

03 DECEMBER 2021

# IN THE LOOP

## Updates for the Secondary parents of BMIS



## OVERVIEW

### This week in our BMIS community

A rose in a coke bottle showed up in our staffroom this week.

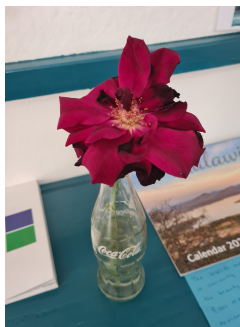
I'm not sure where it came from, and I don't know who put it there, but this rose has brought me moments of joy this week.

On the first day I noticed it, I stopped to smell its scent. And every time I walked past it from then on, it made me smile.

Today I wondered if the person who put the rose in the coke bottle thought that this gesture would have such an affect on me - on anyone - that it would bring a smile, and contemplation about the little things in life. It made me think that we don't always know the affect that our actions will have on others; the smile you offer, the small act of kindness, the thoughtful words or comment, could make someone's day or week that so much better.

So I encourage you and maybe even challenge you to make that small difference in someone's life over the weekend, or in the coming week. Think about the small gesture that you can offer to others, because it's what we need in this life - those people who put a rose in a coke bottle.

I'm excited to share this week's updates, and the little things that have made our week that so much better, so please grab a "cuppa", settle down, and stay "In the Loop!"



Kathryn Leaper  
k.leaper@bmis.mw

- Service updates
- Field trips!
- More field trips!
- DP Theatre Night
- BMIS vs ABC College in netball
- PHE swimming
- Personal Project and the PYP
- Festiv-all!
- ManageBac
- As the term draws to a close...
- Year 13 kindness
- Term 2 ECP
- Put it in your calendar

Too often we underestimate  
the power of a touch,  
a smile,  
a kind word, a listening ear,  
an honest compliment,  
or the smallest  
act of caring, all of  
which have the potential  
to turn a life around.  
~ Leo Buscaglia

# Service updates

Our students are whole hearted in their engagement in service, and do not underestimate its power to change the lives of others, as well as their own. Atu Mdeza, our CAS Coordinator, shares:

**We believe it is essential for this generation to be equipped with the right tools and a global mindset to be able to solve the world's most pressing issues. At BMIS we provide opportunities to not only expose and sensitise our students to global challenges, but also equip them to solve them.**

It's with great pleasure that we offer a service update this week, which was prepared by the students themselves. Take the time to see how they are serving others in our community, and learning and growing in the process.

## Health Awareness

Student Leaders: Swaleha Tayub, Claire Veen, Milkissa Eba

### **Raise money for Bwaila District Hospital (BDH) bikes to aid transport to and from the hospital.**

On Tuesday 30th November, we held a black and white themed dress up day to raise money and awareness for Movember. Movember is an international event whereby people grow mustaches to raise awareness for men's health issues, such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer and men suicide and we want to say thank you to all who supported us. We will be coming to each year group's area to sell freezers on Thursday 9th December at lunch time. The money we raise for the event will also go towards funding for the hospital bikes for Bwaila District Hospital.



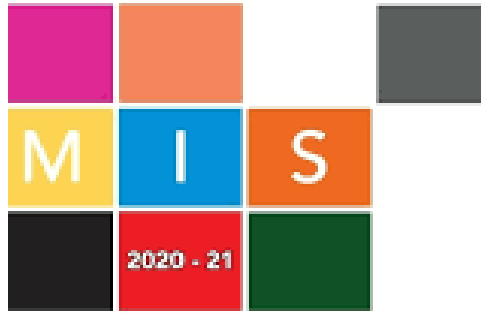
## Yearbook

Student leaders: Aya Sebti & Xiofan Liu

During the past few years, Yearbook's objective has been finding ways to connect the community through pictures that portray the spirit and mood of our school and its students. The aim was to include the perspectives of all students in all year groups.

Currently, we are in the process of collecting pictures of recent social and festive events that happen both in and out of school. We are working closely with Mrs. Leaper to develop new guidelines for the yearbook to best market our school: BMIS.

