

Education Alive!

May 2014



CHILD MONTH MAY 2014

Tolerance Today for a Peaceful Tomorrow

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The month of May is celebrated annually as Child Month and the Ministry of Education coordinated a number of activities to mark the occasion. The activities brought attention to the importance of the 2014 Child Month theme: *"Tolerance today for a violence-free world tomorrow"* and the slogan *"Let peace begin with me"*.



Mrs. Gwenette Cambridge (Senior Education Officer/Early Childhood Education)

Senior Education Officer for Early Childhood Education, Gwenette Cambridge, spearheaded the months activities. Speaking at a press conference to launch the activities, Cambridge said: "The idea is to focus on the younger generation, to instill good values in them, so that St. Vincent and the Grenadines could carry on a legacy of peace".



Mrs. Cambridge said that the 2014 theme suggests that there is need to end the violence in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.



Child Month March

The Child Month March & Rally brought together children of all ages, as well as important stakeholders in the development and welfare of children. The march started from the Heritage Square, proceeded through the streets of Kingstown and culminated at the Victoria Park, where the rally was held. The event took place on Thursday 8th May.



REV. AL BLAKE - Featured Speaker at the Child Month Rally

In her 2014 Child Month message, Minister of Education - Hon. Girlyn Miguel, said: "The world has become a global village but we will never be able to enjoy the benefits of this new world order if mutual goodness, respect and understanding do not prevail. Without tolerance and harmony, the lasting peace within our society cannot be maintained..."



Hon Girlyn Miguel, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education

The slogan "Let peace begin with me" is relevant at a time when violence among young people is becoming prevalent, even in schools. A children's forum titled "Let peace begin with me" was staged to engage students of primary and secondary schools, as well as preschoolers, in conversation about their roles in reducing violence in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.



D'Mario Brown, recipient of National Award for student with the best 2013 CSEC results after remediation telling his story and how he feels about violence at the Children's Forum

Some of the other activities that took place in celebration of Child Month included a Prayer Breakfast and several school competitions in poetry, art and craft.

Winners of the competitions:

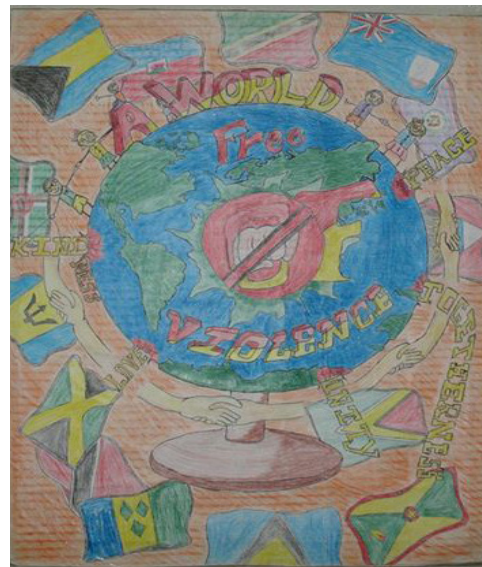
Preschool Collage - **Owia Early Childhood Centre**

Primary School Poetry - **Trudy Quashie**
Marriaqua Government

Secondary School Poster -
Dr. J.P Eustace Memorial Secondary School



Owia Early Childhood Centre
Winning Preschool Collage Poster



Vernon
Cabralis
Dr. J. P Eustace
Memorial
Secondary
School

Winning
Secondary
School Art
Poster

Child Month

Prayer Breakfast and Prize Giving Ceremony



Owia Government School Early Childhood Centre receives 1st place trophy for winning collage



Quality Care Preschool receives 2nd place prize for their Child Month collage



*Above: Song: 'Holiness'
Lowmans Leeward Anglican School*



Father Patrick McIntosh

Below: President Rene Baptiste bringing remarks on behalf of the Vincentian Association of Artists, Writers and Producers (sponsor of medals to all winners)



Trudi Quashie of Marriaqua Government School receives 1st place trophy for winning poem



Teacher of the Marriaqua Government School receives 2nd place trophy for Child Month poem (participant, Kristen Cyrus)



Revd Adrian Odle



Pastor Sylvester King

Common Entrance...

Now a thing of the past

Whenever the history of Education in St. Vincent and the Grenadines is written, the year 2014 will surface as the year when the Ministry of Education presented the first cohort of students for the Caribbean Primary Exit Assessment (CPEA). The Common Entrance examination, which served for several decades, is now defunct.

Close to 2000 grade six students sat the first-ever CPEA final exam. This year, 1948 students registered for the exit exam - 917 girls and 1031 boys. This compares to last year's figure of 2314 students, 1210 females and 1104 males. The CPEA final exam took place on Friday 16th May and was conducted at 17 centres across the country.



