



St. Matthew's University's Dr. Sreenathan makes a presentation to the students in the Gifted and Talented Programme at George Hicks and John Gray.

The Educated Caymanian

A publication of the Department of Education Services, Cayman Islands

Check our blog at www.buildingexcellencetogether.blogspot.com

Open the GATE

The middle and high schools in the Cayman Islands have started a Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Programme. The programme started at George Hicks Campus one year ago, and was expanded in September to include John Gray High School and Cayman Brac High School.

One of the activities in the programme is a collaborative interactive session with all three of the schools which involves visits from professionals in various fields of interest to the students.

Students from John Gray High School and George Hicks Campus were visited by Dr. Sreenathan (pictured left) of the St. Matthew's Medical School and one of his medical students, Ms. Nazia Moiz today and received a presentation on the brain. At the end of the presentation, the students asked very interesting questions such as "What part of the brain causes someone to stutter?", "How large is a neuron?", "What causes paralysis?" and many others.

The programme will continue throughout the year and students will be exposed to many more of these types of sessions. The Gifted and Talented Education programme is definitely opening the GATE to new pathways for our students.

Arrangements for the October Professional Development Days

All members of the education service on Grand Cayman are required to participate in professional development on Monday October 27th and Tuesday October 28th.

Education professionals should report directly to their designated location on each day where sessions will begin promptly at 8:30 AM. Food service will be provided for all DES sessions.

Please find the necessary details below:

Monday – October 27th

- School-led professional development activities

Tuesday – October 28th

- Department-led professional development activities

More in depth details will be provided via e-mail during the coming week.

MORE SATURDAY WORK!

John A Cumber Primary School teachers used the weekend to take a closer look at the Smart Interactive Whiteboard that was recently put in their computer lab.

Almost half of the staff came out last Saturday to a hands-on session looking at the tools that come bundled with the board in addition to many free web-based interactive resources for use in their classrooms.

Below, Mr. Joseph Wallace, Principal of John A Cumber Primary School does some work on a past edition of The Educated Caymanian using the Smartboard.



MY WISH - BETTER FUTURES

"If I Had One Wish... I'd wish for the enthusiastic participation of all of our government schools on all three islands." said Assistant Project Lead for the Better Futures Project, Educational Psychologist Sophia Chandler. The Better Futures Calendar Art Competition is an activity developed by the Better Futures Project Committee lead by the Head of Support Services, Brent Holt. It is aimed at encouraging the children of our islands to consider and express through artwork their image of a better future.

The competition will run through October to early November (deadline for entries November 7th, 2008) when the entries will be judged and a selection from those entries will be open for web voting. Once the winning 13 pieces have been selected, the artwork will ultimately be paired with relevant quotations and useful tips for parents and all those working with children on how to support the development of happy, healthy futures for our children. The competition is open to all government primary and secondary institutions.

Once the calendars are completed they will be available to the wider community for a small contribution. Through this effort, the Better Futures Project aims to bring attention not only to the project as a whole but also to the fact that our children have a very important message and voices that must be heard. According to Maria Montessori, world renowned educator, "Within the child lies the fate of the future" and the Better Futures Calendar Art Project seeks to contribute positively to that fate. So wish away, so our community can help make wishes reality!

Do you have an Interactive Whiteboard in your class or school? Then check out

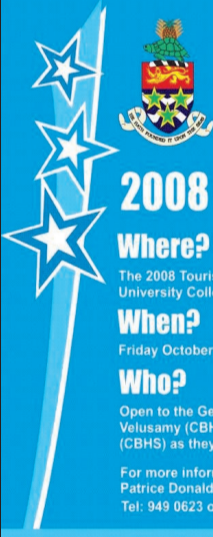
MIMIO (www.mimio.com)
<http://www.mimio.com/solutions/education/lessons/index.php>

SMARTBOARD (www.education.smarttech.com)
<http://education.smarttech.com/ste/en-US/Ed+Resource/Lesson+activities/Notebook+Activities/>

PROMETHEAN (www.prometheanplanet.com)
<http://www.prometheanplanet.com/server.php?show=nav.1137>

The detailed links take you to the locations where you can find lessons created by other educators for these interactive resources.

If you have access to a whiteboard, or any other ICT resource in your school and want to learn more about utilising it, ask your Principal to organise a session with Mark Ray at the Department of Education Services, contact him at mark.ray@gov.ky or 925-4175.



Ministry of Tourism and Department of Tourism


2008 Tourism Speak-Off

Where?
The 2008 Tourism Speak-Off Competition will be held at the University College of the Cayman Islands, Multipurpose Hall

When?
Friday October 17, 4:00PM - 5:00PM

Who?
Open to the General public, come and support Karthika Velusamy (CBHS), Andrei Harris (JGHS), and Jovonne Anglin (CBHS) as they battle to become the 2008 Junior Minister of Tourism

For more information contact:
Patrice Donalds, Department of Tourism
Tel: 949 0623 or Email: pdonalds@caymanislands.ky



Results of the Speak-Off will be posted in next week's edition. Good luck students!

Sent from DES this week:

- No circulars sent this week



The noblest search is the search for excellence.

Lyndon B. Johnson

