

The National Executive of the St. Lucia Teachers' Union invites you to Teachers' Week 2012 activities under the theme "Take a Stand for Teachers"

- Sunday September 30th** -Ecumenical Service
Canaries / Time: 9:30a.m.
- Monday October 1st** -Fun Walk~ Start: Caribbean Cinemas at 6:30a.m. Finish: Pigeon Pointe
Registration : \$15 (register with shop stewards, Branch Reps & SLTU office)
- Tuesday October 2nd** -Education Activity (Branch/Inter Branch)
- Wednesday October 3rd** -Education Conference /Theme: "SLTU & SLTCC Partnering to Take a Stand for Teachers"
CSA Centre, Sans Souci Time: 9:30a.m.
- Thursday October 4th** -Teachers' Talent Night at 7:00p.m. ~ National Cultural Centre ~ Cost: \$20
- Friday October 5th** -Teacher Appreciation Day
-Football & Netball Competitions Finals/ Venue: Gros Islet
- Saturday October 6th** -Retirees' Function
(By Invitation Only)
- Sunday October 7th** -Teachers' Week Rally~Venue: Morne Coubaril Estate~Soufriere
@ 10:00a.m. ~ Teachers' Week Fete follows immediately after



Message from the Public Relations Officer

Union Vibes is a special publication by the St. Lucia Teachers' Union. The focus of this publication is to keep teachers abreast with current SLTU activities/ events.

It is truly my pleasure to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to you, on behalf of the executive of the St. Lucia Teachers' Union, as we begin the 2012-2013 academic year. September is the time for renewal, a time to reconnect with old friends and welcome new friends, to truly inspire returning and new students.

In light of the recent trends in education, we need to continue working diligently with the Ministry, parents and students. This would help promote an atmosphere for a vibrant learning society, characterized by child- centred instruction and decisions, scholastic excellence, confidence and deference, in order to foster responsible community involvement in our students. We need to empower our students and colleagues to remain committed to working in collaboration with each other, to continue the development and implementation of our shared national educational vision. Working together as a team, we will move forward in our mission for our new school year to create a nurturing, disciplined and challenging environment, in which all students can learn at most advantageous levels and become lifelong learners.

This year, the theme for Teachers' Week - Take a Stand for Teachers; beckons all of us to be professional in our approach and attitudes; to speak proudly of our profession and strive for positive personal development. It compels each teacher to become involved in the education system not for ourselves, but for the mere survival of our profession. During this teachers' week 2012, take a stand and participate in the various activities as they place teachers on the national front.

Long Live the SLTU!!!!



Lea St. Helen-Phulgence
Public Relations Officer



Julian Monrose
President SLTU

From the Desk of the General Secretary



On behalf of the National Executive and members of General Council of the St. Lucia Teachers' Union, I welcome all teachers back to school for the academic year 2012-2013. It is my hope that God will shower his blessings upon you and grant you good health, wealth and prosperity for this academic year.

Being an educator is not an easy profession; it calls for us to be selfless and patient. This is why many refer to it as a vocation. However we view it, our purpose is create a positive impact on the lives of the children who are placed in our

care. The SLTU code of ethics which can be found on the union's website (www.slluciateachersunion.com) provides us teachers with set guidelines, to help us function at optimal when carrying out our day to day duties. As a responsible organization, the SLTU always reminds teachers to maintain professional standards.

If you read the code of ethics, you will see that part of upholding the profession is to support your union. The SLTU with your support over the years have been able to gain a number of benefits for teachers. It is only with your support that the union can continue making a positive impact on the education system.

We are beginning this academic year still engaged in negotiations with the Government Negotiating Team (GNT). At present, we are still engaged in negotiations on non-salary benefits and conditions of work. I am pleased to report that some progress is being made in that regard however; there has also been some areas of disagreement. It must be reiterated that we are still negotiating non- salary benefits and conditions of work hence, we have not started salary negotiations.

This brings me to the theme for Teachers' Week 2012: "Take a Stand for Teachers". As teachers, you must first take a stand for our profession, our rights and privileges and for our union. If we do not stand for ourselves, then who will stand with us? Participation in our union is one of the best ways to show that you are standing for teachers. During Teachers' Week 2012 a number of activities are planned. You are urged to take a stand and participate. There are also activities leading up to Teachers' Week which include Branch Meetings and the Zonal Football Competition. Once again my fellow teachers I urge you to take a stand and participate. Let us all unite to keep our beloved SLTU strong and vibrant. Long Live the SLTU !!!!!

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS:

President: Julian Monrose

1st Vice President: Flora Emmanuel

2nd Vice President– Nigel Mitchell

General Secretary: Don Howell

Deputy General Secretary: Ken Patrick Prospere

Public Relations Officer: Lea St Helen Phulgence

Treasurer: Peter Louisy

A Teacher's Prayer

When you're discouraged, never fear.

Remember love has brought you here.

For every trip and fall you make,

Pick up, move on, learn from mistake.

Let your spirit's light shine through

Everything your heart beats to.

And know that people need your praise

To lead them through life's winding maze.

You are a true gift, this I know

Because you help young minds to grow.

There is no goal you cannot reach,

For you've blessed the world with what you teach.

~K. Koali.

**Look out for New Teacher Orientation
Session date will be announced**