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### Kids First! Supports E-Books Reading Program at Guy Benjamin School

Kids First!, a VI based non-profit which supports education on St. John announced a grant of \$1,500 to Guy Benjamin School to support an innovative reading program using Kindle E-Book readers. Age appropriate books will be downloaded into 4 Kindles which will be used by 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. On-line instruction materials linked to down loaded books will be used by teachers and students to develop their understanding of the materials being read. Class room curriculum including tests, will also support instruction.

Kindle E-books support reading instruction in several ways. First, there are over 30,000 children's books available on-line, that can be reviewed and purchased in a matter of minutes at a cost up to 80% less than a bound book. They never "wear out" and can be shared among students. Children like the "cool factor" of buying and reading books on-line and they can also download magazines, newspapers and other reading materials from all over the world, in a matter of minutes.

Bruce Claflin, President of Kids First! said "We applaud the creativity of the Guy Benjamin staff for developing this proposal and expect it will promote reading and comprehension. Further, as positive results are achieved we hope to use this success as a model for use throughout the Virgin Island's schools".

Dionne Wells, Principal of Guy Benjamin School said "We appreciate the support Kids First! has provided to launch this new program. Reading is an essential skill which must be mastered in the early years to support learning in higher grades and beyond. Kids First! recognizes this and has generously supported reading programs at Guy Benjamin School over the past few years".

About Kids First!—Kids First! a VI based non-profit supports quality education on St. John, focusing on early learning initiatives (birth to age 5) and the initial years of formal schooling. In operation for over two years, Kids First! has provided over \$100,000 of grants to island schools and programs. To learn more about Kids First! go to [www.kidsfirststj.org](http://www.kidsfirststj.org).