

LOWER CORENTYNE SECONDARY SCHOOL 2ND ANNUAL PRIZE GIVING EXERCISE

Review of academic year 2008-2009.

Today marks another significant landmark for LCSS as we celebrate the completion of another academic year 2008-2009. The theme of our celebrations today could be no better be expressed by five simple words. "Progress with a New Vision." A vision for development and excellence in academia was what was needed and with the requisite impetus, support mechanisms and framework we are well on the road to see this vision become a reality. Progression is indeed a timely process and as such much patience, hard work, commitment, enthusiasm, resilience and a sprit of will are essential for its successful completion and achievement. These are the qualities that have been demonstrated by the teachers, students and parents of LCSS over this academic year that indicate a positive direction in the achievement of this vision.

ENROLMENT

STUDENTS

The school year began with a total of 550 students 259 males and 291 females.

TEACHERS

At the beginning of the academic year there were a total of 27 members of staff. To date we are one unit short. Three new members were added to the staff in the month of October 2008. Namely: Ms. Bibi Ali, Ms. Jaya Babodlall and Ms. Fiona Ragnauth. However, in October 2008 we lost Ms. Padmawattie Poonwah- resigned and later in the New Year, February 2009 Mr. Premraj Bindesh- resigned. Currently vacancies exist for 1HM, 1DHM, 3HOD's and 1SM. The teaching service commission is in the process of conducting promotions and with great optimism many if not all these vacancies will be filled for the new academic year beginning in September. Notwithstanding the limitations within the staffing department work had progressed apace with the current staff taking up the slack and carrying the extra work load to ensure efficiency.

CHALLENGES

The school year began with many challenges. Fortunately, many of these challenges were abated during the course of the three terms:

1. Still existing, is the identifying and securing of a plot of land in the neighboring community to be used as a recreational area and for the implementation of the CSEC PE programme which is now begin proposed to be pursued by the school in the New Academic Year 2009-2010.
2. The Science laboratory is in a critical state and needs refurbishing to present the students and teachers with the materials and equipment needed for the conduct of experiments and ultimately enhancing student's performances in Integrated Science and Biology. As we move with this vision we anticipate the reintroduction of the separate sciences into the Curriculum but this could only be affected with the necessary pre-requisite facilities in place.

WORKS – INFRACTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MATERIAL ENHANCEMENT.

Over the past year the school has witnessed significant infrastructural development and enhancement with respect to educational materials and equipment.

1. A quantity of text books (specific), wall charts, globes, maps, educational games, study guides and CSEC question booklets and other equipment such as staple machines and chalkboard geometry set were donated to LCSS by the old student Alumni NY Chapter to the tune of \$400,000 GYD. These materials and equipment were distributed equitably across the 7 departments and are being used to enhance the learning- teaching process in the classroom. Special thanks to the members of the Alumni for their kindness and generosity.
2. The furniture crisis was alleviated with a supply of 80 pairs of desk and bench from the Department of Education. Our gratitude to the Regional Education Officials for providing the school with the adequate seating facilities making the students body more comfortable in the classroom.

3. A donation of 1 million GYD was made to LCSS by the Canadian Alumni. A series of projects were funded by the old students Association Canadian Chapter to the tune of \$970,00 GYD's through the Rotary Club of N/A. These projects include:
 - (i) The acquisition of a complete PA system which is being used for the first time here today.
 - (ii) The purchasing of equipment and materials for the Home Economics Department – these include a Gas Cooker, Dinner set, Pot set and waiters among other utensils to satisfy the SBA requirements of the Department.
 - (iii) The establishment of a garden plot, which includes fencing and construction of 12 boxed style beds for the enhancement of the SBA component of Agriculture Science.
 - (iv) The construction of a two feet trestle to support 2- 450 gallon water tanks to boost the water supply to the sanitary block and an additional 450 gallon water tank for drinking and washing purposes.
 - (v) The construction of 4 large cupboards to aid the storage capacity of records of the Admin block and three other departments.
 - (vi) The construction of 12 fire bucket stands to support 12 sand buckets for case of emergency/fire.
4. The securing and preparation of 12 fire buckets – this project was supported exclusively by the chairman and PTA of LCSS. Our gratitude to these individuals for their support. Thanks to the liaison Mr. Sagar Singh Lachmansing of the Canadian Alumni for his personal inputs and all the members of the Alumni of Canada for their kindness and support in realizing these projects, also to the executives of the Rotary Club, especially Mr. Marray for their contributions.
5. General rehabilitation of the school to the tune of 2 million GYD was recently executed. Works done were: painting of the interior and exterior of the lower flat of the building, installation of a 450 gallon water tank and wooden trestle to supply water to the sanitary bloc, replacing and adjusting the windows, doors and repairing the cisterns of both sanitary blocks. Special thanks to the Regional Education Officials for funding and executing these projects is support of providing a better learning environment for students and working environment for teachers.

