

10 DECEMBER 2021

IN THE LOOP

Updates for the Secondary parents of BMIS



OVERVIEW

This week in our BMIS **community**


We are approaching the end of our first term, which I was reminded this week, means that we are almost half way through the academic year - how incredible is that?!

This week I've been reflecting a lot on our **community**. My metaphorical "cup", so to speak, felt quite empty coming into the week, because it's been a term of giving - giving energy, and care, and compassion, and support. And what I found as the week went on is that the students and teachers helped to "fill my cup" and re-energise me. I have STUCO to thank for that because the opportunities that they gave me, and all of our students and teachers, to hang out and enjoy each other's company this week were really special. I loved sitting on the floor in the canteen chatting to a fellow teacher while creating a chalk design; I enjoyed chatting to students as we made a chitenje patterns, and I had such a lovely picnic with a group of Year 9 girls too!

We are seeing out 2021 with so many opportunities to come together and lift each other up. On Monday at our parent Digital Citizenship workshop, I loved hearing about families who play board games and do puzzles together - what a fun and joyful experience to share! And our BMIS Talent Show, organised by the very talented Grace Woods and Dave Montreuil, was another special celebration of our students and how incredible they are.

As we approach the December break I'm looking forward to the time that I will be able to share with my family and friends, playing games, chatting, enjoying each other's company, adventuring and exploring together, and I hope you are too. Remember that we can lift each other up through our actions, words, and just spending time together connecting.

As always, I'm excited to share this week's updates because they are always such a positive reflection of all the good things that happen each week, so please grab a "cuppa", settle down, and stay "In the Loop!"


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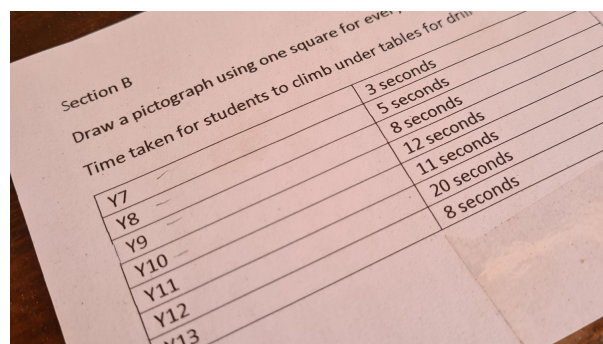
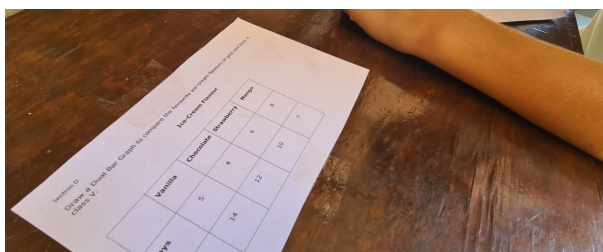
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- Safeguarding: Digital Citizenship Workshop
- Honor Roll
- Can you please complete this survey?
- Put it in your calendar

**"Look for a way
to lift someone
up. And if that's
all you do, that's
enough."**

- Elizabeth Lesser

Y7 Maths round robin

I had the opportunity to pop into 7BMA's Maths class this week to watch them participate in a "Maths Round Robin". A series of maths problems were posted around their outdoor learning area, and students had to move to each one and solve the problems with a new partner each time! It was powerful to hear the kids explain the mathematical concepts to me in their own words. A fun, collaborative, and engaging approach to learning. Thanks for having me 7BMA and Patricia Lees-Rolfe.



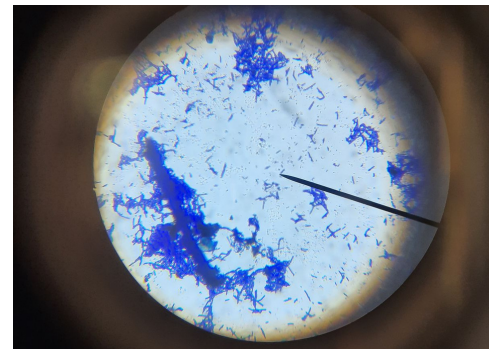
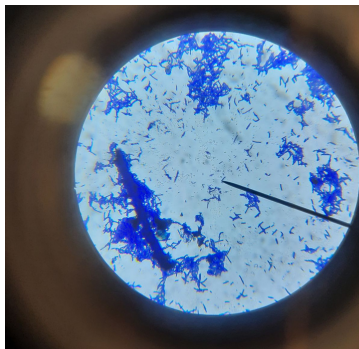
Biology of bacteria

Our Biology teacher, Sam Richards, shares:

A big thank you to Dr. Sarah Burr who worked with Year 12 Biology students on a short project looking at cultivating and analysing environmental microorganisms.

Students were introduced to new techniques and learnt how antibiotics work. Dr. Burr gave students an insight into research and the work of a microbiologist. Thank you for your time and enthusiasm.

And thank you Sam for inviting our community into BMIS to enrich our students' learning!



An invitation: Y12 Extended Essay Cafe

Our EE Coordinator, Sam Richards, shares:

Year 12 students will present their extended essay question to interested parties on Wednesday 26th January.