Break time at the Exam Centre at the Sandy Bay Secondary School



Exam Centre at Sandy Bay Secondary School

The students sat 3 multiple-choice papers in Mathematics, Language Arts and Science. Prior to the final exam, they completed their School-Based Assessments (internal component) and the scores and samples of their work were sent to the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC). The internal component accounts for 40 % of each student's overall score, while the final exam comprises 60% of the student's final score.



Students of the South Rivers Methodist School sitting their exam at the Georgetown Secondary School

The Glows of Technology in SVG

Near 15 000 net-books were distributed to students in primary schools, as well as first formers in secondary schools, under the “One laptop per Child” programme in 2011. Three (3) years later, the programme continues with over 12 000 laptops being made available to students in secondary schools, as well as those enrolled at the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College.



The “One Laptop per Student” programme involves the distribution of 12 500 ACER (11.6” Screen-Travel Mate B11-E) laptops and is an initiative of Prime Minister

Dr. Ralph Gonsalves. Mrs. Flex Dennis, chairman of Dennis Publishing, is also credited for her invaluable support of the “One Laptop per Student” project. She lives on the Grenadine island of Mustique.

The “One laptop per Child” project is believed to have brought a new sense of technological awareness in the country, with much emphasis on the integration of ICT in education. Following closely on the heels of that project, the “One Laptop per Student” programme is expected to bear similar fruits.



*Primary School Students on their Net-books
“One laptop per Child” programme in 2011 (Phase 1)*

The following are some of the objectives of the “One Laptop per Student” programme:

1. To continue to improve the digital literacy among all students and teachers
2. To continue enhancing the learning environment with technology
3. To continue improving the level of student-preparation for the digital workplace
4. To continue to reduce inequality of access to digital technology between students of lower and upper social classes in St Vincent and the Grenadines



Mrs. Channyatt Ramsamooj, Education Officer responsible for Information Technology (IT) in the Ministry of Education is heading a team to put the necessary arrangements in place. This includes proper inventory, testing and distribution of the machines.

Mrs. Ramsamooj says: “Parents, students and teachers, you are urged to appreciate these educational tools, take full advantage of them and importantly, care them. They are useful to the educational growth of our country”. According to Ramsamooj, a series of workshops will be organized to assist teachers in improving their own technological literacies, in addition to integrating the technological tools into their classroom instruction.



EZLearners WORKSHOP for teachers of Math and English

The Ministry of Education continues to facilitate professional development sessions to equip teachers with the skills and competencies related to teaching and learning in this digital age.

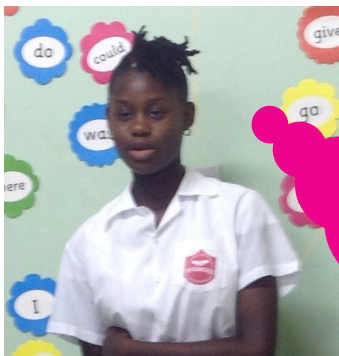
The EZLearners one-day workshop presented applications for use in the instruction of English Language and Mathematics. These applications included learning activities to help students develop skills in writing, comprehension, reading, mathematical reasoning and critical thinking.

The Adult & Continuing Education division in the Ministry of Education will also be integral to the adaptation process. The unit is expected to provide training support for parents on how to use the tool effectively so that they can also assist, monitor and guide their children at home.

The laptops are scheduled to arrive in St Vincent and the Grenadines in May/June, 2014. Below are a few students' thoughts on the "One Laptop per Student" initiative:

LOCKEISHA HARRY

From 2
North Union Secondary School



Question: What message do you have for other students regarding these laptops?

I think that other students should remember that these laptops are a privilege and so they should take care of them. In addition, I think parents should monitor their children because their children may do things that they're not supposed to do on the laptops...

TROY KYDD

From 3
Bequia Community High



How do you intend to use your laptop?

When I get my laptop, I will do a lot of research about careers. I want to be a Pilot and so I will look for information on how to prepare for that career...

What message do you have for other students regarding these laptops?

Students, when you get your laptop, do not use it to gamble on various websites, do not watch pornographic images and do not steal your parents' credit cards to order things online...

RONESIA HENRY

From 2
St. Joseph's Convent Kingstown



Have you heard about the One (1) Laptop per Student initiative?

Yes, I have heard about it on the TV in a release from the government and read about it in news articles...

