



IN THE LOOP

22nd March 2024

UPDATES FOR BMIS Secondary Parents

Dear Parents,

This morning when I met with the Secondary Staff I reviewed much of what has been happening over the past couple of weeks. It was a poignant reminder of how busy life is in secondary school encompassing a diverse range of activities and events that shape our students' experiences as well as the extensive range of activities and events that take place. This week's In the Loop includes a number of these occasions, supported by photos displaying students enthusiastically participating in exhibitions, the arts, trips, academics, and perhaps not so enthusiastically in the Grade 12 mock exams. We also appreciate the number of parents and friends who come along and support and celebrate the achievements of our students.

It has been a couple of months since I updated you on where we are at the moment with preparing the Joint CIS/NEASC/IB Team visit. Reports are to be submitted in June, in preparation for the Team Visit at the end of September. Through regular meetings and collaborative efforts, we are reviewing all aspects of school life, from governance and premises to academics, staffing, and student well-being. I'm pleased to report that we are progressing well and remain on track with the accreditation process.

As we continue through this period of development and reflection I encourage you to stay engaged with the school community and participate in the various events and initiatives that enrich our students' educational experience.

Lesley Peacock, Secondary Principal
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[Duke of Edinburgh Trip](#)





BINGO!

Did you know that Bingo was first invented in the 1500s in Italy? Now the PTA has introduced the game to BMIS, as a family fun evening. The money raised will go towards future events. It was great to see many families participating and if you missed the occasion we hope to see you at the next PTA event. A great job PTA!



During the CAS Exhibition on March 12th, 2024, the Grade 12 Class of 2024 captivated the secondary school community with their remarkable Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS) projects. With palpable excitement, students shared the fruits of their labour, delving into the intricacies of their endeavours and recounting the challenges overcome along the way. The event was not just a showcase of achievements but a celebration of resilience, passion, and commitment to making a difference. Among the standout moments of the exhibition was the recognition of Xiaofan "NiuNiu" L for Creativity, Bodine B for Activity, and Priyasha S for Service, who received special awards for their exceptional contributions. Additionally, Davita M, Grace S, Hisham K, Marco W, and Sophie V were lauded for their exemplary CAS projects and demonstrated leadership. Their dedication resonated throughout the school and beyond, leaving a lasting impact on the Lilongwe and BMIS community. Beyond the accolades, the CAS Exhibition served as a platform for profound learning experiences. Through their presentations, students not only shared their innovative projects but also engaged in meaningful reflection on their processes and outcomes. The exchange of ideas and perspectives enriched their understanding and fostered personal growth, setting a precedent for collaborative and impactful endeavours among their peers. Continued following page.....



As the curtains closed on the exhibition, the reverberations of inspiration lingered in the air. The Grade 12 students had not only showcased their achievements but had ignited a spark of creativity and ambition within the entire secondary school community. Their dedication, creativity, and execution not only set a high standard for future endeavours but also served as a testament to the transformative power of passion and perseverance.

Interact

Interact is a service group that is focused on building relationships within our community and lending a helping hand wherever we can to the community outside of BMIS. Our objective for this year is to find a sustainable way to tackle the issue of period poverty experienced by girls in Malawi public schools. Currently, we are working to expand on the Gaia Pamodzi project created by Sej and Yami. This project is aimed at the provision of period products (menstrual cups) to public schools within the community. The project will integrate sports ECPs alongside tree planting to help promote a balanced and healthier lifestyle in Bishop Mackenzie as well as improve the physical environment around the school.

Students are to work in groups to submit 20 hours of sports. This would equate to a tree planted in the individual/group's name and one menstrual cup donated to a girl outside the BMIS community who doesn't have access to sanitary products.

Gaia Pamodzi is being sponsored by the international organisations M-Cup and Roterie Club. Through this project, we aim to demolish the negative stigma surrounding periods as well as help solve period poverty. For this to be accomplished we need your participation.

