

# Education Alive

## Tenacity Offers Sure Success

**“When the roll is call out Troumaca Ontario Secondary School (TOSS) will be standing tall up.”** This is what was clear as Daniela Mason, Second form student of TOSS, subtly moved the audience with her rendition of Queen Ifrica’s *Lioness is on the Rise* at the opening ceremony of the school’s inaugural Career Fair. The Fair which was held on Tuesday 23rd February, 2010, at the school’s compound under the theme ‘Opportunities Await Us’ was timely, as fifth form students prepare for CXC/ GCE Examinations with a view towards pursuing higher learning or directly entering diverse career fields. Some may already have career options in mind, others may not have a clue and many of those who have ideas in mind may not know how to get there. The Fair thus presented a grand opportunity for students to begin charting a career path.

The specific objectives of the Fair were to:

- ◆ To heighten the students’ awareness of the many different careers and employment alternatives;
- ◆ Provide information on the specific prerequisites necessary for the pursuit of any chosen career or employment and
- ◆ Empower the students with such knowledge so that they would be able to make better decisions as to their choice of subjects in Form 4, thus positioning them to maximize the pursuit of their career goals.

“discover who we (they) are, what skills and abilities we (they) have, and then find a career that fits us (them).” Principal, Calvin Herbert, echoed similar sentiments and, in keeping with the school’s motto ‘Tenacity Offers Sure Success’, he encouraged the students to be relentless in their quest for knowledge that will help them to make informed decisions. The highlights of the Opening Ceremony however were the entertaining performances of the school band and the feature address by the ever vibrant and charismatic Dr. Jules Ferdinand.



Dr. Ferdinand stressed the importance of the role that each of us has to play in national development. He drew on the inspirational words of Nelson Mandela and Dr. John Holland’s theory of *Career Choice and You* to offer the students guiding principles and winning attitudes in the pursuit of excellence. He implored the students to do several things: to think outside the box; to focus on filling a need; to look for new and better ways to meet these needs; to focus on activities that are likely to last; to get involved in what they love and to balance passion with common sense. To end with the words that Dr. Ferdinand repeatedly used “ ting dey fo talk but time nah dey”.

Presentations were made and display booths mounted by several government and private sector entities including, Ministry of Tourism, Royal St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force, Division of Nursing, Chawa’s Beauty Salon and School of Cosmetics, Central Water and Sewerage Authority and the Venezuelan Institute among others.



Nursing Booth



I hope my personality type matches my career choice



In search of my Career

In light of the purpose of the Fair, Guidance Counselor at the school and Chairman of the morning’s proceedings, Christopher Sampson, in the words of Dr. John Holland encouraged the students to

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# Student Support Services

The newly established Student Support Services Unit provides counseling and emotional support for students who are facing behavioural and social challenges in the mainstream education system.

The Unit which was established by the Ministry of Education officially opened its doors to students in September 2009. It was born extensively out of recommendations contained in the Safe Schools Policy Document. The Unit sees students with a constellation of concerns ranging from learning disabilities, emotional trauma and anger management issues to socio-economic problems. The main aim is to rehabilitate students so that they can be reintegrated into the regular school system. The Unit also attempts to offer remedial learning support to students who are in a transitional stage. Such students are usually either in the process of being transferred from one school to another as a result of suspension or other issues, or they have been out of the school system for a while as a result of parental neglect or other socio-economic problems.

The Unit's team of rehabilitators includes Psychologist Alicia Alvis, Guidance Officer Abner Richards, Counselors Peter Pompey and Alison Straker-Lewis as well as Graduate Teacher (Special Ed. Background) Krystal Robertson. According to, Superintendent Hackshaw; who has been assigned to the Ministry of Education, students who are referred to the Unit are kept abreast of the regular academic programme as the teachers of their named schools forward assignments to the Unit. He added that the schedule of the Unit is similar to that of a normal school day and that students assigned to the unit on either an in-patient or out-patient basis engage in group sessions covering topics like sexual health, drug abuse and violence, among others.

The Victoria Centre, which works in collaboration with the Student Support Services Unit, caters to similar needs, specifically among primary school students. The centre specializes in the remedial teaching of students who would have performed below par in literacy and numeracy in Common Entrance Examinations in 2009. Seventy (70) students across several primary schools as far as Chateaubelair Government are currently enrolled at the centre. They also engage in the learning of creative arts, music and sports.



Esther Taylor: Teacher-in-Charge of the Victoria Centre

Creative Arts Teacher and students with their work



Students in Language Arts class at the Victoria Centre

Anyone wishing to contact the Unit can call 45-12605 or visit upstairs Aggie's Restaurant opposite the General Post Office. The Victoria Centre is located on Victoria Road next to the Kingstown Evangelical Church and the centre's contact number is 45-71188.

## COME FORTH STUDENTS

Come forth students! Don't look back,  
There's work for you to do.  
To build a bright future, for me as well as you.

Come forth students! you are small today,  
Tomorrow will be a different way,  
Hold up your heads, don't look down  
Remember you are seeking for your crown.

Come forth students! It's sowing time today.  
Work hard for your future, you surely will be paid.  
Everyday you toil at your studies  
This is just a prelude to great opportunities.

Come forth students! don't stay too long in bed,  
Arise! Arise! You sleepy heads.  
Remember today there'll be many sorrows,  
You are the students of today, but the victors of tomorrow.



Staff at the Student Support Services (clockwise) Alicia Alvis (seated), Superintendent Ellsworth Hackshaw, Krystal Robertson, Peter Pompey, Allison Straker-Lewis and Abner Richards



## ABC's Alive

The Early Childhood Education Unit has recently completed zonal workshops on Dramatic Play and Storytelling which ran from February 23- March 04, 2010. Education Officers with responsibility for Early Childhood Education deemed the workshops a great success, particularly in the making of puppets to be used as a learning resource.



Bequia Teachers at the workshop

## Child Abuse Awareness Month

In recognition of the month of April as Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month, Officers of Early Childhood Education have been posting weekly articles in the local newspaper *Searchlight*. Celebrations under the theme "Give love and respect, Play your part; Don't neglect" will include a march and rally, church service, children's Fest and other workshops among other activities.



Vinsave - Children at Easter Parade

The month of May will also be a special month for early childhood as we celebrate Child Month under the theme: Healthy Environment – Healthy Children.



