



9th February 2024

# IN THE LOOP

UPDATES FOR BMIS SECONDARY PARENTS

IT'S LINEAR

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT:**

**WE ARE A DIVERSE AND WELCOMING COMMUNITY IN A JOYFUL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT THAT PROMOTES WELL-BEING, SUSTAINABILITY, AND INCLUSIVITY AND CELEBRATES GROWTH AS SUCCESS.**

During this academic year, one of our main focus areas evolved around 'intercultural awareness and global citizenship'. If you have been an avid reader of 'In the Loop' you will have had the opportunity to follow our journey through the process of the Staff creating a shared definition in line with our mission statement and through to the implementation of ideas and practices as documented in the 'Teaching and Learning Continuum'.

In October Tutors introduced our shared definition to secondary classes enhanced by students sharing stories that resonated with the definition such as navigating a complex situation when engaging with another culture or when feeling culturally uncomfortable in a situation. This provided a great opportunity for our students to reflect and learn from other's experiences.

Last week during Tutor time we revisited our definition this time delving deeper into the qualities and characteristics of a global citizen from a student's perspective and in relevance to BMIS. We aimed to collaboratively create a draft profile of a global citizen following group activities, discussions, and idea exchanges, while also including input from the Primary School. We have captured the visible thinking of our students through these draft images.

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



**OVERVIEW:**

- Message from the Principal
- Swim Meet
- Grade 6 Panto
- How the world works!
- Robert Burns Night
- DP Insights
- South African Mathematics Olympiad
- Service and CAS Projects
- Welcome Back BMIS champs
- Advice from the College Counsellor
- Up and Coming Events

By: Sai, Adeline, and Nisa

### PROFILE OF A BMIS STUDENT

BMIS promotes Diversity by addressing inequalities and getting to know our community!

As a student, I do this by: being open-minded about other cultures and opinions

BMIS promotes Inclusivity by practicing cultural sensitivity and giving all students a voice!

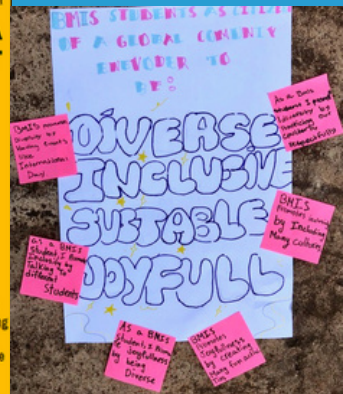
As a student, I do this by: being caring to all my fellow peers and teachers

BMIS promotes sustainability by encouraging other to be upstanding global citizens

As a student, I do this by: participating in service and recognizing my impact on communities

BMIS promotes joyfulness by nurturing positive attitudes and mindsets about learning, self, and others by teaching mindfulness, confidence, and more!

As a student, I do this by: being a risk-taker and trying new experiences whilst maintaining a balanced life



As a BMIS student I promote joyfulness

### PROFILE OF A BMIS STUDENT

CONTRIBUTES

BMIS Promotes Inclusivity by...

BMIS Promotes Sustainability by...

BMIS Promotes Joyfulness by...

BLENDING

As a BMIS student I promote joyfulness

**DIVERSE:** DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS AND BELIEFS UNITING TO CREATE ENRICHED BMIS COMMUNITY.

**INCLUSIVE:** PROMOTING TOLERANCE, EMPATHY AND COOPERATION TO ENSURE EVERYONE FEELS VALUED, RESPECTED & INTEGRATED INTO THE BMIS COMMUNITY.

**SUSTAINABLE:** USING OUR RESOURCES, ENERGY & OPPORTUNITY WISELY TO CONTRIBUTE TO A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL.

**JOYFUL:** PROMOTING POSITIVE ENGAGEMENT IN ACTIVITIES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE WELL BEING OF OURSELVES & OTHERS.