The essay is an opportunity for students to go beyond the curriculum and ask a question that challenges current thinking whilst developing the skills required for undergraduate study.

Students are seeking feedback on their research question and look forward to the opportunity to talk about their chosen topic and develop it further.

The event will take place in the cafeteria at 3pm and is open to anyone who would like to drop in and talk to individuals about their projects.

Areas of research so far include; water sustainability in Malawi, literature character study, computer aided design, architecture, fish conservation in Lake Malawi, business growth, spherical geometry, mechanics, democracy, magical realism, analytic study of an artist, sustainable agriculture.

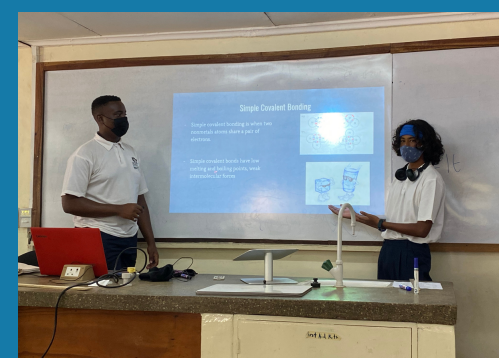
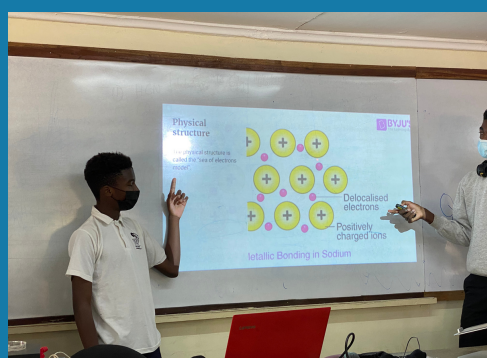
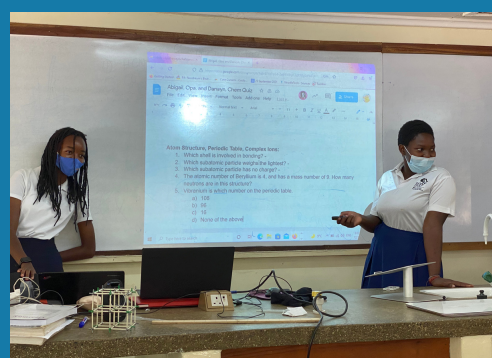
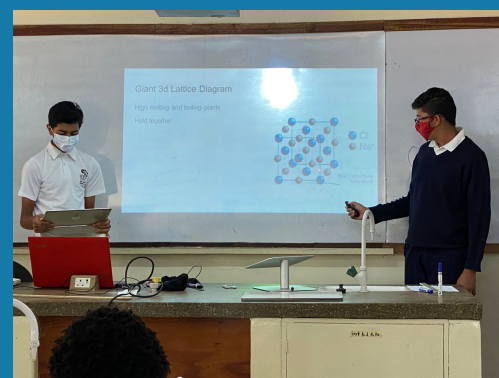
Chemistry

Our Chemistry teacher, Sabira Nathanie shared with me how impressed she was by her Year 10 Chemistry class this week. She shares:

In Chemistry the Year 10 students are reviewing their Bonding content by presenting the main ideas and teaching their classmates in the process. The enthusiasm and preparation each group put in was admirable. They most certainly achieved their goal of successful bonding by the end!

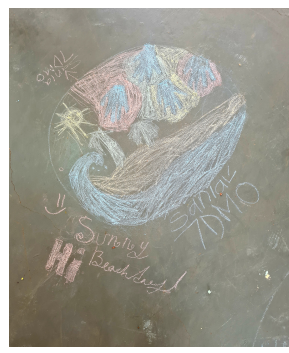
"If you want to master something, teach it. A great way to learn is to teach." Richard Feynman - theoretical physicist.

Congratulations Year 10!



STUCO's FESTIV-ALL

A HUGE shout out to STUCO core and reps for organising such a fun filled week, celebrating a range of cultural festivals. We know that your goal this year is to build community, and this week's events most certainly working to do this. It was so delightful to see students across the year levels enjoying the activities that you had planned each lunch time in the canteen. Monday started off with chitenje drawing (students had to create their own designs), Tuesday we built Chinese New Year dragons with recycled materials, Wednesday we were all sitting on the canteen floor enjoying our Holi chalk drawing, Thursday saw us enjoy a picnic together in celebration of Eid, and finally on Friday we paid homage to Malawi through our red, black, and green dress up day. This whole week was thought up by, planned, and delivered by STUCO. You are all a force, and I'm so impressed by the way you are using student voice to bring our **community** together!



Secondary Talent Show!

BMIS HAS TALENT! So much talent! What an awesome evening of performances, which we all enjoyed so much. Our students have a way of making us all feel so happy and energised through their gift of performance! I was blown away by the talent and courage of our students, because it isn't easy standing in front of your peers, friends, families, and teachers - it's a very vulnerable experience! Each performance was unique in its own way, and oh so enjoyable - I couldn't stop smiling. Our winners were: 1st - Anna Parisotto (with her acoustic guitar and vocal performance of "Dandelions" by Ruth B; 2nd - The Year 11 Boy Band: Castro Chioko, Seijiro Cho Domon, Meer Thakrar, Tazi Kaunda, Shingai Magaya, and Ali Moosa singing "Counting Stars" by One Republic; 3rd - Ezmeekie Leaper dancing.



