

November 2024

Volume 14 Issue 3

Staff Edition



November
Epilepsy
Awareness
Month

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Principal's Message

Greetings Colleagues/Students

To include



DB Ramgeet
DAVIA RAMGEET



UPDATES

From the Desk of the Principal



To
ADD

Let's Get "Phygital"

Article contributed by Ms. Bobsie Levy, KCC Global School Coordinator

Embracing Phygital learning at KCC

Phygital
Fusing the physical
and digital world



Phygital learning combines physical and digital elements to create an immersive educational experience (Barola et al. 2022). This integration benefits disciplines that require spatial understanding, practical application, and critical thinking, by combining the strengths of both physical and digital learning environments.

At KCC we are currently using this blended approach to enhance engagement and retention by allowing students to interact with both physical materials and digital content, in real-time.

Reference

Barola, D., Bosco, K., Manjula, A., & Sudhakaran, M. V. (2022). Phygital learning, the next big revolution in education for the future. PSYCHO-TECHNOLOGICAL APPROACHES IN HEUTAGOGY, 47.

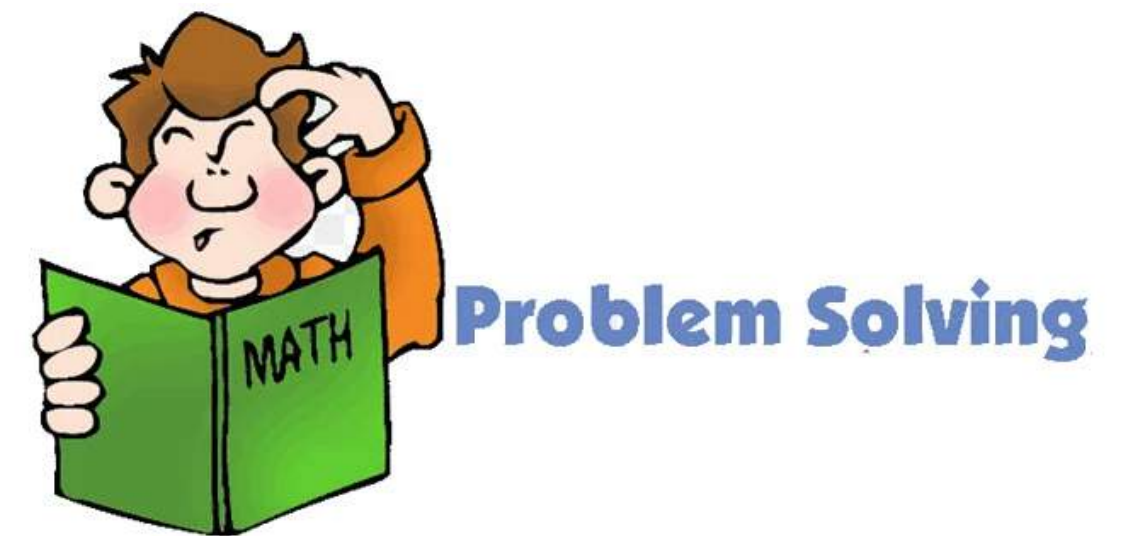
Solving the CSEC Mathematics Problem-Part 1

Article contributed by Ms. Judicia Nembhard, Department of Mathematics

Many months have elapsed since the 2024 Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) results were released, and we have collectively wrung our hands and bemoaned our national underperformance mathematics. Most schools and their administrators are operating as they always have, making no change at all to how things are done.

The truth behind the numbers is far grimmer than the actual pass rate of 39%, as stated by the Minister of Education and Youth, Fayvel Williams in a media address on Monday August 27th, 2024, captioned by the Jamaica Observer: *“Minister not happy with CSEC Maths results”* for this year’s Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) national average pass rate in mathematics. If we understand how an average is calculated, then we must contemplate two realities: the schools that consistently perform higher than the national average and those that are at, or below, the national average.

Let us consider firstly, those “pockets of excellence”, those schools reporting average pass rates higher than the national average. These schools and their administrators are unfazed and unbothered by the annual outcry around the extremely low CSEC mathematics pass rate every August.



Solving the CSEC Mathematics Problem – Part 1

Article contributed by Ms. Judicia Nembhard, Department of Mathematics



These schools interview their prospective sixth form cohort before grades are released. They continue to plan for the upcoming academic year, simply carrying on with business as usual as they equip their staff with relevant resources and personal development mathematics workshops that will be instrumental in preserving and improving their already high mathematics pass rates.

