



IN THE LOOP

UPDATES FOR BMIS SECONDARY PARENTS

12th May 2023

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

Last week I attended an online course hosted by our accrediting body the Council of International Schools (CIS). The three-day workshop focused on Global Citizenship and Intercultural Learning. This in itself is an extremely interesting topic especially when considered in terms of an international school. As an inclusive school with 50 nationalities, we recognise and celebrate important cultural and religious events, we provide numerous opportunities within the programme to discuss, explore and study local and global issues and we connect much of this learning to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. From this perspective, we promote intercultural learning and understanding. However how deep do we go with this understanding, does student learning translate into action and is that action sustainable? Are our students culturally proficient and if so how can we know, how can we measure or show this? These were the questions that participants in the workshop examined over the 3 days.

We then considered how schools needed to initially develop global citizenship and intercultural learning by forming a shared definition that was both inclusive and in line with the mission and vision of the school. This definition then needed to be unpacked given key practices such as teaching and learning, assessment, leadership and staff development, and community engagement. Drilling deeper into the skills, knowledge behaviours, and attitudes of a global citizen known as 'competencies' we examined how successfully they were delivered in helping students to navigate complex global issues. Such Intercultural competencies need to be transferable from one situation to another as we know that training is no longer focused on a lifetime career, but students apply these competencies to take on multiple career changes, as they move around and adapt, often ending up in areas that they never studied or trained for.

The information gained from this workshop will be decimated and shared with our teachers and applied in developing the complexity of the thinking and practices involved in advancing authentic and sustained intercultural learning at BMIS.

Lesley Peacock

OVERVIEW:

- Message from the Principal
- Triathlon 2023
- Sustainable Food
- Neurodiversity Week
- Swim for Malaria Awareness
- De-Stressing
- Thanks PTA
- STUCO Initiative
- Up and Coming Events

The Triathlon 2023

Sunday, 7th May saw 174 participants take to the Bishop Mackenzie swimming pools and fields to take part in this year's Lilongwe Triathlon. The recently added 'Mini' distance proved particularly popular amongst our younger students with a lot of triathlon debutants. Over 60 BMIS students volunteered their Sunday morning to help the event run smoothly and special guest appearances from Malawi's track and field team Stern Liffa and Asemenye Simwaka awarded the winners in each category. The event also saw local restaurants and shops come down and sell their goods to the large crowd that came down to watch. We are already looking forward to making next year's event bigger and better!

Neil Black

Triathlon 2023



Sustainable Food Unit

Over the last few weeks, Year 11 has had the opportunity to extensively investigate sustainable food production in our Individual and Societies classes. By conducting research on various sustainable food production methods and physically exploring sustainable food production mechanisms in Malawi. Last week we pitched our ideas on how we can contribute to sustainable food production in the Bishop Mackenzie community and potentially further into the Malawian community. This was an incredible chance for all of us since we were selling our well-thought-out concepts to a professional audience within an authentic environment.

We were joined by the proprietors of the two permaculture farms we toured (Never Ending Foods & Moyo Farm), as well as the environmental specialists (Morgan & Soleh) from Palestine who have been visiting and working on our campus, Ms. Peacock and our two I&S teachers Mrs. Mdeza & Ms. Jones. The questions and critical feedback were all quite useful and made us think again about our ideas and the logistics of integrating any method of sustainable food production into any community. Within the classroom, a professional dynamic was formed that greatly benefited all of us. Most of us are now more comfortable and familiar with pitching as a result of this learning experience, and we have received expert feedback on our ideas and how they may be improved.

Sophie B. 11TGI



As we wrapped up Neurodiversity Week, we wanted to celebrate one event in particular - our very first Neurodiversity Week Parent/Guardian Coffee Morning. With more than 25 participants, we were humbled by the way our community showed up to gain a deeper understanding and begin a celebration of Neurodiversity at BMIS. In our session, led by Ms. Kris Whalen (Year 3 Teacher), Ms. Janey Mixer (Year 6 Teacher), Ms. Hazel Drummond (Secondary Maths Teacher), and myself (The Student Service Consultant), we reviewed:

