

29 OCTOBER 2021

IN THE LOOP

Updates for the Secondary parents of BMIS



OVERVIEW

This week in our BMIS community

Here we are, the first week back after the mid-term break and what an incredible "welcome back!" it's been, with such a focus on our **community!**

Monday 25th October 2021 will be a date to remember, because it was the first time since March of 2020 - a whole 19 months - that the children could move freely around the campus, crossing bubbles, seeing their friends, and enjoying our beautiful space. I saw students walking through the campus with pure abandonment and joy, so thrilled to have the freedom to meet and greet each other. For some it took a bit longer - they weren't quite sure where they could walk, and what they could do. They needed the reassurance that there were no outdoor bubbles, that they could walk across the field to their classroom, or walk through other year groups to get to their friends. It was, quite honestly, an incredible moment, and one I will not forget.

And as I write my bulletin today, I've really taken stock of how we are all working together, growing together, and learning together. Is each day perfect? By no means. Do we as humans and individuals always get it right? Absolutely not. But what is key is how we deal with these imperfections, how we commit to our personal growth, and how we tackle challenges. So with this in mind, this week's quote is from Brene Brown. It's about vulnerability, and the power of vulnerability - to be confronted with fear and uncertainty, but to equally see that it's an opportunity for and the birthplace of joy, belonging and authenticity. Vulnerability is the courage to show up for each other. I've witnessed vulnerability in our students and teachers this week, and I am so proud of this.

There are so many exciting updates to report, so without further ado, please grab a "cuppa", settle down, and stay "In the Loop!"

Kathryn Leaper
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"In our culture, we associate vulnerability with emotions we want to avoid such as fear, shame, and uncertainty. Yet we too often lose sight of the fact that vulnerability is also the birthplace of joy, belonging, creativity, authenticity, and love."

BRENÉ BROWN

Intros from our STUCO Core

Presenting to you our STUCO Core of Year 12 students, who are leading our Student Council this year; check out their intros and vision below!

Hey everyone! My name is Mercy and for this academic year I'm the STUCO President. This year I aim to promote uniqueness and a sense of pride throughout the school, revive the school's spirit and help create a healthy relationship between the students and the school. I hope you're as excited as I am :)

Hi! My name is Langa and I'm vice President. My goal for this school year is to reflect the student body in all of our actions. This means the students will be part of every decision STUCO makes. There is no I in team, but there is a U in STUCO!

Hey everyone! My name is Ammarah and I'm the Social Impact Director for STUCO. My goal for this year is to improve the well being for all secondary students making them feel at home around campus. I intend on doing this by organising events such as "Secondary Meditation" sessions and "Tea & Talk" sessions throughout the academic year so students can be more free and open with us.

*Hi my name is Mauro and I'm the new activities director! My goal for this year is to work alongside STUCO in bringing in as many fun activities as we can. Reviving the school spirit and sense of **community** will be my number one focus besides making you all have fun!*

Hello Everyone! My name is Emma and I'm your service director. Unfortunately, I'm only in this position for the next 8 weeks before leaving BMIS, however I applied for this position so that I would be able to encourage and improve everyone's experiences of service. I discovered my love for service in my early years in Secondary. Unfortunately, due to covid restrictions the younger years are yet to receive the full experience of service at BMIS, but I'm going to help you guys to start exploring service, and for the older years, I'm going to help in improving your experiences. If you guys have any questions, I'd be more than happy to talk with you guys about our journey more.



Better when we're together...

I can't help but hear Jack Johnson strumming his guitar and singing, "I'll tell you one thing, it's always better when we're together..."

It was SO lovely seeing the Year 12 and 13 students hanging out together on campus; completely warmed my heart!



More STUCO updates!



We held our class rep elections yesterday, and can now reveal our Student Council of 2021-2022. Please congratulate:

- 7BMA: Seren Slimming-Vittetoe
- 7MZA: Mahlet Worku
- 7DWO: Chloe Alfonso
- 8GWO: Nidaah Daud
- 8FMP: Nyemba Sikaulu
- 9RBR: Leo Guignard
- 9SRI: Isioma Ideh
- 10TGI: Tamanda Mbang'ombe
- 10CMA: Mark Wambura & Adnaan Aboobaker
- 11NBL: Daniella Lamont
- 11MPE: Meer Thakrar
- 12JBR: Aya Sebti

Together with our STUCO Core, they form this year's STUCO!