## Primary Schools Receive Science Kits



Matalia Quashie - Teacher of the Dickson Methodist School, receiving her kit from Mrs. Aldia Gumbs - Dyer (SED/Curriculum

Primary Schools throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines are being equipped with science kits to enhance students' learning of science from a practical perspective.

Four such kits, which were obtained through UNESCO in collaboration with the SVG Science Teachers' Association, were on Thursday 11 February, 2010, handed over to the Langley Park Government School, Dickson Methodist, Sandy Bay Government and Overland/ Tourama Government. Other primary schools have already received their kits whilst others are on the waiting list as the handing over is expected to continue until all government run primary schools are equipped with these kits.



Secretary of Langley Park Gov't School, Shernell Edwards greeting the Ministry of Education Team

Sandra Bart-Peters, Science Specialist assigned to the Curriculum Unit, encouraged the teachers and students of the receiving schools to take care of the equipment and stressed the importance of giving our students in primary schools the tools for scientific simulations even in instances where there are no physical science labs. This, she said, facilitates more effective learning of science at the secondary level.



McArthur Gordon- Receiving Kit from Sandra Bart-Peters, Science Specialist / Curriculum Development Unit

From L-R: Aldia Gumbs-Dyer (SED/CDU), Sandra Bart-Peters (Science Specialist), Matalia Quashie (Dickson Methodist), Kenvert Cyrus (Sandy Bay Gov't), Grocina Richards (Head teacher Tourama Gov't), Julian Williams (Head teacher Langley Park Gov't), Grade 4and 6 students of the named schools.





# The Tech Voc Story

Perhaps the most enduring belief about Technical Vocational Education (Tech. Voc.) in St. Vincent and the Grenadines is that it is only for the non-university bound, the potential drop-outs, or students with special needs. It seems as though, only a few years ago, this view was shared not only by students and their parents and the rest of civil society but also by some Educators (and Policymakers). However, recent strides have been made to de-stigmatize Tech. Voc. Education. Tech. Voc. sat on the back burner for many years and is only now seeing the light of day.

Technical Vocational Education prepares learners for jobs that are based on manual or practical activities, but is not necessarily confined to the non-academically inclined. This type of education is usually related to a specific trade, occupation or vocation, hence the term 'Technical Vocational Education.'

The Government's education revolution has brought with it renewed focus on Tech. Voc Studies hence 4 Technical Institutes now operate under the umbrella of the Ministry of Education.

- Barrouallie Technical Institute (BTI)
- Campden Park Technical Institute (CPTI)
- Georgetown Technical Institute (GTI)
- Kingstown Technical Institute (KTI)



Students of KTI



Students of CPTI

These Institutes offer a wide range of courses including Electrical Installation, Auto Mechanics, Food/Beverage Preparation and Service, Data Operations, Technical Drawing, Information Technology, among many others.



Auto Mechanics



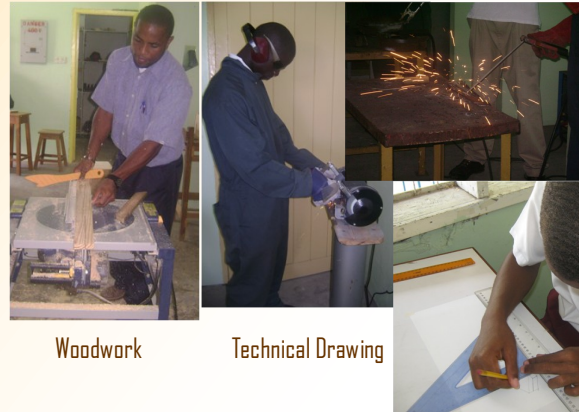
Plumbing



Electrical Installation



Info Tech



Woodwork

Technical Drawing

Welding

With renewed emphasis being placed on Tech. Voc, students will soon be able to gain the Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ)- offered by CXC. CSME demands standardization of training and certification of the labour force so that a skilled worker from one Caribbean country can easily move to another and fit in, having in his/her possession documentation of qualifications.

Though the government has heavily invested in Tech. Voc facilities, many of the Technical Institutes have benefitted from assistance from local NGOs and overseas donors. The Georgetown Technical Institute (GTI) is specifically grateful for a donation from Vincentian Gary Huggins (who resides in the U.K) and his team of engineers from British Airways. In September, 2008 GTI received numerous pieces of equipment valued in excess of EC\$ 20,000 from Mr. Huggins and his team.



British Engineers with Gary Huggins - 2nd from right (front)



Some of the tools donated by Mr. Huggins and company

On behalf of GTI and the Ministry of Education, Mr. Lenrick Browne sincerely thanked Mr. Huggins and the group of engineers for such an important and timely gift. The elated Mr. Browne said, "The tools have been deployed in the various shops and students have benefitted greatly from the experience of using these tools. The school has been able to enhance the existing programmes that are offered to the community."



# A Special Year for Special Needs School

On Wednesday February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 the School for Children with Special Needs (SCSN) received US \$1000 courtesy the National Lotteries Authority (NLA) to purchase a GAME ON kit specially designed for students with disabilities. The kit consists of racquets, footballs, fleece balls, cones and a kiddy cricket set among other items. In order to train staff in the use of the kit to the

children's advantage the School hosted a three day workshop involving the three Special Schools – School for Children with Special Needs Kingstown, School for Children with Special Needs Georgetown and the Sunshine Centre in Bequia. The workshop which was facilitated by two members of Trinidad and Tobago Alliance of Sport and Physical Education (TTASPE) featured two days of theory and one day of practical exercise involving the students, at the end of which the teachers were certified by TTASPE.



MCT handing over printer and cheque to Principal of SCSN.

Kizzy Ballantyne thanking MCT in sign language for their support and wishing God's continued blessing on the organization.

website, a thanksgiving service, a street fair and a boat ride to the Grenadines.

The School also held the Richard Joachim's Sports Meet on March 10, 2010 at the Victoria Park in honour of the late Richard Joachim who sponsored the event for many years during his lifetime. The Sports Meet was a joint venture between the Kingstown and Georgetown branches of the school with Red House emerging winner of the March Past. Although the event was non competitive due to the nature of the students' exceptionalities, Jeffery Thomas and Chellise DaSilva were given special mention for outstanding sportsmanship in Red House whilst Renaldo Delpesche and Aneisha Sutherland were awarded the same for Blue House and Mickron Cupid and Tamika Primus for Yellow House. All the students were given medals of participation and awardees of Outstanding Sportsmanship received trophies. Events included sack races, lime and spoon, bean bag throw as well as invitational events like the past students' race which was contested by former Special Olympians and won by Derrick Telemaque.



