

The B.A.N.D.

The British Academy News Digest

Editor: Seve Cedeno

We Keep On Growing!

The term is already nine weeks old and the British Academy is still welcoming new students weekly! Everyone is grateful that the three new classrooms, the new science lab and the additional toilets were all in place for the beginning of term as school numbers continue to approach the 100 mark. The reception area has been remodeled and the AL classroom is in the process of becoming a Resource Centre.

We belatedly welcome all newcomers and are pleased to see our 'old timers' back – all ready to study hard, play hard and make the most of their time at the Academy. It was particularly pleasing to greet Xiomara Robertson at the Assembly on Friday 17th October when she was presented with her A-level certificates from Cambridge International Examinations Board in Psychology and Sociology. Xiomara will continue her studies from January at the prestigious Barry University in Miami. She is currently accumulating work experience with Dr Isolde Ali Ghent.

Xiomara was one of the three pioneers who started The British Academy in September 2006. It is very pleasing to see how much we have grown in two years and everyone associated with The British Academy is both proud and humbled by the confidence shown in us by the parents of Trinidad and Tobago as well as overseas countries.

R Mulliss
Director of Studies



CHRISTMAS TREE COMPETITION

- ❖ Here's a chance to show your creativity in our Christmas tree competition open to all forms.
- ❖ No purchasing of commercial trees
- ❖ Prizes are awarded for most original and creative Christmas tree!



Divali at British Academy

On 23rd October the British Academy observed the Hindu festival of Divali. Teachers and students all gathered to respectfully observe and participate in the Hindu celebration. Mr. Maharaj opened the event with a prayer and welcomed everyone in Hindi. It was hosted by Brandon Scott and Aaron Barcant of Form 6 and other

students assisted Mr. Maharaj with the ceremony. Not only were we exposed to a traditional Hindu song performed by Mr. Maharaj, but the origin and importance of Divali were also highlighted in the 'Divali message' done by Brandon Mottley. Beautiful Saris of bright colours were displayed by some students and all in attendance were treated to traditional Indian foods. It was an enjoyable occasion and left us with a greater understanding of what the Hindu festival of Divali is all about.

Seve Cedeno

Peer Tutoring

There is a peer tutoring program in progress in the Sixth Form class. It is held every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:50-12:30. The teacher in charge of this program is Ms. Baerg. You are required to simply bring the books of the subjects that you feel you are struggling with along with any necessary pens and pencils. This program applies to all students who want to help others or need help. If you want to help someone they must be in a lower or the same form as yours, unless otherwise instructed by Ms. Baerg. This is a great learning experience for everyone and will help in many ways. Everyone is invited to come help each other learn.

Justin Ram



Are Girls Smarter than Boys?

There exists a rumour/myth that girls are smarter than boys, but that is not necessarily true. The truth is that girls are typically better at the Arts, English and visual logic and other right brained activities. Boys are usually better at Mathematics and Sciences which are left brained activities. This does not mean that girls aren't good at left-brained activities and boys are less good at right-brained activities. It all comes down to what you were born with and taught growing up. Using statistics I can say that the IQ of a man and that of a woman are not significantly different. Also girls are more mature than boys because they begin puberty at an earlier age but they have equal maturity a couple years later.

Justin Ram

Look on the Bright Side!



We have recently bid farewell to Xiomara Robertson, the school's first A Level graduate. We congratulate her, and wish her the best as she continues her tertiary level education abroad. As part of her final assembly with the school she was invited to speak to the student population and give pointers as well as encouragement to all in attendance. The students greatly appreciated her delivery as she mentioned very useful points for their lives in and out of school.

One highlight of her speech was the point of successfully dealing with (academic) failure. No one desires to fail any of his subjects at school but the fact is we all do. Sometimes it may mean achieving less than a required mark to pass an exam or simply not doing as well as we personally would have liked. In whatever way it comes, failure can be successfully dealt with and, as Xiomara stated, turned into positive results. One way this can be done is through optimism or simply developing the tendency of looking on the bright side! If you fail an exam it's not because you are worthless or a hopeless failure. It simply may be a lack of effort or another circumstance. More importantly though, would be to think of a solution. "Can I make sure that I don't do as badly? Can I do better? How?"

One suggestion is to remain focused as well as persistent in our revision or homework assignments. Everyone fails to achieve their full potential at times and as students we need not allow it to deter us, but to use it as a wake-up call, a springboard for future success.

"Getting knocked down is not a failure, it is failing to get up again that is!"

Seve Cedeno

Congratulations!

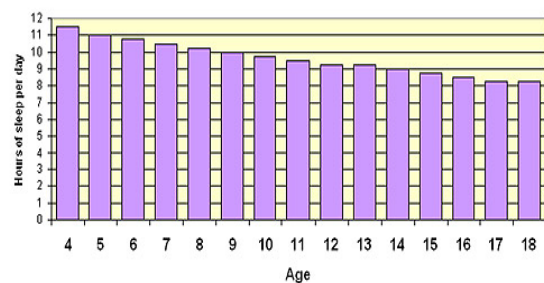
Students of The British Academy have been performing well in and out of school engaging in extra-curricular activities. Some of our students participated in an inter-school swim meet and represented well in different categories. Michael Clerk of Form 2 also performed well in his creative competition. Michael was awarded an Honorable Mention in the Children's Olympic Art Competition. We also congratulate Michael Pillai of Form 6 for placing 2nd in the open category of the School's Table Tennis competition. Finally

we mention Jonathan Sellier of Form 1 who achieved a high placement in a BMX bike competition. Congratulations to every one of our students who did their best to represent The British Academy in various extra curricular activities.

Seve Cedeno

STUDENT NOTE:

ARE YOU LACKING SLEEP?



Above is a chart of children younger and older than those of you reading this article. As you can see 12 and 13 year-old children need 9 hours of sleep; isn't this the age of the majority of Form Two's? How many of us actually get that much rest? The fact is that most of us do not. Therefore we should all make an effort to increase the amount of sleep we get each night. The more sleep you get the more refreshed you feel in the morning and that helps you have a more productive and happy day.

Justin Ram