

The University School

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From the Principal's Desk

We made it to the end of the 1st nine weeks of the term! This is a great time to check-in with your children to see what worked or has not worked. The first nine weeks is significant for students as they learn the expectations and routines of their new class teachers. If your children have had some difficulties settling in, stay calm and positive and work with them and their teachers to make the experience a successful one. The following are some strategies that you can use to help your children at this stage of the journey:

- Set aside time each day when your child can work on school assignments or independent study
- Dedicate an area in your home that is free of distractions for homework/studying
- Check your child's work frequently and have him/her explain assignments to you each week
- Praise your child for accomplishments and milestones.
- Communicate frequently with your child's teachers if he is struggling in the classroom.
- Keep an open mind about their emotions or struggles even if they seem insignificant to you.

The "Afternoon Chat with The Principal" has been a wonderful opportunity to meet with parents and guardians. Thank you for all your brilliant ideas, your continued dedication to the school and your generous contributions of time, talent, and treasure. We look forward to our continued good relationship and partnership in improving our school.

As the end of the term approaches, we greatly anticipate a poetry experience in late November and our annual Christmas week activities. Details will be provided subsequently. Our second assessment for this term has been moved forward to November 23rd to 26th so that our teachers and students will have more time to prepare. Best wishes to you for the month of November!



November 1st
Special Assembly: Divali
Junior 1 HCD Class Meeting

November 4th
Divali Public Holiday/No School

November 10th
Parent Teacher Network (PTN)
Virtual Town Hall Meeting

November 15th
Principal's Meeting with Junior
2AS

November 17th
Principal's Meeting with Junior 3 H

November 19th
Principal's Meeting with Junior 3 F

November 22nd
Virtual Assembly
Assessment Week begins
Whole School Poetry Workshop
(TBC)

November 29th
Virtual Assembly
Principal's Meeting with Junior
4KM



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TEACHERS



“Teachers at the Heart of Recovery”

The University School joined the world in celebrating World Teachers' Day on October 5th. In 2021, the theme for the special day was “Teachers at the Heart of Recovery”.

On October 4th a special assembly was presented by Principal Dr. Bascombe-Fletcher, Ms. Vidale and the Council. On Teachers Day, October 5th, students had an opportunity to demonstrate their gratitude via drawings and poetry to the teachers who inspire them daily.

Special plaques were awarded to the teachers by the Council for their resilience and outstanding diligence during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Mr. Martin, Senior and Upper School teacher at The University School proudly displays his token of appreciation upon receiving it at the school.

In the Spotlight

TEACHERS

Funny, Patient,
Supportive, Creative,
Committed and Hardworking

Planting seeds in our minds
that keep on growing
and growing and growing
to the clouds we reach
Till We bear fruit like an apple or peach

Forever grateful
you help us in our time of need
and so we remember
your little seed

You taught us lots of amazing things
Like Math and Grammar after I eat my burrito,
The amazing life cycle of a little mosquito
Musical notes like the treble clef
and let's not forget the Downward Dog stretch.

I will never ever ever ever say my teachers are
unkind
Because they sacrifice and give of their time
Day after day working without play
I don't even work so hard
So today, we want to say to all teachers

HAPPY TEACHERS' DAY!!!
Gracias

Breeana Howard
Junior 3F



The poem, “**Teachers**”, was composed by Breeana Howard and dedicated to all the Teachers at The University School in commemoration of World Teachers' Day on October 5th 2021.

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COUNCIL CORNER



The 'stories' behind the Story or how to read critically

by Dr Savrina Chinien,
Council Director, Policy and Governance Committee
The University School

WHAT IS CRITICAL READING?

To read critically is to question the author's interpretation and opinion. Are you being told the whole truth? Is the author trying to persuade us to accept his own views? Critical reading also allows us to form our own ideas and opinions.

