



20th January 2023

IN THE LOOP

UPDATES FOR BMIS SECONDARY PARENTS

CIS/NEASC Visit to BMIS-Part 3

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to BMIS, following the festive season, a week of virtual learning, a public holiday and now finally our students are on campus. It's nice to get back to normal routines again. Several important events and activities are coming up so please refer to the 'Up and Coming' events on the final page. The CIS/NEASC visit is now fast approaching.

In previous, 'In the Loop' articles, I had the opportunity to describe what the Preparatory CIS/NEASC Visit would look like. Just as a recap this is a school-wide review of our procedures and practices, by our accrediting bodies the Council of International Schools (CIS) and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). I am now very pleased to announce that the report covering all areas of the school encompassing our mission statement and beliefs, the curriculum, teaching and assessing, governance, staffing, premises, and the community; has now been submitted to the accreditation body. The report addressed the core areas above and was written by several constituents drawn from the school community.

The Visit is the next stage of the process and will take place from Monday 13th-Thursday 16th of February. The Preparatory Evaluation visit is carried out by two evaluators: a CIS School Support and Evaluation Officer and a Peer Evaluator. Over 3 days the visitors will consider all areas of the school, in relation to the report and include meetings with stakeholders within the BMIS community as well as classroom observations. The final day is set aside for a self-study workshop, comprised of members of the Steering Committee who will continue to drive the process forward for the next two years when we complete a full cross programme evaluation.

Lesley Peacock, Secondary School Principal
l.peacock@bmis.mw

Lesley Peacock



OVERVIEW:

- Message from the Principal
- Final Events Dec. 2022
- The Student Services Team
- Students In The Community
- Message from the Counsellor
- Planning ahead
- International Maths Olympiad
- The Extended Essay
- Up and Coming Events

Highlights from the Swim Gala final days of school 2022



Facing International Competition



The Senior Girls Basketball Team played a friendly match against the Zimbabwe International Team. Zim. came out victorious, but it was a great experience for our girls to test their skills against an international side. Victoria Nakhumwa in fact took possession of the ball and set up several successful attacks.

Annual House Festival Quiz

We have not been able to all come together and hold this quiz for quite a while. So it was great to be able to do this again on the last day of the school year. The collective brains of the House Teams were faced with taxing questions on sport, general knowledge, and the old favorite-'guess the teacher'. House Leopards sharpened their claws and faced their foes; becoming the new champs.



THE GREATEST SHOWMAN VIDEO RECORDING

Soon we will open for the selling of the video of our recent school production. Mr Montreuil and the team are busy making the final edits and cuts and we will let you know when you can start purchasing them.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE ARTS:

- = singers night, late March TBC
- = DP Art Exhibition with DP Theatre performance, 23rd March
- = Arts Festival = June TBC
- = CIRCUS OLAY! = June TBC



Welcome to Holland

BY EMILY PERL KINGSLEY

Dear BMIS Families and Community,

This week, the Student Service Team would like to share with you a powerful poem by Emily Perl Kingsley on her experience of having a child with a disability; the beauty and challenges. We hope that this text enhances empathy and understanding throughout our community as we continue our journey of being an inclusive educational institution.

Gratefully,
Mackenzie Peters
Student Service Consultant

Welcome to Holland

I am often asked to describe the experience of raising a child with a disability - to try to help people who have not shared that unique experience to understand it, to imagine how it would feel. It's like this.....

When you're going to have a baby, it's like planning a fabulous vacation trip - to Italy. You buy a bunch of guide books and make your wonderful plans. The Coliseum. The Michelangelo David. The gondolas in Venice. You may learn some handy phrases in Italian. It's all very exciting.

After months of eager anticipation, the day finally arrives. You pack your bags and off you go. Several hours later, the plane lands. The stewardess comes in and says, "Welcome to Holland."

"Holland?!?" you say. "What do you mean Holland?? I signed up for Italy! I'm supposed to be in Italy. All my life I've dreamed of going to Italy."

But there's been a change in the flight plan. They've landed in Holland and there you must stay.