Students and teachers involved in workshop

Earlier in the month SCSN also received a brand new multifunctional laser printer compliments the Mustique Charitable Trust (MCT). Through the donation of a cheque valued at \$EC 3217.50 from MCT the SCSN is also currently running a full breakfast programme. All 60 students enrolled at the school can enjoy cereal, sandwiches, fruits and a hot drink on mornings. The donation is expected to enhance the existing school feeding programme at least for the current school year.

The MCT which was established in 2008 has funded several other projects in education. At the start of the school year (Sep 2009) the Trust donated IT equipment comprising thirty-four computers, a printer and server and also assisted with renovations to the IT labs at the Division of Technical and Vocational Education of the SVGCC. The National Lotteries Authority too has made significant contributions to the development of sports and education in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Principal (Ag) of the SCSN, Naseem Smith-Williams expressed her delight upon receiving donations on behalf of the school in the year of their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The SCSN will celebrate its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 7<sup>th</sup> this year with a whole year of activities on its calendar which includes plans to launch the school's



Ready Set Cheer!! Ready Set Go!!



The Ministry of Education congratulates the SCSN on its achievements over the years and wishes them a Happy 35<sup>th</sup> Birthday in advance. We also say thanks to the MCT and NLA for their contribution to the development of education in SVG.



# Jica Support



Several Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) are here in St. Vincent and the Grenadines contributing to different areas of development including sports, occupational therapy and environmental sustainability.

Since 1954, Japan has been providing financial and technical assistance to developing countries as the executing agency of Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA), aiming to contribute to the peace and development of the international community and thereby helping to ensure Japan's own security and prosperity. In accordance with its vision of "Inclusive and Dynamic Development", JICA supports the resolution of issues of developing countries by using the most suitable tools of various assistance methods and a combined regional-, country- and issue-oriented approach. JICA, the world's largest bilateral aid agency, works in over 150 countries and regions and has some 100 overseas offices and volunteers. The volunteers are well trained and qualified in a variety of technical disciplines.



Four (4) JOCV volunteers are currently attached to education. Kazutomo Yamazaki works as a Science teacher at the St. Vincent Grammar School, Takuya Kitamura as a Math teacher at Campden Park Secondary School and Yuko Ohara as a Physical Education teacher attached to Thomas Saunders Secondary and Intermediate High School. Mayuko Nishiyama is assigned to the department of Special Needs Education at the Curriculum Development Unit. Volunteers spend a maximum of 2 years in the country to which they are assigned. At the end of March we said goodbye to Takuya Kitamura and Yuko Ohara.

The volunteers themselves share their vision with us:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>TAKUYA KITAMURA</b>		
<b>FIELD</b>	Mathematic Teacher		
<b>WORK PLACE</b>	Camden Park Secondary School	<b>LOCATION</b>	Camden Park
<b>MY MISSION</b>		<b>A MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE IN SVG</b>	
It's true that many children don't like studying mathematics. I'm here to change their mind. My main objective is to not only teach math as a teacher but let them know how interesting, useful and beautiful it is for their life !!		Every children has great potential. But they don't know how to develop their ability. That's why Education is one of most important area. Now it's time for us to take actions for our bright future. "Yes, we can !!"	
			

<b>NAME</b>	<b>YUKO OHARA</b>		
<b>FIELD</b>	Physical Education Teacher		
<b>WORK PLACE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thomas Saunders Secondary School</li> <li>• Intermediate High School</li> </ul>	<b>LOCATION</b>	Kingstown
<b>MY MISSION</b>		<b>A MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE IN SVG</b>	
The objective of my work is to improve Physical Education Lessons at schools in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. I am working with Vincentian teachers to improve P.E Lessons. I would like to make P.E more enjoyable for the students.		Physical Activity keeps your body fit and is also important for your mental health. Physical Activity makes us "IRIE!". So let's enjoy it!	
			

<b>NAME</b>	<b>MAYUKO NISHIYAMA</b>		
<b>FIELD</b>	Special Needs Education		
<b>WORK PLACE</b>	Curriculum Development Unit	<b>LOCATION</b>	Kingstown
<b>MY MISSION</b>		<b>A MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE IN SVG</b>	
My mission is to do an assessment and make a plan for special needs students. I would also wish to conduct behaviour modification workshops with teachers, parents, and students. I would also seek to promote inclusive education.		Look on the bright side of each student and capitalize on their strengths!!	
			

<b>NAME</b>	<b>KAZUTOMO YAMAZAKI</b>		
<b>FIELD</b>	Science Teacher		
<b>WORK PLACE</b>	Technical College	<b>LOCATION</b>	Arnos Vale
<b>MY MISSION</b>		<b>A MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE IN SVG</b>	
<p><i>Science for all</i></p> <p>I support science education for the future of St. Vincent and the Grenadines through my activities of teaching science and mathematics to 1st year students at Technical college and writing all solutions of CXC past papers (1985-2009) of mathematics and science.</p> <p><i>To be a scientist</i></p> <p>We've got to be polite, kind, curious, steady, smart, attractive and more interested in science. These are my goals in St. Vincent.</p>		<p><i>There is always another way</i></p> <p>In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we need to have skills integrated in both science and liberal arts. Whenever you are faced with a difficult situation, you have many options to choose from to do. Now is a tuning point in my life, therefore I want to enjoy life in SVG to the fullest.</p>	
			



## Literacy in Focus

Primary school students are being well prepared to make an effective transition into secondary learning. This is evident in the outstanding performance of the students who so ably represented their schools in the recently concluded Writing, Public Speaking and Spelling Bee Competitions respectively.



The primary school's Spelling Bee Competition which began in 2005 as a joint venture of Karib Cable and the Ministry of Education climaxed on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 at the Methodist Church Conference Room with eight

schools competing in the finals. This year's finalists were: Sandy Bay Anglican, Lowmans Wd. Anglican, Troumaca Gov't, Dubois Gov't, Cane End Gov't, Kingstown Preparatory, Bequia



Anglican



and Brighton Methodist. Sandy Bay Anglican School emerged overall winner with Bequia Anglican and Brighton Methodist placing 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively.

The Ministry of Education hosted the finals of the Grade 5 literacy enrichment Public Speaking Competition on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The competition which also took place at the Methodist Church Conference Room saw seven schools being represented.

