

The Sunday Gleaner

ARTS & EDUCATION

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SECTION E

THIS WEEK'S 'EDUQUOTE'

We learned about gratitude and humility – that so many people had a hand in our success, from the teachers who inspired us to the janitors who kept our school clean ... and we were taught to value everyone's contribution and treat everyone with respect.



—MICHELLE OBAMA

FROM DEFYING THE TALIBAN TO PURSUING EDUCATION

PG E3

Unique Tokyo museum imparts lessons in ANIME

Glenda Anderson

Sunday Gleaner Writer

TOKYO, Japan:

JAPAN'S ANIMATION industry is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, and earlier last month, an exhibition at the anime museum in Tokyo's Suginami Ward was mounted.

While the Black Jack and Dragon Ball series and characters like Goku, Pokemon, Astro Boy, and Naruto are well known in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean, museum officials say that this is only a fragment of the animation produced in Japan.

There are about 80 different animation stories introduced every week, with a total of 11,000 titles during the 100 years.

Anime is a technique that uses a series of films that create the illusion of movement, usually with characters that are otherworldly.

It became widely popular in Japan in the 1950s with the beginning of television broadcasting. Anime in those days were short-form cartoons with a significant Disney influence, as well as by other American cartoon characters such as Betty Boop and Popeye.

But the Japanese animation industry especially took off with the work of local anime pioneer Osamu Tezuka, who is perhaps best known for developing the Astro Boy story. Until Tezuka, animation films in Japan were very short and did not have much of a storyline.



PHOTO BY AMITABH SHARMA

PLEASE SEE ANIME, E2

Beyond television and shows – Hello Kitty merchandise is popular worldwide.

MERL GROVE HIGH SCHOOL IS NO LONGER THE BEST KEPT SECRET OF KINGSTON

Merl Grove High School, an institution of the Associated Gospel Assemblies is in its finest days and the best is yet to come. This was demonstrated on Sunday, October 29, 2017 at our Graduation Ceremony. Guest Speaker for the ceremony was Ms. Sharon Hay Webster, Senior Advisor to the Minister of Education Youth and Information who spoke on women empowerment. She encouraged the girls to read at least two (2) paragraphs per day instead of spending time on the cell phones and also to be strong in their beliefs and never allow their backgrounds to limit their ambitions. She also illustrated to them the paths of self reliance and independence.



MEMBERS OF THE MERL GROVE HIGH SCHOOL FAMILY
From right to left: Chairman of the School Board, Reverend Anthony White; Board Member Mrs. Gennette Clacken; Vice Principal, Mr. Donovan Hunter; President of the Past Students' Association and Board Member, Miss Shelly-Ann Morgan; Principal, Dr. Marjorie Fullerton and Husband of Principal, Mr. Collin Fullerton

graduates has earned a 100% pass rate for Agricultural Science, Electronic Document Preparation Management, Family Resource Management, Office Administration, Principle of Business, Religious Education, Technical Drawing, Textile, Clothing and Fashion. In our 2017 CAPE results our girls earned 100% pass rate for Accounting Units 1 and 2, Entrepreneurship, Management of Business Units 1 and 2, Communication Studies, Literatures in English Units 1 & 2, Geography, Mathematics Unit 2, Law Unit 2, Caribbean Studies, Sociology Unit 2, Biology Unit 2, Chemistry Unit 2, and Physics Units 1 and 2 with 92% of subjects scored a pass rate of 80% or above.

To ensure that the school continues to rise to the top, Dr. Fullerton has innovative ways including an attractive incentive program to keep students as well as teachers motivated and, most importantly, she has earned the support of parents, past students and community sponsors in her endeavours. The Principal addressed the graduates of 2017 as stars, and her charge to them was to remember that their choices matter so make them wisely; to use their talents; never fear the judgment of critics who watch from the sidelines; work hard at something they love; act courageously and never sacrifice their integrity because once lost is hard to regain; and to create their own destiny so that success will follow them on their journey.

One major strategy the principal employs to keep motivation high is allowing students to sit the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) or Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) subjects of their choice, and graduating students are classified as diploma or certificate based on the number of range ones they receive in CSEC and CAPE. She operates the school, by having all students sit the core CSEC subjects without restrictions. The objective is to give every student an opportunity in those subjects. We also provide top students with lucrative rewards.

Shaquina Davis was the top performing CAPE Unit 1 student for 2017 with all distinctions and straight 'A' profile while Tiana Myers was the top student for Unit 2 with all distinctions. The top CSEC student was Tatyana Hamilton who was also the Valedictorian for the ceremony.



Valedictorian of the Class of 2017: Tatyana Hamilton

She is presently enrolled at the University of Technology. Shaquina Davis was also awarded the J. Barbara Martin Scholarship for her outstanding performance in CAPE. Merl Grove High School is bursting with great potential, we intend to continue to exceed expectations and to produce learners and leaders who refuse to be average, and blazing trails that leaves indelible

footprints in our home communities and beyond. Merl Grove High School is an institution of academic excellence and has made significant and unparalleled contribution to society in terms of producing numerous dignitaries, scholars and intellectuals who have served and are serving different domains in Jamaica and abroad. The aim is to transform shy and uninformed girls into enlightened and liberated ladies and make each student a torchbearer of the values of rationality, truth, equality and equanimity with God's help.

