



THE CANNON

October 2014

Greetings from the President...

It is always with great apprehension that we approach the Columbus Day Weekend Jamboree. The ideas, the planning, the execution, the nights and days of the events, the aftermath, the recuperation, the ideas, the planning the execution ...you get the drift. However, we walk away feeling this inordinate joy and sense of accomplishment that nullifies whatever negative energies that might want to prevail. So we move on to the next idea in earnest.

It is forever heartwarming, the continued support and commitment to our alma mater that the alumni community displays. Without a doubt that is the impetus that drives us, without which, the forward and upward direction of our organization might sputter and be halted. The Florida chapter continues to move ahead with new and innovative methods of fundraising, our primary goal. With that, we look forward to the same drive and commitment from the alumni community in giving back with cash or kind in the ensuing years. This will ensure that the ideas we put on the table can be planned and budgeted for in a manner that will make them worthwhile.

The Annual giving campaign will be our main emphasis. Every method will be utilized to reach our Alumni community. Watch and listen out for our volunteers. Remember...GIVING BACK, STARS WITH GIVING.

P.S The horse will not be flogged, nor is the horse dying. (In other words, we will simply keep on trying until we get it right. ANNUAL GIVING...THAT IS !!)

PACA

Walk good

Editor's Corner

Hello Titchfieldites:

As we close out yet another year of fundraising and set our sights on the fast approaching Holiday Season, it is truly an honor and a pleasure for all of us here at TAATHS to have served as a conduit for giving back to our Alma Mater on behalf of each and every one of you.

As you will read throughout this issue, the Columbus Day Weekend Jamboree was once again the great success that it has been over the past decade. It is your steadfast support and trust in our endeavors that has served as the catalyst for all we have done and continue to do for our Alma Mater.

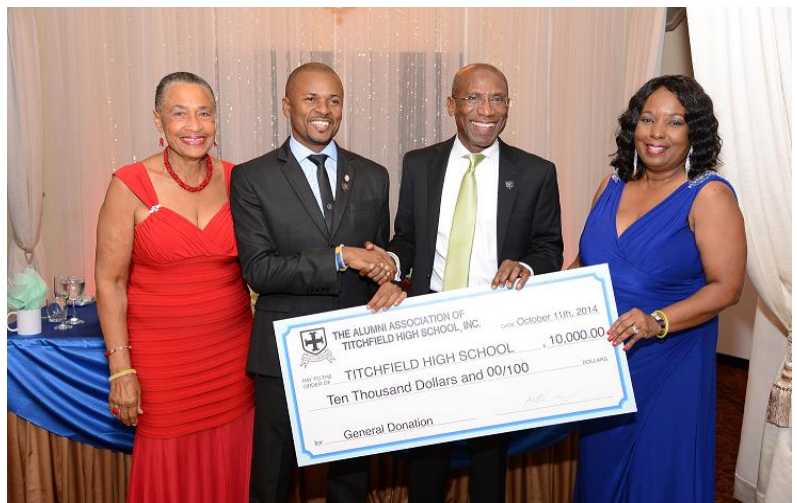
During our recent Columbus Day Weekend Jamboree the highlight of Saturday night's Formal Banquet was the Annual Report on the state of our alma mater, presented of course by Principal Richard Thompson, our Guest Speaker.

Immediately following his report, TAATHS President Paul Perry, accompanied by our Treasurer Mrs. Gem Rhodd and Vice President Mrs. Edith Walsh-March, presented Principal Thompson with a check in the amount of \$10,000 on behalf of all of us here at TAATHS.

So please, take a moment to applaud yourselves, and take pride in all the support you have provided to both the students and faculty at Titchfield for yet another year; support that is greatly needed and much appreciated. Great job my fellow Alumni.....GREAT job!!

Thank You!!!

Theresa A White
Dir. Public Relations / Editor



Supporting Our Alma Mater – South Florida Highlights

COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND JAMBOREE – Theresa White

In a word, WOW!!! What an incredible success you all made this year's weekend of events. Yes this was all due to your commitment, your support and your unwavering loyalty to our efforts here at TAATHS.

If Genesis signifies the beginning, then what a start to the weekend we had with our Meet and Greet at the Genesis Lounge on Friday night. The staff was attentive, the ambience was laid back and the music got the party started right! Yes, meeting and greeting on a Friday night with old friends turned family has never been better. Great start to a memorable weekend!

Saturday night saw us back at our old fave, Floridian Ballrooms! After our brief hiatus last year we were all very happy to be back in the elegance and charm that we have grown to love and expect from the staff and the surroundings of the Floridian Ballrooms over the years. DJ Mark Swaby rocked the house all night long and the open bar and delicious cuisine only added to the perfection that was our Formal Dinner Gala! Yes....A great time was had by ALL!!

Special thanks to Madam Vice President, Edith Walsh-March who did an exceptional job as the Mistress of Ceremonies, and to Michelle Roper of Boutique Red for the terrific fashion show which was presented during dinner. It was indeed a night to remember!

