



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

#### **CIBC FIRSTCARIBBEAN AWARDED BY ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL**

**Bridgetown, Barbados, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022:** - The principal, staff and students of the St. Elizabeth Primary School in St. Joseph, recently said “thank you” in a tangible way to CIBC FirstCaribbean for the assistance given to the school by the bank in the past few years.

“We can’t always be takers; we must learn to say thank you and to give back to those who have been kind to us” explained Principal John Quinton, as he prepared to present a small plaque to Michelle Whitelaw, Director Retail Banking Channels at the final school assembly for the year. He then called on Senior Teacher Richard Broome who liaised with the bank at the time, to explain why the bank was being presented with this token of appreciation.

Mr. Broome explained how the bank’s regional Senior leaders who took on the refurbishment of the school as a group project. The bankers became gardeners, landscape artistes, painters, pavers and tree planters on that day as they planted vegetable seedlings in the newly turned vegetable garden; landscaped the reading park and laid down paving stones to create a walkway for the children; painted the equipment in the school’s play park and planted trees and shrubs to create a cooling environment for the children.

When the vegetable garden matured, he explained that the school was able to give away some of the produce to the students and then there was enough to sell to surrounding vendors which raised some funds for the school to recycle and purchase more seedlings.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 then set in, and they were unable to continue the vegetable garden for the next two years. However, though the original beds had run to weeds, the new principal who had a history of working the soil, took on the task, with the help of a few students, of revitalizing those beds and planted beets, lettuce, butternut squash, and cabbage which were ready for reaping by the end of term.

In her remarks to the students and teachers, Ms Whitelaw, who was also part of the team who planted up the herb garden, urged the students to look after their school and even encouraged them to get involved in the camp that had been just announced by the principal.

During the short ceremony, the school also witnessed a presentation, to the Most Outstanding Girl and Boy - Surrey Campbell and Elijah Gamble, from Marlene Adamson and family in memory of her brother, a past student who died under tragic circumstances.

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## About CIBC FirstCaribbean

CIBC FirstCaribbean is a relationship bank offering a full range of market leading financial services through our Corporate and Investment Banking, Retail and Business Banking and Wealth Management segments. We are located in fifteen (15) countries around the Caribbean, providing the banking services through approximately 2,800 employees in 64 branches and offices. We are one of the largest regionally listed financial services institutions in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean, with US\$13 billion in assets and market capitalization of US\$1.3 billion. We also have a representative office in Hong Kong that provides business development and relationship management for our fund administration. The face of banking is changing throughout the world and CIBC FirstCaribbean intends to lead these changes with the expertise, integrity and knowledge gained from banking in the Caribbean since 1836.

CIBC FirstCaribbean is a member of the CIBC Group. CIBC is a leading Canadian-based global financial institution with 11 million personal banking and business clients. Through our three major business units - Retail and Business Banking, Wealth Management and Capital Markets - CIBC offers a full range of products and services through its comprehensive electronic banking network, branches, and offices across Canada with offices in the United States and around the world.

For more information about CIBC FirstCaribbean, visit [www.cibcfib.com](http://www.cibcfib.com), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) or [YouTube](#).

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Michelle Whitelaw (left), just picked one of the beets discusses it with the students of the school in the vegetable garden.



Principal John Quinton hands over the plaque to Michelle Whitelaw with the teachers and children around.



Michelle Whitelaw in the vegetable garden picking a cabbage with some of the children of the school



Michelle Whitelaw (left) and Principal John Quinton in the vegetable garden with the children of the school.