

IN THE LOOP

UPDATES FOR BMIS SECONDARY PARENTS

3rd November 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

During the Tutor Lesson, we had the opportunity to share the school's definition of 'Intercultural Awareness and Global Citizenship', with our students [here](#). The tutors presented the definition and the classes unpacked the ideas behind it, suitably pitched to each grade level.

Students identified keywords and discussed their meaning and relevance in a BMIS context. Then in groups, they chose one area and using a narrative framework shared stories of a personal experience, or understanding that illustrated that point, examples included:

- Tell a story about a time when you needed to navigate a complex situation when you engaged with another culture.
- Tell a story about when you had to communicate with others whose language you didn't understand.
- Tell a story when you felt culturally uncomfortable in a situation that you didn't understand.
- Tell a story when you lived in another culture/country that was different from your own and what did you learn from this?

Our next step will involve students designing a school poster displaying the attributes of a 'Global Citizen', which will be shared with the community.

Lesley Peacock, Secondary School Principal

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Lesley Peacock



OVERVIEW:

- Message from the Principal
- Piano Recital/Rock Concert
- Cooking English Style
- Sports News
- Service Leaders
- Collaborative Revision
- Wellbeing Workshop
- Robin Hood
- STEM
- Up and Coming Events



House Competitions

This week we saw the four houses in Secondary come together to compete in 'House Song and Dance'. Students were given time to make up a dance routine based on Taylor Swift's 'Shake it Off', Queen's 'Dancing Queen', and Panic! at the Disco's 'High Hopes'. Dances were judged on three criteria: Diversity, Inclusivity, and Joyfulness. It was lovely to see students approach the competition with excitement and gusto!

House Lion came roaring back into the overall standings in the secondary house competition after picking up wins in the Secondary House Dance and Song competition. They also picked up points for being the best house who came 'dressed to impress' in their house colours.

Neil Black and Caitlin Macmillan



Grade 6HDR Piano Recital / Rock Concert

Parents of Grade 6HDR were invited to attend our solo piano summative assessment. Students have been practicing at their own pace for two months. A perfect performance on their first song earned students a 6 for Criteria C: Performance. A second song earned students a 7 and a 3rd song earned students an 8. I am very pleased to report that there were many 6, 7 and 8s achieved!

After the piano recital, parents were treated to a short rock concert of The Seven Nation Army by The White Stripes and In The End by Linkin Park. Students demonstrated their ability to perform on guitars, basses, drums, pianos, and also sing. It was a very successful morning for a very talented class - well done everyone! Dave Montreuil



Cooking English Style

Students in Grades 8 and 10 cooked up some literary analysis, using quotation ingredients and saucy inquiry to stir up some spicy thesis statements about their quotes.

Richard Braithwaite



U18 Basketball

Last weekend saw our U18 boys Basketball team come up against a tough Dominion Ballerz side who came for revenge from their previous loss to BMIS a few weeks earlier. The game was tight throughout its entirety and ended up with both teams tied on 39 points each when the final whistle went. Unfortunately, when overtime had been completed BMIS were edged out by 1 point but came out of the game with a good idea of their strengths and weaknesses.

U15 Netball

Last weekend saw our U15 Netball team take on an U16 team from the local community. The team battled well and got stronger as the game went on but unfortunately lost 19-9. The team now looks forward to travelling to Blantyre next weekend to take on Saint Andrews, Kamuzu Academy, and Hillview in the AIMS competition.

Upcoming Fixtures

Saturday 4th November 9:30-11:00

U18 Boys Football v Good Shepherd International School (LISL Fixture)

U13 Boys Football v Mount Sinai International School

U13 Girls Netball v Mount Sinai International School

U18 Girls Netball v Bambino Private School (LISL Fixture)

Come down and support the teams on the BMIS fields and courts!

Neil Black



Community Painting

Community Painting's overall goal for this year is to repaint all of the secondary school bathrooms, whilst also collaborating with different Clubs within school and other Schools throughout Malawi. In the last quarter, we set up a trip to paint a school block in Mponela as well as paint the base layer in one of the school bathrooms. This quarter we are hoping to complete the bathroom we have started painting as well as go on our trip to Mponela. Our personal motivation for Community painting is to inspire others and prompt creativity in any way I can. - Maya and Amalia



