

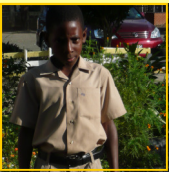
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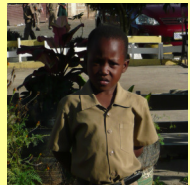
*Empowering people,
changing lives*

Volume 3, Issue 2 December 2009 - February 2010

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE



Eric Skinner



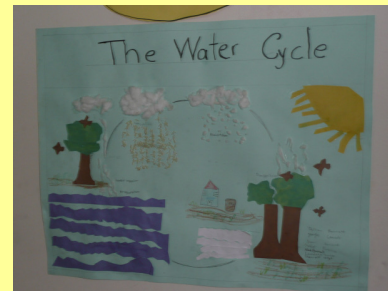
Matthew Brown



Alex Butler

These are some of the students who are high achievers for the term.

Student's Work



TELETHON

The Telethon was held November 17 - 19, 2009. We had 9 callers: 2 persons in the daytime and 7 persons in the evenings.

At the end of the three days, JA\$84,000.00 were pledged. Some donors were not able to give an approximation of the amount they wanted to pledge. Follow ups are still being made.

We thank everyone who has sacrificed their time to listen to us whether or not you are able to make a contribution. We would also like to thank the callers who gave of their time from their busy schedule.

*Thank you for your support
throughout 2009. May you have
a peaceful and prosperous
New Year*

AUXILLARY SERVICES

The Environmental Foundation of Jamaica continues to supply the Centre with the resources to help the students of the Point Hill Leased Primary and Junior High School with Eye Testing, Ear testing and Psycho-educational testing.

Eye Testing

Eye Testing was done by the Lions Club of Kingston on November 13 and 19, 2009. Six students received referral to the FISH Eye Clinic for further testing. Five students were taken to FISH on December 9, 2009. Four students received prescription for glasses.

Ear testing and psycho-educational testing will be conducted in January 2010.

A WOMAN WITH AN IMMENSE APPETITE FOR SERVICE



“Service is as much a part of my upbringing as eating breakfast and going to school” (Maxwell, 2001)

Mrs. Jane Taylor’s contribution to the development of the Point Hill Leased Primary and Junior High School had its genesis in the generous contribution of a classroom by her family. This gift was as a result of damage sustained during the passage of hurricane Gilbert in 1988. Her zeal for service to the Point Hill community led her to make valuable contributions to the school in her capacity as member of the school board, interior decorator, and landscaper. The institution also benefited from gifts of reading materials and Physical Education equipment. Her gifts enabled the staff to face challenging situations with great hope. Her spirit of volunteerism has endeared her to staff and students; evident in her constant query – “is there anything I can do?” She never refused to serve in any capacity. During the summer months of the 1998-1999 academic year she served as teacher in the summer school programme. This short stint acted as the springboard for her involvement in academic programmes designed to improve literacy. Her involvement extended beyond literacy. As such any project spearheaded by the school was supported by this giant of a lady. Mrs. Taylor is a team player and believes like Lyndon John, that:

*“There are no problems we cannot solve together
and very few that we can solve by our selves”.*

Mrs. Taylor acted as a catalyst in the securing of a specific area for reading and can be described as a “get- it-done-and–then some people” (Maxwell 2001). Based on discussions with the principal on the need for a specific reading area for disadvantaged students, Mrs. Taylor embarked on a “soliciting spree”. Together with the principal, staff, alumni, and community members, she secured sponsorship for an ambitious project – an exclusive area/building for reading. Despite the hard work involved, she relentlessly sought help to fulfill a joint dream/vision (between the principal and herself) to establish a Reading Diagnostic Centre on the school compound. The following words of C.J. Walker:-

*“Don’t sit down and wait for opportunities to come;
you have to get up and make them”*

aptly describe the modus operandi of this extremely enthusiastic lady. Mrs. Taylor has sought and formed several beneficial alliances in the quest to realize a dream – Dream 2000. The dream was realized in 2004 with the opening of the Point Hill Diagnostic Reading Centre. This great dreamer is “a dealer in hope” (Napoleon Bonaparte).

