



Mar-Jam Preparatory School

ISSUE #14

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NEWSLETTER

MAY 2007

Parents & Guardians: It's MAY and we have much to celebrate as we move into the last two months of the school year: Teachers' Day, Children's Day and Mothers' Day. May is also celebrated as Child's Month. Let us continue to work together for our children.

FEEDBACK FROM OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

We value and appreciate feedback from our school community. The support and input from parents help us improve our program.

As we plan for the 2007/2008 school year, your ideas and suggestions for improving the program will be appreciated. You can share your ideas in note form, a telephone call or if you would rather come in and conference with us (we suggest that you call first to make an appointment).

As always, we will strive to do our very best to meet the educational and emotional /social needs of students through a positive and productive working relationship with parents. Together, we will endeavour to create a safe, caring, and respectful learning environment. Thank you for your support and for allowing us to teach your child.

TEACHERS' DAY



"Better than a thousand days of diligent study is one day with a great teacher" *Japanese Proverb*

Few other professionals touch so many people in such a lasting way as teachers do. Wednesday, May 9th is National **Teachers' Day**, a time for honoring teachers and recognizing the lasting contributions they make to our lives. At Mar-Jam, we are fortunate to have exceptional teachers. We thank all our staff for their dedication to the children and to the profession!

School ends at 12 noon on this day to facilitate a luncheon for the teachers and staff to show them how much we value their time, commitment and talents that they give so effortlessly to our school and students.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR CHILD / CHILDREN IS PICKED -UP ON TIME.

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 Leita Baldie
Miss Dania Black
Mrs. Carleen Bygrave-Byfield
Mrs. Terry-Ann Christie
Miss Lattamar Coombs
Miss Tasha Gordon
Miss Shirley Hamilton
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. Carollyn 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

**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.

We do not expect to see kindergarten students on the compound after 3:00 p.m.

P1- P6 & Special Ed. Unit 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 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.

N.B: K2 & K3 ends at 1:30 p.m. each Friday afternoon to facilitate club meetings.

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

ARRIVAL TIME

The school gates open at 8:00 a.m. 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.

SCHOOL FEE

School fee for the Summer Term (**third and final term for the school year**) is now due. 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. Thank you for your cooperation.

**DRESS CODE**
REMINDER

It is very important for our students to dress appropriately for school. Our school uniform is a part of our culture of which we are proud.

We have observed that numerous students are not wearing the appropriate footwear in accordance with our uniform: black shoes & white socks; white sneakers & white socks (socks should be visible above the shoes rim).

We are therefore asking parents of students who are not complying with this matter to correct it as soon as possible.

If for any reason your child has to wear clothes or shoes other than the school uniform we ask that a note be sent and the clothes or shoes worn be of a colour similar to that of the school uniform.

Thank you for your cooperation.

ENROLMENTS 2007 - 2008

Families interested in enrolling their children for the 2007-2008 school year are being encouraged to collect and complete registration forms from April 20th - May 20th between 10:00a.m. and 1:00 p.m. daily. Please inform friends and neighbours of these dates.

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

No registration will be accepted without all of the registration requirements being met.

RE-REGISTRATION FOR THE 2007 - 2008 SCHOOL YEAR

All students currently enrolled at Mar-Jam Preparatory School must re-register for the 2007 - 2008 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 begins June 4, 2007.

SCHOLASTIC BOOKS

Thank you for purchasing books from the Scholastic Book Club. These books will be arriving soon.

A big thank you to Mrs. Judith Denton who organized this book club, not just for this past year, but for the past couple of years.



STUDY FOR THE END OF YEAR EXAMS



We would like to encourage parents to start studying with their child / children for the End of Year Exams. These exams cover topics taught from September to June. Start studying for subjects such as Science, Social Studies and Religious Education which are usually voluminous.

End of Year Exams begin June 18.

P.T.A. MEETING

The annual P.T.A. meeting for the Summer Term will be on Wednesday, May 16 , 2007 at 4:00 p.m.

Please attend our PTA meetings – this is a great way to meet other parents and find out all that is happening in the school.

Come and learn more about **Positive Parenting**. Pastor Wesley Boynes will be continuing this series, parents will learn how to enhance self-esteem for themselves and their children. They will also learn discipline techniques that teach children self-control and trust. Other topics include developing communication skills and problem solving.

MID-TERM BREAK

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

- May 23 - Labour Day
- May 24 - Mid-term

Classes will resume on May 25th.

