

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL

February 28, 2017



Dear Parent/Guardians:

Ardenne High celebrates 90 years of operations beginning January 1, 2017 under the theme, *90 Years of Excellence, the Optima Tradition Continues...* We extend a very special thanks to those persons who were integrally engaged in the activities that we have held thus far and encourage everyone to get more involved in the life of the school. There are many opportunities for this to happen. Please refer to your schedule or contact any administrator or the PTA secretariat for ways to make this possible.

- We welcomed to our 90th Anniversary Church Service the president of Anderson University, *Dr. John Pitstole*, former Deputy Director of the FBI and head of the TSA and the president of Warner University, *Dr. David Hoag* for Funders' Day Service. We have begun talks with both universities to begin cooperating agreements that should benefit both our students and teachers.
- Our students continue to shine in the arenas of TVJ Quiz, girls' football, chess, basketball, table tennis, cricket, Cadet Corp and the performing arts and are showing improved performance in track and field.
- There have been activities such as **Cardiovascular Week** hosted by the Grade 13 Biology Students, **Earthquake Awareness Week** and an **Earthquake/Safety Drill** and the more fun staff **Uniform Day**.
- Our **United Nations Club** attended the annual WIMUN Conference in New York and was blessed with winning two Diplomacy Awards.
- The **Junior Achievement Company** also shone in Mexico where for the second time they are winning the Company of the Year - Regional Award for the Central America and the Caribbean.
- The local **Math Olympiad** is underway and Ardenne is very well represented in the semi-finals at all grade levels in particular Grades 7 & 8.
- The Grades 11, 12 and 13 students have just completed their mock exams. The rest of the school has completed semester exams.
- We return to school from mid-term on Monday, March 6. Soon after, feedback and discussions will begin on their exam performance with them.
 - Please keep abreast of these feedback sessions as best as you can.
- We are also engaged in the final stages of SBAs for CXC students; please work with us to make sure that all students have completed their assignments and hand them in on time. **Late assignments compromise the quality of feedback that can be given to students.**



Ardenne High School

"Deo Duce Quaere Optima"

- Still to come over the next month are: **Jamaica Day, Students' Council Week, Students' Choice Awards, Prefects' Week, Optima Day and the Brown Bag Lecture**
 - **These are all student based activities, so please, please support our children as they practice to become rounded Jamaicans who can plan, organize, execute and participate in world class events!**

Importantly, we are working as smartly as we can with your child to continue to improve our academic performance as a school.

Ardenne is proud of the fact that the school does not screen or stream students for entry to CXC

- **All 317 students are entered for the 8 subject of their choice, as long as we are able to fund a teacher to take the classes**
- **101 students will be doing Additional Mathematics this year in Grade 11**
- **We aim to have 30 Grade 9 students sit Mathematics in 2018**
- **Many have chosen to do additional subjects as well**

Ardenne has 640 students entered for exams between CSEC (27 subjects) and CAPE (22 subjects Units 1&2 entries). We are chasing from 2016 a total of 99% at CAPE and 94.7 % at CSEC of our entries passing.

WE CAN SURPASS THAT! Let's do it!

We continue to be proud of the fact that Ardenne has:

- Over 101 Grades 10 and 11 students who have already passed Mathematics with 93 of those attaining a grade 1 and 87 a straight A profile.
- 22 students appearing on the CXC Regional merit lists along with the Top CAPE Student for 2016
- Consistently over 300 students passing Mathematics and English Language each annually. The majority of our passes are also at the grade 1 level
- The highest number of students in a science programme in Jamaica
- The highest number of students entered for Business subjects of all co-educational schools in Jamaica.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

At a cost of just under **US\$1,000.00** per month, the school has dedicated Internet access and reminds parents of Grades 11, 12 & 13 to register their devices for educational use only.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

The Ministry of Education is currently introducing the National Standard Curriculum in all secondary schools at Grades 7-9. In order to adequately implement this in our school we have taken the following steps:

- Teachers attended the Ministry's training but were dissatisfied with this activity.



- An internal group from Ardenne's Curriculum Implementation Team (CIT) was tasked to develop our own model to train our teachers.
- Thus far sixteen hours of training have been completed for all teaching staff members
- A further eight hours of training will be completed before year end.

We are also in the process of writing the new School Improvement Plan (SIP). Further consultation will be carried out with the students and parents for setting targets for the next three year cycle. This will include academic targets.

Disciplinary Issues

A few of our students do not respect the rules of the school. We continue to work with the home to see how best we can change their attitude and behaviour, before they may need to continue schooling elsewhere.