Sunday's picnic in the park and Family Fun Day saw attendance in record numbers. Yes, our alumni community, Portlanders and friends of Titchfield, young and old, all came out for what was a beautiful day of fun activities, food and drink and fellowship with friends and family.

We can never thank you all enough for your continued support however, we will continue to show our appreciation by doing all we can to ensure the success of the students and faculty of our alma Mater. Thank you!!!



COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND JAMBOREE CONT'D



News From Our Alma Mater

NEW INITIATIVE

The new project to be pursued with the latest donation from TAATHS is a Memorabilia Store. This will be an income generating, self-sustaining business that will help to fund co-curricular activities, while giving past and present students a piece of Titchfield for keepsake.

FOOTBALL

We continue to give support to our football programme at the school. We appointed a new coach, Mr. Renault Tomlinson. This has resulted in an immediate improvement of the programme. We won at Happy Grove on their home turf for the first time in a decade. In addition to that, we made it to the 2nd round of the Dacosta Cup competition as zone winners also for the 1st time in a decade.

NETBALL

Both Junior and Senior teams participated in the ISSA Urban Area Netball Rally and were crowned champions for the first time. Some of the teams involved were Camperdown, Ardenne, Tarrant High, Wolmers, St. Catherine High, Morant Bay High and Excelsior High.

The ISSA Rural Area competition has since started and so far both our netball teams once again won the first set of games, very convincingly defeating Port Antonio High School, Morant Bay High School (forfeited), Yallahs High School, Seaforth High School and St. Thomas Technical High School. We now have to play all the above teams one more time to end the first round.

TABLE TENNIS

Our Table Tennis teams continue to show signs of good progress under the tutelage of Coach Samuel Lamount. In the Rural leg of the competition last year both the U16 boys and girls teams were crowned champions.

In the All-Island competition, we defeated Kingston College 4-1 in the boys' under 16 competition and in the girls' under 16 competition Titchfield High defeated Champion College 3-1.

ALL TOGETHER SING

As you are aware, ladies and gentlemen, we are currently entrants who are competing in the All Together Sing competition. We are currently through to the 3rd round of the competition which requires the public to vote by texting or calling an assigned number each week. Please do your part.

RETIREEES

As is customary, we made several routine changes to the teaching staff, but this year we lost several stalwarts who have served the institution a combined total of 189 years:

1. Carol Renford, Retired, P.E – 40yrs
2. Gloria Smith, Retired, Mathematics – 43yrs
3. Denise Panton, Retired, Visual Arts - 36
4. Cerita Warren, Retired, Science - 37
5. Evadne Kassie, Early Retirement, English Language – 33

I am sure some of you are familiar with at least one of those names. These teachers have served with distinction for many years and deserve all of the accolades they get.

CHANGE TO ADMINISTRATION

Our Vice Principals also both departed to serve as School Principals elsewhere, resulting in a gap in leadership at the highest level of the school. However, succession planning has allowed us to make the necessary replacements with capable personnel, while receiving commendations from the Minister of Education for our ability to fill the positions within the organization.

We also lost two teachers who died within the last 6 months, making it a very difficult year for the Titchfield family.

GRADUATION

Our Annual Graduation exercise takes place this Sunday November 2, 2014 on the school compound with well over 150 students graduating.

PRIZE GIVING

Annual Lower School Prize Giving takes place the following day on Monday November 3, 2014 also on the school campus.

PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENT

It is already known by most who remain in communication with the school, the kind of repairs that are needed on an annual basis to keep the plant in a condition conducive for learning and to protect as best we can the heritage that is Titchfield. As such we have had to find creative ways to get this done.

Some persons would've heard by now of our recent success in lobbying the Ministry of Education to construct six (6) new classrooms at the school on two (2) existing blocks. This, ladies and gentlemen, has been long overdue and is only a part of an overall infrastructural plan we have designed to improve the school plant over an ongoing period of time. Two (2) of these rooms are all but complete and we expect the other four (4) rooms to be done within the next two (2) months.

Things Remembered



Remembering Mr. Collie Contributed by Lloyd Narcisse

School....Titchfield High School, I must have taken *something* there, and given it to my Alma Mater, I must have, that is the kind of person I am, kind, giving, yet I cannot recall ever giving anything to Titch. I am however tremendously wealthy with what I took from Titchfield, a sterling Secondary Education, exquisitely productive and loving social attitude, I am part of an incomparably powerful societal force for good, which calls me friend and mate; alumni of all ages.

