



IN THE LOOP

29th September 2023

UPDATES FOR BMIS SECONDARY PARENTS

Dear Parents/Guardians,

A Whole School Focus-Intercultural Awareness and Global Citizenship

I would like to invite you on our journey in creating a shared understanding of Intercultural Awareness and Global Citizenship, guided by the CIS (Council of International Schools), NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges), and the IB0 (International Baccalaureate Organisation), reevaluation process.

We are an international school with over 600 students and 60 Staff of different nationalities. We celebrate our host country through Malawi Day and will be acknowledging the countries we represent in our upcoming International Day. We offer DP courses such as Global Politics and our Service activities take us out into the local and wider community, and bring the community into the school. Our students participate in MUN and the Duke of Edinburgh and initiate student-led cultural celebrations. They grow in their knowledge, understanding, skills, and attributes; developing the competencies of a global citizen.

We offer plenty of 'breath' within our curriculum and beyond, but how much of this leads to in-depth sustainable learning? This doesn't negate these learning experiences, but we could be seizing some of these valuable opportunities and developing them further.

And this is where our journey began this year with our Staff defining Intercultural awareness and Global Citizenship and what that looks like in terms of BMIS. At the end of last year STUCO helped us in formulating our definition and their ideas reflected in finalising our definition [here](#). From here the path leads forward towards deeper and more sustainable opportunities. A present example is a DP Leadership Conference facilitated by parents and professionals from the wider community that focused on young people taking action and leadership roles. Students were inspired to act resulting in a planned visit to Area 25 Health Centre which presents exceptional and sustainable service opportunities, that would make a profound difference and instigate positive change. Students initiate and plan learning opportunities, they develop their global competencies that transfer into direct engagement and tackling real-world issues. And so the journey continues....

Lesley Peacock, Secondary School Principal

l.peacock@bmis.mw

Lesley Peacock



OVERVIEW:

- Message from the Principal
- WWW's
- Leadership Seminar
- High-Quality Learning
- Sporting Updates
- Community Engagement
- Theatre at BMIS
- Cornell University Visit
- TOK Exhibition
- Online Safety workshop
- Up and Coming Events

First WWW Trip Since 2019!



Getting ready to go!



Grade 6-Senga Bay

Delighted students, delirious teachers, delicious food, dramatic games, dazzling activities and determined efforts to help...It is safe to say that Grade 6 made a considerable splash in Senga Bay over Week Without Walls where we filled our days with meaningful memories and our nights with merry mishaps:)

We visited an incredible recycling centre at Cool Runnings and worked with Kindle Outreach programme the following day where we spent the morning reading with the students and playing games. With the help of the Primary School, we managed to collect and donate over 600 books to Kindle Outreach programme which will be distributed across 10 local schools in Senga Bay. A truly humbling experience for all of us. Overall, a really successful trip that the students will remember for many years to come. *Romana Hajat*

Grade 7- Luwawa

The Grade 7 students boarded two buses and headed north to the Luwawa Forest Lodge. Five and a half hours later (after many games of UNO were played and songs were sung) we arrived at our destination. After setting up tents, George Wardlow and his very experienced team treated us to a fabulous week of outdoor training, bushcraft and team building activities. Jasper was a willing guinea pig for the first aid training, and Zayna was the student that was most easily passed through a tangle of nets. Ryan was the most successful archer while Raphael had the longest running streak of 'king' in our table tennis tournaments. Other activities included hikes around the lake, learning about the value of permaculture and indigenous trees, orienteering and map reading, tree climbing with ropes and harnesses, impromptu rugby matches, movie night, campfires... the list is virtually endless! One of the highlights of the trip included a trip to the Muzimbuzi School, where we were privileged enough to help plant many indigenous trees, pump and carry water from the borehole to the seedlings and partake in a community dance in celebration of our collaboration together. All too soon, we had to pack up our temporary homes and return to BMIS. But hopefully, we left a positive impact and brought back many fond memories. *Dave Montreuil*

Grade 8 -Cape MacClear , a student's Recollections of WWW

Our week was amazing, we enjoyed things like meeting the kids in Sinthana and Chitzana academy . We met a lot of kids and learnt what they do everyday like their everyday routine and we were taught different types of games they play in their free time. We learnt how to cut glass which is a lot of work. Husam got stung by a bee. Mr Ellis was Gru and we were the annoying little minions and we did a 30 second act from Despicable ME (Minions). But in all we had an amazing and memorable trip with our friends and teachers.

