



26th January 2024

UPDATES FOR BMIS SECONDARY PARENTS

Dear Parents and Guardians,

You may have wondered how teachers are recruited at international schools, the process involved and important deadlines along the way. Mr Moody, Mrs Engels and myself have just returned from a successful recruiting fair in London this week.

The process at BMIS begins in October, which seems very early on when you are recruiting for the academic year ahead, but this is a necessary practice for teachers on the international circuit, who need to indicate to their schools as early as October-November if they intend to stay or leave. In addition, new positions begin to be posted by schools from this stage onwards. It is also a necessary practice for international schools to begin the recruitment process as soon as they are aware that there is going to be a definite vacancy. It is important to start as early as possible to ensure access to the best candidates. We use several recruiting platforms:

- Search Associates. This is the largest and most respected recruitment agency for international schools. They have online databases so we can contact candidates who we are interested in and candidates can contact us online expressing interest in any of our vacancies. They also conduct 13 face-to-face job fairs between January to April each year in places such as London, Bangkok, Melbourne, Cambridge, Dubai, etc. Each fair attracts different categories of candidates. BMIS historically uses London-January because this fair is the largest and attracts the more internationally IB experienced candidates.
- Schrole. Schrole is an online database system where we advertise our vacancies and we can search for candidates and candidates can, like Search, express interest in our posted vacancies.
- Teacher Horizons. Again this is an online service but it does not have the 'reach' that Search and Schrole have.
- All positions available are advertised locally in newspapers and are added to our website.

The most effective recruitment strategy is a combination of online recruitment and fair attendance. Online recruitment allows the school to access every candidate especially those who have indicated an interest in Africa. While recruitment fairs (Search) allow a more stringent review of candidates.

The results from our latest recruitment at the SEARCH London Fair have been very successful with several highly qualified and experienced teachers filling our vacancies for 2024-5.

Lesley Peacock, Secondary Principal

OVERVIEW:

- Message from the Principal
- Blood Drive
- Classroom Snapshots
- Safeguarding & Child Protection
- BMISValentine's Carnival
- Creativity Night
- Extended Essay Cafe
- G10 Modelling Inheritance
- Quad School Preparation
- BMIS 80th Birthday!
- Up and Coming Events

On January 12th, the Health Awareness Service Club hosted our first blood drive of 2024! It was a huge success, and we were able to help save countless lives! Thank you to everyone who came along and donated blood: you are a lifesaver and a hero! We hope to see many more people participate in the next blood drive over a few months!
- Sophie van Oosterhout, G12.

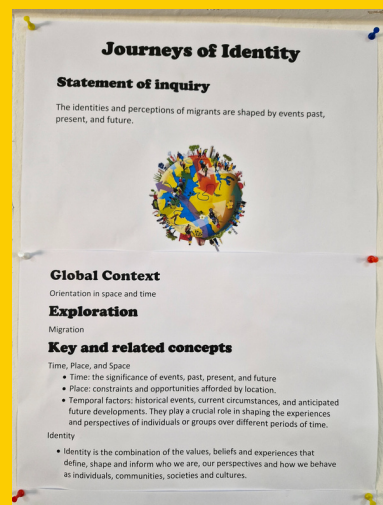


What's Happening in Our Secondary Classrooms?

Migration Unit

Grade 6 Individuals and Societies students have been inquiring into their new migration unit "Journeys of Identity", by sharing what they already know, creating inquiry questions, and reflecting on their own identities and how migrations may have shaped these. Students have been sharing their stories with their classmates, building self-awareness, connection, and understanding in the process!

Kathryn Leaper



Relationships

Grade 11 students have been focusing on "Relationships" during their well-being lessons over the last two weeks. Social connections are so important, so we've enjoyed taking time out to be in each other's company and build our relationships through games! Last week, we connected through physical theatre games and soundscapes, and the week before we had fun playing Uno and Jenga! Take some time as a family to connect, laugh, and relax through games!

Kathryn Leaper



Grade 7 Creating Their Physical Theatre Version Of Little Red Ridinghood
The grade 7MYP Theatre students are working on adapting stories using physical theatre techniques. They are creating original versions of classic fairytales preparing to perform for our elementary students.