- \* Shantel Lewis - Kingstown Preparatory
- \* Serena Lanferman - Fairhall Primary
- \* Mckelle McDonald - Stubbs Government
- \* Ulrika Sutherland - Georgetown Government
- \* Junio Kelly - Chateaubelair Government
- \* Drew-Ann Boyea—Park Hill Government
- \* Javed Desouza - Sion Hill Government

The students spoke for five to seven minutes on the topic "There is no need for the Common Entrance Examination as all students are now guaranteed a place in secondary school." Sereena Lanferman emerged winner of the competition copping the awards for Best Prepared Speech and Best Impromptu Speech with her response to the topic "If you rule the world for a day what would you do". Junio Kelly spoke his way into second place while Ulrika Sutherland placed third. This year's event was sponsored by Pearson Publishers and the National Insurance Services (NIS). The NIS has been sponsoring the competition since its inception in 2003. The winners of the Grade 5 Writing Competition were also provided with prizes compliments Pearson Publishers. Ulrika Sutherland of Georgetown Government placed 1<sup>st</sup>, Tamara Lowman of Langley Park Government was 2<sup>nd</sup> while Caron M Gordon of Chateaubelair Primary School was awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> position.

## A.S.P.I.R.E

As students prepare for the Examinations; be it Common Entrance, CXC - CSEC OR CAPE, GCE - O' or A' Levels or others, here are some study tips that may be useful:

### A: Approach/attitude/arrange

- Approach your studies with a positive attitude
- Arrange your schedule to eliminate distractions

### S: Select/survey/study!

- Select a reasonable chunk of material to study
- Survey the headings, graphics, pre- and post questions to get an overview
- Study, marking any information you do not understand

### P: Put aside/piece together:

- Put aside your books and notes
- Piece together what you've studied, either alone, with a study pal or group, and summarize what you understand.

### I: Inspect/Investigate/inquire/:

- Inspect what you did not understand.
- Investigate alternative sources of information you can refer to: other text books, reputable websites, experts, tutors, etc.
- Inquire from support professionals (academic support, librarians, tutors, teachers, experts,) for assistance

### R: Reconsider/reflect/relay

- Reconsider the content: If I could speak to the author, what questions would I ask or what criticism would I offer?
- Reflect on the material: How can I apply this material to what I am interested in?
- Relay understanding: How would I make this information interesting and understandable to other students?

### E: Evaluate/examine/explore:

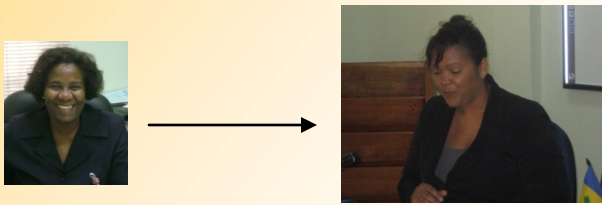
- Evaluate your grades on tests and tasks; look for a pattern
- Examine your process toward improving it
- Explore options with a teacher, support professional, tutor, etc.

# Changing Faces

*Life belongs to the living, and he who lives must experience changes”*  
 - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

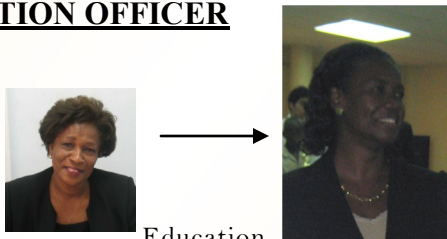
We often hear that “Change is inevitable” and “Change is around every corner”. It appears that these sayings have great merit as a wheel of change recently moved through the Ministry of Education. Within the 2009/2010 academic year, the evidence of change has been predominant in the changing faces that have taken the reins of power in the domain of Education.

## PERMANENT SECRETARY



On March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 Mrs. Laura Browne came to the end of her tenure as Permanent Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Education. She subsequently passed the baton on to the new PS - Mrs. Nicole Bonadie-Baker, who is in no way ‘new’ in the realm of Education. Dating back as early as 1987-1988, she served as a Probationary Assistant Teacher at the Girls’ High School, then as an Administrative Cadet in the Ministry of Education (1991-1992). More recently (2004-2010), she steered the Education Project Management Unit (EPMU), as Project Coordinator. As new PS/“Accounting Officer”, Mrs. Baker has the advantage of 10 yrs experience in the domain of Finance. From 1994-2004, she was assigned to the Ministry of Finance where she functioned as Economist/Senior Economist.

## CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER



After 34 years in Education, former Chief Education Officer Susan Dougan gracefully bowed out toward the end of 2009. She made way for the new Chief (Ag) - Lou-Anne Gilchrist. Like the new PS, the new Chief has come as no stranger to the education system. In fact, she has devoted over 2 decades of service in this particular arena. She embarked on her career in 1986 as a teacher of Foreign Languages (French and Spanish), spending the earlier years at the Girls’ High School and St. Vincent Grammar School. Following this, Ms. Gilchrist proceeded as a lecturer of French and Spanish at St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College Division of Arts, Sciences and General Studies.

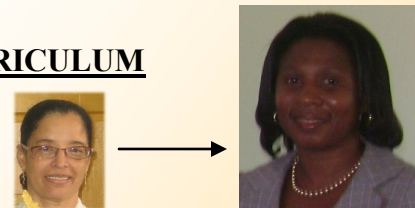
She also assumed duties as Local Registrar (Ag.), a position she held immediately before her promotion as Chief Education Officer (Ag) in October, 2009.

## DEPUTY CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER



As of 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2009 Ms. Beverley Neptune has functioned as Deputy Chief Education Officer (Ag). She took over from Mr. Luis de Shong, now PS in the Ministry of Transport and Works. Ms. Neptune too brings to her new position a wealth of experience in Education. Her 30-year span encompasses her work in varied capacities. As a Teacher, Ms. Neptune has taught in both mainstream and Special Education classrooms. She has also lectured part-time at the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College Division of Teacher Education (2000-present) and Division of Nursing (1997-present). Added to this, Ms. Neptune has managed the School for Children with Special Needs (1996/1997). She has also held the post of Education Officer where she was responsible for providing leadership, supervision and professional development services to schools nation-wide in the area of Health and Family Life Education.

## SEO/ CURRICULUM



Former Senior Education Officer (SEO) for Curriculum Mrs. Deborah Bacchus was given a grand farewell when she came to the end of her 31-year career in Education on 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2009. Mrs. Aldia Gumbs-Dyer subsequently filled the post as SEO (Ag). Mrs. Dyer launched into her career in Education as a teacher at the Girls’ High School in 1987, a position she held for 10 years (1987-1997). After a 3-year study leave, she continued embracing the system in 2000 as a teacher at Troumaca Ontario Secondary School for the next 8 years of her career. In 2008, Mrs. Dyer was appointed Principal of the Buccament Bay Secondary School. Mrs. Dyer joined the staff of the Curriculum Development Unit as Senior Education Officer (Ag) in January, 2010.



