

# Mar-Jam Preparatory School

Issue 7

## NEWSLETTER

September 18, 2006

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Ocho Rios

SAINT ANN

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### Parents & Guardians:

#### The 2006-2007 School Year

Welcome to a new school year! I hope you have enjoyed your summer. I feel pleased and privileged to introduce myself as the new principal of Mar-Jam Preparatory School. This will be an exciting year and I am looking forward to it!

My focus for Mar-Jam will be for us to become an even stronger and more effective community of learners and a place where students, parents and staff feel proud of accomplishments. School is a place where the primary activity is learning for both students and adults. Our school will continue to value the richness of our diversity and to hold high academic and behavioural expectations for students and for ourselves. As a community we will further these goals by working together to establish a culture of shared beliefs and values, communicating openly with students, staff, parents, and the community and by providing quality instruction that is based on current research and best practices.

I am excited to share with you the many events and special presentations that happen throughout the year. I would like to encourage all parents to become active members of our school P.T.A.

I am sending out important information in this newsletter to help your family begin our new school year. Please look over the materials. Feel free to call the school if you have any questions. On behalf of the staff, Heather and I welcome you to another exciting year and look forward to working with you.

### Thanks to Our Parents

*We would like to thank:*

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Jackson for donating well needed supplies

which aided in the repair of the Prep 2 classroom ceiling.

\* Mrs. Alex Ghisays, Mrs. Indra Chatani and all the other parents who purchased fans for the Prep 3 classroom.

\* Mrs. Judith Denton who has been assisting with the Scholas-



**Directors:**

Mrs. Annette James  
*Clinical Specialist*

Miss Heather Maragh  
*Administrator*

Mrs. Belinda Lue  
*Principal*

Miss Ethlyn Green  
*Admin. Asst./Bursar*

**Board Members:**

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

**Staff -Teachers**

Miss Leita Baldie  
Miss Dania Black  
Mrs. Carleen Byfield  
Mrs. Terry-Ann Christie  
Miss Lattamar Coombs  
Miss Shirley Hamilton  
Mr. Dwayne Jackson  
Mrs. Sheronda Henry-Jackson  
Mrs. Rosalee Kerr-Ferguson  
Mrs. Patricia LeVel  
Mrs. Simone Martin (*Teacher Rep.*)  
Mrs. Rosemarie McDonald  
Mr. Shane Oliver  
Mrs. Carollyn Patch  
Mrs. Gillian Rose-Bailey  
Mr. John Spencer  
Miss Sandra Taylor  
Mrs. Karla Ward-Campbell  
Mrs. Vernie Wisdom  
Mrs. Alicia Richards- *Spanish*  
Mr. Glenville Graham - *Art*

**Ancillary**

Miss Coleen Thompson  
Mr. Lewis Williams  
Mr. George James (*Part-time*)

**P. T. A. Meeting**

Our first P. T. A. Meeting will be on Wednesday, October 11, 2006, commencing at 4:00 p.m. All parents are being asked to make every effort to attend.

**Canteen**

Our Canteen is currently under new management - Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Buchanan.

The cost for lunch is:

K1 to K3 - \$120 and  
Preps 1 – 6 \$150.00.

The menu for the month is displayed at the canteen and each class has a copy.

We encourage everyone to support the canteen

and feel free to make suggestions.

**School Fee**

Please note that when you have paid the school fee, we need to get a copy of the voucher. Vouchers need to be handed in at the office. Failure to do so will result in your child not being admitted to class.

**Sundry Fees**

A significant number of parents have not contributed their sundry fees. Failure to make the contribution will severely hinder the P. T. A. efforts.

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

G. S. A.T. Examinations will be March 29 & 30, 2007.

Please note that Prep 6 ends at 4:00 p.m. from Monday to Thursday.

G. S. A T. Saturday classes are scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Congratulations to all our students who sat the G. S. A.T. exams. They worked very hard doing their best to make us proud.

We had three students who did exceptionally well gaining for themselves scholarships.

They are:

**Shanice Hinds** -Blue Cross Police Scholarship

**Michael Hussey** - Jamaica National Top Performer for St.  Ann.

**Letter**

A letter is needed from the school whenever you make an appointment at an embassy, whether for a visa renewal or new application. Please notify the office at least two weeks in advance so that your letter can be prepared.

**Letters requested the day before the appointment will not be ready on time.**

**Mini Miss St. Ann**

Two students from the school entered the Mini-Miss St. Ann Competition and were successful in making us proud.

Schamona Pounall outdid all the other competitors and was crowned queen. She walked away with sectional prizes for most

talented, most aware and best gown.

Brianna DeCarish also did very well and was awarded fourth place.

**Cellular Phones**

Cellular phones are not allowed at school. Any child seen with a cellular phone will have to turn it in at the office.