Health Awareness



Throughout the first semester, our primary focus was sanitation, and in this regard we came up with the solution of hand-making soap which will then be distributed, and the methodology will be taught at a school district. The solution addressed the need for sanitation in rural areas with a sustainable approach. Heading into semester 2, we wanted a sustainable approach with the issues we looked into. We brainstormed with our students what they wanted to do to make sure the service is inclusive, and enjoyable, and narrowed it down to the idea of mother care packs. These mother care packs differ from your typical care package because the contents within are reusable allowing for longevity, and durability especially considering how difficult it is to get resources i.e. sufficient funding, and distribution. We are partnered with the organization 'Wandekewza' for the distribution part as they have maternal clinics, and work closely with mothers. Motherhood without resources, or the care needed is a very difficult process and can cause harm to their body, which can negatively impact the mother, and the child i.e. lack of vitamins, postpartum bleeding.

Student Garden

This term of the Student Garden Service, we focused on applying the "Theory of Change: Environmental Stewardship" which emphasises the intrinsic nature of sustainable agriculture on the environment and people alike. In order to learn more about the issue of unsustainability, and how it can be solved, we partnered with Ascent school and visited the NeverEnding Foods permaculture farm in order to learn about sustainable practices and how we can apply them in our garden, through the lens of multiple perspectives.

Student Garden continued....

The trip was truly inspirational and we learned about how nothing in permaculture is waste unless it is looked at the wrong way, different composting methods that benefit the ecosystem, and how pairing plants with different functions can support overall crop production just to mention a few. From this knowledge, our students are collaborating in small groups to put their new knowledge into practice, by designing and implementing projects which target an issue within our school garden. Projects include: creating a vegetable garden to increase edible foods in the garden, insect-repelling plants to mitigate the mosquito population, drip irrigation to increase water retention, flower gardens to increase pollinators, and intercede erosion caused by newly-established infrastructure and the rain.

Alumni Stories

During Book Week, we welcomed back some of our alumni to share their valuable experiences and insights with current students. The Alumni Stories provided an excellent opportunity for students to gain inspiration and guidance from those who have walked school corridors before them.

The alumni speakers, representing a diverse range of graduating classes, shared captivating stories of their time at Bishop Mackenzie International School and beyond. They recounted fond memories of their educational journey, highlighting the impact of their teachers, classmates, and extracurricular activities on their personal and academic growth. Each session concluded with a lively Q&A session, sparking enthusiasm among students. It fostered a sense of community and connection, empowering the next generation of leaders.

Our alumni guests were able to leave their mark by tagging a tree of their choice in areas that held special memories for them. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the alumni speakers for their time, generosity, and commitment to empowering the next generation of BMIS students.



Personal Project Exhibition

If you missed out on seeing the Personal Project Exhibition then please look closely at these photos and you will catch glimpses of animated, enthusiastic students, fascinated parents, and creative displays.

MYP students in Grade 10 have during the course of the year explored an area of personal interest. The project is made up of 3 stages; process, product, and a reflective report. Therefore, the exhibition showcased individual displays exploring ideas, planning, and research. Followed by evidence of a product, which in this case ranged from a horse bridle minus bit, a model of an ideal house, natural skin remedies, a wildlife calendar, a model of a Dart 18 sailing boat a book on golfing techniques. Finally, the project includes a report that recounts the process and evaluates the project.

This lengthy piece of work has a massive impact on student learning and prepares Grade 10 well in advance for entry into the Diploma years.

Lesley Peacock



On Thursday, March 14th (World Pi Day), BMIS participated in the South African Mathematics Olympiad! Students from Grade 8 to Grade 12 across Southern Africa applied their creative thinking and problem-solving skills, to answer complex and unfamiliar questions.

Sixteen students from BMIS participated, and twelve of them have made it into the second round which will take place on Thursday, May 9th.

BMIS also participated in the South African Mathematics Challenge, an equivalent competition for students from Grade 4 to Grade 7. On Monday, March 11th, and Tuesday, March 12 an impressive 52 BMIS students participated. We are so proud of them for embracing the challenge and developing their curiosity! This experience will help them to grow as mathematicians.