No longer will we be the best kept secret in the country. We can and we will rise to the top because of our commitment to join forces as a united school family, declaring that our students will receive the best education possible. We are in our finest days and the best is yet to come! We wish the Class of 2017 all successes and urge them all not to settle for mediocrity but to strive for greater heights of success and take their rightful place in the Society.



Guest Speaker: Mrs. Sharon Hay Webster Senior Advisor to the Minister of Education Youth and Information

The students consistently perform well academically, and continue to strive for consistent excellence in sports, the performing arts and other extra-curricular activities. Currently our school is ranked among the best performing high schools in Jamaica. We are steadfast in our theme 'Excellence is achievable, make every moment count' through its motto: 'Hard Work Overcomes all difficulties'.

With a passionate, self driven, motivated and innovative educator at its helm, it is no surprise that this all girls school continues to

outperform some of the country's other institutions. Dr. Marjorie Fullerton, who has been Principal for the past one and a half years, shares that her vision is to ensure that the school is the "number one high school of choice for girls". "Over the years, we have been doing extremely well in academics. Our class of 2017



Merl Grove High School Graduating Class of 2017

ADVT.

ANIME

CONTINUED FROM E1

Astro Boy, a 30-minute animation with an engaging storyline, became a major hit.

Today, the anime industry is enormous in Japan, with over 200 original animation films created in the country.

While there are more than 600 animation studios across Japan, most are located in Tokyo and are especially concentrated in Suginami. The area is widely recognised as the 'town of animation'.

The showcase at the Suginami Animation Museum is the walk down the path of history, from the days of analogue to megapixel digitalisation.

Today, the animation industry has grown exponentially and has opened exciting career opportunities for those who are creatively inclined.

In 2015, the size of the global animation industry was about US\$244 billion, with the United States, Canada, Japan, China, France, Britain, Korea, and Germany as the sought-after markets.

MORE OPPORTUNITIES

It is estimated that the industry is growing at a five per cent year-on-year basis and opening opportunities for outsourcing of computer-animation production, which is being tapped by North American and European film and television producers.

This is an opportunity that Jamaica and the wider Caribbean can benefit from and look to tap into this burgeoning industry to position themselves as hubs of creating quality animation.

Visitors to the museum, which was established by the Suginami municipal government to support the area's studios and which does not charge an admission fee, are allowed to



COURTESY SUGINAMI ANIMATION MUSEUM

Digital factory at Tokyo's Suginami Animation Museum.



PHOTOS BY AMITABH SHARMA

Masami Suda – anime sensei – sketches Jibanyan, the ghost of a cat from 'Yo-Kai Watch'.

view mock-ups of the different parts of the production process.

The preparatory stage includes planning, design, and storyboarding.

The production stage is where colour and background are added, while post-production is where editing and recording are done.

HIGHLY APPRECIATED

"Anime has come to be highly appreciated worldwide in the recent years as a unique art originating from Japan," says Shinichi Suzuki, director of the Suginami Animation museum, in his message in the museum's brochure.

"While anime now enjoys increasing popularity," Suzuki continues, "we must not forget that in the history of anime, there were people who struggled to make a living but who were extremely driven and dedicated to perfecting their art. It is these people who really deserve our admiration."

To produce a 30-minute piece, over 300 sets of background, 200 persons, and 4,000 scenes may be used.

While the earlier animation process was very detailed and intricate, with the scenes and characters drawn by hand, today, some of those processes, for example, background creation, have been computerised.

Visitors to the museum include adults and groups of grade-school children, all of whom were equally excited to be allowed to draw anime characters using templates in a studio and use a machine to do voice-over.

The visit to Japan is part of 'Pacific Islands and Caribbean Journalists' Programme' organised by the Tokyo-based Association for Promotion of International Cooperation, with support from the Foreign Press Centre, Japan.

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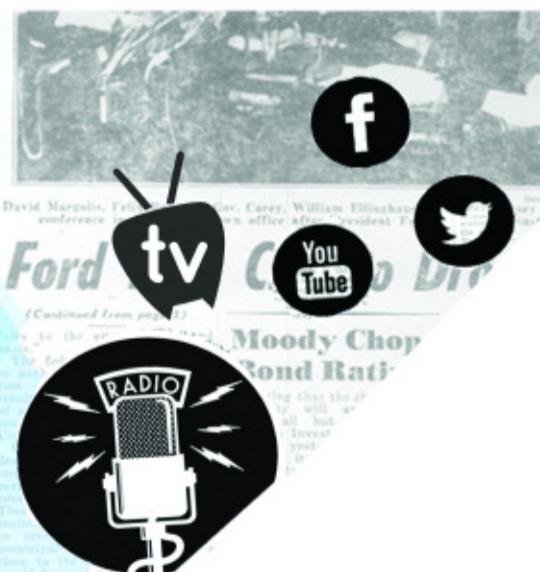


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Mobile Suit Gundam – character from a televised anime series that premiered in Japan in 1979.