



# IN THE LOOP

**17th November 2023**    **UPDATES FOR BMIS SECONDARY PARENTS**

Celebrating Diversity: International Day at BMIS

The success of our first International Day at BMIS since COVID was experienced by all. The event offered a vibrant display of cultural diversity that truly highlighted the strength of our international community.

The morning parade was a kaleidoscope of colors and cultures, with representatives from 50 nationalities proudly showcasing their heritage through traditional dress and colors. Thankfully the rain held off, allowing our community to process around the field in a celebration of unity. The atmosphere was filled with excitement, music, and a sense of togetherness, making it a major highlight of the year.

Following the parade, our teachers organized a series of activities for the students, which provided a deeper exploration of global cultures. Students had the opportunity to participate in games from around the world, delve into poetry writing inspired by cultural identity and world issues, experience line dancing, and reflect on the importance of preserving minority languages.

In the afternoon, Grades 6-10 came together for an International Quiz that not only tested their knowledge of geography and world events, but also fostered a sense of teamwork and collaboration. Moreover, students actively contributed to the creation of a symbolic wall connected to unity and identity.

The celebration continued into the evening, thanks to the efforts of our PTA, who organized an amazing International gastronomic experience. Parents provided delicious treats from various corners of the globe. From spicy curries to mouthwatering desserts, the diverse array of dishes truly reflected the many cultures within our school community. All of this was topped off with songs, dances, and music representing many of the country's present.

BMIS is not just a place of learning but a true melting pot of traditions and experiences. One of our Grade 12 students commented, "if I could wrap up today, I would just hug it, it was so good."

Lesley Peacock, Secondary School Principal

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*Lesley Peacock*



**OVERVIEW:**

- International Day
- Project-Based Learning, Maths
- December Formal
- Service Activities
- MYP Science and Design Evening
- Sports Sync
- Sports Updates
- Taster Week
- G.10 Trip to MPGRC
- Extended Essay
- Nut Policy
- Up and Coming Events







### **Project Based Learning in Mathematics**

The Grade 6 and Grade 9 students have been exploring the importance of Mathematics in the design process over the past three weeks.

The Grade 6 students designed a Minecraft mob following a specific set of parameters involving surface area and volume, and presented their design with diagrams, calculations and explanations.

The Grade 9 students designed an athletics track for an inner city school with a limited amount of space available. Their design required markings for 100m, 200m and 400m races, and the students had to present and explain their calculations.

Both these projects allowed the students to make their own choices and to justify their decisions. The students experimented with designs, tested them out to see if they worked, and modified them as required.

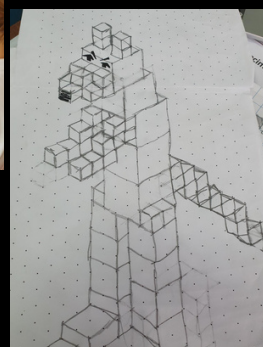
This is valuable practice for the 'Individual Exploration' in the Diploma Programme where students do an exploration into a topic of their choice. Important approaches to learning (ATL) skills such as 'Communication: Organise and depict information logically' and 'Self management: Plan short- and long-term assignments; meet deadlines' enable DP students to successfully complete the Individual Exploration. Therefore we prioritise the development of these skills throughout the MYP.

Congratulations to Tobi Møller who achieved Silver in the 2023 South African Mathematics Challenge. He attended the online ceremony in October.

Hazel Drummond

### **Saturday 25th November- December Formal "Cloud 9"**

On Saturday 25th November, the Secondary Student Council is hosting the 7th Annual December Formal from 6-9:30 pm. This is a semi-formal event celebrating the end of term and 2023. This year's theme is 'Cloud 9'. Tickets are now on sale for MK10,000. The tickets include food and 2 drinks. The Prom Committee will also be selling sweet treats during the event. Please provide your child with some money should they wish to make additional purchases. Please can all students be collected promptly before 9.30 pm.