**BMIS promotes:**

**Diversity:**

- international day
- cultural day
- dress up days
- arts festival

**Inclusivity:**

- group work
- service projects
- house competitions
- no plastic wrapping

**Sustainability:**

- gardens around school
- recycling
- eco projects
- no plastic wrapping

**Joyfulness:**

- celebrating growth as success
- school trips
- sports
- positive teachers

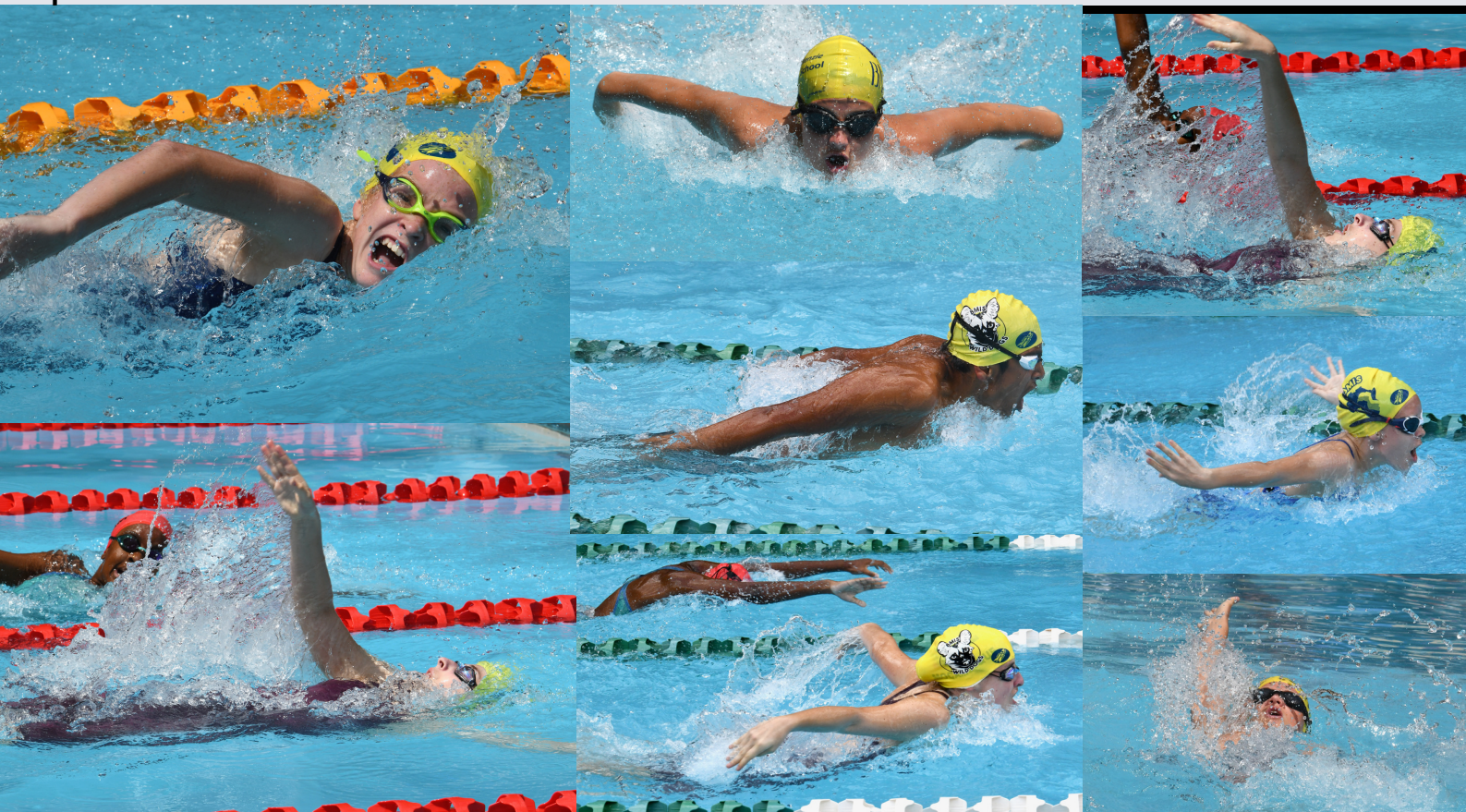
## A Successful Swim Meet

Our Dual Swim Meet against ABC turned out to be a Tri-Meet as we invited a local swim team called the 'Lilongwe Crocodiles'. With over 150 swimmers, all swimmers showed us some great races, good sportsmanship and a lot of PB's.

