

# BMIS PROM

## IN THE LOOP

7th June 2024

UPDATES FOR BMIS Secondary Parents

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It has been the great BMIS run-up to the end of the year. A range of both academic and exciting activities have taken place with an emphasis placed on keeping our students busy and motivated while continuing learning and having fun in the process.

This is the last “In the Loop” for the year and having leafed through the folder of past publications I’m just amazed at the variety and sheer number of events and activities offered. Not only do our students fully embrace these opportunities, but often it’s student initiatives behind the planning, organisation, and implementation of these occasions. It has been an amazing year, with our 80th Anniversary just around the corner. I wish you all a much-deserved holiday.

Lesley Peacock

### Library Books and Text Books-IMPORTANT NOTICE

All books must be returned by this Monday for students to receive their reports on Wednesday. Parents will be billed on Wednesday for missing books. Since the library will be closed over the break reports that have been locked due to non-returned library books and also fees issues will not be able to be opened until the beginning of August.



### OVERVIEW:

- Prom
- Hamilton Relived!
- Transition Week
- Service Fair (Student Initiative)
- Gamification with Grade 8
- Interdisciplinary Week
- A Visit to Mbinzi Private School
- Novel Writing
- WWW
- Up and Coming Events



# PROM



## Hamilton at the US Embassy!

Bohlokoa, Tucker, Abigail and Vicky reprised their roles as Aaron Burr, Hamilton, Jefferson and Madison for an invited performance from the US Embassy. They were accompanied by the live Hamilton band featuring, Darwyn, Tiyamike, Hikari, Ms. Aveling and Mr. Montreuil. Playing for a crowd of over 600 people, the students impressed the dignitaries and the 'who's who' of Lilongwe with their energy and talent! Many thanks to the US Embassy for making this happen and the great opportunity for our students! Dave Montreuil



## Transition Week

The Grade 5 students experienced Secondary Arts Wednesday morning. They were treated to a rock concert by NVUS, the Grade 6 Band and then showed off their acting skills in Theatre. Finally, they had a session of speed drawing which really gave them a taste of Visual Art in which they surpassed all expectations with their charcoal drawings. Dave Montreuil



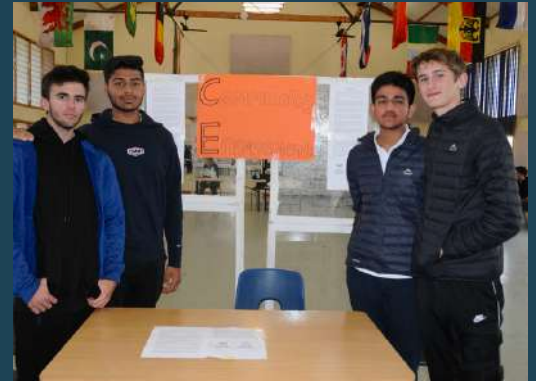
## Service Fair

On Friday, May 31st, BMIS held its very first Service Fair. Created and run by Abigail Rukundo and Darwyn Montreuil for their CAS Project, the Service Fair aimed to create school-wide awareness about the different services run at BMIS while raising money for the school's service fund. Service leaders created booths advertising their service and sold items based on the services they were leading. The event was considered a success as secondary students, primary students, and parents came out to support our school's service program! By talking to our service leaders and donating to different booths, the event reached all its aims and was a great service experience!



## Grade 10 Service Projects Exhibition

On Tuesday, 28th May, the Grade 10 students presented their service projects at the Lower Hall in an engaging exhibition that highlighted their contributions to the community. The event guided visitors through various presentations by student groups on topics including Student initiative & leadership, Community Engagement, and Sustainability & long-term impact. The four services displayed at the back were Water sanitation, Community Crochet, Empower Her, and Permaculture Garden Signs. Hosts Mwayi and Louisa introduced the service-learning cycle, emphasising investigating, designing, preparing, taking action, and reflecting. Each group showcased its projects to empower local communities, promote sustainability, and foster student leadership. The exhibition underscored the integral role of service in the IB curriculum, showing how student-led initiatives can drive significant community engagement and long-term impact.