# Chikumbutso



## Literary Magazine

Student leader: Langelihle Nkhoma

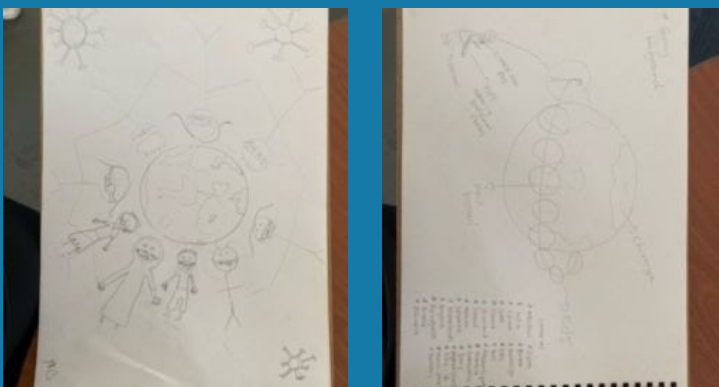
We have been cultivating different mediums of art that the student body has created in term 1. This includes creative pieces such as; embroidery, calligraphy, photographs, poems and recipes. Students from all year groups are encouraged to submit and can submit their work anonymously. We are still accepting submissions!.



## Community Painting

Student Leaders: Ammarah Aboobaker, Aleena Rafik, Atiyah Nathanie & Emma Almeida

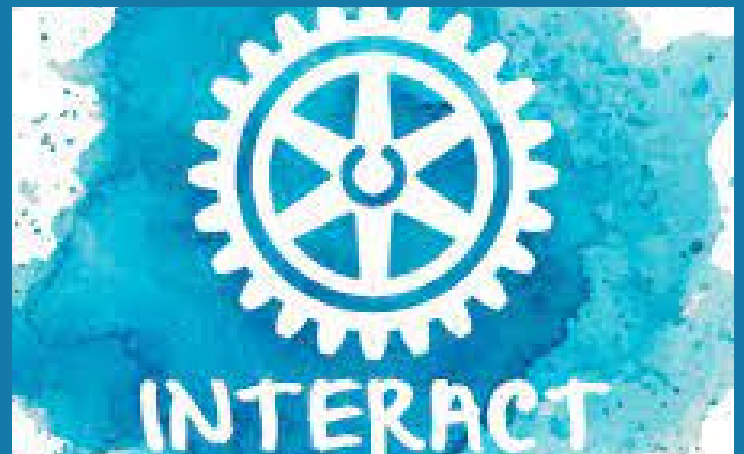
Community Paint's aim is to seize the opportunity that has been provided to us through the current pandemic. Our latest work contributes to the well-being and positive outlook on the pandemic. Encouraging the community to hold their smiles and shine through them. Very soon we will be moving onto putting our plan onto our canvas and preparing to paint our piece. We encourage the community to contact us if they ever have ideas of projects, movements and ways they can participate.



## Interact

Student Leaders: Kondwani Mlilima, Gloria Bashige, Yoann Kenguemba

Interact has been investigating a possible project that is based on First Aid, and it aims to teach people who lack access to knowledge surrounding survival skills. This project has mainly been directed by Gloria. The rest of our team has been focusing on potential ways to continue the previous project which Interact had taken on last year of creating resources/materials for Ngowe primary school.





## Field trips!

It's so exciting to see field trips returning to BMIS, which really helps students see the real world connection to what they are learning in the classroom. Individuals and Societies teacher, Angelica Jones, shares:

*The Year 11 Individuals and Societies class is currently exploring the unit on Food Sustainability and the different factors affecting food insecurity around the world. On December 1st, we had the wonderful opportunity to visit Neverending Food centre and Moyo Farm around Lilongwe. We learned more about Permaculture (permanent agriculture) practices and how these farming approaches are part of the solution to the food shortage issues in the world. Our hosts, Kristoff and Marcel, gave us a comprehensive tour of their farms, shared their knowledge of nutrition, natural resource management, waste reduction and potential economic development opportunities from adopting a sustainable farming approach. Students really enjoyed the experience and some had fun handling worm compost, testing the right algae level in the water and learning about compostable toilet waste! Definitely a fantastic example of learning outside the classroom.*



