



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2009

Calendar of Events

DECEMBER

- 18 Free Dress Day
Half day until 12:15 pm
- 19 to January 2nd
Holiday Vacation

JANUARY

- 4 School begins
- 11 PTA Meeting 6:00 pm
Cedar Library Annex

PARENT REMINDER

There is no after school care this Friday. School will end at 12:15 pm.

Congratulations!

Deputy Chief Agricultural Officer, Mrs. Arona Fahie-Forbes recently confirmed Cedar International School as the winner of the 2010 Farmers' Week Theme Competition. Well done to Kai Chalwell, grade 5W, for his creative theme: "Step away from traditional food dependency, open your arms to agricultural technology." We know Mr. Cusbert and the students will have fun thinking of ideas for the Farmers' Week celebration ceremony in 2010.

Community Service Opportunity

- Who:** BVI National Parks Trust
- What:** Christmas Bird Count
- When:** Monday, December 28
- Where:** Anywhere in the BVI
- Why:** Help assess the diversity of birds in the BVI

Please see Mr. Pascoe for forms and information



Cedar Hosts BVI National Parks Trust "Arbour Day" Celebration

Cedar International School was honoured to host the annual Arbour Day celebration organised by the National Parks Trust. Many important local dignitaries attended the event held on Friday, November 20th. These included His Excellency Governor David Pearey, Deputy Premier Hon. Dancia Penn and Joseph Smith Abbott, Director of the BVI National Parks Trust. Cedar also welcomed many students and parents from other schools in the Territory.

Grade 5T performed a creative skit about the origins of Arbour Day. Winners of the Arbour Day Poetry Competition read their poems, including Cedar's very own JoJo Kerins who won first place in her age category. Dr. Quincy F. Lettsome delivered the featured address and reminded students that "there's still time to plant a tree in 2009"! Following all the student presentations and the speeches, Cedar's youngest and oldest students planted trees along the fence perimeter on the school grounds. The National Parks Trust provided these trees along with the trees planted along the road in front of the school.

Cedar would like to thank all the teachers and students who helped with the presentations and beautiful decorations, Dianna Griffin for her assistance in planning the ceremony and the personnel of the National Parks Trust.



Deputy Premier Hon. Dancia Penn presents a certificate to JoJo Kerins. Keith Grant of the National Parks Trust helps lower kindergarten student, Mason Bosze, plant a tree on the school grounds.



Meet Board of Trustees Secretary, Ms. Emma Baker by Jaeda Wooldridge



Although Emma Baker grew up and was educated in many different places around the world as a result of her father's military career, she is happy to have returned to the Virgin Islands in 2005, the home of her heart.

Emma brings a wealth of education and experience to the Board of Trustees. She earned her Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degrees from Texas Christian University and also completed 30 credit hours towards a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of North Texas.

Currently, Emma works as the Director of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness at H. Lavity Stoutt Community College (HLSCC) and also serves as a member of the President's Cabinet.

Her previous work experience includes Registrar and Director of Student Affairs at HLSCC, Director of Scholarships and Student Financial Aid at Texas Christian University and a number of other important posts at the same university. Emma is active in numerous professional associations and has given presentations throughout the US and the Caribbean on topics that range from Financial Aid to Building Staff Unity to Institutional Administrative Environments for the 21st Century. She values community service and has been active in a number of organisations including the Cedar Board of Trustees, National Parks Trust, Optimist Club of Tortola, BVI Archeological Dig Committee and the Circle T Girl Scout Council.

Emma's hobbies include traveling, reading, swimming, boating, gardening and cooking. She joined the Board in 2005, becoming Secretary in 2006. She currently serves on the Executive Committee and the Committee on Trustees. Emma's personal message to the Cedar community is, "Cedar International School is a very special place. Everyone involved with the School should be proud of its accomplishments and seek ways to ensure that it is welcoming to each person and strives to improve in all ways possible." The school is very fortunate to have Emma's insightful knowledge relating to institutional effectiveness as Cedar continues on its mission to provide excellence in education.

Dr. Patricia Turnbull Brings Living History To Cedar by Dianna Griffin

You may not know that the Kingstown area was once a thriving settlement that was populated by up to 500 Africans and their subsequent families who had been freed from slave ships by the Royal Navy after the abolition of the British slave trade on May 1, 1807. The Crown granted the land to the Africans in 1831, and by 1844 there were 126 allotments of village lots and gardens, building grounds and swamps, copse and pasture, as well as the schoolmaster's house, government store, wells, and the church and burial ground.