In fact, these schools are most times focused on improving CSEC **grades** (rather than focusing only on merely improving the **number of passes**) in mathematics, in addition to putting SMART goals in place to improve their overall mathematics pass rate from, for example, 85% to 89% over the next three years. These pockets of excellence exist in almost every parish in Jamaica, and we know (of) them courtesy of various school ranking reports that we are privy to, in addition to anecdotes from principal updates shared by parents with each other.

Let us now turn our attention to the other reality that informs our overall national average pass rate in mathematics: the schools that have a pass rate in mathematics below 39%. Imagine for a minute what would happen if we removed the pass rates of those schools in the “pocket of excellence” from the data set... What would happen to the average pass rate if we removed those high pass rate figures? We would get a real sense of the extent to which many schools are (under) performing. Think about it!

Solving the CSEC Mathematics Problem - Part 1

Article contributed by Ms. Judicia Nembhard, Department of Mathematics

What is the actual pass rate of those schools that fall in “the sea of mediocrity and failure”? The data examined shows that there exist schools, with a graduating 5th form cohort of approximately 100 - 120 students, where less than ten students from each school, have achieved a passing grade of at least a grade three. This is way below the average pass rate of 39%! Yet we continue with business as usual, while parents and other stakeholders demand little to no accountability from the Ministry of Education and other relevant stakeholders.

To be clear, such a dismal outcome in terms of our national average pass-rate in mathematics demands urgent intervention at the policy level to reverse and remedy. Too many secondary schools are recipients of students in grade 7 who operate at a level way below what is expected. What are teachers of mathematics in grade 7 expected to do with these students?

There is an **urgent** need to reform the effectiveness of our early childhood and primary education efforts. That we need expert teachers of mathematics in substantial numbers across our school system is not up for debate. These are issues that are best addressed via policy.



See Part 2 in Edu Knox - December 2024

What is Epilepsy?

Epilepsy is a long-term (chronic) disease that causes repeated seizures due to abnormal electrical signals produced by damaged brain cells. A burst of uncontrolled electrical activity within brain cells causes a seizure. Seizures can include changes to your awareness, muscle control (your muscles may twitch or jerk), sensations, emotions and behavior. Epilepsy is also called a seizure disorder.

Who does Epilepsy affect?

Anyone, of any age, race or sex, can develop epilepsy.

Click on the link below to learn more:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vlwvIjpiS-A>