- **There is an emerging trend of young people engaged in consuming products containing marijuana/ganja in Jamaica. Please pay very careful attention to our ongoing public education programme here at school that will help you and your child stay away from this happening.**
- A critical area needing improvement is respecting others; leaving spaces clean for others and not invading each other personal space and property; taking other persons' property.
- Encourage your child/ward to protect his or her property at all times and practice safe and responsible use of the public thoroughfare.
- Students should not linger in the Transportation Centres or other public spaces and should conduct themselves as Ardenne students are expected to everywhere.
- Have students arrive at school early and drop them off at the gate when late for the late register.
- **Parent Contribution** – We thank the nearly 58% of our parents and guardians who have made their contribution to the school and the PTA. It is your contributions in part that have enabled us to have good facilities such as:
 - **Our 54 computer station Internet-ready Library (Free Internet access)**
 - **EBSCO online research database (Free access)**
 - **Our rehabilitated playfield with an extensive irrigation system**
 - **6 computer labs making computer access available to all upper school students**
 - **A four-person Systems' Administration Team maintain an efficient ICT System**
 - **Two labs each per science subject**
 - **A performing arts block, Drama, Music, Dance**
 - **Gym, multipurpose court**
 - **Extensive student seating areas**
 - **Security fencing along the gully**
 - **Seismograph station (IRIS - Measures and tracks earthquakes worldwide. Used in Physics and Geography)**



- **Documentation Centre**
- **RenWeb Online Administration System**
- **Security Cameras**

Please refer to the schools' handbook for further information regarding the importance of parent contributions.

There are stalled projects to be completed and we continue to look forward to your support and contributions for:

- The refurbishing of all computer labs
- Completion of the Agricultural and Environmental Science demonstration farm – green house, shade house, rainwater irrigation system, hydroponics system, finishing and furnishing the abattoir, adjustments to the poultry house
- The irrigation system for Agriculture
- The creation of a Geography room
- The New Necessities Store
- The conference room
- The rehabilitation of the multipurpose court
- The water catchment project along with seating stands for the playfield
- Rehabilitation of area before the Roy Ebanks building
- The refurbishing of the Performing Arts Block
- The completion of the Physical Education classroom and the refurbishing of the Gym
- The refurbishing of the Old Physics, Old Chemistry and Old Biology Labs
- The new driveway to remove traffic from passing through the school

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- **OPERATING TIMES** - Parents/Guardians **MUST** make arrangements for their child/ward to leave the premises by the official shutdown time of 6:00 pm each day. It is not safe as students are being held up in close vicinity of Ardenne. We want to be proactive and minimize the risk of it happening on the campus.
 - **The SCHOOL ACCEPTS NO LIABILITY BETWEEN 6:00 PM AND 6:00 AM EACH DAY AND ON WEEKENDS UNLESS WRITTEN PERMISSION IS GIVEN BY THE PRINCIPAL FOR STUDENTS TO BE ON THE CAMPUS SUPERVISED.**
- **UNIFORM** - Students are to change back into their uniforms after co-curricular activities, regardless of the mode of transportation taken home.
- **VISITOR'S ACCESS** - Parents/Guardians are not to go beyond the front office without permission being granted to do so. It is a security hazard and must be respected.
- **TRAFFIC** Parents/Guardians are to obey the one way traffic arrangement during the drop off time in the mornings and the pick-up time in the evenings.
- **CO-CURRICULAR WEDNESDAYS** - Parents/Guardians who do so unnecessarily are to stop seeking to have their children leave school early on Wednesdays. It is regular



school and students' failure to participate in co-curricular activities will affect their participation in the school leaving ceremony.

- **CONSERVATION** - Please encourage your child/ward to conserve on water and electricity.

Thanks to our Alumni and the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica we have now installed 30 kilowatts of solar power but it is still important to conserve.

Hence, we ask the children observe the following:

- Turn off lights when not needed or when you are the last person leaving the room.
- Turn off the AC units when not needed or when you are the last person leaving the room.
- Turn off all pipes after use
- Ensure that all furniture is remains inside of the classrooms
- We are environmentally friendly; remind them to use the garbage bins and not litter the campus including the playfield.
 - Please encourage your child/ward to protect the school's property.
 - Use the garbage bins all the time.
 - Do not destroy furniture and computers.
 - Do not graffiti walls.
 - Every dollar saved is the better we are able to equip the school AND the richer the quality of the programmes we are able to plan and implement.
- **QUIET TIME & MEDITATION** - Please remind your child/ward to be quiet during quiet times, announcements and the afternoon meditation.
- **HOMEWORK/STUDY** - Students must do homework or study each day. It is not optional. Parents/Guardians please support us on this. We appreciate feedback on how the students are doing.
- **ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY** - Please note the section of the handbook that speaks to attendance and its impact on the annual school leaving ceremony. We are already concerned with the level of absenteeism.

Finally, we can only continue our Tradition of Excellence when ALL parents and guardians teach strong values to their children and love their children unconditionally. Our Guidance Department is open to parents and guardians to give support and counselling.

Thank you for your support so far this year, together we can make this an outstanding year.

Regards,
Nadine A Molloy, JP
Principal