The second round of the Mathematics Challenge will take place on the 22nd of May and 29 students will take part.

We also welcomed ten students from Ascent Soccer who joined our students in the Challenge or Olympiad.

Congratulations to all those who took part! Hazel Drummond



Decorating Doors as Books

Congratulations to 7DMO for winning the door decorating competition! A great job to everyone who contributed and took part in this book week.



Grade 12 Count Down

So many emotions are swirling around for our Grade 12 students right now, as their time at BMIS begins to draw to a close.

We say farewell to our students next Thursday 28th March marking the end of their "regular school day" at BMIS, as they move into study preparation for their IB exams.

To mark this incredibly special occasion we wanted to share some key events that will be taking place. The mock graduation photos will take place on the 27th of March, followed by the Grade 12 slumber party that evening

It is a tradition for our Grade 12 students that on their last day the whole school (students, teachers staff) bid farewell with a parade. Grade 12 students move through a "tunnel" of our BMIS community who clap, cheer, and wish them all the very best! This will be taking place on Thursday 28th March starting at 10.30 am. If parents and family would like to attend, you are more than welcome. Grade 12 parents are welcome to join in the tunnel.

Reports

Our Grade 12 teachers are busy writing their final reports for Grade 12. These will be made available through ManageBac on Thursday 28th of March.

IB DP Exams

These run from Thursday the 25th April-Friday the 17th of May.

Graduation

Grade 12 Graduation will be held at BMIS on the evening of Wednesday 22nd of May in the upper hall, beginning at 6.00 pm. The event is open to grades 11-12 families, by invitation. Finally, the Prom will be held on Saturday 25th May

We would like to wish our Grade 12 students all the best for there next few weeks. They have all worked exceptionally hard this year, as well as acting as excellent role models for the rest of our students.

Lesley Peacock

House Competition



House Adverts

This is my favourite of the house competitions because our students are so incredibly creative. These are the advertisements they came up with this year. Presentations needed to include examples of participation, inclusiveness and joyfulness, plus a jingle.

Winners Lions-Jetpac backpack, teleporting toaster
Runners up Rinos -Infinity lunchbox and shush stick
Elephants-homework terminator

Lesley Peacock

Singer's Night Vol. 5

Friday, March 22nd

Songs by Taylor Swift, Elton John, Bob Marley, Billy Joel, Radiohead, Aaron Smith and many more!

1000 MWK entry

Food will be sold by the PTA

BMIS Upper Hall, from 6:30 to 8pm



Duke of Edinburgh

*Here are some short stories from
Lukas Hemling - Bronze*

On this trip we did a lot of hiking. I saw beautiful views and it was wonderful. On the first night, the wind blew away our tent in the middle of the night, the pegs fell out and the tent was barely standing. I tried to cook! All the hikes went well and the whole trip was wonderful. I am grateful for this opportunity.

Damien Hughes - Silver

The chongoni trip had its ups and downs. The long uphill walk to the campsite was excruciating. But we were able to get through it and keep prevailing. My favourite part was the cooking. Nic and I made the greatest Mac and cheese on the second night which was so good that people didn't want to eat it! A huge reason why we succeeded was because of our ability to use teamwork to our advantage. I loved this trip and I can't wait to go on the Luwawa expedition later this year!



Grade 12 Art Exhibition

The Diploma Art's Exhibition opened with a selection of Drama presentations from the DP Theatre Night and original song compositions, followed by the viewing of the grade 12 work.



Up and Coming Events

Thursday 28th March Grade 12 final reports

Wednesday 27th March Grade 12 ~ Mock Graduation photos

Thursday 28th March Grade 12 clap-out parade at 10.30 am

Thursday 28th March school finishes at 11 am

Monday 15th April school starts at 7.10 am

Monday 15th April-Friday 19th April Secondary MAP testing