



Mar-Jam Preparatory School

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY

ISSUE

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Parents & Guardians:

Happy New Year to everyone and welcome back! I hope that everyone enjoyed a restful and happy holiday season.

With this issue of the newsletter, we have completed the first term of the 2006-2007 school year. Our first four months of school were amazing. We had many positive experiences including, the high turnout of parents for class meetings, a tennis team that continued to compete at high levels, hosting a successful International Student Day as well as Tea Party and the addition of several babies to the Mar-Jam family. This list could go on and on, and we are only half way through the year, so there's sure to be more to come. As you read this issue, please make note of the many upcoming events and activities listed inside.

As to those upcoming events, one of the major focuses of the term is the GSAT exams. As we did last year, we are in the process of preparing content readiness for each of the areas that students will be tested in. A part of the preparation process call for analyzing each student's level of readiness for testing and providing extra support where necessary.

As you read this issue of the newsletter, you would have or shortly after receive progress reports for the first term. Please review these reports with your child / children.

As we move into the second phase of 2006-2007 school year, we would like to encourage each parent to continue to be involved, but more importantly, we want to assure each parent that our mission continues to be that of providing a high quality educational program that ensures each student the opportunity to excel academically and grow socially.

The staff at Mar-Jam wishes to thank you for your continued support and we look forward to working with you in the months to follow.

Mrs. Belinda Lue - Principal

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

THANK YOU

We would like to thank all the students, parents, relatives and friends who supported and contributed towards our annual Tea Party. It was a very pleasant afternoon which we all enjoyed.

**REPORTS**

Progress reports for this term are ready for collection. This can be done between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the office.

SCHOOL FEE

School fee for the Easter Term is now due. Please remember that your tuition is what keeps the school financially sound and allows us to provide such an excellent program. We ask that you make every attempt to remit your payments in a timely manner. Thank you.

**EMERGENCY DRILLS**

Your child may mention that we will have earthquake and fire drills. Please understand that these drills are mandated by law. We are not trying to scare the children, but we are preparing them for an emergency that hopefully will never happen. By law, we have to practice fire drills and earthquake drills during the school year.

**SCHOOL EVENT DVD**

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

PARENTS' NIGHT

Our annual Parents' Night which was scheduled for November 24th was unfortunately postponed due to the inclement weather. However, it has now been rescheduled for Friday, February 2, 2007.

F. Y. I - It is a relaxing night filled with fun and laughter. It is also an opportunity for you to see the teachers and other parents 'let their hair down'. Refreshments are served and games and music

are played for your enjoyment.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH (FEBRUARY)**

We will be celebrating Black History Month this year with special emphasis on black entertainment personalities from Jamaica. Classes will make presentations on such persons as:

Louise Bennett-Coverley
Charles Hyatt
Ranny Williams
Leonie Forbes
Oliver Samuels

Joan Hutchin-son
Rex Nettleford
Madge Sinclair



ANNUAL P.T.A. MEETING

The annual P.T.A. meeting for the Easter Term will be on Wednesday, March 14, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.

Please attend our PTA meetings – this is a great way to meet other parents and know what is happening in the school.

A common misconception about P.T.A. is that it is strictly a fund-raising group. While we do have fundraising activities, that is not the sole purpose of the P.T.A.

Raising funds has become a priority due to funding shortages, and our school has enjoyed new computers and a water cooler among other things that would not have been possible without your help.

However, PTA is also a forum to help you learn more about your children and ways to help them at home and at school, to pursue activities that the families may enjoy, and help to guide the direction of our school.

Numerous studies have shown that students, whose parents are involved in their school life, do better academically.

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.

PARENT / TEACHER CONFERENCE

Parent / Teacher Conference for the Easter Term will be held on March 28, 2007 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.

G.S.A.T.

The Grade Six Achievement Tests are scheduled for March 29 and 30.

Regular classes for the school are suspended on these two days.



SPORTS DAY

Sports Day will be on April 3, 2007. It will be held at the Lester

Marsh Sports Complex in Content Gardens. We begin at 9:00 a.m. Come prepared to cheer your child on.

Houses will be conducting fundraisers during the term. Please support them.

ARRIVAL TIME

School begins at 8:30 a.m. Instruction begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. Children who arrive late or leave early 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.



DISMISSAL 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.

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. We are living in dangerous times and there are a lot of unscrupulous people around who will seek to harm your child/children.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Michaelann Denton has done it again. She entered the Burger King Inter-Scholastics Tennis Competition at the Eric Bell Tennis Jamaica Center on January 20th and won the girls Under 12 Championship. She went through five rounds scoring 8-0, 8-0, 8-0, 8-1 and 8-1.

We want to congratulate her and hope that she will continue to make us proud.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Please check to be sure your child has all the necessary supplies for school.

MANY STUDENTS STILL DO NOT HAVE ALL OF THE SUPPLIES NEEDED.

ABSENCES

It is critical that the school be notified of all absences. To make it convenient for parents to report absences, you could call the school office within school hours. We are asking all parents to cooperate in this matter. When your child returns to school after an absence of more than three days, please send a note with him/her. If your child is to leave the school early for any reason, please send a note to the teacher.

BIRTHS

We would like to congratulate the following families on the birth of their newborn:



- Mr. and Mrs. Dwayne Jackson
- Mr. and Mrs. Milton Henry
- Mr. and Mrs. Vijay Nirankari
- Mr. and Mrs. Jalikumar Vanjani

“quoted”

“The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who cannot read them.”
Mark Twain



USE OF THE TELEPHONES

Student use of phones is limited to EMERGENCY situations only. Forgetting homework, a book or a musical instrument is not an emergency. The staff would appreciate parents reinforcing this at home, because school phones are usually busy and lines are limited. It is necessary for parents to make after school arrangements before children leave for school in the morning. Making last minute arrangements by phone is discouraged. Please send a note with your child if there is a change in plans.

PROBLEMS, 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 phone 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.



The world's biggest sharks -- the basking shark and the whale shark -- are also among the least dangerous sharks.

When an armadillo egg hatches, there are almost always four babies inside it.

Baby camels are born without a hump.

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