When reflecting on vulnerability, think about how challenging it can be to put your hat in the ring - to put yourself forward as a candidate, to speak about what is important to you, and to show up for your classmates in one of the greatest ways - representing their voices! Thanks for taking the lead STUCO team by modelling risk taking (and vulnerability) for our **community**!

Literary Magazine

I am so excited to introduce the team on our "Literary Magazine": Tako, Sarah, and Langa. They have a message that they would like to share with you:

Do you need an outlet away from school to let your creativity shine? Well, if you do Literary Magazine is perfect for you!

Hello, we are Literary Magazine, a club started by DP students that aims to become the creative hub of BMIS through gathering all the creativity oozing in our school and creating a place where it can all be viewed. We accept anything creative, such as:

- ***Short stories***
- ***Monologues, poems, soliloquies***
- ***Plays***
- ***Reviews***
- ***Tutorials***
- ***Recipes***
- ***Music, songs, lyrics***
- ***Photographs of paintings, drawings, knitting, crochet, embroidery***
- ***Photographs***
- ***Calligraphy***
- ***Non-English writing***

Anyone can submit to our magazine by contacting these emails :

Student: takondwa.mazengera@bmis.mw

Student: sarah.siljeur@bmis.mw

Student: langelihle.nkhoma@bmis.mw

Supervisor: p.pereiraderezende@bmis.mw



It can be incredibly vulnerable sharing our creativity with others, but equally it enriches our lives and others' in so many ways. So, what are you waiting for?! Get creating and sharing!

What's been happening this week...?

YEAR 12 THEATRE CONTINUES TO IMPRESS!

Speaking of creativity and vulnerability, our Year 12 students embodied this on Wednesday, laying themselves to bare in an intimate performance of their original monologues. I was speechless. Ms Woods called for feedback and I couldn't find the words. Their performances were deeply confronting, incredibly powerful, and I have continued to think about them throughout the week. We have an exceptionally talented group of young artists who aren't afraid to make us think and challenge our perspectives. Bravo Mauro, Mercy, and Langa!



ECP activities have arrived!

There has been a flurry of excitement in the afternoons, as our ECP kicked off this week with a bang! Nate Cole, our Secondary ECP Coordinator shares:

"Our Extended Curriculum Program was off to a great start this week! It was so amazing to see our spaces filled with students enjoying their various activities after school. Thank you to all of our families, students, and teachers for their support and enthusiasm! We are excited to continue building off of the success of the past week. Please see some representative comments from a few of our secondary students:

"It felt great to be at school after class hours were finished, almost like we were back to normal. I really enjoyed doing a non-academic activity (yoga) with the rest of my year, it was really fun." -Ada, Year 13

"It was great being able to play and have fun with my friends outside of school. In my opinion I feel it is a great way to meet new people within your year group and hopefully at some point other year groups as well." -Laila, Year 10

"Today I had basketball which was really fun but so hot! We focused on dribbling and in the end we did a little game of Blue bibs against Yellow bibs (we tied) which was really nice!" -Amina, Year 8

"My activity today, Rugby Skills, went well. I enjoyed learning and trying out the basics of the game and getting to play a small scrimmage at the end of practice." -Sohan, Year 7

"Overall I really enjoyed the ECP, I joined the Yoga club and I found it really relaxing and peaceful. I really loved the fact that Yoga was being held in the canteen, it was really refreshing and the fact that we only had Year 12's and Year 13's was more spacious and relaxing because there weren't so many people in one activity. Being a Year 12 student I also felt the need to do something active instead of just studying the whole afternoon for 7 days a week, so choosing Yoga was a really good choice for me." -Ammarah, Year 13

"I played volleyball today and I quite enjoyed it. It was a nice change of scenery from sitting at home and it was great to do some physical activity outside of class or PHE. I really enjoy these after school activities and I look forward to playing Netball tomorrow." -Teresa, Year 11

"I can confidently say that I loved my first yoga class! The class was super relaxing, the teacher was really supportive, and the environment felt safe and non-judgemental. I look forward to my next class!" -Razan, Year 13



Music Under the Stars!