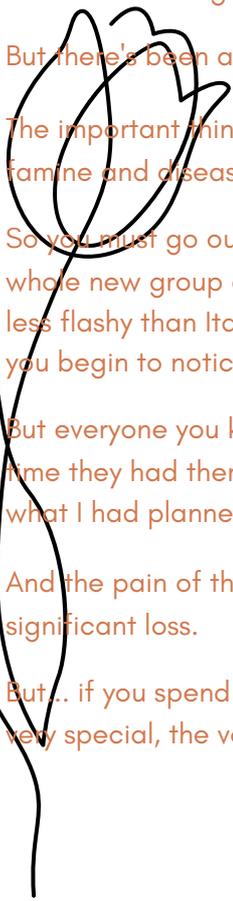
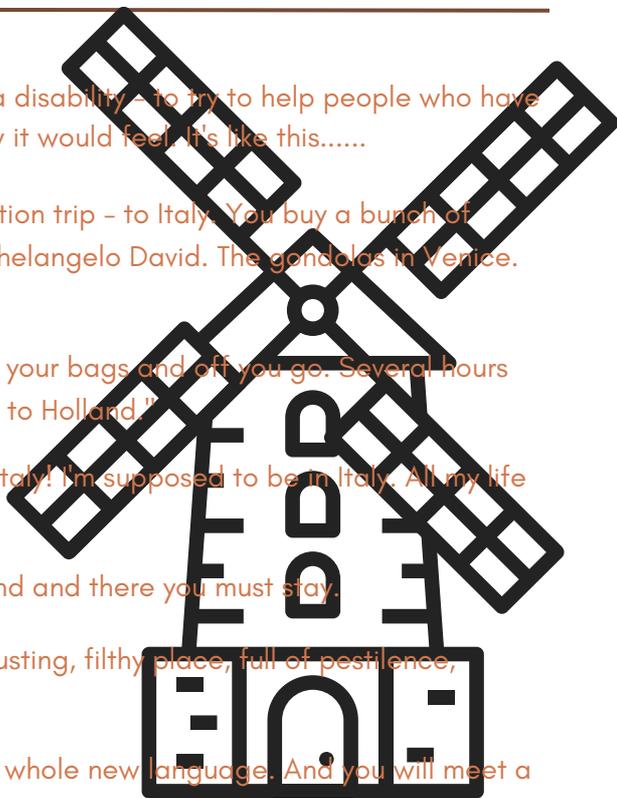
The important thing is that they haven't taken you to a horrible, disgusting, filthy place, full of pestilence, famine and disease. It's just a different place.

So you must go out and buy new guide books. And you must learn a whole new language. And you will meet a whole new group of people you would never have met. It's just a different place. It's slower-paced than Italy, less flashy than Italy. But after you've been there for a while and you catch your breath, you look around.... and you begin to notice that Holland has windmills....and Holland has tulips. Holland even has Rembrandts.

But everyone you know is busy coming and going from Italy... and they're all bragging about what a wonderful time they had there. And for the rest of your life, you will say "Yes, that's where I was supposed to go. That's what I had planned."

And the pain of that will never, ever, ever, ever go away... because the loss of that dream is a very very significant loss.

But... if you spend your life mourning the fact that you didn't get to Italy, you may never be free to enjoy the very special, the very lovely things ... about Holland.

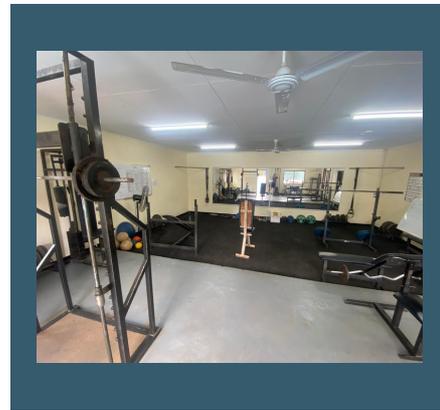


Students in the Community

Over the December break whilst some students were relaxing and getting much-needed rest, one of our Year 12 students, Marco Wheeler was out volunteering in the community. Marco has been spending his time with Malawian students who attend Ascent Soccer School, one of the largest football academies in Malawi, helping students learn, write and understand poetry and English.

The BMIS Gym - With the new year upon us, there is a big focus on the students getting stronger and healthier. It is a fact that once students leave school their participation in sports decreases rapidly, particularly with girls. Whilst sports are more common in different countries, gyms are prominent throughout the world. Year 10's to 13's have been encouraged to attend morning and afternoon sessions that have been put on in addition to the ECP to help students feel more comfortable in a 'gym' culture. New posters, reupholstered benches and new equipment to come soon will hopefully create a positive experience for all that attend!

Neil Black
BMIS Sports Coordinator



Message from the Counsellor, Ms Mariella
Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new semester! The start of a new cycle can bring both positive and negative emotions for us. These have the power to influence the way we focus our attention on our daily goals. Some of us have grand goals and a huge desire to achieve them, but we get distracted and lose track of our aims. Maybe our goals seem so large that we put off taking action until tomorrow.

If this sounds familiar, one way to help us maintain our focus is by setting a daily or weekly intention. The act of setting intentions is one of the best ways we can keep ourselves on course to meeting goals and achieving the level of happiness we desire. Intentions provide us with the focus we need to progress towards what we want to achieve. No matter what it is we are after, like working on a relationship gone sour, getting better at a subject area or hobby, or simply making new friends, beginning our day with intentions can help us get there.

