



PRESIDENT'S END OF YEAR REPORT

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION - Jessie Ripoll Primary

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2013

✚ Kindly see contained a summary of the operations of the PTA for the period January to December 2013.

The PTA executive body experienced a number of changes over the review period; namely new appointee. Assistant Public Relations Officer – Mr. Anthony Fisher (replaces Mrs. Beverley Williams whose son completed Grade 6 and has moved on to secondary studies). Mr. Anthony Fisher was nominated to serve as Assistant Public Relations Officer (PRO) and the motion was moved to accept him to serve in the position. It should be noted that Mr. Fisher works in the area of Communications.

With two (2) Floor Members unable to wholly participate in the activities of the PTA, they were requested to step aside and allow the positions to be suitably filled. Miss Monika Harty and Mrs. Nadine Bryan were recommended and selected to serve. Miss Monika Harty served as a member of the Events Committee and as such the transition to the executive was seamless; Mrs. Bryan has also participated as a parent volunteer and was eager to join the team. The executive team continues to be cohesive and effective with the Acting Principal, Acting Vice Principal, seven (7) core members and (7) floor members including the teacher ex-officio, Mr. Raphael Davis:

○ Principal (Actg.)	-	Mrs. Marcia Detry Fogah
○ Vice Principal (Actg.)	-	Mr. Owen Henry
○ President	-	Mr. Constantine Martin
○ 2 nd Vice President	-	Mrs. Erica Allen-Lennon
○ Secretary	-	Mrs. Desrine Sykes-Hanson
○ Assistant Secretary	-	Mrs. Rose Marie Whittaker
○ PRO	-	Mr. David Shady
○ Assistant PRO	-	Mr. Anthony Fisher
○ Treasurer	-	Mrs. Nadene Martin
○ Assistant Treasurer	-	Mrs. Thompson-Derby
○ Teacher Ex-officio	-	Mr. Raphael Davis

Since January 2013, the PTA convened nine (9) general meetings, ten (10) executive meetings, special and planning meetings and numerous gatherings (to facilitate meat preparation, corn, other food items, tickets, check off) which was necessary for order and to allow the fine-tuning of the numerous PTA calendar events. This included a

meeting with parent volunteers to brief persons on the expectation of events for the day and required participation.

The Food, Event and Sports Committees continue to be vibrant and with the Jessie Invitational nearing (planned for April 2014) the capabilities of the Sports Committee will be highlighted.

The **Events Committee** was integral in the planning, execution and success of a number of events throughout 2013; namely, Sports Day, Family Games Night, Child's Month, Teachers' Day (teachers were feted), Graduation, Parent Month (tokens were issued) Family FAIR, Lapathon in November 2013 and Ice Cream treat for Jessie Ripoll family (to include students, teachers and all other members of staff). In collaboration with other committees, the Events Committee retained its talented contributors and numerous sponsors who were on board for the year; Catherine's Peak, Jamaica National Building Society, Grace Kennedy, National Commercial Bank, WISYNCO, LIME, Spartan Health Club, Big Jo, Honey Bun, Tastee, Mayberry. In relation to the Lapathon/Family Fun Fair numerous prizes were issued – top prize of a tablet, book vouchers and prize for the teacher of class with the most returns.

Family Games Night – These were held three (3) times throughout the year (one per term) April, May and September. This event was well supported by parents, students and extended family.

The **Sports Committee** met through the period and items which emanated are as follows:

- ✓ The planned Sports Fiesta did not materialize however plans are already underway for the Jessie Invitational. Sports enthusiasts appear to be eagerly awaiting the staging of the event.
- ✓ Sports Day – The two day event was highly anticipated and the students showed their prowess on both days. The PTA secured sponsorship from the principal, parents, PTA members and past students for particular races and also funding for medals and trophies
- ✓ The wellness programme which began in January 2013 and includes a formal workout programme designed by Mr. Jerome Morgan of the Physical Education Department is still active. The programme is offered Tuesday to Thursday and begins at 5:30 p.m.

PTA Executive Members continued to offer their input and support to the various school based committees which convened meetings throughout 2013. The School Improvement Plan Committee, Representative Constantine Martin, Welfare Committee, Representative Nadene Martin, Security Committee, Representative Michael McPherson and Fundraising Committee represented by Mrs. Thompson-Derby. Members continue to mentor students on a daily basis – male members focus mainly on

the male students and likewise female members impart to female students basic guidance (one on one talks, etc.).