## Health Awareness Club

In Health Awareness this year, we have chosen to focus on Sanitation due to the recent increase in Cholera, proving poor sanitation to be a heavily prevalent issue in Malawi. In order to deal with this problem, we decided to create soap using sustainable ingredients and partner with the organisation "Wandekweza" to go to local schools and teach them how to make these soaps, so that they implement washing their hands with soap in their daily routines. In the past few weeks, we have started experimenting with soap-making with ingredients we purchased using money we fundraised, and aim to soon create enough soaps to be able to go to a local school with the NGO. With this, we hope to provide a sustainable solution to improving sanitation in Malawi and address health issues such as Cholera!

- Sophie vO, Health Awareness Service Club



## Girls Gearing Up

This a summer academy aimed at promoting empowerment and leadership in young female leaders, encouraging them to face the real world equipped with experience and tools that can help them excel in their future endeavors.

At Girls Gearing Up, we learned about sustainability in forests and agriculture through activities like a game drive trip, cultural day, Zoom calls with girls worldwide, and engaging in public speaking and pitching issues. My experience at Girls Gearing Up has equipped me with valuable skills for my leadership roles. I've connected with powerful female leaders, gained insights, and forged lasting friendships. Despite being outside my comfort zone, this experience was immensely rewarding.

Tamanda M



## MYP Science and Design Presentation Evening

Event Details: Wednesday 22nd November Time: 18:00 Venue: Lower Hall

As I am sure you are aware, students have been working hard to complete projects in readiness to share their work with you in our special evening event.

Mr. Chingota, Chief Technical Transfer Officer at NCST is our guest of honor and refreshments are provided. Students will be presenting their work and are ready to answer all of your questions.

Here's a glimpse of some of the projects that will be presented:

**Grade 8:** A Science project related to Malawi, involving primary research and proposed solutions to associated issues.

**Grade 7:** Students will demonstrate their understanding of human-induced issues associated with climate change, exploring topics such as heat transfers, weather patterns, and responses to severe weather events.

**Grade 6 DESIGN** Students will be displaying and selling their creative T-shirt design project based on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Grade 9 DESIGN** students will be sharing their experiences at ZOMBA for WWW.

Samantha Richards

## Sports Sync

This was co-founded by Gabriele Bizzaro and Neil Nambiar and aims to provide coaching, resources, and skills to underprivileged youth in our community, enhancing their abilities and opportunities in sports. In its inaugural year as an official service, Sports Sync has garnered significant student interest with 26 students signed up to be coaches.

Our committed coaches are focused on the mission of empowering students. In the initial quarter, we trained lower-grade students in effective coaching methods, equipping them to assist their peers in various sports. BMIS students conducted research and developed a coaching program tailored for 115 Mbinzi students.

Looking ahead, Mbinzi school students are set to join us on Thursdays from 2-3. This collaborative effort involves a cultural and knowledge exchange. Given Mbinzi's limited facilities and coaching resources, our students will coach them in football, netball, volleyball, and rugby. Simultaneously, this partnership offers us the chance to connect with and learn from students in Malawi, fostering bonds and enriching both communities. This is to encourage them to learn these sports in a more professional environment where they can have more opportunities.

Throughout sports sync we will be focusing on:

**Assessment and Skill Level Recognition:** Begin by assessing the participant's current skill levels and understanding their familiarity with each sport.

**Tailor coaching strategies** based on diverse skill sets, ensuring that activities are engaging and supportive.

**Inclusive Warm-Up Activities:** Design inclusive warm-up routines that incorporate exercises promoting flexibility, agility, and cardiovascular fitness and emphasize the importance of teamwork and sportsmanship from the start.

**Basic Skill Introduction:** Introduce fundamental skills specific to each sport—dribbling and passing in football, serving and volleying in volleyball, basic handling and passing in rugby, and passing and shooting in netball. Break down skills into manageable steps, providing demonstrations and hands-on guidance.

**Small-Sided Games:** Create small-sided games to ensure maximum participation and engagement. Rotate positions regularly, allowing each child to experience different aspects of the sport.

**Empowering Teamwork and Communication:** Foster teamwork through group activities and exercises, emphasizing effective communication on and off the field. Encourage supportive interactions, reinforcing the idea that every participant's contribution is valuable.

**Adaptations for Varied Abilities:**

Modify activities and drills to accommodate diverse abilities, ensuring that each child feels challenged and successful. Provide additional support or variations for those who may require it.



