

Report on Incident at a School's Spelling Bee Competition.

On April 15, 2025, at approximately 1:50 p.m., David Sharp, a standard 5 student of Orange Valley Primary School fell ill during the final round of the school spelling bee competition. This unexpected occurrence led to the competition being postponed to a later date. I, Adana Prince was sitting in the audience among my fellow classmates, and this report gives an account of what I witnessed during the incident.

At approximately 1:30 p.m., Kevin Pierre, Maria Charles and David Sharp were standing on stage participating in the final round of our school's spelling bee competition. The judges, Ms. James and Mr. Singh were seated in the first row of seats from the stage as Ms. Wong stood on stage reading out the words one by one.

The first word in the final round was given to Kevin. He was asked to spell "camouflage". He started spelling it out slowly, and soon afterwards, he received a round of applause from the audience of students and teachers, indicating he had spelt the word correctly. Then it was Maria from Standard 5P's turn. Her word was "bougainvillea". After asking for the judges to give the part-of-speech of the word and use it in a sentence for her, she was also able to correctly spell her given word. Again, the audience erupted into cheers of celebration.

Next, it was David from Standard 5L. His word was "conscience". He took a deep breath and started spelling, but then he suddenly stopped. He put his hand over his mouth and looked really pale. Before anyone could say anything, David suddenly bent over and vomited right there on the stage. There was a gasp from the audience, and everyone looked really surprised and a little bit worried.

Ms. James and Mr. Singh also looked shocked. They immediately stopped the competition. Ms. Wong rushed over to David to see if he was okay. Our teacher, Mr. Brown, who was sitting with the Grade 5P students, also went up to the stage quickly. Mr. Brown helped David sit down on a chair that he had carried with him. Mrs. Gopaul, the school's nurse, was called to the stage. She checked David's forehead and asked him how he was feeling. David looked very unwell and said his stomach hurt.

Mr. Singh told everyone in the audience to please be quiet and stay in their seats. The competition was stopped while Mrs. Gopaul took care of David. She helped David off the stage and took him to the sick bay. Mr. Brown went with them.

After David left, Ms. James came back to the microphone. She said that David wasn't feeling well and that the spelling bee would have to be postponed until another day. Each teacher then asked their students to stand, forming a single file and escorted their students back to their classrooms. As I walked with my class, I saw the school's custodians going towards the hall with the mops and other cleaning supplies.

Report on Witnessing a Protest outside my school

On Monday May 12th, 2025, at approximately 8:05 a.m., the PTA of Paradise Primary School, located on Green Drive, Point Fortin held a protest complaining about the constant water shortage faced on the school's compound. I, Sian Paul witnessed this protest, and this report gives an account of what I heard and observed.

When I arrived at school with my mother that morning, I saw a group of parents standing near the school's gate. They were holding big signs made of cardboard. I recognized some of them as parents of students in my class and other classes. There were approximately twenty parents in total.

The signs they were holding had big, colourful writing on them. Some of the signs said things like "Water is Life – Life is Learning!", "No Water, No School!", "Our Children Need Water to Wash!", and "Fix the Water Problem Now!". Some parents were also walking around and talking to other parents who were dropping off their children, and they were handing out pieces of paper.

I heard one lady, who I know is Kevin's mother, my classmate, shouting that children were unable to wash their hands after using the toilet. Another man, who I know to be Alicia's father, a standard four, complaining that the issue had been ongoing for months and that nothing was being done.

My mother stopped to talk to one of the protesting parents. I heard her say that it was a serious problem and that the students were finding it hard, especially during hot days. The teachers who were at the gate looked a bit worried. I saw our Principal, Mr. Ramdath, come out to talk to the PTA members. He looked like he was listening to what they were saying. The parents were showing him their signs as they pleaded their concerns.

Some of the parents were saying that the water tanks were often empty and that the school wasn't doing enough to fix the problem. They said it was unhygienic and made it hard for the children to learn properly. They also mentioned that sometimes the toilets couldn't even flush.

Mr. Ramdath listened for a while and then he said something to the parents. I couldn't hear exactly what he said, but he looked like he was trying to calm them down and explain the school's side of things. Some of the parents seemed a bit angry still, but they kept listening.

The protest went on for about half an hour, while more students arrived at school. It caused a bit of a crowd near the gate. Eventually, Mr. Ramdath promised the parents that he would have a meeting with them later that day to discuss the water issue and try to find a solution.

After Mr. Ramdath made that promise, the protesting parents started to move to the side of the road, and the entrance to the school became clearer. My mother then took me onto the school's compound before leaving for work.

Report on Unexpected Snake Encounter

On Monday 9th June 2025, at approximately 3:45 p.m., I, Aliana Dover had an unexpected snake encounter in the backyard of my home, located at #12 Passion Fruit Circular, Bell Gardens. This report gives a detailed account of what I observed and experienced.

Around 3:35 p.m., I went to the backyard to help my grandfather water his prize-winning kitchen garden. He had a long green hose and was carefully spraying the tomato plants with water. Grandpa showed me which parts of the plants needed the most water and gave me the hose to follow as instructed.

I was concentrating on a big red tomato near the mango tree when I suddenly glimpsed something long and wiggly moving on the ground, right next to the roots of the tree. At first, I thought it was part of the hose, but then it moved, and I saw it had a head. At that moment, I realised it was a snake. The snake was kind of thin and green, with some lighter yellowy patches along its back. It wasn't very big, about thirty centimeters in length. Its head was small and pointy, and it flicked its tongue out a couple of times.

When I realised what it was, I instantly felt afraid. I stopped watering the tomato plant and stared at the snake, unable to move. Then I decided what I needed to do. I slowly took a big step backwards, away from the mango tree. After I took that step, I quickly turned around and ran towards my grandfather, who was near the lettuce patch. I immediately told him about what I had seen. He then put down his watering can, told me to stay where I was standing and went to look near the mango tree.

From where I stood, I could see him carefully survey the area. After a few minutes, he returned and said that I was probably right and had seen a garden snake. He said he did not see it and suggested it slithered away into the bushes. My grandfather then explained that garden snakes are not usually harmful, but it was still best to leave them alone.

He then held my hand as we returned to the area around the mango tree to check to make sure it was really gone. He also told me to be more careful when I'm watering the plants and to watch where I'm stepping. As we finished watering the rest of the plants, I kept looking around just in case the snake came back. We finished watering all the plants around 4:10 p.m. and returned indoors.