



MAPLE LEAFLET

Maple Leaf International School

A Canadian International Program

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SPECIAL POINTS

☺ Thank you students for making an effort to wear our school uniform appropriately and adhering to the uniform rules, we have seen the difference!!

☺ Have you found an old MLIS library book at home? We have a 'no questions asked' policy on books returned to our library.

☺ Thanks for all the new addresses and telephone numbers; we have been able to update our files. Any changes....contact the office.

☺ Remember to continue to be considerate of our neighbours when it comes to parking or dropping off/picking up the children to/from school.

☺ Please remember to turn off your engines while waiting for your children in the driveway of the main campus. Your children may be affected by the fumes.

☺ Carnival is around the corner, mark your calendars for March 7th, 8th and 9th as carnival holidays for MLIS.

CALENDAR OF PAST AND UPCOMING EVENTS

January 21st—27th	Secondary School Exams
February 3rd	Primary Parent Teacher Interviews
February 7th	Secondary reports go home
February 10th	Secondary Curriculum night—6-8 pm.



A DIFFERENT PLACE: Differentiated Curriculum

Differentiation is not a recipe for teaching. It is not an instructional strategy. It is not what a teacher does when he or she has time. It is a way about teaching and learning. It is a philosophy. As such, it is based on the following set of beliefs.

Students who are the same age differ in their readiness to learn, their interests, their styles of learning, their experiences, and their life circumstances.

The differences in students are significant enough to make a major impact on what students need to learn, the pace at which they need to learn, and the support they need from teachers and others to learn it well.

Students will learn best when supportive adults push them slightly beyond where they can work without assistance.

Students will learn best when they can make a connection between the curriculum and their interests and life experiences.

Students will learn best when learning opportunities are natural.

Students are more effective learners when classrooms and schools create a sense of community in which students feel significant and respected.

Differentiation must be a refinement of, not a substitute for high quality curriculum and instruction. Expert or distinguished teaching focuses on the understanding and skills of a discipline, causes students to wrestle with profound ideas, help students organize and make sense of ideas and information, and aids students in connecting the classroom with a wider world. (Brandt, 1998; Danielson,

1996.)

Principles of a differentiated curriculum for high-ability learners include some or all of the following:

Presenting content that is related to broad-based issues, themes or problems.

Integrating multiple disciplines into the area of study.

Presenting comprehensive, related and mutually reinforcing experience within an area of study.

Allowing for in-depth learning of a self-selected topic within the area of study.

Develop independent or self-directed study skills. Developing productive, complex, abstract and/or higher level thinking skills.

Focusing on open ended tasks.

Developing research skills and methods.

Integrating basic skills and higher-level thinking into the curriculum.

Encouraging the development of products that challenge existing ideas and produce "new" ideas.

Encourage the development of products that use new techniques, materials and forms.

Encourage the development of self understanding.

Evaluating student outcomes by using appropriate and specific criteria through self-appraisal, criterion-referenced and or standardized instruments.

For more information: www.adifferentplace.org

"Life affords no greater responsibility, no greater privilege, than the raising of the next generation"

From Buildings to Body.....A Fusion of Architecture and Wearable Art

By Ashley Hobson Garcia



Adriana Camacho, Architect and Jewellery Designer

Pablo Picasso once said, “The important thing is to create. Nothing else matters; creation is all.” This quotation personifies the spirit of Trinidadian architect and jewellery designer Adriana Camacho. We begin our lives with a blank canvas and as time passes, with the use of our imagination, life experiences, and talent, we paint a picture of our life for the world to see: a painting that is a reflection of the memories and circumstances that brought us to the present place.

With a mind to build and an imagination to create, Adriana Camacho grew up spending a great deal of time on construction sites. These sites were neither ordinary nor boring, but to Adriana, proof of what mankind could do and testimony to the ingenious nature of architecture. On Saturdays, her father, a man specialized in the field of construction, would take her with him to the construction sites on which he was working at the time. The two shared a close bond and a passion to build. In the imaginative and conceptual eyes of young Adriana, she did not see the grey concrete, metal beams or wooden boards, but rather the great beauty of a building to be. Closing her eyes she would visualize and connect the pieces of the unfinished construction site, brilliantly using the metal beams, concrete filling, nails, tiles and most of all, her creative power to finish the building before her. As time passed, her enthusiasm for construction grew and soon she was alongside her father, helping him render elevations and floor plans. These experiences, so deeply embedded in her mind, were her first experiences of the construction and architectural world and from there, it was a natural progression. Her father had unknowingly ignited a spark in his daughter’s life, one that would burn bright and light the path of her future pursuit in architectural design.