Grade 9-Zomba

When we arrived in Zomba, we were all exhausted from the bus ride. It seemed like we were driving on an endless road to the middle of nowhere. That night at Pakachere, we all slept like rocks. Next morning, we headed to the village for our service. Our eyes still half-closed, we didn't expect much from the experience. However, as we walked into the sea of smiling children, it seemed like our mood had changed. We were being welcomed like heroes! We spent 6 hours at the YODEP centre that day, even though it only felt like 30 minutes. We shared our business ideas to the enthusiastic local women and left wanting to come back. Our next day at the centre felt even shorter. Afterwards, we went on a hike into the beautiful mountains of Zomba, so high up it felt like we could touch the clouds. We took a stop at the flowing waterfalls to have some down time and performed parkour on the slippery rocks - something we didn't think through. We retreated back to Sunbird hotel to swim and cap off our eventful day. Most of us weren't prepared to say goodbye to Zomba the next day. *Grade 9 Student Japheth Hirpa*

Grade 10-Chembe

Over the last few weeks, Grade 10 students have prepared for the unknown. They readied lessons in computer technology and language arts, prepared painting supplies and artistic ideas for their work with the recycling and volunteer center, and practised putting up tents and planned their packing lists. On Tuesday, students hopped onto buses, chatted with friends, and soon we were putting up tents, swimming in the small pool at Eagles' Nest, and playing beach football. Each day, after completing the service activities, students would relax, read, chat, swim, play football, and recoup after the day's work before eating dinner. During the day on Wed/Thurs, students rose early to eat breakfast, pack, and prepare for our activities of gardening and composting, painting, and teaching. In the evenings, we'd reflect on our experiences over a campfire. For most students, the teaching aspect was the most meaningful experience, and several talked animatedly about their discoveries that teaching is incredibly difficult, and yet rewarding. The whole week students were kind, joyful, inclusive, and reflected about their growth in maturity and what they learned through service. Students slept much of the way back on the buses, telling you just how much they'd put into a fantastic week of experiential learning. While student highlights would be different for each learner, most students agreed that the biggest highlight was learning to work and interact with each other in settings outside of the classroom. All students marvelled at how close they'd become over a short period. What a wonderful trip to learn about service and to grow as a grade level! *Richard Braithwaite*

Guest speakers



Ms. Afshan Omar
Resilience,
Environmental
Coordinator



Ms. Louisa Kabwila
Communications &
Fundraising Specialist



Leadership Seminar for DP students

Last week, the Grade 11 and Grade 12 students had the opportunity to participate in a highly informative and inspiring leadership seminar. The seminar featured prominent leaders from our community who shared their experiences and insights with us. Mr. Black, for instance, enlightened us on how to identify and address the issues we encounter by discussing his own endeavors. He also guided us through a problem-solving brainstorming session, which was extremely valuable.

Furthermore, we had the privilege of hearing personal stories from other leaders in Malawi, such as Mr. Dalitso Nseula (Dean of Students at Malawi School of Governance), who emphasized the importance of open innovation. Ms. Louisa Kabwila (Communications & Fundraising Specialist) shared her journey and experiences, demonstrating the power we possess to bring our projects to fruition. Ms. Sibusiso Nyasulu (Director of Customer Service Airtel Malawi) left a lasting impact on us by emphasizing the significance of standing up and making our voices heard. Her motivational soup anecdote highlighted the value of patience in our endeavors.

Ms. Temwa Msiska (Program Manager Segal Family Foundation) further solidified our understanding of the vital role that well-being plays in our lives. She provided us with practical steps that we can implement to prioritize our well-being. Additionally, we were privileged to learn about the remarkable work being done at the Area 25 Health Centre from Ms. Afshan Omar (Resilience & Environmental Coordinator). Her efforts in environmental resilience and supporting local communities inspired all of us.