**Books**



Please remember that text books are your children's working tools and without them they cannot perform efficiently. When a child does not have his / her textbooks, it is difficult to do homework or revise the class work taught.

We find that some students still do not have their textbooks and exercise books, hence it is difficult for them to work effectively. We are aware of the financial constraints and the availability of the books, but we are asking you to please make every effort to get their textbooks and exercise books as soon as possible. Bookmax in St. Ann's Bay, Bryans Book Store in Island Plaza, Ocho Rios or

Catalyst Book Shop, Milford Road, Ocho Rios have all the books on our lists. If they do not have a particular book, they will source it.

**Photocopying**

Effective October 1, 2006 the photocopying of pages from textbooks which are on the booklist will cease. The photocopier will only be used to copy resource materials, tests and administrative documents.

**Physical Education**

On the days when Physical Education classes are held, students should wear their white T-shirts, white shorts, white socks and white sneakers

The scheduled days for P.E. classes are as follows:

**Tuesdays & Thursdays**  
Preps 3 - 6

**Wednesdays & Fridays**  
Kindergarten to Prep 2.

House T-shirts are to be worn only during the Easter term.



**Arrival & Dismissal**

School starts at 8:30 a.m. and the gate will be locked at 9:00 a.m. Students arriving after this time will not be allowed inside and will be sent home, or, if left by a taxi they will be taken to the office and parents will be called to pick up their children. Being on time for school will help your child in learning good time management.

K1 class finishes at 1:30 p.m. Children should be picked up by 2:30 p.m. the latest.

K2 & K3 classes finish at 2:00 p.m. Children should be picked up by 3:00 p.m. the latest.

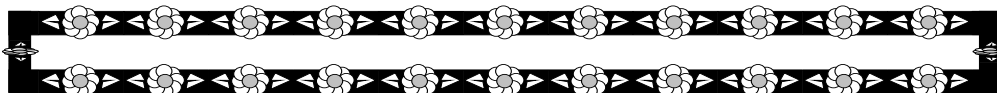
The teacher's playground duty ends at 4:00 p.m. All students must leave the school compound by 4:30 p.m. No teacher will be on the school compound after this time to supervise your child.

Please make every effort to have your child home by 4:30 p.m. We are living in dangerous times and there are a lot of unscrupulous people around who will seek to

harm your child.

**Personal Calls**

**Only in emergency situations will students be allowed to make phone calls. If a child wants to make a call, the cost will be \$50.00 for cellular and \$20.00 for land line calls.**



**Extra Curricula Activities:****Dance Classes - Mrs. Plummer**

Mondays:

Kindergarten 2:15 - 3:00 p.m.

Preps 1- 6 3:15 - 4:00 p.m.

**Karate—Mrs. Corie Allen - 406-6462**

Classes begin next school term.

**Evening Institute**

Mar-Jam Evening Institute offers C. X. C. and G. C. E. subjects. The teachers are highly qualified and have excellent success rate. Interested persons can contact Mrs. Patch at the school or at 362-0044.

Cost: \$6,000.00 per subject for the year .  
Registration Fee is \$400.00.

**French**

French lessons are being offered for students from Prep 2 upwards at the school.  
Classes will be held every Wednesday between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$4,000.00 per term per child  
Registration fee \$100.00  
Contact Mrs. Maknoon at 352-2914

**Clubs**

**Culture Club - Miss Hamilton, Mrs. LeVel, Mr. Spencer, Mrs. Patch, Miss Campbell, Miss Coombs & Mrs. Martin.**

Thursdays - 3:15 - 4:15 p.m

This club includes music, dance, speech & drama.  
Students in this club will be preparing for the J. C. D. C. Festival.

Yearly Membership Fee is \$150.00 per student and weekly dues is \$20.00 per student.

**Red Cross - Mrs. McDonald, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. Hylton, Miss Hamilton & Mrs. Jackson**

Yearly Membership and Registration Fee is \$150.00 per child and weekly dues is \$20.00 per child

**Netball - Mrs. Bailey, Miss Coombs & Mrs. Martin**

Fridays 3:15 - 4:15 p.m.

**Environmental —Miss Black, Mrs. LeVel, Mrs. Byfield, Miss Ellis, Miss Coombs & Mr. Spencer**

Fridays 2:00—3:00 p.m.

Yearly Membership Fee is \$150.00 per student and weekly dues is \$20.00 per student.

**Spelling Bee - Mrs. Ferguson & Mrs. Wisdom**

Wednesdays 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

**Football - Mr. Jackson, Mr. Oliver & Mr. Spencer**

Senior Boys: Fridays 3:35 - 4:15 p.m.

Junior Boys: Tuesdays 3:15 -4:15 p.m.

**Boys Scouts - Mr. Jackson, Mrs. LeVel & Mr. Spencer**

Thursdays 3:15 - 4:15 p.m.