Growing up in Trinidad, Adriana entered Maple Leaf International School at Grade Five from where she later graduated. She thanks the institution for giving her the ability to explore her personal interests and talents. She distinctly recalled and praised the school’s open-minded environment, where the sharing of ideas and opinions was encouraged. This open environment, she believes, was very instrumental in helping her shape her ideas and foster her own work ethic and habits, both of which are vital skills for success in any course of study. When questioned as to whether Maple Leaf International School influenced her career choice, she stated, “No I wouldn’t say that Maple Leaf influenced my direction in architecture, but Maple Leaf did encourage post secondary education and also encouraged me to consider a wide range of careers, possibilities and opportunities.” Adriana’s secondary school experience was a great one, filled with the learning of invaluable skills that she would later translate to many aspects of her university, professional and personal life.

After Maple Leaf, Adriana abandoned the warm tropics and headed for the upbeat metropolitan state of New Orleans, where she began her post-secondary education at the University of Tulane. There she was trained in many areas of architecture, but decided that her true love lay in the smaller projects. With a distinct interest in sustainable design, more commonly known as environmental design, Adriana hopes to design buildings to “comply with the economic, social, and ecological sustainability” of the earth. Through her field, she wants to promote sustainable living and indirectly better the future of mankind.

After completing university, with the mounting economical recession, Adriana was finding it hard to land a job in her chosen field. In pursuit of a stable location, she travelled to Houston where she found a part-time job opportunity in architecture. This, and the fact that her fiancé was offered a job transfer there, influenced her decision to settle in Houston. The challenges posed by the recession motivated Adriana to follow her interests in jewellery. With the light that her father had lit still shining brightly within her, she began the transition from buildings to jewellery. Adriana was drawing the blue prints for her life as a jewellery designer.

Adriana's first jewellery course was a one-week workshop in Houston where she was introduced to the art of metal smithing, focusing on sawing, soldering, and bezel setting. This ignited her interest in jewellery and she recalls that after that, "she was hooked." Whetted with this new interest, when she visited Chicago, she took part in a one-day workshop in wire wrapping. She then took a semester long course in Houston to learn more and to refine her skills. From here on her career path was altered. Making jewellery had taken on a major role in her life and architecture was 'put on the back burner.' Adriana did not allow the economic downturn to cripple her, but instead showed her versatility and creativity by venturing into an entirely new field.

Her architectural background and training have undoubtedly influenced her designs. "Each component of design, such as the line, the curve, the connections and the movements are all architectural elements used in a manner that creates wearable art." From designing buildings to creating wearable art, Adriana has shown us that there is no limit to the possibilities if we keep an open mind and explore our potentials. Through all her pieces, she is able to express herself and create physical manifestations of her talent and unique ideas.

She specializes in hand crafted jewellery using a variety of materials such as gemstones, gold fill, sterling silver, brass and even organic materials such as feathers, seeds, and hemp. Her designs cater for those "individuals who are looking for wearable art" that complements the modern woman who is strong and independent. Her unique choice of materials and her West Indian background play a key role in the individuality of her pieces. Her Caribbean background is a strong component of her design methodology and is evidenced in every piece. Adriana is proud of her roots and states that "the social aspect of island life and the element of being a 'Trini' woman -- confident, beautiful, composed, and radiant --" are the characteristics which inspire her. Her jewellery is an outward expression of her persona. The crafter of jewellery is the crafter of memories, symbols, and messages. For Adriana Camacho, making jewellery is a means of "self-expression, innovation, pride, and ownership." Each of her pieces is "very much an individual effort" and even though she works alone, she is open to collaboration with other designers. Although she is an independent artist she does thank her friends and family who have provided an unbreakable and reliable support system for her, especially in the period before her show in Trinidad. She humbly states, "I couldn't have done anything without their unwavering help and support."