## Meet the Education Media Unit

How many of you have been in education for years and have never heard of the **Education Media Unit** (EMU)? I would not be surprised at the number of persons who answered in the affirmative nor would I be surprised if you know about EMU but you don't know what we do.

The EMU was established in 1987 with funding from UNESCO. The main objectives at that time were to produce radio programmes in support of curriculum development in the primary schools and to support other departments within the Ministry of Education in the dissemination of information. Today the Unit does exactly that: a weekly radio programme 'Education in Focus' is aired on Tuesdays and repeated on Thursdays on NBC Radio at 10:30 am. In addition we produce promotional material for events coming out of the Ministry of Education.

The Unit has however evolved into a communication entity: The range of issues covered on the weekly programme has broadened and there are plans to make the programme an interactive one. Our personnel chair several events relating to the development of education and provide coverage for events spanning the education gamut. We produce a quarterly newsletter entitled 'Education Alive' which features events/ activities from all facets of education across St. Vincent and the Grenadines. We lend technical support in producing brochures, leaflets and magazines to other departments in education and even schools. In the absence of our own broadcasting house we utilize other media houses to disseminate information to the public via news releases and public announcements and there are long-term plans for EMU to have its own recording studio as well as an interactive website.



Hi! I'm Marla Nanton - **"The Happy-Go-Lucky One!"**

I joined the Education Media Unit in November, 2008. Since then, I've had the opportunity to put into practice my formal training in Communication (Public Relations) and I do it with a smile!

On a daily basis, I enjoy acting as a liaison between the unit and its publics; establishing and maintaining good relations. For

example, I manage the unit's email account; and respond promptly to requests concerning the unit, media coverage or else. I was a Teacher for two (2) years and in whatever I do, my motto is "Love, lift, laugh and live!"



Who am I? **"The Straight Talker!"** - Yolande Robertson-Greene.

Why am considered "The Straight Talker?" Well, my colleagues say I get straight to the issue at hand!

I feel doubly privileged working in the Education Media Unit because I can fuse two (2) of the things that I'm passionate about: (I) Media and Communication and (II) Education. I bring to the unit formal training in Media and Communication

(Social Marketing) and 4 years experience in Teaching.

I am the newest member of the unit having joined in February, 2010 and I gravitate a lot towards field work and writing for print.

Introducing to you Cecil Charles - **"The All Rounder!"**

I believe in the quote: "Whatever you do; do it with a sense of purpose!" This is one of the principles that has guided me throughout my years as a Teacher, Principal, Education Officer, Media Practitioner, avid Sportsman with Cricket being my first love, Credit Unionist and staunch Methodist.

I joined the Education Media Unit in 1994 and currently function as the head of the unit. I supervise and delegate duties to my ever-efficient staff. I bring to the unit many years of experience in Education and in Media, as well as training in Administration. I take pride in being the Education Media Unit's **"All Rounder!"**



**"The High-Spirited One!"**- That's me, Tamara Barrow-Williams!

I bring to the unit my knowledge and experience in Broadcast Media (Radio) and over seven (7) years in the Teaching profession. In the unit's day-to-day running however, my excitement is derived from the technical aspects of operation.

I love cameras! You may see me snapping away at any event hosted by the Ministry of Education.

I came to the Education Media Unit in November, 2008 and since then; my passion for what I do has kept me alive!



## Music and the Future

### Bright future for Music in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

In the wake of the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Junior Calypso Symposium it is evident that our youths are interested in Calypso singing and moreso in careers in music. The annual symposium organized by the National Cultural Foundation in collaboration with the Carnival Development Corporation (CDC), the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Calypsonians' Association and the Ministry of Education was held on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at the Red Cross Headquarters. This year's symposium focused on improving the standard of Calypso competition at the junior level as well as sensitizing the students to the operations of the music industry.



Persons at the Symposium

Once again the facilitators delivered a well organized programme. Calypsonian Kenneth "Vibrating Scares" Alleyne, the main facilitator, offered the students theoretical guidance to success in the art form whilst Glenroy "Sulle" Caesar offered a more practical experience. He turned the Red Cross Headquarters into an impromptu stage where all and sundry present were engaged in one way or another – some became live performers while others served as judges and critics.

### Hats off to our music teachers who keep the fire burning.

Music teachers in both secondary and primary schools around the island were in attendance, certainly with a focus on garnering expertise so that they can guide their students' preparation for the National Junior Calypso Competition slated to be held in June this year. Junior Calypsonians however, had an earlier opportunity to try their hands at what they learned at the symposium. Projects Promotion Ltd in collaboration with the Royal St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force (RSVGPF), International Airport Development Company (IADC), Carnival Development Corporation (CDC), The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Calypsonians' Association (SVGCA) and the Ministry of Education held its Junior Calypso Competition on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 at the Kingstown Netball Court. The competition which surrounded the theme 'Our Environment, Our Development, Our Future' was geared towards "getting the students to become friends of the environment ...and to compose lyrics about the environment that may become timeless", according to Cecil Ryan of Projects Promotions Ltd.



One of the SVGS presentations at the Environmental Calypso Competition

Sixteen year old Stephanie Mascoll of the West St. George Secondary School emerged winner with a captivating performance of her calypso, 'Protect Your Life'. Judges St. Sergeant Daniel Hall; Shevelle "Skarpyon" Williams and Jennifer Glasgow-Browne had their task cut out as the show was one of high quality. Terancia Cornwall of the St. Joseph's Convent Marriaqua who keenly contested the 1<sup>st</sup> position had to settle for second place with her song 'Protect the Environment'. Both young ladies add to the promise of music's bright future here in SVG. Mascoll, who appears ever confident of her abilities, says she plans to enter the National Junior Calypso Competition and she thanked her music teacher for helping her. She is currently her school's band leader and plays the piano and the drum and is also the band's lead vocalist. Cornwall who is the sister of the reigning Miss Heritage seems to have calypso running through her veins. She has won the National Junior Calypso competition on two occasions as a student of the Park Hill Government School and she too thanked her primary school teacher who wrote her song. The talent of these young ladies and several others needs only to be harnessed.