My most valuable legacy from Titchfield High School however, is the memories; The sand on my bare feet after PE class; My biology teacher is a Beauty Queen and so is my Classmate...despite my name, I am a humble man, but no-one seems to be tooting the horn of a person who can claim such distinguished associations, so; TOOOOOOOT!!...to Rahtid!! I will not fail to mention my columnist/clergy/expatriate Educators, the Illustrious Mr. Collie and his able assistant Slim, to name a very few of the heroes and heroines who were led by Mr. Mortimer Geddes (Gedz...between us, any Black Man who has hazel eyes should be treated with tender care, for one's own well-being...my opinion!), who in three personal interactions taught me more about being a Gentleman than any other person place or thing....nouns. Considering how tediously annoying I was to my Educators, often, as a matter of course, incessantly, I am deeply indebted to everyone for their Love and Support, and Oh Yes!!.....the Magistrate's wife loved me too; Every One Loved me and nuh badda ask if Me Love them, well, since you ask; I Love them Nuff-er!

Yow! Alumnus from them time de, do you recall?;

Mr. Collie was our Father at school, he would eye/verbal examine, diagnose and provide physical remedies with your cut-bun and cheese, or whatever you had ordered that day, without delaying anyone else or skipping a beat in the repartee with all other attendees to the Tuck Shop at Recess or Lunch time. He ran the Tuck Shop (actually, RULED is more apt) and the student body who 'each' clamoured for his (easy to earn) approval/respect loved Him deeply and were pleased to be asked to perform any menial task, especially behind the counter, where a culinary reward of his own making, consumed only by the Elite, would be yours, to consume publicly, while others jealously salivate.....IN VAIN!! (I know, that was not nice), but: "cyaa say mi neva did warn yuh", I will either amuse or annoy you.

I do not recall any student who failed to remain in the good graces of this kind and able man, able to do everything (I was sure at the time) except , perhaps fly a Fighter Jet or Spacecraft, He did teach me how to cook rice so that it can be eaten grain....by.....grain, every time if instructions were followed precisely. Of all the honour(s) accorded to students by Mr. Collie, I claim the grand prix of honours. Mr. Collie rode a bicycle to work. He is one of those who pounded that poverty-relieving/respect for your possession(s) lesson into my being: 'Take care of your things and your things will take care of you!! Mr. Collie cared for his old bicycle, treasured this perfectly-functioning (~~heavy like lead~~), mechanical family member, parking spot; who is allowed to touch/interact with this machine?; these are traditions/conventions at Titch. at the time; A nuh joke bizznizz! A Chiney people Mr Collie grow wid,.....Nuff said, I think, an Him did have a knife or five as well, not that he would cut an ambulatory thing at school, in public.....he just, had knives.

Confession: I milked that 'bway-fram-town'.....thing to the Nth degree at Titch, then shortly thereafter, I-Man 'Sight-Up' Jah Rastafari, I-Man, the boy at Titchfield School who happened to be from Kingston and lived near Buff Bay. Since I-Boy/Man was immediately imbued with all the power of His Majesty on 'sighting up' (also because me coulda run-up-my-mout'/debate), I was invincible in argument, all argument, with all persons, even Gedz! (hug-it-up, cannot be disproved at this or any other time for obvious reasons....heh-heh!). Being imbued with righteousness, plus the untrammled power, the indomitable Will of a testosterone-besotted adolescent, I became the greatest thing since bread was sliced....in my own mind. This is why I am so grateful to my 'Bettors', because, in retrospect, any one of them could have really badly damaged me, I certainly earned it, but they never were unfair with me, hence my growth and undying Love. Anyway, I privately performed certain sacramental activities consummate with my Overstanding of Life and Love and Love. I can state from intimate experience that my Sacrament, happens to be the ultimate appetizer, what could be more convenient than sacramental communion, followed by a sturdy lunch in a body/psyche? as described above?;....nothing!, that is the ultimate in comfort and convenience and nutrition and fun and prayer.....but:

My perfect lunch place was in Boundbrook, one has to pass through the whole town of Port Antonio, and be....well, it was too far to walk and return in time for resumed classes, (I also just happened to be a Prefect.....House Captain.....Drama Club Founder/Pres.....Sixth Form Ass!.....I was actually, a strangely accomplished student, anomalous!!

Mr. Collie allowed me to ride His bicycle to Boundbrook, every day that He or someone else was not using it. I would ride to Accompong, 'Black Bway' would have the dumplings almost ready, and the other brethren would already be gathered with apparatus and vibe ready. My return to Titchfield each day was a return home; All persons in authority knew of my illegal sacramental activity; Apprehending me and foisting a really nasty future upon me was the easiest thing in the world; True; I have always been a legalist; skirting 'offense' by the proverbial 'skin-of-teeth', causing my 'bettors' to shake their heads and sigh; Surely my sense of humour and work ethic and strictly principled life must have had an effect on the opinion of Mr. Collie and everyone up to Mr. Geddes (I am positive Mr. Geddes knew my every move). The take-away here though, is that the 'bway-from-town' became this Man because of the benevolence of Educators like Mr. Collie, My Eternal Gratitude to all my Educators who may read this, I Love You!!

Comments? Lloyd may be contacted via Facebook