Dessalines Remembered

Jean-Jacques Dessalines was a leader of the Haitian Revolution and the first ruler of an independent Haiti under the 1801 constitution. Initially regarded as Governor-General, Dessalines later named himself Emperor Jacques I of Haiti (1804–1806). He is regarded as a founding father of Haiti.

Dessalines served as an officer in the French army when the colony was trying to withstand Spanish and British incursions. Later he rose to become a commander in the revolt against France. As Toussaint L’Ouverture’s principal lieutenant, he led many successful engagements, including the Battle of Crête-à-Pierrot.

After the betrayal and capture of Toussaint L’Ouverture in 1802, Dessalines became the leader of the revolution. He defeated Napoleon’s forces at the Battle of Vertières in 1803. Declaring Haiti an independent nation in 1804, Dessalines was chosen by a council of generals to assume the office of Governor-General. In September 1804, he proclaimed himself Emperor and ruled in that capacity until being assassinated in 1806. (Wikipedia)
“I’m finally eating healthy.”, “The food is so good.” These are just a few comments made by students after one week with our new snack bar provider.

Jean Marc Nouissar, owner of Deck Bar, has taken on the challenge of preparing lunch for our Panthers right here on campus. Meals are made daily and fresh.

The cost of lunch is approximately $5.00 for elementary students and $6.00 for Secondary students. We are in the process of investigating monthly payment plans and other options that will facilitate the parent community.

Menus will be sent home bi-monthly. Students are given the choice of a daily special, and a healthy juice.

We ask that parents make sure that children eat breakfast before coming to school.

Intramurals

Our Intramural Program began last week for the secondary school students. The activities take place during the lunch periods. It is a time set aside to provide our students with an opportunity to participate in activities "without a win at all cost atmosphere." Students are able to develop or refine skills in a variety of activities. The program adds a new dimension to your children's education by improving self-esteem, stimulating other interests, and providing students the opportunity to achieve individual and team goals. While developing a sense of sportsmanship and fair play, they acquire knowledge and skills required for the future.

The goals of the intramural program are:

- to have fun
- to provide an opportunity for students to develop sportsmanship and fair play
- to provide instruction and reinforce skills learned in the health and physical education program
- to promote an understanding and insight into the value of physical fitness for a healthy lifestyle
- to encourage all students to participate
- to give students an opportunity to have social interaction in a constructive environment

In order for the intramurals to be a success, student participation is the key!

Winner of the 1st Volleyball intramural: Grade 12
Senior College Night

Our annual Senior College Night was held Thursday October 11, 2012. Our Guidance Counselor Beatrice Francis explained the process. The following major points were discussed:

- Researching/requesting information from colleges
- Completion of the application forms
- Requesting of transcripts and letters of recommendation
- Admissions criteria
- College visits and interviews
- Meeting crucial deadlines

We will continue to guide our students throughout the semester by setting up another session for our 11th and 12th graders.

We wish our students success during this exciting period in their lives.

Halloween

Union School has some “spooktacular” holiday events planned in honor of Halloween. Our annual in-school Halloween Festivities will be held on Wednesday, October 31, 2012. In order to make this event a success, our students need the help and assistance of all our families.

We’ve planned some fun which culminates into the “Trick-or-Treat” experience no one would want to miss! Here’s what we have planned:

- Parade of Costumes
- Costume contest:
  - 3 prizes per grade
  - Scariest Costume
  - Most Original Costume
  - Funniest Costume
- Pre-Kinder3 and 4 and Kindergarten Dance Performance
- Songs and Dance from Grades1-6
- Food and Drinks for all!

Let’s get our costumes ready for the big day. Students carry their costumes with them on October 31. We will dress up in school; however, we may dress in Halloween colors on that day (orange, and black).

