

Education Alive!

July 2014



The Summer Edition

Fostering a brighter horizon through the use of technology

The drive continues to improve education in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, through the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

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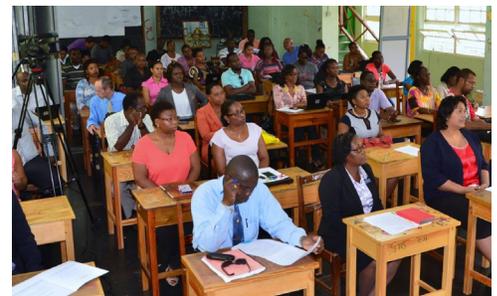


To this end, the Ministry of Education in collaboration with the National Centre of Technological Innovation (NCTI), is conducting a series of workshops. The target group consists of seven hundred secondary school teachers and the training sessions are taking place under the theme “Fostering a brighter horizon through the use of technology”. The programme is being sponsored by Digicel, SVG Ltd.



ICT Integration Workshop for secondary school teachers

Training is being provided in the use of Windows 8.1 Operating System, Microsoft Office 2013 (including Excel and Power-point), ACER Classroom Management and productivity tools. With the recent distribution of 15000 laptops under the One Laptop per Student programme, the Ministry of Education seeks to further increase teachers’ competence and confidence in using the ICT tools in their professional capacity. The Ministry hopes to further enhance students’ engagement and academic outcomes.



Opening session of the ICT Integration Workshops at the Girls' High School
photo credits (Lance Neverson)

The workshops are being held at various venues throughout the country, over a four-week period. They commenced on Monday July 28 and will end on Friday August 22. Each group of teachers will attend one week (twenty-five hours) of training.

An opening ceremony took place on Monday July 28 at the Girls’ High School.



Summer Fever

Many children anxiously await the July/August vacation, as they anticipate attending different summer programmes. It's almost like Summer Fever!

Summer programmes have the potential to help children and youth improve their academic and social outcomes. In light of this, the Ministry of Education has facilitated a number of training programmes for children.

Better Behaviour!

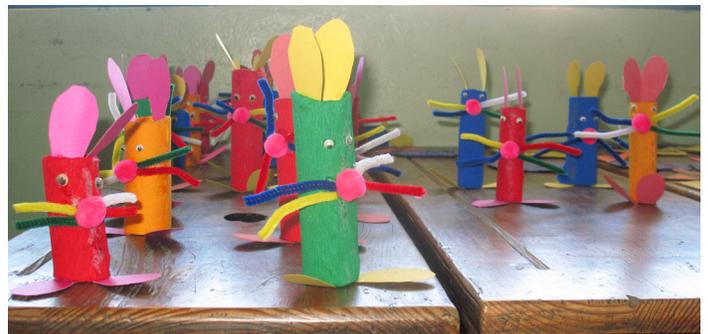
Behaviour change through positive means was the idea behind a recently concluded Behaviour Modification programme.



Students participating in class activities at the Kingstown Anglican School Annex

The programme sought to address behavioral problems in students at the grade four (4) level and targeted children in three (3) main locations. Students of the Stubbs, Caldar and Argyle Primary schools attended the programme in Stubbs; students of Barrouallie Government, Barrouallie Anglican and Layou Government schools attended the programme in Barrouallie; while the programme centre in town catered for students of C.W Prescod Primary, Kingstown Prep, Kingstown Anglican, Lodge Village Government and Fair Hall Primary schools.

The development of life skills, enforcement of positive behaviours like punctuality, as well as appreciation for the creative arts (art & craft, dance, karate, etc) are part and parcel of the programme's mechanism. The students have now successfully completed the first year of a 3-year cycle and are expected to show signs of improvement in behavior as the programme progresses over the next two (2) years.



Art and Craft display area. Students created a variety of items



Students enjoying light refreshments at the programme



Above: Dance display by female students

Left: Karate display by male students

The Behaviour Modification programme was sponsored by the Ministry of Social Development, through the Juvenile Justice Reform Programme. The sessions were organized by Jasmine Francois-Creese, coordinator of the Student Support Services of the Ministry of Education, with the support of a team of teachers and guidance counselors.



