

# Education Department encouraging parents to be Teachers

Minister of Education Hon. Dr. Lillian Boyce was overwhelmed by the large turnout of concerned parents at the Horse Stable Beach auditorium in North Caicos to listen to her and the Director of Education, Mrs. Fulford, launch the new initiative 'Parents – Teachers at Home'.

The Minister told **The SUN** that throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands the meetings went quite well and is optimistic by the parent's attendance. "The response and enthusiasm that came from the parents told me quite clearly that many parents are taking a greater interest in their children's academic affairs and that they really want to be involved in this exercise in partnership with the other players in the education system," said Hon. Boyce.

"I am extremely pleased and encouraged with the response from the parents in the islands of Grand Turk where we launched this programme, as well as in Providenciales, South Caicos, Salt Cay and this morning in Middle Caicos.

"The large turnout of people also leads me to believe that a significant number of parents want to go back to the classroom and again be part of the learning process. This is good." The Minister stressed on the importance of being a good parent and watching over the activities of their children both in and out of school.

"This island has a reputation of producing some exceptionally good people. It has produced some great students, great teachers and as we all know, two Chief Ministers. So while it is my duty to encourage all the parents country-wide, I would like to make a special appeal to those of you in North Caicos, to really add your special touch to this programme."

The Minister went down memory lane as she talked about her childhood and growing up with parents who ensured that she completed her homework and struck the right balance between work and play.

"Today, our children have a wide range of learning tools and facilities at their disposal, and they also have more opportunities than ever before. But they must put these resources and opportunities to good use and not abuse them or take them for granted.

"The internet and television can be used in a positive fashion or in a negative way, but it up to the parents to ensure that their children are making good use of these facilities to advance and improve themselves and not simply for pleasure.

“So if they and we can combine the effective use of those resources with a renewed determination from parents, children, and teachers and educators working together, there is no doubt that together we will be paving the way to success,” stressed the Minister.

“We therefore need to get back to the basics, but at the same time, we need to embrace the changes that are taking place within our education system so that we get the best out of our people.”

This year has been declared as ‘Parents-Teachers at Home’ year in the TCI. The Ministry and Department of Education will cater to parents by hosting a number of seminars throughout the country geared towards enhancing their parental and teaching skills to bring out the best in our children.