

Keeping PACE



P.A.C.E. [Canada]

PROJECT FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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SAVE THE DATE

WHAT: Jamaica's Minister of Education to Speak at Adopt-A-School Brunch

WHEN: November 14, 2010, 12:30pm

WHERE: Jamaican Canadian Association
995 Arrow Road, Toronto (Hwy. 400 & Finch)

TICKETS: \$60 adult, \$30 child (under 12)

INSIDE: Profile of Hart Hill Basic School

Read the report from our field trip to Jamaica in April this year. See www.pacecanada.org for more information and photos from our adopted schools.



P.A.C.E Board of Directors & Executives 2010 – 2011

ELECTED ON FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2010

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Dr. Mary Anne Chambers

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Beverley Thompson

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Children's Issues: Winsley Belille

Communications: Donette Chin Loy

Education: Dr. Vandra Masemann

Fundraising: Ingrid Lawrence

Membership: Christine Williams

Newsletter Editor:

Fahad Martin Pinto



President's Message



*I am what I aspire to be,
Not what I now am.
I am what I do with my mind.
I am what I do with my youth.*
~Benjamin E. Mays

The photos we get are of children curious about their school's new computer, the brand new stove that a school will use to prepare lunch for the children, the walls that now keep the children from getting wet in their classrooms when it rains, playgrounds where the children develop healthy social skills by spending time with each other having fun, children learning to play musical instruments, the proud class of 5 and 6 year olds appropriately dressed for the occasion in their graduation gowns. These photos tell the stories of our **Adopt-A-School** program. The photos from our schools are compelling, not because the overwhelming majority of these children live in poverty, but because the photos are always about hope.

This issue of *Keeping PACE* is about how we provide hope. It's about the difference that our sponsors make when they adopt schools for 3 to 6 year olds in Jamaica.

Twenty-three years ago, Dr. Mavis Burke responded to then Prime Minister Edward Seaga's appeal for Jamaicans in Canada to support early childhood development in Jamaica. Women for P.A.C.E. (Canada) was the result. Now we are P.A.C.E. (Canada), with women and men sharing a common interest in providing opportunities for young children to get a great start in life. Now our sponsors include people of Jamaican heritage some of whom attended the schools that they have adopted, others who understand that Jamaica's future wellbeing will depend on how well its children are prepared for the future, as well as non-Jamaicans who are simply in love with Jamaica and the irresistible children of Jamaica.

We are proud of the fact that over the past 23 years, we have impacted the lives of about 50,000 children, their families and their communities, but we have only scratched the surface. Basic schools and early childhood institutions adopted through P.A.C.E. (Canada) number over 250, but there are more than 2,500 of these schools registered with Jamaica's Ministry of Education. The need is so great that even 1 Canadian dollar per day makes a huge difference in the lives of the children in our adopted schools.

To our **Adopt-A-School** sponsors, we say a huge **"THANK YOU"**. To everyone else we say **"Please let us hear from you soon"**.

~Dr. Mary Anne Chambers



Profile of an Adopted School

Hart Hill Basic School

Buff Bay P.O., Portland

Sponsors: Ms. Denyse Diaz and Dr. Naresh Mohan

Head Teacher: Ms. Carmen Christi

Number of Teachers: 3

Number of Students: 42

Student Activities: Great Assembly, the children had energy and enthusiasm and displayed a lot of knowledge.

Teacher Activities: The teachers were supervising and participating in assembly.

Sanitary & Sanitation Facilities: Good

Classrooms: Good furniture and lighting, space is very limited

Learning Resources: Basic resource books, blackboard, toys and pictures.

Play Facilities: There is sufficient land but limited equipment.

Kitchens: Excellent kitchen recently built by Food for the Poor. Dining room completed, needs furniture and flooring.

General Comments: Has completed the ECE registration and has a provisional license for one year. Has a lunch garden.

Needs Identified: Extension of one classroom, Furniture for the dining room.

The children and teachers were very welcoming and friendly.

See www.pacecanada.org (Photo Gallery) for more photographs.

