

## ScotiaVolunteers Share on Bullying in Schools Across the Island



**Caption 1:** Scotiabank Executives Yanique Forbes Patrick (2<sup>nd</sup> left) and David Noel (2<sup>nd</sup> right) observe as students Jessie Ripoll students, Jelani Edwards (centre) and Moya-Kaye Roberts (right), present their teacher, Ms. Venice Ivey (left) with her gift from the Bank. The Bank had arranged gifts for all the teachers while ScotiaVolunteers shared on the topic of 'Bullying' with students in all 22 classes.

**Caption 2:** Scotia Volunteer, Christopher Symons assists Jessie Ripoll student Kiara King (centre) as she goes through a flyer outlining information about bullying. Symons was one of numerous Volunteers to relieve teachers in schools as part of the Bank's contribution to Teacher's Day. Beside her is Nijah Johnson, who is also reviewing the information provided.

What should you do if you are experiencing bullying? Some students at Jessie Ripoll were clear on how best to handle it...count to ten...walk away and report it.

It was Teacher's Day, and Jessie Ripoll Primary was abuzz with excitement. Students knew school would be different since Scotiabank was spending the morning with them. Over thirty Scotiabank staff members were on hand to relieve the teachers, and take charge of the classes as they shared on the subject of bullying. The Volunteers were a part of a larger initiative that had Scotiabankers, from parishes across the island, going into primary level institutions as part of their contribution for Teacher's Day.

The subject of bullying has been prevalent in media both locally and internationally, and was selected based on information and guidance provided by the Child Development Agency. According to an extract from a study commissioned by Child Development Agency, and funded by UNICEF Jamaica on the 'Prevalence and Impact on Bullying in Jamaica, 2015'.

- Almost 30% of students surveyed fear going to school because of bullying.

- 1 in 14 children who have been bullied face their abusers while travelling to and/or from school.
- Close to 70% of all bullying takes place on playgrounds
- 9 in 10 students have seen a child being bullied at school.

Based on this information, a variety of teaching aids were developed to assist the Volunteers share on the subject, including posters, handouts, and a lesson plan to facilitate discussion around bullying. Students were encouraged to explore and discuss the varying forms of bullying, to share on what to do if they are bullied or see someone being bullied, and were invited to do their own assessment on whether or not they were themselves bullies or targets. The presentations were interactive, with students sharing their own experiences, while utilising skits to give examples of bullying they have seen.

By all accounts, it was an enjoyable exchange and with much enthusiasm and interest expressed around the topic. According to ScotiaVolunteer, Pam Douglas who taught a Grade 4 class, “it was a great experience, I was very impressed with their knowledge and engagement on the subject, and their willingness to participate in the exercises”. “It was good to interact with children and hear their perspectives, and we got the opportunity to share the golden rule, which is to ‘Do unto others as you would have them do unto you’, and to be your brothers’ keeper”, she concluded.

Other Volunteers were inspired by the level of commitment teachers needed to have each day to maintain the students’ interest and involvement.

The excitement heightened at the end of the session, as the gifts arrived in a barrage of red helium balloons for presentation to all the teachers at the institution.



**Caption 3:** ScotiaVolunteers pose with teachers from Jessie Ripoll Primary after presenting them with gifts for Teachers Day. The Volunteers had earlier relieved the teachers of their classes, to share with the students on the subject of bullying. All 22 classes were taken over by the Scotiabank team.