6. Text books and other literature for the library- this has been a regular feature over the past year with constant supply from the department of education. Through these supplies the quality of reading and research materials have improved significantly, in the library and at the department level however, there is still need for an improvement in the quantity supplied so that each child can be issued a text book based on MOE policy.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

The school has been outstanding in the following areas during the course of the academic year.

1. 3rd place winner in the UNICEF world AIDS Day Quiz Competition.
2. 2nd place winner in the National Rights of the Child PSA Video Completion.
3. 2nd place winner Inter Secondary School Female Basket Ball Competition.
4. 1st place winner – Commonwealth 60th anniversary Poster Competition.
5. 1st place winner – Inter Secondary School Mashramani Volley Ball Competition.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

The Curriculum has been evaluated both at the external and internal levels with grade 11 students being exposed to the CSEC Examination offering a maximum of 9 subjects and grades 7-10 annual examinations and grade 9 National Third Form Examination.

Grades 7-10 students' performance is calculated to arrive at an Annual average which informs the promotion process.

For the first time we are awarding outstanding performers for the four grades. The awardees are the three students who have attained the highest Annual average for their respective grades.

The academic year 2008-2009 has seen a total of 43 students completing their secondary education, writing a maximum of 9 subjects at the CSEC examinations. The intake for 2004 was 135 students. 5 years later 31.8% of the students have actually completed their secondary education. A 3.5% increase completion rate compared to 2008.

Once again there are numerous variables that contribute towards their phenomenon namely:

- (A) Repeating of students at any given grade
- (B) Withdrawal due to non-attendance, drop out, and migration.
- (C) Truancy as a result of the poor socio economic situation of many families and
- (D) Transfers

Of the 43 students who wrote the CSEC 2009 examinations 26 are represented here today at this prize giving exercise and will be awarded a certificate for completing their secondary education and some, special prizes for being outstanding in areas such as:

- Discipline
- Attendance
- Punctually
- Best all round student
- Best sports personalities
- Best Academic
- Best performance in three subject areas namely:
English Language, Social Studies and History.

As we continue under the theme "Progress with a New Vision" we will be incorporating the 2009 CXC results into the list of criteria for the selection of some of the outstanding awardees for the 2010 exercise which is scheduled to be held in November 2010 instead of June. It is noteworthy to make mention that the school's performance at the 2008 CSEC examination has seen overall passes in Grades 1-4 being 64.57%.

We the administration, staff, students and parents are hopeful that with the continued support of the key stakeholders of Education that our dreams will be realized, in that ultimately our performances at the CSEC external examinations will accelerate, producing a higher percentage passes grades 1-4 but also, importantly equipping and preparing our students to attain grades 1-3 in the subject areas that will make them marketable in this competitive world and qualify them for entry into institution of higher learning.

In closing, our profound gratitude to all the donors and supporters of today's exercise and a special thank you to the hardworking and dedicated staff members both academic and ancillary for a job well done.

Congratulations to the class of 2009.

We wish you all degrees of success in your future endeavors.

THANK YOU AND HAVE A WONDERFUL EVENING!