Presently, Adriana is living in Houston and still missing "the weather, the food, the family, the friends and lifestyle" of Trinidad. For this reason, she stated that she would consider moving back to Trinidad given 'the right time and the right opportunity.' She hopes to continue in jewellery designing and wants to learn more about jewellery making techniques which she can apply to her work. She is not content with her present knowledge but rather realizes that she can learn more and continue to better herself and her designs. To this end, she plans to take more courses. Determination and the ability to adapt to a situation and grasp every opportunity have moulded her into the ideal role model she is today. We can all learn a lesson from her as she teaches us that we shouldn't stay in a constant state but should hone the will to excel and explore all our possibilities and interests, for diversity is the key to surviving in this fast paced world in which we live. Adriana plans to return to architecture when the economy rebounds, for she knows she can contribute fully to that sector. In the meantime, she is enjoying her work in jewellery and is excited to see where it will take her, for the possibilities are limitless. Although her career in jewellery is her present priority, she states that both careers are priorities in her life and that she is excited to see just how the two areas of design complement each other in the long run. Her independent jewellery business is flourishing, which she feels is partly due to the Caribbean influence in her work. After her positive reception in the United States in the face of great competition, she has recently had a jewellery showing in Trinidad, selling most of her pieces. Her wearable art is a big seller in both Trinidad and the United States.

When asked what advice she would give to young people, Adriana reflectively said, " Even if things do not seem to be going in the direction that you have set for yourself it is important not to give up, but to keep an open mind, and to be 'open' to any opportunity that comes your way, even when you are not quite sure if it is right for you. To believe in yourself." It is her self-confidence, free-flowing spirit and creative persona that have made her the successful woman she is today. With this attitude



one can only expect great things from her be it in the architectural field or jewellery creation. At age twenty-five she is still painting the canvas of her life and using her creativity to propel her through life. She enjoys discovering new places in her neighbourhood, city, country and the world in general, studying all the different architecture and design varieties. One thing is certain: Adriana will always succeed. With her vivid imagination and determination to succeed, the possibilities are limitless and the world around her is the hub for her creations. With her architectural and jewellery designs, creative power and warm disposition, Adriana Camacho is making her indelible mark on the world, one that will never be forgotten.

MAPLE LEAF'S U19 GIRLS' FOOTBALL TEAM PARTICIPATES IN SW FUTSAL INVITATIONAL

Alisa Tulloch-Lewis, Team Manager

The Maple Leaf U19 Girls' Football team participated in the 1st Annual SW Futsal Invitational [Female Edition], on Saturday, Dec 11, 2010. Coach Dave Weeks accompanied the Under 19 girls' team to the Eastern Regional Sport Arena, Tacarigua, where the tournament was held. The players from Maple Leaf exhibited their talent and put forth their best efforts. The girls played three games and leading scorers, Melissa Silva and Jolene Mendes, helped the team advance to the semi-finals. It was a hard fought game for bronze but the girls fell short to a 1-0 defeat. Water One Real Division claimed the title and a cash

prize of \$4000.00TT. Overall, this was a great experience for our girls as it proved to be good competition and more importantly, it provided the opportunity for team building. Cristina Bennett, our goalie was awarded the tournament's Golden Glove trophy for the incredible goalkeeping skills she displayed throughout the tournament. Indeed, Cristina was one of the highlights of the a tournament. The girls look forward to future tournaments as this experience was and most certainly en-



U19 Futsal Team



Cristina Bennett receiving the Golden Gloves Award

MLIS COMMUNITY CAROLLING

After many weeks of practice, MLIS students joined together on December 13th at 6:30 p.m. in Holiday Park, Diego Martin for an evening of carolling to the delight of all the neighbours. As the residents came out of their houses they could hear the sweet voices of children singing Jingle Bell Rock, Away in a Manger, We Wish You a Merry Christmas and many other carols. The students dressed in red shirts, black pants and Santa hats and were lead by their choir teacher, Mrs. Michele

Hoyte. A special thanks to Joshua Phillips, a grade 12 student, who accompanied the students with his guitar. The Holiday Park residents expressed their appreciation to the students by presenting each child with a gift and invited them to have some refreshments the community had prepared as a thank you, all meant in the spirit of Christmas. The Maple Leaf International School Christmas Carollers have been invited to sing at Holiday Park next Christmas 2011.

