

17 SEPTEMBER 2021

IN THE LOOP

Updates for the Secondary parents of BMIS



OVERVIEW

This week in our BMIS community

Five weeks of teaching and learning, and we're now starting to see the children (and staff) settle into their routines.

There has been so much exciting teaching and learning taking place and we are now reaching the stage of the learning cycle where you'll start to see assessments coming to the fore.

Have you ever thought about the purpose of assessment tasks?

They are such an important tool for students, parents, and teachers because:

- they provide information about the students' learning, which not only empowers students and teachers, but also serves to improve teaching and learning.
- they engage students in their learning, ensuring that the end goal is in sight, while also providing real-world authentic opportunities to prepare our students beyond the classroom
- they inform you, as parents, of your child's learning, strengths, and areas for improvement

As your child's assessment tasks are submitted over the coming weeks, please do take the time to chat to your kids about their assessment tasks and learning opportunities!

So, as I moved around the school this week, I was privileged to witness this exciting phase of the learning cycle where students are putting their learning into action, and I can't wait to share this with you and so much more, in this week's bulletin.

So settle in, grab a "cuppa", and stay "In the Loop!"

Kathryn Leaper
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**DON'T LET YOUR
LEARNING LEAD
TO KNOWLEDGE,
LET YOUR
LEARNING LEAD
TO ACTION.**

JIM ROHN

Secondary Parent Open Evening

On Wednesday evening this week, we were able to host our first on campus Secondary Parent Open evening since 2019, and what a splendid occasion it was!

We had so many parents come up to school to meet our teachers and chat everything from curriculum, to teaching and learning strategies, to finer details about their children and how we are supporting them this year. I know that I keep using this word, but there really was a buzz, and everyone commented how lovely it was to be able to be in each other's company again!

Our next coordinated opportunity for parents, teachers to connect will be our settling-in conferences, which will be held on 14 October. These conferences will be virtual, because we would also like our students to be in attendance, so please keep an eye out for more information about these in the coming weeks.



What's been happening this week in Drama...?

Our Year 8 students are working on Mime and will be preparing to recreate a famous movie moment in silence.

And our Year 10 students are starting to learn the skills and techniques of moving and speaking in unison, preparing themselves to take on performing as an ancient Greek chorus, using the text "Antigone" by Sophocles.

Check out a few pics from their lessons below!



Please meet our Year 7 parent rep!

We are so excited to introduce to you our Year 7 Parent Rep, Eveline Geubbels!

Eveline has kindly offered to help coordinate and get the ball rolling on social events for our Year 7 students and families, and also help shine a light on the BMIS school **community** spirit when families arrive or depart.

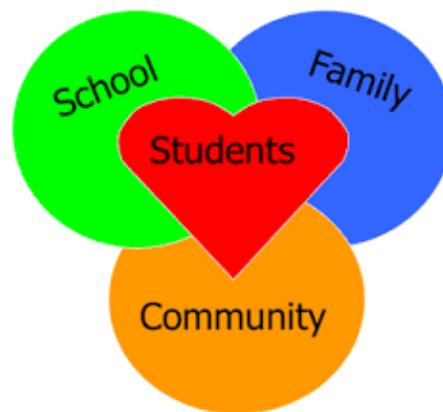
Eveline shares:

"Eveline Geubbels, mum of Ansi in year 7 and Caro in year 3, married to Jeroen. I am an infectious diseases epidemiologist (since Covid everyone knows what we do...) and have lived and worked in the Netherlands, Malawi (Mulanje/Blantyre), Rwanda and Tanzania before, as well as in various countries bordering the Indian Ocean during a 2 year sailing trip with our family. We're new to BMIS and to Lilongwe. Through being the Year 7 rep I hope to help make this a fun & social year for both kids and parents. I look forward to getting to know you all!"

So what are the next steps? Next week I will be sharing with all Year 7 parents a survey to help Eveline connect with Year 7 families, so please keep an eye out for this!

Thanks so much for helping to strengthen and bring our **community** together Eveline!

We are still looking for reps in Years 8-13, so please feel free to reach out if you are interested: k.leaper@bmis.mw



Student Spotlight: Hisham Kanaan

Did you know that one of our students has a podcast streamed on Spotify?

This week we'd like to shine the spotlight on Year 11 student, Hisham Kanaan! Hisham is engaging in some inspirational work, which you can find out a little more about below. He shares:

"Last year, in the midst of the biggest COVID-19 wave for most of the world, my friend and former BMIS student Oscar contacted me to ask if I wanted to start a podcast. Before he left (when I was a year 7 student) we had started an environmental conservation and community clean-up initiative called The Generation but never had the chance to launch it due to him leaving for school in Oxford, UK. We took this podcast as an opportunity to continue spreading our passion for protecting the environment. We then contacted our friend Sandhya (a former BMIS student who now lives in New Delhi) and asked her to consider helping out. She accepted the offer and through a lot of Zoom calls and planning, we launched a podcast called Fighting Failure in March of 2021. It is now available on all podcast streaming apps and Spotify."