WOW! WOW! WOW!

Wasn't it fantastic?! I felt the **community's** energy - the excitement of being together, the buzz of live music and performances, and the energy of everyone in attendance was overwhelmingly joyous!

It felt like I was at a mini festival. People had blankets and chairs set up across the grass; people were chattering, and singing, and dancing, and clapping, and all round having fun! And the performances were all outstanding!

If you weren't able to make it to "Music Under the Stars", please don't despair. There will be a whole array of events and performances in the weeks leading up to the end of Term 1, and next time our children's talent will be on show!

Keep an eye on your emails and the calendar; we can't wait to announce the next event!



Classroom displays

I'm continuing to love 8GWO's classroom displays! They certainly do rock! A huge shout out to Mr Wellington for doing this!



Highlight of the week...

Watching students (from different year levels) and teachers all play on the field together during lunch breaks. What a great way to build **community**!



What else has been happening this week...?

FANCY DRESS COSTUME DAY!

This morning we were greeted with pumping tunes from the speaker, and such a fun and festive vibe, as the kids (and teachers!) dressed up in their fancy dress costumes. What a fun way to end a truly fantastic week!



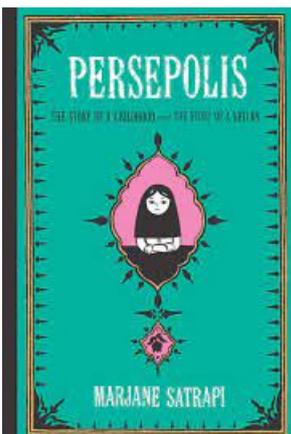
Inspiring English!

I popped into Mr Brown's Year 13 English Lang and Lit class this week, and really enjoyed listening to the students' analysis of the graphic novel "Persepolis" by Marjane Satrapi. The novel, "depicts her childhood up to her early adult years in Iran and Austria during and after the Islamic Revolution."

Students had prepared by analysing different panels of the novel, identifying and commenting on the significant visual and textual features used by the author. Their insights were perceptive, and I loved hearing them build on each other's analysis. How important it is that our students are able to courageously offer their perspectives to others, to help each other learn!



And in Mr Braithwaite's Year 9 English class, students were on a dinosaur hunt! What on earth does this have to do with English, I hear you ask? Well it's a metaphor for close reading. There were twenty something dinosaurs hidden and strategically placed in the courtyard beside the Art room. Students had to find all the dinosaurs, and then reflect on the process of searching for them. When reflecting, the students shared that if they rushed, they missed out on so many dinosaurs, and they realised that they needed to take the time and go slowly to check. Students also shared that they soon became familiar with and could predict where to look. Some enjoyed finding the dinosaurs that were harder to find, others really appreciate working with a partner or in a group, and all agreed that they had fun searching! And it was also noted that it helped to take a step back and observe the bigger picture, and then you could hone in on certain areas. This all relates to close reading of books! Students can apply the same approach to searching for dinosaurs, to how they closely read a book to understand, appreciate, and analyse it. What I also loved about this lesson is that Maths teacher, Mr Gilbert, came along to observe too! And he pointed out that the method of searching for dinosaurs also relates to our approach in Maths - slow down; take the time to check; predict! An awesome lesson all round!



Can you spot the dinosaurs??



Put it in your calendar:

Friday 29th October

"Year 7 Halloween Party" @ 12.15 - 2.15pm on the BMIS rugby field
An event organised and hosted by our Year 7 Parent Rep!

Saturday 30th October

"Think Pink Breast Cancer Awareness Walk" - details in the poster to the right

Monday 22nd November

"No School" - enjoy the long weekend together!

Thursday 25th November

"Year 10 Music Performance" @ 6.30 - 7.00pm in the BMIS canteen

Thursday 2nd December

"DP Theatre Night"; details to follow

Friday 17th December

"End of Term" 11.00am finish

More events and dates to add to your December calendar will be shared next week!