Profile of a New Sponsor: Dr. Lancelot A. Brown

Dr. Lancelot A. Brown has been in private practice since 1992, with a particular interest in cosmetic and implant dentistry as well as dentistry for children. He graduated from McGill University and served in the military as a captain in the Canadian Forces Dental Services (1984-1992), where he was appointed the officer-in-charge of The Royal Military College Dental Clinic from 1990-1992. Dr. Brown has sponsored a scholarship through A.B.L.E. for the past six years. He remains committed to community involvement by organizing food, toy and book drives in his office as well as annually participating in the Nissan 5K Run (previous causes have included Meals for Wheels and the Canadian Cancer Society). Dr. Brown also sponsors a scholarship for the Jamaican Canadian Association and supports his alma mater (McGill University) by funding a dental operatory in their Undergraduate Teaching Clinic. Dr. Brown is the proud father of Arthur, Rebecca and Edgar.



Founder's Reception

Thirty-five guests attended a reception hosted jointly by P.A.C.E. (Canada)'s Founder Dr. Mavis Burke O.Ont., O.D. and Jamaica's Consul General in Toronto, Mr. Seth George Ramocan, in honour of The Most Honourable Edward Seaga, former Prime Minister of Jamaica.

Mr. Seaga was presented with the 2010 P.A.C.E. (Canada) Founder's Award, marked by the addition to the Founder's Trophy of a plaque bearing his name, a Certificate bearing the message "For inspiring the birth of our organization in 1987 when you, as Prime Minister of Jamaica, appealed for support of island wide community based efforts to provide for early childhood education", and a letter stating that later this year, a donation of CDN \$1,000.00 will be made to Kings Early Childhood Institution at 6 Seaga Blvd. in Tivoli Gardens, Kingston, Jamaica, in his honour.

Mr. Seaga warned that without a strong early childhood education focus, Jamaica's children would continue to do poorly at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels. He noted that 70% are failing the Literacy test upon entering primary school, 44% of 10 year olds cannot read or write, and only 30% are graduating from high school. "An uneducated people just don't have a future", he said. "Jamaica needs to be an educated country to be viable."

The speeches and presentations were followed by a Jamaican brunch. Many thanks to Donette Chin-Loy for sponsoring the brunch. Thanks also to the following Board and Executive Committee members for attending: Winsley Belille, Diana Burke, Mary Anne Chambers, Lorna King and Beverley Thompson.



(From Left) Beverley Thompson, Mavis Burke, Edward Seaga, George Ramocan at reception for the Seagas



(From Left) Mary Anne Chambers, Gabrielle, Edward Seaga

2010 Strawberry Tea [\[Visit our website for more photos\]](#)





Adopt-A-School Brunch

Jamaica's Minister of Education to Speak at
Adopt-A-School Brunch
November 14, 2010
12:30pm
Jamaican Canadian Association
995 Arrow Road, Toronto

This year, our annual Adopt-A-School Brunch will be held on Sunday, November 14, 2010 at 12:30pm at the Jamaica Canadian Association, 995 Arrow Road (Hwy. 400 & Finch), Toronto.

We are particularly pleased to be having the Honourable Andrew Holness M.P., Jamaica's Minister of Education, as our special guest.

The 38-year-old Minister has been described as a "rising star" in Jamaican politics. Mr. Holness has been the Member of Parliament for West Central St. Andrew since 1997 and was appointed Minister of Education in September 2007. He has demonstrated a commitment to social welfare throughout his career, and has served as an educator for a short time at St. Catherine High School, as Executive Director of Voluntary Organization for the Uplifting of Children (VOUCH), and as Opposition Spokesperson on Education.

Minister Holness attended St. Catherine High School where the school motto is *Preces Et Opera Omnia Vincunt*, in English, *Prayer and Work Conquer All*. He holds a Masters Degree in Development Studies and a Bachelors Degree in Management Studies from the University of the West Indies. Minister Holness is married and the father of two young sons.

Tickets for the Brunch on Sunday, November 14 can be ordered before the end of October, using the form enclosed with this newsletter. For additional copies of the invitation and ticket order form, please call 416-208-3103. Tickets will not be available for purchase at the door.