This year's sessions officially came to an end on Tuesday August 4, with a closing ceremony at the Anglican School Annex, Victoria Park.

Pan Training Programmes



Several training programmes that emphasize the steel pan art form have been taking place at various locations (mainly schools) throughout the country. The following are the venues at which over 300 students have enrolled:

1. Sandy Bay Secondary School
2. Georgetown Secondary School
3. South Rivers Methodist School
4. Diamond Government School
5. Marriaqua Government School
6. Stubbs Government School/South East Pan Yard
7. Sion Hill Euphonium Pan Yard
8. C.W Prescod Primary School
9. Starlift Pan Yard, Old Montrose
10. RSVGPF Band Room, Old Montrose
11. Bethel High School
12. Symphonix Pan Yard, Questelles
13. Troumaca Primary School
14. Union Island Secondary School



Students from Clair Valley and Questelles Government Schools

The National Commission on Crime Prevention (NCCP) organized the annual Pan Against Crime Summer Program, in collaboration with a number of stakeholder entities, including the Ministry of Education. The programme began in July and is scheduled to finish closer to the end of August.

This year, apart from learning music with the steel pan as the instrument of focus, children have been exposed to a number of interesting topics including:

- Human Trafficking
- Breaking the Silence on Child Abuse
- Conflict Resolution and Self Esteem
- Cyber Crime/Cyber Bullying
- Crime and Violence
- Social Skills and Etiquette
- Good Citizens



A Certificate of Participation will be awarded to every student who attend the programme consistently, adhered to the rules and regulations and advanced to the level of graduation.

*Above:
Union Island pan training programme*



*Below:
A 5 year old striking her first notes at a programme in Stubbs*

Junior Soca & Calypso for Vincy Mas 2014



Winners of the 2014 Junior Soca and Calypso Monarch

Calypso (Primary Schools)

Three juniors won their first junior calypso and soca crowns when the show was held on Tuesday, July 1.

Tia “Singing Tia” Wyllie of New Prospect Primary School, who placed second last year, the first time she entered the competition, won the Calypso crown for primary schools with her song “Save the Environment”. After her crowning, she told reporters: “I am feeling good because I know I was supposed to win before...”



Tia “Singing Tia” Wyllie

Kristian “Lil Kris” Christopher of the Layout Government School, a first timer to the competition, placed second with his rendition “You are my hero”, a song extolling Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves. “Lil Kris” is the younger brother of “Singing Kristy”, last year’s winner in this category.

Cha-Chanie “Lady Cha-Chanie” of New Prospect Primary School was third, with her song, “Let’s Work Together to Build this Country”. The New Prospect Primary School came in for high praises based on their outstanding work this year.

Calypso (Secondary Schools)



Roshard “Mighty Kel” Tittle

Nineteen-year-old Roshard “Mighty Kel” Tittle, who was entering the competition for the first and last time, won the secondary schools category of the Calypso competition. Mighty Kel, who sang “Let’s Join Hands”, has now graduated from the North Union Secondary School. He told reporters during a post-show interview that he is talented in singing, dancing, and modeling. The artiste further revealed that his music teacher, Hank Williams, convinced him to enter the competition after hearing him perform at a concert at the school. Mighty Kel plans to join a calypso tent and enter the national competition. This is not uncommon as many young Calypsonians like Skarpyon, Shaunelle McKenzie and 2014 National Calypso Monarch - Zamfir “Man Zangy” Adams - are products of the schools’ Junior Calypso competitions.



Neisha “Mighty Spice” Richards

Nerissa “Ms G” Gerald of Sandy Bay Secondary School placed second with her song “Party Bandwagon”.

Expectations were high for “Singing Kristy” - 2013 Primary Schools’ Calypso Monarch, who completed a hat trick of wins in the primary schools category last year. She graduated to the secondary schools category this year but placed third, with her rendition of “Change”. She represented the Thomas Saunders Secondary School.

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Spotlight

NEW PROSPECT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mission Statement

Our school seeks to develop in all students the ability to read, write and comprehend; to have respect for God, self and other; to display disciplined behaviour and to develop self-esteem. The school strive to provide all students with requisite skills, knowledge and attitudes in their quest to lead productive lives in the society.



