

## CELEBRATING A SUCCESSFUL SUMMER SCHOOL STAGING



**Reading with Grandma:** Naden Lodge enjoys the animated story-telling of her grandson, Jaime Bentley, as her granddaughter, Anneisha Bentley, looks on.

Twenty-eight primary schools received critical support during the summer to give students entering grade two a head start on their academic journey. Under the Digicel Foundation and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Literacy Enrichment Project, the selected schools utilised their literacy tools and technology to cater to the students, who needed additional support to perform on par with their counterparts. Parents were also active participants in the summer school activities, assisting in beautification, preparing meals, and participating in training seminars.

When asked about the success of the summer school programme, Principal at the Petersfield Primary School, Mrs. Susan Rattray-Hammond shared, “The parents were very excited to see the improvement in their children’s attitude towards school. Aside from the improvement in the work and effort, parents boasted of the children asking for more help with homework and getting up happy to be off to school instead of home watching TV.”

Since 2013, over 40,000 children have benefitted from the Literacy Enrichment Project, with over 250 teachers trained across 104 primary schools.

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# Message from our CEO

We are, again, at the end of another quarter with so much to celebrate. As we approach the end of our 2013-2016 Strategic Development Plan, we are in high spirits as we look at the growth and advancement enjoyed by our community partners.

Over the last three months, we have heard from parents, teachers, business owners, and development practitioners who continue to share their stories of success – great and small. From the reopening of the Franklyn Town Outreach Centre, to the improved therapeutic care for children with special needs, we are convinced that our efforts continue to make a difference in the lives of many Jamaicans.

I must say a very special thank you to Nikuma Fuller, our second place winner in the Live, Learn, Love the Foundation competition. Her kind contribution to the Kellits Primary School of a Literacy Enrichment Cart will redound to the benefit of hundreds of young minds, eager to learn and excel. Her goal of ensuring that more rural youth have access to learning tools is proof of the passion of our Digicel staff to help communities flourish.

We are inching closer to achieving our goal of constructing 10 Centres of Excellence for children with Special Needs. We opened our ninth Centre of Excellence this quarter with the support of UNICEF's Global Special Olympics Messenger, Lucy Meyer, as a vibrant participant, interacting and exchanging gifts with students at the Montego Bay Learning Centre. This Centre compliments the existing support being given to over 500 special needs children across the island. Nine down, one more to go!

As we head even further into the academic year, we reflect on the success of our summer school programme and its ability to accelerate learning for primary school children entering grade two. The overwhelming support of parents and the dedication of the teachers to executing a meaningful summer programme is an extraordinary show of commitment to improving literacy and numeracy in Jamaica. With 86% mastery achieved so far, the Foundation will continue to support each of the 104 schools we serve to reach the 100% mark.

The journey continues to be rewarding for the hardworking Foundation staff and board, but we know there is more to do. With the continued support of our private and public sector partners, we are confident that we can help build a better stronger Jamaica.

**Samantha Chantrelle**  
**CEO, Digicel Jamaica Foundation**



## NINTH CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR SPECIAL NEEDS OPENED

Over 60 children with special needs will benefit from an extensively renovated state of the art facility, which was officially opened on Wednesday, September 21, 2016. The Digicel Foundation partnered with the Montego Bay Learning Centre to open its ninth Centre of Excellence for Special Needs in Catherine Hall, Montego Bay. This Centre will be jointly utilised by the Jamaica Association on Intellectual Disabilities (JAID) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security's Early Stimulation Plus (ESP) Programme.

The Montego Bay Learning Centre is fully equipped to support children with a wide range of physical, behavioral, and intellectual disabilities. Parents will also be trained to replicate the exercises done at the Centre in their homes, to enable sustained developmental therapy for students.

Deborah Bryson Jones, Vice Principal at the institution, said, "Before, we used to have classrooms separated by chalkboards because of how cramped we are but now we have self-contained classrooms so the students are comfortable. Additionally, we have been able to expand and improve skills training. We now have a much bigger kitchen so we have more practical classes for our students."

The Digicel Jamaica Foundation's Centre of Excellence programme strengthens the capacity of special needs institutions to cater to special needs and is committed to building to 10 Centres of Excellence by the end of 2016.



UNICEF Special Olympics Messenger, Lucy Meyer, with Kashara Morgan, Rockell Frater (L-R) at the opening of Centre of Excellence 9 in Montego Bay

The newly renovated Centre of Excellence 9, Montego Bay Learning Centre



## SUPPORTING SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

Students in Western Jamaica were mentally challenged to imagine, experiment and create over the summer holidays. One hundred students spent their summer holiday enrolled in the county's first Science and Robotics Summer Camp. Six mobile labs equipped with state-of-the-art scientific equipment were provided by Digicel Foundation to support the second staging of the Summer Knowledge Donation Camp in Lucea, Hanover, at the Bioprist Knowledge Park.

