Announcement February 11, 2019

The Alliance of Jamaican Alumni Associations (Toronto), AJAA, is an umbrella organization representing past students’ associations affiliated with educational institutions in Jamaica. The Alliance’s mandate is to provide guidance and financial assistance to students from the Jamaican educational system in integrating them into the Canadian educational system, and to provide support to the member Jamaican Alumni Associations in Toronto.

The Graduates’ Program and Awards Luncheon

AJAA hosts an annual Graduates’ Reception to recognize the achievements of graduating high school students. We have reached out to guidance counselors in the secondary school system and other community entities for assistance in identifying and reaching graduating students of Jamaican descent.

Following are the components of the program:

1. **The Bursary**
   
   *Open to all graduating Ontario High School students of Jamaican descent who are accepted into a post-secondary education program.*

   This Bursary aims to assist graduating high school students in their pursuit of post-secondary education.

   **Bursary Criteria:**
   - be of Jamaican descent
   - maintain a minimum “B” average in the last 2 years of high school
   - a graduate of an Ontario secondary school in 2019
   - be nominated by their school
   - provide evidence of community service or involvement
   - provide proof of acceptance to a community college or university
   - bursaries will be disbursed upon proof of registration in a college or university

   The number and value of the bursaries are dependent on available funding.

2. **The Graduates Awards Ceremony and Luncheon**
   
   *Open to all High School students who fit the above criteria. Students are encouraged to invite their friends, teachers and family members to attend.*

   Awardees will be contacted prior to the reception at which time more specific information will be provided.

   The Awards Ceremony and Luncheon will be held on Sunday, June 23, 2019, at 1:00 PM. (Information pertaining to the location will follow at a later date). Awardees will also be honored with the presentation of certificates and will be invited to network with professionals in the community.

   All awardees should attend the Reception.
3. **The Essay Writing competition**

*Open to all graduating students of Jamaican descent (whether they apply for the bursary or not).*

Students are also being invited to participate in an Essay Writing competition. The deadline for this is May 17, 2019.

The Essay criteria is attached. The competition is voluntary and comes with a monetary award to the winners.

All submissions for the Bursary and the Essay Writing Competition must be accompanied by a nomination form.

The guidance counselors are being asked to authorize the nomination forms and promote this program to all interested graduating high school students who meet the criteria. Those interested in competing for the awards are encouraged to complete the application process and deliver or mail all packages in time to be received by May 17, 2019 at 55 Brower Court, Brampton, ON L6Z 4S6. If further information is required, please call and leave a message at 416-498-9934, or contact Olive Parkins-Smith at 905-450-9987 after 10:am – 9pm Monday – Friday or on weekends after 11:00 AM.

The application form and general information for this program are attached.

Yours sincerely,

Alene Chen
President
The Alliance of Jamaican Alumni Associations

2019 ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION

Every student has immeasurable, untapped reserves of competence and creativity. Given the opportunity, a student can always find a way to better appreciate how to establish a voice in writing to effectively communicate creative thoughts and ideas. Authentic writing then becomes not just an exercise but has a specific purpose and addresses a specific audience.

AJAA is inviting graduating students to participate in the writing process to establish a winner in the Essay Writing Competition. This forum will encourage and allow students to access those immeasurable reserves and express them in a meaningful way. There will be a monetary award for the winner.

To establish clear expectations and guidelines, the organization finds it necessary to remind entrants that the writing process is a recursive act of planning, preparation, drafting, revision and editing. Evaluations will be based on content, length of essay, spelling accuracy and grammar.

Criteria

- Completion of nomination form
- Essays should be between 1000-1500 words
- Lines should be double-spaced and word-processed.
- All thoughts expressed should be those of the author
- This is a persuasive essay (your opinions only) and should not be researched
- Plagiarism will result in disqualification
- Essays will be assessed for proper sentence structure, paragraph structure, grammar, spelling.
- Content and punctuation.
- Essays may be submitted by e-mail or regular mail postmarked no later than May 17, 2019

Eligibility

- Of Jamaican descent
- Ontario Secondary School Graduate in 2019

Please choose one of the following topics

1. Each year the country of Canada welcomes approximately 250,000 immigrants. Do you think Canada is still a viable option for immigrants? What are some of the challenges which an immigrant faces?

2. Should young black Canadians be interested in seeking political office. Explain the reason for your position..

3. Some argue that black dominance in major sports today is due to physical prowess while others have argued that it is due to the significance of motivation, intellect, and discipline. Discuss with reference to which of these you believe and give examples to support your argument

4. A black father's time with his family is more limited than in other families” Discuss why you agree or disagree with this theory

5. It is said that there is still an absence of opportunity, fairness and equality in the workplace. Discuss with reference to how this can impact feelings of insecurity and instability in Canadian Society.

Mailing Address:
Alliance of Jamaican Alumni Associations (Toronto)
C/o 55 Brower Court, Brampton, ON, L6Z 4S6
WWW.ajaacanada.com  416-498-9934

"Helping Dreams Come True"
# Alliance of Jamaican Alumni Association 2019 Bursary Nomination Form

For completion by applicant:

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Name of Parent/s or Guardian/s

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How many children are presently being supported by your parent/s or guardian/s?

Do you personally have any dependents? Please provide details

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For completion by school official (Principal, Vice Principal or Guidance Counsellor):

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This student is a potential graduate for 2016  [ ] YES  [ ] NO

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Please ensure that the following documents are submitted with this form by May 17, 2019:

- Letters of reference (at least two) to support school’s nomination and community involvement
- Confirmation/copies of other scholastic awards or achievements.
- One page article – ‘Why I deserve this award’.
- Copy of official transcript for the last 2 years
- Letter of acceptance to a college or university

NB: Only students selected for a bursary will be contacted by the AJAA.

“Helping Dreams Come True”