

# Long Week For Me

Contributed by Oliver Hansen  
Wednesday, 12 July 2006

Well, it certainly was a busy week. Monday was semi-normal, but I was tired so I went home right after school let out. Tuesday, the second of three teams from Flow came to connect the broadband. Then in the evening was the DAPS graduation. Wednesday was GHS graduation. Thursday I worked on the network some more at Kingston High School (KHS), then Salsa which was also at the same place as the GHS ball (basically Prom) so I stopped in there as well. Friday was a day trip to Mobay with a couple teachers and about 15 or so students from GHS. We stayed at the Holiday Inn for a few hours then came back to Kingston. Saturday and Sunday I don't really remember but there was plenty of sleeping to be had! Sunday, actually, I did wash my curtains since I got up early.

Let's see, I'm happy that Flow is coming to give GHS broadband! I've been working occasionally at KHS for some time now and they've had broadband from Flow for quite a few months now and it is fast! Flow is a new broadband and cable and phone company in Jamaica but they're rolling out the broadband first. They are giving broadband to the schools that their networks go past at no cost. It's pretty neat and it is way faster than anything currently offered. I'm sure the schools are getting at least 2Mb/s but it could be more. So, we only need to buy some equipment to make it available on the entire network at the school. Now, as far as controlling what the students look at on the Internet - that's not my concern because I'll be gone when the school year starts. It could get ugly though!

The DAPS graduation was nice. I saw some students I hadn't for a while and got to see others graduate.

Nandi Williams sure took a whole heap of awards home as well as being valedictorian. They gave me a plaque for my contributions to the school which was very nice. I have been trying to help out with their website and such when I could even though I'm not working there anymore. I also found out about the staff trip at graduation. The guest speaker, Mrs. Betty Ann Blaine, was actually very interesting! Her main theme was that if Jamaicans would just love each other, it would solve all the problems. Sounds very simple, but really it would make a huge difference. Other things were such observations that the parents need to look at what examples their children were seeing around them. It's easy to say something, but if everyone around them are doing the opposite then that is what they are going to do! Anyways, I hope at least a couple of the parents will remember some points from the speech.

The GHS graduation was Wednesday and it went pretty well. The difference was that I never got very close with the graduating students this year so I didn't have anyone really looking for me to congratulate them. The ceremony was entertaining with a couple class songs, a trio of boys singing "So Hard To Say Goodbye" by Boyz II Men, a dance number by some of the girls, and a few nervous student speeches. Dujon Dunn was the one taking all the awards for this graduation. I didn't take any photos at either graduation because I didn't feel like being a photographer and I was sure plenty of others would have cameras.

Did some technical stuff at KHS on Thursday. Set up folder redirection on the network so that the teacher's My Documents will follow them from computer to computer on the network. This is one thing I am really enjoying as Mr. Neil who I am working with is really trying to learn as much as he can so he'll be able to manage everything by himself when I leave. So after that, I went up New Kingston for Salsa. I met my friend and volunteer Jeff up there since he was in town and came along with me. Salsa was good as normal but since the GHS ball was at The Hilton as well I went over to have a look. They had some extra room so I brought Jeff in and we had some nice food and watched the teachers and students tear up the dance floor.

Friday was a day trip to Mobay. I arrived at the school 7am and didn't get home til 10pm. This was another time I wished I was a little closer with some of the

graduating students. It was just a few of the social studies students along with a couple teachers and a staff member. We stayed at the Holiday Inn which was a pretty nice hotel. I brought my camera but didn't actually take any photos. Only one of the teachers would go in the water with me and that was towards the end of the day. The all inclusive day pass was a bit of a joke. By the time I actually wanted something more and decided to go back to the bar while waiting for the bus I was informed my wristband had expired at 5:30. So I got to wait for the bus and have nothing to drink or eat. The bus ride was of course too much 'Dutty Wine' for me but that was to be expected in a bus full of students. At least we drove past my house on the way back so I got dropped off.

Well, I guess that was my busy week. It's coming close to just a month left and it's really quite stressful. I want to go home and see my family but I also want to stay here because I have my routine and the work is generally really fulfilling. It's not easy.