

08 OCTOBER 2021

IN THE LOOP

Updates for the Secondary parents of BMIS



OVERVIEW

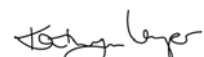
This week in our BMIS **community**

Every Tuesday to Friday morning I am down at the portal by 6.50am welcoming and saying good morning to all of our students. I can't be there on Monday mornings because we have a beginning of the week briefing with our teachers (which I love too!), but for those other four days of the week, this is something that I treasure and look forward to. I've realised that each of the mornings I see the kids, I draw energy from their warm and friendly "hellos" and smiles, and from their quick updates and chats. I've noticed that this has a very calming effect on me, almost like a morning meditation, and sets the tone and intention for the day. If there's a reason I can't be at the portal in the morning, I honestly notice the difference in myself.

This makes me think that we can uplift each other in ways that we couldn't possibly imagine, and it makes me reflect on the fact that we are inextricably linked, woven together in the fabric of our BMIS **community**. On Thursday at our assembly I shared a brief speech focusing on my commitments to the students while I am Head Teacher. I shared that I'm committed to nurturing our **community** and providing opportunities for us to connect (and have fun!), to ensuring their learning and wellbeing are at the heart of all we do, listening to their voices and helping them realise their hopes and shared vision for the school, and helping us all feel a sense of belonging and pride in BMIS. And I committed to the idea of having house capes - yep super hero capes that can be worn during House events. How much fun would that be?!

So I ask you the question, what are your commitments to our school, to our **community**? Have a think. Have a chat. Make some commitments. Because we can't do this alone - we are all in this together.

As always, I'm delighted to share this weeks updates with you, so please settle in, grab a "cuppa", and stay "In the Loop!"


Kathryn Leaper
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- STUCO elections and assembly
- What's been happening this week...?
- A new DP course offering!
- Year 9 parent representatives!
- House competitions
- Professional development
- What are you passionate about?
- What else has been happening this week...?
- Year 10 Drama
- A few reminders
- Put it in your calendar

Together
is a Wonderful
place to be

STUCO elections and assembly

We held our first assembly yesterday, which was organised and run by our current STUCO (student council) President and Vice President, Rose Pickard and Hana Cho! They extended a warm welcome to the new members of our **community**, both students and teachers, and spoke about what **community** means to them. They also arranged two musical performances for us to enjoy, including one from Lorenzo Parisotto and Hisham Kanaan, and another from Beau Nightingale, both of which were moving and impressive!

And our STUCO candidates each had an opportunity to take centre stage and make one final appeal as to why the student body should vote for them. It was so enjoyable to see the range of speaking styles and approaches, with a good dose of persuasion (rhetoric), anecdotes, and humour; I was so impressed by them all!

It is now, with pleasure, that I announce our STUCO core this year!

President: Mercy Jere

Vice President: Langelihle Nkhoma

Activities Director: Mauro Frontini

Social Director: Ammarah Aboobaker

A huge congratulations is to be extended to all candidates for being courageous and putting yourself forward for these roles. The final role, which will be determined in the coming weeks, is that of Service Director. This is a non-voting role, and Year 12 students will be invited to express their interest directly with me by answering the question: How would you promote and enhance service learning in the school?

And as we welcome our new STUCO core, I would like to extend a huge thank you to Rose and Hana for all that you have done in the role in the face of a pandemic. Since the beginning of the school year I have been able to work closely with you in your roles and can see your passion, dedication, and love for BMIS. It's a shame that because of the pandemic you didn't get to experience the role in all its glory, but you have done an excellent job under the challenging circumstances. So I extend a heartfelt thank you to you both!



What's been happening this week...?

YEAR 9 VISUAL ART

I loved having the opportunity to see our Year 9 students creating drawings for their unit "Urban Perspective". The kids are exploring "how to transform a plain piece of paper by using line, shape, space" - check out their creations below!



A new DP course offering!

At BMIS we are always open to opportunities to expand our DP course offerings. This year, for the first time ever, we have enough Year 11 students showing interest in taking DP Sports, Exercise, and Health Science (SEHS), so we are taking steps to prepare for the delivery of this course for our graduating class of 2024!

Neil Barron-Black, our Head of Secondary PHE, shares:

"The Secondary PHE department is so excited to announce that next year we will be offering Sport and Exercise, Health Science (SEHS) in the Diploma Programme. SEHS combines all three Sciences (Physics, Chemistry and Biology) and relates them to a sporting context.

Topics range from Sport Psychology, Nutrition and Anatomy to Biomechanics, Genetics and Exercise Physiology. We are working hard to create an extensive and engaging curriculum alongside the Science department so that students can learn new concepts in a fun and stimulating environment. "



Year 9 parent representatives!

I was so delighted to check my inbox on Monday morning to see a message from Isabel Meurer and Kalpesh Magecha, putting themselves forward to be our Year 9 parent representatives!

Isabel shares:

"Hello, my name is Isabel Meurer. My husband Francisco and I have three kids at BMIS, a daughter in Year 11 and two sons, one in Year 9 and the other in Year 7. By occupation I'm a teacher (a German teacher) and I'm currently helping out in Primary as a substitute teacher. We came to Malawi in January 2020 but moved to Germany for a year (from August 2020 to August 2021). Before coming to Malawi, we lived in Chile, Bolivia, and Argentina. As the Year 9 Reps, we hope to bring the kids and parents together and have a great experience in and outside the school."