READ ACROSS JAMAICA DAY

May 8, 2007 has been declared as Read Across Jamaica Day.

It is a day to promote reading and literacy. It is expected to encourage children to make reading a regular part of their lives.

CHILDREN'S DAY

We will be celebrating Children's Day at Mar-Jam on May 25, 2007.

This day is full of fun and enjoyment for the children. The teachers will engage the students in numerous activities for the entire day.

Dress code: Jeans & P.E. T-shirt

CAR PARK

The school's car park has limited space. We are therefore asking all parents and taxi drivers to be considerate and courteous when using it.





APPLAUSE, APPLAUSE

Congratulations to the instrumental music group who entered the J.C.D.C. Festival Competition. This is the first time Mar-Jam has entered this category in the competition. The group earned a bronze medal.

Congratulations:

Shadae Lake
Maya Hussey
Ashley Buchanan
Tyler Rodney
Ibrac Reynolds
Iney Reynolds
Munair Lewis-Francis
Lancerene Falcnor
Nicholas Bailey
JoHanna Taylor

Congratulations to the students who entered the J.C.D.C. Speech Festival Competitions. They did extremely well, earning a gold, two silvers and a bronze medal.

Congratulations:

Andreanna Grant
Maya Hussey
Schamona Pounall
Leann Robertson
Tyler Rodney

Congratulations and thanks to the teachers who worked with these students: Mr. Spencer & Miss Hamilton.



Our dance group will be attending the competition on May 16th. We wish them well.



Please support our playground renovation project. We need your help. A list of materials needed for the renovation is posted in the administrative building.

Contribution blocks will be sent home with your child. Please support us. Your contribution of cash, kind or labour would be appreciated. Contact the office for further information.

Our children need a bigger play area. They benefit a lot from play. Children learn as they play. Most importantly, in play children learn how to learn. Play is the optimum learning relationship for a child. The best learners at whatever age or stage of development are those that are best prepared to handle change. As they explore their world, children's play presents them with the fundamental relationships with which they acquire the basic feelings, ideas and capacities to effectively absorb from and adapt to the ever-changing world around them for the rest of their lives.

Play is your child's tutor. It goes far beyond simply encouraging learning activities. When you think about it, play often contains an element of risk. Risk is involved when standing on a stage reciting a single line. He takes risks whenever the group's activities call for running, jumping, and bumping.

Play also has significant educational

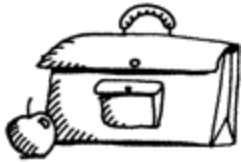
value. In time, a preschooler learns to formulate plans, develop strategies, and exercise his assessment skills in problem solving because of play.

Through play, children learn that their personal gratification is often dependent on their cooperation with other children. Play teaches children about partnership, teamwork, and fair play. It is through play that a child's primitive understanding about "rules" is reinforced because most games have rules.

Play is also therapeutic both physically and emotionally. Physical play releases the pent-up energy stored during times of restriction. The child is released to play with others. Physical play is a pressure valve allowing for the release of energy.

Imaginative, emotional play is freeing. Such play allows a child to test his desires, fears, and hopes without the risk and hardship of judgments and boundaries associated with reality. Children need to be able to control some things. Repetition gives a child the chance to consolidate skills needed to solve board games and puzzles, to stack blocks. Success and accomplishment reinforce the cycles of learning.

Parents give little consideration to the fact that if a child is in any way deprived of imaginative emotional play, either through discouragement or the lack of freedom at self-play, he will equally be deprived of what it is to know hope. It all comes back to the importance of play.



FAIRNESS!

How many times have we heard the words, "That's not fair!" Fairness is an age-old value as well as a Pillar of Character in Character Counts! We strive to be fair in our dealings with others and teach this value to our children by our actions. They see us and our behavior and imitate the same in their interactions with others. We don't say, "Okay, today I'm going to teach you fairness." It is a value that is instilled through everyday exchanges as we work, play, and communicate with each other.

Children have a great sense of fairness. They learn quickly about even exchanges, but may not always see other factors that come into play. A child may ask why she can't do the same thing as an older sibling. It doesn't seem fair to her that she has to stay home when their older brother or sister gets to go to a movie or has some other privilege. He also may not understand why he has to do more work/chores than his younger siblings. It is important to point out to our children that fairness takes into consideration other factors besides even exchanges. Such things as age, ability level, and maturity play a big part in FAIRNESS and what is fair for one person or situation may not be what is fair in another situation or for another person. This lesson of fairness is a little more difficult to get our arms around!