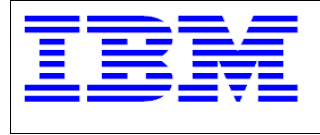


February 15, 2010

Mr. Mario Francis, Principal
Julius Sprauve Jr. High School
1834 Kongens Gade
St. John, Virgin Islands 00802



Dear Mr. Francis,

In support of the United States Virgin Islands Lifestyle Festival, IBM is proud to sponsor the **2010 “Best Rap or Spoken Word Against Violence Contest”** for Jr. High School Students in our Public Schools on all three (3) islands. Students attending the Addelita Cancryn, Julius Sprauve, and Bertha Boschulte on St. Thomas/St. John and Elena Christian, John Woodson and Arthur Richards Jr. High Schools on St. Croix are eligible to participate in this competition.

Our objective in sponsoring this contest is to encourage your high school students to address some of the critical issues impacting their communities. It is our hope, that students participating in the Rap or Spoken Word Against Violence Contest, will share their perspective on the best way to end violence and propel their peers, and the VI community in general, into a new era of togetherness in the fight to eradicate crime, and at the same time enhance their problem solving skills.

RAP or SPOKEN WORD TOPIC: How has the current issue of violent crime affected you and your family, and what message would you give to the community to end this violence?

ESSAY GUIDELINES:

1. Write Rap or Spoken Word with a maximum of 250 words. This must be typed in a Microsoft Word document.
2. Contestants must be a current student in the Virgin Islands Department of Education public school system in grades 7th or 8th.
3. All submissions in writing must be **received by Mon. May 3rd, 2010.**
4. All participants will be judged by a panel from the LifeStyle Festival/Healthy Encores along with members of the Stop the Bleeding organization at the Health Awareness Day on both islands.
5. Awards will be presented to the student winners, accompanied by their principal and families, at the [U.S. Virgin Islands Lifestyle Festival Health Awareness Day, Friday July 23, 2010 in St. Croix and Saturday, July 24, 2010 in St. Thomas.](#)
6. First place winners will receive an iPod and a chance to participate in the Stop the Bleeding commercial. Performance of the winners at the LifeStyle Festival contest on Saturday evening July 24th is optional.

Eligible Rap or Spoken Word should be mailed or emailed to: Lifestyle Festival/Healthy Encores P.O. Box 8557 St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands 00801 or Wynn Canton at wtcanton@aol.com. We anticipate and look forward to receiving outstanding Rap or Spoken Word from your students. Feel free to contact Lorraine Milliner at lolo@lifestylefestival.com, Luther Milliner at lutesm1@lifestylefestival.com, or Wynn Canton at wtcanton@aol.com with any questions.

Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Regards,

Marilyn

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