And Kalpesh shares:

" My name is Kalpesh Magecha. My wife, Minu and I have two children at BMIS. Our son Khush is in Year 9 and our daughter Mika is in Year 4. They have both been at BMIS since reception class. My children and I are all born in Malawi. I am the owner of Multi Auto Service Centre. I went to South End School in Blantyre and did my further studies in the UK. I was a class rep of my daughter's class in when she was in Year 2 and Year 3. Having already had experience of being a class rep twice which I enjoyed immensely. I decided to be a class rep to help with my children, to feel involved and give my input into what happens at BMIS. It is also a great way to meet other parents from my child's class and others."



Thank you both for taking on this important role to help build our **community**! If you would Isabel and Kalpesh to have your contact details, and to join in the Year 9 community building events, please complete [THIS FORM](#) by next Thursday 14th October.

Such exciting news that we now have parent representatives in Year 7 and Year 9. If you are interested in representing the other year levels, please reach out! k.leaper@bmis.mw

House competitions

As the school begins to open up and move forward "living with COVID", we're excited to bring back house competitions next term.

Our House Coordinator, Caitlin Macmillan, is busy brainstorming ideas and talking to students and teachers about possibilities that are fun and safe!

House competitions are such an important part of our BMIS **community**, and we can't wait to see them return. Watch this space for updates!



Professional development

Our teachers are engaged in ongoing professional development throughout the year in a range of areas including our IB programmes, approaches to teaching and learning, student wellbeing, leadership, child safeguarding, inclusion, college counselling...the list goes on.

Over the last few weeks and in the weeks ahead, our teachers have and will be engaging in the following externally provided PD:

- MYP English Language and Literature (delivering the curriculum)
- Supporting and empowering students through SEL (social and emotional learning): A conversation with students and school leaders
- Deep Dive: Mathematics Analysis and Approaches IA
- Learning Diversity and Inclusion (IBO)
- CIS: Global forum on international admissions
- DP: Language B

Our school's mission talks about "empowering students to become...lifelong learners", and when it comes to modelling this our teachers talk the talk and walk the walk. Their dedication to learning is something that we all need to celebrate!



What are you passionate about?

We still need your help!

From our **community** of parents, we have only had 4 people express their interest in sharing their areas of skill, expertise, and passion with our students.

We would love for you, our parent **community**, to be involved in the learning process, so if you are interested in the possibility of ever coming up to school to share your knowledge, skills, expertise, and experiences and/or lead mini workshops or sessions with our students, could you please share your details [HERE](#).

If you're not sure what you can offer, you can think about the following questions:

What are you passionate about?

What can we learn from you?

What are you an expert or specialist in?

What interests you?

What hobbies do you have?

What experiences could you share?

What skills can you show us?

Thank you so much for your consideration!

What else has been happening this week...?

BIOLOGY! BIOLOGY! BIOLOGY!

It's Biology Week and throughout the week our passionate and dedicated Biology teacher, Sam Richards, has been providing opportunities for our kids to engage in a range of Biology activities.

I was fascinated to see my first dissection of a goat pluck (side note: pluck is the lungs, heart, and liver of an animal), and I know our students really enjoyed the experience too. They gloved up, grabbed scissors and scalpels, and enjoyed the inquiry based learning that Sam Richards facilitated as they cut through different parts of the pluck.

We love these hands on events that promote curiosity in our students!

Thank you Sam!

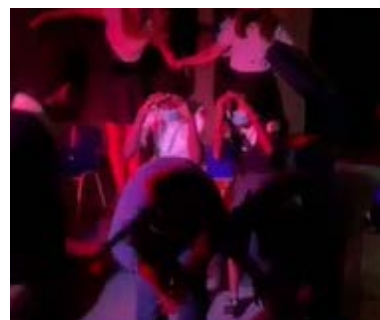


Year 10 Drama

Our Drama and Theatre teacher, Grace Woods, recorded our Year 10 Drama students performing this week. She shares:

"Currently, in Drama, our Year 10s are exploring Greek Theatre and preparing for an assessment where, as a class, they will come together as a chorus and perform an extract from Antigone by Sophocles. To practice moving together as a chorus we have used stylised choreography to show the poem Jabberwocky by Lewis Carroll in a more physical light. [Take a look here...](#)"

We can't wait to be able to bring back live performances, where we can celebrate our students' creativity and skill! But for now, please do take the time to check out the link that Grace shared - you won't be disappointed!



A few reminders...

Reviewing our BMIS COVID Guidelines

A reminder that our BMIS COVID Guidelines are under review, and we would love to hear your thoughts about the guidelines that you feel should stay, and those that need reviewing. This is an opportunity to contribute to the updated guidelines, so please do take the time to complete the brief survey [HERE](#).



Virtual settling in conferences

Our conferences will be held on Thursday 14th October from 7.30am - 2.30pm, using Google Meets.

The sign up for these conferences went out on Monday this week. If you haven't had an opportunity to sign up yet, please do so as soon as possible, as bookings and calendars are filling up quickly.

If you have any problems signing up, please reach out to our Administrative Assistant, Lawrence Nzerati (l.nzerati@bmis.mw), who will be able to assist you.

We hope that you are looking forward to these conferences as much as we are!

Put it in your calendar:

Thursday 14th October

"Virtual Settling-In Conferences" @Virtual @7.30am - 2.30pm

Parents will be invited to sign up for virtual settling-in conferences with their child's teachers. Links for this event will be sent out closer to the time. Please note that there is no school for students on this day, and that students are encouraged to attend the virtual conferences with you.

Friday 15th October

"Mother's Day" - no school

Monday 18th - Friday 22nd October

"Mid-Term Break" - no school

Tuesday 26th October

PSAT for our Year 11 and 12 students (lessons 1-4)

Friday 29th October

"Fancy Dress Costume Dress Up Day"

Students are invited to come along to school dressed up in their favourite fancy dress costumes.