****

**8 March 2022**

**Intellectual and Developmental Disability Awareness Month at the Dame Marjorie Bean Hope Academy**

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Development and Seniors are pleased to announce that March is **Intellectual and Developmental Disability** Awareness Month at the Dame Marjorie Bean Hope Academy.

According to Principal Margaret Phillips, “Dame Marjorie Bean Hope Academy has adopted the celebration of I/DD Awareness Month to bring awareness about the work of the school, our students, and their families.”

With a series of events taking place this month, Principal Phillips is sharing with the community various informational sessions, virtual workshops, and activities to celebrate the students at DAME.

According to the Minister of Education, the Hon. Diallo Rabain, JP MP, “Our mission at the Ministry of Education is *'To provide all students with equitable access to holistic, varied, and high-quality instruction that is culturally relevant and empowers students to reach their full potential.'*  Knowing that students at Dame Marjorie Bean are impacted in areas of learning, receptive and expressive language, self-care, mobility, social skills, and sensory integration, we need to have a highly skilled team and training in targeted, research, and evidence-based strategies. Professional learning and training will always be encouraged, and I believe Principal Phillips and her team are doing a phenomenal job in this regard.”

Minister of Social Development and Seniors, the Hon. Tinee Furbert understands the hardships and challenges many families face when having children with differing abilities. She states, “This year, the school is using the theme *It Takes a Village* because it takes the collective support of home, school, and community across the lifespan for our students to effectively access their environment, integrate and live full, productive lives. I was honoured to join the students on World Book Day to share stories and to see their love of learning. I look forward to spending more time at the facility engaging with our students.”

Mrs. Phillips stated, “Partnering with parents and community stakeholders, along with interdisciplinary teaming across Ministries is needed to make this happen. This falls in line with the mission of Dame Marjorie Bean Hope Academy: To serve students with exceptional needs, supporting each student through collaboration with families and community organizations to ensure that they achieve their ultimate potential.”

For more information on upcoming events, or to donate, contact: jperry@moed.bm