THE COALITION MONTHLY

The Monthly Newsletter of Jamaican Alumni Associations in Florida
March 2020



Events on the Horizon Page 1

Schools Doing Much Better

Pages 2-3

JEPA Annual Scholarships' Information Page 6

\$1.2-Million Gift to Kingston College Page 8

Northern Caribbean University Drives Research & Innovation Page 10

Alumni Associations' Information Pages 18-21

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Events on the Horizon

HISTORY MONTH

Honoring the accomplishments of women.

March is Women's History Month and we use this opportunity to praise and thank the women in our associations for their outstanding effort over the years. Many have served multiple terms in leadership and administrative roles and others are outstanding supporters who are always there doing their best for their schools, Jamaica, and the local community. Of the 55 alumni associations listed in this newsletter, 32 are led by women. OUT-STANDING!!!

What is also more impressive, is the fact that our alumni sisters are balancing their roles as mothers, aunts, sisters, grandmothers, and partners, with other important activities in their lives while serving their alumni associations.

We honor the outstanding accomplishments of our alumni sisters and pray for health, strength, and happiness for them and their families.

Your Event in the Newsletter
To advertise your event in the
Coalition Monthly and on the website (www.cjaaf.info), please send us
the information by email:
rqecon@hotmail.com and
sansch33@hotmail.com

- Immaculate Alumnae Fish Fry & Barbecue; (March 14, 2020; Page 4)
- Cornwall College Alumni March Madness; (March 21, 2020; Page 5)
- Wolmer's Alumni Cross Roads Party (March 21, 2020; Page 7)
- St. Andrew Technical Fundraising Picnic; (March 28, 2020; Page 9).
- JC Old Boys' Association TRUE BLUE Weekend; (April 3-4, 2020; Page 11).
- St. Jago Alumni 18th Annual Picnic (April 18, 2020; Page 12)
- Ferncourt Alumni Association Family Fun Day & Antique Auto Show. (April 19, 2020; Page 13)
- St. Hugh's Alumnae Tea Party: (April 25, 2020; Page 14).
- Munro-Hampton Fun-n-Sun Picnic (April 25, 2020; Page 15).
- UWI Alumni Soca & Reggae Party (June 20, 2020; Page 16).
- Friends of Kingston Technical High School 10-Years Weekend Celebration (October 17 & 18, 2020; Page 17).

SCHOOLS DOING MUCH BETTER

But National Education Inspectorate report shows weaknesses in some.

> Jamaica Observer Kimberley Hibbert March 01, 2020

The National Education Inspectorate 2020 report

has revealed significant improvement across all eight indicators of school effectiveness in the 653 schools inspected between September 2015 and June 2019. The schools are graded on overall effectiveness, leadership and management, teaching in support of students' learning, students' progress, students' personal and social development, human and material resources, curriculum and enhancement programs and students safety, security, health and wellbeing. The ratings vary from needing immediate support to unsatisfactory, satisfactory, good and exceptionally high.

In a report obtained by the Jamaica Observer, which shows the lists of schools with significant improvement since baseline inspection, it was revealed that five institutions received exceptionally high scores moving from a baseline rating of satisfactory.



The institutions include Kingston College which moved from a baseline rating of satisfactory to a current rating of exceptionally high in the leadership and management category. In the area of students' both Holland High progress, Wolmer's Boys School moved from a baseline rating of satisfactory to exceptionally high. For students' social and personal development, Ginger Hill All Age moved from satisfactory to exceptionally high, while for human and material resources St Andrew High moved from satisfactory to exceptionally high.

In the category of overall effectiveness, seven schools inspected received an unsatisfactory baseline rating, while eight received a baseline rating indicating need for immediate support. For the current ratings, the seven unsatisfactory baseline ratings moved to good. These schools are Albion Primary, Dunrobin Primary, Jonathan Grant High, Lime Hall Primary, Morant Bay Primary, Port Maria Primary and Richmond Park Primary.

The eight schools with baseline ratings highlighting a need for immediate support improved to current ratings of satisfactory. Those schools are Bellevue Primary and Junior High, Camberwell Primary, Marie Cole Memorial Primary, Mount Grace Primary and Junior High, Padmore Primary, Sheffield All Age, Spanish Town High and Treadlight Primary. But an area that remains a point of concern for the chief inspector of the National Education Inspectorate (NEI) is leadership and management within schools.