## More field trips!

Business Management teacher, Angelica Jones shares:

*Our Year 13 Business Management and Design Technology class visited Ener-g-Africa last week to have a real life experience on methods of production, sustainable production management decisions and design processes. During the tour of the factory students observed the manufacturing of high efficiency stove components, learned about inventory systems and the implication of operation management's decisions on various business functions such as Marketing, Human Resource Management and Finance. This visit was a unique opportunity for students to learn more about the business environment in Malawi and the benefits and limitations of managing a multinational organization in the country. On our return, the bus was beaming with interesting observations on economic policy, business strategy and the impact organizations have in local communities.*





# DP Theatre Night

BMIS students are providing our community with all the theatre and culture we could ever need! Yet again I was utterly blown away by the performances of our students, which stirred emotions and provoked thought. The standout performance for me was most definitely the Year 13's collaborative piece, which was a protest piece for our school, focusing on periods: education, hygiene, and access to period products in bathrooms. You've stirred action Year 13s, and we're looking forward to working with you and the student community to realise your "WOMAN-IFESTO"! All round an exceptional night; a huge congratulations to our Year 12 and 13 Theatre students, and to their phenomenal teacher, Grace Woods!





## BMIS VS ABC College in Netball

Our girls' netball team is ON FIRE! Mr Black shares:

*The U19 Netball team played their first competitive match in over 18 months against ABC College. Before the game the girls decided to have a team bonding session by sharing a picnic on the field before heading to the court. Although they were playing girls who were 3-4 years older than them, it was the BMIS team that showed maturity and composure whilst in possession of the ball. BMIS took an early lead and never looked back, outscoring their opponents 24-18 at the final whistle. We now travel to KA tomorrow for our first away match of the season!*

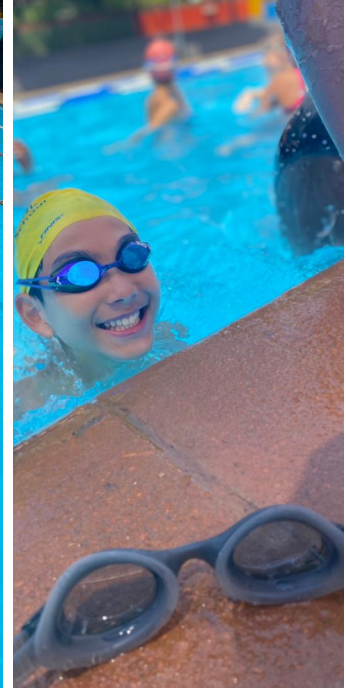
Have a fantastic time in KA girls; you're true winners no matter the outcome!



## PHE Swimming

Our students are learning lifesaving skills in PHE swimming right now. Mr Black shares:

*This term the Year 9 students have been looking at lifesaving techniques based in the water. They have learnt how to enter the water safely, how to tow casualties in different ways, how to rescue someone with a suspected spinal injury and how to put someone in the recovery position.*

