

Greetings Parents,

The end of Term One is upon us. Today, Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2013, is the last day.

I thank you for your unwavering support in ensuring that your children attend school regularly and punctually. I also thank you for attending the parent-teacher conferences. I trust that you found the meetings beneficial and together, with the support the teacher, you will follow through with recommendations that were given. **Students return to school on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2014.**

I trust that you have taken heed to the information that Health Education Officer, Mrs. Furbert, shared during the PTA meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2013. Remember to check your labels to determine if food for consumption is **great**, **ok** or **stop**. Those who were unable to attend the meeting can find the food guide on our website. When we return in January we will shift into full gear with our initiative to have healthy and trash free lunches.

In an effort to refine teaching skills required to serve our students most effectively, our staff has participated in several **professional development sessions**.

- The Benefits of Online Learning in The Classroom
- Dysgraphia [www.ldonline.org/article/12770/](http://www.ldonline.org/article/12770/)
- Dyscalculia [www.nclld.org/types-learning.../dyscalculia/what-is-dyscalculia](http://www.nclld.org/types-learning.../dyscalculia/what-is-dyscalculia)
  
- Multi-user Virtual Environments (MUVE)
- Analysis of Cambridge Checkpoint English, Math, and Science items.
- Ms. DiMeglio, Mrs. Kipps, Mrs. Sherlock and Mr. Osborne attend Inclusive Education conference at MSA.
- Ms. Martin and Mr. Osborne attended the first collaborative initiative with Lagoon Park Preschool and neighbouring primary schools.

## **Community**

The spirit of compassion and giving has been present throughout our school community this term.

- \$305.75 was donated to PRIDE
- \$266 was donated to Bermuda Diabetes Association
- Students added to the festive, late night shopping atmosphere in Hamilton, by playing a selection of Christmas carols on their recorders
- The Hand Bell Choir performed for a large gathering at the Riddles Bay Golf Club
- The school choir helped The Berkeley Institute raise funds for their library, by competing in western zone choir competition

- Staff and students participated in neighbourhood clean-up ( Gilbert Lane, Long Bay Lane, Cambridge Road, school premises)
- Families donated to the East & West and Cable Vision hamper initiative

We have also been on the receiving end of generous donations:

- Through the generous donation from Giving Hope Ministry, a total of \$250 in grocery vouchers were given to families in need.
- The Bank of Butterfield donated knapsacks and lunch bags to students.
- On Mondays and Wednesdays, during a portion of their lunch break, a group of select boys receive mentorship from former police commissioner, Mr. Penny Bean and Deputy Commissioner of Prisons, Mr. Jack Fraser.
- On Mondays and Thursdays, during a portion of their lunch break, volunteers --Mrs. V. Cariah and Mrs. Brenda Pearman-- from Allen Temple AME Church read to a select group of students.
- The Prison Lifeline Committee donated a bike to be given to a student who is performing well academically and behaviourally. Zaeden Stewart, in P3 Hill, was the recipient.

## Sports

The boys 'A' football team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the western zone league competition. They placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 6-side tournament and made through to the quarter final in the island-wide championship match.

The 'B' team won the western zone league competition, but were knocked out in the first round during the island-wide championship match.

Somerset Primary girls' netball teams gave their best, but did not fare well competitively. Mrs. Edwards is working very closely with the younger girls and she is confident that Somerset Primary will be contenders in the near future.

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Throughout the holiday season and onward I encourage each of you to apply the lesson learned from our Christmas Play, Miracle on Bethlehem Street: share your blessings (love, time, talents and words of encouragement, wealth) with those most in need.

Have a merry and safe holiday,

O'Brien Osborne,

Principal