

January
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The Coalition Monthly

The Monthly Newsletter for The Coalition of Jamaican Alumni
Associations of Florida



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Dear Alumni Community:

HAPPY NEW YEAR and best wishes for you and your family for 2021.

We must commend you on your very creative fundraising activities for 2020 because they certainly showed your strong commitment to your alma mater and the community. Virtual DJ Buffet, Drive by Fish Fry, Virtual Play, Virtual Party, Virtual Raffle, Virtual Reunion, Global Telathon Fundraiser.....! From our vantage point, what we appreciated most of all was your support, for not only your activities, but for other alumni associations' activities. FANTASTIC!!!!

With the possibility of returning to normal face-to-face activities later this year, we are hoping to hold our annual **ALL ALUMNI WALKATHON on Saturday, December 4, 2021.** Please save this date on your calendar as we plan to "make-up" for the "COVID-19 Postponed 2020" walkathon. This will also give our alumni community an opportunity to try and reach our goal of sending **\$1,000,000**, yes, one million dollars to our schools in Jamaica this year. For the walkathon, if 20 associations (and there are 56) set a goal of \$5,000, this will account for 10% of the proposed goal of \$1,000,000. **LET'S DO IT!!!**

Two articles relating to COVID – 19, are included on Pages 3 and 4. These articles give some information on our schools in Jamaica regarding opening for face-to-face instruction, and plans to keep the students, teachers, and staff from being infected.

For the leaders of our associations, we are aware that your task is not easy. We are certain that as you try to socially influence others to help your school and the community, you also think of other responsibilities that your members have. This results in a balancing act to do their/your best for family, the community, and your alma mater. We recognize your important role in the association especially your mentoring of others to become leaders. You have done well because we continue to see new leaders in the associations. We thank those that are continuing to lead their association, and those that are transitioning to other roles in their association. We also use this opportunity to recognize and welcome the new leaders in our alumni community. We pledge our support to helping the associations grow and be successful in all their activities, and hope that you will give us the opportunity to do so by sending us flyers of your events and news items about your association that will be

published in the **Coalition Monthly**. Information about your association and its events is also found on the Coalition of Jamaican Alumni Associations' website at www.cjaaf.info.

Here are some sites where COVID-19 VACCINES are being given. Please share with your members and note that the sites below are only providing COVID-19 vaccines to eligible persons. The state is giving priority to persons 65 years of age and older, health care personnel with direct patient contact, and residents and staff of long-term care facilities. Also, appointments are needed at all sites.

Broward County

Vista View

4001 SW 142nd Avenue Davie, Florida 33330
<https://www.browardcovidvaccine.com/>

Central Broward Regional Park

3700 NW 11th Place Lauderhill, Florida 33311
<https://www.browardcovidvaccine.com/>

Dade County

Mount Sinai Medical Center

4300 Alton Road Miami Beach, Florida 33140
<https://jacksonhealth.org/keeping-you-safe/>

Health District

1350 NW 14 Street Miami, Florida 33125
<https://jacksonhealth.org/keeping-you-safe/>

Dolphin Park and Ride

11897 NW 12 Street Miami, Florida 33126
<https://jacksonhealth.org/keeping-you-safe/>

North Dade Health Center

16555 NW 25th Ave Opa Locka, Florida 33054
<https://jacksonhealth.org/keeping-you-safe/>

Palm Beach County

DOH-Palm Beach

800 Clematis Street West Palm Beach, Florida 33401
<http://palmbeach.floridahealth.gov/>

Kings Point

7000 W Atlantic Ave Delray Beach, Florida 33446
<http://palmbeach.floridahealth.gov/>

Stay Safe,
Sandra & Rupert

EDUCATION MINISTRY SAYS 129 SCHOOLS CLEARED FOR FACE-TO-FACE TEACHING

JANUARY 2, 2021

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, YOUTH AND INFORMATION

Minister of Education, Youth and Information, the Honourable Fayval Williams, in underscoring that education is still compulsory, is appealing to parents and the wider community to get children off the streets and engaged in schoolwork using the different modalities available for teaching and learning.