Finally, Ms. Jennifer Bangoura (Director Career Innovation @ Nexford University) closed the seminar by encouraging us to reflect on the kind of life and person we aspire to be, rather than simply focusing on specific career paths. She encouraged us to follow our passions and desires, regardless of societal norms or expectations. This seminar has undoubtedly enhanced our leadership skills and has sparked numerous innovative ideas.

Marco Andres Wheeler Grade 12

High Quality Learning

As part of the self-study in preparation for our re-accreditation visit with CIS (Council of International Schools), NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges), and the IBO (International Baccalaureate Organisation) we recently reviewed our definition of high-quality learning, inviting our teaching teams and students to help us build a shared understanding of what high-quality learning is, the learning principles that underpin it, and the outcomes that our students will achieve.

Our shared understanding of high-quality learning can be found on our school website [here](#). The eleven learning principles provide a clear and shared framework to guide teaching and learning at BMIS and shape the learning experiences of your children.

Over the next academic year, we would like to share and celebrate these learning principles so that you can see them in action. This week, we would like to focus on the first learning principle.

High-quality learning at BMIS:

Takes place in a culture of understanding, where meaningful student-teacher relationships are built on engagement, trust, and respect.

"Findings are consistent across studies; when teachers respond to students in ways that are responsive to student needs, are emotionally warm, and provide for student autonomy, students tend not only to feel more motivated in the classroom, but also to achieve at higher rates" (Davis and Dague, 153).

Our very first learning principle focuses on the student-teacher relationship because we understand that it is paramount for high-quality learning to take place. When our students feel understood, are active participants in our learning community, and build trust and respect for our teaching team this can have a profound effect on their learning. There are many ways that our teachers build these meaningful relationships in the classroom (creating a welcoming and positive classroom environment; student-centred teaching and learning; active listening; celebrating growth), but we also actively provide opportunities outside of the classroom to connect with our students to build trust and respect. Our recent Week Without Walls is a perfect example of this! Through shared experiences, collaboration, support and leadership in service activities, and opportunities to communicate in a more informal setting, our students and teachers got to know more about each other and build their relationships, which will have a positive effect in the classroom.

There are so many opportunities for connection inside and outside the classroom. We encourage you to speak with your children about their student-teacher relationships, and discuss as a family how you can celebrate and support these relationships too.

Kathryn Leaper, MYP Coordinator, Designated Safeguarding Lead,
DP Language and Literature

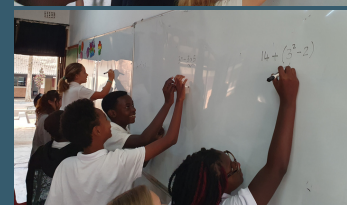


Vertical Classroom

In the last "In the Loop " we spoke about how our students love a vertical classroom - using vertical non-permanent surfaces (VNPS's). This type of working space promotes risk-taking, collaboration and prevents dis-engagement. Active thinking spaces are created.

HOWEVER - we added the wrong photo by mistake! So please see a correct collection of photos of our vertical classroom.

Hazel Drummond-Leader of Learning Mathematics



Undefeated Netball Team

The U18 Netball squad has started the season well, notching up wins against a Paramount team that beat them last year and a rejuvenated teachers team. With over 20 girls coming to practice, competition for places has never been so high and all of the girls are stepping up to show that they are all capable of playing high-quality netball. The final scores were:

BMIS 40 - 4 Paramount
BMIS 22 - 6 Netball Ninjas



BMIS Sporting Reputation Continues to Grow to New Heights

Bishop Mackenzie welcomed TP Mazembe, one of the top football teams in the Democratic Republic of Congo to train on the BMIS pitches as they prepared for their African Champions League match against the Nyasa Big Bullets. The team had been advised that BMIS provides an excellent, professional service with pitches that rank amongst the top in the country.