Calendar for
Adopt-A-School
Sponsorship Funds
Transmission and
Delivery to Schools

Transmission: Spring: Sent to Jamaica April 30th
Fall: Sent to Jamaica October 31st

Delivery: Available to be delivered to the schools 30 days later

Teacher Training And Development – A Priority For Early Childhood Development

Over the past few years, the Ministry of Education in Jamaica, through its Early Childhood Commission, has been developing standards for the operation, management and administration of Basic Schools / Early Childhood Institutions and Teacher Training has been identified as a priority. The new standards were published in 2008 and these schools are now being inspected for compliance.

According to *The Early Childhood Act*, a person shall not operate an early childhood institution or shall not employ any person in the institution for the purpose of caring for the children therein unless they meet the qualifications prescribed in Regulations made by the Commission with the approval of the Minister (Section 15 (1, 2 & 4), pg. 11). *The Early Childhood Regulations* require that at least one “qualified teacher” be employed in each Basic School. “Qualified teachers” are defined as those who have earned at a minimum, a diploma from a “recognized teacher training college”.

The history of Basic Schools in Jamaica has not been rooted in professional qualifications. We applaud the Ministry’s goal, but recognize that many committed teachers have only in recent years had the opportunity to be formally trained.

It is impossible not to be touched by the emotion, enthusiasm and pride displayed by the Principal of one of our adopted schools, who at 65 years of age, showed off a scrapbook from the first formal training that she had only just received as a teacher. This woman had been teaching children in Falmouth for decades.

It is also the reality for most of these extremely dedicated individuals that the cost of training is well beyond their reach. This has been evident in the requests for support that P.A.C.E. (Canada) has been receiving from teachers in our adopted schools, as well as the requests that we have received from the Early Childhood Commission. Sadly, we have not been able to respond in a significant way, due to our own financial limitations.

P.A.C.E. (Canada) would like to give priority to ensuring that all schools in its Adopt-A-School program meet at least the minimum professional qualifications for Teachers.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to our Patron, Mr. Denham Jolly, for his very generous donation to the P.A.C.E. (Canada) Teacher Training and Development Fund.

As a registered Canadian charity, P.A.C.E. (Canada) issues receipts for tax purposes, for all donations received. We would welcome your donations for Teacher Training and Development.

New School Adoptions

Rose Hall Basic School, St. James
Ms. Rose Chin (Gift from Donette Chin-Loy & G. Raymond Chang)

Pentab Basic School, Kingston
Mr. Christopher Chin (Gift from Donette Chin-Loy & G. Raymond Chang)

Pass Side Basic School, Clarendon
Irwin, Kimberley, Jadon and Jonay
Garrett-Elman

Whitehall Early Childhood Institution, Westmoreland
Dr. Lancelot A. Brown

Mount Airy Early Childhood Institution, Westmoreland
Dr. Lancelot A. Brown

Challenge Basic School, St. James
Ms. Patricia Brown

Cooke Street Early Childhood Institution, Westmoreland
Mrs. Christine Williams

Hudson Street Early Childhood Centre, Westmoreland
Dr. Eda Wallace

Industry Cove Basic School, Hanover
Mr. Denham Jolly

Red Bank Early Childhood Institution, St. Elizabeth
Mr. Lomar Thomas

Riverton Meadows Early Childhood Institution, Kingston
Dr. Ralph Masi

Denham Town Basic School, Kingston
Dr. Ralph Masi

Bloomfield Basic School, Portland
Christopher & Doreen Alexander

Fruitful Vale Basic School, Portland
Dr. Rosemary Moodie & Dr. Peter Wong

Morant Bay Basic School, St. Thomas
Mrs. Doreen Robinson

Sustainable Development for Early Childhood Institutions

Since inception the Early Childhood Commission (ECC) has made monumental changes to the early childhood sector in Jamaica. The ECC approaches early childhood development from a holistic perspective, addressing not only the educational needs of the child but also the physical health, psychological, emotional and pro – social needs of the child.

