



Newsletter

February 2010

5th February 2010

February - assessments, joy, love & reflection

The word February is believed to have derived from the name 'Februa' taken from the Roman 'Festival of Purification'. The root 'februo' meaning 'I purify by sacrifice'.

In comes the second month of this year! February at St. Catherine's High School started off with the half-yearly exams for the Junior 3s to Junior 6s, and therefore it is also assessment time for the Junior School. We hope that this time serves as a good indication of where each and every student is doing well so that they can strengthen it, and to identify those areas which need improvement.

Once the half-yearly exams are over and assessments completed, we enter the Carnival period. The highlight for this merry time, before we proceed into the Lenten period, will be Friday 12th February for which different activities are being planned for the different Levels. We hope that what is being prepared will be to the students' liking.

February is also the month of St. Valentine's. May this day be a reminder to celebrate love and friendship, and that these are gifts not to be taken for granted. We wish all couples and friends the gift of true love that is soothing to the heart, on this special day and always.

So indeed February is a time for refining ourselves – be it exams, assessments, renewal of our love for others, reflection during the time of Lent – in the hope that we take time to reflect and we understand that at times, growing up means also making sacrifices. But February is also the last full month of winter...in which slowly, slowly we start approaching springtime. Barbara Winkler writes *'Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle ... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream.'*

Mr. Brian Gauci
School Coordinator

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Our newly-designed Website

We hope that you took the time to browse through our newly-designed website, which was launched on 15th January, and that you have found its content interesting. We would like St. Catherine's website to be your website as much as it is ours, and so we welcome any feedback and ideas that you may have so that we keep it as lively as possible.

Visit www.stcatherines.eu now and let us know what you think! Kindly forward your comments to Mr. Brian Gauci on brian.gauci@stcatherines.eu.



Donation in aid of Haiti

As you are well aware, St. Catherine's High School took the initiative to act in response to the terrible tragedy that has hit Haiti and the devastation and the despair that it left to its people.

The mobilization within our School in aid of Haiti was impressive. In fact, our School population showed great solidarity and their generosity resulted in the raising of the substantial amount of €2500. This sum of money will be presented by the students to Fr. Eric Cachia SDB on 9th February 2010, during the School Assembly. The donation will be forwarded to the Salesian Community (in Haiti) with the aim that in due time the Salesian Community will start rebuilding the trade schools that would help street kids receive adequate vocational training.

St. Catherine's High School would like to take this opportunity to thank its students, parents and members of staff who contributed so generously to this worthy cause. Our response showed that, instead of sitting and watching the tragic news in total shock, we were able to at least make a contribution and join the many other organizations that are helping to restore some hope in an otherwise hopeless situation.

Well done!



Carnival Time at St. Catherine's

This year, our Carnival party scheduled for Friday 12th February in the evening, will be held on the same day but in the morning. As such, children (Pre-Juniors till the Junior 3s) will come to school wearing their Carnival costume and will stay with it for the duration of the morning (please make sure that the costume is comfortable and that the child can go to the bathroom unattended). Children attending the Junior 4 to the Junior 6 will come to school with their PE tracksuit and get their costume with them and then they will change into their costume in the 3rd lesson.

Students will have classes till the 1st break and then they will all be engaged in a crafts activity as well as games (please provide your son/daughter with some lunch and drink since we will not be providing any lunch on the day).

Activities being planned for the Carnival at School are as follows:

- Pre-Juniors will doing a Mickey and Minnie Mouse float;
- Junior 1s and 2s will be doing a Carnival Mask; and,
- Junior 3s to Junior 6s will be involved in a Carnival Hat Challenge.

It is important that parents provide their son/daughter with the materials that the class teacher will request for the day - such as sequins, feathers, buttons, pipe cleaners, kite paper and other material - so that it is an enjoyable activity for all the students on the day.

After the craft activity, the children will be engaged in some games. At this time too, whoever will have applied for the Best Carnival Costume competition will be taken to parade in front of the judges. It is important that those students interested in taking part in the competition send in the attached Carnival Costume Competition Registration Form as well as the Fee of €2 by not later than Tuesday 9th February.

School will then finish normally at 1:40 pm.

We hope this will be an enjoyable morning for all our Pre-Junior and Junior students.



NSTS

NSTS is currently promoting the International Student Identity Card (ISIC) and the International Teacher Identity Card (ITIC) which are accepted in over 120 countries, held by over 4.5 million students & teachers and give access to 40,000 discounts and over 160 discounts and services in Malta. More information on how to apply, and what local and international benefits cardholders are entitled to, can be obtained by visiting the NSTS page in St. Catherine's website (www.stcatherines.eu).

NSTS will be collecting all applications during the month of February from our School. Those interested must remember to bring a passport photo. The ISIC/ITIC cards will be issued within one week and will be delivered to our School.

Apart from discounts, NSTS is also offering free monthly activities to any interested members in our community. In addition, €1 of every ISIC card sold (€7 for 1 year membership) and €2 of every ITIC card sold (€11.65 for 1 year membership) till March, will be placed into a fitness fund. The secondary school with the highest density ratio of lifestyle card users will be the winner of this fund, collecting money to spend on fitness equipment for the school.



Robinwood Adventure and Teamwork Trip

This year, St. Catherine's High School is organising the Robinwood Adventure & Teamwork Trip (UK) for the first time. The Robinwood Trip is a residential adventure and teamwork course, specifically catering for 8 to 11 year olds, and therefore this opportunity was only open for the Junior 4s to the Senior 1s (students only).

The trip is scheduled for the long weekend 18th till 21st March 2010. Applications are closed and we have a group of 18 students, assisted by 3 members of St. Catherine's staff, taking part.

Activities include: caving, canoeing, climbing and abseiling, giant swing, trapeze, piranha pool, archery, night line, crate challenge, raft building, knights quest, obstacle course and team challenge.

A meeting for the parents of the 18 participants shall be held on Thursday, 18th February, at 6:30pm.

We are more than positive that this trip will be a great learning opportunity which will involve teamwork but also promises loads of fun for the participating group, and we hope that it will be the first amongst many trips yet to come.



Centenary Celebrations...Lejla Maltija

As we have previously announced, one of the events scheduled for St. Catherine's centenary celebrations is the Lejla Maltija which will take place on Friday, 30th April, in the evening.

Preparations have already commenced and the School Teachers have already started planning how the different classes shall be engaged in this event.

However, we would also like to have a team of people that will help in the coordination of the event. In fact, a meeting is being held for all those interested in helping out. The meeting shall take place at the School on Thursday, 18th February, at 8:00pm.