

Education

- Educator
- Journalist
- Consultant
- Counselor



HILTON

The Caribbean: More Than an Exotic Vacation



KEITH O. HILTON

Jamaica, Trinidad, the Virgin Islands, Dominica, Montserrat. Even some of our own publications sometimes spend more time writing about "exotic" vacations in the Caribbean than about the rich African and Asian cultures of that region of the world.

As the world community gets closer, it continues to be important that we know about others in the world.

The following are a few highlights of some countries of the West Indies. We ask that Caribbean readers fill in additional national information.

As always, we strongly encourage students to ask international students and visitors about their cultures, customs and experiences. Until or unless one visits other countries, asking questions is the next best thing to being there. That is what higher education is all about.

1) THE BAHAMAS. Capital: Nassau. The majority of the citizens are of African descent. Some of the main products of the country are pulpwood, rum, salt, cucumbers, crawfish, oil refining, cement and tourism.

An aside: One of my best friends in college was from the Grand Bahamas. He spent more than a few minutes trying to enlighten those of us not from the islands about the Obeah Man and other "pertinent" facts.

2) BARBADOS. Capital: Bridgetown. The majority of the citizens are also African. Less than 5% of the residents are European. Barbados gained its independence from Britain in 1966.

An aside: Contrary to popular western thought, Barbados and the many other European colonies were not so much "granted" their independence as they created a climate that "encouraged" the colonialists to do so.

3) CUBA. Capital: Havana. One of the biggest flaws with the U.S. Census undertaking is with its classification of Hispanic. According to its categories, Cubans are Hispanic. Translation: There are no Black folks in this nation situated between the U.S. and Jamaica. But those of us who can see and/or are open to acquiring knowledge, know better.

4) HAITI. Capital: Port Au Prince. A lot has happened to Haiti since 1804 when it won its independence from France. The leader of this independence revolution was Toussaint L'Ouverture. Over ninety percent of its citizens are of African descent.

An aside: The official dominant religion in this French speaking country is Roman Catholic. My many Haitian friends say that there is a saying that goes as follows: "Ninety percent of the people are Catholic; one hundred percent believe in Voodoo." That is Voodoo in its truest sense.

5) DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. Capital: Santo Domingo. Predominantly Spanish speaking nation. Less than 20% of its inhabitants are of European descent. The Dominican Republic has shared the island of Hispaniola with Haiti since 1844.

HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION is designed to dialogue with college and world readers. Education is ongoing and certainly not limited to school classrooms. Let's talk. (714) 899-0650.



Summer Should Not Be a Vacation From Learning

By Veva Viegas, Director
Sylvan Learning Center

The crisis in education and diminished academic achievement is one of the hottest topics in the U.S. today. The media articles routinely headline slipping math and science scores; declining educational standards and quality; and dwindling skills proficiency.

What does that have to do with summer vacation?

Building the resources that come from our minds and the minds of our children must become a year-round activity. Learning and education is at least as important an activity during summer recess as it is in the winter just before final exams.

Conventional school schedules, based on a century-and-a-half old agrarian economy, effectively shut down the learning process of many children for three months out of the year. Yet the longterm implications of inadequate education for our children are enormous.

Providing the opportunity for children means augmenting their regular educational experience. Parents should not allow the learning process to be shut down for one-quarter of each year.

The U.S. Department of Education brings the issue to a very individual level in its recent report on dwindling math skills. Students who take more high school and university mathematics courses earn considerably higher income in their first ten years of work than do their peers with fewer math skills. "More math means more

money," the study concludes.

Or, to state it another way, more education means better opportunity, enhanced earning potential, improved quality of life.

Parents must also encourage education throughout the summer to reinforce in the child's mind that education should not be put on hold for one-fourth of the year. Trips to museums and galleries help to reinforce this. Some parents choose to enroll their children in supplemental education centers to keep creativity and learning fresh in the minds of the students. Two to four hours a week in instruction can do wonders to help a child keep valuable information from being lost.

For the advanced learner, programs in creative writing or word processing will help foster creativity and keep thought processes alive. For a child struggling in school, remedial programs can help him learn skills that were not mastered in the previous grade.

Working in partnerships with school systems, most learning centers provide the extra opportunity to bridge learning gaps or stimulate the interest of children by providing an extra challenge.

Summer programs not only provide a means of maximizing the months for a child's benefit, they also reinforce the learning of the previous school year to prevent learning losses. With the challenge and stimulation of a well-tailored learning program in a positive environment, boredom need not be an inevitable part of summer.

Elementary Summer School Program Enrolling Students Now

Parents may enroll students now for elementary summer school classes in the Clark County School District. Summer school will be held June 18 through July 26.

There are five courses offered in elementary summer school. They are: Science and Technology Institute, Personal Growth Seminar, Creative Arts Workshops, Applied Mathematics Center and Basic 3Rs Regular

Remedial Resources.

A total of 24 schools throughout the Clark County School District have been chosen as elementary summer school sites. These schools are located in every geographic area of Clark County for the convenience of parents and students served.

Parents must provide transportation for students at

See SCHOOL, Page 8

Secondary Summer School Preregistration Now Underway

Students should preregister now for Secondary Summer School classes available this summer through the Clark County School District.

Classes will be offered June 25 through August 9 at four main sites including: Basic, Bonanza, Chaparral and Rancho High Schools. Several additional auxiliary summer school sites have also been identified.

Classes will be offered in the academic areas of English, Social Studies, Science, Mathematics, and Physical and Health Education. Also, if enough students are enrolled, Elective/Enrichment classes will be offered in additional subject areas.

Any student in grades 7-12 desiring enrichment programs or remediation should see their school counselor for a summer school application form. A transcript must accompany each application. All students must attend registration at the site where classes will be taken.

Students who fail to preregister for summer school must bring a transcript with them when they register. The preregistration deadline is June 15.

Summer school registration will be held at each site as follows: Seniors only: June 20, 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.; All students grades 7-12: June 20, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; and June 21, 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Students may register for one or two classes. Fees are \$70 per one-half credit, which is equivalent to one class, or \$140 for one full credit (two classes).

The Clark County School District dress code will be enforced during registration and during summer school.

A special Secondary Summer School Hotline has been established. If you have questions, call 799-5480.



**NEED HELP
WITH READING,
WRITING, MATH,
& GED — AGE: 16+**

**CONTACT
A.O.I.P.
647-2117
1-4 P.M.**