

The Haitian Project, Inc.
Community Update: Beauty

March 16, 2010



As part of a *Pi Day* celebration (top left photo), LCS Volunteer Peter Ulrickson quoted Aristotle:

"[T]hose who assert that the mathematical sciences say nothing of the beautiful or the good are in error...The chief forms of beauty are order and symmetry and definiteness, which the mathematical sciences demonstrate in a special degree."

Getting things back to order is beautiful. And we are seeing a lot of beautiful sights of this type in Haiti. On Saturday, while taking our visiting group of medical professionals from Rockford on a quick tour of the city, we passed the Palais Blanc [Capital Building] at 8:00 AM. The National Band was present for the flag raising (top right photo). Two months after the quake, it was beautiful to see the flag go to the top and a little pomp getting it there. We are hopeful of more activity like this in the Capital.

We have nearly 300 students present of 344, as we continue to move closer and closer to full operations. 100% will be a beautiful number.

We are going to undertake the work to repair the connecting bridge on our school's campus that goes from the chapel to the Agora school building. This is our smallest but most pressing project for a number of reasons. It will also be a work that will include symmetry and beauty. I look forward to involving Mr. Ulrickson's mathematic philosophy in this project.

Soon, we will announce the campaign to raise the funds for the renovations of LCS. The Facility Committee and Development Committee are aware of the scope of the repairs and upgrades needed. More on this in April.

We also had a visit from Brother Yannick Houssay, Superior General of the Christian Brothers of Instruction Ploermel (bottom left photo). The CBI are the congregation responsible for our brother school in Haiti, Saint Louis de Gonzague. This was another step in our aim to develop deeper, more beautiful relationships with the four major Catholic schools in Port au Prince.

"I was honored to be present for such a special moment," explains Patrick Brun (THP Board Chair). "Saint de Louis Gonzague is the school where I graduated from, as well as my father and my grandfather. This institution has a 150-year history and is steeped in Haitian Culture. The development of the relationship between LCS and SLG, each having powerful charisms that compliment each other, is a historical moment. It is the birth of a new alliance, and with Br. Yannick there to formalize the relationship, I was witnessing a much better future for Haiti in the making."

Finally, we reopened our "Language of the Day" store in the past week (bottom right photo). Volunteer Betsy Bowman explains:

Every day the students are challenged to speak the Language of the Day – English on Monday and Wednesday, Spanish on Tuesday and Thursday, and French on Friday. If they are heard practicing the language of the day by staff or the older students, they can receive tickets redeemable for prizes at the "Language of the Day Store." One little girl, Willine, spent about fifteen minutes trying to decide how to spend her six tickets. She kept picking things up saying, "Oh, this is so beautiful!" before moving on to the next thing. She settled on a hairbrush and a pink pencil with silver hearts on it. She was a very happy customer.

Peace, Patrick

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www.haitianproject.org

Elizabeth O'Connell

Director of Community Development
The Haitian Project, Inc.
(815) 505-1287
P.O. Box 6891
Providence, RI 02940