To ensure that all these aspects of the child are developed equitably, the ECC constantly conducts research and stakeholder consultations to ensure that all programs developed address the core needs of the sector. The National Strategic Plan (NSP) (2008-2013) for early childhood development is structured to deliver services that meet the holistic needs of children in the 0 to 6 age group, as such it employs a sector wide approach and dictates that effective partnerships be developed and maintained with both private and public sector bodies. Our relationship with PACE (Canada) is one such partnership that has served our youngest clients well and enables the ECC to meet the needs of children, practitioners and parents.

The ECC has evolved, over the last few years to meet the needs of the sector: in 2008 we sent out the Call for Registration to all Early Childhood Institutions (ECIs) and to date over 2550 ECIs have applied. Application for Registration mandates the ECC to send an Inspector to the ECI to assess the institution against the 12 Government Standards for Early Childhood Institutions. Following an inspection, a report is generated and sent to the institution that highlights the strengths and weaknesses of the ECIs. In 2010 the ECC started issuing Permits to Operate, to those institutions that have met the minimum requirements for operation. To date 657 Permits to Operate have been disseminated

In order to meet the increased needs of the sector and the targets outlined in the NSP, the ECC has developed and incorporated several IT Based programs to streamline the services offered to ECIs. These programs are a Registration Information System (RIS), a Geographic Information System (GIS) and a database of Parenting programs and services and a database of training programs.

The 2009 and 2010 operating years were very exciting as, the ECC expanded to meet the increased demands of the sector. We upgraded our facilities and established posts considered to be critical to the development of the sector and the attainment of the NSP targets. These posts were Director- Cross Sectoral Coordination, Director - Sector Support Services, Manager- Information Technology and Director – Finance.

In order to improve the service delivery to Jamaica's children the Government of Jamaica decided to transfer the functions of the Early Childhood Unit within the Ministry of Education to the ECC. As such, the post of Early Childhood Education Officers was abolished and replaced with Development Officers within the ECC.

The work accomplished by PACE (Canada) laid the foundation in Jamaica for sustainable early childhood development program. Beginning in 1988 with the pilot degree program in early childhood education and later with the Dollar – a – Day Adopt – a – Basic School Project, PACE has always worked to meet the needs of Jamaican children. PACE has formed many strategic partnerships with the ECC, the fruits of which have been the development of a Pilot Project for a Parenting and Family Health Training Module; a Child Health Development Profile in Jamaica and a Child Health and Development Passport, which was launched on August 18, 2010. Every child born after September 1 2010, will receive a Passport to track his or her education, health and development status.

The ECC is proud to partner with PACE (Canada). Together we will help Jamaica to achieve the NSP targets for the period 2008 to 2013 and ultimately secure a brighter future for our children.

~ Submitted by Michelle Campbell, Director, Sector Support Services, Early Childhood Commission, Jamaica

New Forms for Acknowledgement of Receipt of Adopt-A-School Funds and School Profiles

In keeping with the commitment of P.A.C.E. (Canada) to improve communication between our sponsored schools and our supporters, we are working closely with the new administration at the Early Childhood Commission to implement changes in our operations in Jamaica.

In June, P.A.C.E. (Canada) Director, Dr. Fred Kennedy, held meetings with Ms. Winsome Johns-Gayle, Executive Director, Ms. Michelle Campbell, Director, Sector Support Services and Ms. Karlene DeGrasse-Deslandes, Director, Regulation and Monitoring.

One of our early joint initiatives is to implement a system whereby Development Officers will assist Principals with the onsite completion of Sponsorship Information Forms and Official Receipts for funds received. P.A.C.E. (Canada) will work closely with ECC to ensure that these forms are completed during site visits and retained by the Development Officers for our collection twice annually, in June and November.

The administration at the Early Childhood Commission is fully committed to helping us in this process, which will provide our sponsors with continuous, up-to-date information on each of our schools. As a charitable organization, P.A.C.E. (Canada) continues to work towards enhancing our accountability both to our beneficiaries and to our donors.

Condolences

Our condolences to Mardi South, former Vice-President, Children's Issues, and her family, on the very recent loss of her mother-in-law, Judith



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