



# Mar-Jam Preparatory School

**ISSU**

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**NEWSLETTER**



**FEBRUARY**

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

## JAMAICA DAY



Jamaica Day will be celebrated on Friday, February 29, 2008. All parents and friends are invited to come and celebrate with us as we highlight some aspects of our Jamaican culture. Our theme this year is Celebrating Jamaica: Celebrate Me, Celebrate my School.

We will commence the activities for the day with a special devotion beginning at 8:30 a.m. Following this activity, our students will learn more about our culture by taking a trek through history via a slide show and talk; view pictures of past school events; sample foods from various countries that have contributed to our culture; view displays and demonstrations on how to roast peanuts, fry dumplings, brew chocolate tea, make candles, necklaces, straw bags, hats and fans.

**Please take the time to come and have lunch with your child at 12:00 noon.**

Dine on mouth-watering Jamaican dishes such as manish water, mackerel run-down, roast breadfruit, roast yam, cooked-up salt fish, jerked chicken, jerked pork served with festival/rolls. Kindly pre-order your lunch on Thursday, February 28th to avoid delay at lunch time. Contact the cafeteria for further information.

Your dining experience will be taken to another level with entertainment by a popular mento band and limbo dancers who will whet your appetite for our culture concert at 1:00 p.m.

### Jamaica Day Competitions:

1. *Art Competition*  
Theme-: Mar-Jam: Past, Present, Future
2. *Essay Competition*  
Theme-: Celebrating Jamaica: Celebrate Me, Celebrate my School
3. *Costume Competition*  
Theme-: Me: Who am I?

Submit entries for the Art and Essay Competition by February 28th to Miss Hamilton/Mrs. LeVel. Judging for the Costume Competition will be on February 29th. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each competition.

**Dress code:** Jeans, T-shirt (black, green, yellow) & sneakers

**DIRECTORS:**

Mrs. Annette James  
*Clinical Specialist*

Miss Heather Maragh  
*Administrator*

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Mrs. Belinda Lue  
*Principal*

Miss Ethlyn Green  
*Admin. Asst./Bursar*

**TEACHING STAFF:**

Miss Dania Black  
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 Shonallee 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

**NEW P.T.A. EXECUTIVES**

Our P.T.A. meeting for the Easter Term was held on Wednesday, February 13th. Voting for the new P.T.A. Committee was conducted and the following persons were elected for the executive council:

*President* - Mr. Errol Lingo  
*Vice President* - Mrs. Suzanne Millwood  
*Treasurer* - Mrs. Babita Rajwani  
*Secretary* - Miss Colleen Hoilett  
*Assistant Secretary* - Mrs. Angela Gordon

The newly established sub-committees will be spear-headed by the following persons:

Mr. David Russell, Miss Natalie Hoilett, Mrs. Lyn McDonald, Mr. Peat Taylor, Mr. Lenworth Dillon and Mr. Anil Dobhal

The newly established sub-committees are:

*Fundraising*  
*Community Outreach*  
*Yearbook Committee*  
*Welcoming Committee*  
*School Events Committee*  
*Communication Committee*



Congratulations and thank you for volunteering to become a member of Mar-Jam's PTA Executive Committee. We look forward to work with you for the next two years.

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
- building a strong sense of community



## G. S. A. T.

In approximately two weeks, our Grade Six students will be sitting the Grade Six Achievement Tests. The purpose of this test is to assess student proficiency in Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Language Arts and Communication Task writing. The Grade Six teachers have been working hard to provide these children with the instruction and assistance needed to develop their skills, and we have stressed to the students that their continued diligence is the most important part of achieving success. This year, we have twenty-eight students sitting the exams, five of which are from our Special Education Unit. We wish them the very best and hope they will all do well in their exams.

The Grade Six Achievement Tests are scheduled for Thursday, March 13 and Friday, March 14.

**Regular classes for the school are suspended on these two days. Classes resume March 17th.**



## PARENT / TEACHER CONFERENCE

Parent / Teacher Conference for the Easter Term will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2008 between 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Parents are being asked to make every effort to attend as reports are not issued for this term.

Please make an appointment for a time on this day to speak with your child's teacher about his/her progress.