Last month, NEI chief inspector, Maureen Dwyer pointed out that in school leadership and management, the disparity in unsatisfactory leadership and management across the six education administrative regions is as much as 20 percentage points, which she deemed worrying.

Those findings show that 17 per cent of Kingston schools, 26 per cent of schools in the Port Antonio region, six per cent of schools in the Brown's Town region, 20 per cent of schools in the Montego Bay region, 11 per cent in the Mandeville region and 19 per cent in the Old Harbour region had unsatisfactory leadership and management scores.

One of the recommendations from Dwyer was that efforts at building leadership capacity in schools should be accelerated, with more attention being given to on-going leadership coaching and mentorship. In addition, she recommended stronger emphasis be placed on the role of principals as active partners in Jamaica's national development. However, 28 schools graded unsatisfactory for leadership and management at the time of the baseline rating moved up two spaces on the scale to secure good scores for the current rating. Similarly, the five of the six schools rated as needing immediate support at the baseline ratings are now graded satisfactory. One school, Padmore Primary, which was initially graded as in need of immediate support, moved up three spaces on the scale to a current rating of good. Kingston College moved from satisfactory to exceptionally high in this category.

"We are seeing an improvement in leadership in the schools. Generally, leadership has improved but there is still room for improvement in accountability. That's one thing, but also improvement in the management and leadership of instruction," Dwyer told the Sunday Observer during an interview.

The NEI chief inspector added: "We want to get away from the deficit model that focuses a lot on the students and what they can't do and how they come in (start schools) to a point where it has used that data and turn it into a plan of how you're going to help them to make progress."

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued from Page 3)

Dwyer also pointed out that she recognizes the concerns of many school leaders about the quality of students at the secondary level but appealed to school leaders and educators to seek out areas that students may be better at and propel efforts there. "They say the students are not ready for secondary learning or to access the secondary curriculum. The truth is you have to look to see what they are good at and what do I need to intensify to get them to be as well as they can and note my phrase 'as well as they can'. So, people who are focused on instruction and learning, spend time on that - knowing the crop

of students you have and planning to see how best they can improve," she explained.

The indicator that addresses teaching in support of students learning saw nine schools improving in their ratings. Of the nine institutions, two moved from needing immediate support to satisfactory. They are Bellevue Primary and Junior High and Treadlight Primary. The seven remaining schools moved from unsatisfactory to good. They are Albion Primary, Breadnut Hill Primary, Bryce Primary, John Austin All Age, Jonathan Grant High, McNie All Age and Richmod Park Primary.



With regards to students' progress, five schools showed improvement. Denbigh High, Fairfield primary and Sanguinetti Primary moved from unsatisfactory to good, while Holland High and Wolmer's Boys School moved from satisfactory to exceptionally high. As for students' personal and social development four of the five schools showing improvement, moved from unsatisfactory to good. They are Camperdown Primary, Dunrobin Primary, Ferncourt Primary and Treadlight Primary. Under this indicator Ginger Hill All Age moved from satisfactory to exceptionally high.

With the exception of St Andrew High which moved from satisfactory to exceptionally high in the human and material resources indicator, the remaining schools in that category moved from satisfactory to good. For curriculum enhancement programs and the students' safety, security, health and wellbeing indicator, the majority of the schools moved from an unsatisfactory rating to good.







<u> Jamaiea Ex-Police Association of South Florida, Inc.</u>

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February 10, 2020
News Release:

Media contact malismith58@gmail.com
For Immediate Release

Jamaica Ex-Police Association of South Florida, Inc. (JEPA), Annual Education Scholarships Announcement and Press Release

The Board of Directors and Members of the Jamaica Ex-Police Association of South Florida, Inc., in their effort to assist students in both the South Florida and Jamaica communities wish to announce two (2) onetime scholarships.

- 1. JEPA's USA Scholarship will be awarded to a college student who resides in Miami-Dade, Broward or Palm Beach County.
- 2. The Jamaica scholarship will be awarded to a high school student who resides in Jamaica.

