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Riverside All Age School Profile

Riverside All Age School is located at Kingsvale District in the parish of Hanover. This is approximately seven (7) miles from Lucea via Middlesex and Dias. It was established in 1883 and is government owned. The school is run by a board of governors which has a three year life cycle. The last board was installed in January 2010 and consists of Naomi Allen – chairman, Rev. Keith Gordon – vice chairman, Hillary Lindsay – staff rep., Sauna Goldson – P.T.A. rep, Othneil Pryce – Community rep. and Sharon Miller – principal. Scheduled board meetings are set for once per term but sometimes the board meets more regularly depending on need. The members are very cooperative.

The school initially a Grade 11 school has been downgraded to a Grade 11. This is for two apparent reasons (a) the number of children born to parents in the locale has decreased (b) the grades 7 – 9 population has also decreased.

Currently the student population is 295, 19 of whom are ASTEP students. Staff compliment – Administration – Principal; Academic – 11 teachers, inclusive of Guidance Counsellor and ASTEP Centre Coordinator; Ancillary staff – four members. A day security has recently been employed. For the last eight years, the average monthly attendance has ranged between 80 – 85%. There are signs of increase in the last two months to between 90 – 94%.

In the area of student performances at the National levels, the school has been struggling to attain and maintain consistently high averages. The girls' performances in all national exams are usually within range of the required levels but these averages are usually pulled down by the performances of the boys. Predominantly there are usually more boys than girls in a class and their attendance at school is usually lower than the girls, thus affecting what they are able to learn. Despite this, over the last three years the school has been showing steady increases in all its programmes overall. Over the years the students have been exposed to various extra-curricular activities and have won medals and trophies.

Most of the people who live in the Kingsvale community and its environs are small farmers, a percentage of these however are employed in the tourist resorts of Negril and Montego Bay. A few of the ladies are also employed in the Sweets factory in Sandy Bay. Many parents have only Primary and Secondary education. This has impact for student performances, attendance and other school activities.

The relationship between the school and the community has grown immensely. More of the parents support school's functions now than in the recent past and some are anxious to see their children do well. Many of them though are yet to learn the right approach to school life. With dialogue through the P.T.A.s we hope to improve. Parents teachers meetings are held regularly; one general P.T.A. termly or as the need arises and various class PTAs.

The teachers in the school work very hard, but we do not see the kinds of results that we would like because the effort is not supported enough by the parents. If the children are to perform at their maximum or even at 80% of their maximum, then the parents will have to do much more in terms of their participation/involvement in school/PTA activities and in the over all monitoring of the children in and out of school times.

The school does all it can to extend itself to the community through the use of the school facilities for approved activities and to organize educational programmes in tandem with various corporate stakeholders for example HEART, Community Development Committee (CDC), National Youth Development Centre (NYDC) for the benefit of the residence. Private sector assistance though is very rare.

In relation to the past students, an association – local chapter, was formed in 2008 but currently is dormant. However since 2008 some students leaving Grade six have been given financial assistance for high school through the Margaret Samuels Scholarship Fund (overseas).

The fact that the school is over 100 years old, means that the physical plant does not have most of the facilities found in modern schools- staffroom, principal's office, computer labs, library and playfield are all make shift, the local efforts of the school and the community. The building itself is in relatively good condition – re-roofed in the 2009 – 2010 school year and a perimeter fence was erected in the 2010 – 2011 school year. Thus the security has been greatly improved and the school community is now rid of goats,

loiterers and persons who used the place as through way to Station Road. The students are in need now of improved toilet facilities and a changing room.

The water and electricity supplies are good.

THREE YEAR OVERVIEW OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

EXAM	YEAR	AVERAGES	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL%
GSAT	2009	81-100	1	-]
		60-80	2	10	52.8]
		50-59	1	5]
		Below 50	13	4	47.2
No. Sitting 36					
	2010	81-100	1	2]
		60-80	10	15	66.2]
		50-59	7	8]
		Below 50	15	7	33.8
No Sitting 65					
	2011	81-100	2	3]
		60-80	6	7	83.3]
		50-59	3	4]
		Below 50	3	2	16.7
No Sitting 30					

GRADE FOUR LITERACY	YEAR	MASTERY %	ALMOST MASTERY%	NON-MASTERY %
	2009	67	20	13
	2010	84	8	8

	2011	70	22	8

Reasons for Twinning:

Help teachers to share teaching ideas, learn about other countries and exchange best practices.

Twining offers opportunity to enrich the curriculum.

Learn about a different culture:

- Pen friend scheme at a personal level for children.
- Help to broaden children's horizons and build their curiosity about life in another school in a different country.
- Provide resources needed to enhance the learning environment of the children.

Books needed:

Grade 4

Literacy Skills – Carlong Publishers.

Discovering Numeracy – Shawn Johnson

Gateway to Numeracy book 4 – Hyacinth Bennett

Leaps and Bounds in Literacy – Fyayne Elliot/O'Neil Ankle

Grade 5

GSAT Test Prep – Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, Mathematics

If you would like to twin with Riverside All Age School please complete the **Twining Request Form**.