



# IN THE LOOP

UPDATES FOR BMIS SECONDARY PARENTS

**8th September 2023**

Dear Parents/Guardians

We are now completing our fourth week of school, which seems to have flown by extremely quickly. Perhaps the reason for this is that the beginning of the year has been so busy, with several key events and activities taking place. Besides the students settling down to their studies, time has been set aside for House activities during the Tutor periods. This provided the opportunity for new students to get to meet others from different grades, as well as our returning students to renew acquaintances while having a load of fun in the process.

Our students took the STUCO presidential elections very seriously. It is a pleasure to announce our new President, Neil Nambiar, and Vice President, Tamanda Mbang'ombe. A very big thanks to our outgoing President Daniella Lamont and Vice President Kudzaishe Nhamo. They have both done a marvelous job this year in advocating initiatives and leading the student body.

Thank you to the parents who were able to attend the Secondary Open Evening. There were lively and engaging conversations as teachers presented their subject areas while parents met their children's teachers and learned more about the teaching and learning that takes place in Secondary.

Week Without Walls is just around the corner (19th-22nd September), as our Grades 6-10 students experience a range of trips around Malawi with a focus on service activities within the community. The interest in recommencing WWW was very apparent in over 90% participation from our students.

Lesley Peacock, Secondary School Principal  
l.peacock@bmis.mw

*Lesley Peacock*



**OVERVIEW:**

- STUCO Elections
- Makerspace
- DP Retreat
- Open Evening
- Secondary Education Support Team
- House Competitions
- Community Sports
- South African Maths Challenge
- PSAT's
- Service opportunities
- Authentic Teaching & Learning Experiences
- Up and Coming Events



President Elections 2022



President Elections 2023-No Masks!



Our fantastic outgoing President and Vice, Dani and Kudzai

BISHOP MACKENZIE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

STUCO 2023-2024

President

**Neil Nambiar**

Vice President

**TAMANDA MBANGOMBE**



Our Presidential candidates 2023

Our new President and Vice, Neil and Tamanda M

## Student Council Elections

This week the Student Council Presidential Candidates participated in a very intense but fun campaign week, where we saw the Secondary campus come alive with colorful campaign posters, lunch times filled with different activities, and students from different grade levels interacting.

Campaign Week concluded with a Campaign Rally, where Stuco Core candidates had the chance to advocate for themselves and try to persuade their peers to vote for them.

On Tuesday, 5th September, it was finally time for the Presidential speeches and voting. The candidates all delivered their inspiring speeches, and then it was time for the student body to elect their new leader. Each student was handed a ballot and directed to the voting booth where they voted for the candidate of their choice and then dropped their ballot into a voting box.

The voting system mimics the voting style of many democratic countries, teaching the students the importance of voting and making their voices heard. It was great to see students taking voting seriously and with reverence for the process.

The votes were counted and verified. The results were the closest they have been in years, with only a few votes separating the candidates. After a long week of campaigning and voting, the final results of the Student Council Core Election were announced during the Inauguration on Friday, 8th September.

During the assembly, former Stuco President Daniela Lamont and Vice President Kudzai Nhamo addressed the student body for the last time before leading new President, Neil Nambiar, and Vice President, Tamanda Mbang'ombe, through the swearing-in ceremony. Neil and Tamanda then presented the new Core Members and Class Representatives to the student body.

Blessings Banda

MYP & DP Visual Arts

Leader of Learning: Arts

Student Council Advisor



STUCO Elections 2022



STUCO Elections 2023



Campaigning Speeches and Voting

## MakerSpace-Transition

Grade 4/5 have started a MAKERSPACE ECP in the Secondary Department. Makerspace is a new concept for the Design Department to encourage our students to be makers! We are focussing on Grades 4/5 and looking to start with a mini project of making a 'keyring'. The students have been introduced to the Secondary Workshop and have already begun the drawings and template for their keyring. We hope to include many more products!