The USA Scholarship will be awarded at JEPA's 28th Anniversary Charity Ball on Saturday, April 25, 2020, at the Goldcoast Ballroom, 1415 Lyons Road, Coconut Creek, Florida 33063.

The Jamaica Scholarship presentation will take place on Monday, June 1, 2020 at the conclusion of the Police Station Refurbishing Project at the Christiana Police Station in Manchester, Jamaica.

Members of the Awards Committee in the USA are:

Avis Jarrett-Miller Edgton Wright Errol Gentles Roy Bennett

The Jamaica Constabulary Force's, Community Safety and Security Branch of the force is responsible for selecting the Jamaican recipient.

The decision of both committees is final. For scholarship(s) criterial please visit JEPA's website: www.jepasf.com. For further information, please contact committee member Errol Gentles: errolgentles_12@yahoo.com; or via telephone: (954) 512-3701.

JEPA is a South Florida based 501(C) 3 Non-profit organization (#65-0765764)

JEPA Board Members: President & PR Director: Malachi Smith; Vice President: Dian Robinson; Secretary: Avis Jarrett-Miller; Asst. Secretary: Vaslyn Thomas; Treasurer: Franklyn Coombs; Asst. Treasurer: Samuel Bryan; Board Chair: Dervin Johnson; Vice Chair: Lawrence Palmer; Board Members: John T. Hodgson, Radcliffe Guy, Lawrence Palmer; JEPA's Place Manager: Silbert Wishart



ADM: \$20 PRESOLD FOR INFO & TICKETS 1-888-WOLMERS WWW.CARIBTIX.COM











A \$1.2-MILLION GIFT TO KC

Canadian bishop with no link to famous school makes it a four-timer HG Helps (Jamaica Observer)

FOR the fourth-straight year a Canadian bishop who has no connection to Kingston College (KC) has given money to that all-boys' high school. Administrative bishop for Eastern Canada, and pastor of Praise Cathedral Worship Centre in Mississauga, the largest black church in Canada, Lennox Walker, handed over a personal cheque valued at \$1.2 million to Kingston College officials yesterday, at the famous school's North Street main campus in Kingston. The gesture followed one of Can\$7,500 (about J\$800,000) made to all-girls' school Merl Grove the day before. The money will be used to help the schools fund multiple needs.

Speaking to sixth-form students of KC in St Augustine Chapel, in the presence of Principal Dave Myrie, Vice-Principal Juliet Wilson, and president of the KC Old Boys' Association, Florida Chapter, Audley Hewett, Bishop Walker had the audience spellbound at times with revelations of his tough life as a youth, leading to where he now is. "I have never been to high school," he disclosed. "I have often questioned myself by asking what if? What if I didn't change my life so that my children could have it good?

"I came so close to being killed in the ghetto in 1976 and I decided at that moment to put my life together. I asked myself, what if I was killed in 1976? I would not have met my wife; and I would not have had sons who have made significant contributions to the Canadian system. "I would not have been able to help that Guyanese man who needed stems for his heart surgery; I would never be in a position to build a clinic in Uganda; I would not have been able to travel to six continents across the world," he stated, as the church remained quiet as it usually is at 2:00 in the morning.

Bishop Walker, who was born at Crooked River in Clarendon and emigrated to Canada as a young adult in 1986, underscored the importance of education, urging the students not to be distracted by certain negatives of life, including the temptation to chase girls. "Education is the greatest tool. I know you as young men may be into the girls' thing, but that can wait, because it can prove to be a distraction.

"I changed my life and decided to educate myself. Education allows you to sit at any table. The mind is a thought factory, one that produces great thought," Bishop Walker said.

Myrie, who was described by Walker as "the greatest principal right now", lauded the man of the cloth for his unwavering commitment to KC over the past four years, even though he is not an old boy, or had relatives who attended the school.

And as for his continued support of charities in Jamaica and elsewhere, Bishop Walker said that he would continue giving, as long as he is able to do so.

Hewett, who arrived in the island for last weekend's Gibson-McCook Relays, for which he is a director, urged old boys who can make contributions to do so, as KC was poised to "do even greater things".