Yearly Membership Fee is \$150.00 per boy and weekly dues is \$20.00 per boy

**Brownies - Miss Baldie, Mrs. Patch, Mrs. Ferguson, Miss Gordon, Mrs. Christie & Miss Taylor**

Fridays 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Yearly Membership Fee is \$150.00 per girl and weekly dues is \$20.00 per girl.

The yearly Membership Fee goes directly to the Boys Scout Association and the Girl Guides Association respectively. The weekly dues are placed in a fund which is used to purchase things needed for the Brownies and Boys Scout Troops to use in their sessions and / or assist with camping trips and excursions

**Junior Schools' Challenge Club—Miss Ellis, Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Campbell Miss Hamilton & Mrs. Byfield.**

Meeting Time: Wednesdays at lunchtime

**Class teachers are as follows:**

**K1** - Mrs. Simone Martin &  
Mrs. Sheronda Jackson  
Miss Tasha Gordon

**K2** - Mrs. Carollyn Patch &  
Miss Abigail Ellis

**K3** - Mrs. Rosemarie McDonald  
& Mrs. Joan Taylor

**Prep 1** - Mrs. Verne Wisdom &  
Miss Leita Baldie

**Prep 2** - Miss Lattamar Coombs &  
Mrs. Carlene Byfield

**Prep 3** - Mrs. Michelle Hylton &  
Mrs. Gillian Rose-Bailey

**Prep 4** - Miss Dania Black &  
Mr. John Spencer

**Prep 5** - Miss Shirley Hamilton &  
Mrs. Terry-Ann Christie

**Prep 6** - Mrs. Karla Campbell &  
Mrs. Rosalee Ferguson

**P.E.** - Mr. Dwanye Jackson

**Computer** - Mr. Shane Oliver

**Units 1 & 2** - Mrs. Patricia LeVel &  
Miss Sandra Taylor

**Spanish** - Mrs. Alicia Richards

**Music** - Mr. John Spencer

**Art** - Mr. Glenville Graham

We encourage you to participate in the events whenever possible. We pray you will have a blessed term.

**Advices for Parents to help their children become more organized.**

Developing good organizational skills is a key ingredient for success in school and in life. Although some people by nature are more organized than others, anyone can put routines and systems in place to help a child "get it together." Here's a list of strategies that you can use to help your child get -- and keep -- his life under control.

1. **Use checklists.** Help your child get into the habit of keeping a "to-do" list. Use checklists to post assignments, household chores, and reminders about what materials to bring to class. Your child should keep a small pad or notebook dedicated to listing homework assignments. Crossing completed items off the list will give him a sense of accomplishment.
2. **Organize homework assignments.** Before beginning a homework session, encourage your child to number assignments in the order in which they should be done. She should start with one that's not too long or difficult, but avoid saving the longest or hardest assignments for last.
3. **Designate a study space.** Your child should study in the same place every night. This doesn't have to be a bedroom, but it should be a quiet place with few distractions. All school supplies and materials should be nearby. If your young child wants to study with you nearby, too, you'll be better able to monitor his progress and encourage good study habits.
4. **Set a designated study time.** Your child should know that a certain time every day is reserved for studying and doing homework. The best time is usually not right after school -- most children benefit from time to unwind first. Include your child in making this decision. Even if she doesn't have homework, the reserved time should be used to review the day's lessons, read for pleasure, or work on an upcoming project.

**5. Keep organized notebooks.** Help your child keep track of papers by organizing them in a binder or notebook. This will help him review the material for each day's classes and to organize the material later to prepare for tests and quizzes. Use dividers to separate class notes, or color-code notebooks. Separate "to do" and "done" folders help organize worksheets, notices, and items to be signed by parents, as well as provide a central place to store completed assignments.

**6. Conduct a weekly clean-up.** Encourage your child to sort through book bags and notebooks on a weekly basis. Old tests and papers should be organized and kept in a separate file at home.

**7. Create a household schedule.** Try to establish and stick to a regular dinnertime and a regular bedtime. This will help your child fall into a pattern at home. Children with a regular bedtime go to school well-rested. Try to limit television-watching and computer play to specific periods of time during the day.

**8. Keep a master calendar.** Keep a large, wall-sized calendar for the household that lists the family's commitments, schedules for extracurricular activities, days off from school, and major events at home and at school. Note dates when your child has big exams or due dates for projects. This will help family members keep track of each other's activities and avoid scheduling conflicts.

**9. Prepare for the day ahead.** Before your child goes to bed, he should pack schoolwork and books in a book bag. The next day's clothes should be laid out with shoes, socks, and accessories. This will cut down on morning confusion and allow your child to prepare quickly for the day ahead.

**10. Provide needed support while your child is learning to become more organized.** Help your child develop organizational skills by photocopying checklists and schedules and taping them to the refrigerator. Gently remind her about filling in calendar dates and keeping papers and materials organized. Most important, set a good example.