



# SOMERSET PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2015

Dear Somerset Primary School Parents,

I hope that in addition to having a summer filled with fun, exploration and relaxation, time was made for daily reading. It's a pleasure welcome our new Primary One students and 2 new students who have transferred from other local schools and 1 new student from Columbia. I also welcome new staff members: Mrs. Karen deCherbert, Para educator and Ms. Sophia Burch, school counselor.

It is also a pleasure to announce that our school was painted inside and outside. The boys' and girls' restrooms have finally been refurbished; the flooring in the auditorium has been resurfaced and the stage has been rebuilt. The fencing around the perimeter of the field has been repaired and the A/C units outside the auditorium are now enclosed with fencing. Additionally, the staff room now has hot water and new filtered "hands free" water fountains have been installed in the corridor and the gymnasium.

You will recall that the PTA purchased new playground equipment at the end of the 2014/2015 school year. The vendor has shipped the equipment to Bermuda; we are awaiting confirmation that the equipment is now on dry dock.

I ask that you speak with your child regarding demonstrating care and appreciation for the work that has been done to beautify Somerset Primary School.

A new school year is always an exciting time for all, particularly the first day and the ensuing weeks in September. I challenge you to help make it an exciting and rewarding one throughout the entire year. I have challenged the teachers to foster "I win you win" relationships with you. I have also challenged them to "Turn conflict into advantage." I encourage you to do the same.

Here are some things you can do to help your child achieve success:

- Read and become familiar with the handbook; it is posted on the school's website. **It is very important that you and your child are fully informed regarding standards related to appropriate behavior for a safe and productive school year.**
- Ensure that he/she attends school daily and arrives on time, ready for the day's learning experience
- Ensure that he/she completes all homework assignments given by teachers
- **Ensure that he/she reads daily to develop a love for reading and to improve literacy skills.**
- Talk with your child about their school day. Ask them specific questions about their time at school. For example, "What was the most interesting thing you did in math class today?" or "Tell me about your science experiment?" This may seem redundant, but it is important, as it is an informal way of gauging how your child is performing. It may even provide other insights about his/her experience with teachers and peers.
- Review your child's grades on PowerSchool. This portal will give you relevant information regarding your child's performance as their attendance. **Your interest and concern in their school progress will motivate them to do their best. Please visit weekly.**
- Maintain contact with your child's teachers and staff members to establish a successful home/school connection. A good way to connect is via email, regular attendance to PTA meetings/functions and ongoing visits to the classroom
- Prepare the night before. Have a checklist posted to promote independence.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions... WE are here to support.

Parents, our goal is to challenge your child academically, grow him/her socially and emotionally, and guide him/her toward independent thinking and problem solving. Our 'Bee'-Attitudes will guide us in encouraging all students to display good character and to make positive choices. I am asking that you please help us by reinforcing school expectations at home so that Somerset Primary will continue to be a school community in which every person feels respected, valued, and is encouraged and challenged to achieve at the highest levels.

At this juncture, I would like to solicit your support for Tuesday lunch hours. The teachers have agreed to give up their lunch break to engage in professional development during their lunch break. We want all staff to participate; hence we need support. If you are able to assist, please call the office (234-1440). The more volunteers the better, as we can give each of you a specific date spread over a period of time.

I look forward to working with you and your child throughout the school year to provide a productive and safe learning environment that supports student success. Once again, welcome to the 2015/2016 school year.

O. Osborne,  
Principal

