

Education Alive!

Nov 2013



Celebrating Independence Vincy Style!

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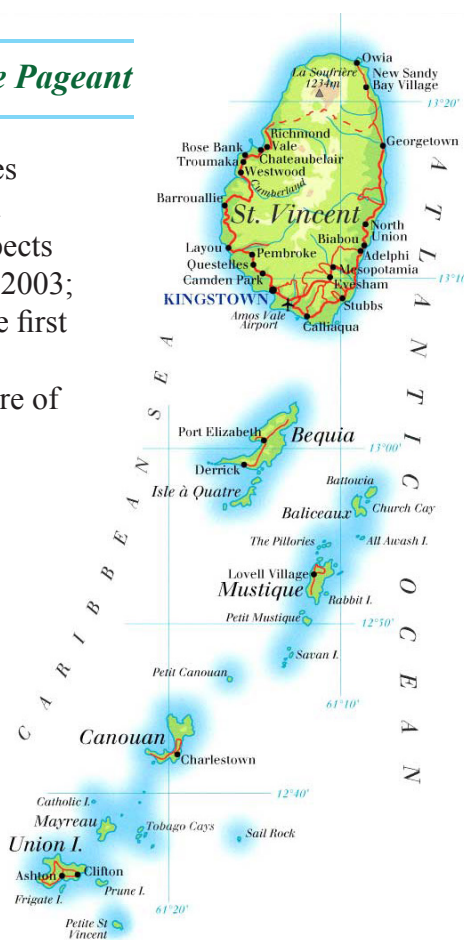
*"May peace reign from shore to shore, and
God bless and keep us true..."*

The nation sings. Schools celebrate. Children play freely. Independence is a poignant celebration for Vincentians. We continue to celebrate with a sense of national pride. Activities to mark Independence this year formed an extensive schedule of events, four of which are captured below:

The National Secondary Schools' Miss Heritage Pageant

Miss Heritage Pageant grew out of the Social Sciences Department of St. Vincent Girls' High School (GHS). As the name suggests, it embraces many different aspects of Vincentian Culture. It was first staged in October, 2003; and Stacy Peters of Form 5 Business was crowned the first ever Miss GHS Heritage. The outcome was hailed a resounding success and a firm foundation for the future of the pageant.

In 2008, the pageant was opened to other secondary schools throughout the island. As a result, the Miss Heritage Pageant Planning Committee (the Committee) was formed, headed by Mrs. Latoya DeRoche-John, a teacher of GHS. With a team of dedicated alumnae from different secondary schools, the National Secondary Schools' Miss Heritage Pageant was born.





Ackeilia Cornwall (centre) after being crowned Miss Heritage 2009. On the left is 2nd Runner up Tish-Suzette McCoy of the North Union Secondary School, on the right is 3rd Runner up Shelly-Ann Ballantyne of the Sandy Bay Secondary School; behind her is 1st Runner up Shanique Browne of the Thomas Saunders Secondary School.

The first national pageant was held in October, 2009. With generous sponsorship from the Vincy Homecoming Committee, the inaugural National Secondary Schools' Miss Heritage Pageant was held at the Arnos Vale Playing Field before an audience of over 3000 patrons. Aceilia Cornwall of St. Joseph's Convent Marriaqua was crowned Miss Heritage 2009.

Since inception, the National Secondary Schools' Miss Heritage Pageant has been held bi-annually to give schools the opportunity to select and groom their delegates in the intervening year. The Bank of Nova Scotia came on board as the pageant's Super Platinum Sponsor from 2011 and Anya Frederick of the St. Vincent Girls' High School became the Scotia Bank National Secondary Schools' Miss Heritage (2011), under a rebranded pageant.



The Delegates in the Scotiabank National Secondary Schools' Miss Heritage Pageant 2013

This year, Lateefa Noel of GHS walked away with the crown after winning every judged category on the night of the show. She also won the Digicel Viewer's Choice Photo Award with over 10, 000 votes. The pageant took place on Saturday, 19th October 2013 at the Victoria Park at 7pm.



