

## THE PTA OF SABA

By Tara Every

Let me begin by wishing you a very prosperous 2008. I now present a brief report on our first term in office. October 18, 2007: A new **Executive Body of the PTA** of Saba was officially installed to replace the old one of 2003. The following are the elected members:

- **Tara Every**, President
- **Emeale Simmons**, Vice President
- **Sandy Johnson**, Secretary
- **Peggy Thielman**, Treasurer
- **Lucia Woods**, Public Relations
- **Julieta Woods, Jeff Johnson**, Floor Members
- **Miranda Hassell (SHS) and Mr. Holles Ayers (SCS)**, Staff Representatives
- **Jonathan Johnson, Director & Diana Wilson, Principal**, Ex Office

The board has held several meetings during the period under review.

**On November 21st** we held our first event at the Eugenius Johnson Center; this was reports on the highlights of the **Holland Youth Exchange Program** which allowed the children of grade 6 (now in Form I) to visit Holland. They shared their experiences and pictures of this trip with the community. This was a successful fun evening for all who attended. All funds generated at the Holland Youth Exchange review was donated to the SCS toward their Environmental Awareness Campaign.

**On December 9th** (Saba Day) the PTA assisted the SCS with their Fun Food Fair. As an executive we are currently studying our constitution which we hope to present to the membership shortly. We also hope to have weekly activities and flyers/calendars would be sent to you. One of our goals is to get parents to become more involved with their children.

Toward this end we are sending you some tips as to how to get started.

**Once again I wish you a prosperous 2008 and we will be in touch.**

## How to get started.....

Children who have strong bonds with their families and school are least at risk of using alcohol and other drugs. Many of the things we can do to strengthen these bonds—such as showing warmth and affection—are based on common sense.

### - Be a good listener

Let your children know they can always come to you with their problems. Show respect for your children's concerns. Establish eye contact with your child when he or she is talking to you. Offer encouragement to help your children share ideas and ask questions.

### - Show a sincere interest in your children's schoolwork and activities

Find common interests to talk about relating to school. Ask your children to show you their schoolwork and proudly display their projects. Give them compliments and offer help when it's needed.

### - Help your children set realistic goals

Children are more likely to succeed when goals are short-term so they don't lose interest. The best goals are easy enough for them to accomplish, yet challenging enough so that they will grow. Praise your children for their efforts.

### - Set aside time just for your children

Plan ahead so you can spend quality time with your children, especially on holidays and special occasions. Try to find opportunities to spend time alone with each child individually.

### - Do things together as a family

Look for family activities that don't involve watching television or spending money. There are lots of opportunities—playing a game, reading a book, going for a bike ride, building or baking something. Many cost nothing, but the rewards are great.

### - Give your child responsibilities around the house

Assign each child specific tasks that will help increase his or her sense of responsibility. It might be taking out the garbage, setting the table or walking the dog. Even simple chores help develop a sense of teamwork and feelings of accomplishment.

### - Show affection often

Don't assume your children know they are loved. Remember, a word, a smile or a hug from you can make a big difference. Children are never too old to be told that they are loved.

## TEACHING IN CYCLE I

By Tr. Airien Moehamad

My name is **Teacher Airien Moehamad**. I have been working here at Sacred Heart School for the past **seven years** and I am still happy to be teaching here.

Every student in my class is very unique and very special in his or her own way.

My class consists of two different age levels with different abilities.



I have **20 students** in my class. **Twelve students** are at **K-2** level preparing for grade 1 and **8 students** are at **K-1** level. I am expecting more students for this school year.

As soon as a child turns four they enter cycle I.

I try my best to accommodate each child in different learning styles. I present my subjects through **songs** and **poems** based on the **theme of the month**, so that the children can understand the problems by having fun.



I want to see each child prosper and continue as they go on in a very consistent learning ability.

The way of teaching is **child centered**, so each individual child gets the attention that they need at their **own level**.



I also see the interaction of the children in a positive manner in the centers with the help of **Ms. Jessica Gumbs** my teacher aid.

## GRADE 2

By Tr. Sharron Ferguson

My name is **Teacher Sharron Ferguson** and I was born in **New Zealand**. I have been in the field of education for 15 years and living in Saba for 10. I have been working at Sacred Heart School for 8 years. Teaching in Saba certainly is a big change from New Zealand but when you really get down to it, children are the same all over the world!

After receiving another new student in January, the **grade 2 class** now has **14 students** (6 boys and 8 girls). All students are aged between **7-8 years old**.



On a typical day the **Language Arts** type subjects are taught in the morning.

**Math, Science, Social Studies** and **Art** are taught after recess.

**Tr. Jarmila** teaches the **Dutch**, **Ms. Lynne** is for **Religion** and **Coach Robert** for **Physical Education**.

Every month we focus on a particular **theme**.

This month's theme is "**The 7 Continents**". The children are enthusiastic to learn about other countries. We will look at how different Saba really is. Like all of our themes, all the educational areas are taught as we bring across the topic with the children.

It is important for the students to review their lessons in preparation for the end of month assessment as well as end of year.

**All parents are welcome to visit our classroom, upon appointment, to see their child's work or discuss any concerns that they may have with myself.**



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

# FOUNDATION BASED EDUCATION

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*Second Grade students on a field trip  
at Cove Bay*

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JANUARY 2008