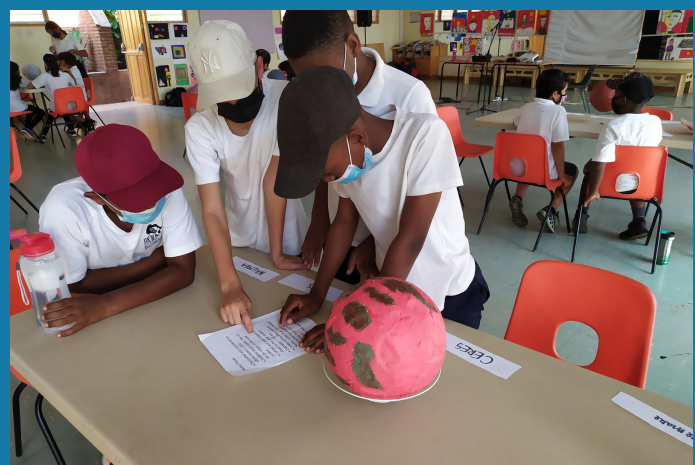
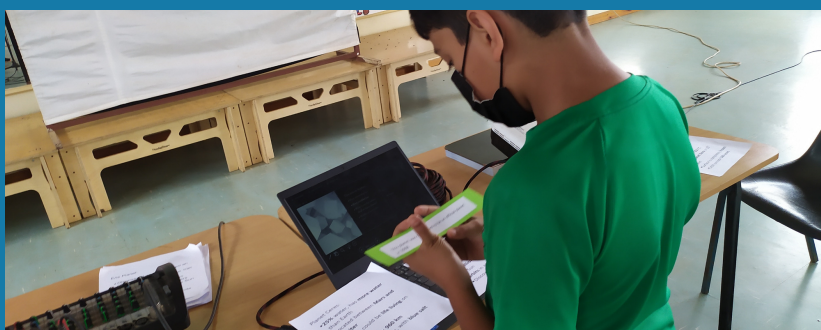


## Personal Project and the PYP

As BMIS takes steps to return to "normal", it was so wonderful to see our students from Secondary and Primary collaborating and working together again. Year 11 student, Pari Magecha, had the opportunity to share her Personal Project with Year 6 students last week. Her supervisor, Pascale Pereira De Rezende shares:

*Pari presented her personal project about planets to Year 6 students recently as they have a unit on astronomy. I hear it was very successful and is a good example of positive collaboration across the school!*

Congratulations Pari!





# Festiv-all!

STUCO are hosting their first week-long event from Monday 6th - Friday 10th - **FESTIV-ALL!** Students across the year levels have been collaborating to organise a number of events throughout the week, focusing on festivals and celebrations from around the world.

- **Monday:** There is a chitenje drawing competition. They will be given paper and markers and then asked to design the best chitenje pattern! Designs will be put up around the canteen.
- **Tuesday:** We are celebrating Chinese New Year, and there will be a dragon making competition. The artworks will be put up around the canteen for decoration.
- **Wednesday:** We are celebrating Holi, and there will be a chalk drawing activity on the canteen floor. Come join and spread your creativity to be displayed through the rest of the week!
- **Thursday:** We are celebrating Eid, so bring your picnic blankets and join us for a relaxing picnic around the Canteen area!
- **Friday:** Come display the colors of the Malawian flag on Friday's dress up day! Red! Black! And Green!

We're excited to build our **community** through these fun events and can't wait to share updates and pics with you next week! Thank you STUCO for all that you do!



## ManageBac

A reminder that all of our parents and guardians have access to ManageBac, where they can see their child's classes, messages, assessment grades, and report cards (among other things!). There is a ManageBac app that you are able to download (check out your app store), so you can have easy access to your child's learning and progress.

Some parents shared that the interface has recently changed, and that they weren't sure where to find their child's grades

Parents can see all grades for their children's tasks from their Dashboard. Scroll down to the Classes section and on the desired Subject, click on Tasks. This will show Upcoming tasks first, followed by all Completed tasks and, if graded, their grades. Please see attached screen recording as an example.

## As the term draws to a close...

The last day of school is Friday 17th, and we finish at 11.00am. Term 2 begins on Tuesday 18th January because Monday 17th is the John Chilembwe Day holiday.

