



PRESS RELEASE

20<sup>th</sup> March 2009

**Deadline Approaches for dms' \$12,000 Joanna Clarke Excellence in Education Award**

GEORGE TOWN, Grand Cayman –dms Organization Ltd. (dms) continues to raise awareness for the Joanna Clarke Excellence in Education Award (JCA) and urges the public that the deadline for applications is approaching, being April 17<sup>th</sup>. With this award it grants up to \$12,000 KYD annually to a worthy recipient(s).

Recognizing the importance of private sector support for education, dms introduced the award to honour Ms. Clarke, and publicly acknowledge the efforts of all persons and organizations that contribute to education in the Cayman Islands.

Chairperson of the JCA Committee Ms. Joanna Clarke commented, “With the leadership of the Cayman Islands Government, the educational system has made good strides and there are plans in place for continued improvement. However, there is great opportunity for funding from the private sector to help drive greater success.”

She added, “We continue to be delighted with the response from schools and organizations; it’s humbling to see so many worthy applicants making a concerted effort to improve schooling here in Cayman.

The 2008 recipient was John Gray High School for its “Blueprint for Literacy” initiative which aimed to ensure that all high school students, upon graduation, will be able to perform at their grade levels and pass at least four external exams. The 2007 recipient was Savannah Primary School PTA, which used the funding to pay for new playground equipment.

The JCA criteria are:

- Contribute to and promote excellence in education in the Cayman Islands.
- Be sustainable and measurable.
- Contribute to increased parental and/or community involvement in education.
- Be affiliated with a reputable educational institution or organization.

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- Demonstrate a proven history in successful education projects and/or teaching.
- Contingency for leadership.

Applications for the 2009 JCA are currently being circulated throughout Cayman Islands' schools and are available at the award web site [www.joannaclarke.ky](http://www.joannaclarke.ky). For further information and to obtain an application contact Kim Fellman, dms Marketing Coordinator, at 814-4279 or [kfellman@dms.com.ky](mailto:kfellman@dms.com.ky). Any person or body involved in or affiliated with education is eligible for consideration, including but not limited to; teachers/teaching departments, students, PTAs, and schools.

The JCA Committee will carefully review all applications submitted, and if several worthy projects are identified, they may provide grants to multiple organizations up to \$12,000 KYD in total. The JCA Committee consists of the celebrated Ms. Joanna Clarke; President of dms Organization Ltd., Don Seymour; Literacy Education Specialist, Tanya Marie Dwight; Red Bay Primary School's Literacy Coordinator, Anne Briggs; President of Savannah Primary School's PTA, Mark Scotland; John Gray High School's Reading Specialist, Lydia Warren; and News Director of CITN, April Cummings.

Mr. Seymour concluded, "On behalf of the committee, I'd like to sincerely thank all individuals and organizations for taking the time to submit their applications."

dms Organization is a business conglomerate engaged in the financial services, real estate and media industries.

*Photo Caption 1:*