- What Neurodiversity Week is all about
 - Our definition for Neurodiversity throughout this week (The fact that all of our minds work differently)
 - Reviewed specific types of neurodiversity such as attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism spectrum disorder (ASD), dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia, and tourettes and worked on focusing on specific superpowers that can come with these specific differences
 - Continued to reiterate that while there are specific characteristics that often show up for students with specific learning differences, each child is unique
 - Discussed support at BMIS and how we work to meet the needs of all learners through differentiation, scaffolding, student services, the 3 Tier Process, and more
 - Introduced a Parent Support Group led by a BMIS parent, Ms. Lana Royle. If you are a parent/guardian of a student who has a specific learning difference and would be interested in joining this group, you can reach out to Lana by WhatsApp at +265 99 279 7839. Below, you will find a description of the group purpose and what you can expect if you were to join.
- Continued on the next page*



I'm creating a parent/guardian WhatsApp Support Group to create a safe and confidential space where parents/guardians can share their experiences/fears/hopes/setbacks and victories of their neurodivergent journey. Therapies/contacts of professionals will also be shared. It's a nurturing environment where only encouraging advice is welcome and we will arrange coffee/wine dates for the adults and possibly even some play dates for our neurodiverse kids. We can watch them change the world together. After all, it takes a village to raise a child. The support group can be your village.

We hope to continue facilitating parent/guardian mornings to discuss Neurodiversity and all the different subtopics that can fall within it. Thank you for your support and partnership - together, we truly can make a difference in the lives of our learners!

Mackenzie Peters



De-stressing

The Year 12's this week have started their exams and as a key part of their preparations, we have stressed to students how vital starting off the day is. Each day some of our Y12's students have been coming down to the field to play some rounders to help them relax!



Swim for Malaria -Our BMIS Swimmers

Amina and Zoe participated in the "Swim for Malaria 2023" at ABC (Wednesday, March 29).

This is an annual event, and usually the proceeds go to malaria prevention. This year the proceeds were going to the Girls Shine Christian Academy for mosquito nets and other mosquito prevention. When Cyclone Freddy hit, and ABC decided to split the proceeds between cyclone relief and malaria prevention. The entry fee was one mosquito net, and sponsors/pledges were gathered prior to the swim (people either donated an amount of money per lap or a lump sum). The swimmers then swam for one hour straight. Amina and Zoe swam 99 lengths in the one hour (2.5 kilometers!). The donations will be collected in the coming weeks, and then we will be able to say exactly how much they raised!

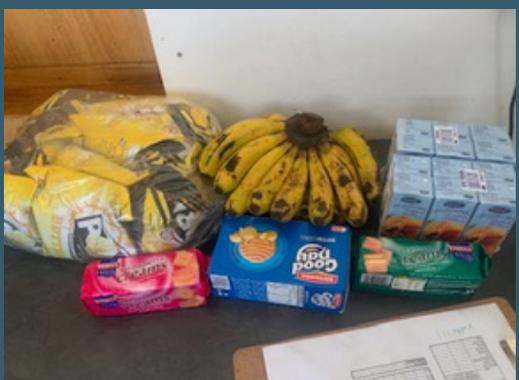
Rebecca Kanaan



Neurodiversity Week Parent/Guardian Coffee Morning.



Thank you PTA
 "On behalf of the Y13, we would like to thank the PTA For dropping in DP exam snacks. The healthy and not-so-healthy ones!!."
 Thank you.



STUCO Initiative

Last Friday, The ALL-Secondary Tutor Groups took to the pitch to compete in the "BMIS Tutor Cup". The afternoon started with an opening ceremony where the students marched proudly with their classmates. The games were intense, full of passion, and the desire to win the coveted trophy was strong. The Finals consisted of 10MHE vs The Teachers for the Senior tournament and 8SPH vs 9FMP for the Junior tournament. A huge congratulations to 9FMP and 10MHE for winning the cup! Another huge shout to 7RHA for winning "Best Dressed Team". Thank you to everyone who participated! STUCO



