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## DAYCARE REPORT

By Jet van Heijnsbergen

You may remember that **Drs. Xandra Halley-van Luijken** has visited the **Laura Linzey Daycare Center** for a full week at the end of May/beginning of June. This was to write up a report on the center. In the second week of August we have received her report. The report was discussed right away with President of the Board, **Dave Levenstone** and the Head, **Margaret Child**. We were very pleased with compliments made on the achievements.

The report gives a detailed overview of all the ins and outs of the center. To name a few chapters:

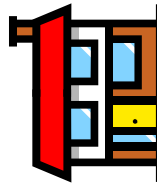
- Policy and Mission Statement;
- Goals of the center;
- Team work;
- Safety and Hygiene;
- Parental Involvement.
- Qualification of caregivers.



In the same report Xandra Halley gives very useful suggestions for further improvement. Some of the suggestions do not cost money and were carried out by the board right away. The report was presented to Commissioner Lisa Hassell.

The report also entails a training plan. Xandra Halley will come back for 4 training sessions to further improve the quality of care given at the center. Training will be held in the months of October, November, March and April.

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**TO ALL PARENTS OF STUDENTS IN THE  
LAURA LINZEY DAYCARE CENTER &  
SACRED HEART PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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# FOUNDATION BASED EDUCATION

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*Partners discussing @ the final evening*

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## RETREAT FOR TEACHERS

By Brother Ian Camacho

On Wednesday August 9th, Living Water facilitated the annual Retreat for Teachers of the Sacred Heart School.

The symbol of a football game was used to explore a section of the school's mission statement, **“ The mission of the Sacred Heart School is to empower each child intellectually, emotionally, socially, culturally, physically and religiously in an environment conducive to self motivated learning.”**



Teachers were compared to team players who work together in bringing each child closer to the school's goal. Clarity, commitment, passion, and unity were seen as essential in this regard. Teachers used personal reflection to consider their strengths and weaknesses. The closing prayer experience reminded us to trust God who is present on and off the field..



## PARTNERSHIPS IN EDUCATION

The same mission statement was used in a series of workshops for **parents, teachers and technocrats**, held from August 10 – 16. All participants agreed that we cannot achieve this mission statement alone; we need to work together.

Research shows that strong family-school relationships encourage student learning and empowers parents. This fits in the philosophy of FBE, and can be achieved in many different ways.

Drs. **Ans Smulders** guided us in making exercises and drawing conclusions. She helped Teacher Diane and the Innovations Bureau in achieving our goal, which was to establish: **Partnerships in Raising our Children.**

Teachers, parents and technocrats were asked:

- What is partnership?
- Who are your partners?
- How can you become a better partner?

All **partners** agreed that the outcome of education system is below expectations. Instead of pointing fingers at the other partners, we decided to work together.

At the **technocrat** meeting the following issues were brought forward:

- a. The Education System in the Netherlands Antilles is very complex.
- b. Many successful students don't return to Saba after their graduation abroad.
- c. Much value is given to academic training, less to vocational training.
- d. Also, Boards experience a high turn-over in staff yearly.

These findings give Boards and Government Members a lot of discussion points.

**Teachers** came to the conclusion that communication with other partners, especially the **parents**, could be improved. We often expect things from others, without explaining. Or we assume that **parents** know what to do, without us asking them. Many ideas were brought forward in the field of:

- Homework;
- Rules and regulations;
- Parent-teacher contact.



**Teachers** received suggestions and guidelines from Ans on how to involve parents. They learned about listening and questioning skills, and practiced how to analyze problems.

**Parents** came up with ideas and mainly asked for more and more open communication.

At the final evening, all **partners** got together and made little action plans. The result of the workshops is that we have 10 action plans, to be carried out by **parents and teachers**. Information packages have been sent to all participants. A final letter will go out before the information evening in September.



*Partners @ the final evening*