



# SOUTHERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

3 BRUMALIA ROAD, MANDEVILLE, MANCHESTER, JAMAICA WI

TEL.: (876) 625-0612-3, 962-9491 or 962-8232 | FAX: (876) 962-8233 | WWW.SRHA.GOV.JM



**Mandeville Regional Hospital**  
32 Hargreaves Avenue  
Mandeville  
Ph: 962-2067/2744/1094  
Fax: 625-8493

**May Pen Hospital**  
1 Muirhead Avenue  
May Pen  
Ph: 986-2528/7708/6938  
Fax: 986-2650

**Black River Hospital**  
45 High Street  
Black River  
Ph: 965-2224/2212  
634-3700  
Fax: 965-9294

**Percy Junor Hospital**  
Spalding P.O.  
Clarendon  
Ph: 964-1181/2222/2322  
Fax: 964-1548

**Lionel Town Hospital**  
Bustamante Drive  
Vere, Clarendon  
Ph: 986-3226  
Fax: 986-3373

**Chapelton Hospital**  
Chapelton P.O.  
Clarendon  
Ph: 987-2215

**Manchester Health Dept.**  
Race Course Rd.  
Mandeville  
Ph: 962-2288/7033  
625-3433  
Fax: 962-2171

**Clarendon Health Dept.**  
1 Muirhead Avenue  
May Pen  
Ph: 986-4548/7869  
Fax: 986-9713

**St. Elizabeth Health Dept**  
High Street  
Black River  
Ph: 965-9174-5  
Fax: 965-2701

## PRESS RELEASE

**November 1, 2016  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **SRHA Encourages Culture of Good Oral Health Practices Among Students**

Against the background of the need to instill a culture of good oral health practices in Jamaica's children, the Southern Regional Health Authority's (SRHA) Dental Auxiliaries have been promoting good oral and dental health education in schools across the region, which culminated with an Oral Health Competition and Awards ceremony recently.

The Competition which was staged by the Clarendon Health Department under the theme, "Oral Health Matters", was used to evaluate primary and secondary students from some 20 schools through quiz, poster and deejay/rap competitions.

Oral Health Month is celebrated in October; however the SRHA Dental Auxiliaries hosted several activities which kick-started on Monday, October 24 and culminated with the competition on Thursday, October 27 at the St. Gabriel's Anglican Church Hall in Clarendon.

Regional Director of the SRHA, Mr. Michael Bent in supporting the initiatives noted that it is very important to change the culture of oral health in Jamaica as research has proven that many risk factors for chronic non-communicable diseases or lifestyle diseases are linked to the development of oral and dental health problems.

He encouraged the dental surgeons, dental nurses, dental hygienists, dental assistants and dental aides to continue being efficient and proactive in making Jamaica a healthier nation.

Turning to the importance of oral health, Medical Officer of Health for Clarendon, Dr. Kimberly Scarlett Campbell said oral health is very important to one's general health and is also useful in "diagnosing diseases, improving maternal and child health outcomes and also improving self esteem." She encouraged teachers and parents to support the students in improving their oral health.

(more)

**Chairman: Wayne Chen; Vice Chairman:** Michael Stern **Board Members:** Marcus Greenwood, Krishan James, Stafford Haughton, Lorraine Green Mason, Lennox Powell, Dr Lloyd Reynolds, Winston Maragh, Dr St Aubyn Bartlett, Dr Lundie Richards, **Directors: Regional Director and Secretary:** Michael Bent; **Regional Technical Director:** Dr Michael Coombs; **CEO Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Alwyn Miller; **SMO, Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Dr Everton McIntosh



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The competition, which is an annual event, saw Denbigh Primary School copping the first prize in the Quiz Competition and also in the Poster Competition for the 6-8 category. Other winners included Treadlight Primary School in the 9-11 category, Thompson Town Primary School in the 12- 15 category and Lennon High School in the 16 and over section.

The deejay/rap competition which was one of the day's highlights saw winners from the Thompson Town Primary School in the 6-8 category and Race Course Primary School in the 9-11 category. For the 12-15 category, Mocho Primary School was declared the winner while Vere Technical High School was awarded first prize for the 16 and over category.

## Picture 1



The winning school in the Quiz Competition, Denbigh Primary listen to Quiz Master and Dental Surgeon, Dr Lesline Davis.

(more)

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Picture 2 & 3



Entries in the Poster Competition.

(more)

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Picture 4



Crowd favorites Mocho Primary School deliver a sizzling performance.

-30-

For more information contact:  
Latoya Laylor Brown  
Public Relations & Advocacy Officer  
Southern Regional Health Authority  
Tel: 962-8232/779-2663  
Email: [latoya.laylor@srha.gov.jm](mailto:latoya.laylor@srha.gov.jm)

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