Eco Warriors

The Eco Warriors are a group of students passionate about the environment and driven to ensure sustainability. Eco Warrior's goal this year is to establish a sustainable environment, raise awareness about environmental challenges, and devise solutions. Our specific focus for this year is to investigate the waste management issues present in Malawi. Last semester we started our work by working on the recycling bins around campus. We tried to make them more inviting and understandable to ensure recycling is being practiced accurately in BMIS. Additionally, we found ways to use recycled materials by using juice cartons to plant plants and the development of eco-bricks. We started planning an eco-brick competition within tutor groups. This upcoming semester we will establish the eco-brick competition. We will also find ways to make use of these eco-bricks and other recycled products to make an impact in Malawian communities. For example, last year eco warriors established a permaculture farm in 'Ascent'. This year we can use the recycled materials we will develop within the permaculture farm to approach it in a more sustainable and environmentally friendly manner. - Sophie, Adnaan and Moksh

EcoAware

As EcoAware, we have the opportunity to build our very own student garden with the environmental sustainability principles we care most about. Throughout the first quarter, we focused on our goals of water retention and inclusion of indigenous plants. We used permaculture techniques to implement retention trenches in preparation for the rains which use organic materials to capture and conserve water. Our new garden bed, containing only drought tolerant indigenous species, was 6.7 times more efficient at water retention than the initial soil quality. This coming quarter we plan to extend the bed into a vegetable garden, along with hammocks and seating areas to promote inclusion for our community to be a part of the garden's growth. It is a very exciting undertaking, which benefits our community in relation to the BMIS mission statement of sustainability! - Darwyn

Health Awareness

This initiative aims to address mental, and physical issues people experience in various environments i.e. students at BMIS, and the local community. Throughout this quarter, we hope to make the service as enjoyable as possible by introducing interactive activities that not only help us make a fun environment but also those around us like the community! Our main focus this quarter— aligning with what we did prior in the 1st quarter—is sanitation in specifically dealing with waterborne diseases faced in Malawi such as cholera. In the 1st quarter, we managed to address our aims by conducting thorough research on what is required to make soap and its feasibility in producing it in Malawi, especially through the local's perspectives. In addition, we also partnered up with an organization called 'Wandekweza' which will help us choose a school to distribute the soap and teach them how to make the soap.

Despite our planned initiative from the previous quarter, we are open to any topics that you would like to address, or conduct activities on (games etc) :). This can range from discussions about nutrition, fitness, or your school life to help manage your stress better and in regards to your mental health.

Remember together we can create a community dedicated to improving our health and well-being! - Caren, Humaira and Mubina





Interact

Interact's overall goal for this year is to collaborate with a school at Dzaleka Refugee Camp to aid education and to make learning an enjoyable experience for young refugees. A highlight for last quarter is that we were able to create multiple ideas that'll help bring the community together to aid education. Our plan for this quarter is to start taking action, so far we're in the process of organizing a meeting with one of the schools at Dzaleka Refugee and hopefully, the meeting we have with the representatives from that school will influence us to take action. Interact is a service that doesn't limit your boundaries regarding what you can do to help our community outside of BMIS. This is why this year we will be primarily focusing on aiding education at Dzaleka Refugee Camp mainly because there's an issue of population increase within the camp itself thus leaving many young children without the resources for proper education and 'Interact' would love to provide those resources. - Tamanda T

SportSync

Our overall goal is to be able to teach, and provide the necessary resources and skills to underprivileged youth in our community. Specifically to improve their capabilities and their opportunities in sports. In the past quarter, we have taught our students how to adequately coach others, we taught them effective learning methods and ways they can help their students in the best ways possible. They have done research tasks and tasks which require more application to help in their understanding. This quarter the kids of Mbinzi school will be joining us on Thursdays 2-3 and we are going to be teaching them how to play: football, netball, volleyball and rugby. This is to encourage them to learn these sports in a more professional environment where they can have more opportunities. This motivation for this service is strong as playing a sport has always been a key element of my upbringing. Being able to experience different sports and socialising in different sporting settings has really helped me both in a physical sense and also a mental sense. I've lived in Africa my whole life, I have been able to see the lack of infrastructure and education that children are presented with. Since we have the means necessary to change the lives of some children I think it's important that we do so. Even whether it's simply supplying their school with sporting equipment. - Gabi and Neil



Umodzi

Welcome to Umodzi

Our initiative is to increase awareness of diversity and inclusiveness within our school. We hope by the end of the year to have multiple activities that incorporate everyone in the school and hope the practices we will present will continue without our input. Next year (2024) we will be hosting the annual Creativity Night and the first ever student teacher workshop. - Abigail, Caren, Dhanya



