

A student at North Side Primary School uses a camera to take pictures of shapes at their Math Day.

The Educated Caymanian

A publication of the Department of Education Services,
Cayman Islands

Check our blog at
www.buildingexcellencetogether.blogspot.com

In this the second issue of *The Educated Caymanian*, we will take a look at some of the good work being done by the students and teachers in our system. In the following issues, we will look at possibly introducing different sections such as *Teacher Feature*, where we profile a teacher in the system and a *Lesson of the Week*. Keep sending your contributions to mark.ray@gov.ky and we will continue to include them.

New Learning Community Leader for the Sister Islands



(Left: Education Minister Alden McLaughlin, Head of Teaching and Learning Caroline Dawes, CEO Shirley Wahler, Creek Principal Claudette Lazzari, Acting LCL Tammy Banks-DaCosta, Retired LCL Mexi-Ann Grant, and Chief Officer Angela Martins) at the recent meeting for all teachers on Cayman Brac.

Congratulations to Ms Tammy Banks-Dacosta on her well-deserved appointment as Learning Community Leader for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. Ms Claudette Lazzari takes over as principal of Creek.

SAVANNAH PRIMARY SCHOOL HOLDS CONVOCATION SERVICE



Savannah Primary School got their term off to a positive start with an inspiring service at the Savannah Seventh Day Adventist Church on September 10th. The whole school was in attendance

and Year 1 were particularly wonderful. Everyone heard wonderful stories from Miss Joanna Clarke-ma'am (as she was respectfully called by her students) and it was fabulous to have four generations of the Watler family present, from Mr Otto and Ms Sybil right down to the great grand children – all part of the wider Savannah family. Inset is a picture of Miss Joanna Clarke.

STUDYWIZ TRAINING NEXT WEEK

The Department of Education Services has purchased a new Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) for use in the schools called StudyWiz. This application allows for collaborative work by students, electronic assignment setting by teachers and group messaging across the education system. A core group of teachers will be trained next week at the Country Side Offices and will in turn, train their colleagues in the use of this exciting application.

Primary Teachers Plan Together

This year, Primary Specialist Teachers (formerly known as Peripatetics) have been scheduled together in such a way as to enable primary class teachers to plan together. Schools have added other non-class based teachers such as librarians, to increase the opportunities for teachers in the same year groups to get together and plan units of work as a team.

In Prospect Primary School, for example, Year 2 and Year 5 teachers can, if they wish, spend three hours planning together.

"Education isn't rocket science. It's much, much harder."

(Author unknown)



Mathematical Celebration at North Side Primary

North Side Primary School celebrated the arrival of their new math resources with a whole-school math day on Friday Sept 19th. Among the new resources were Bee-Bots; a Roamer; catch balls; calculators; and lots of games. There were also numerous books with ideas for teaching math outdoors; in the hall; on the mat; in your head; and on the computer. Year 6 carried out a math treasure hunt on the internet – you can find it at <http://cryptoclub.math.uic.edu/treasurehunt/treasure18f6.php> All classes also looked at math through art – tessellations; symmetry; tangrams; through literacy – using books from the Scholastic Math libraries that we have for each class; and through dance and song – times tables to music! A great day was had by all – and the new resources have been used for the first time – but by no means the last! To see more of our photographs, please visit our brand new blog at <http://nnsnorthsideprimaryschool.blogspot.com>

Sent from DES this week:

- DES Circular no. 2008/09/002 : McGraw Hill Language Arts Materials

Mr. Smith, the English teacher would normally write little notes on student essays. Often he worked late, and as the hours passed, his handwriting deteriorated.

One day a student came to him after class with an essay that had been returned. "Mr. Smith," he said, "I can't make out this comment you wrote on my paper." Mr. Smith took the paper and, after studying it, sheepishly replied, "It says that you should write more legibly."

