



## UPDATES FOR BMIS SECONDARY PARENTS

6th September 2024

### Our Mission

*"We are a diverse and welcoming community in a joyful learning environment that promotes well-being, sustainability, and inclusivity and celebrates growth as success".*

### Message from the Principal

It has been a busy start to the school year. Our 80th Anniversary celebrations provided an excellent opportunity for the community to come together to acknowledge the longevity of BMIS and the mark it has made within the region, as well as its excellent international reputation. The week culminated in a lavish gala, followed by Family Fun Day on Saturday. Although both events were very different occasions they suitably represented the inclusivity of our community.

STUCO last year was responsible for many well organised student events. This included several initiatives, as well as keeping traditions alive with the formal dance. Congratulations to the work they did in capably representing our students and now handing over their positions to STUCO 2024-25. Introducing the new uncontested STUCO President Mwayi Mhango, as well as the:

Activities Director: Tawanda Kaonda

Social Impact Director: Yuri Cho

The Service As Action Director: Fatima Kasmani

Financial Director: Amanda Khondowe

Secretary: Tawonga Mhango

Another first for the beginning of the year, is 'Coffee and Connect'. Appropriately the topic focused on transitions and change. Parents were involved in a number of interactive activities and discussions that examined changes relating to stability, identity, and belonging. Please join us for the next 'Coffee and Connect' on Safeguarding and Child Protection on the 19th of September

Lesley Peacock, Secondary Principal  
secondaryprincipal@bmis.mw



### OVERVIEW:

- Message from the Principal
- Family Fun Day
- High School Positive Trends
- Open Evening
- High-Quality Learning in Practice
- Elections at BMIS
- STUCO 24-25
- Personal Project
- Wednesday Service Reminder
- Coffee and Connect
- Up and Coming Events

### Family Fun Day



## Family Fun Day

As we inched closer to my school, my stomach started to twist at the idea of what lay ahead. I wasn't scared, I was excited! I pressed my face against the window eager to see what awaits in my school. When I entered the familiar place my eyes widened. The school had transformed into a magical place bursting with colour and a vibrant atmosphere. There were so many unfamiliar faces; everyone was exploding with life and colour. There was a massive bouncy castle and baked goods that made my tummy rumble with excitement. Student bands were playing music so loud that it shook the ground. My ears flooded with excited squeals, distinct chatter, and the sweet melody playing in the background. As I waved goodbye to my family I headed past each stall, tempted to stop and admire each one but I had somewhere to be, and I was late. In a small corner, there was the face painting stall, neglected and empty. I didn't let that get to me. I was full of excitement. I watched the neighbouring stalls fill with people while ours were crowded with cobwebs. As my enthusiasm started to drain, a little girl with two blonde pigtails and a subtle grin showed up.

“Can you paint a wild dog please?” said the girl. I was delighted but... I didn't know how to paint a wild dog! I couldn't shake off the lingering thought that I just didn't know how to do this! But I closed my eyes, took a deep breath, and grabbed a paintbrush. Next thing I knew there was a decent wild dog on the little girl's cheek. But there was also a massive smile across her face. Soon, we were flooded with people. Twenty minutes turned into two hours. My eyes were fighting to keep awake. My hands were trembling and my legs were aching, but surprisingly I was having fun. After we closed up, we sighed with relief and congratulated each other. I joined my friends and ate mouth-watering treats, visited each stand, and enjoyed the music. The rest of the day was a blur.

Mallika McCarthy, Grade 7

## High School Insight: Positive Trends in Student Retention and Enrollment

We are delighted to share some wonderful news about our recent progress in student retention and enrollment. Over the last three years, our retention rate from Grade 10 to Grade 11 has risen to an impressive 88%. This achievement reflects the combined efforts of our dedicated staff, students, and supportive families, all contributing to our vibrant learning community.

Several key developments have driven this positive trend. Firstly, our ongoing improvements in IB grades have reinforced our reputation for academic excellence, helping us retain current students and attract new ones. We have also worked hard to develop distinct academic pathways, offering a wider and more tailored selection of subjects that meet the diverse interests and aspirations of our students. The successful introduction of Business Management, Global Politics, and Sports, Exercise, and Health Science (SEHS) has enriched our curriculum, providing more choices and encouraging students to pursue their passions.

