



MINUTES
GENERAL MEETING - Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Jessie Ripoll Primary
Monday, October 13, 2014

There were 219 parents in attendance (see PTA's registers).

A minute of silence was observed for Ms. Althea Barnett, a member of the office staff who passed away after giving birth to her first child (son).

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Constantine Martin, President at 5:00 p.m. with praise and worship by Ms. B Millwood and Mrs. M. Blake-Making. We were then led in prayer by Mrs. Blake-Making.

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Mr. Martin welcomed all present and extended apologies for absence on behalf of other members of the PTA Executive. He thanked parents for making the sacrifice to attend PTA meeting.

REVIEW OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting dated September 08, 2014 was read with two observations made; last paragraph on page 4, the name "Alicia" should have been spelt "Alecia" and Mr. Kevin Senior noted that the number of parents in attendance should be included in the minutes. Observations were noted and are to be acted on. The minutes were then confirmed by Mr. Senior and Ms. D. Sharrers.

UPDATE- Mr. Constantine Martin, President

- Mr. Martin informed parents that text messages are now sent by the school and not by way of a third party. This means that the school now has total control of how and when messages are sent. Parents were encouraged to sign up to receive text messages as this is the quickest means by which parents can be kept informed. Also, the more persons that sign up is the less the cost will be. Four parents indicated that they were not receiving messages and were told to speak with Mr. Martin at the end of the meeting.
- Mr. Martin again reminded parents that questions can be placed on the PTA's web site and will be answered at the next meeting. One question that came from the web site was that of the cleaning of the bathrooms. Mr. Martin informed parents that the bathrooms were in fact cleaned and maintained throughout the course of the day.
- Lap-a-thon sheets were distributed to teachers on Wednesday, October 13 and were handed out to students.

- Mention was made of the Family Fun Fair to be held on Saturday November 29, 2014. Parents were asked to support the event as funds gained will go towards the resurfacing of the playfield.

PRESENTATION

A medical presentation was done on the Chikungunya Virus and its effects, by Nurse Nadine Rowe-Fisher of the Kingston Public Hospital, who is a parent at Jessie. In her presentation, Nurse Fisher shared some interesting facts on the Chik V. Some of the facts shared are:

- Only the female mosquito feeds on blood. This is because they need the protein found in blood to produce eggs. Male mosquitoes feed only on plant nectar.
- The mosquito is attracted by the body odours, carbon dioxide and heat emitted from animal or humans.
- The female Aedes mosquito searches for suitable places to lay their eggs.
- The Aedes Aegypti mosquitoes are day biters, but are most active during dusk and dawn.
- If you suspect that you have Chik V, visit the doctor and use Acetaminophen (Tylenol or Paracetamol) for initial fever and pain relief.
- To prevent the breeding of mosquitoes, we must change water in vases/bowls every other day; remove water from flower pot plates every other day, and add sand to the plates; turn over all storage containers; remove stagnant water collected on leaves, tree branches and in drains.
- Some of the ways to prevent mosquitoes from biting are: use a mosquito repellent containing DEET; obtain pyrethrin spray for clothing, curtains, outdoor furniture etc. to kill mosquitoes that land on these surfaces; dress in protective light colored clothing - long-sleeved shirts, long pants, socks and shoes; because Aedes mosquitoes usually bite during the day, be sure to use precautions especially during early morning hours before daybreak and in the late afternoon before dark.

Parents were very interested in and receptive of the information shared and asked some very interesting questions at the end of the presentation. Flyers were then distributed. Mr. Martin then thanked Nurse Fisher for making the time to share this information.

UPDATE – Mrs. Marcia Detry Fogah, Principal

- Mrs. Detry Fogah once again reminded parents that there is ‘no right turn’ to enter the school coming from South Camp Road.
- The soldiers have completed most of the work being done on the staircases and the partitions, but no work has been done on the corridors.
- Parents need to collect their passwords at the office to have access to the school’s web site.
- Persons who use the back gate were again asked to stop parking by the circle/round-about; it should only be used as a drop off zone. People are also being rude and disrespectful to the security when they are spoken to. Mrs. Detry Fogah gave an instance when she had to speak to a gentleman who was parked and was just sitting there. After trying to be disrespectful, he only moved after certain utterances from her.
- The Grade four literacy results were shared with parents and were very encouraging: 97% of the students obtained mastery. Parents were reminded that there will be no supplementary exams in December and that students must pass the grade four tests in order to sit the GSAT.
- The staff was commended by a parent for their hard work and dedication.
- Parents were encouraged to speak with their children.
- The misuse of the bathrooms by the students is still a problem. Mrs. Detry Fogah gave instances where students would remove the cover from the tanks and defecate in the tanks. This is just one of the many problems that the school is having. Parents were reminded that over 1.5 million dollars was spent by the PTA to refurbish these bathrooms. The PTA is therefore seeking persons to monitor the bathrooms during the days when the students are here.
- Mrs. Detry Fogah gave a bit more detail on the passing of Ms. Althea Barnett.

REPORT

- Election for the post of 1st Vice President and Assistant Treasurer was conducted. There were only three (3) applicants: two (2) for the post of 1st Vice President, Mrs. Rose Marie Whittaker and Mr. Delroy Plumber and one (1) for the post of Asst. Treasurer. Mr. Keith Minott. Mr. Plumber was absent so Mrs. Rose Marie Whittaker was elected with a

majority vote of 98 in favor. Mr. Keith Minott, the sole representative for the post of Asst. Treasurer was elected with 83 votes.

- Ms. Janet Edie of Booksmart was introduced to the parents by Mr. Martin. Parents were informed of the integral role she plays in assisting the PTA.
- The financial statement for September 2013 to August 2014 was distributed to some parents. Due to time constraints, it was not presented in details but parents were encouraged to request copies via the PTA's web site. It was mentioned that the Treasurer, Mrs. Martin, is available for any question related to the report.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn was moved by Mrs. T. Kellerman Senior and seconded by Mrs. E. Hazel. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:39 p.m. with the National Anthem. Next meeting will be November 10, 2014.