

## NEW MATERIALS FOR DUTCH, DAYCARE & SPECIAL ED

By Jet van Heijnsbergen

It wasn't **Santa Claus** and it definitely wasn't **Sinterklaas**. But on the morning of December 4<sup>th</sup>, three huge pallets full of materials from Holland were found on the doorsteps of the Laura Linzey Daycare Center. During the night two more pallets were delivered to Sacred Heart and the last one was for Innovations.

- **Tr. Margaret** has new outdoor play materials for the children: play bikes and scooters, swing animals, walking ropes....
- For indoor play there is a sand-water table, mats for playing with blocks....
- There are new beds for the toddlers and rockers for the babies.
- **Tr. Natasja** has a wealth of Dutch games such as memory, bingo, loco, puzzles and software to use in her lessons....
- She received complete methods for reading, listening and spelling in Dutch....
- As well as computer programs for student practice.
- **Tr. Carlotta** received beautiful pots, pans and kitchen utensils for her cooking lessons...
- And a variety of materials for applied handicrafts.
- **TM Micheline** has a new book case to store her materials and file the administration of the PSVE-project.
- A week later **Tr. Nadine** received audio-visual materials for the Dutch room, such as: a flat screen TV, CD- and DVD-player.



In their report the **Inspection Team** from Holland that visited the BES-schools in October had many positive things to say about education on Saba. LLDC, SHS and SCS scored well on:

- Having a clear vision and mission;
- Positive pedagogical approach;
- Interaction with parents;
- Good quality instruction.

Points of improvement are:  
Quality and student care, differentiated learning, Dutch language, tracking of student achievements.

To address these topics, the Innovations Bureau will organize sessions and workshops with various experts from abroad, starting in January.

Report is available upon request.

## THANKS A GIGABITE, TR. CHRISTINA!

After having taught ICT to all students of SHS for a full year, **Tr. Christina Palotta** is returning to Canada with her fiancé David.

**Tr. Christina** did not only teach the students, but the teachers as well. And, she will leave us with a most wonderful Christmas gift: **a comprehensive ICT curriculum, including lesson plans and materials for all grades!!!**

Thanks a million, **Tr. Christina**. Or rather, thanks a gigabyte, also for what the two of you have done for **Child Focus**. Much success in Canada and we hope you and David will have a beautiful wedding.



Approved by Innovations!

## EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING WITH LUDO HEYLEN

**Mr. Ludo Heylen** from the **Center for Experiential Learning**

(Catholic University Leuven, Belgium) has spent 2 full days on Saba, observing teachers during their work in the mornings and giving instructions in the afternoons.



His points of focus were:

- Independent and cooperative work;
- Working in centers;
- Open assignments;
- Differentiation.

Education nowadays has to be **for all children**. The teachers need to make sure that every student in the classroom can learn at his or her level. Children need to be actively involved, and not just copy work from the blackboard or fill in answers on worksheets.

The cycle II teachers of the SHS have been practicing this type of teaching every Friday since August. During our local training sessions the teachers received information and instruction. Ludo Heylen has assessed the progress and gave further explanation.

As he said: "The staff is ready for the next step. The teachers have applied today what they learned yesterday. **Learning attitude and self-direction**



of the students will enable the teachers to differentiate more. The next step is to address the students at a high level; they need to be challenged."

## YOUTH & CRIME SUMMIT

By Sr. Alice Theophile

“ We must listen, hear, understand, strategize and act. If we do not act we are the biggest hypocrites!”. These were the words spoken by the motivational speaker **Jeff Johnson** at the **Youth & Crime Summit** held on Monday November 24. The chosen panellists, from diverse backgrounds, gave their perspective on youth and crime in St. Maarten and suggested possible solutions. Panellist **Reverend Vernon** noted that the current situation of crime amongst the youth is just one indicator of the overall degradation occurring in society over the last 10 years. **Dr. Arndell** called for an examination of all structures of society, especially the family, education & religion. **Nicole Francis** observed that youth crime worsened because of the lack of foresight and the reactive nature of the society. **Public Prosecutor Mull** made it clear that incarceration of youth, who are already street wise make them “prison wise”, imprisonment denied the youth a chance at rehabilitation. **The youth** identified love, respect and encouragement from family and others to prevent crime and indicated that they need proper outlets to their emotions and avenues for constructive use of their time.

**Johnson** suggested 5 committees; Education, Parent Advocates, Youth Recreation, Justice System & Fund-raising Development to cater in a partnership among various sectors towards the desired change. The Ujima Foundation organized the summit. The Innovations Bureau had Saba represented by **Ms. Isaline Titre & Miss Alice Theophile** from the Youth and Family Care Center. Social worker **Miss Anastasia Simmons** participated as well.



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

## FOUNDATION BASED & PREPARATORY SECONDARY VOCATIONAL EDUCATION



May the light of Christ's birth shine in our  
darkness  
and fill us with renewed hope.  
**Merry Christmas**

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DECEMBER 2008