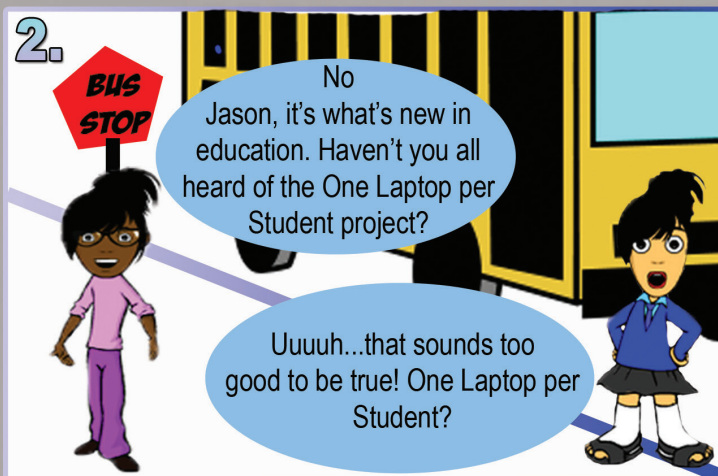
As a Student, what do you think of the programme?

I think it's excellent. It can help students in their studies, for example, we can always research what we do not understand...

As the anxiety increases for the arrival of these laptops, students need to be constantly reminded that they should appreciate the beauty and fun of learning using technology.



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S.V.G Ministry of Education



Hooray for the "One Laptop per Student" project!

2014 ECGC Home Economics Competition

For another year, the Ministry of Education collaborated with the Eastern Caribbean Group of Companies (ECGC) to stage the annual ECGC Home Economics competition.



Eight (8) students displayed their creativity in the finals of the competition, after out doing their counterparts in the preliminary and zonal phases. They were required to prepare items in the categories of breads, cakes, pastries and specialty flour, using products of ECGC, as well as other local ingredients.

The finalists were:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Kenée Dabreo | Georgetown Secondary School |
| 2. Anique Francis | St. Joseph's Convent Marriaqua |
| 3. Myra Craig | West St. George Secondary |
| 4. Deondra Jarvis | Thomas Saunders Secondary |
| 5. Carianne Padmore | St. Joseph's Convent Kingstown |
| 6. Garvesha Francois | Troumaca Ontario Secondary |
| 7. Elora Charles | Central Leewards Secondary |
| 8. Tivern Laidlow | Bequia Community High |



The results of the competition are as follows:

Category Winners

Jessica Bess - Breadfruit & Saltfish Bread (Best bread)

Sabrina Marks Dasent - Exotic Chocolate Glitter Cake
(Best Cake)

Tivern Laidlow - Plum Cheese Cake (Best Pastry)

Janine John - Cass-Pumpkin Multit Cookie
(Best Specialty Flour)



The overall winner of the Competition went to first time participant, Ms. Jessica Bess, a caterer from Green Hill. Her entries were Breadfruit and Salt-fish Bread and Tamarind Coconut Basket Cake.

For the first time, the ECGC Home Economics Competition (for students) was twinned with the National Baking Competition. The National Baking Competition (also hosted by ECGC) targets local bakers, chefs and caterers, who prepare original recipes and submit items in the same categories of Breads, Cakes, Pastries and Specialty Flour.

Both competitions were held at the Kingstown Methodist Church Hall on Friday 23rd May.

Girls' High School Makes 103

Congratulations to St. Vincent Girls' High School (GHS) on its achievement of 103 years.

The school achieved this milestone on Thursday 8th May and continues the 2014 celebration under the theme "GHS 2011-2014...Continuing a Legacy of Excellence". A number of activities were held throughout the month of May to commemorate the occasion.

The 103rd Anniversary Lecture



The 103rd anniversary lecture was delivered by Kay Bacchus-Browne, an alumna. Bacchus-Browne explored the topic "Privileges and Responsibilities of a Vincentian Citizen: The Individual and Corporate Social Responsibility". The lecture took place on Thursday 8th May at the Frenches House in Kingstown.

The 103rd Anniversary Tea Party

A grand Tea Party was also held in celebration of the 103rd anniversary. It was marked by fine delicacies and an entertainment package delivered by past and present students of GHS. The event coincided with Mother's Day weekend and turned out a real treat to the mothers who attended.



This year, the Girls' High School also celebrates its accomplishment as school with the best CSEC results for over 10 consecutive years. The school also takes pride in its production of several outstanding scholars. The following young ladies are recorded as the institution's top scholars between 2004 and 2014:

2004 - Mandella Campbell, LLB(Hons)

SVGCC
Dr. Earle Kirby National Scholarship
UWI Cave Hill – Law Degree
Completed LLB (Upper 2nd Class Hons) July 2009
2011 - LEC – Legal Education Certificate (T'dad)
Was Called to the Bar 2011
Atty-at-Law – P.R. Campbell & Co, SVG

2005 – Candida DaSilva, BSc (Hons)

SVGCC- subjects at both GCE & CAPE
Math & Scs.
Taught @ GHS
UWI – Sc & Agric.
BSc –Math & Physics
Fac. Civil Engineering
BSc (Hons)
Civil Engineering
NUMEROUS Awards