Ten-year-old camp attendee, Sassiann Peterkin, was excited to return to the camp for a second year. She shared, "I don't usually do so well in science but last year when I came I learned so much. I even made my own baby powder after all the experiments they showed me. When I went back to school, I ended up getting 100% in my science exams so my mother made sure that I was here again this year."

Vice Chairman of Digicel Foundation, Joy Clarke said, "The Digicel Foundation is committed to enriching the overall learning experience through technology and innovation. We have provided mobile labs in 32 high schools across the island, and will introduce these labs to 10 additional schools by December 2016, thereby increasing the quality and quantity of resources for education in science, mathematics – and now robotics - at the high school level."

The Mobile Science Labs Project, initiated in 2014, falls under the Digicel Foundation's Innovation in Education portfolio and is conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Education.



Sassiann Peterkin (left) takes notes as her camp mate conducts an experiment using the Mobile Science Laboratory donated by Digicel Foundation for the Summer Knowledge Donation Camp in Hanover.



Students engaged in a visual experiment with one eye closed, at the Summer Knowledge Donation Camp in Hanover. The Digicel Foundation partnered with the camp's organisers to provide six mobile labs for the summer camp.

## FRANKLYN TOWN RESIDENTS MEK A MUCKLE



Rev Claude Ellis (right) gives a tour of the now reopened Franklyn Town Church Community Outreach Centre; participating is Public Relations and Engagement Manager at Digicel Foundation, Krystal Tomlinson (second right).

Officiating Pastor Rev. Claude Ellis was grateful to be able to reopen the doors, stating “We are blessed to have the support of Digicel Foundation, which provided us with the financial support to complete this worthwhile project. With the support of the community, we know that these facilities will improve the chances of success for every child as they will have the support and access to technology that they need.”

In February 2016, an application was submitted to the Digicel Foundation’s Mek A Muckle Programme seeking financial support to purchase a central processor that would allow the 10 computers to host up to 180 student profiles.

Digicel Foundation's Public Relations and Engagement Manager, Krystal Tomlinson, who was present at the launch said, “The Foundation is always looking for ways to partner with Jamaicans who are truly dedicated to serving and build-

As the Foundation continues on its mission to help build a better future, we celebrate - along with our partners from the Franklyn Town Church of God - the reopening of their Community Outreach Centre, which has been out of commission for several years. The Church had been tirelessly raising funds to create a safe space for children to learn and complete their assignments as most do not have computers at home.

The Centre now provides the community with a computer lab that boasts 10 computers, library and printing services, and an outdoor study area in a bid to promote educational growth for Franklyn Town Community residents.

ing their communities. There is no better way to ensure sustainable and impactful projects than with the community members leading and owning the process as is happening in Franklyn Town.”

With the first stage of the project launched, the Franklyn Town Church of God has vowed to stay committed to supporting the creation of a child-friendly environment for children in the community, with plans in place to expand, restock and reopen their existing library.

The Mek A Muckle Initiative was established in 2015 to provide assistance for community-led projects and institutions that would not usually qualify for our Small Grants Funding. With an investment of over J\$4 million, there are 28,000 Jamaicans benefiting from the operations of the 40 beneficiaries with community projects in the areas of sports, special needs, education and entrepreneurship.

# LIVE LEARN LOVE

THE FOUNDATION



L-R: Kekamoi Sharrier (grade 1 student), Lianna Fearon (grade 3 student), and Rhyannah Bennett (Grade 2 student) of Kellits Primary School with Digicel Foundation's Training and Development Manager, Evadne Cowell, explore their new literacy and numeracy tools. The institution was chosen to receive a Literacy Enrichment Cart by Nikuma Fuller, second place winner in the Live, Learn, Love the Foundation Competition.

Winners of the Papua New Guinea Live, Learn, Love the Foundation Competition - Hane Toua, Community Development Manager, Digicel Foundation and Timothy Kore, IT Helpdesk Specialist - chose to #VisitJamaica and toured a few of our project sites. Among their stops was a visit to the youth-operated, Deaf Can! Coffee.



Winner of the Jamaican leg of the Live, Learn, Love the Foundation Competition, Jodie-Kay Kerr, Sales Administrator with the Trend Media team, and Evadne Cowell enjoy some of the festivities of Papua New Guinea.



Papua New Guinea winners, Hane Toua, and Timothy Kore, also paid a visit to Melrose Primary Enrichment Centre among the project sites toured during their stay in Jamaica.



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