

TRAINING DAYCARE CENTER

By Ms. Margaret Child



On October 6th and 7th management and staff at the Daycare Center attended a 2-days workshop given by Xandra Halley-van Luijken with the assistance of Carmençita Chamont. The

topics were: organization, leadership and team work. A follow-up will be held on November 23 & 24. In order for this training to continue, more work will follow in 2007.

Together with Tr. Sheila I also attended a Management Workshop in Sint Maarten, conducted by Linda Blankhorst. She has set up the Buzzy Bees Inn on Statia. We worked on 4 pedagogic basic goals. The main topic was: **Positive communication.**



The goals we worked on are:

- Emotional Security;
- Personal Competencies;
- Social Competencies;
- Norms, values and cultures.



It was of great value and new knowledge for me, and will enhance my ability in the center.



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

FOUNDATION BASED EDUCATION

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*Teacher Diane and Dr. Bernard
after the parent evening*

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OCTOBER 2006

AN INSPIRING WEEK WITH DR. LENNOX BERNARD

By Jet van Heijnsbergen

In case you missed it: **Dr. Bernard** was back on the island in the week of October 23. He came on special request of Sacred Heart to teach us about **Nonviolent Communication (NVC)**.

Dr. Bernard tied in the NVC-approach with the other topics he presented on Saba: **Emotional Intelligence** and **Cooperative Discipline**. And he gave us a severe warning: **“You have to do something for your children!!!”**



Monday, October 23

Dr. Bernard showed the teachers that it is possible to communicate without:

- comparisons;
- judgment & interpretation;
- blame & accusation;
- shame & guilt;
- demands.

It may be hard to break our old patterns, but it is possible.

- If we listen without interpreting;
- If we observe without judgment;
- If we take responsibility for our feelings;
- If we honestly express our needs;
- If we can receive with empathy.

We can learn to communicate without violence. The teachers have done exercises in the 4 components of NVC, which are:

1. Observation
2. Feelings
3. Needs
4. Request

-ANNOUNCEMENT- WEBSITE

The Innovations Bureau will have a new and more functional **website**, with news from school, department, government, etc.

Would you like to be involved as a parent? Do you like to write a piece for the website every now & then from a parent's perspective? Then, please contact us at 416-3809.

Workshop for teachers will be on Wednesday, November 22nd.

At the teachers' session **Dr. Bernard** mentioned that our vocation is to be a Mwalimu* - a teacher of the whole being, not just an instructor.

The teachers practiced asking questions, formulating needs, wording observations and relating honest feelings.



Dr. Bernard stressed that it is important to make clear requests: ask what you want in action language.

Tuesday, October 24

All technocrats were represented on Tuesday afternoon. There were Board Members, as well as Social Work and Government officials, and all School Managers were present.

* Swahili for teacher

-ANNOUNCEMENT- BOOK LIST

By request of **Dr. Bernard**, the Innovations Bureau will compile a book list of all titles that were mentioned during his workshops.

You will receive the list and be asked to write your name (and pay in advance).

Before we compose the list, we'd like to know if you have any special requests or suggestions. Please, call at 416-3809 or e-mail us.

After having observed the schools, and spoken to a group of students, **Dr. Bernard** pointed out that Saba has to address the needs of the children. Our curriculum needs to fit the students and our services should be up to par. “If we do not meet our goals, we haven't tried hard enough.” Once again the need was felt for cooperation with parents and a shared vision.



Besides compliments for good work, materials and atmosphere, **Dr. Bernard** had some advice for Managers and Government: It concerned e.g. the program for students with special needs, acceptable ways to express anger and a quiet room for students who need to settle down.



Wednesday, October 25

Close to 100 people were in attendance in the evening. **Dr. Bernard** gave his presentation and once again stressed the need for reaching out to the children. “Each child has a bit of the divine inside: we must honor and respect that. Each child deserves the best of our attention and our unconditional love.”



Afterwards we socialized and spoke about the impact of the lecture. It's not so much the NVC, it is also the way we take responsibility for our children.

Dr. Bernard repeated that we can't and needn't do it alone. Parents, school and government are partners who have to work together. *We hope to welcome our Mwalimu again in the near future.*