

The Beacon



Volume 3 Issue 1

September–December 2009

*Empowering people,
changing lives*

Exciting Start



Grade Six Achievement Test (GSAT) Results

The new school year has begun and students are looking forward to attending the Centre. Parents are also excited about their children receiving a chance to improve their literacy level.



Five of our children sat the Grade Six Achievement Test. **Three** students from the programme were successfully placed in traditional high schools. They are Javane Green, Lexine Williams and Iyata Thompson. ***Congratulations to the students, Point Hill Leased Primary and Junior High School teachers and The Centre.***

AutoSkills

This exciting new software was acquired by the PHDRC in April 2009 and has been instrumental in generating interest and good performance by the students who use it. This software was originally intended for displaced young adults who are not literate. However, the PHDRC has been using it for children within the regular school system who are having learning difficulties. The Programme has been very helpful to the students at the Centre.



AutoSkills has been a beneficial addition to the Programme, as it reduces the time that is spent on letter sounds and allows more time for blending in the classroom setting. Our aim for this new term is for the students to achieve the individual goals of building reading fluency and reading comprehension in a shorter time frame.

Unit Director's Message



Since the inception of the PHDRC in 2004, the focus has been on raising the literacy levels of the children in Point Hill and surrounding environs.

We have had challenging times at the Centre, but through it all we have stood as a team and we continue to reap great rewards. Our last report indicated that more than half of our students have made impressive progress. We are extremely proud of our achievement and in the future, this will be continued.

In moving forward, the Centre wishes to introduce the best strategies and keep up to date with new innovations. With this in mind, we have updated our technology to improve literacy programmes and accelerate the speed of literacy. The centre's contribution to the development of our society is overwhelming.

The Grade One to Grade Five students continue to significantly improve. Students have had hearing and eye testing done courtesy of the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica and we continue to seek new ways to help them.

As Unit Director, I must extend my appreciation and thanks to all donors and sponsors for realizing the necessity of our contribution to society's children and blessing us with their continued support. I must assure you all that I intend to continue to have literacy at the forefront of the Centre's activities as we continue to "*Empower people and Change lives*".

Kelleyanne Jackson



Literacy Department

Another school year has begun and the literacy department is rearing to go. The achievement mark for this year is to have 80% improvement in students reading level.

The teachers here at the Centre had worked assiduously over the past school year and as such achieved 63% improvement in students reading level. The Literacy department has done an excellent job.

The aim of the literacy department is to make more field visits this school year so as to learn of innovations within the literacy field so as to be better able to assist students.

Testing

The Point Hill Diagnostic Reading Centre has been providing auxiliary services to the students of the Point Hill Leased Primary and Junior High School. These services are auditory testing, eye testing and psycho-educational testing. These tests are administered at the beginning of each school year or as each additional child is enrolled in the programme. This helps the teachers to eliminate the different reasons for a child's inability to learn.

Grade One Project

The Grade One Project yielded good results on its initiation. One student was promoted into the regular school system, and sixty seven percent had improved within their reading level. This programme funded by the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica continues to play an integral role in the fostering of young minds with the hope that they will become successful readers.

Assisting students to improve their literacy skills at this age will lessen the need for remediation at higher grade levels. This new school year has seen eight new students registered for the Grade one Project. The EFJ teacher in charge of this project is anticipating even greater results.



Mrs. Taylor has made an invaluable contribution to the inception and development of the PHDC. At this stage there is a 'changing of the guard' as Mrs. Taylor has resigned from her position as Chairman. She is however still a very important contributor to the Centre.

See more in the next issue of The Beacon.



Grade Four Literacy

The Grade Four literacy test also provided the teachers of the PHDC with hope as these results were also very good. Two of the nine students within the programme achieved mastery of the 2009 Grade Four Achievement Test. Three students achieved near mastery .

The teachers are so encouraged by these results that they have projected that their mastery of the Grade four literacy test will be 100% next year.

The Irene Goit Multi-purpose Room

The '*Fairy Godmother*' of the PHDC has kindly donated a significant amount of money to construct a multi-purpose room at the Point Hill Primary School and next door the Centre.



This room, as its name implies, will be used by both parties. Our Fairy Godmother will be visiting Jamaica and as such an opening ceremony for the dedication of the building is scheduled for late.

Date is unconfirmed. You are all invited.

SPECIAL THANKS

The PHDRC would like to extend gratitude to all our donors who have contributed in cash or kind to the operations of the Centre. We are indebted to you for your continued support in our drive to empower people and change lives.

- **Environmental Foundation of Jamaica**
 - **The Jamaica National Foundation**
 - **Zoya and Harald Muller**
 - **Mrs. Irene Goit**
- | | | |
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TELETHON

Last year the PHDRC held its first telethon to meet the Jamaica National Challenge. Donors were contacted over a three day period and a total of approximately \$500,000.00 was collected. The proceeds of this Telethon was instrumental in contributing to the daily operations of the Centre during the last school year.

The Telethon is now an annual event. It helps us to appeal to a wider cross-section of people throughout the world and gives them an insight as to the purpose of the centre. This year's Telethon will be held on the Tuesday November 17 to Thursday November 19, 2009.

Please send comments and suggestions to:

The Beacon

The Point Hill Diagnostic

Reading Centre

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St. Catherine

Jamaica, West Indies

Email: pointhillreading@cwjamaica.com

Website: www.pointhill.org

Phone: 1-876-705-4378 / 5782

We would love to hear from you.

TELETHON

You will be called on the Tuesday November 17 to Thursday November 19, 2009 to give your pledge.

From: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Pledge Amount: _____