Jacqueline Corbett-Design/Learning Support



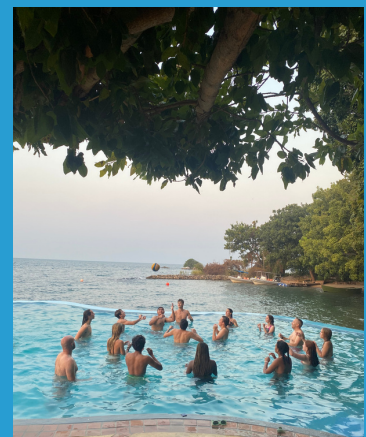


## DP Retreat Grades 11 and 12

The past weekend for the DP students has been packed full of learning, challenges and laughs all around. On the academic side, we dove into the Diploma Programme and all its variations and got a solid feel for the new grading system and IB requirements throughout the two-year course. We had a very informative study techniques session where we learnt skills to aid in the efficient creation of long-term memories. Feel free to ask any G11/12s for the list of random objects we memorised, and they will all tell you the same thing: "Flamingo, Star Trek, Bad, Fruit, Poverty, Egg, Rugby, Blueberry, T-Rex, Balls, Shoe, Pink, Bottle, Spongebob not forgetting 56".

Academics aside, we had a whole private island to ourselves! Swimming, volleyball, scavenger hunts, hiking and the meals were only a fraction of the fun we had. We bonded to come together as Grade 11 and 12 and learned the value of relying on each other during the two rigorous years of the IB Diploma. We hiked both mornings of the weekend and were paired with another student you didn't know much about and were surprised at how much in common we had with each other. Overall, the Blue Zebra Retreat was a truly unforgettable experience, and we cannot wait to go again next year!

By Tamanda M and Darwyn G11



## Open House

Parents had the opportunity to meet with teachers, learn more about the subject areas their children are studying and ask questions. This all took place under lights around the canteen area and proved an excellent venue for welcoming both new and returning parents back to BMIS. If you would like to learn more about the Middle Years Programme you are invited to the MYP Parent Evening on Wednesday 13th September from 6.00 -7.00 pm in the BOS



## House Competitions

After winning the house competition last year, the Lions seem to have started slowly this time around! Can they claw their way back? The elephants on the other hand have trumpeted into the lead. Can the leapers leap into first place? Will the Rhino's start charging up the leaderboard? Neil Black



	House Mission Statement	Girls Football	Boys Football
Elephant	15	40	40
Leopard	10	30	30
Lion	5	10	10
Rhino	20	20	20



# Meet the Secondary Educational Support Team

## Ms. Samantha Phipps

Secondary Educational Support Coordinator

Language Acquisition English Teacher

English Language Learner & Learning Support Teacher

Ms Phipps is from the UK and holds a BA in Media Studies and a PGCE in Literacy and ESOL. She has 14 years of teaching experience, with dedicated expertise in English language instruction, with eight years of those years in Special Educational Needs (SEN) and educational leadership. She is completing a Master's in SEN and Leadership and hopes to complete a PhD in Education. She possesses a deep passion for both nurturing a love for reading and fostering creativity in and out of the classroom. ([s.phipps@bmis.mw](mailto:s.phipps@bmis.mw))



## Mr. Tom Denton

Language Acquisition English and English Language Learner Teacher

Grade 9 Language and Literature Teacher

Learning Support Teacher

Tom is originally from the UK, but has been working in international education for the past 20 years. Before coming to Malawi, Tom taught secondary English at an IB school in Istanbul, Turkey. Prior to that, he was part of an innovative team establishing one of the first universities globally to follow a 'Flipped' education model across all faculties. Tom holds a BA and an MA in English Literature and has a passion for fostering agency and learner autonomy in all of his students. ([t.denton@bmis.mw](mailto:t.denton@bmis.mw))



## Ms. Jacqueline Corbett

MYP Design Teacher

Learning Support Teacher

Jacqueline (Jax) joins us as a Design and Learning Support Teacher at BMIS. She is a qualified Art and Design Teacher with a Master's in SEN. She has worked abroad for nearly ten years with various added roles to her teacher timetable, including Service and Grade Level leader. ([j.corbett@bmis.mw](mailto:j.corbett@bmis.mw))



