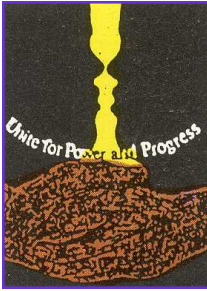


NOTICES

- The SLTU Football Competition started on Friday 16th September 2011 and continues every Friday until Teachers week. Please visit SLTU website or our facebook group page for details on fixtures.
- Teachers week will begin with the Ecumenical Service on Sunday October 2nd 2011 in Babonneau. Teachers please make a special effort to attend. At this service a love offering will be taken so that SLTU can make a donation to a charitable organization during Teachers' Week 2011.
- Teachers' Talent on Parade will be held on Thursday 6th October 2011 at the Castries Comprehensive Secondary School at 7pm promptly. Those showcasing their talents at the event are asked to be there for 6pm. Also teachers who instead to showcase their talents are asked to contact their Branch Reps now so that a full program for the show can be compiled.
- Boat ride tickets are now available at the SLTU Office, The Teachers' Credit Cooperative and the Sagikor Office in Vieux Fort. Limited Tickets are available so please get your tickets early.
- Members are asked to turn out in large numbers for this year's Teachers' Rally in Soufriere. Members are asked to be on time. Also special arrangements will be made to ensure that only members can participate in this activity. Liaise with your branch reps for transport arrangements.
- Look out for the next issue of Dialogue. This issue will feature articles from the CUT Conference held in Barbados, Teachers' Week Messages from Executive Officers, Activities taking place during Teachers' Week and more. If any teacher or school has articles which they wish to be published please send an email to howelldco@gmail.com or contact the union office.



Union Vibes is a special publication by the St. Lucia Teachers' Union. The focus of this publication is to keep teachers abreast with current SLTU activities/ events.



Don Howell
Public Relations
Officer

Message from the Public Relations Officer

Let me take this opportunity on behalf of the executive of the St. Lucia Teachers' Union to wish all teachers a productive and blessed academic year 2011 to 2012. Let us as teachers continue our resolve to educate the nation's children and to make a profound impact on our education system for the continued progress of our nation.

We know that the times we teach in are challenging times. Education is evolving and we as teachers are required to face those challenges and never relent in our efforts. In this information age, our traditional instructional strategies have to be modified so that our instruction can remain abreast with societal demands. The implication for teachers is professional training and development. Therefore we as teachers must always seek to qualify ourselves so that we will not alienate ourselves from these new trends.

There is much discussion across the region of Teaching Councils and licensing of teachers. Although this is still in the discussion stages in many countries, we need to ponder on what the implementation of such an initiative would mean for you as a teacher. How would the licensing of teachers work? Would teachers now have to meet a certain criteria to remain in the profession? All these are questions we should be asking. There are many other issues which we cannot discuss in this article that we need to ponder on as we chart the way forward for education in St. Lucia.



Julian Monrose,
President of SLTU,
addressing the CUT
Conference

From October 2nd to October 9th 2011 the St. Lucia Teachers' Union will be observing Teachers' Week. This year the theme for Teachers' Week is: Teachers for Gender Equality. A copy of the activities planned are posted in this Newsletter.

The theme is very timely as many persons tend to trivialize gender equality. In spite of the fact that strides have been made to achieve gender equality, gender inequality is still perpetuated by some of the policies that govern us. Let us consider this scenario. All teachers, whether male or female, are entitled to Vacation Leave once a year. If a female teacher’s maternity leave coincides with her vacation leave then that teacher does not receive her vacation leave. That in itself translates to gender inequality. Does the system which governs our profession deprive a woman of her right to vacation leave because of her medical condition? How sound is such a predicament in this modern era?

We teachers have always been the shapers of society. Lets us continue to take the lead and confront these issues with a united front. For this reason I am urging all teachers to participate in this years Teachers’ Week activities. It is important that we show solidarity with each other for we are all in the same struggle. Making the union strong begins with the level of support that you as an individual show for your union. It is also a time for us to celebrate our hard work and appreciate ourselves. Therefore, I am expecting to see every one of you at the various activities. Let us continue our struggle , let us not relent in our cause and let us unite for power and progress!

Teachers’ Week 2011

Theme: Teachers for Gender Equality

ACTIVITIES

- Sunday Oct 2nd : Ecumenical Service - Babonneau Multipurpose Centre
Time: 10a.m - Brunch Follows at the Babonneau Secondary School
- Monday Oct 3rd : Grand Boatripe on “Tangoo Too” - Fee: \$55.00
Boat departs Rodney Bay Marina at 9a.m **Promptly**
- Tuesday Oct 4th : Branch Activities
- Wednesday Oct 5th Education Conference - Marigot Secondary School - Time: 9:00a.m
- Thursday Oct 6th : Teachers’ Talent on Parade
Castries Comprehensive Secondary - Time: 7:00p.m
- Friday Oct 7th : Teacher Appreciation Day
Football Finals - La Guerre Babonneau
- Saturday Oct 8th : Retirees Function (By Invitation Only)
- Sunday Oct 9th : Teachers’ Week Rally - Morne Coubaril Estate, Soufriere - Time: 10a.m
\$500 to give away to persons who are at the rally on time.



35th Biennial C.U.T Conference

Delegates and camp followers of the St. Lucia Teachers’ Union returned to the island having attended the 35th Biennial Conference of the Caribbean Union of Teachers (C.U.T) which took place August 6 – 13, 2011 in Barbados.

The theme for the conference was “Caribbean Teachers: Pillars of Caribbean Unity.” This theme reflected the commitment of the C.U.T to the realization of full Caribbean Unity.

During the conference delegates received reports from officers and various units and adopted policies and programmes for the next biennium. The conference specifically discussed and adopted positions on Public Education in Haiti, the need for governments of the region to formalize Early Childhood Education, the Caribbean Primary School Exit Examinations, Teaching Councils, Indiscipline in Schools, ICT in Education, the Global Financial Crisis and its impact on teachers in the region, Natural Disasters and C.U.T’s preparedness to respond to them, Gender Equality and other gender related issues and an increase in C.U.T dues.

The C.U.T confirmed that the 14th Biennial Under 15 Track and Field Championships will be held in the Bahamas in July 2012. The C.U.T Track and Field Championships which started in 1986 provides an avenue for students 8 – 15 years to gain exposure in regional Track and Field competition. These Championships have been a breeding ground for some of the Caribbean 's most outstanding Track and Field athletes. The C.U.T Track and Field Championships is funded by member units of the Caribbean Union of Teachers.

The conference also held election of officers for the upcoming biennium. Mr. Julian Monroe, President of the St. Lucia Teachers’ Union was elected 3rd Vice President of the C.U.T. The full executive of the C.U.T for 2011 – 2013 is:

President	–	Marvin Andall	–	Grenada
1 st Vice President	-	Karen Best	-	Barbados
2 nd Vice President-		Celia Nicholas	-	Dominica
3 rd Vice President-		Julian Monroe	-	St. Lucia
Trustees -		Vernest Mark	-	Antigua
		Michael Stewart	-	Jamaica

At the first meeting of the executive committee of the C.U.T held immediately after the conference, the executive confirmed that the secretariat of the C.U.T will remain in Jamaica and appointed Dr. Adolph Cameron as General Secretary and Mrs. Judith Spencer – Jarrett as Deputy General Secretary. Mr. John Estephane and Mr. Don Howell of the St. Lucia Teachers’ Union were appointed to serve on C.U.T’s Sports and Publications Committees respectively.