

# MAPLE CONNECT

## MAPLE LEAF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

*A CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME*

### MLIS MARINE ECOLOGY SUMMER CAMP JULY 2011

A group of MLIS students participated in a one week Marine Ecology Summer Camp with Dolphin's Plus in the Florida Keys during their summer vacation. The students were accompanied by the camp coordinator, Nadia Chuckaree, MLIS teacher Alison Pechlof, as well as a few parents who acted as



chaperones. The camp focused heavily on marine ecology, marine mammal anatomy, mangrove and reef ecosystems and conservation. And of course the students and chaperones got the opportunity to swim with DOLPHINS. The unanimous response to the camp was that it was simply "AWESOME".

The goal of the camp was to introduce students to possible careers in Marine Biology. As such there was a visit to the University of Miami as well as a visit to a Marine Mammal Conservancy Centre that focuses on rehabilitation of stranded marine mammals. There the students saw researchers and wildlife rehabilitators working with survivors of a pilot whale group that had recently been stranded. Of course not

many of these whales survived. Students also enjoyed a museum visit, shopping, as well as a visit to the Everglades. Students, parents and chaperones held a BBQ to raise funds for the camp. One sponsor Guardian Holdings came on board and covered the cost of one student to the camp as well as the group insurance costs for the trip. The school was invited via the Guardian Group to participate in joining concerned citizens around the world and taking part in the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup/ Data Collection Exercise cards pencils. The event took place at Chagville Beach, Chaguaramas on Saturday 17th September from 7:30 am - 10:30 am.

MLIS volunteers at beach clean up. Mrs. Da Silva, Raphaela Da Silva, Anaida, Luke Pidduck and Michele Lourenco. Not in photo: Susie Phillips, Nadia, Sunrise, and Sajit Chuckaree.



Dolphin reverse limbo in water from L-R Justin Phillips, Cathal Long and Katherine Dalton Brown (chaperone)



Group swim at Dolphin's plus



MLIS volunteers at beach clean up. Mrs. Da Silva, Raphaela Da Silva, Anaida, Luke Pidduck and Michele Lourenco. Not in photo: Susie Phillips, Nadia, Sunrise, and Sajit Chuckaree.

**By: Michelle Lourenco (grateful parent)**

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

**Mission**  
To be recognized as the premier elementary and secondary school in Trinidad & Tobago.

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**Vision**  
MLIS develops self-directed learners who demonstrate excellence and integrity in becoming leaders and well-balanced contributors to the global community.