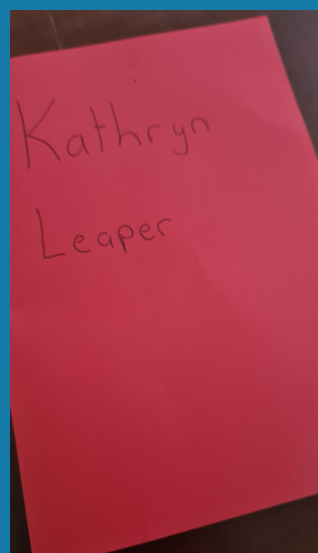
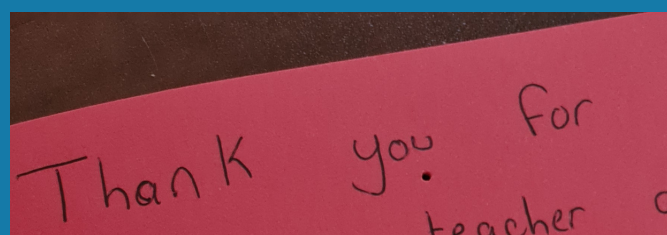
Please remember that unvaccinated students who have travelled via air across borders will need to quarantine for 10 days. The quarantine period can be shortened to 7 days if a test (PCR or antigen) is taken on days 3-5 and is negative.

If students are missing the last weeks/days of Term 1, please remember to notify me (k.leaper@bmis.mw) and the office (l.nzerati@bmis.mw) so that we have accurate records and can inform teachers. Please ensure that your child is keeping up with their summative assessment tasks so that there are no gaps on their Term 1 report card. We no longer provide distance (online) learning, so your child will need to reach out to their teachers if they have any questions. I

## Year 13 kindness

I was truly touched by the Year 13's thoughtful gesture to share a thank you card (and chocolate) with each of their teachers yesterday. This is another beautiful example of how the things that we do can uplift others.

Thank you so much Year 13 - you are an incredible group of people!





## Term 2 ECP: An update from our ECP Coordinator Nate Cole

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Planning is underway for our Term 2 Extended Curriculum Program (ECP), which will begin on January 24th. The schedule will be finalized over the next few weeks and will be shared with students and families on January 18th. Sign-ups will occur that day as well. We did also want to preview some changes that will be taking place for secondary ECP (see below). Our goal is to improve and maximize the number of activities that we can provide so that students have as much opportunity as possible to experience the benefits of our activities.

- We will be running two separate sessions on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays (2-3 pm and 3-4 pm) as we seek to double the opportunities for students to participate in ECP!
- We will be bringing in some outside providers to help us expand our options.
- We are hoping to add sessions for Wednesdays as well, including cricket, Chichewa, "Cultural Chameleon Club" for "Third Culture Kids" and University Transitions Workshops for Year 13 students. (Wednesday sessions will likely have limited spots.)
- Year 7-9 and Year 10-13 students will be grouped together, as per our new Covid protocols and to maximize options for students.
- Activities will include: football, netball, basketball, rugby, maths and Spanish help, School Production, music, band, yoga, wood-carving, tennis, golf, Eco Aware, biology and chemistry help, orienteering, ultimate frisbee, dance, chess, and hopefully more!

Finally, we can always use a few more **volunteer** instructors or coaches to help lead additional ECP activities. We would like to extend an **invitation** to any **parents** or **guardians** who have experience and/or expertise in a particular area and may have a particular interest or talent they would like to share. Want to coach a sport? Lead an art class? If you or someone you know would be interested in leading an ECP session, please email Nate at [n.cole@bmis.mw](mailto:n.cole@bmis.mw).

Thanks to all parents, guardians, and families for their support. Any feedback or questions are greatly welcomed and appreciated and can be sent to Nate at [n.cole@bmis.mw](mailto:n.cole@bmis.mw). And one final reminder: the last week of our current ECP session is next week, December 6th - 9th.



### Put it in your calendar:

#### Saturday 4th December

Year 11 Netball Competition @Kamuzu Academy

#### Monday 6th December

PTA Coffee Morning @7.30am at Land and Lakes Cafe

Digital Citizenship Parent Workshop @6.00 - 7.00pm in the BMIS canteen: all Secondary parents and guardians are invited.

#### 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

#### Tuesday 18th January

Beginning of Term 2

#### Tuesday 18th - Monday 24th January

Years 7-10 MAP Testing

#### Tuesday 18th - Monday 24th January

Year 11 DP Taster Week: students learn about and engage in activities that help them make informed DP subject choices