

05 NOVEMBER 2021

IN THE LOOP

Updates for the Secondary parents of BMIS



OVERVIEW

This week in our BMIS community

Who-eee...how hot has it been this week?! With the rise in temperatures it's always that little bit harder to to maintain the same energy throughout the day, but we know that as soon as the rains hit, we will have some reprieve.

In our 12th week of teaching and learning (it's a long 17 week term), I've really enjoyed popping into classrooms, being out amongst the kids during meetings and events, and seeing the normalcy return to our BMIS campus.

ECPs continue to excite and the sounds and life on campus after 2.00pm are so welcome and invigorating. Things fall quiet again at 3.00pm, which I must admit feels a little empty and hollow, so I'm looking forward to the possibility of extending our ECP programme in January with some more offerings later in the afternoon. We'll be in talks with some external ECP providers too (in the past we've had things like karate, capoeira, afro pop dancing), so hopefully there will be opportunities to bring these back in the not too distant future too. But until then, we're excited that there will be some sporting matches, our first next week will be on Monday from 3-4pm for our Year 10 vs Year 11 netballers and then our Year 8 vs Year 9 netballers at the same time the following day. I can't wait!

In the lead up to the end of the term, the kids are busy demonstrating and celebrating their learning. There a lots of summatives coming up, so please take the time to sit down with your children, check out ManageBac, and ask them what they are learning - you'll be incredibly impressed!

I'm excited to share this week's updates with you, so please grab a "cuppa", settle down, and stay "In the Loop!"


k.leaper@bmis.mw

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**IF YOU SAW A HEAT
WAVE, WOULD YOU
WAVE BACK?**

STEVEN WRIGHT
PICTUREQUOTES.COM

STUCO! STUCO! STUCO!

Our STUCO core (Mercy, Langa, Mauro, Ammarah, and Emma) held their very first STUCO event this Wednesday during lunch break. The tunes were pumping, the ice cream was over flowing, and the sponges were hurtling through the air towards the faces of some very brave teachers! It was so great to see the buzz of students getting together to enjoy some fun activities during their break.

We can't wait to see what else STUCO has in store for us this year!



STUCO also had their very first meeting yesterday, where they had an opportunity to meet their teacher advisors (a huge thank you to Blessings Maguire, Mariella Vittetoe-Castillo, Sam Richards, and Angelica Jones) and each other, and begin discussing issues that matter to them.

Ammarah Aboobaker, our Social Impact Director, started the conversations around what types of issues are concerning students right now, and the team fed back that team building (in the wake of distance learning/covid) and building connections is so important. The class reps will be going back to their Tutor groups to gather ideas, so that STUCO can create social impact goals that matter to our kids!



What's been happening this week?

OUR FIRST HOUSE MEETING! Lions, Leopards, Elephants, and Rhino UNITE!

We had our very first house meetings this week, which was a truly special sight! Although it was steaming hot on Thursday afternoon, the houses did muster the energy to work on their house chants in preparation for the upcoming House Football Comp, which is being held in three weeks' time. They were also introduced to the house cape competition, where they have the opportunity to design an image for their house capes.

We're also looking forward to more house events before the end of Term 1, which we're excited to announce in the coming weeks!



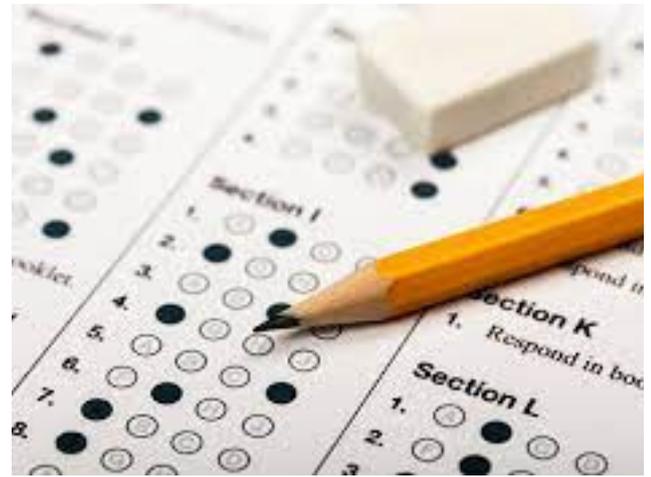
College Corner with Charlie Bowles

The wheels of the college application season continue to turn. Some Y13 students have already submitted some or all of their applications to university. The rest are putting finishing touches on their personal statements and essays while teachers prepare letters of reference. In five weeks, the Y13 students' work for this will be almost entirely behind them.