This meet was a trial for our swimmers to qualify for Malawi Nationals which will be held at the beginning of March in Blantyre. I'm pleased to say that we had many qualifiers and so I'm looking forward to the Nationals with a big contingent!

A big shout out to our parent volunteers. Over 25 parents helped in running the meet, with timers, stroke and turn judges, marshalls, runners, and of course, Coach Pach, who was our starter. These meets cannot run successfully without the help of our parent volunteers. Thank you, parents! The next meet is the "00" on February 16th at ABC.

George Carpouzis, OLY  
Aquatics Coordinator



## Grade 6 Panto

Do you want to experience laughter, comedy and loads of fun? Well, you're in luck! Come to the Upper Hall on Monday the 12th of February to watch a pantomime written by Stacey Mutengo, Megan Slimming and Grade 6HDR - The Wizard Of OZ ✨ ✨ ✨ Where all the magic and fun happens! As the munchkins once said... "We're off to see the wizard, The wonderful, Wizard Of..... OZ!!!!!! ✨ ✨ Hope to see you on the 12th! But be careful, the Wicked Witch of the West JUST might get you! When: Monday, February 12th, 6:30pm - sharp! (Doors open at 6:15pm) Where: BMIS Upper Hall. FREE!



## How the World Works

Grade 10 Individuals and Societies students created a presentation for Grade 1 primary students, aligning with the first graders' current unit of study, "How the World Works." Grade 10SRI shared their knowledge about climate change and its impact on food security in Malawi and globally through dynamic presentations, engaging Q&A sessions, and entertaining quizzes. The Grade 1 students brainstormed ideas on how their actions can affect the planet and collaborated to develop inquiry questions aimed at fostering awareness and action in their daily lives to combat climate change. Grade 10SRI encouraged the Grade 1 students to share their newfound knowledge and inspire positive changes within their communities, using catchy phrases such as "reduce, reuse, and recycle."

Nicolas Wheeler, 10SRI

## Robert Burns Night with BMIS Music

The British High Commissioner invited BMIS to perform for the once-a-year Robert Burns Night yesterday evening. Robert Burns (1759-1796) was a famous Scottish poet/composer who is best known for his song Auld Lang Syne, which is played worldwide every New Year's Eve. Both the Grade 9 Music class and the Senior Band wowed the audience (of more than 300 people!) with their renditions of famous Scottish tunes, some of which were composed by Robert Burns himself. People had an amazing time learning to dance the steps for the Gay Gordons, The Dashing White Sergeant and other famous dances. It was a fantastic evening that was enjoyed by all. I hope the community connections that BMIS made this evening will have a lasting impact. I also hope we get the chance to perform at many more functions in the future. Thanks to Fiona and Dan at the High Commission for the amazing opportunity and well done to Anna, Japheth, Ndeye, Mateus, Tanmay, Aditya, Darwyn, Tiyamike, and Hikari! D. Montriel



## DP Insights: Using an Art Portfolio to Amplify Your College Application

When I decided to apply to art programmes in college, I knew the process would be time-consuming and challenging. What I didn't expect was to be as equally rewarding. Each college had its own specific requirements ranging from medium requirements, types of exploration, and average number of pieces. Unfortunately, I did not know this a year ago. I created a total of four artworks over the December break, three of which made it into my portfolio. Looking back, I enjoyed the experience of learning how to use new mediums, trying new concept explorations, and even choking on (fake) blood for my performance piece. It allowed me to discover more about my style as an artist. Each submission had an accompanying 200-word description. Recognising the heavy stakes of college supplemental writing, I was really worried about this. However, analysis from my DP HL art class had given me a strong enough foundation to confidently write over 2000 words in supplements. Overall, I would advise any prospective art major to indulge in this experience and not shy away from the tens of hours of work but see it as an opportunity to learn more about yourself.