In October 2013, Mr. Michael McPherson was recognized for his relentless and consistent contribution to the school as Security Advisor and also as a member of the Security Committee.

CONTAINER FOR VISUAL ARTS CLASSROOM/BATHROOM PROJECT

Throughout 2013, the PTA had two major projects to complete. As the relevant approvals were received from the Ministry of Education, KSAC et al for the bathroom renovation and container acquisition, the PTA moved swiftly to prepare the designated area for, and to install, the container. The students' bathrooms were fully and beautifully completed and with the LAPATHON/Family Fun FAIR successfully staged, the focus will now be centered on the teachers' bathrooms and equipping the container with the requisite items for the classroom to be fully operational.

OTHER

The notice board to the right of the security post was refreshed and relocated to its present location by the PTA. This remains as one of the channels of our communication process.

GENERAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

The PTA continues to bring to the general and special meetings a sense of awareness by highlighting relevant subject matters and providing a gateway for information/opportunities. All meetings had good turnouts and always met and surpassed the required quorum of eighty (80) members. A number of institutions and speakers were invited.

It should be of particular note that the general meetings continue to be the main forum for a face to face opportunity (through Mrs. Detry Fogah/teachers) for the school to provide updates and information and vice versa for the parents to table their commendations/suggestions/observations/concerns.

GENERAL MEETINGS

- **Centre for the Investigation of Sexual Offences and Child Abuse (CISOCA) - Superintendent Gladys Brown**
Superintendent Brown informed that her role was to educate the wider society

on issues which affect our children and highlight a number of areas parents should take a keen interest. She found support in the theme for Child's Month, 'Children's Care and Protection - A Fi Wi Mission' and congratulated the parents for showing an interest in their children's affairs by supporting the school and the PTA. She made special mention of the men (fathers) who were in attendance; they were commended for their demonstration of authority and interest in their family and children's education.

CISOCA aims to create an atmosphere which will encourage victims to report incidents of sexual offences and child abuse; to ensure efficient and effective investigation into allegations of abuse; to enhance the rehabilitation of victims through counselling and therapy and to conduct public education programmes on Sexual Offences and Child Abuse.

○ **RenWeb School Management System - Mr. Carlton Webb**

RenWeb School Management System aims to automate and strengthen the community at Jessie Ripoll by providing parents new access to teachers and classroom information in real time by connecting school administration, classroom management and communication with home.

○ **GoGSAT Limited - Mr. Clayton East**

GoGSAT, endorsed by the Ministry of Education, is an online system to assist students in grades 1 - 6. The system has been especially notable for the preparation of students for the Grade Four Literacy and Grade Six Achievement Tests. GoGSAT also includes curricula reviews together with specific tests that seek to reinforce the students' mastery of essential skills.

○ **EYELITE Optical Jamaica Limited - Mr. Trevor Myers**

Eyelite Optical offers eye care services, which includes eye examinations/vision screening, laser treatment, cataract surgery, glaucoma surgery, Cyst Surgery, etc.

Eyelite Optical again returned in June, 2013, however the focus of the presentation was on nutrition, especially of the children. He spoke at length about the types of food we should include in our children's diets, which must include fruits and vegetables – also extending and including these items in their lunch kits as snacks. Parents, Mr. Myers said, should be role models for their children when it comes to nutrition and exercise. Foods that have a lot of preservative should be eliminated from our diets. He also stressed that no child should be placed on a DIET, they are growing so they need all the nutrients. What we must do is change what they snack on.

Eyelite maintains an open relationship with the school and continues to partner with the school to host workshops for parents, eye testing and learning sessions for students. There is also plan for a Health Fair in 2014.

- **Jessie Ripoll Primary Alumni Association (JRPAA)**, Mr. Joneil Alcock, President, shared a wealth of information re: the inception and objectives of the alumni association.

The Alumni Association was again invited to ignite interest

Mrs. Desrine Sykes-Hanson, Vice President, shared that with the continued positive growth of Jessie Ripoll Primary, the Alumni Association was formed in November 2010 to consolidate a relationship between past students and the school. The aim of the group is to improve the school's standard, continue the legacy as it was imparted and to execute projects to better the life of the school community. Parents were encouraged to share the information with persons who are past students and instill a sense of awareness in current students so that in the near future they in turn will step up to the charge of the Association.

