

Inaugural Graduation Report (LCSS)- Review of Academic year 2007- 2008

This event today is indeed a Hallmark moment in the life of this institution. This event today is the initiative of Mr. Riaz Bacchus an old student of LCSS who prompted the Administration and Staff to see the need to motivate students no matter how small their achievements may be. We're indeed happy for this exercise and hope that it will sensitize the rest of our student population to strive to develop their potentials and recognize that once given an educational opportunity it should be adequately made use of. It is also hoped that through this exercise greater heights will be reached especially with the development of our students' academic performance at External Examinations. It is our vision to incorporate such result in the immediate future as a criterion for determining best and second best Graduating Student, but as it is, our intention is purely motivational.

Enrolment (Student)

The school year began with a total of 517 students- 234 males and 283 females.

Teachers

At the beginning of the academic year there were a total of 29 members of Staff. To date we are two units short despite the recent employment of new teaching staff. Staff members have been lost as a result of retirement namely Mr. Parasram Sookdeo- former Headmaster (ag), Transfer promotion and resignation. Four of the seven departments are manned by appointed HOD's and vacancies exist for 1 HM, 1 DHM, 3 HOD's, and 1 SM. The appointed HOD's along with our AM's, TQM's, TUM's have been working assiduously to fulfill the mandate of providing the best quality education to the students under our care.

Challenges

1. The school is in dire need of an agricultural plot and a play field facility for the effective implementation of the agricultural science programme and for the recreation of the students respectively. Several attempts have been made by the PTA to have these matters addressed but to date an amicable solution between the relevant authorities have not been realized. An immediate solution is essential if the CSEC Agricultural programme is to survive.
2. Overcrowding is still a matter of great concern and is being compounded by the open type of classrooms which makes teaching and learning difficult for both student and teachers.

Works- Infrastructural Development

Over the past year the school has witnessed significant infrastructural development namely:

1. A computer laboratory to the tune of \$520,000. Special thanks to the CEO of Metro for the donation of 15 Desktop computer systems.
 - a. The LCGSS Old Student Alumni for financing the preparation of the room \$2000 US.
 - b. Food for the Poor Inc. and Mr. Alex Foster for the chairs and Bag Bay.
 - c. The PTA and members of the Business Community for their financial contributions.
 - d. The dedicated and hard working teachers and students who helped with their labour to realize this project.
2. The library facility has been refurbished and relocated with the assistance of the PTA, the Alumni Association of Canada and Donation of Literature made by Mr. Hilbert Foster: CEO RHTYSC.

3. A general 'face lift' was done recently to the tune of \$ 700,000 by the Regional Administration/ Ministry of Education where gutters were replaced, repair done to the lavatory facility, replacing if deteriorated walls boards and Painting etc.
4. The supply of potable water to the various sections of the building including the Home Economics department, Science Laboratory, washrooms, etc, and the raising of the floor for the two classrooms that were built in the summer of 2007. Thanks to Mr. Riaz Bacchus- Old Student and Members of the Old School Alumni, New York for financing these two projects.
5. The installation of electrical fittings to restore the lighting facilities in the building to alleviate the difficulties experienced. Special thanks to the Oudit brothers - expatriates from Canada for their financial and material inputs towards this venture.

Academic Programme

Notwithstanding the many challenges, we have successfully implemented the curriculum for grades 7 – 11 offering subjects such as: Math, Science, Social Studies, English A and B, Geography, Biology, History, Reading, POA, POB, OA, Agricultural Science, Information Technology and Home Economics.

The programme has recently been evaluated with the conclusion of the annual examinations grades 7-10 and National Third form Examinations for Grade 9 students. Students' performance is calculated based on the termly averages for which promotion is done.

Students' performance was enhanced by the recent supply of text books by the Ministry of Education for key subject areas. These books are being used as class sets to ensure adequate access to all students. Improving performance is very high on the agenda despite the cognitive level of learners that the school receives from the National Grade 6 assessment intake annually.

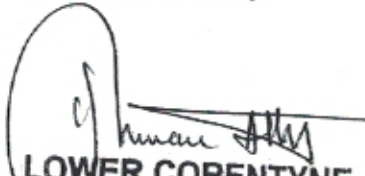
It must be noted that many of these children perform below average and do not possess the 'requisite skills' and knowledge for Secondary Education particularly Literacy, and Numeracy Skills. Nevertheless, we are committed to manufacture the best possible product from the raw material we receive using the resources that are available to us. It is hoped that with time, the support of other interested parties and stakeholders of education and continued enthusiasm of the teachers and students that academic achievements will be enhanced.

2008 has seen 36 students completing their Secondary Education writing a maximum of 8 subjects at CSEC Examinations, 29 are graduating here today as having a sound Secondary Education. The completion rate is alarmingly low; the statistics revealed that the SSEE intake for the year 2003 was 120, five years later only 34 or 28.3% of the students have actually completed their secondary education. There are numerous variables that can be attributed to this phenomenon esp. the socio-economic conditions of our society. It is the Administration's fervent hope that through this motivational exercise and renewed sense of commitment that our outputs will improve in the immediate future.

Madam Chairperson in closing, the future for Lower Corentyne Secondary is gleaming and signals that there is hope for this institution to return to its reputable and significant position in our society. As we press forward to reach this mark we recognize the role of partnership and urge all major stakeholders in education, both foreign and local to continue to partner with us to propagate education, so that we can begin to mend the deteriorating social fabric of our society.

A heartfelt thank you to all the donors and supporters of today's exercise and to all those esp. the hardworking teachers who has put the pieces together for us to have what we have experienced and witnessed here today. Congratulations to the class of 2008. May your future endeavors be blessed and fruitful.

Thank you and have a splendid evening!!!!!!!!!!!!


**LOWER CORENTYNE
SECONDARY SCHOOL**
H.M.