Address: New Prospect/Simon Village
 Principal: Albert Harry (Mr.)
 Email: albertharry42@yahoo.com/newprospectprimary@gmail.com
 Tel: 1 784 458 0829



*Staff & Students of the New Prospect Primary School
 February 2013*



*New Prospect
 Primary School
 Building.*

*Literacy coordinator
 Magella Peters with
 a Grade 6 student.
 Literacy week 2013.*



*Students of the New Prospect
 Primary School February 2013*



*Students taking the message to the streets.
 Hats off to Reading!*



Preschool Business... more than just teaching

During the month of July early childhood practitioners were engaged in honing their educational skills in various areas of the curriculum. Once again the St. Vincent Teacher's Union (SVGTU), the Canadian Teacher's Federation (CTF) and the Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF) have shown commitment to and have made sterling contribution to the enhancement of classroom practices.



Senior Education Officer Gwennette Cambridge engaging participants in a discussion on management skills

Some sixty odd persons have benefited from this training and are even more equipped to deal with challenges on the job. This year's programme for early childhood practitioners saw emphasis being placed on management practices, dance education, the use of craft to develop thinking and learning and participatory learning.



Education Officer Ethny Williams exposing participants to Active Participatory Learning methods

For Management Practices, early childhood practitioners discussed areas pertinent to the sustainability of preschools and day care centres where they were made to realize that preschool and day care operations are dual in nature – both a business and a service.



Education Officer Jemelia Pope teaching Early Childhood teachers movement exercises in Dancing



Early Childhood practitioners gained a different perspective of Music and movement as they were trained to use movement as a means of learning while craft was seen as an enhancement to critical thinking and reasoning.

Participants were hesitant in their responses to Participatory Learning a current trend in early childhood here in the Caribbean – but were soon able to acknowledge that it would benefit classroom practices tremendously.





Early Childhood teachers were exposed to recyclable and house hold materials to create craft items - Facilitator RoseMarie Lewis

Junior Calypso and Soca Monarch Finalists Cont'd p.4

Soca (Primary & Secondary Schools)

Soca Artistes from both primary and secondary schools competed in the Soca segment of the show. The crown went to 15 year old Neisha "Mighty Spice" Richards of West St. George Secondary School, who sang "Skinny Gal". "Singing Kristy" was second with her song "SVG Go Rise Again", while Giovonne "Super D" Collins of St. Joseph's Convent Marriaqua was third, with his song "Ah Drink Ah Wine".

Accreditation: Officer Officer!!!

Do help me Please!!!

*Yesterday, Stella cried in vain
To the police she explained
Not cash from m-o-n-o-p-o-l-y
I paid for the course with reeeel money*

*A promotion Stella felt she could get
All, well within, her online budget
No not one single cause to travel
a degree at home what a miracle*

*So off to College Stella went
No winter coat, not an extra cent
That "University" was full of cheer
As Stella's cash, it will not share*

*Of her new journey, she tells no one
Not Sue, not Sean, not even John*

*Stella feared they'll just kill her dreams
John will hear, her achievement screams*

*Not so fast, there is a press release !!!
Many out of their earnings, are being fleeced
In the online and distance studies scams
Yes, lines to all media houses are jammed*

*Hear, the doctor, from Canqate state
All of you, MUST, in—ves—ti--gate
The plot may be a ponzi scheme
Some human beings are just mean*

*Fifty thousand dollars, Stella paid in full
This cannot be real this must be bull....
To the Police Stella went in a rage
These fellas she cried, must be put in a cage*

*Officers please!!! tell, tell, every one
The schools, the Banks, the Credit Unions
That they must check, with the NAB
This 'cre-di-ta-tion business is not just 'bout me*

*Officer, Officer, if it continues so
Many, to the asylum, or grave will go
Officer, Officer !!!, do help me please !!!
This terrible pain, ooooh Officer ease !!!*



Descima Alexander-Hamilton
(17/05/2014)

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Investment in Tertiary Level Education: Its
Possibilities and Challenges

N.B: CANQATE - Caribbean Area Network for Quality
Assurance for Tertiary Education

Meet the Team

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