Ginger Gene



Safeguarding and Child Protection lessons at BMIS

This week, students from Grades 6 to 10 engaged in an insightful exploration of the concept of Identity-based harm. As defined by the Council of International Schools, Identity-based harm occurs when individuals are targeted for bullying based on an aspect of who they are or are perceived to be. This form of bullying is also known as "prejudice-based bullying." Our students reviewed the definitions of identity and bullying, fostering a deeper understanding of these concepts. They took time to reflect on the importance of acknowledging and respecting others for who they are, recognising the significance of leaving biases behind. These reflective discussions are essential within our international school community, characterised by its rich diversity. In an environment that thrives on cultural differences, it becomes imperative for every member of our community to adopt culturally sensitive approaches. Through these discussions, we aim to cultivate a more welcoming and inclusive school environment where each individual feels valued and accepted.

Ms Mariella Vittetoe
Secondary Counsellor

Developments in Language Acquisition classes

In today's MYP Language Acquisition English class for Grade 8, students embarked on an engaging journey that combined language practice, literature exploration, and self-reflection.

The lesson began with an energetic warm-up activity, where students randomly selected conversation topics and had one minute to share their thoughts with their peers. This exercise aimed to provide a comfortable space for students to express themselves, laying the groundwork for their upcoming assessments in Phase 3, where they are expected to speak for 3-4 minutes.

Currently, students are studying "The Midnight Fox" by Betsy Bayers. Today's class focused on scanning a text to find key information to write a summary. From there, students analyzed a diary entry, focusing on the conventions and language used.

Putting their newfound knowledge to the test, students planned their diary entries, utilizing the information they had scanned. This practical application allowed them to reinforce their understanding of the material while fostering creativity in written expression.

Crucially, the lesson also emphasized the development of self-management and reflection skills. Students pondered questions such as "What can I already do?" and "How can I share my skills to help peers who need more practice?" This reflective exercise serves as a cornerstone for their personal growth in language acquisition.

A special shout-out goes to Oskar, who exemplified outstanding support and leadership. Oskar guided his peers to relevant chapters, aiding them in finding crucial information. He demonstrated excellent self-management and reflection skills: "How can I share my skills to help peers who need more practice?". It was a great day's lesson all around by the students. Our following lessons finalize the end of our novel study.

Samantha Phipps,
Learning Support Coordinator



StuCo proudly presents

🧡The Valentines Carnival & Dance🧡 Friday 9th Feb 6.00-8.00 pm

This Valentine's, StuCo is trying a new style. This year we are going to have both a Carnival 🎡 and a dance 🎉. It is going to be an evening filled with different types of games you can play at the same time, from Fifa ⚽ to getting flexible in Twister 🤸. We will also have a lounge area 🛋️ if you just want to chill and chat with your friends 🗣️. There will be a dance floor in the breakout space for those who want to dance the night away.

Tickets

Tickets will be on sale starting Monday, 29th January to Friday, 2nd February.

Food & Drink

There will be a Braai 🍖 with different types of food options as well as an Ice Cream Truck 🍦.

Don't worry, loads of drinks will be there to quench your thirst. As well as a lounge area 🛋️ if you just want to chill and chat with your friends 🗣️.

Please bring money if you wish to buy something. Come along for a night of fun! Thank you, StuCo

StuCo proudly presents

The Valentines Carnival & Dance

February 9th - 6pm-9pm

BMS STUCO INVITES YOU TO OUR

VALENTINE'S DAY CARNIVAL AND DANCE

Celebrate the season of love!
Braai · IceCream · Music

5000 MWK per ticket purchased at the door	Feb 9 - Starts 6PM-9PM The Languages and Maths Area
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- Video Games
- Boardgames (Twister and more!)
- Candy Floss
- Food and Drink for sale
- Mocktails
- Karaoke

TICKETS SOLD NEXT WEEK!
NO TICKET SALES AT THE DOOR!

Creativity Night

On Monday the 22nd, at 6 pm, Umodzi and Community Reading held its Creativity Night. About 17 creative acts, including a special guest from Dzaleka refugee camp, took the stage and wowed our audience.

Entirely organised by the members of Umodzi and Community Reading service clubs, Creativity Night took place under the cozy lights and atmosphere of the secondary library. From 4 pm to 6 pm in the afternoon, members worked hard (with assistance from Mr Montreuil and the maintenance team) to set up chairs, cushions, and a stage for the night before welcoming in their audience. Student Council assisted in taking care of the food provided, bringing in pizza and cupcakes.

