

12 NOVEMBER 2021

IN THE LOOP

Updates for the Secondary parents of BMIS



OVERVIEW

This week in our BMIS **community**

Are you a lifelong learner? What have you learned recently that has led to your own personal or professional growth? Do you talk about learning with your children? Do you reflect on the power of learning with them?

This week I've been reflecting on learning in our BMIS **community**. It was wonderful to have a conversation with a parent on campus this week about learning, where we were able to reflect together on how one aspect of learning, which is receiving feedback, which is fundamental to growth.

Our students receive feedback on a day-to-day basis, whether it's through conversations, written feedback on their work, ideas, observations, questions, corrections. Feedback is such an important part of life, and even though it sounds cheesy, it really is a gift.

I'm currently engaging in a course based on the research of Brene Brown, and a key takeaway from my recent learning is that "clear is kind; unclear is unkind." I've learned that when we don't have a culture of feedback and if we are not giving feedback in a clear and timely manner, then we really are doing a disservice to people. It made me think about the fact that we as teachers, as a school, need your ongoing feedback to learn, reflect, and improve. So I do encourage you to share your thoughts directly with us because when we don't, what the research has found, is that we talk about it to others, which doesn't help us learn and grow.

So in the spirit of learning and reflecting and growing, I'm excited to share this week's updates with you, so please grab a "cuppa", settle down, and stay "In the Loop!"

Kathryn Leaper
k.leaper@bmis.mw

- Student learning!
- More learning...
- Teachers are always learning too!
- Safeguarding at BMIS
- Inclusion in the English curriculum
- Netball competitions are back!
- STUCO door decorating competition
- Talent Show auditions
- Art in the Park
- Year 7 Halloween afternoon fun!
- Put it in your calendar

"Never stop
learning;
for when we stop
learning,
we stop growing."

-Loyal 'Jack' Lewman

Student learning!

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Our Year 7 students began learning about "Digital Citizenship" in their Tutor classes this week. Lead by our counsellor and supported by our Student Support Coordinator and Tutors, the students began exploring what digital citizenship is and explored the different facets of internet safety.

Digital citizenship education is so incredibly important, and we will continue to work with our students to enhance their understanding of its importance in their lives!



PHE

During a training drill that I had a chance to observe, Year 9 students were learning about the concept of awareness when playing rugby. With their hands ready to catch a ball in the "W" position they had to be aware of players approaching and crossing their paths, while maintaining ball control!



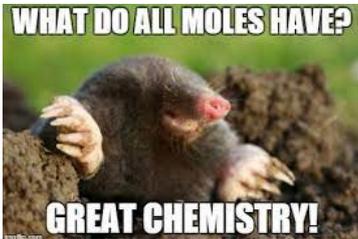
INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETIES

Year 8 students are working in groups inquiring into women's rights in Afghanistan and Syria. They were working collaboratively together to research and synthesise information to prepare a presentation for their class.



CHEMISTRY

Well I've learned something new this week. A mole isn't just a small cute little mammal - it's also a unit of measurement for measuring atoms and molecules. Our Year 10 students were learning all about moles this week, and I had a chance to see them in action!



SCIENCE

I walked past an awesome lesson where students were learning the difference between atoms, elements, and compounds.

In the pic above the students were asked to show the element of sulfuric acid (H_2SO_4). And below, H_2O

I also had some great feedback from students about Y10 Physics and the lab that they recently conducted to understand Blue Tooth waves.

More learning...

Our Year 12 students continued on their wellbeing learning journey this week, which Mr Black shares a little more information about below:

"One of our main focuses in Well-Being this term is 'connection'. This week the Y12's had a lesson where they took part in a 'speed dating' activity. Students spoke to each other for 3 minutes where they had to learn more about one another's likes and dislikes. They then moved on to speak to another student. At the end of the activity it became evident that they all had more in common than they thought! It also gave students the opportunity to reflect on whether they are more comfortable at listening or talking. It was a really interesting insight as to how they view their own interpersonal skills."



BOAT BUILDING FUN!

Our Year 9 students are having a lot of fun putting their creative thinking skills to the test as they work in teams to build boats that are able to cross the BMIS pool. This week they tested out their model boats that had to carry Ninjago across the Primary School pool. The next challenge is to build a two man boat that can make it across the pool!



Teachers are always learning too!