## FIELD PRACTISE SCHEDULE

Field practise for the students in the various Houses will be held at the Lester Marsh Sports Complex in Content Gardens. The cost for transportation is \$300 per child for both trips (\$150 per trip). The transportation fee should be given to the class teacher. Please provide your child with additional snacks, water and juice on the days when he/she is scheduled for practise.

**Students who do not pay the transportation fee will NOT be allowed to go to the practise sessions.**

The practise schedule is as follows:

March 4, 2008 – Red House  
 March 5, 2008 – Green House  
 March 6, 2008 – Blue House  
 March 7, 2008 - Red House  
 March 10, 2008 – Green House  
 March 11, 2008 – Blue House

## SPORT DAY

Sport Day will be on Wednesday, March 19, 2008. It will be held at the Lester Marsh Sports Complex in Content Gardens. We begin at 8:30 a.m. Come prepared to cheer your child on.



## EASTER BREAK

School will be closed on the following days for the Easter break :

March 21 - March 31

**Classes resume April 1, 2008**

## SAFETY IN THE PARKING LOT

All parents and taxi drivers are to accompany students through the gates when picking-up and dropping-off students daily. It is very dangerous to leave children unattended in the parking lot as some drivers are unable to see the little ones when maneuvering their vehicles.

**LET US DO OUR BEST TO AVOID AN ACCIDENT**

## ILLNESS

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

## 16th ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

Our Sixteenth Anniversary Banquet has been rescheduled for a new date in May 2008. Further details will be published in our next newsletter.





## DISMISSAL TIME

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

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

### **P6 ends at 4:00 p.m.**

These students are expected to be picked up by 4:15 p.m. the latest.

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.

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

## THOUGHT

*Watch your thoughts; they become words.*

*Watch your words; they become actions.*

*Watch your actions; they become habits.*

*Watch your habits; they become character.*

*Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.*

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH (FEBRUARY)

We have been celebrating Black History Month with special emphasis on Jamaican poets, authors and playwrights. Classes have been making presentations on persons such as:

Louise Bennett-Coverley

Owen 'Blakka' Ellis

Una Marson

Claude McKay

Lorna Goodison

Aston Cooke

Cyril Everard Palmer

Pamela Mordecai

Mutabaruka

Linton Kwesi Johnson

You are invited to attend our General Assembly to learn more about these persons.

## RAISING A READER

Reading begins at home. As a parent you are the first and most important link on the road to reading. Enjoy stories with your child from a very early age. Even newborns can sense your enthusiasm when you read to them. Try to set aside a special time each and every day that you and your child can enjoy a number of books together without interruption. Your child will signal you when he or she begins to tire of this activity. Let this be your clue that story time has ended. It is probably best to let your child dictate the length of time spent reading and you will find that as the activity becomes standard, your child will sit and listen for longer periods of time.

Be certain that your child has the opportunity to watch you enjoy reading. Don't save those newspapers, magazines or novels until after the little ones are in bed.

Always have a book with you! A short story is just the thing to pass the time when waiting in line, sitting at the doctor's office or picking up siblings from school.



# PICTURE DAY 2008



Our Picture Day will be on February 18, 2008.

Each day is a memorable moment in our children's lives. Capture these moments on film, especially the toothless smiles.

Pictures will be taken by Jacqueline Gannie of **CAMERARTS**.

Please complete the order form below and return it along with the money to the office by February 11, 2008 if you wish for your child to participate in the picture taking exercise. Children should be neatly groomed on the day.

<b>PACKAGE #1 (8" X 10")</b>	<b>PACKAGE #2 (5" X 7")</b>	<b>PACKAGE #3 (10" X 13")</b>	<b>PACKAGE #4 (DELUXE)</b>
25 Photographs \$1,500	23 Photographs \$1000	25 Photographs \$1,800	28 Photographs \$2,500
1 8" x 10"	1 5" x 7"	1 10" x 13"	1 10" x 13"
2 5" x 7"	2 3" x 5"	2 5" x 7"	1 8" x 10"
2 3" x 5"	4 2" x 3"	2 3" x 5"	2 5" x 7"
4 2" x 3"	16 1/2 wallets	4 2" x 3"	4 3" x 5"
16 1/2 wallets		16 1/2 wallets	4 2" x 3"
			16 1/2 wallets

## PICTURE DAY ORDER FORM

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Package #: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_