

EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE ON SXM

By Jet van Heijnsbergen

SIFMA Sint Maarten, the organization for the welfare of children, hosted a conference for all involved in daycare on the topic **Improving the Quality of Early Childhood Education**.

Representatives of Innovations and the Department of Education and all Saban caregivers participated.

Keynote speakers were **Dr. Larry Schweinhart** from High/Scope and **Dr. Paul Leseman** from the University of Utrecht. Paul Leseman was the professor of Marieke and Priscilla, who researched the quality of daycare a year ago. This study made us aware of the fact that our teachers on Saba score high on the items of **social interaction** with the children and contact with the **parents**. We have a warm and welcoming atmosphere in the center, most materials are in place and the level of care is sufficient. Saba needs to improve on language, and activities in the field of literacy, science and math.



To this end, Tr. Margaret holds monthly training sessions with her staff. As a matter of fact, Tr. Margaret was visited by her international trainer, **Anke**

Boon, who announced Margaret's upcoming certification!

Professor Leseman made the effort to come to Saba and see the study results with his own eyes. His first response was: "Yes, this is High/Scope! To see it in reality, is even better than on DVD!"



Congrats, LLDC!!

WEBSITE UPDATES

By Micheline Hinse

Rianne Hellings, from **Kuki & Ko** in Curaçao, coached all teachers from the **Sacred Heart School** and the special created 'web—team' of the **Saba Comprehensive School**, in the beginning of November to update information to their websites & make them even more attractive.

Especially for teachers Pang & Edwards from the SCS working with the software "**Qwik-zite**" was a new experience. But these two computer wizards knew the drill immediately!

The old site of the SCS was not in the air anymore, due to several reasons, so the web-team could make a fresh start with a totally new website for the school.

It was also time to change the main portal site of the **Innovations Bureau**, which was initiated two years ago by Jet van Heijnsbergen and Rianne Hellings, by adding the **PSVE** branch with the Vocational Education to the existing FBE branch with its two schools, the **LLDC & the SHS**.

Thanks to the care and patience of Rianne and the terrific input of all teachers the sites will be great, for teachers who can use the site for homework assignments, for students to voice their opinions in the "Shout-Box", but most of all for the parents, who need to keep up with all new school events and changes.

We can all check out the new websites very soon. We'll definitely let you know!



HEALTHY FOOD WITH CHEF JULIO

Chef Julio Barillas visited Saba late October for a series of lectures and demonstrations. Born in Guatemala, he worked with the American Cancer Society and was invited to Saba as part of our **Healthy kids—healthy Saba** campaign.



All people of Saba had a chance to attend one of his sessions, but particularly those who prepare meals for our island institutions, such as schools, Old Age Home, hospital and daycare were invited.

If we want to improve our health, we need to start with our youngest and serve healthy snacks in the schools.

Chef Julio started off his presentations by telling his audiences what is not good for us: sodas, fried food, fat. But in fact, we already know that.

It is more fruitful to focus on what **is** good for us! So, here are some ideas:

- Fruit and vegetables in a variety of colors!
- Good fats such as from avocados and salmon.
- Cook from scratch with fresh produce.

There is a global epidemic of diabetes, obesity and inactivity resulting in disease much of which is preventable. Eating healthy will reduce your risk of high blood pressure, cholesterol and heart attacks as well.



CLASS OF 2008 GRADUATION CEREMONY

“Our Quest for Knowledge is a Lifelong Journey”
By Sharon Oleana

The graduation ceremony for the class of 2008 was held at the Saba University School of Medicine. Mr. Delroy Sinclair was the Master of Ceremony. The graduation started with a procession led by the graduates, followed by the Saba Anthem. The Invocation was done by graduate Sharuska Oleana.



Messages were brought across to the students by Lt. Gov. Jonathan Johnson, Commissioner Bruce Zagers and President of the School Board Roy Smith. The Keynote speaker for the evening was Rev. Father T. Rawlins.

The presentation of diplomas and certificates was done by the Lieutenant Governor and Director Mrs. Elka Charles.

CXC Valedictorian Lenyi A. Rodriguez received a gift by Ms. Jennifer Zagers, on behalf of the Saba Telephone Company. CXC Salutatorian Shaigan Marten was presented with a prize by Mr. Dexter Johnson, Manager of GEBE Saba.



The VSBO Valedictorian was presented to Ryan Hassell and the VSBO Salutatorian was presented to Craig Hassell.

There were special awards for:

- the highest grade point average 2003-2008: Bradley Johnson);
- the most dedicated student 200-2008: Paloma Hassell;
- the most personal persistence for self development: Tim van der Velde;
- excellence in art: Shaigan Marten, and
- director's award to Bradley Johnson.

A vote of thanks was done by graduate student Trisha Peterson. The ceremony ended with a toast at the cafeteria by Ms. Constance Clement, the home room teacher.



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

FOUNDATION BASED & PREPARATORY SECONDARY VOCATIONAL EDUCATION



*Saba Comprehensive School
Class of 2008
Graduation Ceremony*

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