Yamikani Chaponda

## South African Mathematics Olympiad and Challenge.

The South African Mathematics Olympiad (Grades 8-12) and Mathematics Challenge (Grades 4-7) are coming up! The first round of the Mathematics Olympiad will take place on the 14th March (World Pi day). The first round of the Mathematics Challenge will take place in the week of the 11th - 15th March.

We would like to encourage as many students as possible to take part. It is a fun event which generates an interest in Mathematics and problem solving.

We are finalising the costs, and as soon as we know we will communicate and ask you to send the money in to register your child!

Hazel Drummond



## Grade 8 Perspectives Unit

Our unit was called History- Perspectives. This unit was about the different events that happened in the past, and the perspectives on it, how we viewed it and how different people viewed it, their point of view. We had to interview at least one person and see if they knew about the event and what was their perspective on it. In the exhibition, we got to present our chosen historical events to a group of people who came to gain knowledge and ask questions on these events. Thanks to Miss Mdeza and Mr Cole.

- Hoorain 8SCL

We presented our research during our first lessons. We had a wide range of information from Covid-19 to Nelson Mandela. Our research was presented to the secondary school students and their teachers. We found information, we printed pictures, and presented them. We worked hard to make our presentations informational. Our slides were ready made by our teachers and we followed these questions and slideshows. Our incredible teachers and interviewers helped us to finish the presentation which made it easier for us to present.

- Seren 8SCL

During our History-Perspective unit, we looked at trying to improve our understanding of different perspectives, and the way we were able to accomplish this was by choosing different historical events and trying to view the varying perspectives. To find the different perspectives, We looked at different articles, looked at and made interviews, books, and pictures. By using this vast amount of perspectives, we were able to come up with a clear conclusion on the historical events. From this unit, we were able to understand that different people have different perspectives of the world.

- Biaka 8SCL

## Service Projects

Students in Grade 10 are engaging in service projects to help prepare them for the CAS work they will take part in in their DP years. This includes brainstorming impactful initiatives, investigating issues, researching the need for help, planning, and setting meaningful goals. Many are cooperating with current after-school service activities and other NGOs. This will develop their leadership, teamwork, and critical thinking skills, as well as equip them with a service mindset that will empower them to overcome challenges and embrace the opportunities of the following years.

### Exciting Grade 12 CAS Project on February 20th at BMIS!

We are thrilled to announce an upcoming event at BMIS! Join us on Tuesday, February 20th, from 6 PM to 8 PM in the Upper Hall for an engaging and meaningful CAS project, hosted by Grade 12 Jonathan, Castro, and Amaan.

This special event, is open to both students and parents of the secondary BMIS community, and promises to be both educational and enjoyable. We aim to raise awareness about pressing environmental issues in Malawi through a series of thought-provoking questions. Additionally, members of the Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM) will be joining us, offering a fantastic opportunity to maximise our fundraising efforts.

The donations collected during this event will support WESM's crucial work in combating deforestation at Michiru Mountain in Blantyre. This is a vital cause, and your contributions can make a significant difference.

But that's not all! To add to the fun, our dedicated Eco-warriors will be selling food and drinks, with proceeds going towards their future projects. And for those seeking extra excitement, there's a celebrity basketball game in the works - a perfect way to engage students and boost participation and donations.

## Welcome back BMIS champs!

Our students returned to school on Wednesday with big smiles and bigger yawns! We are very proud of all of our sports teams for acting as exemplary models for our school. They were kind and respectful throughout and played their very best in all games.

The Girls U19 Basketball Team ended up the SAISA champs, which was a marvelous achievement. While the U19 Boys gained enormous experience during highly competitive games. The U19 Girls and Boys also had the opportunity to play the Rangers Rugby Team from Cape Town Flats in a friendly, but competitive game. The hospitality of the host team was impressive. In Netball the U19 Girls proved victorious over AISCT but lost to a very strong team from the International School of Cape Town and Herschel's prestigious Girls School of over 900 students.