Art in the Park

"Last week, Lilongwe was gifted with a cocktail of arts to the tune of the BMIS Elipsis (Year 11) Band at the Arts in the Park event themed Water. Sounds of pop music echoed through the gardens of Four Seasons, where people gathered to expose, buy, or simply appreciate arts on a beautiful Saturday morning. Paints, wood sculptures, mini gardens, and batiks were among the exposed art pieces immersed in the mix of thick green and pleasant sunlight. However, music was the main attraction for some, like me, my friend visiting from Tanzania, and some three dozen people. Soon after the strings of the guitar played by Darwyn traveled through the gardens, we rushed to take our seats or stand close by, and we were soon greeted by Mr. Montreuil's keyboard scales and filled with Hikari's percussion and Warya's bass. Soon, Sofia and Dhanya bestowed the crowd with Dandelions by Ruth B, then came Valerie by Amy Winehouse, and other great pieces from Adele, Olivia Rodrigo, and Greta Ray. Among the guests who performed with the Band were Hishaam, Martha, Nina, Christabel and Ananya from years 11, 10 and 7, and later some improvisation from Neil Nayar, an established musician based in Lilongwe. Many left the Four Seasons wanting more of the music, but it was time to close with the hope that another concert would come soon!"

Odete Muxímpua

STUCO PRESENTS

GLOW IN THE DARK

party

STARTS 6:30PM UNTIL 8:30PM

FRIDAY 2 JUNE

TICKET K2000 K5000 AT THE DOOR

FOOD AND DRINKS FOR SALE

BMIS PTA PRESENTS:

BOOT SALE

DO YOU HAVE STUFF YOU'D LIKE TO SELL?
COME SELL AT THE PTA BOOT SALE!

**SATURDAY,
MAY 20
9 AM - 2 PM
AT BMIS**

COST: 20,000MK PER CAR/SELLER
INCLUDES A TABLE

EVENT IS OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY

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TO RESERVE A TABLE;
AIRTEL MONEY ACCEPTED

Alice in Wonderland - A Pantomime by Year 7HDR

When: Thursday, May 25th. **Start time:** Doors open at 6:15pm for a 6:30pm start. **End time:** 7:30pm

Where: BMIS Upper Hall. **Cost:** Free!

Come see this classic tale hilariously retold in the format of a pantomime. The Year 7HDR class have worked tirelessly on costumes, scripts, props, lights, sound, painting, interacting with the audience, insults, temper tantrums, cream pies, rubber chickens, magical garlic, hot dance moves and so much more! Not sure what a pantomime is? Read this article by Year 7 student Xaris Francisco to find out more!

What's So Special About a Pantomime? by Xaris Francisco

Hey ladies and gentlemen! Quick question, have you ever heard of a pantomime? First of all, this kind of pantomime is not the same as the word "mime". Actually, it is very different from miming. A pantomime is a hilarious, loud, British theatre genre. What's so special about a pantomime, you may ask? Well, in a pantomime the performers interact with the audience. Pantomimes also include different types of humor like slapstick, jokes, and insults. There are also many other things that make pantomimes unique from other types of theatre. Well? Do you want to learn more about pantomimes? Read on!

Audience Interaction:

In pantomimes, the audience is also part of the play! Actors might ask questions, get the audience to join in on chants, yell insults, boo, or sing-along. For example, in the Cinderella pantomime, Cinderella asked one member of the audience (Darwyn) what her name was and told her about the book she was reading. Also in our pantomime script, Alice in Wonderland, Alice, the Duchess, and the white rabbit argue with the duchess's cook about if he is able to make pepper pot soup or not. After 3 or 4 times of saying "Oh yes it does!" and "Oh no it doesn't!", Alice gets the audience to join in by helping her shout, "Oh yes it does!" Other times the audience has to boo when the villain, such as the evil stepmother in Cinderella, comes on stage.

Humour:

One kind of humor is slapstick. Huh? Is that when someone slaps somebody else with a stick? That doesn't sound fun at all, don't you think? Actually, slapstick is a more physical type of humor like fighting with pool noodles, pretending to be slapped, or pieing people in the face. For example, in Cinderella, Cinderella's stepsister told Buttons (the servant) to get him a big, fat cream pie. Buttons came out with the pie, but when giving it to the stepsister, he threw the pie into his face. Also, in Cinderella towards the beginning, one of the stepsisters stood next to the door with a pool noodle in hand, ready to clobber Buttons on the head. But instead, Buttons runs out onto the stage too fast and ends up slamming the door into the stepsister.

Usually, pantomimes also include topical jokes which are basically jokes that go with the topic, not just randomly telling jokes that do not fit into the story. For example, during a pantomime, the actors would not just randomly tell a joke that has nothing to do with the play, unless it is part of that certain character's personality or behavior, or something like that. Pantomimes may also include farce which is like a confusing type of humor that usually involves people misunderstanding or miscommunicating things. Farce is used in a pretty much realistic way. It becomes more ridiculous little by little, making the situation at least a little believable but not predictable.