Community Reading

The goal of Community Reading is to foster a love for reading in addition to improving reading and language skills, which will in turn promote intercultural learning. During the last quarter, Community Reading focused on creating a Chichewa handbook to be used by the BMIS community in an attempt to develop an understanding and dialogue between our community and our host country, Malawi. For this quarter, we will continue adding to the handbook, hopefully releasing it soon, while preparing for the Creativity Night we are hosting in collaboration with Umodzi. My motivation for this service is to encourage creativity within BMIS, whilst also contributing and connecting with my community. - Abigail



Communitech

The core idea of Communitech is to provide a digital helping hand. Our goal is straightforward yet effective. One of our main focal points in our service is to aid other services in creating their own digital platforms and helping them develop a personalized website that will outline their ideas.

So far we have been looking to change the service website using our technological skills and we are hoping to apply these skills in creating websites and posters for other services which require our help. We also aim to transfer our skills to the younger years in the school in the hopes that they can eventually learn how to use the technology and transfer these skills to the community.

In this day and age we feel that technology is an essential part of everyone's chances of getting jobs not only around Malawi but elsewhere in the world. In summary, CommuniTech's goal is to enable the younger generation through the development of digital platforms and personalized websites, by sharing technological expertise and offering a digital helping hand. Our dedication to digital access and literacy is in line with the modern world's reliance on technology, which benefits both local and global contexts.
Mainza, Ryan, Wongani

Lilongwe Outreach

Our overall goal at Lilongwe Outreach is to reduce food insecurity and make a tangible difference in the Lilongwe community. We want to partner with local schools in rural areas and educate them about sustainable permaculture practices. Enabling these schools and their surrounding communities to establish thriving, self-sustaining gardens, we hope, will provide access to nutritious food and a long-term food source.

Last quarter, we introduced our students to our service and began planning. We focused on designing permaculture gardens, setting the groundwork for our future ventures.

Now the plan for this quarter-we will be organizing a field trip to Mbizi Primary School to set up a permaculture garden, and we'll kickstart a seed drive for that. We are working alongside 'Student Garden' to make designs for this garden. Additionally, we're collaborating with another service group, 'Communitech', to create a website for Joyce Ellis and her non-profit organization. While they handle the website development, we'll provide the design specifics and content.

Our motivation for this service is connected by our desire to make a positive and lasting impact on the lives of those affected by food insecurity in our community. Our motivation is deeply rooted in witnessing food waste in our own homes while knowing specific areas of the Lilongwe community suffer from food insecurity. Everyone deserves access to nutritious food and the opportunity to improve their quality of life through learning sustainable practices.
Marumbo, Muhammed, Haoran



COLLABORATIVE REVISION / STUDENTS TEACHING STUDENTS

Grade 10 French students in Phase 3/2, used part of a lesson in between 2 units to prepare revision aids about tenses (present, perfect tense, and imperfect) for their peers.

This allowed them to work collaboratively and review what they had learned over the years. They reviewed how to form a certain tense, when to use it, and what the exceptions are. They then explained what they had prepared to other students in the class in rotation.

It has been proven that we remember 90% of what we teach to others. This activity helped students revise interactively and helped them review and clarify certain misconceptions.

It is heart-warming to see how much growth has taken place in the last few years and how confident students are now with difficult concepts. Students showed real maturity and focus in organising themselves.

Pascale Pereira De Rezende.



Fostering Wellbeing Together: A Community Approach

Last Thursday, our dedicated counsellors, Ms. Mariella and Ms. Loren, warmly welcomed parents to our "Coffee and Connect" morning. It was an opportunity for our school community to come together and engage in meaningful discussions about the importance of wellbeing. We believe that wellbeing is the cornerstone of both effective learning and living fulfilling, balanced lives.

During this gathering, parents were encouraged to take a moment for self-reflection regarding their own wellbeing practices and to share their insights on how schools can play a role in enhancing student wellbeing. Here are some key takeaways from the session:

Strong Parent-School Partnerships: The collaboration between parents and the school is fundamental in nurturing student wellbeing.

Student Wellbeing is Central: For our educators, student wellbeing is at the core of everything we do in our school. It's our top priority.

A Unified Approach: By working in partnership, we aim to cultivate a shared perspective on wellbeing, ensuring that both school and home become spaces where wellbeing is a collective practice.

Our counsellors, Ms. Mariella and Ms. Loren, are excited to continue these discussions in our upcoming "Coffee and Connect" sessions. We look forward to seeing you there as we work together to create a supportive and thriving community for our students.