Other than the sporting experience our students enjoyed the social aspects of this well-balanced tour which included a trip to Table Mountain, a roller disco, shopping on Victoria Wharf, and a visit to the University of Cape Town. A big shout-out to our wild Dogs!



## Advice from the College Counsellor

Even though the second semester has only just begun, if your family is like mine, you're already planning where you will be and what you will be doing during the April break and the holiday beginning in June.

If your child is in high school, you may want to include things that your son or daughter can do over these holidays that support their career and college search.

Whether you travel or stay in Malawi, they may want to:

- attend college fairs and visits (virtual and in-person) and information sessions from schools around the world, some of which are program/career-specific
- register for a summer program in leadership, an academic or professional areas, or to develop skills development
- pursue a passion
- work or volunteer
- job-shadow and take an internship
- take necessary entry exams (e.g. SAT and ACT in the U.S.; Thinking Skills Test, BMAT, etc. for UK universities) - especially for current Gr 11 students over the June-August holiday.

The Pre-College Program Digest has been created to help you find programs (some free, some paid; some in-person, some online) that can help with the above. All of this is provided to help your child better understand what they want out of their future, learn how they can get there, develop important skills and understandings, round-out or provide depth to their list of experiences and activities, and improve their CV in ways that will make them more interesting and better prepared [read: admissible/hireable] people.

Thinking about your child's post-BMIS life (whether it's a couple of months away or a few years) can be both exhilarating and daunting. Starting early, planning, and building experiences, and understanding bit by bit can help make sure it's more of the former than the latter.

### Grade 11 - Register for the March 9 SAT

Many U.S. schools are moving away from the test-optional approach to admissions and are requiring exam scores again. We are also finding that our students who are applying to UK schools with the U.S. high school diploma and IB courses (rather than the full diploma) are, more than in the past, being asked for (though generally not required) to provide SAT scores.

If your child is considering applying to the U.S. next year, it is strongly recommended that they take multiple SAT exams before submitting their applications, starting with the March 9 SAT, which will be administered on campus, and has a registration deadline of February 23. Taking this now will be good preparation for retaking the exam over the long holiday or next October or December at BMIS. Most schools take super scores (meaning they will cobble together the highest scores from multiple tests), and taking the test now will provide specific feedback on the areas of the exam students can target for improvement.

Once students have registered, they need to make sure that they have downloaded Bluebook onto their personal device (a Windows or Mac device -- NO CHROMEBOOKS, and iPads are discouraged). Once Bluebook is downloaded, students can take full-length or abridged practice exams on Bluebook to familiarize themselves with the test. I can also recommend Khan Academy's SAT prep as a good place to get ready. Our library also has test prep books on display.

Charles Bowles, College Counsellor



# Neurodiversity Week

Lessons & Activities throughout the week both in class and outside of class!

- 13 February:
  - **Primary:**
    - Dress-Up TACTILE TUESDAY (Wear what you're comfortable in!)
  - **Secondary:**
    - 7:10 - Neurodiversity Week Assembly in the Upper Hall
    - Lunchtime Activity in the Canteen
- 14 February:
  - **Secondary:**
    - Lunchtime Activity in the Canteen
- 15 February:
  - **Whole School/Community:**
    - Dress up in colorful clothes to represent our diversity!
    - 7:30 Family Coffee Morning in the Library
- 16 February:
  - **Whole School/Community:**
    - Dress up in colorful clothes to represent our diversity!
  - **Primary:**
    - 7:30 - Neurodiversity Week Assembly in the Lower Hall
  - **Secondary:**
    - Neurodiversity Week Tutor Activity

**12-16 February 2024**

Bishop Mackenzie International School

**KUMBES CANDY!**  
PRICELIST

Ice cream	
Cone	MK 2,000
Cup	MK2,500
Snow cone	
	MK2,000
Ice lollies	
	MK 2,500
Popcorn	
	MK 800
Cotton candy	
	MK1,500

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**FAMILY ENVIRONMENTAL QUIZ NIGHT**

All donations go to the Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM)

**TUESDAY Feb 20** | 5000MWK  
at Upper Hall 06:00pm - 08:00pm  
per person (Max group of 5 or individual)

Food will be sold by the BMIS Eco Warriors  
Help us raise awareness for Deforestation and Environmental issues!