There are many other types of humor in a pantomime, but I will have to move on now. This article is only supposed to be 300-400 words and I have already written more than 400 and I still have much more to say. Why not make the next part short, you ask? Well, how could I! I have to state things, explain them, and give examples. I better stop talking now. I'm using up letters telling you about how I need to stop using so many letters! OK! Let's move on.

Special Pantomime Stuff:

There are also several other things that make Pantomimes different from other kinds of drama. The first thing is gender swapping. This is when boys play girl parts and girls play boy parts, though I personally think it is funnier when boys play girl parts. When a pantomime has gender swapping in it, the boys get to dress in dresses, makeup and high heels! For example, in 7RHA's Dick Whittington production, Ben played the part of Alice Fitzwarren. He wore a sparkly dress, a long wig, and heels! Another example is in Cinderella. In Cinderella, Nleli was one of the stepsisters. He came out wearing a ridiculous outfit, more on that later. At one part of the play, Nleli's wig fell off, making it even funnier.

Special Pantomime Stuff: Continued....

Another thing about Pantomimes is their stories and topics like The Wizard of Oz, Little Mermaid, Puss in Boots, Jack and the Beanstalk, and Snow White, to name a few. Notice anything similar? Yup! Pantomimes are usually based on children's fairy tales, folk tales, or Disney movies. This is because the target audience of pantomimes are younger children. For example, 7MZA performed Cinderella, and 7RHA's theatre production was based on Dick Whittington.

One more thing about pantomimes before we go. Pantomimes often include bright, colorful, and sometimes crazy costumes. For example, in Cinderella, Nleli, again, wore a crazy over the top costume as one of the stepsisters, he came out wearing a purple tutu, a pink thing that looks like a fluffy scarf, which I found out was called a boa, and a bright orange wig. Also, in Dick Whittington, Amani was one of the rats. He wore a bright pink shawl or jacket thing, and pink glasses with blinking lights.

Well now that you know what a pantomime is I hope you'll go to see one. Don't say "Oh yes, I'll go and see one when I find the time," and forget that you read this 'till you're 176 years old! See one now! Pronto! This minute! Actually, my class 7HDR will be putting on Alice in Wonderland in a few weeks, so come and see... Bye! YOU BETTER BE THERE!

Bibliography:

MasterClass, 5 Pantomime Elements: Pantomime Definition and History, MasterClass, March 4, 2022, 5 Pantomime Elements: Pantomime Definition and History - 2023 - MasterClass

Ivy Estal, Pantomime Overview and Examples, Study.com, May 10, 2022, Pantomime Overview & Examples | What Is Pantomime? | Study.com

Wikipedia, Pantomime, Wikipedia, 25 January, 2023, Pantomime - Wikipedia



You are invited to have
COFFEE WITH THE COUNSELORS
18 May
BMIS Secondary Library
7:30 AM until 8:30 AM

Join us to discuss:

- Cross-cultural identity and transitions
- The challenges and effects of significant transitions on wellbeing
- Ways to support your child - before, during, and after a transition
- How rituals can create ease in the transition process



Up and Coming Events

Monday 15th May- Kamuzu Day Holiday (DP Exams continue)

Thursday 18th May-Sunday 20th May- Duke of Edinburgh hike and the Group 4 Science Trip to Luwawa

Thursday 18th May -Coffee with the Counselors 7.30 am in the Library

Saturday 20th May-PTA Boot Sale in the Lower Playground 9.00 am -3.00 pm and Lilongwe Athletics meet at BMIS

Tuesday 23rd- Graduation Rehearsal in the Upper Hall from 8.00 am-1.00pm

Wednesday 24th May- Graduation in the Upper Hall at 6.30 pm

Thursday 25th May-Yr. 7 Pantomime in the Upper Hall from 6.00 pm

Friday 26th May-Malawi Day celebrations

Saturday 27th June-Yr. 13 Prom

Friday 2nd June 'Glow in the Dark' dance from 6.30 pm-8.30 pm

Tuesday 6th-Wednesday 7th June Circus Olay from 6.00 pm-7.30 pm

Friday 9th June-MYP 7.10 am-12.15 pm Arts Festival