of the school year.

Justin is no 'book worm'. He has played defense on the school's football team. You will see more of his athletic skills this Sports Day.

**The**



**Per-**

**sectionist**

## A PARENT'S PLEDGE

### I WILL:

Spend some time talking and listening to my child everyday.

Praise my child for good work in school and good behavior at home.

Help my child develop self-confidence and self-discipline.

Talk with my child's teacher about how my child is doing in school.

Talk with my child about homework.

Set a regular time and place for homework.

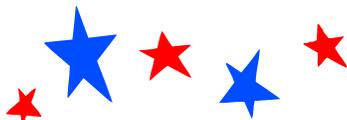
During this time, there will be NO television, NO radio, and NO phone calls.

Encourage reading...I will read to my child, and I will listen as my child reads to me.

Make sure my child gets healthy meals, enough sleep, and good exercise everyday.

Love my child enough to say NO when necessary.

Help my child discover the joy that learning and thinking can bring at any age.



## School-Parent Collaboration: A Labor of Love

This article is about collaborating with the school with the goal of improving your child's educational experiences and achievements.

Imagine you want to talk to someone at your child's school. It might be hard because maybe you didn't enjoy school all that much when you were a student and you're not sure who to talk to. Or perhaps you're concerned about what you might hear about your child's grades or behavior. Schools in the 21st century actually welcome parent involvement. Your child's school really wants to work with you.

The word "collaborate" originally comes from Latin. It means "to labor together or work together." If you grew up in the 1970s or 1980s, you may not have noticed your school working together with your parents. Back then, school philosophy generally was a bit different. More like: "You drop off and pick up your kids. We'll take it from there." But that was then and this is now, and now your school wants to work with you.

Sometimes, despite interesting school activities, it can be hard to find a way. It takes time, energy and often money for you to be involved in your children's school activities.

Fortunately, the payoff to getting involved in your children's school is significant. Research shows that parental involvement and collaboration with schools helps children perform better academically. When parents work with schools, their children get more A's and B's and fewer C's, D's and F's. But that's not all. When parents work with schools, their children tend to have

greater social adjustment. They get along better with fellow students and teachers. They spend less time in the principal's office and more time in the classroom. They communicate more effectively, and believe it or not, sometimes they do their homework more willingly.

However, parent-school collaboration requires tenacity because things don't always go perfectly. Your child might be embarrassed to be seen with you, or the teachers or principal won't recognize you. Both of these possibilities can leave people feeling discouraged. The truth is, there's no guarantee a good time will be had by all. But we'd like to urge you to hang in there. Parent-school collaboration takes time and work. But after all, that's what the word means: to labor together.

As you work with your child's school, something almost magical happens. You get to glimpse the remarkable. You might have to watch closely, but sometimes you get to see learning happening right in front of your eyes. And sometimes, as you sit by your child, you can see her trying just a little harder, and you know she's more determined and confident, just because you're sitting there, in the right place at the right time. Other times, you'll see the sparkle in your son's eye as he gets to show off a little for you. That sparkle makes you proud about getting off the couch and down to your child's school. Your children (or even the school) may not say thanks directly. But if you get involved, you certainly will earn the school's gratitude in the long run for being the kind of parent who cares enough to engage in the labor of love that we call parent-school collaboration.

## CONCERNS & QUESTIONS

Mar-Jam Preparatory School has an open door policy. Parents, students and community members are always welcome to share ideas or concerns with school personnel and administration. If the office is hectic, please leave your name and telephone number and we will return your call promptly. If you would rather come in and conference with us, we suggest that you call first to make an appointment. The staff member may have a previously scheduled meeting or appointment. Our policy regarding classroom concerns is that the parent first contact the teacher. If the problem is not resolved, then contact the principal or administrator.

About 14,000 earthquakes are detected around the world each year. That's 35 earthquakes a day.

Each year, there are about 60 significant (6.5 to 7.0 on the Richter Scale) earthquakes and 19 major (7.0 +) ones.

“quoted”

“Learning is the best of all wealth.  
It is easy to carry. Thieves cannot steal it.”  
*Naladyar-divya*