FOREWORD

From the Principal’s Desk
Mrs Aqui

Congrats to all for making it through this term and for still being able to put your left shoe on your left foot and not the right foot!! This term was very challenging for all stakeholders in terms of energy put into fundraising but as a team effort it was a great success. I again thank all those who donated items (the largest we have had in years), those who begged, who used their muscles, creativity, time and most of all their generous hearts to make the Bazaar a success. Thanks to the Executive members of the PTA headed by Mrs Tracey Hoford and Mr Jerome McCarthy for trying new ideas to make this occasion even more enjoyable for all. Thanks to the staff who worked throughout the month of October raising funds while keeping their syllabus on track. Special thanks to my support Mrs Perkins and Mrs Keitha Douglas who held the fort on Bazaar day while I was absent.

Congrats to all the students who entered competitions and did exceedingly well and kudos to the teachers who supported these successful students.

The ultimate achievement to this wonderful team effort is the fantastic team of mothers and grandmothers who ran the office so efficiently for the past 2 months. Forever grateful to you: Mrs Mitchell, Mrs Chan Attong, Mrs Alexis, Mrs Rahamati, Ms Chattoor and Mrs Thompson. No words can express the gratitude for your patience and good judgement in many awkward situations.

Hugs and kisses to all of you in this wonderful season of giving. May you and your family have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY 2013

OUR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

An annual pore-raising event, the Prize Giving Ceremony, Oct 10th 2013, made hearts swell with pride at the outstanding achievements attained by HNC students.

In attendance were parents, teachers, student receiving awards, along with representatives from the Min of Education (School Supervisor III Jenny-Lyn Cyril), the Dominican Sisters, the PTA, the PPA, Fr. Girod and guest speaker Nigel Wall.

The ceremony began with the usual formality of the procession of the flags, the national anthem, school hymn and opening prayer by Fr. Girod.

Following was Mrs. Aqui’s address which touched on the many activities throughout the year geared towards helping the girls improve academically and socially, as well as the recent physical improvements to the school made possible with the assistance of the PPA and PTA. Mr. Nigel Wall gave a motivational address which had the audience, parents and students alike, primed and ready to set goals and eagerly achieve them.

The highlight of the occasion was the recognition paid to students for their academic achievements, extra-curricular and co-curricular activities with students collecting certificates, medals, plaques and trophies in abundance.

Recognition was given to:

- 1st place winners in each year group in each subject as well as to the overall 1st, 2nd and 3rd place students.
- Students who have excelled in extra-curricular activities in the school (sport and non-sport) and those who have represented T&P & Tobago abroad.
- Top students in each subject area at CSEC, CAPE 1 & 2
- Students who received five and over Grade 1 passes at CSEC and two and over Grade 1 passes at CAPE 1 & 2.
- Our 9 Scholarship winners!

And if these awards were not sufficient HNC distributed 27 awards and trophies to students recognized for outstanding performance in different aptitudes.

Scholarship winners:

Taya Serrao – Open Visual and Performing Arts
Mairi Millar – Additional Visual and Performing Arts
Anabelle Castagne – Additional Visual and Performing Arts
Sarah Munro – Additional – Business
Sitara Gosein – Additional – Science
Amanda Ameerali – Additional – Science
Maegan Thorpe – Additional – Science
Kemisha Kerr – Additional – Science
Mariella Wiltshire – Additional – Science

continued inside

APOLOGY:
In our June issue, in the article “Our Fr. Si Graduate, “Alice in Wonderland” should have been “The Wizard of Oz”. We regret any confusion caused.

EDITOR’S NOTE

Thank you to those who heeded the call for new writers and photographers. We continue to welcome new hands in every issue and are always especially happy to receive articles from our own HNC students and teachers. After all, you know best what’s taking place in your school. Thank you also to our wonderful sponsors. Veritas Chat receives financial sponsorship from present parents, past parents and past pupils ensuring this publication is free to you. The response and the fact that many of you have not left us, even after you or your daughters have left, are heart-warming. On behalf of the editorial team thank you and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our readers. Mitzi Chan Attong (Editor-in-chief), Tracey Hoford, Sue Salvary and Gizelle Darwent.
Congratulations!

CXC MERIT LIST

Heartfelt congratulations to Aimee de Montbrun who received the award for Best 2-Dimensional Work in Visual Arts in the Caribbean for CSEC 2013.

And further congratulations to all our girls who placed in the top ten in the Caribbean in the CXC 2013 Merit List.