2006 – Dr. Raianna Thomas

SVGCC, Sciences
UWI Mona, Jamaica
2008-2013 (Nov.)
MBBS – Medical Doctor
Aspirations: –
Specialist Surgeon
Pediatric, CardioThoracic, ENT

2007 - Colette Charles

SVGCC Sciences
• Worked at Clinical Lab.
• PreMed-then Med TSOM
• Graduate MD – June 2015
• Philosophy: *Per Ardua Ad Alta*.
"I pray hard, work hard, and leave the rest to God"
by Florence Griffith Joyner

2008 – Chryste DaSilva

SVGCC Division of Arts, Sc & Gen St.
A-level passes:-
Math, Bio, Chem, Physics, Com St
• Sch of Vet Med, UWI St. Aug.
• Med School TSOM- Class of 2016

2009 – Shoneika Caine

SVG Com College
Biol, Chem, Math
• Taught St. Joseph's Convent, Marriaqua :
• Math, Human & Social Biology)

GHS – 2010-Meisha Charles

SVGCC – Math, Sci, & Comm. Studies
Yorke University, Toronto, CANADA
BSc (Hons) Psychology

2012-Cherrienne Davis

SVGCC – Physics, Pure Math, Comp. Sc.
Participated in Performing Arts, & Choir
Presently Unit 2 CAPE examinations

2011-Kayrel Edwards

SVGCC – Div.Arts, Sc. & Gen Studies.
Math & Physics SICM
UWI (Aug.2014) Cave Hill (National Scholarship)
Career outlook: -
BioMedical Engineer or Biochemist

2013 - Kaela Barrett

Studying Pure Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry & Computer Science
St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College: Division of Arts, Sciences and General Studies
Future: Engineering

Spotlight

ST. VINCENT GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

The St. Vincent Girls' High School was opened in 1911 by Miss Mary I. Ince at a location near to the Victoria Park. Back then, it was a private institution exclusively for girls of the upper class.

In 1914, the government undertook responsibility for the school and it was relocated to the corner of Linley and Tyrell streets. This change in ownership gave girls of all socio-economic backgrounds access to attend the school. In 1935, the school moved to its present location at Richmond Hill, Kingstown. It is adjacent to the St. Vincent Grammar School.

Since its inception in the early 20th century, the Girls' High School (GHS) has grown in many ways. The institution has seen a rise in population from just a few girls, to a current enrollment of over eight hundred (800) students. The school caters for girls between the ages of eleven (11) and sixteen (16) years and is today considered one of the top secondary schools. The records show that it is the most sort after all-girls secondary school with an outstanding record close to 100% pass rate in the CXC CSEC exams over the last 10 years.

GHS continues to progress with a dedicated staff and under the astute leadership of Mrs. Andrea Bowman. Mrs. Bowman assumed duties as Headmistress in 2004. She is the daughter of Mrs. Norma Keizer, the longest serving Headmistress the institution has seen (1975-1990).

The physical plant consists of five (5) buildings where classes are conducted, a multi-purpose court and three (3) tuck shops.



L-R: Mrs A. Bowman, Headmistress and Hon. Girlyn Miguel, Minister of Education



The Importance of Music Education Underscored

The Ministry of Education has handed over a collection of recorders to a school with a promising Music programme.



The Dr. J.P Eustace Memorial Secondary School received 35 recorders on Wednesday 21st May. The instruments are intended to adequately position the current batch of 3rd form students to take Music at the CXC CSEC level in 2016. The recorders were handed over by Education Officer for Music, Dexter Bacchus, who is assisting with the strengthening of the Music programme at the institution.

The Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) has been offering music education for more than a decade. Research suggests that students who study Music are likely to be high achievers and well-rounded, perhaps because music does the following:

- Develops areas of the brain involved in language and reasoning, so students are better able to think creatively and solve problems
- Enhances team work skills and discipline
- Teaches the value of sustained effort to achieve excellence

- Teaches young people to conquer fear and to take risks
- Provides a means of self-expression and increases self-confidence
- Focuses on doing rather than observing, leading to multi-dimensional young people with flexible intellects, thus preparing them for the world of work



With a certificate in CSEC Music, a student may eventually launch into a career as one of the following professionals:

Music Writing & Production

Arranger, Producer, Composer, Orchestrator, Song Composer, Jingle Writer, Transcribe, Copyist, Conductor, Singer, Performer, Music Director, Film/Video

Game Scoring

Music Electronic Production and Engineering Recording Engineer, Studio Director, Programmer, Sound Designer, Sound Technician, Music Sequencer, Performing Synthesis, Instrument-repair Technician.

Meet the Team

S.V. G Education Media Unit



Marla Nanton
The Voice of the Unit



C. RoseMarie Lewis
The Face behind the Designs



Shaun Millington
The IT Guy

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