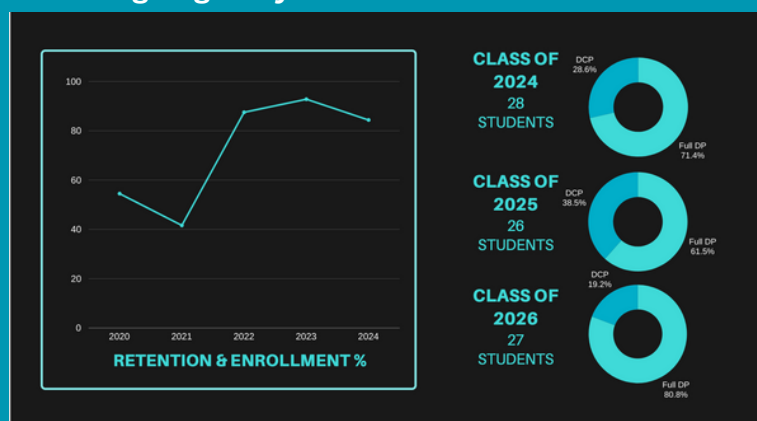
Beyond academics, we have expanded internationally recognized opportunities for growth and success. Programs such as Model United Nations (MUN) and the Duke of Edinburgh Award (DoE), as well as our now renowned service programme and medal-winning involvement in SAISA, have provided students with invaluable experiences that build confidence, leadership skills, and a strong sense of community. These opportunities have been crucial in shaping well-rounded individuals who are prepared to thrive in an ever-changing world.

This positive momentum highlights our commitment to fostering a joyful learning environment where every student can flourish. As we celebrate these achievements, we remain dedicated to continuously evolving and enhancing our programs to support every student's journey of growth and success.

Thank you for being an essential part of our school's ongoing story.

Warm regards,

Jonathan McClenahan  
Diploma Programme Coordinator



## Family Fun Day



## Open Evening

We had an excellent turnout at the Open Evening last Thursday. This was the first opportunity for parents to meet the teachers of their children and to find out more about the programmes for the year. The best table went to the English department!



# High Quality learning In Action-Language Acquisition Classes



## Grade 8 French: Exploring Health and Well-Being Through Creativity

*Mon monstre a six longs bras et deux courtes jambes. Mon monstre a sept yeux : quatre sur le visage, un en guise de nombril, un sur le bras et un sur la jambe. Mon monstre a trois bouches : une sur le front, une sur le visage et une sur le cou. Les bouches ont des dents pointues. Mon monstre a les cheveux très longs, elle a les oreilles pointues. (Favour)*

In our Grade 8 French classes, we're delving into the theme of La Santé et Le Bien-Être—Health and Well-Being. To engage students in learning vocabulary related to the body and descriptions, we've introduced a creative project that adds a fun twist to traditional lessons. Students are designing their own monsters, animals, or aliens and describing their

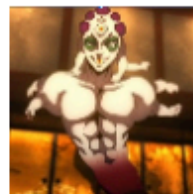
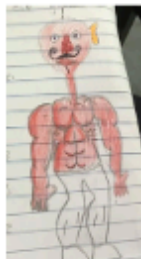
physical characteristics in detail.

Our first step was to do an Inquiry into which words and which kind of words we would need to know in order to effectively describe a person or a being. This created our vocabulary list of body parts and adjectives. We investigated adjectival agreement and placement (where the correct form of the adjectives is placed in relation to the nouns in the sentence) and then we set off to create our own personal pet monsters.

After crafting their descriptions, students bring these imaginative creatures to life through drawings, either by hand or with the help of AI tools. Once completed, each student presents their creation to the class. During these presentations, classmates listen carefully, trying to visualize or even draw the character based on the description they hear.

The monster they create will become a central figure throughout our unit on health and well-being. Students will explore ailments their monsters might experience, potential visits to the doctor, and receive advice on maintaining good health while avoiding bad habits.

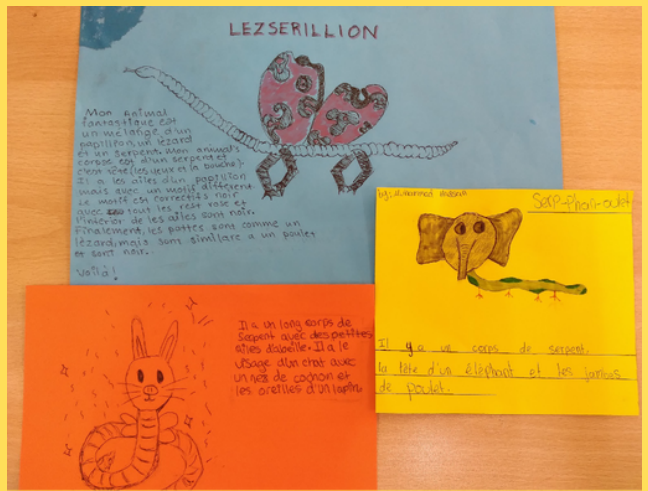
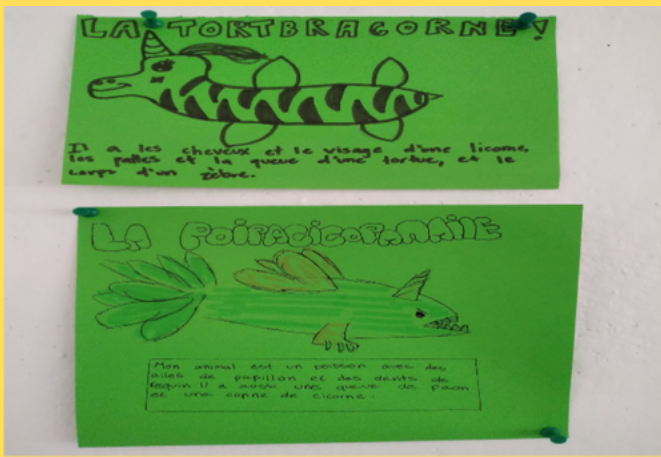
Assessment will be based on several aspects: the richness of their vocabulary, the accuracy and creativity of their descriptive adjectives, and the effectiveness of their oral presentation. This activity not only reinforces prior knowledge but also encourages students to build new understanding by making meaningful connections.