The National Cultural Parade

The National Cultural Parade was introduced in 2011 by the Miss Heritage Pageant Committee and was staged during the week leading up to the pageant. The original parade, showcasing national cultural icons and different aspects of our culture, was well received. It has become a fixture on the National Independence calendar. It takes place through the streets of Kingstown and this year was held on Tuesday, 15th October.

St. Vincent's two indigenous banks are currently sponsors of the Cultural Parade - St. Vincent Cooperative Bank and the Bank of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.



Schools' Independence Rally 2013

"Working together to Enhance National Pride"

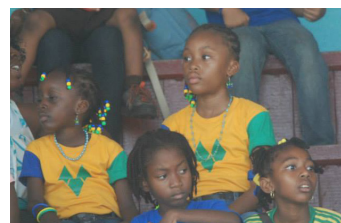
Apart from individual schools' celebrations, students from various schools throughout the nation gathered together for the Schools' Independence Rally 2013.



The Rally featured a number of speeches including a keynote address by the Minister of Education Honourable Girlyn Miguel. There were also cultural items rendered by students of different schools; however, the presentation of the 2013 National Scholarship Awards was the highlight of the Rally.



*Honourable Girlyn Miguel
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education*



**Culture!
Heritage!
Pride!**

Seven (7) National Scholars were named based on their performance in the May/June 2013 Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE) of the CXC and the General Certificate of Education (GCE) A' Level Examinations:



Allana Cumberbatch

FACULTY:

Humanities - Law,
Literatures in English,
Psychology and
Communication Studies

ABOUT ALLANA: She is a Seventh –Day Adventist and recognizes that all of her achievements thus far have been because of God. Her motivational text throughout her academic pursuits has been Philippians 4:13- “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

REWARD: Full funding for a 5-year period of University study



Raheem Hall

FACULTY:

Natural Sciences – Pure
Mathematics, Chemistry,
Physics, Communication
Studies, Geography

ABOUT RAHEEM: He received his primary education at the Kingstown Anglican School and the Lodge Village Government School. He later went on to St. Vincent Grammar School and SVG Community College. Raheem is grateful to all those who supported him throughout his ‘never-ending’ educational journey; and is cognizant of the fact that he could not achieve all that he has achieved, so far, without God.

REWARD: Full funding for a 5-year period of University study



Kayrel Edwards

FACULTY:

Natural Sciences – Pure
Mathematics, Chemistry,
Biology, Physics,
Communication Studies,
Caribbean Studies

ABOUT KAYREL: She was the Valedictorian of the class of 2011, Girls’ High School. She played Netball for both the Girls’ High School and the Community College. Kayrel was also an executive member of the Science and Service clubs at those institutions. She currently teaches Physics and Mathematics at the St. Joseph’s Convent Marriaqua and would one day like to major in Biomedical Engineering at Johns Hopkins University.

REWARDS: Full funding for a 5-year period of University study. \$10,000 and the Prime Minister’s gold medal.



Taj Lee

FACULTY:

Social Sciences –
Pure Mathematics,
Communication Studies,
Economics, Computer
Science and Accounting

ABOUT TAJ: He graduated from the St. Vincent Grammar School as the valedictorian of his class and is a proud past GECCU scholarship holder. He was the Deputy Head Boy and the Vice President of the 2010 Young Leaders. Taj was a member of the Tech Club at the Community College. He is currently employed at the General Employees Co-operative Credit Union and wants to further his studies in Economics and Accounting.

REWARD: Full funding for a 5-year period of University study



Shontell Murphy

FACULTY:

Natural Sciences – Pure Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, Communication Studies, Caribbean Studies

ABOUT SHONTELL: Shontell's inspiration came from a common saying "People who succeed have momentum. The more they succeed, the more they want to succeed and the more they find a way to succeed". She attributes her successes, thus far, to a solid foundation and support system, and her personal mantra 'I will succeed at everything I embark on and will never give up until I do'.

