

Get on board

Seeing a sustainable 2030 through the eyes of children has been an “incredible journey of discovery” for one of Grenada’s longest serving diplomats. “Bringing children to understand what the Sustainable Development Goals [SDG] are, and what the world would actually be like; that’s what we have done with this book,” says Denis Antoine during an exclusive interview with *The Grenadian Voice* on Sunday (Oct 09) while he was home from Washington DC for a brief visit.

The book to which he refers is *Get on Board Dear Children of the World*, which was first published in June, 2020 and is now available in five languages – English, French, Spanish, Korean and Traditional Chinese – with thousands of copies sold in multiple countries. “I’m totally thrilled with that book,” he said.

The book takes children on an adventure to a world of peace and prosperity in 2030 when the 17 SDGs are presumably achieved. “Then we come back to 2020 and meet chaos, COVID, hunger,” he explained, as the book engages children of all ages in informative and creative ways.

Capturing the imagination of children with the 17 SDGs goals is a collaborative effort with his wife Nichole and illustrator Candace Paul. The colourfully illustrated pages and easy to read narrative give insight into achieving the goals as set out by the United

Nations in 2015: poverty; zero hunger; good health and well-being; quality education; gender quality; clean water and sanitation; affordable and clean energy; decent work and economic growth; industry, innovation and infrastructure; reduced inequalities; sustainable cities and communities; responsible consumption and production; climate action; life below water; life on land; peace, justice and strong institutions; and partnerships for the goals.

Acclaimed by the United Nation's Insider as “outstanding,” *Get on Board Dear Children of the World* is one of several books Antoine has penned since retiring from diplomatic service in 2019. When he served as Grenada’s Ambassador to the People’s Republic of China from 2016 to 2019, he was inspired to write *Why is everybody looking at me?*

“While I was in China I felt so present, as if everybody was looking at me,” he recalled, and realised there was a book to write. “It is about having the confidence to represent yourself in a situation where you may be uncomfortable, where you are different,” he said.

Antoine, who was awarded the Martin Luther King Jr Legacy Award for International Service in 2008, served as Grenada’s Ambassador to the United States and Permanent Representative to the United Nations and was elected Vice President to the 69th Regular Session of the U.N General Assembly from 2013 to

2016. His diplomatic career began in 1986 when he was appointed Counsellor Alternate Representative and Chargé d'affaires at the Embassy of Grenada Washington, DC, a position he held until 1990.

In addition to writing books for children, his extensive experience has proven to be the foundation for writing books on effective diplomacy, politics and leadership. When asked about his writing since leaving the public service, he said “It is a surprise one. I have found success where I could not anticipate.”

In 2020 he published *Effective Diplomacy in the 21st century*, which was followed by *Let’s all be ambassadors for a better world* in 2021.

“Kirani James is our sports ambassador; our literary ambassador is Richardo Keens-Douglas. We have so many potential diplomatic leaders in our midst. We must nurture them,” he said with an enthusiasm that has been part of his approach to service for decades.



GLLA founder Denis Antoine and director Nichole Duncan meet with scholarship recipients

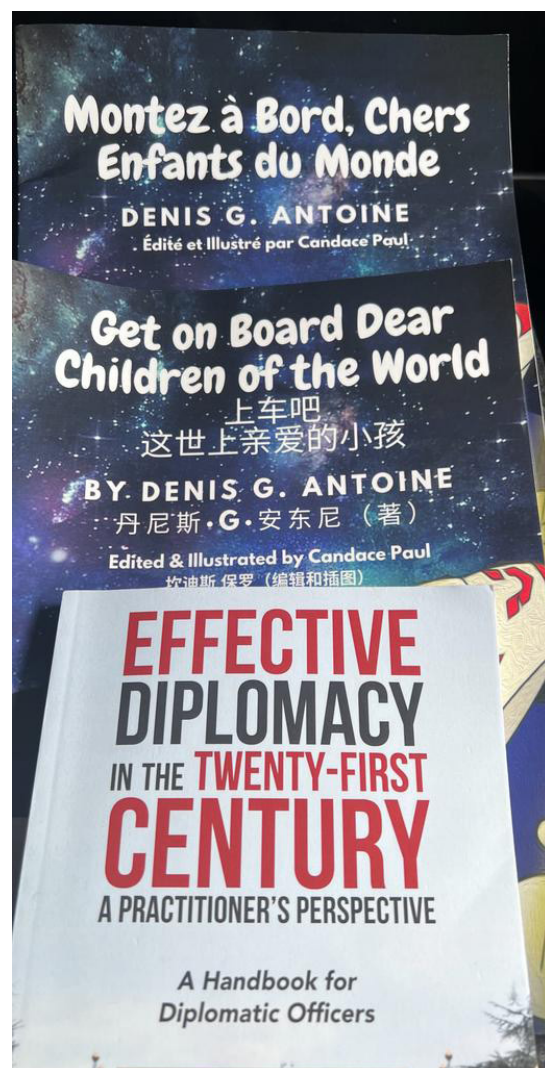
The former ambassador, who was an educator prior to joining the public service, has established another avenue for helping children through the Grenada Learning and Leadership Academy (GLLA). He founded the non-profit organisation with a mission

