

WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT SABA?

By Joy-Ann Robinson

Desirée Soares and Glenn Holm from the **Saba Tourist Office** organized an essay contest for World Tourism Day (September 27). Joy-Ann Robinson won the first prize: a free WINAIR-ticket to St. Maarten. Christon Blackman received second prize, a radio, and Alexis Johnson was third with free scuba lessons from Sea Saba. All three winners received a gift basket with school supplies. Below is the winning text.

CONGRATS to all!



What is unique about Saba?

Saba is filled with a variety of qualities that form a natural attraction for nature lovers.

For example, Mount Scenery with a height of 877m, stands like a goddess watching over her four villages.

This cloud capped summit with its picturesque flora and fauna seems to invite tourists to explore her intricate beauty.

Most of all, the snorkeling and the scuba diving that are available in its peaceful waters boast wonderful, colorful coral reefs, fish and other natural beauty sea critters of the sea.

The hospitality of the Saban people who are willing to extend a helping hand and a wide smile make it an island that stands out in its own special way.

TEACHERS' APPRECIATION DINNER-AND-A-MOVIE

While many teachers across the world celebrated "World Teachers Day" on October 15th, teachers on Saba were busy getting organized for the fast approaching hurricane Omar. The planned dinner and a movie by the innovation office for all teachers on the island had to be postponed.

The hurricane turned out to be less destructive, teachers started to teach again the next day and the planned appreciation dinner was planned for Wednesday October 22nd.

Around 6 pm many teachers turned out at Tropics to enjoy a dinner while watching one of the best movies of the year "The Reading Room". The movie emphasized on the invaluable contribution a teacher can have on a child's educational development. Before the movie started, our commissioner of education, Mr. Chris Johnson, welcomed all present and expressed the importance teachers have on a child's development, especially on a small, sometimes isolated island. He emphasized especially on the fact that Saba is part of a global perspective, despite the fact that we are small and located in the Caribbean Sea. "Teach children what is going on in the world" he said "since we are international, part of the Kingdom and represented in the European Community". He urged teachers to focus on a global curriculum in order to prepare the Saban youth for the international future.



PROJECT APPROACH WITH SYLVIA CHARD

With cycle I well on its way, it was time for the **Sacred Heart School staff** to be trained in the specific cycle II teaching strategies. One of the pillars in didactics of cycle II is the **Project Approach** to teaching and learning. A project is an in-depth study of a particular topic that one or more children undertake. Subject matter presented to students in projects, is proven to result in more in-depth understanding, and in knowledge that makes a lasting impression.

The Innovations Bureau has invited one of the originators of the Project Approach, **Sylvia Chard** – Professor Emeritus at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada.



Sylvia Chard with the "airport group"



Dr. Chard conducted a 3-day course for all teachers, assistants and trainers in FBE. The teachers learned about projects by active participation; by preparing their own project. On the first day, teachers embarked on various field trips to gather information.

"It went perfectly," explained Tr. Camille who went to the airport. "We did our interviews, took our notes and made drawings!" Just as their students will, the teachers researched the topics, made choices, worked on their projects collaboratively and shared their project work.

According to Sylvia Chard:

"The teachers of Saba have a wonderful context in which to teach children in interesting ways that develop all their sensory and intellectual powers!!"

TVET TRAINING

WITH MRS. SONIA BENNETT CUNNINGHAM AND MR. LEOLYN GORDON FROM THE HEART TRUST IN JAMAICA

The Management and teachers of Saba Comprehensive School attended a 4 day workshop (21 - 24 Oct) on Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as part of the Innovations Program. **Mrs Sonia Bennett Cunningham**, Director of the Vocational Training Institute and **Mr. Leolyn Gordon**, Manager/Promotions (NCTVET) were the facilitators for the workshop. "We survived the Saba landing" became real for us, as the small plane precariously glided towards the cliff, missing it by what appeared to be inches. The wide expanse of the Caribbean sea, the land clothe in greenery dotted with white buildings and red roofs. Some one must have taken a brush and with the precision of an accomplished artist and painted the scenery that greeted us" The enthusiasm and dedication of the participants and the interactive presentations by the facilitators energized the atmosphere and culminated in a highly successful and enjoyable 4 days. It is very interesting to note that teachers who were a bit apprehensive about attending a 4 day workshop (as they remarked that they were not technical teachers) commended the planners and facilitators for the timing and relevance as they all appreciate a **new way of thinking** in terms of Technical Education. Participants were guided in topics as: concept Tvet, role of Tvet in Society, Tvet as a component of the educational process, planning, essentials for training delivery in Tvet, developing Curriculum Standards, using CBET methodology, designing and developing instructional guides. Referring to the trainers: " Our considered opinion is that SCS has the capacity to provide training, assessment & certification for learners in school, adults in employment and those desiring to be prepared for employment. The potential also exists for these services to be marketed to residents of neighbouring islands. We feel that the management & staff is sufficiently committed to realizing these possibilities"



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

FOUNDATION BASED & PREPARATORY SECONDARY VOCATIONAL EDUCATION



Teachers' field trip to the harbor office

INNOVATIONS BUREAU

SABA
416-3809

fbe_saba@yahoo.com
psve_saba@yahoo.com
www.fbe-saba.com

NEWS LETTER 66

OCTOBER 2008