## Gamification with Grade 8

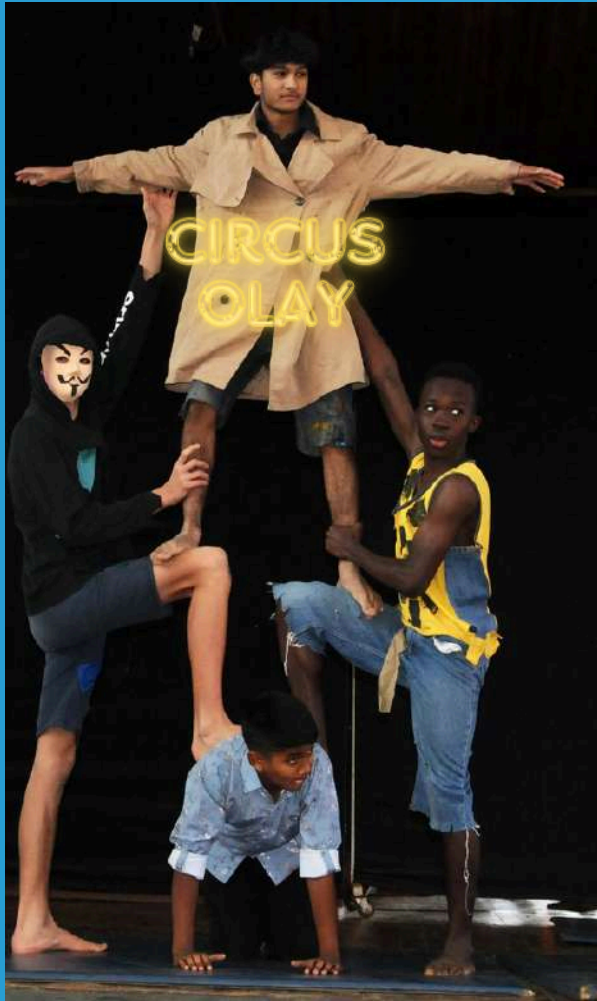
A few weeks ago either as a pair or individually, students created a game with a set of instructions, along with a report on their findings (relating to probability). The carnival last week is where they made their game a reality, they prepared materials and a poster in which to promote their game, as well as modifying their entry and winning amounts to tokens instead of kwacha. They were given a bank of tokens, to see how long they could go without losing all their tokens. They had to keep a record of how much people paid and won/lost for each game so they could see in the end how successful or fair, their game was. Melissa Aveling



## Grade 8 IDU- Circus Olay!

During Semester Two, the Grade 8 students have been working on an Interdisciplinary Unit inspired by Cirque Du Soleil. This year's theme is "Social Media", where the students have explored social media and its impact on our lives.

Through the Arts and PHE, students have come together to create their own performances, music, choreographed gymnastic routines, physical theatre, costumes, makeup, and set design. The result was a truly amazing performance that wowed over 900 people across 4 shows. A massive congratulations to all of the G8 students! Neil Black



## BMIS IDU Week

IDU stands for Interdisciplinary Unit. This is a unit of inquiry that allows students to “integrate bodies of knowledge and modes of thinking from two or more established areas of knowledge to create a new understanding that would have been unlikely through a single disciplinary means.”

Students and teachers have been engaged in a range of collaborative subject-specific and interdisciplinary learning experiences this week and reflecting on the process. This is the first time that we have formally taught and assessed IDUs since Covid-19. We were very excited to bring back these valuable learning experiences! Kathryn Leaper

### Grade 6: Promises and Polls: Unravelling political campaigns

During this IDU, students combined their learning from Language and Literature and Individuals and Societies to consider the way that these subjects intersected in the exploration of modern political campaigning. They considered how communication is used in politics to exercise power over communities. They had an opportunity to collaboratively create their own political campaign recognising how language is a powerful tool to shape public opinion and influence votes.