Gaffiesha Smart of the Calder Government School and Lee Bullock of the St. Vincent Grammar School were awarded third and fourth places respectively. All participating schools received one thousand dollars (\$ EC 1000) whereas individual prizes were awarded to winners. 1<sup>st</sup> place winner received \$ EC 2,000 and a notebook computer, 2<sup>nd</sup> place received \$1,500 and a notebook computer, 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$1,000 and other prizes whilst 4<sup>th</sup> place received a notebook computer.

**It must be noted that such external efforts to encourage students to become environmental cadets are not in isolation as just in February the Environment Management Dept in the Ministry of Health and the Environment in collaboration with Central Water and Sewerage Authority (CWSA) launched its annual Environmentally Friendly School Competition at the Peace Memorial Hall. It is expected that students at both the primary and secondary level will acquire knowledge on local and global environmental issues through the competition but as the year 2010 has been declared the International Year of Biodiversity by the United Nations, biodiversity is the major topic to be addressed. Prizes will be given to the top 3 schools in each of the two categories.**



## Music Cont'd

Following on the heels of the Projects Promotion / OAS competition, the National Junior Calypso preliminaries were held on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March, not without its shortcomings, but with a promise of a good competition.

The promise of music's bright future resonates in our classrooms because it is embedded in our curriculum even as an extra-curricular activity.

Several schools have vibrant school bands with our students showing prowess and dexterity in handling various musical instruments and even demonstrating remarkable vocal abilities. Remember the School Band Showcase in October, 2009?



Bethel High School performing at Showcase 2009

These are just a few of our young and promising musicians



Should the music department continue to work as assiduously as it has been in collaboration with the music teachers, students and other stakeholders, music does have a very bright future here in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

## NUMERO UNO for Modern Languages Conferences



Students at Spanish (left) and French (right) Conferences

The Ministry of Education in partnership with the Association of Teachers of Foreign Languages hosted conferences for fifth formers registered for the 2010 CXC/CSEC examinations in foreign languages.

The objective of the conferences, which were held for the first time, was to review the components of the CXC/CSEC Examinations and to promote interaction in the target language. The conferences which were held under the theme 'Today Let's Communicate in the Target Language' saw students from different schools across the island coming together at different venues to interact and share their knowledge.

The Spanish conferences commenced on Monday February 22, and ran through Thursday March 11, 2010 and the French conference was held on Friday March 05, 2010 at the Girl Guides Headquarters. The conference on each day started at 9:00 am and ended at 2:00 pm.

The Education Media Unit journeyed to the Questelles Learning Resource Center on Tuesday March 02, 2010 to spend part of the day with the students and facilitators at one of the Spanish conferences. Mrs. Orla Gurley opened the morning's session with greetings, prayer, scripture reading and worship songs in the Target Language.



SING ALONG:

English version

Head, shoulders, knees and toes  
Head, shoulders, knees and toes  
Let's all clap together

Spanish Version

Cabeza, hombros, rodilla y pies  
Cabeza, hombros, rodillas y pies  
Aplaudamos todos juntos

Mrs. Gurley and her students from the Bequia SDA



Mrs. Gurley, a native of Panama, has been a Spanish Teacher at the Bequia Seventh Day Adventist Secondary

School (BSDASS) for the past 5 years or so. She said she thinks the conference is good for the students and that she was very excited that things were in place to bring the conferences to realization. She added that she thinks it was good, specifically for her students to have an opportunity to see that they are not isolated and she believes that they are likely to be a little more enthusiastic about the languages after having attended the conferences. Main facilitators at the conferences included Mrs. Antoinette Jardine, teacher at St. Joseph's Convent Kingstown.

# Home Economics in High Gear

The East Caribbean Group of Companies in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the SVG Home Economics Association hosted the 2010 ECGC Food and Nutrition Competition in the months of February and March. The competition which has been around for close to two decades and is sponsored by ECGC for this the 17<sup>th</sup> year aims to:

- ◆ Increase student creativity while encouraging the use of local ECGC products.
- ◆ Create greater linkages between industry and education.
- ◆ Promote the discipline of Home Economics.
- ◆ Highlight possible career paths in Home Economics.

Each competing school was represented by two (2) students who were adjudged as individual entrants in three categories: 1. Rice dishes (sweet or savory) 2. Breads, cakes or other items using white/whole-wheat flour (sweet or savory) 3. Bread, cakes or other items made from specialty flours. **Did you even know that ECGC produces five (5) flours? – White; whole wheat; rye; herb and garlic and multigrain.** Items/ dishes presented by the students were adjudged using the following criteria: Originality and Creativity; Presentation and Appearance; Colour, flavor and texture; Presentation of recipes and utilization of ingredients.



Some of the winning Dishes

The Competition this year differed in that it excluded primary and tertiary institutions. One of the reasons for this is that the incentive for competitors who made it to the finals is that the winner gets an opportunity to participate in the Caribbean School's Dueling Competition to be held in Barbados later this year – a competition held only among secondary aged students. This is also the first year that a Cook Off was held at the zonal level so that only the winners at the zonal (semi-final) level competed in the finals. The organizers say they are also hoping to have this year's finals which took place on

Tuesday 23 March, 2010 broadcast on national television.

The following students emerged zonal (semifinal) winners: Windward Zone- Kurdonna Jacobs and Angelene Hackshaw (NUSS), Marriacqua Zone- Lauren Barriere (SJCM), Kingstown Zone A- Kufayna Woodley (CPSS), Kingstown Zone B- Corey Balcombe (SMSS), Grenadines Zone- Janessa Alexander (UISS) and Ceyon Ollivierre (SVGS). The following students emerged overall winners in the following categories: Best in the Rice Category went to Corey Balcombe who placed 3<sup>rd</sup>. overall. Best in Specialty Flour Category and 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall went to Kufayna Woodley. The award for Best in Flour Category, Best Male Entrant and Overall winner of the ECGC Home Economics Competition went to Ceyon Ollivierre. Winners in each category, in the finals were presented with trophies and a cash prize whilst all participants received certificates of participation. Both the school of the winning student and the teacher of the winning student received gifts compliments ECGC.



From L-R:  
Corey Balcombe - 3rd Place winner  
Kufayna Woodley - 2nd Place Winner  
Ceyon Ollivierre - 1st Place Winner

The competition's judges, under the patronage of the SVG Hotels and Tourism Association, included chefs and persons in the culinary industry like Walter Ashley, Kimella Richards-Ashley, Francelia Marksman, Dawn Smith and Sharon Francis- Hadaway. They too were presented with gifts compliments ECGC.