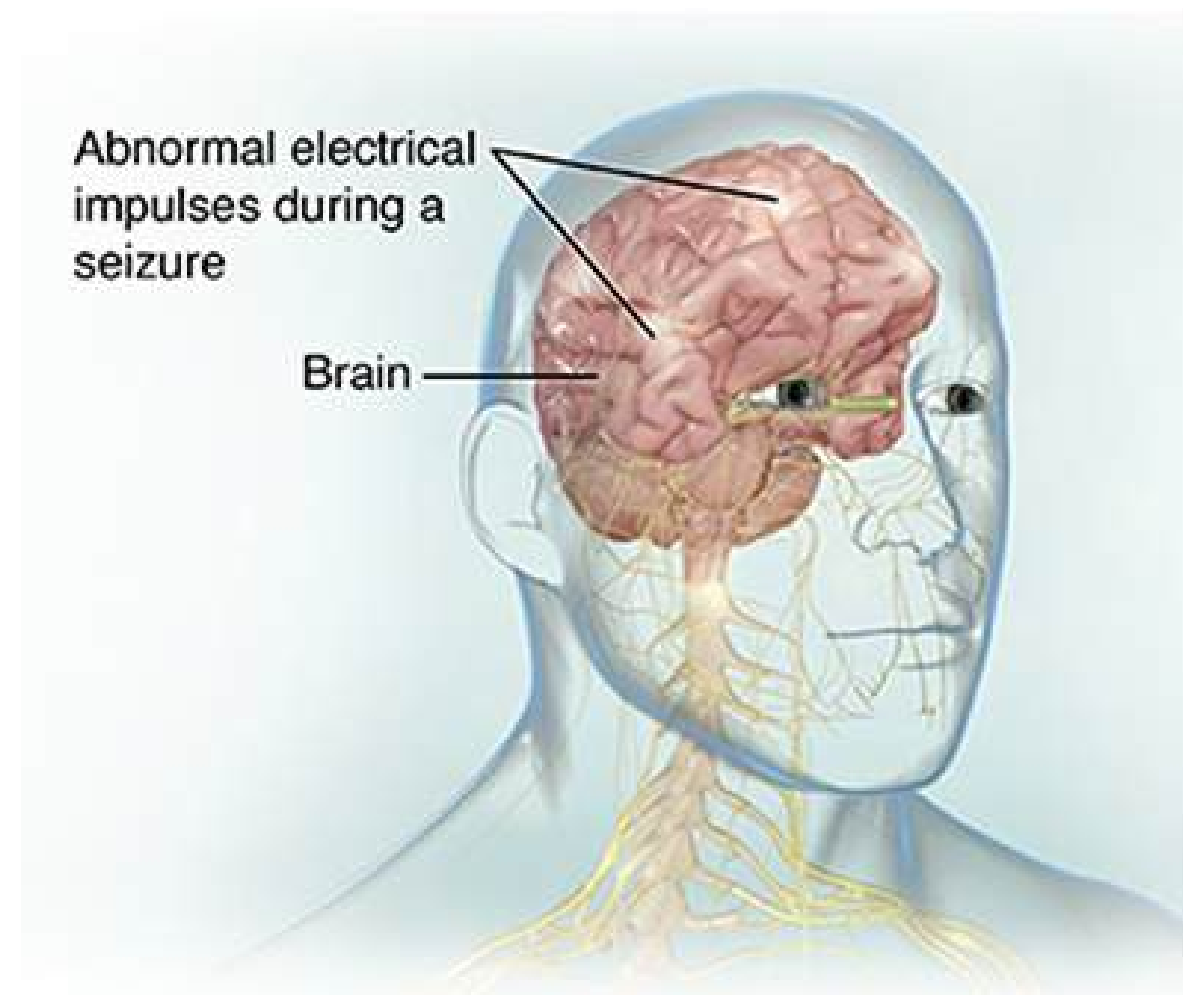


What happens in your brain when you have epilepsy?

The cells in your brain send messages to and receive messages from all areas of your body. These messages are transmitted via a continuous electrical impulse that travels from cell to cell.

Epilepsy disrupts this rhythmic electrical impulse pattern. Instead, there are bursts of electrical energy — like an unpredictable lightning storm — between cells in one or more areas of your brain.

This electrical disruption causes changes in your awareness (including loss of consciousness), sensations, emotions and muscle movements.



Let Talk Health: Epilepsy

Article contributed by Nurse Sydney Graham, Department of Health & Wellness

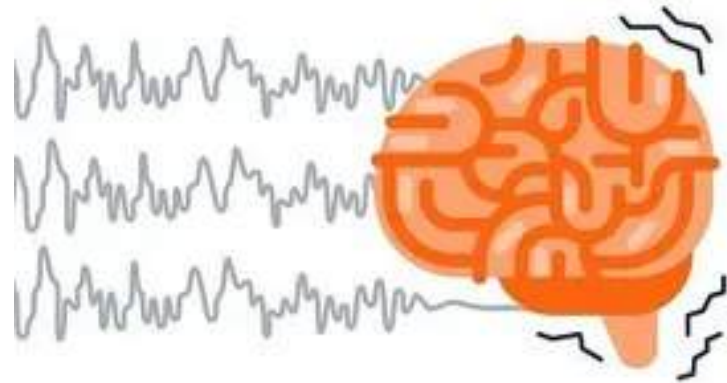


Causes of Epilepsy



The most important causes of epilepsy include:

- Imbalance of neurotransmitters
- Tumours
- Strokes
- Brain damage from illness or injury
- Complications related to genetics
- Metabolism
- Other autoimmune issues such as Sjorgren's syndrome, Wegener's granulomatosis, etc



Treatment of Epilepsy

Most of the time (in up to 70% of cases), the cause of seizures is not known.

Treatments to control epilepsy include anti-seizure medications, special diets (usually in addition to anti-seizure medications) and surgery.



Treatment of Epilepsy

If anti-seizure medications don't control your seizures, your healthcare provider will discuss other treatment options, including special diets, medical devices or surgery.