#### Stacey 6HDR

In Grade 6, we did an Interdisciplinary unit where we mixed two astounding subjects together and created a masterpiece. But what was that masterpiece??? Individuals and Societies and Language and Literature. In I&S, We looked at politics and political parties and how different political parties work in different countries. In Lang and Lit, we looked at speeches and how to make your speeches empathetic Important, and entertaining, We looked into strategies on how to enhance ways of performing, for example, projecting your voice, or performing with a carrot in your mouth to make sure you speak clearly. We also collaborated with other people that we weren't really used to. We were able to step outside our comfort zones and be risk-takers! The Grade 6 IDU has been such an outstanding unit because we only applied 2 subjects to our minds, and together, we made it special. We spoke about the global issues in Malawi and how we could fix them, this was all from 2 SUBJECTS. It really was an amazing experience.



### Grade 7: Agency, Action, and Engagement

Our Grade 7 students completed their IDU during Semester 1, in Science and Individuals and Societies. So we had prepared another fantastic opportunity for them during IDU week, and that is exploring student agency, action, and engagement. Throughout the week, guided by Kathryn Leaper and Atu Mdeza, students explored the meaning of agency, action, and engagement and developed an understanding of how they can become active participants in bringing about what they hope for! Students will have an opportunity to reflect on how they already engaged as global citizens, and possibilities for further engagement in our local and global communities.



#### Review

This week, our Grade 7 students embarked on a journey of engagement, learning, and reflection. We began with the video “Gnu Gnu,” exploring the impact of our actions, followed by creating Venn diagrams to understand service and engagement. Mindful breathing exercises helped focus on passions, leading to the creation of vision boards on global issues like poverty. Using the “circle of concern” framework, students understood personal and global impacts. They rated their engagement in service activities, reflected on making a bigger impact, and visually represented their passions through vision boards. Celebrating achievements, setting goals, and writing pledges for next year, students learned to think critically and take meaningful action to positively impact their communities.



### Grade 8: Circus Olay!

This interdisciplinary unit connects Physical and Health Education, Theatre, Visual Arts, and Music with the main aim of creating a performance that expressed a narrative of a real-world issue. Each subject brought forward specific disciplinary skills and knowledge to help express a story.

## Grade 9 IDU - Beauty and the

Our Grade 9 students explored the modern issue of whether Artificial Intelligence is capable of manufacturing creativity. This involved students trying to think like an AI, and exploring whether the beauty of a poem or song can be quantified, and then whether the data gathered can be used to manufacture or replicate a poem. Students created poetry that explores these patterns and presents them in unique ways!

### Review

During the course of the IDU program, we engaged in an in-depth study of poetry by examining mathematical patterns found in the poems and lyrics and how they contribute to the beauty of the poem. We looked at poetic devices such as metaphorical verbs, alliteration, and repetition and explored mathematical ways to quantify these devices such as using ratios.

We discussed what makes something “beautiful” and how it is possible to mold something we create to make it more beautiful. We ended up using algorithms to try and replicate the form of “beautiful” poems. We acted as AI and tried to follow our rules to create our poems, which we all found to be much harder than it sounded. We each wrote two poems, one with an algorithm and our own theme, and one with an algorithm and a class theme (we ended up voting on addiction).