Bishop Mackenzie is also making exciting plans to use their newly renovated basketball courts to continue to build and grow BMIS's international reputation. Malawi finally has two courts that are back to back and offer international standard playing surfaces for both basketball and netball. This week, Sports Coordinator Neil Black met with representatives from both Malawi Netball and Malawi Basketball to start building new relationships whereby the school can act as the Malawian headquarters and number one training facility for both sports. *Neil Black*



G10 Swimming Coaching

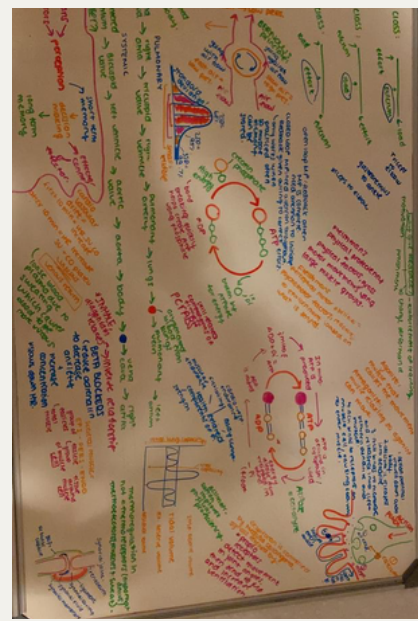
In PHE lessons, the G10's have moved onto their swim coaching unit, which involves them collaborating closely with one of their peers to help coach and improve a swimming stroke. Students have conducted coach/client interviews and each week have to prepare a 20 minute lessons which includes an appropriate warm up, cool down, drills to improve their desired skill, using video playback to analyse stroke development and thinking about how their communication affects their coaching ability.

Neil Black, BMIS Sports Coordinator
Secondary Extended Curriculum (ECP) and House Coordinator



Sport Science - High Quality Learning

In Sport, Exercise and Health Science, teachers have been working with students on the best ways to retain information. This week, students were asked to revisit past content and make a 'learning board'. This consisted of students 'blurting out' everything they know on a subject, looking back over important slides and notes and then adding anything they missed onto their learning board. This was the end product of G12 student, Bodine. She now has revision content all in one place!



Community Engagement

BMIS Music was very lucky to have Blessings Chisama volunteer to help out this week in Music. Blessings is one of Malawi's finest guitar players and has deeply inspired some of our students who play the guitar and electric bass. He was able to offer specific help individually tailored to the level of each student. Blessings also has deep connections with education in Malawi, as he helps to train a new generation of teachers in evidence-based teaching practices that will help to make an impact in Malawi's schools. Blessings said the time watching the classes was also rewarding for him, seeing the high-quality student-centered education that BMIS can offer its students. Thank you, Blessings for making a big impact in a very short amount of time.



BMIS offers 7 levels of MYP Drama and IBDP Theatre Arts instruction.

Grades 6-10 MYP Drama Programme approaches theatre through inquiry-based learning. In addition to learning drama skills, techniques, and styles, students must make real-world connections and answer a variety of inquiry questions through daily exploration. The IBDP Theatre Arts Programme, grades 11 and 12, is a multifaceted theatre-making course of study. It allows students to make theatre as creators, designers, directors and performers.



Cornell University Visiting BMIS (gr 9-12) and PSAT Preparation (gr 10-11) Cornell Visit to BMIS

BMIS received wonderful news recently. We were selected as a beneficiary of the U.S. Department of State's Overseas School Project (OSP) grant.

Through the OSP grant, we will be visited by Shawn Felton, the Executive Director of Undergraduate Admissions at Cornell University, an Ivy League university in upstate New York. He will be on campus for two days, meeting students and faculty, leading workshops and giving presentations at BMIS. Mr. Felton and other higher education leaders for the OSP grant are selected from bellwether institutions by the U.S. State Department's Office of Overseas Schools to represent the entire American higher education system and its values- not just their universities. Mr. Felton will talk about current, candid, authentic guidance on U.S. higher education admissions trends.

Grade 9-10 students will have a session with him focusing on University and Career Choices. All students in Grades 11 and 12 will participate in an essay writing workshop on Thursday and those considering applying to schools in the U.S. will have an additional workshop about the U.S. Admissions Application on Friday.