My attention is already beginning to shift to younger students. Semi-regular career and college advising sessions with Y12 started in earnest last Thursday and I will be checking in with Y11 once more before the end of term as well as their program begins to become a larger part of their experience.

Part of the recent work with Y11 and Y12 students was to administer the PSAT last week. We would like to get some feedback from students and parents about the PSAT to help us in our future planning and administration of the test.

If you would like to share your thoughts on the PSAT, [please fill out this short, anonymous survey](#) in consultation with your child. (While it is anonymous, the survey needs to be filled out using an email with a bmis.mw extension to ensure that there is one survey response per student.)



French lessons

I am not bilingual (something I need to work on!) so I always love popping into our languages classrooms to see how the students' language learning is coming along. They are always able to teach me something new! Today I was able to spend some time with a Year 8 French class, while they were outdoors learning about opposites by playing a card game. Check out the pics to the right - so much fun!



What else has been happening this week...?

In this heat I have no doubt that the kids are loving their weekly curriculum swimming lessons during PHE. And honestly, this is one of my favourite units - synchronised swimming!

Mr Barron-Black shares:

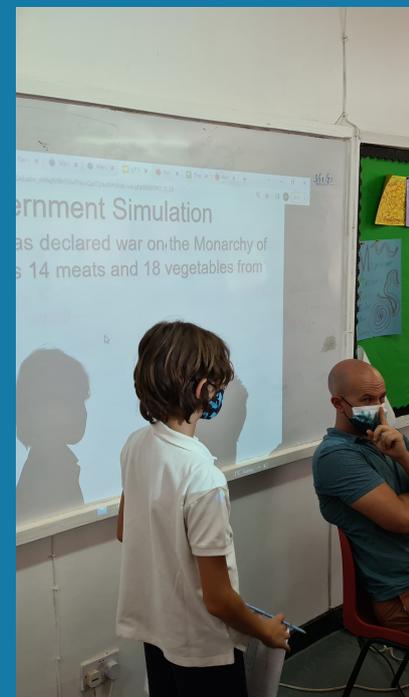
"The Year 10 students have recently started their Synchronised Swimming unit whereby they have to create a 90 second performance in small groups. Today was the first lesson in the pool where we learnt some different skills including handstands and forward/backward somersaults. Students had to look at how they could move into and out of skills smoothly and how different positions such as pike and straddle can make the skill look more aesthetically pleasing. One of our main focus's in this unit is allowing students to work with other people in the year group so that they can improve their collaboration and communication skills. We look forward to seeing the end product!"



Ancient civilisations

I loved popping into Will Lester's Year 7 Individuals and Societies class this week, where the kids are inquiring into ancient civilisations and why they fall.

The kids were engaging in a government simulation, which helped them to explore the inquiry question, "What is the role of government and how can it lead to failure of a civilisation?" When I entered the classroom the kids were under the rule of King Willy, and were busily trading and gathering enough meat and veg to meet the demands of the government, and ensure that their household could remain "alive". Inquiry learning at its best!



BMIS TALENT SHOW

Check out the poster below which gives more information about the upcoming auditions for our Secondary talent show!

We would love to see your performative talent, so please get rehearsing and join Ms Woods on the field next Thursday to see if you make the cut!



Y7 SCIENCE

As I was walking past the Science labs this afternoon, I heard excited chatter so I called in to see what was happening. Our Year 7 students were engaging in a lab about acids and alkalis, using a range of antacids to see which were the most effective.



ART IN THE PARK

We're all about celebrating the wonderful achievements of our **community** so I have to share a plug for the upcoming "Art in the Park" (@ Four Seasons), which is happening from 12-14 November, because the event will feature our very own students, teachers, and parents! Please come along and support "Malawi's premier art fest" and enjoy this **community** event!



Put it in your calendar:

Friday 12th - Sunday 14th November
"Art in the Park" @ Four Seasons Centre - check out their social platforms for a schedule of performances and workshops

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

Friday 26th November
"Poetry Night" @BMIS: save the date and more details to come soon!

Thursday 2nd December
"DP Theatre Night": save the date and more details to come soon!

Wednesday 8th December
"Secondary Talent Show" @6.00 7.30pm in the BMIS canteen (or rugby field weather permitting)

Friday 17th December
"End of Term" 11.00am finish

