

LOWER CORENTYNE SECONDARY SCHOOL
4th PRIZE GIVING AND AWARD CEREMONY-----2014

The Academic Year September 2013 to August 2014 had been a year of mixed fortunes. Firstly in September 2013, there was a steep decline in students being enrolled in Grade Seven. The contributing factor being, the then ongoing construction, of an additional new school building, actual work on the new school building began on the 6th August, 2013. At times teachers and students were not comfortable functioning amidst the noise, dust and sand during curriculum delivery. Students were confined in an almost cramped-like situation in the classroom arrangement. Safety measures were put in place to minimize negative effects. In some instances, construction work had to be staggered to allow smooth curriculum delivery.

Secondly, the school canteen operators faced competition from non-canteen operators and as a result, the school lost two of its canteen operators. This in itself impacted negatively on the school's income earned from the canteen.

Thirdly, late arrival of students became a sore point despite efforts by teachers to constrain this indiscipline; other forms of indiscipline were greatly reduced. In terms of discipline and learning, you will agree that, for learning to take place there must be a disciplined and conducive environment. According to the Book of Proverbs, chapter 3, verse 4, if you want to favour with both God and man, and a reputation for good judgment and common sense, then trust the lord completely..... In everything you do put God first and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success.

However, with the School's Motto, **Querer es Poder** which means: where there is a will there is a way. Today's activity is a testimony of hard work. Lower Corentyne Secondary School is not blessed with the top students coming out of the National Grade Six Assessment Examination, and as a result, much foundation work was done in order to prepare students for the CSEC examinations. Prior to today, this school awaited two academic years before it hosted a Price Giving and Award Ceremony.

Enrollment

For the Academic Year September 2013 to July 2014, the registered students enrollment was 519: Girls being 251: Boys being 268.

Grades

Grades are from Grade 7 to Grade 11. The amount of classes per grade is as follows : Grade 7 – five classes; Grade 8 – five classes; Grade 9 - three classes; Grade 10 – four classes and Grade 11 – five classes, the total registered classes being 22 classes.

Staffing

Staff members at the end of October 2013 consisted of 34 teachers but due to promotional opportunities and the lure to venture into greener pastures resulted in the movement of teachers. To date, teachers on staff are 31 in number, namely, one Graduate Headteacher; one Graduate Deputy Headteacher; three Graduate Head of Department; three Non Graduate Head of Department; one Graduate Assistant Mistress; fourteen Assistant Master / Mistresses; one Untrained Graduate Mistress; seven Temporary Qualified Master / Mistresses;

Sports

During the August Term, Digicel Telephone Company in their country wide Football Competition, sponsored 17 students in a Football competition V/S Orealla students at Orealla. Students were accompanied by three teachers, namely, the Head teacher being the manager and coach, Mr. Rampersaud (Assistant Manager) and Miss Lakshmi Leonard (First Aid Personnel). Lower Corentyne Secondary participates in the Annual Schools' Athletics Competition. The dream of becoming the Champion School is still alive, so watch out, we would be coming stronger next year.

Academic Programme

The Academic Programme is in keeping within the Ministry of Education frame work of policies. Deriving out of the Ministry of Education Policies, the School's Mission Statement reads; Lower Corentyne Secondary is committed to deliver a quality education which aims to fulfill the all round development of the student population, within a broad frame work which complies with the regulations set out by the Ministry of Education.

The curriculum is evaluated both internally and externally. Grade 11 students are exposed to the CSEC Examination format, students are usually offered a maximum of eight subjects at this level. Currently they are being offered nine subjects. In preparation for the CSEC Examination, students are scheduled for a Pre Test and Post Test using strict CSEC Examination format.

Grade 7 to 10 students sit a Mid Term, End of Term and an Annual styled Examination.

Additionally, the Grade 9 students sit a National Examination and are tested in the four core areas i.e Mathematics, Integrated Science, Social Studies and English.

Academic Year 2013- 2014

This is the 4th prize giving award ceremony to be hosted by the Lower Corentyne Secondary School. Students will be awarded for outstanding performances at the CSEC category, as well as grades seven to ten students who have produced outstanding performances in academic and other disciplines. For the academic year September 2013 to July 2014, 71 students entered for the CSEC Examination in June 2014. The results revealed the following percentage passes:

Subject	No. Registered	Percentage Passed
English	71	44%
English B	13	13%
Mathematic.	70	16%
Integrated Science	69	44%
Social Studies	70	39%
Agricultural science	13	92%
Principles of Business	68	59%
Principles of Accounts	12	25%
Office Administration	11	100%
Human and Social Biology	34	79%
EDPM	42	100%

Food and Nutrition	2	100%
Home Management	1	100%

The distribution of subjects gained is as follows:-

Amount of students	Subjects Obtained
4	8
7	7
11	6
11	5
6	4
3	3
8	2
12	1
8	0

The distribution of grades obtained by students is as follows:

2 Grades 1; 1 Grades 2; 116 Grades 3; 132 Grades 4.

While it is fitting to commend teachers for their hard work and their ability to overcome challenges as they surfaced, special mention brings to the fore Ms. Gitangli Mangar who may have had many sleepless nights after taking over an EDPM class that was left with much content to cover after the class teacher suddenly left the profession. This was the first time EDPM was being entered for the CSEC Examination and the first time this teacher was tasked in taking these students at this level. Imagine entering 42 students, this in itself was no easy task, thus, success comes after hard work

Today signifies a special day for the CSEC 2014 Graduation Class, a day which denotes the corner stone which opens the door for more educational elevation and the world of varying opportunities. According to Helen Keller:

“I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my duty to accomplish small task as if they were great and noble.”

One of the best gifts you can have is education, so be educated. Permit me to mention two Angels who performed satisfactorily in this year 2014 CSEC Examination, but could not be here in person because they had an important appointment with God in his Heavenly Kingdom. In our human ways, we would like things to happen as planned but we need to remember that God is the great architect and designer.

On behalf of the entire staff and students' body, I now extend congratulations to you, the CSEC Graduating Class of 2014. May this milestone be a platform for your future development and best wishes for the future. Remember that wherever your life's journey takes you, you have the power to make a positive difference. It is our hope that your dreams take you to the corners of your smiles, to the highest of your hopes and to the window of your opportunities and to the most special places your heart has ever known.

It is my pleasure to express a million thanks to students and staff who worked beyond the call of duty in making this event a reality. To all the stakeholders: Department of Education, the Corporate Business Fraternity, the PTA and most importantly, the Overseas Alumni Organization for their input in financing most of this Prize Giving and Award Ceremony. In conclusion, special thanks to the co-coordinator, Ms. Jai-Jai-Ram who marshaled the working teams effectively and for achieving a successful 2014 Price Giving and Award Ceremony.