CSEC 2013

Eden Aqui – 2nd Food and Nutrition
Robyn Abraham – 2nd Visual Arts

CAPE Unit 1

Sarah Munroe – 7th Accounts
Tonya Beddoes – 2nd Art and Design
Chloe Cadet – 3rd Art and Design
Jessica Francis – 4th Art and Design
Aimee Ghent – 5th Art and Design
Shenece Francis – 8th Art and Design
Mariana Pino – 10th Environmental Science
Nicola Scott – 10th Environmental Science
Maria Sun Kow Marcano – 9th Spanish

CAPE Unit 2

Tanya Serrao – 2nd Art and Design
Tanya Serrao – 5th Literature
Mairi Miller – 5th Art and Design
Mairi Miller – 3rd French
Mairi Miller – 2nd Literature
Annabelle Castagne – 9th Biology
Emily Olivieri – 9th Information Technology
Cheyenne Seeratan – 8th Environmental Science

It is almost a cliché expression to speak of the school’s family spirit but El Dulce Nombre de Jesus, HNC’s parang group, actually experienced this spirit in a dynamic way at the National Parang Association of T&T Secondary Schools’ Parang Competition Finals. The girls sacrificed lunch times and several afternoons fine tuning their competition pieces, “Fue La Profecia” and “Vamos a Celebrar” under the guidance of Mrs. Parker, Ms. Khan and Mrs. Ribeiro. They also received instruction in playing the box bass by Mr. Michael Labadie of the band Viva Nueva and assistance in arrangements from Mr. Wayne Jagdeo and Ms. Alicia Jagessar, of the band Los Alumnos de San Juan, parents of Maria (1D). On competition day the band was also accompanied on the mandolin by Mr. Enrico Camojo, father of Sharissa (1W). On competition day, Nov 23rd, due to unfortunate, unforeseen circumstances, the costumes were not completed and our girls faced the disappointment of taking to the stage out of costume. This could have been a crushing setback but not to this band of musical troopers. Determined, positive, surrounded by their undaunted parents and inspired by Mr. Jagdeo, they rearranged their presentation to create an authentic, traditional house Parang setting (where no costumes are involved). They danced joyfully and confidently singing a Serenal to the fascinated spectators and judges and then delivered an energetic rendition of their two pieces, winning thunderous applause. Several audience members commended the girls on their excellent performance and outstanding resilience.

This was the true spirit of parang and Christmas where beauty and joy are found in the lowest, most unglamorous of situations. The HNC family, students, parents, teachers and even security in the person of our guard Mr. Sutton, rallied in the face of disappointment, overcoming adversity with grace. The girls placed 9th, maintaining their top 10 record ahead of many other schools.

Special mention must be made of the lead singers Akeyra Benjamin and Tshai-Ann Lopez and instrumentalists, Celeste De Silva, Olintia Lynch, Maria Jagdeo, Samantha Elliot and Renisha Sampson. Congratulations to El Dulce Nombre De Jesus. ¡Viva la Parranda!

Continued from front page. Special congratulations to young Alyssa Ramcoomarsingh, who received awards for placing 1st in Fr 2 in English Lit, Math, Gen Science, Art, Music, Spanish and History. In addition she placed 1st overall in Fr 2. Alyssa also received recognition, along with her colleagues, for participation in Film Club, Audio Visual Technicians and Hockey. She then proceeded to collect 3 trophies – the Yvonne Spencer Trophy for performance in Art & Design in the Jr school, the Ena Maloney Award for placing highest in Literature in Trinity and Christmas terms and the HNC Past Pupils’ Trophy in the Jr school for representing the ideals of HNC in academic and extra-curricular activities. Well done Alyssa.

The morning was further made pleasant by the planned entertainment one of which was Akeyra Benjamin (Fr 6) who entered the local leg of the World Championships of Performing Arts and earned the right to represent T&T at the 17th Annual WCOPA in Hollywood in July 2013. Akeyra won Gold in Female Vocal Broadway – 16-17 Gold Female Vocal Gospel and Bronze Female Vocal Opera.

The Prize Giving Ceremony ended on a high note with long service awards and two special awards being given out to 15 teachers. (See Announcements on back page).

SPORTS ROUNDUP

DRAGON BOAT

HNC Water Dragons participated in the Chinese Bicentennial Limited 8th Dragon Boat Festival on 12th - 13th October. Congratulations to our Senior team who placed 3rd in the Regatta and to the juniors who though they did not place gave it their best effort. Thanks to moms Angelique Lee and Lucy Lee the coordinators and Uncle Alloy and Uncle Courtney who are the helmsmen for the two teams. You ALL Did Great!!!

CHEERLEADING

This year we stormed into this new area. Two teams, a senior and a junior, participated in their inaugural Cheerleading Competition - “So You Think You Can Cheer,” hosted by the T&T Ch (ITCF). Congratulations to our senior team who placed 2nd while the junior team put on a creditable showing but unfortunately did not place.