## Ms. Mackenzie Peters

BMIS Student Services Consultant

Learning Support Teacher

Originally from Idaho, Mackenzie has been working in the education sector for nearly ten years and internationally for six of those ten. She holds a B.A. in Elementary and Special Education, M.S. in International Education & Leadership, and is a doctoral student studying Educational and Instructional Leadership. Mackenzie is an educator, leader, and advocate with a focus on the whole human and cultivating accessible educational spaces. ([m.peters@bmis.mw](mailto:m.peters@bmis.mw))



## Third Round of the South African Mathematics Challenge

For the past eight years, BMIS students have been participating in the South African Mathematics Olympiad, catering to students from Grade 8 to Grade 12. This year was the first year that BMIS participated in the South African Mathematics Challenge which is for younger learners from Grade 4 to Grade 7.

The South African Mathematics Foundation states that “The Challenge questions are aimed at conceptual knowledge, the application of knowledge in new situations, problem solving, reasoning, communication and general mathematical thinking.” (“SA Mathematics Challenge”).

In March 2023, 84,000 learners from Southern African countries including 51 BMIS students participated in the first round of the 2023 South African Mathematics Challenge.

Eighteen of our students made it through to the second round which was written in May.

On September 7th two of our Secondary students wrote the third and final round of the Challenge. Tobi Møller was part of 145 students from Grade 5/6 and Amani Route was one of 146 students from Grade 6/7 who made it through to the final round

We are so proud of all our BMIS students who have embraced problem solving and who have taken part in the Challenge and the Olympiad. And we look forward to encouraging more students to participate in 2024!

“SA Mathematics CHallenge”. South African Mathematics Foundation. <https://www.samf.ac.za/en/sa-mathematics-challenge> Date of access 7th September 2023.



### Vertical Classroom

Our Mathematics students love a vertical classroom. Tackling challenging problems in pairs up on the white board encourages risk-taking and opens up discussions. Students learn from each other and debate different approaches. It is difficult to get them sitting down again! Hazel Drummod

### Insure your grade 10, 11 and 12 student is ready for testing

As happens every year, all grade 10 and grade 11 students will take the PSAT in October (the morning of the 12th to be exact). The SAT will be administered on campus on Saturday, October 7, and some grade 12 students will choose to do this.

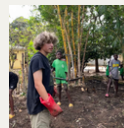
Unlike in the past, all of these tests will be delivered electronically this year, on your student’s personal device. Each student needs to download Bluebook, online exam app. Students can use a Windows or Mac laptop or an iPad, but they CANNOT use a Chromebook. Please take a moment to sit with your grade 10 or 11 student, or your grade 12 student if they are taking the SAT, and make sure they have a suitable device (if they do not, please let me know) and that they have downloaded Bluebook.

If you have any questions about either the PSAT or the SAT, please feel free to contact me.

Charlie Bowles College Counselor



## Service at BMIS



### **Darwyn**

I am honoured to be selected as the Service Director this academic year. I believe we can all work together to get the most out of our service clubs as it is a fantastic opportunity to connect with the community and holds an intrinsic value on our experiences. I am very excited to team up with the vast variety of student-lead service clubs offered at BMIS to see how we can create a sustainable and positive impact on our community.

### **Hisham**

Having been at BMIS since primary, I've had the pleasure of experiencing the evolution of service throughout my secondary career. While the pandemic stunted the development of a lot of our service groups and desensitised much of the student body to the familiarity of service, it has made a very strong comeback in the past two years, and it has been a pleasure to work alongside the service groups offered by our student body over the 22/23 school year. My goals over the past year have been to increase student engagement in the service process, and make service more accessible to students of all ages. I can say with pride that both of these goals have been met and exceeded through our service program over the past school-year. I can't wait to see what this year has in store!

### **Marco**

It has been great to see service bounce back within the last year. Helping service groups brainstorm, assisting in implementing their initiatives, and overall being surrounded by groups doing meaningful work in our community has been a rewarding experience.