12 noon   Dress up
12:30      Trick-or-Treat!
1:00       Parade / Contest
            Prizes
1:45       Songs and Dance Performance: Grades Pre-Kinder-6
Reading at Home Builds Closeness

Reading at home with your child is important in helping your child develop the skills necessary to become a successful reader, and it can also build relationships at the same time. Sitting close together and snuggling over a good book sends the message to your child that he or she is important to you and that you value your time together. Sharing ideas about the story shows that you value your child’s ideas and feelings. By making reading time special, you increase the chances your child will see reading as an experience he or she doesn’t want to miss.

Scoreboard

Our Soccer season has begun! On Monday October 1, 2012, our team played against QCS @ QCS. The Panthers were victorious 6-2. Union was able to maintain the lead the whole entire game with a strong attack and a well organized defense. On Friday, October 12, 2012 our young men were victorious once again! They played against Morning Star Academy. They scored 4-1. A good start to the rest of the year to come. Heartiest congratulations to the Boys Soccer Team and their coaches, Mr. Brian Field, Mrs. Kelly Adsit, and Mr. Mike Saieh.

Three cheers for our Panthers!! Hip Hip Hooray!! Hip Hip Hooray!! Join us Friday @ Union School October 19th as we will again cheer for our Panthers.

Let’s hear it for our goalie keeper Hunter Villard.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Name</th>
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<td>Joe</td>
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Did You Know????

Union School first opened its doors in 1919 for children of U.S. Marine Corps Families stationed in Haiti and was known as Colony School. It was located in Turgeau with one hundred and ten elementary students.
Meet Our New Teaching Staff

Peter Billings-
I grew up in New Jersey and have lived there for 25 years. A healthy portion of that time was spent in my church community where I eventually became a youth leader. Although this is my first year teaching, I feel my past experience has prepared me well for it. I also studied Physics Secondary Education at The College of New Jersey, where I received a Bachelors of Arts in Psychology. I have always found physics and the human mind to be fascinating. I have also always enjoyed working with junior and senior high students—not only for their sense of humor, but also for the duality they represent. These young adults are often a unique combination of curiosity and wisdom, opened and reserved, sarcastic and hopeful. I am doubly blessed to be teaching subjects I love to my favorite age group.

Although this is my first time living in Haiti, I have been to this country once before. In fact, my initial contact with Haiti was through the same church I grew up in. In the few brief days I was here, I felt compelled by its people (and the conditions of my visit) to come back. Now that I am here, and loving life, I am sure I made the right decision! Furthermore, I was accepted at the Princeton Theological Seminary, and given a two year deferment just before coming here. I plan to teach at Union School of Haiti for two years, and then return to New Jersey to study theology as a youth minister.

Claudia Lutes
As a first year teacher from Vancouver, Canada, I am excited to embark on a great adventure with the Union School, Haiti family. I graduated with a Bachelor of Education degree from Queen's University, in English and History, and look forward to contributing to the Middle School as both the Grade 7B Homeroom, English and Writing teacher. I believe in a safe, community-oriented, student-centered learning environment, and strive to differentiate my classroom to include all kinds of learners. I am

Milenka Larco
My name is Milenka Larco and I am the new Art Teacher.
Although I initially studied Economics in France, I have been working with children for the past 10 years. I have worked on a special Art project at the Lycee Alexandre Dumas and worked for a year as the art teacher at Cours Prive Colette Millet.
I also founded in 2008 L' Atelier, an Art and after-school program.
I look forward to this great year!

Felix Jean Louis
My name is Felix Jean-Louis, I am a first year teacher at Union School. I am teaching 10, 11, and 12th grades. My courses are diverse. They are: Anthropology (Haitian Culture), Haitian History, Global Issues, Theories of Knowledge, and Comparative Diasporas. I was born, of Haitian parents, in New York City. I graduated from Florida State University with a B.A. in History. Currently, I am writing my thesis on Haitian migrants to Harlem during the U.S. occupation of Haiti in 1915, in completion of my M.A. in history with a focus on Haiti. My hobbies include reading, playing the guitar, collecting and listening to music.