Diet Therapy

A modified *Atkins Diet* — diets high in fat, moderate in protein and low in carbohydrates — are the two most common diets sometimes recommended for people with epilepsy. Diets are mostly recommended for children where medication was not effective and who aren't candidates for surgery. Low glycemic index diets may also reduce seizures in some people with epilepsy.



Treatment of Epilepsy

Surgery

Your healthcare provider will consider surgery if anti-seizure medications do not control your seizures. Epilepsy surgery can be a safe and effective treatment option when more than two anti-seizure medication trials fail to control your seizures. It is important to be evaluated by your doctor to see if you are a candidate for epilepsy surgery.



Epilepsy affects about
1 in every 26
people worldwide



About
65 million
people around the world have epilepsy



Epilepsy is defined as having
2 or more seizures
more than
24 hours
apart



Epilepsy can happen
at any age, but is
most common in
young children
and **older adults**



Epilepsy is the
most common
neurological disorder
in children



Epilepsy Facts

Prevention of Epilepsy

While epilepsy cannot be prevented, being alert and taking some of these precautions helps people in controlling epilepsy.

- Avoiding head injuries
- Perinatal care
- Smoking cessation
- Avoiding alcoholism
- Eliminating brain parasites
- Having proper sleep
- Indulging in stress-free activities
- Proper diet



Frequently asked Questions?

Is there a cure for epilepsy?

There's no cure for epilepsy. However, there are many options to treat epilepsy.

Will I always have seizures?

About 70% of people become seizure-free with proper treatment within a few years. The remaining 30% are considered to have drug-resistant epilepsy.

When should I see my doctor? When should I go to the emergency room?

See your primary healthcare provider if the people around you tell you you've "zoned out" or lost awareness. You may be referred to a neurologist for additional follow-up and testing



22-y-o graduates UWI despite mountainous challenges with epilepsy

Published: Friday 1 November 3, 2023 | Gleaner by Asha Wilks/Gleaner Writer

Growing up in the Kingston community of Seaview Gardens and coming from a low-income family, 22-year-old Omelia Harrison had just one goal in life, to make her mother proud.

In an interview with The Gleaner Harrison, graduated from The University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona, with second-class honours, stated that despite living in a community which was infamously known for occasional flare-ups of violence, and was overrun with teenage pregnancy, she found positives that helped to keep her grounded and motivated to achieve academic success. “I knew that I didn’t want to be like the young girls in my area, not saying that every one of them are the same, but I knew that I ... wanted to become better and my mother always tell me that, ‘Omeila, I don’t want you to be like me ... ensure that you get what I didn’t get’,” she said, adding that her mother was without qualifications and had not graduated from primary and junior high school.



Omelia Harrison graduated with second-class honours



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It was not until the pandemic, which forced the activation of confinement measures, that her symptoms were noticed by her family as they became progressively worse, and she would experience at least four epileptic seizures a day while having to balance online classes.

After conducting a computed tomography (CT) scan and electroencephalogram (EEG) examination, it was confirmed and Harrison sought financial assistance from her family to help with the expenses. But they did not believe that she was telling the truth because she was not born with epilepsy, she explained.





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“They thought that it was something that we made up so that we could get some quick cash, even though I have had episodes around other family members before,” she continued.

But thanks to her church family and a few other family members who offered assistance, she was able to afford the necessary tests.

In her final year, Harrison was hospitalized for three days, two weeks before examinations commenced. This was her first time being hospitalized as she had experienced 15 seizures in a day. With an already weakened body, and a determined spirit, she sat her final examinations.

“There were many times I wanted to give up and just throw in the towel, but then I remember my mother and my sister, and I know that they are depending on me,” she said.

The Bible scripture, Luke 1:37, which reads, ‘for with God nothing shall be impossible’, was used to keep her motivated, she said.

November is celebrated as epilepsy awareness month. Epilepsy is a neurological condition that causes an individual to experience repeated seizures owing to a temporary change in the electrical functioning of the brain. Epilepsy, also known as a seizure disorder, can cause various symptoms whereas some individuals may lose awareness while others don’t.

Students In Training

Department of Engineering

Workshop - November 19, 2024

Students were able to fabricate screws and cut threading for nuts and bolts.