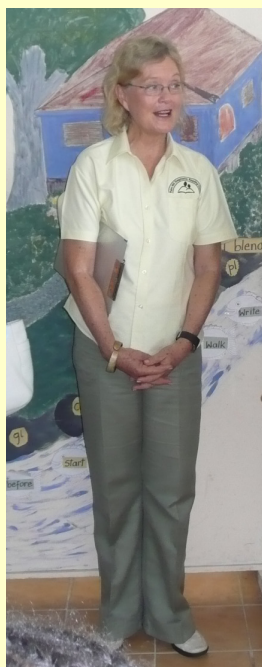
The Point Hill Leased Primary and Junior High School family salutes Mrs. Taylor. Our team is weaker with your departure as according to Maxwell 2001, “winning teams have players who make things happen”. You made things happen. Thanks for your sterling service to this institution. Thanks also to Mr. Howard Taylor for the support given to you in the discharge of your duty as chairman of PHDRC. Mr. Taylor has operated as a team member in absentia.

Elaine Allen Ed.D

Principal & Board Member

Mrs. Jane Taylor

'Exceptional'



No one word can describe this outstanding lady. She is an icon of grace, humility and discipline. She is so firm yet gentle. Her generosity, graciousness and dedication to the lives of the Point Hill community have helped the community to be what it is today. Her love and dedication to children are unquestionable.

An unselfish character who has made many sacrifices while in pursuit of her inspirations to make Point Hill a better place. The perfect role model, who is respected by all who know her.

Her resilience is remarkable. She has provided invaluable support and assistance during her tenure as Chairman and though retired, I cannot imagine PHDRC without her.

She always has a lovely smile that would warm any heart. Her style, strength and attention to detail are admirable. Her epitome of professionalism is distinctive.

She has touched the lives of too many to mention. It is an honour to be apart of an organization co-founded by Mrs. Taylor. I can only now vow to try and live up to her extraordinary high standards.

Miss. Kelleyanne Jackson
Unit Director

Literacy Department

Overall Performance

Students enjoy attending the centre and are interested and motivated to learn.

In-class assessment has indicated that many students are responding positively to instructions yet there are a small number of students who are having retention difficulties. These students are presently being taught on a one on one basis.

The Mico Testing tool was administered to 35 students at the end of the term. *Fifteen* students have moved up at least a grade level. Others have moved within their grade. The Grade 1 and the new students were not tested.

Parental Involvement

The number of parents getting involved in the programme has increased to 15. A parent conference was

held on December 11, 2009.

Absenteeism

Absenteeism report indicates that only a small amount of students are frequently absent. Parents were encouraged to inform the Centre whenever their child will be absent.

The much needed canopy has been erected and absenteeism due to rain is no longer a problem.

The literacy programme continues to assist the students who attends the Centre. Overall, the term was a rewarding one.

The Canopy



SPECIAL THANKS

Grade 1 Report

Students' Performance

There are six students in the Grade One project. One student did not attend Basic School. Students in this group are moving at a moderate pace.

Overall performance can be described as encouraging. They are able to identify most letters of the alphabet, give the sound of most letters, identify words with some letters, identify words with initial/medial sounds, some high frequency words and are able to use them in sentences orally and written with teacher's assistance. There is improvement in their comprehension skills and hand writing.

Attendance for the period was satisfactory.

Parent Participation

The parents do not visit regularly to support students. Many of the parents cannot assist students. There is an urgent need for these parents to be helped to obtain life skills.

Board of Directors:

Lance Tulloch (Acting Chairman), Lynda Mair, Elaine Allen, Adolph Cameron, Joy McHugh, Joan McConnell, Carole Narcisse, Michelle Orane, Varick Downie

Please send comments and suggestions to:

The Beacon

The Point Hill Diagnostic Reading Centre

Point Hill P.O., 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.

Donors 2009—2010

(September 1, 2009 - August 31, 2010)

Environmental Foundation of Jamaica

The Jamaica National Foundation

Zoya and Harold Moller

Mrs. Irene Goit

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- Perry Besterman
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- Marcia Burke

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