Mariella Vittetoe-Castillo
Secondary School Counsellor



6MZA Pantomime: Robin Hood!

6MZA performed Robin Hood to a delighted crowd on the evening of October 31st. The students worked unbelievably hard and had to memorise 25 pages of lines, BMIS' most ambitious pantomime to date. They demonstrated many of the qualities IB students strive for, including communicators, thinkers and risk-takers. The risks were worth it, as there were piles of jokes and laughter, with the audience eager to join and boo at our fantastic evil characters (Prince John, The Sheriff of Nottingham and the Guards) and cheer along with the heroes (Robin Hood, King Richard, Maid Marion, Will Scarlet and Friar Tuck.) The crowd was even swept up and chanted along with Robin Hood's plan to 'Rob the Church! Rob the Church! Rob the...'

This was not the standard retelling of the story that you would expect, as Robin Hood is basically just a pretty face, with no skills with a sword or a bow. He ended up losing his castle when the evil Prince John took over as king, and decided to rob the church in order to pay his taxes. Maid Marion saves the day by turning this public relations nightmare around and forces Robin Hood to rob from the rich and give to the poor, in an effort to start an uprising. Unfortunately, Robin Hood fell for the trap (a dance competition) and was captured by The Sheriff of Nottingham and his guards. All looked lost, until King Richard miraculously appeared as the executioner and saved the day!

The students outdid themselves and created a fantastic evening of entertainment and comedy for the entire school community. Well done!

Dave Montreuil



STEM Careers Presentation

Tamanda Tambala's thoughts on the STEM careers presentation to Grade 9 & 11 by Music Psychologist Prof. Amanda Krause, James Cook University.

As students we always tend to argue with our teachers about listening to music when doing work or during class, teacher opinions vary. During the meeting with the Music Psychologist I got a better understanding on how music impacts our learning and all the truth behind music. For instance, I listen to music everyday. She mentioned how different music releases different types of energy, like listening to rap or pop music may be best for giving you energy before a game or how jazz/songs without lyrics may work best when it comes to studying. To sum everything up, music is something that can be interpreted differently depending on your personality and music can be a way to build stronger relationships.



Hello,

We hope you are well. Our International Food Fair is quickly approaching and we'd like to encourage you to join the celebration by showcasing your country's cuisine. November 14 from 6-8 pm will be a fun and delicious evening filled with cultural presentations and food samples from the cultures represented in our community. If you would like to help with food, please complete this [form](#):

We'd also like to invite you to join the PTA WhatsApp chat group so that you can stay informed about upcoming events and ways to get involved in the community:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/GuUtHe9JHpJEuqMmpz7lyw>

PTA

STUCO Message

We would like to announce the Tutor Cup is officially on for 17th May at 12:30pm!!

We have planned extra prizes this year for best dressed and best goal celebration, so bring your best to these games!!!

Winners get a pizza party and the best player gets their very own Ballon d'Or!!!🏆

Reminder

AT LEAST ONE GIRL ON THE PITCH AT ALL TIMES

AT LEAST 2 GIRLS NEED TO BE ON THE TEAM

Teams will be disqualified if there are any displays of poor sportsmanship.

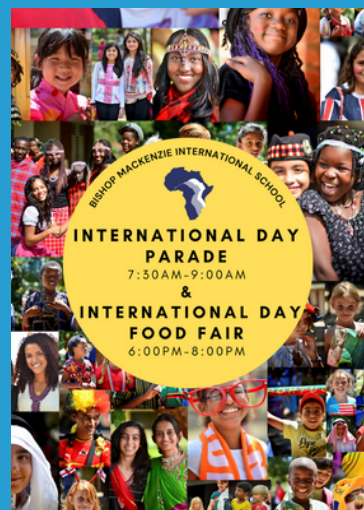
*Bring money as drinks will be sold ;)

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL ON THE PITCH!!!

MAY THE BEST TUTOR GROUP WIN!!!

Kind Regards

Student Council



Up and Coming Events

Monday 6th-Friday 10th November MAP Testing in the Lower Hall and Grade 10 DP Taster Week

Friday 10th November Grades 10/11 Biology/ESS Trip to Chitedze RESEARCH Station

Friday 10th November Secondary AIMS Swimming Gala @ SAINTS

Saturday 11th November Secondary AIMS U13 Football, U15 Netball @ SAINTS

Tuesday 14th November International Day. The Parade starts at 7.45 am

Thursday 16th November Coffee and Connect Parent Session 'Support Your Child' from 7.30 am-8.30 Library

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