## Secondary AIMS - Swimming Championships, U13 Football and U15 Netball

**Swimming Championships** - BMIS retained the title of being Secondary AIMS Swimming Champions for the 8th year running after a dominant display in Blantyre.

**U13 Football** - The U13 Football team played some lovely football and came out on top against Saint Andrews and Hillview for the first time in many years. Unfortunately, an early red card against Kamuzu Academy was too much of a challenge against an organised and disciplined KA team.

**U15 Netball** - The U15 Netball team played some fantastic netball and battled well against their counterparts from the south. Unfortunately, the team were just beaten by all three teams but the coaches and players left happy with the improvement and growth that has occurred over the last 3 months.

**G9 Swimming Routine** - The G9's have been working hard over the last two months preparing a creative, synchronized swimming performance. Students were placed in groups and had to use creative thinking skills to come up with a land and water phase that they then performed for the rest of the grade level. The groups also get to perform these at the upcoming House Swimming Festival!

**G8 Lifesaving** - The G8's are in the middle of a unit called "Lifesaving Skills". During this unit, students learn about different ways to save someone's life both in and out of the water. This week students looked at how to enter the water safely but quickly and how to rescue a person who was struggling to swim. They also had the chance to learn about the recovery position and when, how and why you might be required to perform CPR.

**U18 Boys Basketball** - The U18 Boys sought revenge on the Dominion Ballerz who earlier in the month had beaten them by a single point. This time around, the team was more organised in defense and limited the opposition to far distance shots. The BMIS team came out on top, winning 35-25 in what was an entertaining game.

**U18 Girls Basketball** - The U18 girl's basketball team played Lilongwe Private school in a first ever encounter between the two schools. After a long wait for the team to arrive, BMIS maintained their focus and showed great skill throughout all four quarters, winning the game with a dominant scoreline of 26-7.

**U15 Football** - The U15 football team took on a younger Bambino side this Saturday. Whilst the game was won within the first 20 minutes, it was a good chance for our team to work on their attacking shape and systems. The boys came out as 9-1 winners in what was a one sided game.

**U18 Football** - The BMIS U18 Football team remains undefeated with a confident display in the LISL against Lilongwe Private School. The team displayed some beautiful attacking football and were clinical in front of goal, finishing the game as 11-0 winners.



U13 Football



U15 Football



U15 Netball



U18 Basketball



G.9 Synchronised Swimming



G.8 Lifesaving

**The BMIS Secondary Swim Team** was very successful in the Secondary Swimming Night Gala Championships held at St. Andrews International School in Blantyre. The team swam some very fast races, winning over 20 gold medals and placing first overall. Well done to the swimmers and thank you to all the parents for their support throughout the meet! L-R: Hisham Kanaan, Coach George, Sophie Van Oosterhout, and Dani Lamont were very happy at the conclusion of the meet! George Carpouzis



### **BMIS Taster Week**

In a week brimming with exploration and discovery, the Grade 10 to Grade 11 Transition Taster Week at BMIS has emerged as a resounding success, offering students a firsthand look into the world of the Diploma Programme (DP), Diploma Courses Programme (DCP), and the High School Diploma (HSD). This innovative initiative, aptly titled "A Taste of DP," was designed to provide students with a subject-specific introduction to our High School Pathways, empowering them to make informed decisions about their academic journey for the crucial final two years at BMIS. The week-long event aimed not only to inform course selections but also to showcase the extensive support available for students during these pivotal years.

The program's success was underscored by the incorporation of three hours of peer discussion, returning by popular demand. This allowed Grade 10 students to engage in insightful conversations with their Grade 11 and 12 counterparts, delving into the intricacies of specific courses and gaining valuable student perspectives on the academic challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

### **Malawi Plant Genetic Resources Centre**

G10 Students visited the MPGRC to get a taste of the work and subjects covered in the Biology and Environmental Systems and Societies Diploma Programme. Dr. Mponya and colleagues welcomed students to the research facility last Friday to talk to us about their work in Malawi, global strategies for plant conservation and the importance of their work in preserving future crop diversity and climate change resilience. Students saw the diversity of crops held in the country and how Malawi's natural resources and indigenous knowledge are helping to find novel and highly effective treatments for disease and improved health. Dr. Mponya also gave an insight into career pathways in scientific research and how our students can follow their interests into exciting and solution-based futures. Knowledge gained here will be used in the Biology and I&S units in Semester Two. Our thanks to Dr. Mponya and her colleagues for their time and effort given to enrich our students' experiences or science and conservation in the field.