Memorable acts from both students and teachers alike were presented to our audience. This included a Scottish violin piece from Darwyn Montreuil, an original song from Hisham Kanaan, a noteworthy musical performance from Mr Martrich, and two amazing poetry readings from Jess Bezuidenhout. The night was a success!

Abigail, Leader of Community Reading and co-leader of Umodzi



EE cafe

G11 Extended Essay students presented their proposed research questions to teachers and interested G12 students last week. They were exceptionally well prepared, efficiently describing their area of interest and confidently justifying their topic and research question to curious staff and students. The process required them to consider the essay structure and how they plan to develop the discussion and analysis whilst putting together the draft. There is great diversity in the essay titles, supervisors are on hand to provide support throughout the process and everyone is looking forward to reading the draft essays in April.

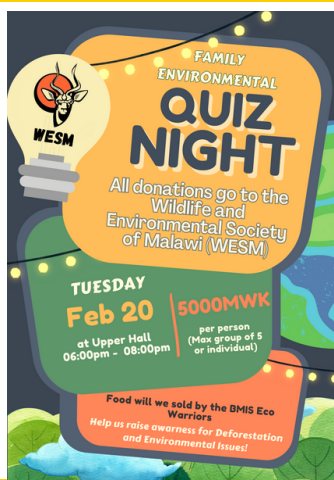
G10 Modelling Inheritance

How do you model genetic inheritance? If you ask G10 biologists they'll tell you that Reebops are a great way to see monohybrid crosses in action. We worked on applying Mendelian ratios and practiced using all of the new terminology whilst having fun building new marshmallow families! Sam Richards



Test Your General Knowledge!

Join us for a family friendly night full of quizzes, trivia and raising awareness on environmental issues we face in today's world. Everyone within the BMIS community is welcome to participate!



Quad Schools Preparation

Our U18 and U13 Basketball squads completed the final stages of their preparation for the upcoming Quad schools competition in Blantyre this weekend. The teams played in competitive matches to fine-tune their tactics and strategy. The U18 girls came out as winners against Don Bosco whilst the boys suffered a narrow defeat. The U13's played an internal match against their older BMIS counterparts, focusing on different ways to create attacking opportunities.

Cape Town

23 students will be heading to Cape Town next week to represent BMIS in Basketball, Rugby, and Netball. The teams finalised their preparation by playing Mount Sinai in the LISL league and are looking forward to the challenge from the South African schools! BMIS will be competing against the American International School of Johannesburg, The American International School of Cape Town, The International school of Lusaka, The International School of Cape Town, Wardorf School of Cape Town and the prestigious Hershel's Girls School. Whilst on the trip, our students will also get to scale the iconic Table Mountain, take a tour of the University of Cape Town, and skate at the roller disco with the other schools!

House Competition

The first week back saw the four houses compete against each other in Touch Rugby and Basketball. Both competitions took place in a fun atmosphere where the focus was on inclusion and mixing with other year groups. House Leopard picked up the win in Basketball with House Elephant coming out on top in Rugby, meaning that both houses caught up on the overall leaders: The Lions!

The overall house results are:

2023/24 Current Results

Elephant 320

Leopard 275

Lion 325

Rhino 180

Neil Black BMIS Sports Coordinator

2023/24 Current Results	
Elephant	320
Leopard	275
Lion	325
Rhino	180

"Happy 80th Birthday BMIS. This year we celebrate 80 years of BMIS. Bishop Mackenzie International School traces its history back to 1944

To mark this momentous occasion, we are organizing several special events that will take place throughout the year and a special Celebration Week from Monday, August 19th to Saturday, August 24th, 2024, at 3:30 PM. We cordially invite all past students, teachers, administration, and friends of BMIS to join us and celebrate the school we all hold dear.

Let's come together and make this a memorable event as we reminisce about the good times."



Up and Coming Events

Friday 26th -Sunday 28th Basketball and Football competitions to Blantyre

Wednesday 31st January Extended Essay Café

Wednesday 31st January- Tuesday 6th February SAISA in Capetown

Monday 5th February Grades 6-10 reports issued

Friday 9th February Valentine's Day Chill Out Session (STUCO) 6 pm-8.pm

Sunday 11th February-Saturday 17th February EAMUN Nairobi

Monday 12th February-Friday 26th February-Neurodiversity Week

Monday 12th February Grade 6 Panto

Thursday 15th February Coffee and Connect Neurodiversity parent session 7.30-8.30 am in the library

Tuesday 5th March Parent practical session on Internet Security and Safety