REWARD: Full funding for a 5-year period of University study



River Providence

FACULTY:

Natural Sciences – Chemistry, Physics, Pure Mathematics, Computer Science, Communication Studies and Caribbean Studies

ABOUT RIVER: She received the award for being the top performer in the region in the discipline of Humanities at the CSEC level in 2011. River not only focuses on academics, but has had strong participation in community oriented activities such as Girl Guides, team sports and volunteer work. River now works with the family of the Bank of Nova Scotia as a relieve teller. Although she does not know where life will take her in the future, she is passionate about the environment and wishes to make a difference in this area in the future, while staying true to her values and always giving of her best.

REWARD: Full funding for a 5-year period of University study



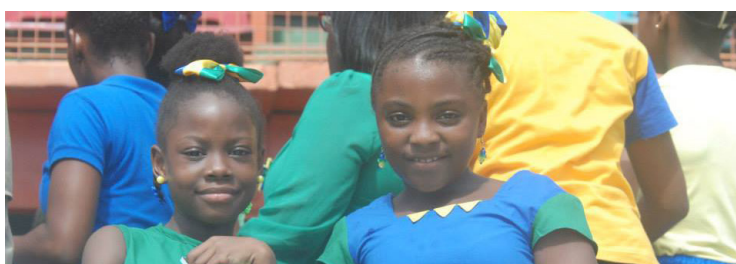
Stephanie Providence

FACULTY:

Natural Sciences – Chemistry, Physics, Pure Mathematics, Computer Science, Communication Studies and Caribbean Studies

ABOUT STEPHANIE: She is currently employed at St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College as an Instructor. Stephanie has a passion for children, volunteer work and languages; her parents can speak at least 6 languages between them. With the strong academic foundation that she has attained as a result of her studies, she hopes to maintain her levels of success as she endeavours to leave her footprint in this world and ensures that the generation to follow has a brighter future.

REWARD: Full funding for a 5-year period of University study.



Happy 34th Anniversary of Independence SVG!

Hundreds of Vincentians, including students, flooded the Victoria Park on the morning of October 27th to commemorate Independence Day 1979. A Military Parade - "The Guard of Honour Parade" was staged under the theme "Working Together To Enhance National Pride". The highlight of the event was the Prime Minister's Address to the Nation, which included among other things, the completion of the Argyle International Airport by 2014, tax - free concession on Christmas barrels (Nov 18 - Dec 31) and 1.5% retroactive (from Jan 2011) salary increase (tax-free) for Civil Servants.



*Honourable Dr. Ralph E. Gonsalves
Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines*



Children having fun in the sun on Independence Day



Brownies assembled to leave the park after the parade. Brownie Guider - Jacqui Soso-Vincent



March Past

Flexibition

The Ministry of Education partnered with the Association of Teachers of Foreign Languages to host a National Foreign Languages Exhibition titled 'FLEXIBITION'. The exhibition was staged under the theme - "Diversity and Heritage of Foreign Languages Teaching and Learning in St. Vincent and the Grenadines". It took place at the Girl Guides Headquarters (31st October - 1st November 2013) from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Students and teachers of Foreign Languages displayed the cultures of countries in which French and Spanish are the native languages. Flexibition was introduced in 2007 to do the following:

- To showcase some of the benefits of Foreign Languages teaching and learning in St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- To demonstrate the creativity of students
- To continue to motivate students' interest in learning Foreign Languages

The event showcased models, written and oral presentations, and other cultural activities developed by students and teachers.



A number of schools displayed cultural items in their booths.

SVG Places 2nd in 2013 FCCA Poster Competition

Taken from The Ministry of Tourism's Aug Newsletter

The Florida Caribbean Cruise Associations (FCCA) Children's Environmental Poster Competition is an annual event coordinated by the Communications Unit in the Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Culture in collaboration with the FCCA. Students of primary and secondary schools were invited to participate in the 2013 poster competition.