As a critical reader you should reflect on:

1. the context and paratext
 - a. when was the book written?
 - b. has the author been influenced by any major events?
2. the text
 - a. what the text says
 - b. what the text describes
 - c. interpretation of the text
 - d. genre of the text
 - e. structure of the text
 - f. the title of the text
3. Characters

4. Setting
5. Language and Stylistic techniques
6. Themes
7. Narrative voice

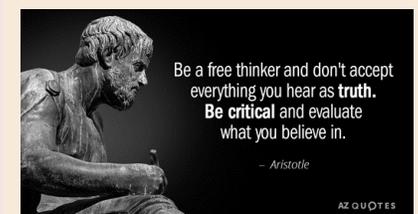
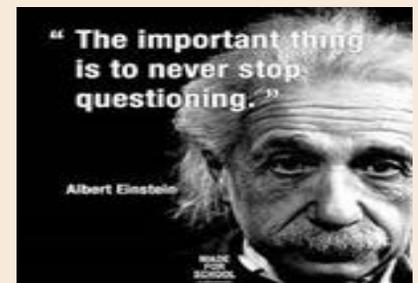
Reading critically following SQ3R:

SQ3R is a well-known strategy for reading. SQ3R is an acronym and stands for:

- **Survey** – speed reading to get the general gist of the reading material
- **Question** – be an active reader by asking questions
- **Read** – more attentive reading of the text
- **Recall** – key points of the text
- **Review** – review the material you have gathered

Children as critical thinkers:

Children are naturally critical thinkers. From a very young age, they learn to question the world around them. This skill can easily be transposed to critical reading as both are intricately linked. Be curious and delve into the "stories" behind the story!



¹. Check this link for more details on SQ3R :
<https://www.skillsyouneed.com/learn/critical-reading.html>

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FROM THE ACHIEVEMENT DAY COMMITTEE



THE AIM TO BECOME WORLD CHANGERS

By Kachet Henry

The University School hosted its second virtual Achievement Day ceremony on October 15th, 2021. The theme **'World Changers'** highlighted the successes of the students for the academic year 2020/2021. The event demonstrated that it does not take a big feat to make a difference in their world and the world around them.

Highlights included:

- Presentation of academic, special and outstanding awards to students
- The outgoing Executive of the Early Act Club received special trophies and certificates for their contributions to the Club
- The top ten Secondary Entrance Assessment (S.E.A.) students, the top male student, and the top overall S.E.A. student were recognised for their brilliant performance at the 2021 examination. Thank you Mr. Martin and Ms. Ledgerwood, you are indeed world changers!
- Exceptional performances by Judah Boney, a student from Junior 4L who delivered a smooth and confident rendition of "We Are the World"; while Alumna Alexandria Douglas, 2021 graduate of Bishops Anstey High School East enacted a spoken word piece in keeping with the theme of the event.
- An interesting trip down memory lane with the featured speaker, alumni Vinik Ramoutar who reminisced on his 'UWI School' days and his transition from primary to secondary school.

Determination, diligence, and belief in oneself, can cause changes in students' lives and propel them to become **world changers** in their unique ways. The University School is committed to supporting, modeling and encouraging the personal growth of our students so that they flourish and become their best selves.



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To: Our Hindu Community



May this Divali be an extra special celebration filled with hope, love and success for you and your loved ones.

From: The University School Family



The University School Christmas Week of Activities:

- December 6th: Christmas Art Montage Competition
- December 7th: Christmas Cookies Baking Family Event
- December 8th: Christmas Tree and Wreath Decorating
- December 9th: Christmas Concert & Animated Video Launch

THE UWI-SOE-FDCRC WORKSHOP SERIES

Are you ready for another installment in The UWI -SOE-FDCRC Workshop series? Save the date! On November 16th at 3:30 p.m. there will be a hands-on skills based workshop on the Project Approach for the Virtual Classroom.

It is aimed at administrators and teachers at the Early Childhood and Primary levels as well as **parents of children who would like to provide at home support**. Certificates will be awarded to workshop attendees...but hurry... spaces are limited!!!

Do not hesitate to reach out to the FDCRC via email or at 785 6624 for further details.

WORKSHOP TOPICS

- The Stages of a Project
- How to implement the Project Approach for the virtual classroom
- Integrating curriculum goals with a project
- Igniting imagination using the Project Approach
- Parental engagement strategies and the Project Approach

Please contact Ms. Loretta Rampersad, Senior Secretary @+1 868 785-6624 or uwi.fdcrc@sta.uwi.edu for registration and payment details

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

In recognition of **WORLD TEACHERS DAY 2021**

Tell us in a 30 sec video how your Teacher has helped you with remote school and why they are your hero

Prizes for Students and Teachers

Click for more info

The deadline for voting in the Super Teacher contest ends on November 5th, 2021. We encourage you to like and share the videos of our students:

Siarra Sambucharan: <https://fb.watch/90-STD1Nkb/>

Michael Alexander: https://fb.watch/90gigJ_K5m/

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