BMIS Arts News

## CABERET WORKSHOP

MEET THE STAFF  
Mitzi, Mellanie, Terrence, Kevin and Tichoana

**DON'T MISS OUT!**

We are so happy to welcome back Mitzi Carruthers, our wonderful choreographer for The Greatest Showman. She is hosting a 3 hour Cabaret dance workshop Saturday 17th February for students from both Primary and Secondary, to produce a show number to perform at The Farmers Daughter that same night (though not mandatory). It's such a great opportunity for our students who are interested in music, dance and performance to participate in.

**Venue: Upper Hall @ BMIS**  
**Date: Saturday 17th February**  
**Time: 11am-2pm -show at 5pm**  
**Fee: 30,000Kw- Cash at the door**

**ADULT IMPROV WORKSHOP**

A Great opportunity that you should not miss out on!

Kevin Hanson has been using improv for fun, as a writing tool and to relieve stress for the last 30 years. He has worked as an actor, writer, director, and teacher in many countries around the world, and is excited to be coming to Malawi for the first time.

Improv workshops are all about having fun, working as a group, and allowing the moment to happen. There is no script, but there are simple techniques to help you go in the right direction.

Despite participants' initial fears of "not being able to do it", improv is a very accessible form of theatre and performance. Workshops are designed to ease you in slowly, working as a group so no one is put on the spot and expected to do something uncomfortable. Plenty of laughter is assured, and it's a great way to get to know people, develop confidence, creativity, trust, cooperation, and storytelling in a safe space.

**Venue: Farmer's Daughter**  
**Date: Saturday 18th February**  
**Time: 8-11am**  
**Fee: 30,000Kw- cash at the door**

**If we have the numbers, I will confirm over email that the event will proceed.**

FRIDAY 8TH MARCH

# DP THEATRE



# NIGHT 2024

SEC DRAMA STUDIO  
START - 6:00 PM  
END - 8:00PM

GRADE 10+  
NO CHARGE  
DONATIONS  
WELCOME

BMIS Arts News

## IMPROV WORKSHOP

### IMPROVISATION WORKSHOP

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**Venue: Drama Studio @ BMIS**  
**Date: Saturday 17th February**  
**Time: 11am-2pm**  
**Fee: 30,000Kw- cash at the door**

SIGN UP IS REQUIRED FOR THESE EVENTS!! (a google form will be sent out)

BISHOP MACKENZIE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL STUDENT SERVICES

Join us as we celebrate our differences.

*Neurodiversity Week*

**15 February**  
Families, please join us from 7:30-8:30 in the Secondary Library for a Family Coffee Morning focused on Neurodiversity!

### Up and Coming Events

- Saturday 10th February Chinese New Year
- Sunday 11th February-Thursday 15th February EAMUN Nairobi
- Monday 12th February-Friday 16th February-Neurodiversity Week
- Monday 12th February Grade 6 Panto 6.30-7.30 pm Upper Hall
- Thursday 15th February Coffee and Connect Neurodiversity parent session 7.30-8.30 am in the library
- Saturday 17th February Cabaret/Dance Workshop and Improv. Workshop from 11 am-2 pm in the Upper Hall
- Tuesday 20th February Quiz Night 6'.00-8.00 Upper Hall
- Thursday 22nd February Parent-Student-Teacher-Student Conferences all day, no school as students are required to attend the conferences
- Monday 26th February-Saturday 31st February P/S Swimming Nations in Blantyre
- Wednesday 28th February- Wednesday 6th March-DP Mock Exams
- Tuesday 5th March Parent practical session on Internet Security and Safety
- Friday 8th March DP Theatre Night from 6.00 pm