

The University School

62 Baker Street, St Augustine

<http://www.universityschool.edu.tt/> T: 662-4832 /221-5494

<https://www.facebook.com/TheUniversitySchoolTrinidadTobago/>

From the Principal's Desk

Greetings to our University School family!

I hope that everyone is enjoying peace and contentment as 2021 progresses. As we continue to grapple with the challenges of a pandemic, I hope you are finding the strength to cope and the wisdom to find fruitful ways to adapt to the new normal.

This is already the fifth week of Term 2, and there has not been a dull moment since school reopened on January 4th. It goes without saying that there is much more to look forward to in this term.

Our Carnival Committee has organized some exciting events for our students and families. The two main events will be on Wednesday 10th and Friday 12th February and will demonstrate our school's theme for the academic year, which is "The University School Beats COVID-19". I look forward to the wonderful portrayals of our highly creative and artistic students.

The University School's Fundraising Committee has planned some major fundraising events, which will begin in March. These events are necessary to help us raise some much-needed funds for the development of the school. I am looking forward to your usual strong participation in these events. If each family purchases at least two tickets per event, that will go a long way towards helping us achieve our goals. More details are forthcoming.

As we look forward to these events and others, let us continue to work with each respectfully, for the greater benefit of our children and our school.

***"Unity is strength. . . when there is teamwork and collaboration,
wonderful things can be achieved."
--Mattie Stepanek***



February 1st
Special Assembly:
World Read Aloud Day

February 1st to 4th
Parent-Teacher Conference
begins

February 3rd
World Read Aloud Day

February 8th
Special Assembly -
Valentine's Day

February 8th to 11th
Parent-Teacher Conference ends

February 15th to 19th
Midterm Break/No School
Office staff works remotely.

February 22nd & 23rd
Monthly Tests (Jr1 to Jr 4)

February 26th
Drop Box – Parents drop off books



Getting better all the time!

**WORLD
READ
ALoud DAY**

**SAVE
THE DATE** | February 3
2021

LitWorld

#WorldReadAloudDay

#WRADChallenge

SCHOLASTIC



World Read Aloud Day is celebrated annually on the first Wednesday of February. Its main purpose is to highlight the importance of not only reading but the power of reading aloud, an activity which has a huge impact upon children's development.

Tips for Family Story Time

Pam Allyn, a literacy expert and Senior Vice President of Innovation & Development at Scholastic Education recommends three discussion strategies to boost your child's reading comprehension during stories.

1. Discuss: Don't just read the story to your child, talk about it together. Find out what your child thinks about the story as well.
2. Ask questions: Asking questions is a great way to find out if your child understands the story. Try to ask questions which require critical thinking skills, e.g. what would you do if you were the main character in the story? Would you behave in the same manner, why?

3. Reflect: It is always good to think aloud about what you have read with your child. Ask for the most memorable/favourite section of the story.

Utilizing these guidelines will assist your child to have a greater appreciation for reading.

Strategies like these help enormously with reading comprehension because they invite children to contribute their own unique ideas to a conversation, reinforcing how much their thoughts count," says Pam Allyn.



For more information on World Read Aloud, follow across Scholastic's social media platforms.

<https://www.scholastic.com/world-readaloud-day/>

Getting better all the time!



New Student Registration

Extension of New Student Registration Deadline

The University School is extending the Registration deadline for the intake of new students for the 2021-2022 upcoming academic year. The registration process is extended to February 26th 2021.

Parents can share this information with families and friends.



Staff Professional Development

The teachers of the Juniors 4 & 5 classes participated in technical English workshops for teachers of Standards Five on Wednesday 27th January, 2021. Teachers joined other professionals in education at a virtual Secondary Entrance Assessment (SEA) English Language Arts Reading Comprehension workshop. The objective of the workshop was to help teachers to improve in teaching the core skills necessary for the ELA paper: grammar and mechanics, reading comprehension and writing skills. The training also addressed the accurate use of the revised writing rubrics.

Four teachers from the Lower and Middle school will also participate in scheduled training activities by the Ministry of Education in Digital Literacy and Use of Online Platforms. This training is aimed at enhancing teachers' capacity to implement the curriculum in the digital environment. This is a collaborative effort between the Curriculum Planning and Development Division (CPDD) and The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC). Training will be facilitated by Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP).

The Physical Education teacher will also have the opportunity to access online training courses on the Introduction to Virtual Coaching and Getting Started with Physical Literacy.

Happy
Valentine's
Day

University School

Family

Getting better all the time!

CARNIVAL AT THE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL - "CROSSING THE VIRTUAL STAGE"

Date	Event
Wednesday 10 th February 2021	Soca/Chutney Soca Song Writing Competition Family King & Queen Costume Competition Deadline for entries: 1 st February Streaming live via Zoom
Friday 12 th February 2021 	 "Crossing the Virtual Stage" Class video compilation of students jumping up Winners Portrayals (Song & King & Queen Competitions) Pan Talent Streaming live via Zoom

All Videos and Individual photos must be submitted by Friday 5th February to the respective class teachers.

There will be separate judging categories for Lower, Middle & Upper School.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO RED CROSS SOCIETY EMERGING DESIGNER'S COMPETITION 2021



DESIGN to WIN

Deadline for registration: Thursday 4th February 2021.

Students are invited to support this initiative as it endorses the Visual and Performing Arts currently being implemented in schools.

Visit <https://www.ttrcs.org/rcce/> for more information.

COMING SOON

THE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL

**FUNDRAISING
EVENT**

Getting better all the time!