Parents and students are invited to a presentation on US Higher Education and University Admissions on Thursday. Some students and families outside of BMIS, by invitation of EducationUSA (another U.S. State Department initiative that "promotes U.S. higher education to students around the world"), will also be in attendance. If you are interested in attending this presentation, please email (c.bowles@bmis.mw) with the subject line "Cornell", informing me how many people will be coming. This is to ensure that we book the appropriate facility (BOS or Lower Hall).

PSAT Preparation

This is a reminder that all Grade 10 and 11 students will be taking the PSAT exam on the morning of Thursday, October 12. In the previous communication, I asked for parents and guardians to check in with their students to make sure that their personal device (a Windows or Mac device or iPad -- NO CHROMEBOOKS) Bluebook

Once Bluebook is your child's machine, they can take full-length or abridged practice exams to familiarize themselves with the test. I can also direct them to Khan Academy's PSAT prep as a good place to prepare. Thank you for taking the time to read through this information. Please email me (c.bowles@bmis.mw) if you have any questions regarding the above or anything else related to career and college guidance.

Charlie Bowles, Career and College Counselor

TOK Exhibition

On Monday night, Grade 12 grouped up in the Lower Hall for the TOK Exhibition Night. This was the culmination of a year of hard work in class and at home. Each one of us chose an overarching question from the provided IB TOK exhibition prompts that applied to multiple optional themes such as Knowledge and the Knower, Knowledge and Technology, Knowledge and Language, Knowledge and Indigenous societies among others, and we were tasked to discuss the question through 3 objects. We had objects ranging from "Oxford IB Chemistry Notebook Chapter 11" to "Lactose Free Milk Powder" to "Centro de Confinamiento del Terrorismo de El Salvador".

The exhibition provided us with an opportunity to showcase to grade 10, grade 11 students and their parents our insights to questions such as "What role do experts play in influencing our consumption or acquisition of knowledge?" and "Does some knowledge belong only to particular communities of knowers?". We looked at our questions from diverse angles, analysing multiple perspectives, something we learned to do in TOK. In the end, the benefits we have gained from not only that night but from TOK as a whole are invaluable. Additionally, this has brought us all together as a grade group. Hopefully, next year's students enjoy this experience as much as we did! *Tucker Croke*

Photos following page



Online Safety promoting safe usage of technology parent workshop

Our Coffee and Connect mornings are now on, and to kickstart these, last week our counsellors delivered an engaging and thought-provoking workshop on the safe usage of technology. Here are the links to the presentation slides and parent resource in case you missed it. [Here](#) Our counsellors look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in their next workshop: Wellbeing for all on October 26th.

Mariella Vittetoe-Castillo
Secondary School
Counsellor



Please leave the donations in your tutor rooms **DATE: 25th-29th**

Donation Drive

~ With children of the nation

We are trying to make kids lives better

Please give us clean stuff and not dirty or stained.

- Clothes
- Canned food
- Bedsheets
- Hygiene Products
- Toys
- Books

“PRIZE”

Netball at Kamuza Academy

This week our U15 and U13 Netball teams faced off against one another to prepare themselves for the upcoming matches against Kamuza Academy and Saint Andrews. It was a game of skill, passion and competitiveness where the U15 just edged out the younger counterparts with a score of 15-8.



Donations will be collected in the Tutor Rooms

Secondary Up and Coming Events

Friday 29th September WWW Assembly 11.40 am in the Lower Hall
Saturday 30th September at Kamuza Academy U13 Netball, U15 Netball, U15 Football
Monday 2nd-Friday 6th October-STUCO Spirit Week
Saturday 7th October 8.00 am-12.pm SAT Test in the Lower Hall
Saturday 7th October 8.30 am-1 pm Duke of Edinburgh practice hike
Monday 9th October- Friday October 13th No ECP's
Tuesday 10th October Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences from 8.00 am-4.00 pm. No classes
Thursday 12th October PSAT's for Grades 10 and 11 in the Lower Hall
Monday 16th October-Sunday 22nd October Mid-Term Break
If you feel like being part of the choir, please join Miss Carmen, parents and teachers every Monday morning from 7:10 to 7:50am in Miss Carmen's music room.