Pictorial Highlights

TVET Summit and Exhibition



Old Harbour High School

Career Day

October 24, 2024



STETHS Career Day

November 7, 2024



Holmwood Technical High School

Career Day

November 14, 2024



Porus High School Facilitation Day

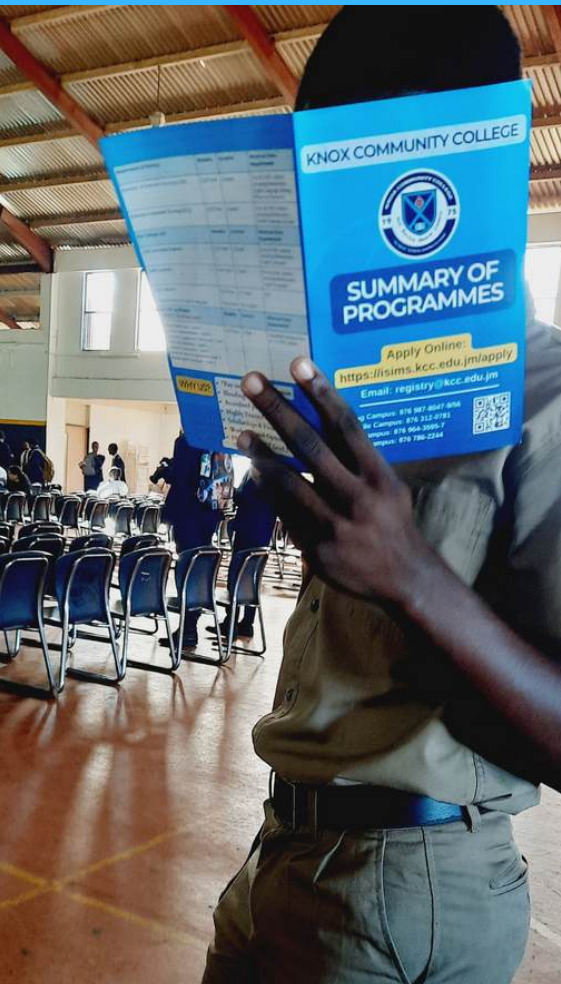
November 15, 2024



Munro College

Career Fair

November 22, 2024



Glenmuir High School Career Fair

November 26, 2024



Save the Dates

Days	Dates	Activities
Tuesday	December 17, 2024	Distribution/Collection of Tokens on Spalding Campus
Wednesday	December 18, 2024	Distribution/Collection of Tokens on Other Campuses
Friday	December 20, 2024	End of Semester 1 and Edu-business offices close 1.pm.
Thursday	January 2, 2025	Edu-business offices reopen
<i>Security Officers will maintain their schedules. Farm Hands may be on call for the farm if the needs arise.</i> NB: Collection process will end on Wednesday, December 18, 2024. Salaries will be disbursed on Thursday, December 19, 2024.		

Season's Greetings on behalf of the Board of Management and Principal.



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Happenings Around the Globe

Source: Aljazeera ~ 17 October 2024

IS NUCLEAR POWER GAINING NEW ENERGY?

Theo Leggett, BBC Business Correspondent - November 21, 2024



A number of countries, including the UK, are building new nuclear power stations. A decade ago, it seemed as though the global nuclear industry was in an irreversible decline.

Concerns over safety, cost, and what to do with radioactive waste had sapped enthusiasm for a technology once seen as a revolutionary source of abundant cheap energy.

Yet now there is widespread talk of a revival, fuelled by tech giants Microsoft, Google and Amazon all announcing investments in the sector, as well as the growing pressures on wealthy nations to curb their carbon emissions.

Now interest in the sector seems to be growing elsewhere once again. This is partly because developed countries are hunting for ways to meet energy demand, while striving to meet emissions reduction targets under the Paris Agreement. With 2024 projected to be the warmest year on record, the pressure to cut carbon emissions is mounting. A renewed focus on energy security, in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, has also been a factor.

Thought of the Day



“

*Invest Your **Time** Wisely,
It's The Only Resource You
Can't Replenish*

KNOX COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Mission Statement

KCC as a coeducational institution founded on Christian principles, provides quality educational and training opportunities that empower individuals to become successful citizens in a global community.

KNOX COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Vision Statement

Innovating the provision of tertiary education and workforce training opportunities that transform lives and communities.



***Edu Knox News* is a monthly published communication sent via email to KCC's staff, students, stakeholders and partners. The content of this newsletter typically includes updates, news, or information that can be shared with everyone.**

Free feel to send your articles by the 8th of each month to eduknox09@gmail.com

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