This project exemplifies High-

Quality

Learning that is dynamic and inclusive, fostering joyful exploration as students connect classroom concepts with real-world contexts. By embracing creativity and diverse perspectives, students are encouraged to think critically about health and well-being in French, and reflect on healthy and unhealthy habits in their daily lives. *By Michelle Davies*



**Elections at BMIS**



**STUCO 2024-25**

This week, the Student Council candidates brought the Secondary campus to life with an exciting and lively campaign week! The campus was buzzing with colourful posters, lunchtime was packed with fun activities, and students from all grade levels came together, creating a vibrant and energetic atmosphere. Campaign Week concluded with a Campaign Rally, where Stuco Core candidates had the chance to advocate for themselves and try to persuade their peers to vote for them.

On Tuesday, 3rd September, it was finally time for the speeches and voting. The candidates all delivered their inspiring speeches, and then it was time for the student body to vote. Each student was handed a ballot and directed to the voting booth where they voted for the candidate of their choice and then dropped their ballot into a box outside the Upper Hall. As students stood silently lined up to vote, it was great to see students taking voting seriously and with reverence for the process.

The votes were counted and verified. After a long week of campaigning, the final results of the Student Council Core Election were announced during the Inauguration on Wednesday, 4th September. During the assembly, former Stuco President Neil Nambiar and Vice President Tamanda Mbang'ombe addressed the student body for the last time before leading the new President, Mwayi Mhango, through the swearing-in ceremony. Neil and Tamanda then presented the new Core Members and Class Representatives to the student body.

## Personal Project

Congratulations to our graduating class of 2026, who achieved fantastic results in their personal projects. Our average was above the global average, and we also supported over 96% of our students to achieve a 4 or higher.

Our Grade 10 students have just begun their Personal Project learning journey, where they pursue a learning and product goal of their interest, applying the approaches to learning skills that they have developed throughout the programme. We can't wait to see their growth over the next semester!

	<b>PERSONAL PROJECT GRADE COMPARISON</b>							
	<b>MEAN</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>BMIS</b>	<b>4.74</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>44.4</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>GLOBAL AVERAGES</b>	<b>4.04</b>	<b>2.35</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>26.79</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>19.31</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>3.64</b>

### Wednesday Service Activities and Indemnity Forms

This is a reminder, that Wednesday from 2.00-3.30 pm is reserved for Service activities. Only students who have signed up for these service activities should be on the school grounds after 2.00 pm on a Wednesday. Other students are expected to go home. I understand that there may be a problem with pick-ups with siblings, therefore it is best for them to be signed up for service activities on Wednesday. However if a sibling has to wait for the other they are expected to be working, or reading in the library from 2.00-3.30 pm. Following that all students are required to wait at the portal for their pick-ups.

Other than with service activities we are unable to provide supervision of students on a Wednesday from 2.00 pm onwards, as teachers are involved in staff meetings at this time.

One other reminder, please several parents haven't returned their online indemnity forms. We require these as evidence for trip permissions, medical records, and for the appropriate use of technology. Unfortunately, students are unable to attend trips, or any other school activities held off campus until parents have signed these forms.

Thank you for your Cooperation,  
Lesley Peacock

### Coffee and Connect-Transitions

Our first parent 'Coffee and Connect' session took place on Thursday. This provided an opportunity for parents to explore and discuss changes that their children may experience in moving to a new school, and strategies for embracing such changes at home. Role plays highlighted various scenarios taken from both a student's perspective and a parent's role in explaining the need for change, while relating to the emotions connected with loss, identity, stability, and belonging.



### Up and Coming Events

Friday 6th September-Sunday 8th September DP Retreat

Wednesday 11th September MYP Parent Evening 6.00-7.00 pm in the BOS

Saturday 14th September Duke of Edinburgh Hike Nkhoma

Monday 16th September TOK Exhibition in the L.Hall

Thursday 19th Coffee and Connect-Child Protection and Safeguarding 7.30-8.30 am in the Library

Saturday 21st-Tuesday 24th Long Weekend

Tuesday 24th Preparation Day for CIS/NEASC/IB Visit (Staff only)

Wednesday 25th Science and Design presentation evening Grades 7-8 6.00 pm-7.30 pm

Saturday 28th September-Friday 4th October-CIS/NEASC/IB Evaluation Visit

Tuesday 29th October -Friday 1st November WWW