An invitation: Y7 Music Evening

It's our last evening performance for 2021! Mr Dave Montreuil, our Music teacher, shares:

The Year 7 Music ECP has been so productive that we are ready for the first Year 7 Music Evening. There will be a range of ensembles performing which will include vocal, piano and drum solos, a student choir and a huge rock band. With songs from the White Stripes, Linkin Park, Bruno Mars, Mariah Carey and others... there is sure to be something for everyone!

When: Wednesday, December 15th, 6:30pm to 7:15pm. (please be punctual!)

Where: The BMIS Upper Hall

Covid: Masks and social distancing required

BMIS VS KA Netball

A HUGE shout out to Mr Neil Black and Ms Caitlin Macmillan for travelling up to KA with our students - and for reffing in the blistering sun for 5 hours! Neil Black shares:

The BMIS students travelled up to Kamuzu Academy (KA) for the first time in over 2 years to play some competitive netball matches. All of the teams played incredibly well and it was so nice to see the yellow and blue of BMIS back in action again after so long! The U14 girls and U19 boys teams battled well and showed real passion and commitment but unfortunately suffered narrow defeats. The U18 girls team managed to get an impressive win against the KA girls 'B' team and never looked worried as they cruised home to a mighty 17-2 victory. The bus rides up and back were just as fun as the matches with music and singing the whole way! Well done to everyone who played.



7MZA's classroom design

I had a chance to hang out with 7MZA this week and saw their awesome room design. They have gone for such a positive and inclusive approach to their classroom!



Safeguarding: Digital Citizenship parent workshop

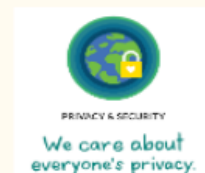
On Monday evening we welcomed parents to a safeguarding workshop, focusing on "Digital Citizenship". Mariella Vittetoe Castillo, our Secondary Counsellor, delivered an informative and thought provoking workshop, which helped learn a little more about the Digital Citizenship curriculum, and how we can reflect on our own and our children's/students' digital habits, to ensure that we are using digital media in a positive way.

Mariella Vittetoe Castillo shared the presentation with all parents, for those who couldn't make it, and you are encouraged to take a closer look at the concept of Digital Citizenship in the resources featured on the last slide.

Thank you Mariella, and we look forward to more workshops with you to learn how to support our children!



CORE TOPICS OF DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP



Digital Habits Check Up

Check your habits. What are your current digital habits? Brainstorm and list as many of your habits as you can. (Keep in mind: Habits can be positive, negative, or both.)

Next, draw (or insert) an emoji next to each habit to show how it makes you feel.

Examples:

- Checking Instagram first thing in the morning 🤔
- Calling my grandparents on Whatsapp 😊
- Checking my phone while I make in a line 🙄



Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

Each year our Secondary students have the opportunity for their academic achievements and success to be recognised and celebrated through Honor Roll. Our Student Parent Handbook shares that "Honor Roll is a recognition of sustained and consistent achievement across all subject groups."

Given that students often only have the opportunity to be assessed once in each criterion by the end of the first term, they aren't truly able to demonstrate a "sustained and consistent achievement". Only by the end of the academic year have our students had the opportunity to demonstrate their learning within and across all of the criteria on multiple occasions so, **moving forward, Honor Roll will be recognised and celebrated at the end of the academic year only.**

We are very much looking forward to this end of year celebration of our students' academic success but until then, our Term 1 report cards, which will be shared at the beginning of Term 2 and are goal focused, will help our students reflect on their academic successes this term and areas for improvement in order to help them meet their goals by the end of the year.

Can you please help by completing this survey?

Dear All,

My name is Pachisi Nyasulu and I am a teacher at Bishop Mackenzie International School and a student with the University of the People in California. I am pursuing a master degree in education advanced teaching both primary and secondary.

As part of my fulfillment in completing my master I had to choose a research project that is based in education and will help me develop a deep understanding of one education topic. I chose Distance Learning and its impact on student learning. In order to be able to write about it, I need to collect data from different parties.

This is where you come in. I was hoping that you could share some of your thoughts with me in regards to Distance Learning while answering this survey. It would be wonderful if you could answer this survey by Friday, December 17th.

Thank you so much in advance as you respond to this survey.

Kind regards,

Pachisi Nyasulu

PARENT

[LINK](#)

STUDENT

[LINK](#)

TEACHER

[LINK](#)

Put it in your calendar:

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

Wednesday 26th January

Extended Essay Cafe @3.00-4.00pm in the BMIS canteen

Please come along to hear more about our Year 12 students' EE proposals, and offer feedback and guidance in your area of expertise!

Monday 7th February

Term 1 report cards available on ManageBac

Monday 14th February

Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences (no school day)