## Service Fair highlights

Umodzi is about togetherness, inclusivity, and encouraging our communities to interact with each other safely and non-judgmentally.

The purpose of Community Reading is to foster an environment where reading and creativity shine and are loved.

Interact is about integrating the BMIS community into the wider local community and addressing the most pressing issues we are passionate about.

Community Paint is a safe environment to promote creativity and growth for self-expression.

Health Awareness is about raising awareness about physical and mental health through fun, interactive initiatives like soap-making to combat cholera.

Lilongwe Outreach empowers Lilongwe for a hunger-free future through sustainable permaculture.

Communtech aims to change Malawi through technology.

Eco Warriors' focus this year is on waste management and reforestation within the BMIS community and the external Malawian community. Join us if you would like lifelong skills and knowledge on how to create a sustainable environment and an environmentally friendly future.

Sports Sync's goal is to teach, and provide the necessary resources and skills to underprivileged youth in our community. Specifically to improve their capabilities and their opportunities in sports.

Orphanage aims to help improve the well-being of the kids at orphanages in Lilongwe.

Student garden purpose is to educate the student body on sustainable land management and foster a passion for the outdoors by getting students involved in a hands-on, practical approach to service learning.



Dear BMIS Community,

This Friday, 8th September, the biggest rugby academy in Malawi is back in action!

The academy is aimed at all levels; from those who have never played before to those who have vast experience. In the past year we have had three Venom graduates compete for their countries whilst a whole host of others have continued to play at very high levels.

Your child can simply go to the bottom field on Friday after school and attend the session for free. If they enjoy it (which I am sure they will!) then they can continue to come and pay 50,000 MKW, which goes towards improving Malawian rugby.

The session will run from 12:15 - 1:15pm and is for G1-G8.

Other Community Sports:

BMIS teachers also organise other sporting activities such as:

Saturday Soccer: Contact Rich at r.braithwaite@bmis.mw for more information.

Track with Pach: Contact Pachisi at p.nyasulu@bmis.mw for more information.

Ultimate Frisbee: Contact Dave at d.montreuil@bmis.mw for more information.

\*\*\* All above clubs are run privately and are not connected to the BMIS ECP \*\*\*

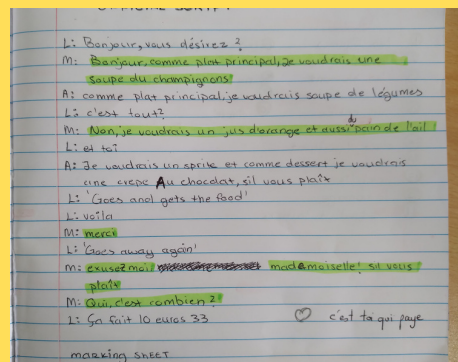
### Real-life situations in the French classroom

Grade 7 French students are working on a unit about Food. They carried out research about typical dishes from French-speaking countries and soon will be describing dishes from their own country. We also listened to conversations at restaurants and in shops to learn to order food and to ask for prices. To practice their new skills, they created skits of their own acting as waiter/waitress and customers. They then performed their skits in front of the class.

Some went further and brought props to make their skits more realistic - A lot of imagination and creativity :-)

Well done, Grade 7!

Pascale Pereira De Rezende



### Secondary School Uniform

Please work in partnership with the School to ensure your child/children come appropriately dressed for a learning environment. We have a compulsory uniform which means sports shorts are only to be worn in PHE classes, navy blue or black tailored trousers are allowed, whereas leggings are not part of the uniform. Tight black skirts are also not acceptable as part of our dress code.

### Secondary Up and Coming Events

Wednesday 13th September MYP Parent Evening 6.00-7.00 pm in the BOS

Monday 18th WWW preparation at school for Grades 6-10

Tuesday 19th-Friday 22nd Week Without Walls trips for Grades 6-10

Thursday 21st September Coffee Morning, 'Online Safety Promoting Safe Usage of Technology'

Monday 25th TOK Exhibition Gr12 from 7.00am-8.15 am in the Lower Hall

Monday 25th September Grade 11 College Night 5.30-6.45 pm in the BOS.