to promote “educational, social, cultural and economic empowerment through programmes, projects and activities focused on stimulating creativity and innovation aimed

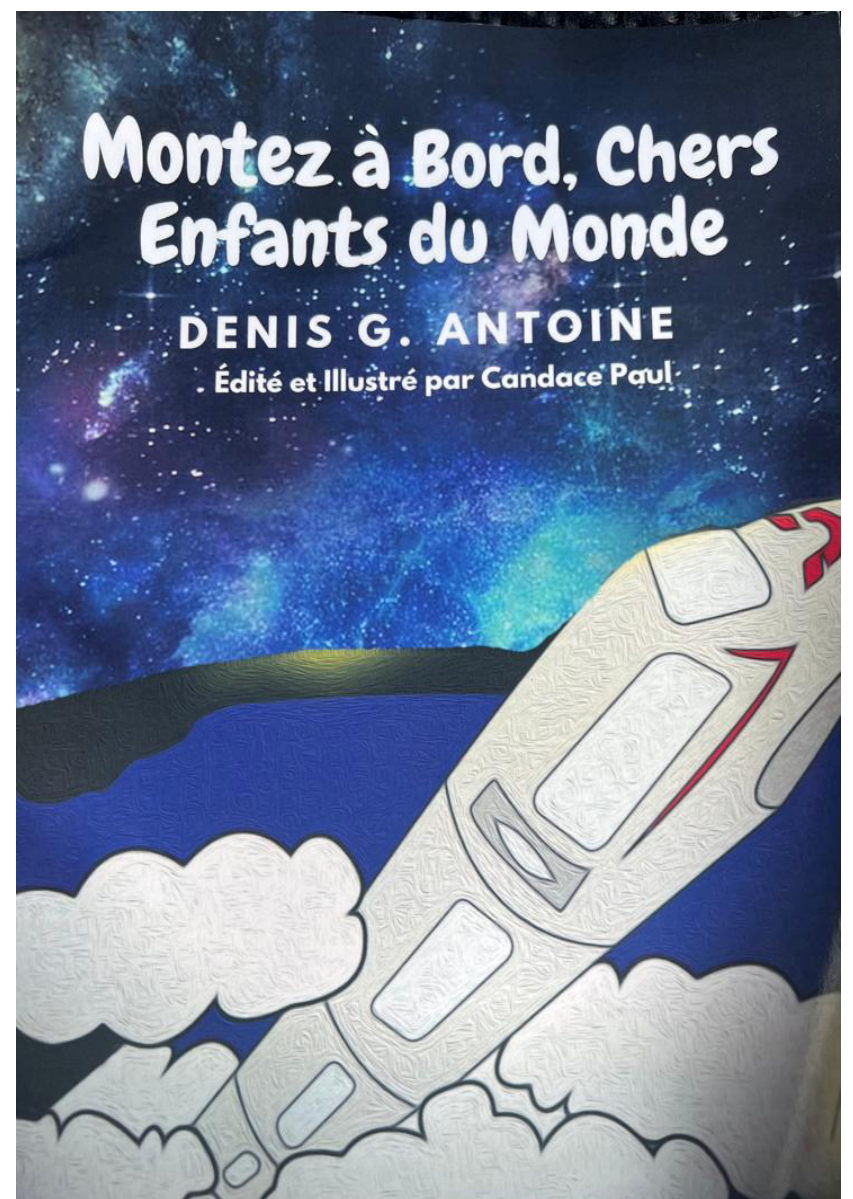
at improving the quality of life of the youthful population in Grenada.”

During his most recent visit, he and Nichole met with GLLA Resident Director Akarda Ventour

and recipients of the organisation’s scholarship programme; seven students enrolled at TA Marryshow Community College



Educator, diplomat and author



Children's book by Grenadian author available in five languages



Enough drinking straws are used daily to go around the earth 2.5 times. Please do not add to the problem. If they are plastic, they never ‘go away’.