What is Fighting Failure? In Fighting Failure, we discuss solutions to the climate crisis. In each exciting episode we take a problem or possible solution to a problem (for example Space Travel, Global Supply Chains or Veganism) and we chat about the problems that it causes and/or the problems it solves. Served with a side of statistics and seasoned with a generous pinch of fun, laughter, and friendship. Find out how to be a better citizen of the world NOW! Listen to Fighting Failure. This is our site so that you can link it: <https://www.fightingfailure.earth/home>"

Thank you so much for sharing your passion with us Hisham!

BMIS **community**, I strongly urge you to check out this incredible podcast!



College Corner with Charlie Bowles

While virtual college fairs and college visits continue apace, Y13 students are beginning to piece their applications together, creating activity resumes, requesting letters of reference, and writing their essays/statements of purpose.

For Y11 and Y12 students, the next important step is the Pre-Scholastic Aptitude test (PSAT), a standardized test that measures students' knowledge and skills in reading, writing, and math. The exam will be administered to all Y11 and Y12 students on Tuesday, October 26.

The benefits of taking the PSAT include:

- It serves as a "dress rehearsal" for future high-stakes exams required for university entry such as the SAT, LNAT, and BMAT.
- It is a useful predictor of SAT results (which are accepted by over 4,000 universities in 85 countries).
- Results can guide SAT test prep.
- Results can help guide worldwide university search.
- It can get students noticed/recognized by colleges that fit them as well as scholarship boards

It is worth mentioning that while the PSAT is great practice for future high-stakes tests, it is not high stakes itself. Results do not go on a student's record and the results are not a part of any college application.

If you have questions about the PSAT or anything else relating to the career and college search process, I invite you to contact me at c.bowles@bmis.edu.



Extended Curriculum Program update

We are excited to share an update on the timeline of our Extended Curriculum Program:

- We have internally advertised for the position of Extended Curriculum Program Coordinator. An appointment will be made by early next week.
- Our Coordinator will then be surveying students and teachers to understand the types of sport/non-sport offerings students would like to see, and that teachers are able to offer
- An Extended Curriculum Program schedule will be developed, and then a sign up will be shared before the October mid-term break
- The intention is that the Extended Curriculum Program will begin Monday 25 October
- NB: The reintroduction of swimming will run on a separate timelines TBD.



What else has been happening this week...?

Did you know that our teachers are meeting and collaborating on a regular basis throughout the week?

Moving around the school, the strength of our teaching **community** is evident in the professional meetings that are taking place during and after the school day.

Let me shine a light on just a few of these collaborative meetings....departments are coming together to focus on teaching and learning and their departmental goals... we have year level meetings where, for instance, all teachers who teach Year 7 come together to discuss strategies to support and challenge our students further...our Student Support Coordinators collaborate with a number of our staff to ensure that our students are best supported, and take time each week to meet with students in the year level on a one-to-one basis....and all of our teachers come together from 2.00-4.00pm each Wednesday for various opportunities to collaborate and develop our professional learning **community**.

We are a busy **community**, always looking for opportunities to collaborate and grow together, and always with the students' best interests driving what we do!



Drop-off and pick-up

Thank you again for all of your support at drop-off and pick-up time, ensuring that you're as closely adhering to the timings and being as safe as possible.

To help support the Friday afternoon pick up, we have reviewed and updated the timings as shared to the right.

YEAR LEVEL	DROP-OFF	PICK-UP	PICK-UP
	Monday - Friday	Monday - Thursday	Friday
7	06:50 - 07:15	1.50pm - 1.55pm	12.10 - 12.20pm
8		1.55pm - 2.00pm	
9		2.00pm - 2.05pm	
10		2.05pm - 2.10pm	12.20 - 12.30pm
11		2.10pm - 2.15pm	
12			
13			

Community!

On Thursday during Tutor class, all of our students had an opportunity to discuss what **community** means to them.

They completed the same activity that our parents participated in during our coffee morning at Kaza, which involved brainstorming **community**, and then thinking about what **community** must have, be, and show.

I had the pleasure of moving around the year levels to listen to some of their conversations about **community**, and spent a little bit more time with our Year 12 students, who were really honest and raw in their evaluation. There are things we are all doing really well, but there are hard conversations that need to be had about what we can do better - so thank you for starting these!



Live theatre

We love seeing members of our teaching **community** share their talents and passions with our Lilongwe **community**! Check out the poster below, for the performance of "ART" by four of our BMIS teachers: Directed by Rich Braithwaite, and starring James Brown, Grace Barron (Woods), and Alice Leaper. Be sure to come along if you're able to!

Put it in your calendar:

Monday 20th September

A reminder that there is no school today; enjoy the long weekend.

Friday 24th September

"International Day of Peace" @BMIS

We will be observing the UN's International Day of Peace (held 21st September) on Friday 24th September with a themed dress up day. Students are able to come in white or other peace inspired clothing. To learn more about International Day of Peace, follow this link [HERE](#).

Wednesday 29th September * please note date change

"University Planning" @BMIS Canteen @6.00-7.00pm

Year 12 parents are invited to join our College Counsellor, Charlie Bowles

Thursday 14th October

"Virtual Settling-In Conferences" @Virtual @7.30am - 2.30pm

Parents will be invited to sign up for virtual settling-in conferences with their child's teachers. Links for this event will be sent out closer to the time. Please note that there is no school for students on this day, and that students are encouraged to attend the virtual conferences with you.

Friday 15th October

"Mother's Day" - no school

Monday 18th - Friday 22nd October

"Mid-Term Break" - no school