Audience viewing exhibits at Finals

Foods on display at Finals





## Home Economics cont'd

In retrospect, Ashley who is a Chef by profession said he sees the competition as a good idea but thinks the students still need to be given more opportunities for higher order practical exposure in the kitchen and that the students themselves need to become more original in their use of the local ingredients/ products.

Balcombe of St. Martin's Secondary School (SMSS) who emerged winner in two categories in the semi final competition with his 4 Flour Medley Bread and his Pineapple Cream filled Crepes said he enjoyed participating in the competition because it gave him a chance as a boy to compare his cooking skills with the other competitors who are primarily female students. He says that he feels comfortable writing Food and Nutrition for CXC mainly because no one has ever teased him and he loves watching the television show – *Next Iron Chef. Perhaps he will be our Next Iron Chef.* Ceyon Ollivierre made the St. Vincent Grammar School extremely proud as it is the first year the school has made arrangements for the boys to sit Home Economics as a CXC subject and consequently the first year the school has entered the competition. Ceyon himself and 13 other boys from SVGS take Home Economics after school at the Kingstown Center as it is not one of their timetabled subjects. According to teacher Michelle Guy, who is also the Assistant Secretary of the Caribbean Association of Home Economists (CAHE), the boys show genuine interest in and dedication to learning in the field of Home Economics.

Education Officer with responsibility for Home Economics, Ingrid Robinson, said this year's competition was an improvement over last year's in that they had more control over the number of schools participating in the finals which resulted in the event finishing on time even though it simultaneously resulted in fewer persons being in the audience. She thanked ECGC for their involvement and stated emphatically that the competition is in fact an ECGC initiative and the Ministry of Education was invited to come on board from its inception. **All hail ECGC and CHEERS to the males** who won in the various categories.



Marketing / Personnel  
Manger of the E.C.G.C  
Martin LaBorde

While some students competed locally others had an opportunity to showcase their skills in the Caribbean Association of Home Economists (CAHE) regional Food and Nutrition and Fashion Design and Garment Construction competitions. The competitions which focused on the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals 1 and 7 respectively (1.To eradicate poverty and hunger 7.To ensure environmental sustainability) are a sequel to a poster competition held last year. Last year's competition was entitled "Promoting Food Security and Reducing Poverty in the Caribbean" and the winning school was from St. Vincent and the Grenadines. This year's competition which is open to all secondary school students of Home Economics is held under a similar theme. In Food and Nutrition the competing students must submit a completed dish using indigenous ingredients in one of three categories – a protein, cooked vegetable or starchy dish along with the recipe which must be an original creation of the entrant and must not have been previously published or won any prize/award. In the Fashion Design and Garment Construction competition the garment must be designed and made by the student using fabrics made from natural fibers with indigenous embellishments and/or accessories.



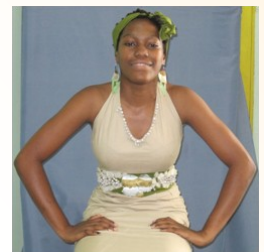
Crocus bag dress  
adorned with local  
seashells



Earrings and neck-  
lace designed from  
mango seeds



Students with their teacher at K'town  
Multipurpose Centre



Waistband decorated with  
shells

Preliminary judging will be done in each territory but the finalists will be judged by a regional team of Home Economics personnel and winners announced in Barbados in May of this year. First prize winner in each competition will be awarded US\$300 and a trophy, second place US\$200 and a trophy and third place US\$100 and a trophy. **Good Luck to all our competing students.**

## British Teachers Visit SVG

Ten (10) teachers and three (3) education officials from Bristol, England spent one week here in St. Vincent and the Grenadines from February 14–20, 2010 on an educational tour made possible through the Teachers International Professional Development (TIPD) Programme. According to Local Coordinator, Mr. Lennox Lewis, the programme which is funded by the UK Department for Children, schools and Families (DCSF) aims to allow visiting teachers and teaching assistants to experience another education system first hand, to explore a particular education theme in depth and to engage in dialogue with teachers and other education professionals of the host country.

The TIPD programme was first introduced in 1999 in England (it does not currently apply to Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland) and each year around 2500 teachers and teaching assistants have the chance to benefit from a short visit to another country. All participants must have had at least two (2) years teaching or classroom experience in order to be considered for the programme.

The Ministry of Education held the official welcome ceremony at the Curriculum Development Unit (CDU) Conference Room on Monday February 15, 2010. The tour included visits to primary, secondary and tertiary institutions around mainland St. Vincent as well as meetings with Ministry of Education officials.



TIPD Visitors with Ministry of Education Officials and Head Teachers / Teachers of local schools.

Another welcome ceremony was held at CDU Conference Room on Monday March 08, 2010 for a similar visit. This time it was the Buckinghamshire/ SVG School-Partnership Visit.



Buckinghamshire Team with local contingent. (Team Leader Yvette Thomas, far right)

Team Leader Yvette Thomas, a British national of Vincentian parentage and who herself worked for several years here in SVG as a Principal/ teacher, accompanied eight Head teachers/ local education officials from Buckinghamshire to these shores for a one week schools visit. Both the TIPD programme and the Buckinghamshire/SVG School-Partnership programme, funded by the British Council in collaboration with UNESCO, make provisions for a reciprocal visit from teachers here.



Teams engaged in discussions.



## Sports Corner

### Georgetown Secondary School Avenged 2009 Defeat



The Georgetown Secondary School (GSS) convincingly defeated the St. Vincent Grammar School (SVGS) after meeting them again in the 2010 United Insurance

Schools Cricket finals at the Arnos Vale Playing Field on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2010. The lads from Georgetown played with purpose to dethrone the 2009 champions who badly whipped them last year. Batting first GSS amassed 178 for 9 off their 40 overs. Former National under 19 Captain and Captain of GSS lead the batting with 38 runs. National under 15 Captain Ray Jordan chipped in with 31 runs. Georgetown's total was bolstered by a healthy contribution of 47 extras. Kaider Nedd, a former National under 15 player was the pick of Grammar School's bowling, capturing 5 for 22 off his eight overs.