**Three benefits of sharing intention are:
Intentions remind us that we have a higher purpose and the things we say and do in 24 hours can help us get there.**

**Intentions set a tone of positivity
Intentions remind us that we live with intent
Everything we do is linked to a purpose.**

This week's message therefore focuses on how important it is to set the tone for any new cycle through the power of intentions.

**Check out the following intentions, and if you have some time discuss this with your children at home!
I intend to...**

**Be positive in all of my interactions.
Take care of my body.
Be productive in my work.
Accept what life brings me each day.
Be open to new experiences.
Be kind to myself.
Be kind to others.
To act with gratitude.
To love myself.**



The Ball

On Saturday, December 3rd, The Student Council Hosted the 6th Annual December Formal. This year's theme was "Masquerade Ball." Students arrived dressed up in their beautiful masks, elegant gowns and dashing suits for a night of singing and dancing. It was great to see students of different ages and year groups letting loose and having fun. Thank you to Leo and Mateo for showing us their incredible VJ and DJ skills. Well done to the STUCO Core and Reps for organising such a great community event! We look forward to more events in Terms 2 & 3!

Blessings Banda



Planning Ahead

Even though the second semester has only just begun, it's not too early to start thinking about the April holiday and the long break beginning in June. My family has already booked travel, reserved some AirBnBs and lodges, and made some plans with friends and family.

If your child is in high school, you may want to start thinking about including things that your son or daughter can do over these holidays that support their college and career search. I wanted to take a moment here to let you know that in the coming weeks and months, I will be sending out information concerning college visits (virtual and in-person) and information sessions from schools around the world summer programs in leadership, academic and professional areas, skills development, pursuing a passion, working or volunteering, shadowing and internship advice and opportunities. There are also many other activities and options that help students prepare for the future and which can be done over the holidays or, in some cases, during the school year.

All of this will be shared in an effort to help your child understand what they want out of their future, develop important skills and understandings, round out or provide depth to their list of experiences and activities, and improve their CV in ways that will make them more interesting and better prepared [read: admissible] people. Some of the information I send out will be notices I receive from universities or third-party organizations that I forward directly to you, and some will be short pieces of writing that I produce that provide guidance and encourage consideration and action on your part. I will try not to fill your in-boxes, so I will be combining much of this information in digest form, sent out once a week. No matter what else, I want to make sure that your child's interests and your family's situation, are considered and you are receiving useful and timeous information.

Thinking about your child's college experience (whether it's a couple of months away or a few years) can be both exhilarating and daunting.

Starting early, planning ahead, and building experiences and understanding bit-by-bit can help make sure it's more of the former than the latter.

Please be on the lookout for these emails, which will be sent through ManageBac. I look forward to providing you and your child with continued support in the college and career search process.

Charles Bowles College Counsellor



International Maths Olympiad Challenge

Congratulations to Leonardo Moni who was awarded the title of International Mathematics Olympiad Elitist! This award is given to students who achieved above a certain average. This is an amazing achievement, and we are extremely proud of Leonardo. Well done, Leonardo! Unfortunately, some students who registered for this Olympiad kept getting an error message and so could not complete this. This was a glitch in the system and hopefully will not happen again next year.

South African Maths Olympiad

We will be entering the SA Maths Olympiad again this year. This Olympiad has 3 rounds but our students will only enter the first two rounds as the third round occurs during the long holidays. The registration fee is MK5000. If you would like to enter, please give the money and your name to your Maths teacher before the end of January.



Any student can enter the first round of the competition, but only students who achieve a certain percentage for round 1 will be invited to enter round 2. Even though we are not able to enter all three rounds our students will be able to assess their ability after the first round.

Y12 Extended Essay

Students are working hard to develop their research questions and identify secondary sources to inform their arguments. If there is anyone in the BMIS community who works in or has an interest in the areas of study listed please get in touch with Ms. Richards. She will connect you to the relevant students.

Essay topics: Malawi Law and Justice, Sports Science, Public Health, Sanitation and Disease, Childhood Malnutrition, Plastic Pollution, Sustainable Agriculture, Joint Venture and Merging in Business, and Literature analysis.

Thank you, s.richards@bmis.mw

UP and Coming Events

Friday 27th-Saturday 28th January-Basketball competition at St Andrews, Blantyre

Monday 6th February-Secondary reports are issued on ManageBac at 4pm

Thursday 9th February-7.30 am-8.30 am Parent Workshop, "Compassionate Discipline' in the Library

Monday 13th -Thursday 16th February-Prep-Evaluation Visit to BMIS by CIS/NEASC

Friday. 17th February -6.00 pm Dick Whittington Production by Yr 7 students in the Upper Hall

Monday 20th -Saturday 25th February-Model United Nations trip to Nairobi

Thursday 23rd February-Secondary Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences for 8.00 am

Monday 27th-Thursday 2nd March DP Mock Examinations