

MENTOR TEXT – BOOKLET 20

On April 20, 2025, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., my school, Oasis Primary School, took part in the National Primary Schools Panorama Competition at Queen's Park Savannah, Port-of-Spain. This report recounts what took place on that day.

At approximately 7:00 a.m., students and teachers assembled at the school to help with packing the steelpans and other instruments. By 8:00 a.m., all instruments were loaded onto the truck hired to transport them to the venue. Both teachers and students boarded a bus at 8:15 a.m. and left the school's compound headed for the Queen's Park Savannah. The bus arrived at the Queen's Park Savannah around 8:45 a.m.

Upon arrival, students exited the bus. Oasis Primary School was directed to a designated practice area. Other primary schools were already present, and their students were also in uniform, behind their pans, practicing for the competition. Our steelpans and other instruments were offloaded from the truck and moved to our area, where they were quickly arranged for our performance.

By 9:30 a.m., we were engaged in our first practice session for the day, led by our music teacher, Mr. Davis. The sounds of different steelpan sections, including tenors, double tenors, and bass pans, were all heard. Practice lasted for approximately thirty minutes, after which we were allowed to walk around and listen to other schools as they practiced also.

Since the setting up of the pans was so time consuming, the judges for the competition came to each band's set-up rather than each band going to them. At 11:00 a.m., Oasis Primary School was set to perform for the judges. A table was set up in front of the band, where they sat with their score sheets to listen to us play. Mr. Davis stood at the front of the band as the school performed one musical piece, which lasted for approximately six minutes.

After our performance, all students took a bow and awaited the judges departure before moving from behind their instruments. Following our performance, we once again had to pack our instruments unto the truck for them to be returned to school. Since there were about eight other schools to perform after us, we listened to a few of them before organising to return to school. At this time, we ate and had a bit of fun. At 1:00 p.m., Oasis Primary School staff and students boarded the bus for our return travel to our school. We arrived back at school around 1:45 p.m. We were expected to receive the competition's results by the following day.