### **Extended Essay completed**

Congratulations to Grade 12 Extended Essay students, your journey has come to an end. All students have worked exceptionally hard to complete vastly different essays that have enabled everyone to grow as a learner and gain invaluable experience in the expectations of academic writing. They are now better prepared for the next step whether they are planning to continue learning in an academic setting or in a broader context. This has been one of the largest cohorts for many years and teacher supervisors have worked tirelessly to be available at every stage of the process to support and help students develop their voice. It has been a pleasure to witness the immense personal growth in everyone. Parents have also been heavily involved from day one, we hope that you too feel the release of pressure and share in the sense of achievement. If you have any insights that you would like to share from the perspective of home please drop me an email.

Students are immensely appreciative of everyone's efforts and support, thanks go to everyone involved. Samantha Richards, Leader of Learning Science & Design, EE Coordinator, DP Biology & ESS

## Nut Policy Update – Promoting Inclusivity and Safety

Dear BMIS Community,

In our ongoing commitment to creating a safe and inclusive environment for all our students, we are excited to announce an update to our nut policy at BMIS.

After careful consideration and thorough evaluation of our student body's health needs, we have decided to transition from being a nut-free school to a more inclusive approach. Starting next week, we will allow the presence of nuts and food containing nuts within the school premises. However, we will implement specific measures to ensure the safety of students with nut allergies.

### *New Nut Policy Overview:*

#### **Nuts are Allowed**

Students are permitted to bring nuts and food containing nuts to school.

Examples of such items include peanut butter sandwiches, granola bars with nuts, and trail mix.

#### *Nut-Free Zones*

We will designate specific areas within classrooms as nut-free zones if we have students with nut allergies in the class.

These zones will be clearly marked, and students and staff are expected to refrain from consuming nuts or nut-containing foods in these areas.

#### *Inclusivity and Awareness*

Our goal is to create an inclusive environment that accommodates the needs of all students.

We encourage open communication and cooperation among students, parents, and staff to foster a sense of community and understanding.

#### *Safety Measures*

Our school nurse is trained to recognize and respond to allergic reactions promptly.

Emergency action plans will be in place for students with severe nut allergies.

#### *Examples of Nut-Containing Foods*

Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, Peanut butter and banana wraps, almond or cashew trail mix, Nutty granola bars

#### *Community Cooperation*

We kindly request the cooperation of parents, students, and staff in adhering to these guidelines. By working together, we can ensure the safety and well-being of all students, including those with nut allergies.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the new nut policy, please feel free to reach out to Eloise Engel ([primaryprincipal@bmis.mw](mailto:primaryprincipal@bmis.mw)) or Lesley Peacock ([secondaryprincipal@bmis.mw](mailto:secondaryprincipal@bmis.mw))

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we strive to create a more inclusive and safe learning environment for everyone at BMIS

The BMIS Team

## Up and Coming Events

**Saturday 18th November Sec. Service Painting trip to Mponela**

**Monday 20th-Friday 24th November Science/Design Week**

**Wednesday 22nd November-Science/Design Evening**

**Saturday 25th November STUCO Formal Dance from 6.00-9.30 pm**

**Monday 27th November Creativity Evening in the Drama Room from 6 pm-8 pm**

**Thursday 30th November-Monday 4th December SAISA Trip to Lusaka Swimming**

**Thursday 30th November-Saturday 2nd December Hamilton Production in the Upper Hall from 6.00 pm-8.30 pm**

**Tuesday 5th December Grade 8 Perspective Museum Exhibit**

**Thursday 7th December Secondary Swimming Gala all-day**

**Thursday 7th December Grades 11-12 reports issued**

**Friday 8th December Secondary House Festival Quiz and end of Semester 1 at 11.00 am for students.**