"We really need the support of those who can. Some have given generously, but we would love to hear from others. We have a great chance of defending our championship (Boys' and Girls' Athletic Champs) title later this month; our Schools' Challenge team is doing well, the footballers too; and the academic work this past year has been brilliant," Hewett said.

Myrie confirmed that over 90 per cent of the boys who sat Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate subjects this past academic year were successful in five or more subjects. "We want to move that to 100 per cent by next year," the principal said. "Our passes in mathematics were over 93 per cent, and English it was over 92 per cent and could have been better. It will get better," Myrie said of the school that was founded on April 16, 1925 and now accommodates around 2,000 boys.

The latest National Education Inspectorate report rated KC, among the institutions which made progress among the 653 schools inspected between September 2015 and June 2019, as "exceptionally high" in the leadership and management category.



NORTHERN CARIBBEAN UNIVERSITY DRIVES RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Kasey Williams Observer Writer February 10, 2020

The Northern Caribbean University (NCU) recently hosted its annual Research Week under the theme: 'Leveraging Research for the Public Good and Development in the 21st century'. Forty local and international presenters engaged students and the wider university body from February 3 to 6 on the campus here.

NCU President Dr Lincoln Edwards said in his official message for Research Week that the university is focused on providing an environment that spurs innovation and research. "Any activity, initiative, or discovery that contributes to our nation's continued development and which benefits its citizens requires attention, support, and incentivisation. Accordingly, NCU has made a name for itself by providing an environment that spurs innovation and encourages research," said Edwards.

"Over the past 10 years, our students and faculty have excelled remarkably in the area of impactful research. Worthy of note is the success and winning ways of the various student teams that have entered the national and international business model competitions. It is the rigour of research that has enabled our students and faculty to reap success. Most significantly, too, all their developments characteristically serve the public good and have the capacity to contribute to the country's sustainable development," he added.

NCU's director of Research Dr Jacqueline Vigilance told *Observer Central* that the week of activities encouraged interaction between researchers and students. "We wanted not only to inform stakeholders... but we also wanted to have the interaction between researchers and to motivate students to want to do research.

"Students have left the week of activities excited about getting involved in research. The research that occurs at NCU is multidisciplinary. There are people doing educational research.

"One of the presentations during the week was about the readiness of three educational institutions in Manchester to facilitate students with physical disabilities," Dr Vigilance said.

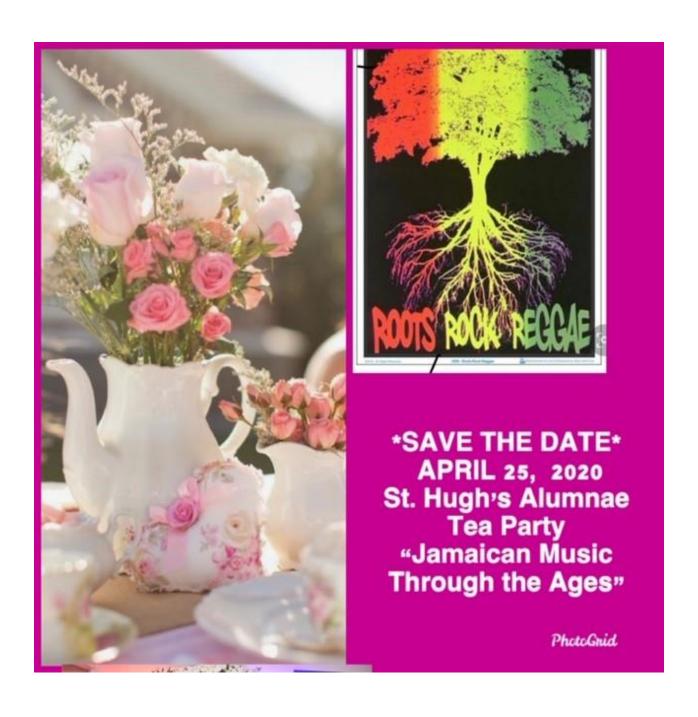






















SAVE THE DATE

FRIENDS OF KINGSTON TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

109EAR ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND CELEBRATION
FEATURING

Saturday Night Dance Fever - October 17th

Music from the 70's, 80's & 90's

d

Sunday Fish Fry - October 18th

Payment plan will be available

STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION!!

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