The poster submitted, depicted at the least three ways in which the destination (St. Vincent and the Grenadines) can make a difference in preserving the environment.

The competition seeks to promote and stimulate environmental awareness among Caribbean students, while effectively educating our younger generation on the importance of environmental protection.

The competition was conducted in two (2) rounds: a national round and a regional round. Posters submitted by Dajuanna Providence (Junior Division) and Natasha Hypolite (Senior Division) was forwarded to the FCCA Selection Committee, who determines the overall winner from amongst the FCCA member countries.

Dajuanna Providence (Junior Division) was selected by the FCCA Selection Committee as the regional second-place winner of the 2013 competition. Dajuanna received a monetary award of US\$1,500 and her school the C.W Prescod Primary also received US\$1,500.

The 2013 competition attracted entries from 13 nations and all posters exemplified Caribbean excellence and expressed useful ways of preserving the environment. Natasha Hypolite, student of the Girls' High School, the senior entrant from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, received US\$200 for reaching the final round of the contest.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines has been performing extremely well in FCCA competitions over the past three (3) year. In 2011 Trevonette Johnson, who was a student of the New Grounds Primary School emerged the regional winner in the junior division and received a monetary award of US\$3,000. In 2012, Volton John student of the Central Leeward Secondary School was selected as the regional second place winner in the senior division of the essay competition.

The Ministry of Tourism is extremely proud of the accomplishments of our students and extends congratulations to Dajuanna Providence for placing 2nd in the 2013 competition.



History Created With Registration

It was an historic moment when the National Accreditation Board and the Accreditation Unit in the Ministry of Education hosted the Inaugural Recognition and Registration Ceremony for Tertiary Institutions & External Evaluators.

Five (5) academic institutions were offered the status of “registered to operate in the state of St. Vincent and the Grenadines”. These institutions are St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College, National Centre of Technological Innovation (NCTI), Trinity School of Medicine, All Saints University and St. James School of

Medicine.

Sixteen (16) Vincentian Educators also received certificates and were recognized as Caricom-trained External Evaluators. This type of certification allows the evaluators to assess the status and quality of academic institutions in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.



*Above: **Nicholas Lynch** - Rendition of the Anthem and entertainment.*

“Quality Assurance is our business”



The Recognition and Registration Ceremony was held on Monday 11th November at the National Insurance Services Training Room from 1:15 pm. It marked the culmination of the 2013 Accreditation Awareness Campaign which began on September 24th. The campaign included outreach visits to some rural communities, a Views on Issues radio programme and participation in the National College and Career Exhibition.

Record Keeping and Reporting High On The Agenda

A cohort of Early Childhood Supervisors has been trained in Record Keeping and Reporting. These personnel were trained at a “trainers of trainers” workshop which focused on Data Management Systems.

The trained supervisors will now return to their districts and educate other supervisors on proper Record Keeping and Reporting. This type of training is expected to reduce the number of erroneous data collected by the Ministry of Education. Proper Record Keeping and Reporting assist in the planning and decision-making processes undertaken by the Ministry of Education and other government agencies.

Deputy Education Planner, Junior Jack, was the facilitator of the workshop which was funded by the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Secretariat (OECSS). The workshop took place on Monday 18th November at the Curriculum Unit Conference Room.



Owia Government School wins CFS Jingle Competition

Congratulations to Owia Government School on winning the Child Friendly Schools (CFS) Jingle Competition.

November 2013 at 1:30 p.m.

The winning jingle is now being played on NBC Radio and WeFm and forms an integral part of the CFS communication campaign. The competition was held in preparation for the official launch of the Child Friendly Schools (CFS) initiative in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG). The CFS model was introduced by UNICEF and has been piloted in 13 schools, in the hope of implementing it in all primary schools throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The official launch of CFS in SVG will take place at the Lodge Village Government School on Thursday, 28th



A mural at the Owia Government School Library

Meet the Team !

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