Sunday, 22 January 2017

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The Principal

Bbbbbb Primary School

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Dear ,

The Progressive Optimist Club of Barbados is a volunteer organisation of committed persons that share a common interest of service to children and by extension our community. Our club follows the mandate of Optimist International which is to “*Bringing out the best in Kids*”

In our continued efforts to “*Bringing out the best in Kids*” we launched an eye care initiative called “Progressive 20/20” in October of 2011 for Primary Schools with the approval of the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development and the Ministry of Health, which was successfully completed in April 2012.

Worldwide, statistics show that a high percentage of school children are affected by visual impairments. Some of these children suffer significant vision loss because easily treated disorders go undetected. Visual anomalies adversely affect the child’s ability to participate and contribute academically and athletically. These disorders retard the overall growth and development of those afflicted.

During our pilot we screened approximately 300 students and found that 16% of them required prescription glasses. Our Pilot school was “The Bay Primary School” whose principal is Ms. Marielon Gamble, and she can be contacted at 436-6073 for reference.

The initiative starts with Optimist Club members performing vision screening sessions at your school to identify students who may have a vision impairment. If a student does not pass the screening, the Student’s parents will be informed via letter of our findings, and in this letter we will suggest to the parent that they take one of the two following steps:

1. Make an appointment to see a government Optometrists (4 to 6 month waiting list) at the Sir Winston Scott Polyclinic to determine if the student needs prescription glasses. If he does, he would be issued with a voucher for free prescription glasses from the Polyclinic, redeemable at Harcourt Carter Optical.
2. Visit our partnered Optometrists to determine if the student needs prescription glasses. If it is determined that the student requires glasses, our initiative will provide that student with prescription glasses (examination, lens and frames) at the significantly subsidized price of $95.00.
   1. If you as the Principal determines that a student’s parents cannot afford the $95, our Club would seek to absorb the cost, so as not to disadvantage the student.

We would like to run this program at your school, and we are seeking your permission to do so. It will take approximately six 4-hour days to process 300 students from age 5 years old. We will be in contact with you, but you can call Simone Harris at 230-3937, Margot Aquan at 234-6289 or myself at 266-8816 or via email at info@ProgressOptimist.org.

Thank you for your kind consideration and we look forward to a positive response from you on this matter.

*Help us to help our future.*

Sincerely,

Progressive Optimist Club of Barbados

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