On the following page you will find one of the poems on addiction;



**Pretty Parasite - Mateus Westerfjell**  
The phone clenching onto your hand  
It shakes you awake and sings you to sleep  
Your mother’s lullaby, replaced=  
Stumbling down the steps, neck arched over null  
The blue light illuminating, the glossy glass gleaming  
It’s a pretty face with a dark charm  
It corrupts and craves control over authority  
It becomes the parasite of your attention



**A parasite with a savage cure, unlocking the chained chasm of your mind  
Itch becomes scratch, scratch becomes scratch a two-way door, latched closed but still open  
Is it a sign of escape, or a glowing trip back to Wonderland?**

### Grade 10: Power All Day Every Day?

Our Grade 10 students investigated how to potentially improve Malawi’s energy problems and presented their proposals. During the interdisciplinary learning process, students collaborated to synthesize their understanding of Physics, Chemistry, and Design of energy changes, electromagnetic induction, and the idea of electrical systems to understand the complexity of power generation systems. They went on a field trip to JCM Solar in Salima District, and had an opportunity to collaboratively present their proposals “Dragon Den” style!

### Grade 10 IDU Trip to JMC Power

The Grade 10 Interdisciplinary Unit (IDU) students enjoyed an educational trip to the JCM Power to experience the intricacies of solar energy. This hands-on excursion allowed students to explore the practical applications of solar power, observing cutting-edge solar panel technology and sustainable energy practices. Guided by staff at JCM Power in the field, the students were allowed to see the solar panels up close and learn more about the efficiency and environmental benefits of harnessing solar energy.

This experience not only enriched their understanding of renewable energy sources but also inspired them to consider the broader implications of sustainable living and the role of technology in addressing global energy challenges. The students were able to research/ identify other renewable energies during IDU week, such as wind, biomass, and hydropower. On the final day of IDU week, Grade 10 students presented their innovative ideas for renewable energy solutions to the younger grades. Jax Corbett



### A Visit to Mbinzi Private School

Visiting Mbinzi Private School was an enriching and memorable experience. We had the opportunity to coach the students, engaging them in various extracurricular activities. The children were eager to learn and participate, showcasing their enthusiasm and curiosity. Our coaching sessions covered a range of subjects and skills. These included coaching football and netball. We weren't able to coach rugby as the school did not have sufficient space to play. After our sessions, we were given a tour by the headmaster Mr. Banda. The facilities really gave us an outlook on how privileged we are to be BMIS students. The drive of the teachers to provide a suitable and warm learning environment is truly commendable. The teachers were welcoming and dedicated, highlighting the school's needs. This visit not only allowed us to contribute positively to the students' sporting education but also gave us a deeper understanding of the school's needs. Overall the field trip enabled us to gain an understanding of how Mbinzi Primary School operates and how the BMIS community can help them. Gabriele Bizzaro



### Novel Writing.

For the second year in a row, Grade 7 students will be presenting short novels they have written to the BMIS community. Since the beginning of the year, students have been developing stories across a range of genres. Whether you are a fan of adventure, crime, romance, historical fiction, science fiction, or [insert your favorite genre here], there will be a story that tickles your interest. We invite you to come to the BMIS library on Wednesday, June 12 to meet the authors and celebrate their work. The event starts at 12:10, when you can walk around and visit authors at their tables outside the library. The first readings and Q&As begin inside the library at 12:20. The event will continue until the end of the school day at 1:50. Charlie Bowles

### Week Without Walls 2024!

Yes, it's on again for next academic year; the BMIS Week Without Walls. I do have to qualify this, however, as this major undertaking is dependent on the conditions of roads and diesel supplies, plus other unforeseeable happenings. However, due to the CIS/NEASC/IB Evaluation visit that takes place from the 24th of September to the 1st of October, WWW will have to happen slightly later on. Both major events can't be planned for at the same time, so straight after the visit and following the October holidays.

### Up and Coming Events

Friday 7th June Secondary Arts Festival all day  
Monday 10th June Secondary Athletics Day all day  
Tuesday 11th June MYP Arts Festival Lower Hall from 6.00-7.00 pm, followed by Singers Night from 7.00-8.30 pm  
Wednesday 12th June MYP reports issued  
Wednesday 12th June Grade 7 novel presentations outside the library 12.10-1.50 pm  
Friday 14th June Secondary Prize Giving Assembly 9.45 am-11 am in the Upper Hall