In providing an update to the E-COVID-19 Task Force and principals of schools approved for face-to-face teaching, Minister Williams said all students and



teachers are expected to utilize one or a combination of the MoEYI's approaches to ensure that the education of students continues despite the COVID-19 pandemic. ***"No child in Jamaica of school***

age should be seen sitting around idly, or on the road going to the corner shop, or doing house-work during school time which is designated as 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday to Friday," Minister Williams said as she outlined plans for the new school term which starts January 4, 2021.

The Minister pointed out that children who were not using any of the available teaching/learning engagement (online, audio/visual, learning kit, face-to-face) were in danger of falling way behind.

"Attending school, whether virtual, remote or face-to-face, is still a requirement. Let us work together to stop the learning loss. We ask all parents, guardians, community members, Jamaicans all to be as supportive as you can of our students. Encourage them during this trying period," she said.

Minister Williams noted that following on the October to December 2020 pilot programme in some schools, for the new term, 129 schools have been approved for face-to-face teaching and learning. These schools have been allowed a two-week period from January 4 to 18 to fine-tune their preparations for schooling.

The Minister notes that the focus for this term is the preparation of children for their exit exams: CSEC, City & Guilds, CAPE, NCTVET and the Primary Exit Profile (PEP) exams. Grades 6 students at the primary level are scheduled to sit the first of two components of the PEP exam – the Ability Test, on February 23, 2021.

The Ministry will also be offering additional Special Learning Interventions.

"Students will be provided with fully-funded access to Edufocal and One on One Educational Service in preparation for PEP and other external exams. Additionally, a mobile student support initiative will be launched on January 18, 2021 to focus on the students who have not been consistently engaged in the last school term," the Minister explained.

In addition, the Ministry will be providing after-school classes to small groups of five for two hours, twice per week, using the schools, church halls, community centres, USF community access points, the Jamaica Library Service locations and other temporary learning spaces.

Minister Williams said the Ministry will also launch the Learning Kit Challenger and Learning Kit Motivator for those students who are performing below expectation.

Happy

2021



SYSTEMS IN PLACE TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND STAFF: MINISTER OF STATES - EDUCATION

JANUARY 6, 2021

WRITTEN BY: GARFIELD L. ANGUS

Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Robert Morgan, says safety protocols are in place at the schools with face-to-face classes, as administrators have put in systems to protect children and staff.

The State Minister, who spoke with reporters during a visit to Cumberland High School in Portmore, St. Catherine, today (January 5), said the safety measures being implemented by the schools came out of dialogue between the Ministry and education stakeholders, which included parents.



“Parents do not need to worry. Whenever you hear that the Ministry of Education says this school is ready for face-to-face [classes], you can be assured that we have taken into consideration all the variables, with the safety of our students, teachers and their parents, and those at home in mind,” he said.

Mr. Morgan, along with a team from the Ministry, observed the measures in place to protect the children from contracting the COVID-19 virus, from the entrance to other key areas.

“It is clear that the administration here understands what needs to take place,” the State Minister said. He also appealed to public transportation providers to assist the process by sticking to the rules laid down by the Ministry of Transport and Mining to control the virus.

“It is a simple virus to prevent. It is in our best interest, as individuals, to follow the protocols. The transport

operators can be ambassadors for good hygiene and safety,” Mr. Morgan said.

The State Minister and the team also visited Crescent Primary School in the parish, where they observed face-to-face classes.

Mr. Morgan said he is “very proud” of what the administration has done to ensure safety for the children and staff.

Meanwhile, he called on parents to be “present” for students who are learning virtually, noting that the Ministry has provided support through computer and Internet provision, to ensure that the children have access to continued learning.

Principal at the Crescent Primary School, Icylyn Kelly, said the face-to-face learning has been a “happy moment” and opportunity for many students to prepare for upcoming examinations, and they have worked hard to put things in place for all to be safe from COVID-19.

For his part, Principal at Cumberland High School, Darien Henry, said the two days of face-to-face classes have gone well, and he wants public transport operators to be part of the effort.

“They have an important role to play to ensure that our children are safe, by ensuring that passengers wear their masks, sanitise and maintain social distancing,” he said.



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