As lifelong learners, our teachers are committed to ongoing professional development, in order to improve teaching and learning in our BMIS **community**! Mrs Blessings Maguire shares below a little bit about a recent three day workshop that she attended:

"At the beginning of October I had the opportunity to participate in a virtual workshop on Learning Diversity and Inclusion led by Cathrine Jouffrey and the IB. The workshop gathered 14 Educational Support Teachers in one space where we were able to ask questions, share our experiences, share resources, and learn more about how to make teaching and learning at our schools more inclusive. During the workshop I was able to reflect on inclusion in our context, identify barriers to learning in the classroom, review our policies on inclusion, and find practical ways to successfully implement learning diversity in the classroom to ensure success for all students.

Some key takeaways from the workshop include:

- Learning Diversity and Inclusion aims to support all students and not just students who require Educational Support.
- Learning Diversity and Inclusion should be fostered by all stakeholders including the Board, Administration, Teachers, Students, and Parents.
- To carry out Learning Diversity and Inclusion at BMIS, we need to reflect on our continuum of support through all the programs (PYP, MYP & DP).
- Inclusion in the classroom can be implemented using UDL (Universal Design for Learning). UDL optimizes teaching and learning, and encourages teachers to move beyond differentiation by designing units of inquiry that consider all learners from the start. Planning should be flexible and allow for multiple means of engagement, multiple means of representation, and multiple means of expression and action.

As a learning community we are committed to reflecting on and continuing to strengthen inclusion at BMIS."



Safeguarding at BMIS

We had more professional development this week on Wednesday afternoon from 3-4.00pm, when our counsellors Elmeka Henderson and Mariella Vittetoe Castillo lead a safeguarding workshop with all teaching staff at BMIS.

The workshop provided an opportunity for our teachers, teaching assistants, and one-to-one support assistants to engage with BMIS' safeguarding policy and discuss and appreciate how it is put into action to keep our children safe. We're looking forward to more workshops throughout the year, and the opportunity for our parent community to engage too.

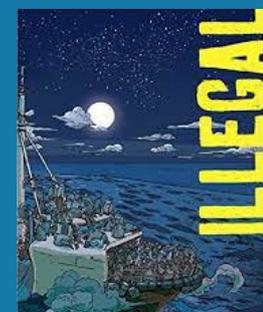
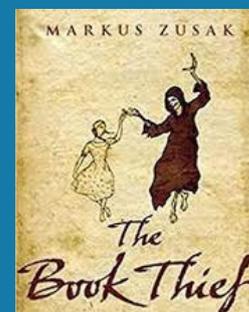
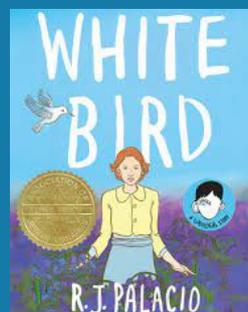
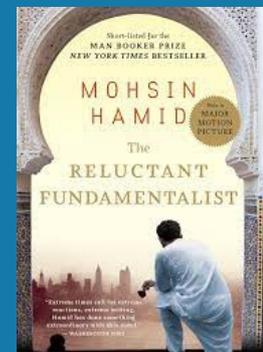
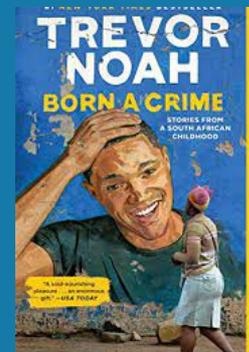
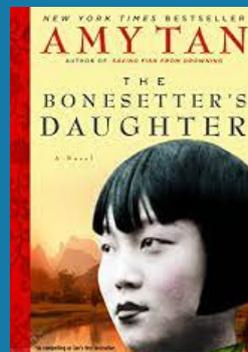


Inclusion in the English curriculum

The English Department are currently engaging in self-audit of texts that are used in our curriculum. Year 7 English teacher, Komal Thakkar, shares a little more about the process and rationale with us below:

*"Bishop Mackenzie is an incredibly diverse community. The English department is working to diversify the texts and content we are presenting in class to ensure they reflect the diversity of our community. In doing so, we are thinking about both the authors of the texts as well as the main characters and ideas presented in those materials. We are considering a variety of factors including (but not limited to) ethnicity, gender, physical and intellectual abilities, immigration status, age, nationality, and education status among other factors. Through this audit of our materials, we are aiming to increase the inclusion of voices of those traditionally underrepresented in our course materials. Ultimately, our goal as a team is to be more intentional in considering the diversity of experiences and identities reflected in our BMIS **community**."*

Check out some of the diverse texts to the right that are used in our curriculum and independent reading program!



