

LOWER CORENTYNE SECONDARY SCHOOL

PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY 2015

The Academic Year September 2014 to August 2015 had been a year of many challenges.

In September 2014, there was continuity in the decline of the number of students being enrolled in Grade Seven.

The contributing factors for the decline were: the reduction in number of the new intake and the large number of outgoing Grade 11 students in the previous academic year.

Lateness and absenteeism of students provided much concern. The completion of School Based Assessment was an up-hill task for teachers, with home visits being implemented and regular meetings with parents saw the defaulting students through. However, **the greatest mountain is the Automatic Promotion** and the notion among students that despite poor performance, promotion to another grade is an entitlement.

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 to say that all is not lost despite the inability of students to matriculate. The results revealed that some students performed creditably in other subjects. 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. As teachers, we have to examine and implement a more integrated approach to elevate the educational upliftment of students.

Enrollment

For the Academic Year September 2014 to July 2015, the registered students enrollment were: Girls: 187. Boys: 195. Total: 382

Grades

Grades are from Grade 7 to Grade 11. The amount of classes per grade is as follows: Grade 7 – two classes; Grade 8 – six classes; Grade 9 - six classes; Grade 10 – three classes and Grade 11 – four classes, the total registered classes being 21 classes.

Staffing Teachers

Staff members at the end of October 2014 to August 2015 and currently consisting of 32 teachers namely, 1 Graduate Headteacher; 1 Graduate Deputy Headteacher; 1 Graduate Senior Mistress; 1 Non Graduate Senior Mistress; 3 Graduate Head of Department; 2 Non Graduate Head of Department; 1 Graduate Senior Assistant Mistress; 1 Untrained Graduate Mistress; fifteen Assistant Master / Mistresses; five Temporary Qualified Master / Mistresses; 1 Temporary Unqualified Master.

Ancillary Staff

One Librarian; one Accounts Clerk; one Janitor and two Sweeper Cleaners.

Vacancy

Currently, there are **three senior vacancies namely**, Head of Department – for Home Economics, Information Technology and English Language respectively. Additionally, there is need for a Sweeper Cleaner and a Farm Hand

Critical Areas

1. The school is in dire need of a recreational Playground. Absence of this facility will continue to hinder students' academic growth.
2. To date students continue the pursuit in the area of Agriculture Science – Single Award, despite the school having no Agricultural land. The President of the Saint Francis Community Developers (Mr. Alex Foster) have facilitated the school with a reasonable size of farm land.
3. An immediate concern is the operation of the AC Unit in the Information Technology Laboratory. This unit was repaired a number of times. The last repair saw the unit functioning for almost two terms. Currently repair of same is in progress.
4. There is an urgent need to have the Information Technology Laboratory reconstructed and refurbished.
5. There is need to have the school's heavy duty Panasonic Photocopier repaired
6. Electrical work is still to be examined and needs to be completed.

Mashramani 2015

Hard work often brings success and so students were awarded the following positions in the schools' 2015 Mashramani Competition: 1st in the **Inter Zone Competition** and 2nd place in the **Regional Competition** in the Hip-Hop Dance; 3rd place in Interpretative Dance and 3rd place in Calypso.

Scrabble Competition

On September 19th 2015, the Saint Francis Community Developers Organization in collaboration with the Republic Bank and the Department of Education launched a Region 6 Inter Schools' Scrabble Competition. Unfortunately, on the day of the competition, among the schools that participated only one student represented Lower Corentyne Secondary School. This Scrabble Competition will be an annual event.

Infrastructure Improvement

To date the Regional Democratic Council in coloration with Ministry of Education the following Infrastructure work has been completed:-

- 1) Completion of work done on the new school building.
- 2) Installation of wooden doors and windows in the auditorium area.
- 3) Painting of the external walls of the Home Economics Building.
- 4) Replacing of badly damage concrete wall in the auditorium.
- 5) Strengthening of concrete post in the auditorium area.
- 6) Repairs to the roof of the auditorium re- sealing of nail heads.
- 7) Repairs were done to three computers, this process is still ongoing.

Overseas Alumni Organization

The Overseas Alumni Organization has been giving this school tremendous support; they are currently funding the school's Internet Service to the sum of one hundred and twenty thousand Guyana dollars. This service comes to an end on December 2015. Additionally, this organization have funded two other projects namely the renovation of the Integrated Science Laboratory at a cost of two hundred and nineteen thousands Guyana dollars and the supply of text books for the different Departments at a cost of one hundred and

nineteen thousand Guyana dollars. These two funded projects now set the school for more improved academic performance. Staff and students are very thankful for the Alumni's continuous support.

Sports

From this year Annual Schools' Athletic Championship, two students and one teacher will be representing the school at the National Athletic Championship which will be held on the 23rd to 27th November 2105.

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 ten 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. The students are required to pass all the subjects in order to be eligible for subsidy when writing the CSEC Examination.

Academic Year 2013- 2014

At this prize giving ceremony 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 2014 to July 2015, 36 students entered for the CSEC Examination in June 2015. The results revealed the following percentage passes:

| Subject | No. Registered | Percentage Passed |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| English | 36 | 16% (Grade iv only) |
| English B | 09 | 89% (Grade iv only) |
| Mathematic | 36 | 08% (Grade iv only) |
| Integrated Science | 33 | 73% |
| Social Studies | 33 | 24% |
| Agricultural science | 13 | 100% |
| Principles of Business | 26 | 85% |
| Principles of Accounts | 06 | 33% |
| Office Administration | 03 | 100% |
| Human and Social Biology | 13 | 53% |
| EDPM | 29 | 93% |
| Food and Nutrition | 01 | 100% |

- These rating are from Grades ii to iv.

The distribution of subjects gained is as follows:-

| Amount of students | Subjects Obtained |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 4 | 7 |
| 2 | 6 |
| 05 | 5 |
| 03 | 4 |
| 7 | 3 |
| 5 | 2 |
| 6 | 1 |
| Absent | 3 |

The distribution of grades obtained by students is as follows:

Grades 2: 3%, Grades 3: 25%, Grades 4: 22%.

While it is fitting to commend teachers for their hard work it is also a concern to ask what has gone wrong. Hence the need to relook at ways and means in imparting improved curriculum delivery. It must be noted that the yield for each crop is not the same but while this is so many lessons have been learnt.

According to the Chinese proverb *Teachers open the door but you must enter by yourself also learning is a treasure which accompanies its owner.* According to Clay P. Bedford *“you can teach a student a lesson for a day; but if you can teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives.*

Today signifies a special day for the CSEC 2015 Prize Giving Class, a day which denotes the corner stone which opens the door for more educational elevation and the world of varying opportunities.

According to Abigail Adams *learning is not obtained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended with diligence*

One of the best gifts you can have is education; permit me to say that life in itself is a challenge one must rise to meet it. An appeal is made to all parents, guardians and relatives of students to be more involved in the day to day educational progress of students.

On behalf of the entire staff and students' body, I now extend congratulations to you, the CSEC Graduating Class of 2015. Congratulation to the students from grades 7 to 10, who have performed in the August term Annual Examination, and to all students who has done well in sports and other areas. 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 school projects. In conclusion, special thanks to the Prize Giving Committee and all other personnel who have assisted whole heartedly in making this activity a success. Special mention must be made to the president of the St. Francis Community Developers Mr. Alex Foster and his organization for their continuous support of students and staff of Lower Corentyne Secondary School.