

# Primary School Awards growing

**THE National Primary School Awards is growing from strength to strength jumping from the participation of 12 schools last year to 21 schools this year.**

Now in its fifth year, organiser Ricardo Marshall explained that the awards seek to recognise students in various areas, focusing on a more holistic approach to education, rather than solely on academics.

“We try to mix it up a bit. At the end of the day we could produce a more rounded student.”

Marshall, while speaking to the media on the sidelines of the awards ceremony held in the Queen’s College school hall on Sunday evening recalled that he started this initiative out of pocket and did so for the first three years. He noted that Berger Paints came on board followed by Cave Shepherd and assisted in the sponsorship of event.

It was through the success of his daughter who is currently studying medicine in China that he felt compelled to give back to the children of Barbados and motivate them to excel in school in a number of areas.

Marshall also conceptualised the road tennis competition in which 48 primary schools participated. “We like to see smiles on the young children’s faces. That does a lot.”

He said while people must not

turn their backs on the children, many of whom simply need guidance.

“We need to train the young minds. One of the things that we are saying is that the children are this way or that way sometimes they only act on how they see their parents, or the way adults in general behave or act...all types of negativity. I am an extremely positive person and I do believe that success is around the corner for anyone that focuses or puts their mind to it.”

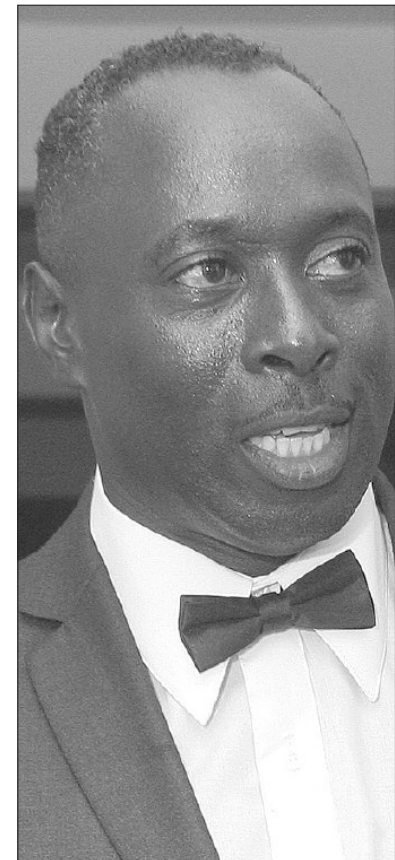
He lauded the work of the sponsors who have pledged their support saying it creates a greater opportunity to award excellence. “My daughter is not the only person that can achieve....what we need is the opportunity.”

The coordinator lauded the support of the Association of Public Primary School Principals noting that he is invited to discuss upcoming initiatives with the group.

Vice President of that association and Principal of Roland Edwards primary Michael Watson congratulated Marshall on this initiative, saying it has tremendous potential for schools, particularly the sporting component. He opined that the environmental component and the move to keep the student’s surroundings clean will go a long way if replicated across all the schools on the island. (JH)



**Principal of Half Moon Fort Primary School Veronica Best (left) accepts the Berger Royale Best Recycling Project from Rene Cobham representing Berger Paints, one of the sponsors of the annual National Primary School Awards.**



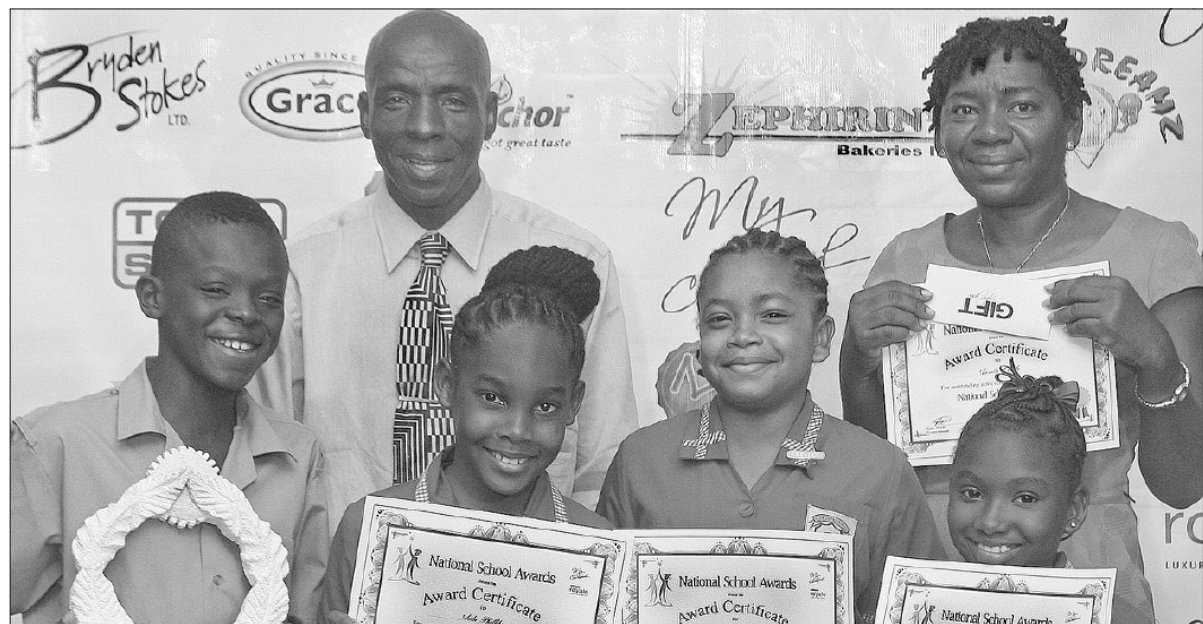
**President of the National Primary School Awards Ricardo Marshall speaking to media about the growth of the developmental initiative now in its fifth year.**



**Students of Half Moon Fort Primary stood proudly with (from left to right) Crystal Greaves, most involved parent, Sonia Shepherd and Principal Veronica Best.**



**David Pietrzak Chief Operations Officer of Cave Shepherd, one of the sponsors of the National Primary School Awards presents the Best Time Management Award to Principal of the Warrens Primary School Kim Davis-Edwards.**



**Principal of Hilda Skeene Primary and President of APPSP (Association of Public Primary School Principals) Ivan Clarke with Annette Clarke who won the parent award with students (left to right) Sean Brathwaite, Aida Phillips, Kayla Arthur and Sonya Straughn. The school also took home the coveted Environment Award.**