



GREETINGS BY

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AT THE

Award Ceremony for ICDP-II Inter-School Spelling Bee Competition-

2022

SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2022

Salutations:

- **Mr. Gerard McDaniel** - Master of Ceremonies,
- **Mr. Russhaine Berry** - Social Media Influencer,
- Parents, teachers, principals, and staff members from all participating schools,
- Friends in the media,

I bring you warm greetings on behalf of the Board, Management and Staff of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund. It is my privilege to be here today to witness the pride, joy and excitement of our young champions.

We have been busy here the last few months with the elimination rounds of this Spelling Bee Competition for students in Grade four, five and six, from schools in Clarendon, St. James, Kingston and St. Andrew.

A total of 199 students engaged in 2 months of nail-biting competition, which resulted in 99 students advancing to the Semi-Final round and 51 students moving forward to the Final phase of the competition, from 12

schools: Hope Valley Experimental Primary School, August Town

Primary School, Greenwich Town Primary School, St. Andrew Primary

School, Edward Seaga Primary School, Treadlight Primary School,

Anchovy Primary School, Lethe Primary and Infant School, Roehampton Primary School, Bickersteth Primary and Infant School Mt. Salem Primary School salt Spring Primary and Infant school.

The Jamaica Social Investment Fund decided to introduce this Inter-School Spelling Bee Competition to target children between the ages of 9 to 12 years old; in an effort to support the literacy development within the schools and build learning enthusiasm within the students who attend Primary schools across all the ICDP II communities. In the end, this objective was achieved. By the time 12-year-old Lavoy Senior from Bickersteth Primary and Infant School spelled the final word of the competition, this Spelling Bee had already provided an additional educational experience that exposed the participants to healthy competition, that helped them to gain competency over vocabulary; develop a range of cognitive skills including the ability to handle pressure; boost their confidence, and develop better learning skills,

which will prove to be highly beneficial as they progress through the education system.

I am certain that none of the competitors has left this competition empty-handed but would have all gained the experience necessary to develop a healthy sense of sportsmanship and friendly rivalry.

Moreover, they would have learned how to both win and lose with grace. It has been delightful to see very nervous young people evolving throughout this competition, into very confident public performers.

All the students worked extremely hard throughout all rounds of the competition, with some incredible effort on display. This Spelling Bee competition required so much more from the competitors, than just the rote memorization of words. It required them to learn vocabulary and etymology. The competition was rigorous, as they competed in the preliminary rounds at their respective schools and then went through

to the Semi-final and Final rounds, which resulted in them exhausting various lists of words on several occasions.

Congratulations to Jaeden Davis and Castalia Shakespeare in Grade 4;

Tia-Kay Richards and Rodrick Sterling in Grade 5 and Daniel Grant and

Lavoy Senior in Grade 6 for displaying excellent spelling ability. I want

to also congratulate the runners-up, who also displayed outstanding

spelling prowess. In the end however, we did have to select one

regional winner for each grade. Let me assure you that you are all

winners in my book. I am sure you have all won the hearts of every

member of your schools and communities. We are all very proud, not

just of your spelling ability, but also of your determination to increase

your knowledge, and of your commitment to working hard to achieve

the top awards in this competition. Please remember you are all

achievers. It is important for you to feel proud of yourselves and be

pleased with your accomplishments. I hope you will share this love of

learning in your home, at your school, and in your community.

I would also like to commend the teachers and parents for their time and dedication to this side of school life and for helping to motivate and prepare your students for greatness every day. After all, education is about far more than what happens within the four walls of a classroom.

As a matter of fact, I am very pleased to announce that the collective contribution of all our partners on this journey has borne fruit. So, I wish to thank the Ministry of Education and Youth, the dedicated parents, teachers and supporting staff at all the participating schools, for adding value to this competition. I can see that the teachers spared no effort to unearth the talent in the students entrusted to them. At the end of this competition, I am increasingly convinced that you are building the foundation of very strong schools.

Once again, let me congratulate all the students who participated in this competition, whether you won the top award or not. Continue to work hard. Keep learning. Keep spelling and keep aiming for greatness.