GIFTS OF BLUE AND GOLD 5

Arielle Salvar Fr 5 W

It was my first year attending this concert showcasing the talents of both Fatima and Holy Name Choirs although it is the fifth consecutive year. The concert was a tribute to the 150th Anniversary of the Holy Ghost Fathers in Trinidad. As the hall was filled with renditions of classic songs such as Hail Mary Gentle Woman, Lord I Believe and I Look To You, we, the audience were greeted with the melodious voices of both choirs. The rhythmic beat of Africa translated classics such as “The Lord’s Prayer” and “Give Us Africa” and included African dances showing that not only can Fatima boys and Holy Name girls sing but they can dance as well. Fatima Steel Band also made a performance and their Junior Choir greeted us with their small yet powerful voices.

All in all the concert was a success not only because of the hard working members of both choirs but the dedication of their Conductor Mr. Kwasi Noel who truly made the event a success and one to surely remember. I would like to encourage anyone who has never attended these concerts to try to attend the next one. It is an experience you will never forget.
PTA Update

Tracy Hoford, PTA President

✓ Our AGM
✓ New Members
✓ Looking to 2014

The PTA’s AGM is a meeting open to all parents and provides an invaluable opportunity to get an update of the PTA’s fund-raising and other projects during the year, along with a financial report detailing revenues and expenditure. Moreover, parents have a chance to hear from the Principal, details of key aspects of the school’s academic and non-academic performances and management issues which impact on the day-to-day running of the school and parents can raise concerns which may be of interest to all.

Another main purpose of the meeting is to elect members to the PTA executive. At this year’s meeting on Sept 26th, we were delighted to welcome new faces on board. We thank them all for enthusiastically stepping up to the plate and take this opportunity to thank the following out-going members who made a significant contribution during their tenure: Margot Hay, Natasha Mustapha-Scott, Wendell Williams and Natalie Ali.

We take pleasure in introducing our 2013-2014 PTA Executive:

- **President:** Tracy Hoford
- **Vice President:** Jerome McCarthy
- **Secretary:** Ms. Cathy John
- **Assistant Sec.:** Robert Niamath
- **Treasurer:** Ms. Maxine Ribero
- **Assistant Treasurer:** Martin De Silva
- **Sports Admin.:** Charles Mitchell
- **Class Liaison Off.:** Natasha Babwah
- **Education Off.:** Anthony Ferguson
- **Trustee:** Richard Cook
- **Trustee:** Melissa Alexander
- **Principal:** Mrs. Wendy Aqui
- **Vice-Principal:** Mrs. Frances Lacaille Perkins
- **Hon. Member:** Annie Gomes Phillips

PRO: Lucrecia Birch

The first big venture for the new PTA was the Christmas Bazaar. Supported by the very capable Mrs. Keitha Douglas, teachers and staff, we pulled out all the stops to ensure that the event was a success. Many of you will have noticed the introduction of entertainment in our centre courtyard, which according to our girls, definitely added to the ‘spirit of fun’. The PTA thanks all our parents for your contributions of time and donations. We could never do this without your support.

As soon as the new term kicks off in Jan 2014, our various Sub-committees (Communications, Fund-raising, Sports, Facilities) will be getting off the ground. Parents who have indicated an interest to serve on these will be contacted by a PTA member and will have an opportunity to be more hands-on in determining and implementing projects. If you wish to participate, it’s not too late. Drop an e-mail or call the office with your name and tel. no and we will contact you. We urge all our parents to be involved and to support the initiatives aimed at ensuring the on-going success of HNC for the benefit of our girls.

We look forward to working with you and wish you all a truly Happy and Peaceful Christmas and good wishes for the New Year.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Swim Team

Our swimmers had a very successful run: three of them went home with trophies: Mila Carter, Sarah Dalla Costa and Christy Romany. HNC also won two Trophies: First All-round Girl School and Best Non-Competitive Girl School.

The 2014 Form 5 Graduation Committee

This Committee has been formed and a number of fundraising activities have been planned for early 2014. Some highlights are Zumba sessions, a Grand Carnival Raffle, Valentines Day Sale and the usual Saturday “Soup Day”. The Committee’s Chairman is sending a plea to parents of Form 5 to come forward and give extra support and get more involved in future events.

RBC Young Leaders Debate

The HNC Debate Team made it to the 2nd round of the RBC Young Leaders Debate competition this year, but were eliminated by the team who placed second in the finals, Presentation College, San Fernando. We specially thank and congratulate Zabria Phillips, Vivian Wall and Brigitte Mahabir for their participation. We also acknowledge Kyra Lewis, Mylene Saunders, Olintia Lynch, Ariya Mendonca, Zakiya Ali and Juliana Corredera for their unwavering support throughout the process.

