Workshop Summary

Department of Education Services – Tests and Measurement Policies in the Cayman Islands

Presented By: Mrs. Delores Thompson

The second workshop that I found extremely informative was this one presented by6 Mrs. Delores Thompson during our regular Diploma in Education class period on Friday, June 11, 2010 at the University College of the Cayman Islands. Mrs. Thompson works with the Department of Education Services as the Acting Head of Testing and Examinations and has fifteen years of teaching experience in secondary education.

The workshop aimed to inform our class on the stages of education in the Cayman Islands and at which students are assessed by external tests and examinations. The workshop also aimed to shed some light on the levels that students are expected to reach at which stages in their education and to give the Diploma in Education class a better understanding of the National Curriculum Key Stages and Levels in the public education system. We gained practice in deciphering the level that a particular student’s work is currently at.

Mrs. Thompson’s presentation was successful in fulfilling the objective of informing the Diploma in Education class of 2010 of the types of measurement, insight on reading and interpreting the results and the reasons for conducting the assessments. Her topics ranged from describing the Key Stages in a student’s education in the public system to the tests that a student sits at the end of each Key Stage. Tests such as the Terra Nova, Key Stage Tests and the CAT 3 Tests are sat by students at the end of Key Stages in their education. Mrs. Thompson also covered alternative forms of assessment which the classroom teacher gives throughout the entire school year.

The Diploma in Education class was left fully informed and enlightened on what we should expect as classroom teachers in the public education system in the Cayman Islands. I now know the reasons for assessing students and how measurement can help me to be a better teacher. I am motivated to keep myself, parents and students informed of their progress and to use my students test results to evaluate my own effectiveness as a teacher in helping them to experience growth and progress in my classroom and reach their full potential as a student.

If I had not received this workshop, I would have completed the Diploma in Education program having been left in the dark on such a crucial area in teaching in the Cayman Islands and I know that my professors would not have had it that way. I am therefore very grateful that we received this workshop on Tests and Measurement Policies in the Cayman Islands.