



# Mar-Jam Preparatory School

## ISSU

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## NEWSLETTER

## JANUAR

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

#### **Parents & Guardians:**



Happy New Year to everyone and welcome back!

With this issue of the newsletter, we have completed the first term of the 2007-2008 school year. The first four months of school went very quickly. We had several positive experiences including a successful International Student Day as well as Tea Party, Prefect Appointment Ceremony and the addition of several babies to the Mar-Jam family. 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 final stage 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. This year, we have twenty-eight students sitting the exams, five of which are from our Special Education Unit.

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. If you should have any questions, do not hesitate to speak with the class teachers.

As we move into the second phase of 2007-2008 school year, 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.

**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. Carolyn 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:**

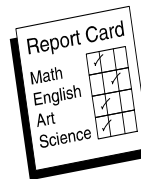
Miss Coleen Thompson  
Mr. Louis Williams  
Mr. Anthony Seymour

**THANK YOU**

We wish 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.

We also wish to thank all the children and their families for all the food, toys and clothing that were donated as a part of our community effort to the Jamaica AIDS Support For Life to provide happiness and comfort during the holiday season to children suffering from HIV/AIDS. Parents, you have done a great job of providing your child with a model of caring, giving and sharing with others.

For all those parents who were able to attend our Parent Empowerment Day on Friday, November 23, 2007, we wish to convey thanks for taking the time from your busy schedules to participate in this event. We hope that you benefited from the presentations

**REPORTS**

Progress reports for the Christmas Term are ready for collection. Please see your class teachers.

**SCHOOL FEE**

We wish to thank you for paying the school fee in a timely manner. For those families on the payment plan, the second portion of the school fee for the Easter Term becomes due upon the re-opening of school after the mid-term break. Please remember that your tuition keeps the school financially sound and allows us to provide such an excellent program.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH (FEBRUARY)**

We will be celebrating Black History Month this year with special emphasis on Jamaican poets, authors and playwrights. Classes will make 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

**EMERGENCY DRILLS**

Your child may mention that we have earthquake and fire drills. Please understand that these drills are mandated by-law. We are not trying to scare the children. 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.

**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**

**ANNUAL P.T.A. MEETING**

The annual P.T.A. meeting for the Easter Term will be on Wednesday, February 13, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Please make every effort to attend.

P.T.A. meetings provide an opportunity to meet other parents and know what is happening in the school. Numerous studies have shown that students, whose parents are involved in their school life, do better academically.

Our newly invited executive members will be announced.

**MID-TERM BREAK**

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

- February 6 - Ash Wednesday
- February 7 - Mid-Term
- February 8 - Staff Workshop

Classes resume February 11, 2008.

**JAMAICA DAY**

Jamaica day will be celebrated on Friday, February 22, 2008.

All parents and friends are invited to come and celebrate with us as we highlight the best of our Jamaican culture.

Parent volunteers are needed for this event. Please contact Miss Hamilton in Prep 5.



**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.

**G. S. A.T.**

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

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



**SPORTS DAY**

Sports 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.

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

**ATTENDANCE/TARDIES/ LEAVING SCHOOL EARLY**

Regular and prompt attendance is necessary for a student to maintain satisfactory progress. Excessive absences and tardiness from school are detrimental to the educational process. With our hands-on, co-operative learning, regular attendance is crucial. Learning takes place through discussion and shared activities. Parents should plan vacations and trips which do not conflict with the school's instructional calendar.

When students arrive late or must leave early, they miss valuable information and are at a disadvantage.

Late arrivals and early dismissals can be very disruptive to other students and to the teacher. When possible, please try to schedule appointments so they do not conflict with school hours.

**TUNE IN**



Tune in to Irie FM every Monday to Thursday at 7:20 a.m. and listen to five of our students as they host the Kiddies Corner programme. Learn from these young ones as they discuss current issues affecting children and our society.



- The hosts are :
- Maya Hussey
  - Kyle Gordon
  - Bhavesh Melwani
  - Kyle-Rae Patch
  - Raynaldo Marchallick

**CONGRATULATIONS**



## DISMISSAL 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.



## SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Many students are still without the necessary school supplies. Your child will not be able to perform creditably in school without educational tools. A check on your child's school supplies should be done at the beginning of each term (September, January, April). We will not be copying pages from any books on the booklists.

## LANGUAGE ARTS/READING PROGRAM

This intense programme is offered to students who require additional instruction for specific Language Arts areas. Students are pulled out of regular class to attend one-on-one and group sessions of reading, phonics, comprehension or creative writing instruction with a specially trained teacher. Children complete the programme when they are working at grade level as judged by the teacher.



## 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.

## HEALTH & FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Our school offers a comprehensive and developmental Health & Family Life Education Programme that is an integral part of the total educational programme designed to promote the academic, social, and career development of all students. As an essential part of the instructional program, HFLE helps to build a foundation for student learning and academic success. Pastor Wesley Boynes, a certified counselor, provides a variety of services, including classroom guidance, crisis intervention, individual and group counseling, consultation with parents, teachers, and administrators, and coordination of services with outside agencies.

## HOMEWORK

Homework is a vital part of the total learning process. Grade-level practices are communicated to students during the first week of school.

The following list serves as a reminder about the importance of homework:

- provides essential practice in needed skills
- trains students in good work habits
- affords opportunities for increasing self-direction
- enriches and extends school experience
- helps students learn to budget time
- promotes growth in responsibility
- brings students into contact with out-of-school learning resources

# 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" 2 5" x 7" 2 3" x 5" 4 2" x 3" 16 1/2 wallets	1 5" x 7" 2 3" x 5" 4 2" x 3" 16 1/2 wallets	1 10" x 13" 2 5" x 7" 2 3" x 5" 4 2" x 3" 16 1/2 wallets	1 10" x 13" 1 8" x 10" 2 5" x 7" 4 3" x 5" 4 2" x 3" 16 1/2 wallets

## PICTURE DAY ORDER FORM

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

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

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