WINNERS IN CHEFS INTERCOL

Hidden Chefs – The ultimate school cook off took place at the Queen’s Park Oval on Oct 19th. This event was aimed at helping young persons recognize their potential to “discover the chef” in themselves. HNC entered two teams, Dulce Sabor de HNC (senior) and Wholky Delish (junior). Their team mottos were “Through cooking we do our part, what we make is considered art” and “If eating is your fashion, cooking is our passion” respectively. They competed against 9 teams, 3 of which were all male.

Assisted by randomly assigned “coaches” the 1st challenge was to deliver a breakfast dish in 45 mins with eggs as the secret ingredient. They had 1 hr for the 2nd challenge (secret ingredient was chicken breast). The competitors delivered true works of art in their “plated” completed projects. Congratulations to both our teams who won the coveted 1st (senior) and 2nd (junior) prizes in addition to the Challenge trophy.
Not even rain could put a damper on our bazaar, which saw the return of some favourite stalls - the tea stall featuring the all girl band Vintage, The Old Corner Shop with bargains galore, White Elephant stall and the PPA’s Sugar n Spice were all a beehive of activity. The courtyard was abuzz with energy as DJ music filled the quadrangle. Paranderos also shared the spotlight with festive parang music.

As usual, this year’s bazaar catered to the young and old; the kiddies were not to be left out as the bouncy castle, face painting, and a robust Santa captured their attention. For the teens there was the return of the Anime stall and the very entertaining dunk tank. Mr Charles, donned in shower cap, Ms Goppee and Mr Dial all had their fair share of the proverbial ‘baptism’ by water.

The Fr 5 Year group in charge of ‘De Heat’ disco stormed the courtyard with their flash mob. This was the first of its kind at the bazaar and appeared to be a crowd favourite. With the momentum high, the flash mob headed to the disco to continue building the vibes. A steady stream of entertainers performed at the disco – JW, Shal Marshall, Farmer Nappy and Mr Famous were some of the headline performers. Despite the showers and a slightly thinner crowd, the disco was filled with excitement, thanks to the positive energies of the year group and the longest conga line instigated by JW.

This year’s bazaar has indeed been labelled a success.

A Word From Our PPA
New Executive

Congratulations to those members appointed to the Executive of the HNC PPA at the recent AGM & Brunch! The following persons now hold positions on the Executive: President: Lisa Burkett; VP: Priya Gomes, Treasurer: Sandra Romany; Secretary: Waveney Patrick Noriega; Asst Secretary: Carol Hislop Moore; PRO: Sonja Wells

Committee Members: Bobbie Douglas, Marianne Fraser, Sparkle Balbos, Lesley-Ann Noel, Sherry Joy Jarvis; Aisha Provoteaux Webster; Jannine Browne Ellis; Donna-Marie Lee King, Kim Kendall De Silva

Staff Announcements
Retirement

After 33 years of dedicated service to Education Ms Claudette Charles has retired. Ms Charles will be fondly remembered for introducing whole day adoration in the Chapel and for her involvement in the spiritual growth of our students.

Long Service Awards

This year long service awards were awarded to some very special hard working teachers.

10 years service
Ms. D. Berment
Ms. A. Bernardine
Mrs. A. Boodoo-Browne
Mr. B. Dookhi
Mrs. A. George-Fernandez
Ms. G. Hicks
Mrs I. Cozier-Shaw

15 years service
Ms. H. Carmichael
Ms. R. Grillet
Ms. A. James
Ms. L. Khan

20 years service
Mrs. C. Dardaine-Oliver

35 years service
Mrs. Wendy Aqui

Christmas Corner
Add some dazzle to your tree…Easy to make decorations

1. Gather bits of left over carnival braid
2. Cut out circles from bristol board, using a glass or a lid as a guide
3. Trace and cut out a small circle inside. You should get a nice, even disc
4. Take a strip of braid (any colour, even joining different colours would work nicely), secure the end to the disc using glue, tape or staple and wrap around until the whole disc is covered.
5. Secure the end of the braid to the disc to prevent unraveling
6. Use another piece of braid to create a loop for hanging the decoration.

You can add a personal touch to this decoration by turning it into a photo frame to hang on the tree or around a mirror or staircase garland or you can even use as a gift tag for a special someone.

1. Cut out another circle, the same size as the disc
2. Affix a photo which has been cut to disc size to the back of the disc, securing with tape
3. Place the plain circle behind it to further secure and for a more finished look

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