Netball competitions are back!

We were so excited to host our very first competitions (since covid) this week! On Monday, Year 10 competed against Year 11, with Year 11 winning 11-7. And on Tuesday Year 8 competed against Year 9, with Year 8 winning the trophy 11-7! I couldn't make these competitions, which was super disappointing for me, but I'm really looking forward to the next round and seeing our students in action! Mr Dave Montreuil took some photos during the Year 10 and 11 match, which I've been able to share with you below! Thanks to the PHE team and coaches for getting competitive sport back up and running at BMIS!



STUCO door decorating competition

STUCO ran a door decorating competition this week, which involved tutor groups decorating the doors of their rooms in a way that reflected their personalities. There were some fun and creative ideas! I love seeing students take ownership of their space, and decorate in a way that represents themselves!



TALENT SHOW AUDITIONS

I'm super excited that our Talent Show auditions were held yesterday! I popped my head in to see the performers, but didn't watch the auditions because I'm saving myself for the show on Wednesday 8th December, which will be held in the BMIS canteen from 6.00 - 7.30pm. Don't forget to save the date!



ART IN THE PARK

Don't forget that members of our BMIS **community** will be performing this Saturday at "Art in the Park" (@ Four Seasons). Check out the programme below! I know that the performers would love you to come along and support!



EVENT PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 12 MAY 2021
7PM - OPENING SPEECHES

- * NICK HALL - WESM CHAIRPERSON
- * EU DELEGATION
- * ACTING P.S. MINISTRY OF TOURISM
- * MINISTER OF TOURISM

7:30PM PERFORMANCES

- * CARMEN HWARAI MUTENGO
- * SUNNY TEE & DJ UHRU

SATURDAY 13 MAY 2021
WORKSHOPS

ON GOING KIDS FUN-FILLED WILDLIFE EDUCATION - WESM

10AM - 12PM POTTERY - FOUR SEASONS
1:30PM - 3:30PM POTTERY - FOUR SEASONS

10AM QIGONG - IVAN BEL
11AM PAINTING - CHARLES LEVISON

ONGOING MOBILE MAKING - TIM MAHONEY

LIVE PERFORMANCES

10AM HISHAM KANAAN
11AM MVULA BAND & VIOLIN
5PM IYF SESSORY
7PM MVULA BAND & VIOLIN

OPENING TIMES

FRI 12 6PM - 9PM	SAT 13 10AM - 9PM	SUN 14 10AM - 5PM
----------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------------

ENTRY FEE: K4,000 CHILDREN - FREE

SUNDAY 14 MAY 2021
WORKSHOPS

10AM - 12PM POTTERY - FOUR SEASONS
1:30PM - 3:30PM POTTERY - FOUR SEASONS

10AM QIGONG - IVAN BEL
11AM PAINTING - CHARLES LEVISON

LIVE PERFORMANCES

11 AM CELIDH CONNECTION
12PM NEIL NAYAR

WORK SHOP FEES

QIGONG - FREE
PAINTING - K15000 (Adults) K12000 (Kids)
POTTERY & BONSAI - K5000
MOBILE MAKING - K5000
KIDS FUN-FILLED WILDLIFE EDUCATION - K2000



YEAR 7 HALLOWEEN AFTERNOON FUN!

A huge shout out goes to our Year 7 parent rep, Eveline Geubbels, and all of the Year 7 parents who offered their time to host a Halloween event for our Year 7 students. So much love, care, and energy went into the afternoon, which was hosted on the BMIS rugby field. I popped in to check out the fun that the kids were having, and marvelled at the awesome decorations that had been created.

We currently have parent reps in Year 7 and Year 9, so if at any stage parents are interested in helping bring together children and families from Year 8, 10, or 11, please reach out! It's such a fantastic way to help build our **community**!



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!

Saturday 4th December

"Year 11 Netball Competition" @Kamuzu Academy

Wednesday 8th December

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

Wednesday 15th December

"Year 7 Music Performance" @6.30 - 7.00pm in the BMIS canteen

Friday 17th December

"End of Term" 11.00am finish