On November 30, Dr. Patricia Turnbull of the Rainwater Institute in Tortola brought her living history project on the Kingstown Settlement and St. Philip's Anglican Church, known as The Church of the Africans, to Cedar International School to film the student question and response portion of her living history documentary.



Participating in the session were Cedar's grade 9 Humanities class along with students from Elmore Stouitt High School and St. George's Secondary School. Students viewed the footage of the documentary that has been filmed to date and then had the opportunity to both comment on what they had watched and ask Dr. Turnbull questions relating to the history of the Kingstown Settlement, The Church of the Africans, and the project itself. The session then moved across the road to have a first hand look at the church ruins and to continue their discussion.

Keyboards donated to Cedar's Music Programme

Cedar would like to thank the following individuals and corporations for their support in funding the purchase of ten Yamaha keyboards for the music programme. We are pleased to report that the keyboards arrived last Friday, so we will be able to start the New Year with a keyboard club and additional hands-on activities during the regular music lessons. **Please join us in thanking Mark Forte, Shawn Moran, Michael Thomas, Richard Evans and Meade Malone of MWM Financial Services Group Limited.**

MWM Financial Services Group Limited was incorporated in the British Virgin Islands in May 2002. They are the first BVI-owned multidisciplinary financial services firm, and they stand by their commitment to the people of the BVI, to provide safety, security, and transparency of their money through their affiliations and alliances with other top firms in the BVI and abroad. At MWM Financial they believe that "together they can help you unlock your financial potential."

Managing Director Meade Malone is pleased to donate funds in support of Cedar's music programme in hopes of "helping students unlock their musical potential."

Primary Years Programme Update by Greg Cusbert

Cedar's Primary division was recently pleased to welcome highly-respected and experienced IB Consultant, workshop leader and authorisation evaluator, Peggy Bumanis, into our school. Ms. Bumanis spent several days in the school and was able to provide support and advice in many areas. She provided guidance and evaluated our Application B documents, which were then submitted to International Baccalaureate Americas (IBA) in New York as our penultimate step towards authorisation. She observed practice taking place in classrooms, and met with each PYP teacher to analyse a Unit of Inquiry planner (or in the case of specialists, to discuss integration) and to make suggestions for improvement.

Additionally, Ms. Bumanis ran a Parent Discussion Group on the transdisciplinary skills, one of the five essential elements of the PYP's written curriculum. To finish off her visit, she ran a Teacher Professional Development session on the transdisciplinary skills and on assessment for learning.

Ms. Bumanis was very positive about what she observed at Cedar. She recognised the hard work that has been put into enhancing our curriculum by a group of dedicated teachers and their support staff. She enjoyed meeting some of the parents and was impressed with her student interactions as well. We can now expect the final stage of the authorisation process, an evaluation visit, to be scheduled by IBA for some time in the spring.

Cedar Runners Place Well in the HLSCC Highland Springs 2 Mile Classic by Natasha Nicholas

We are pleased to report that Cedar International School students, parents and teachers once again participated successfully in the HLSCC Highland Springs Two-Mile Classic Race Series.

Despite having to rise early on Saturday mornings, Cedar was well represented by two Secondary teams, a Primary team and a combined teacher and parent team. In addition, several students and parents competed in the individual categories.

The Primary team made a great effort but was lacking in numbers. Let's hope more Primary students are successful in getting their parents out of bed early for the next race series! The Secondary teams were very successful, winning both first and third places. The following Secondary students represented Cedar:

Erin Anderson	Elsa Fonseca	Adam Kerins
Rachel Choules	Emanuel George	Stefan Joseph-Bennet
Ramy Darwish	Holly Hasted	James Nicholas
Adrian Fahie	Kitty Hasted	Ellen O'Connell
Alex Farara	Halia Kalama	Esteban Smith

Cedar parents and teachers competed in the community partners category, and in a thrilling finish, they pipped Montessori at the post to take line honors. Rhiannon Jones and Charlie Kerins were recognised as the outstanding runners in the community partner series. The following parents and teachers participated:

Laurens Blok	Joan Farara	Natasha Nicholas
Matt Erdosy	Rhiannon Jones	Wayne Voogt
Stacy Giandalia	Charlie Kerins	

Cedar wishes everyone
a very happy holiday
season and a prosperous
New Year!

