

**ST. URSULA'S GIRLS'
ANGLICAN SCHOOL**

Parent Newsletter

MAY 2011

TO A CHILD,

LOVE IS SPELT T-I-M-E

Heartfelt Thanks

Our warmest thanks are extended to those parents, guardians, friends and well-wishers who lent assistance generally throughout this academic year. We have had quite a few challenges, including the continued staff shortages, ongoing cramped conditions, and the slow response by the Education Facilities Company Ltd (EFCL) to address the issue of constructing the promised computer room, general repairs as well as repainting of the exterior of the school.

However, on the positive side, the Principal and staff remain committed to delivering the curriculum and to giving the students pastoral care and attention every day. In addition, the current PTA executive is very much involved in supporting all school initiatives as well as coming up with some of their own. Mr. Ricardo Lewis, PTA President, continues to pursue plans to repaint the outside of the school and to solve, once and for all, the problem of creeping vegetation in the students' toilets.

Remember, however, that you, dear parent, are expected to do your part. We ask you to continue to stay in close contact with the school and continue to support us during the coming academic year. Remember, one of the indicators of a successful school is its great degree of parental involvement in their children's education and in the school.

National Test



The 2011 National Test for Stds. 1 and 3 in will take place on **Tuesday 28th June** and the Std. 2 and 4 National Tests will take place on **Wednesday 29th June** at the school. Once again, the Std. 1 & 3 students will be tested in Mathematics and Language Arts (which includes creative writing, grammar, comprehension, vocabulary and spelling). The Std. 2 & 4 students

will be tested in General Science and Social Studies. Mock tests are being administered to prepare the students for these important tests. Also, the Third Term Test for all classes (except 1st Year and Std. 5) will begin on Tuesday 21st June. You will receive a timetable soon. Remember that this test can determine your daughter or ward's eligibility for promotion. You are expected to assist with revision of the year's work (***you should have been helping her to revise throughout the academic year, however***). Please remember to be positive, patient and encouraging, praising her efforts as you go along.

GRADUATION CEREMONY



This year's Graduation ceremony will be held **on Wednesday 15th June** at All Saints' Church. The staff has taken the decision to delink the Graduation from the Awards ceremony of the rest of the school. Therefore, only the Std. 5 students, their parents and the teachers will attend the ceremony on June 15th. Another ceremony, called Achievement Day, will be held in September or October of the new academic year to recognize student achievement of the 2010-2011 year.



VACATION CAMP

Our annual July camp will be held again this year for students from 1st Year to Std. 2. Students from other schools are very welcome. As usual, campers can look forward to exciting, fun-filled days. Fliers are available. Please contact Ms. Layne or Ms. Gilkes.

Stationery/Library Contributions

Parents and guardians who have not made contributions towards stationery and the library are asked to do so as soon as possible. The end of this academic year is close and it is disheartening to note that ***just about half*** of the population of approximately 350 students has made this contribution that we asked for since July 2010. Yet all students have benefited from the use of the library and all have received numerous handouts in class. Please note that our photocopier is not working at this time (over \$8,000.00 is needed for repairs) and we have had to lease a

machine at considerable monthly cost just to be able to continue preparing for the National Tests and to generally deliver the curriculum. It is vital that you realize that your contributions are essential for helping us to remain a high-performing school.

Update:

*All parents are expected to support our first ever ***Heritage Day*** activities. This is on ***Friday 27th May 2011***. In the morning session, there will be cultural presentations by all classes. Regrettably, we cannot accommodate all parents, but we expect that you will join us for the sale of ethnic foods at lunch time and the class displays in the afternoon session.

SUCCESS IN SCHOOL

How Parents Can Help

You are your child's first and most important teacher. The following are some steps you can take to strengthen her chances for a good education.

- 1. Tell your child: Education comes first.** Parents' examples, attitude and expectations can make all the difference.
- 2. Read to and with your child.** Start in the pre-school years and never stop.
- 3. Find out what your school is teaching.** Make sure it has high standards centered on the academic basics. Help your child meet those standards.
- 4. Pay attention to character at home and at school.** Virtues and values such as responsibility, respect and hard work are essential to academic success.
- 5. Find out how the school expects its students to behave.** Read the vision, mission, rules and codes of conduct and help your child to understand as well as comply with them. If the school is not a disciplined place, little learning will occur.
- 6. Keep in close touch with teachers.** Meet with them, telephone them, write to them. Heed and respond to their messages. Lend a hand.
- 7. Pay attention to homework.** Make sure your child does it and takes it seriously. Review and sign completed assignments.
- 8. Teach your child good study habits.** Set up a quiet, well-lit study area, schedule regular study times and get rid of distractions.
- 9. Look after your child's health.** See that she gets a good night's sleep and eats a nutritious breakfast.
- 10. Control the television set.** Mostly, turn it off.

Janette Skerritt, Principal

**We regret that swimming might have to be taken off the timetable in the new school year. This is due to a lack of human resources. We do not have the teachers to accompany the students to the pool every week. We also no longer have OJTs to do so, and the MOE will not condone parents accompanying the students if there are no teachers going along.