- **EFFECTIVE ENERGY SOLUTIONS - Mr. Raymond Lopez**
With the general public seeking to reduce energy consumption and ultimately their electricity bill, Effective Energy Solutions shared their energy saving programme which would train, develop and implement sustainable energy management practices for homes and offices.
- **Heritage Education Funds - Ms. Vanessa Francis**
Heritage Education Funds presented earlier in the school year but were determined that all parents be made aware of the services offered. Heritage International allows persons to save scheduled amounts in United States Dollars (USD) towards their children's university education.
- **Good Times Swimming Club Limited - Mr. Neville White**
The Learn to swim programme is offered on Saturdays at St. Hugh's High School, Cross Roads. The programme also caters to children who are hyperactive; a suitable individual programme would be designed for the child.
- **Access Financial Services Limited - Ms. Kamille Williams**
The company was established in 2000 and is one of the premier providers of loans to Jamaica's Microfinance Sector. Access provides both personal and business loans island-wide to public and private sector workers through a network of fourteen (14) branches.
- **Guardian Life Insurance - Ms. Alicia Foster**
A breakdown of the Insurance section of our school's contribution was presented to us. Ms. Foster explained what the plan covers. With the accidental death of a child the money will be paid to a Guardian. She also spoke about the dismemberment which is only covered by the policy. This policy only covers the child while he or she is at school during the school year.

- **Mrs. Patricia Pinto-Thomas - Region I, Chair - National Parent Teacher Association of Jamaica (NPTAJ)**
Mrs. Pinto-Thomas stated that she was impressed with the PTA's main project for the acquisition of a container for the visual arts classroom and commended the team for their outstanding work. The mission of NPTAJ is to enable the Transformation of Education through effective partnership with key stakeholders; and the growth and development of vibrant and proactive PTAs island wide.
- **Mr. Cedric Cunningham - School SMS**
In order to improve the communication process from school to parent, the school sought an alternative to enable a more efficient process. School SMS offers a text message notification service.
- **City of Kingston Credit Union (COK) - Mr. Duvall**
COK was on hand to showcase their products and services. Mr. Duvall addressed the issue of money management and addressed the relevance of saving from an early age. He reminded parents that the school has a banking partnership with COK.
- **NCB OMNI Insurance, OMNI Educator - Miss C. Daley/Mrs. Fearon**
Omni Educator is a unique long term education savings plan - a vehicle through which parents and family members can plan and save towards their children's tertiary education.
- **Proactive Financial Services Limited (PFS)**
This is an established micro-financing organization with its registered office in Kingston, and has opened branches island wide. PFS is a profit-making organization providing loan funding for various activities and to diverse people.
- **Epsilon Publishing - Suzanne Jones**
Epsilon Publishing presented on their product offerings. Epsilon Publishing produces a number of popular textbooks from Pre-school to Grade 9 including their *Concept Series* and *Easy Pass Series*.

SPECIAL MEETING

In recognition of November 2013 as Parent Month under the theme, "Transforming Families through...Communication, Awareness, Resources and Education" a message from The Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller, Prime Minister of Jamaica was read by Alexander Grant and Deboneil Brissett and message from the President, National Parenting Commission was read by Christina Montaque.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- **Miss Nembhard, Enrichment and Resource Room** - Miss Nembhard shared the purpose of the Enrichment and Resource Room and urged parents to support the programme and the students who benefit from the programme.

PERFORMANCES BY STUDENTS – SPEECH AND DRAMA GROUP

- On a number of occasions, the speech and drama group showcased their arrangements. These were of the highest caliber, moving and power filled and was well received by parents.

PTA COMMITMENTS

The PTA has a number of fundraising events and commitments remaining for the 2013/2014 school year.

- ✓ Sports Day
- ✓ Jessie Invitational
- ✓ Wellness/Fitness Programme
- ✓ Family Games Night
- ✓ Child's Month
- ✓ Teacher's Day
- ✓ Secretaries' Day
- ✓ Presentation to graduates
- ✓ Mentorship
- ✓ Health Fair

As impressed in previous reports, the PTA body maintains an unrelenting drive and determination and looks forward to bringing more benefits to the students, school and parents in its day to day and projected activities. We look forward to another year filled with accomplishments and presence (visibly present and active).

Thanking you,

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Constantine Martin (Mr.)
PTA PRESIDENT
15 January 2014