When Grammar School batted, they found the going tough as the Harper brothers, Anthony and Andy ripped through the middle and lower order capturing 3 for 12 and 3 for 18 respectively, sending the SVGS crashing for 73 runs. The prize giving ceremony followed immediately after and saw

### SPORTS MEDICINE



#### **PERFORMANCE MESSAGE by Dr. P. De Freitas (M.D. Msc Sport Medicine)**

Around this time we have many athletes involved in competition both locally and regionally. In these competitions the margin between victory and defeat can be small. Attention to detail can make that vital difference.

**Diet affects performance**, thus the food chosen in training and competition can affect how well we train and play. Thus all athletes need to be aware of their personal nutritional goals. Every athlete is different and there is no single diet that meets the needs of all players at all times. Diet may have its biggest impact on training and a good diet will help support consistent intensive training while limiting the risks of illness or injury.

**Getting the Right Amount of Energy** to stay healthy and perform well is key. Too much energy and body fat increases;

several players and schools receiving trophies and medals. In the individual awards category, Kelvin Quashie of the Buccament Bay Secondary School (BBSS) copped the Best All-rounder, Highest Individual Score (127 NO) and Highest Batting Average (79.50) awards. Romario Bibby of the Thomas Saunders Secondary School (TSSS) most wickets (15), Raphael Pope of the North Union Secondary School (NUSS) captured the best bowling figures awards with figures of 8-0-7-30.

In the zonal category, the NUSS emerged winners of Zone A, TSSS winners of Zone B, West St. George Secondary School (WSGS) winners of Zone C and Troumaca Ontario Secondary School (TOSS) as winners of Zone D. The curtains came down with Anthony Harper of the GSS receiving the Most Valuable Player (MVP) award in the finals, the SVGS the Runners up trophy and GSS the Champion's trophy.



MVP Anthony Harper

**BIG UP** to the Buccament Bay Secondary School for coping 3 of the 5 individual awards and to the United Insurance Company who has been sponsoring the tournament for the last twenty six (26) years and who pledged continued support to the development of cricket and the nation as a whole.

too little energy and performance falls, injuries occur and illness results.

Athletes must be aware of what foods they should choose to meet their Carbohydrate needs as Carbohydrates supply the muscles and brain with the fuel they need to meet the stress of training and competition. Foods rich in Protein are important for building and repairing muscles. A varied diet containing everyday foods will generally supply more than enough Protein. A well-chosen Vegetarian Diet can easily meet Protein needs. A varied diet which meets energy needs and is based largely on nutrient-rich choices such as fruits, beans, legumes, cereals, lean meats, fish, dairy foods and vegetables should ensure an adequate intake of vitamins and minerals.

Maintaining hydration is important for top performance. Intake of fluids before, during and after exercise is important, especially in hot climates such as ours. When sweat losses are high, food and drink consumed must contain sufficient salt to replace these losses.

The indiscriminate use of dietary supplements by athletes **is not** recommended as many of these supplements can contain banned substances.

## Inter School Sports Flashback

*I remember back in the day (close to 20 years ago) when I used to be so proud to be running on the tracks at Arnos Vale for my school with according to my mother, "me head in the air like a peacock". In one year we had so many good runners that I was fit only to run a relay and 'boy was I glad to be on the team'. That year we (GHS) lost the title by a mere 2 or so points – can't remember exactly and 'if yo see how we bawol'. Worse is that I had to leave the complex and trudge up to the main road barefooted because somebody stole 'me Nike sneakers ah got from Canada' just because I was running for inter-school sports. I didn't mind because 'ah was getting a lot of attention as the 'High School girl who somebody tief she shoes when she been running'. 'A felt like a little martyr'. Anyway I still love inter-school sports and although I haven't been able to attend in the last 10 years or so (don't worry that was just yesterday) 'dis year ah going decked in me Education Media Unit attire' but with my heart and soul waiting to jump for all the winners. 'Ah hope to see the stands full af children in they school colours and teachers with them ringing bell, blowing whistle, chanting lyrics for they school and the whole works. Ah know the children these days not leaving they big sun shades behind and the boys like the skinny jeans but is OK once they shout fo they school'.*

On a serious note though, the Heats of the Inter-Secondary Schools' Athletics Championships took place on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March and the finals on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2010. I wasn't too disappointed because the students appeared to be well behaved for the most part and they shouted evermore for their respective athletes. The teachers too were well on board and the Ministry of Education in collaboration with the Ministry of Sports, acting on behalf of the government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines evidently invested a lot into the event. Congratulations to all the winners, especially to Thomas Saunders Secondary who gave a good show in dethroning last year's Boys' Champ. St. Vincent Grammar School into 2nd place. Thumbs up to Bethel High School who too dethroned last year's Girls' Champ. GHS into 2nd place. The Victor Ludorum (Lennox Spence) however emerged from SVGS, whilst the Victrix Ludorum was Lenisha Oliver of BHS.

We look forward to being well represented by our athletes in the upcoming Windward Island School Games and CARIFTA games. A big Thank You goes out to the Sponsor of the event – St. Vincent Corrugated Containers Inc. who has been sponsoring the event for several years. In the final analysis we want to encourage all of you students to get involved in your school's, and by extension, your own development one way or the other – if you have athletic abilities volunteer to represent your school next year, don't refuse to participate and if you are not athletic make sure you are in the stands supporting your school with your teachers. Parents, past students and well wishers Thank You for supporting the event. See you at Inter-School Sports 2011.

# What's Happening ???

## May 2010

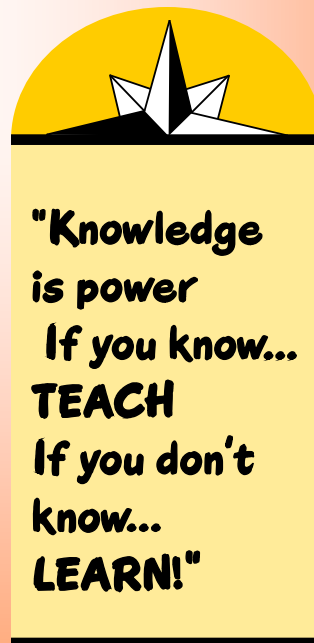
- \* Child month Activities: Art and Poetry Competition; Children's Rally; Exhibitions
- \* Schools' Heath Week
- \* Start of CXC-CSEC and CAPE written exams
- \* ECCB 2010 OECS Essay Competition

## June 2010

- \* Common Entrance Examination
- \* World Population Day
- \* Junior Calypso Competition

## July - August 2010

- \* SVGTU/MOE Summer Workshops for Teachers
- \* Windward Island Games 2010
- \* CAP Programme
- \* KIND Behaviour Modification Summer Programme



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