

BSM's Weekly Newsletter 28 February 2010

News From The Principal

Welcome Back! – Welcome back from our half-term holiday. I hope that you've all had an enjoyable break and that your children are rested and refreshed in preparation for the second half of the term.

Charity Cake Sale – Before our recent half-term holiday, Holly Abbott (5H) had a sale at her home and raised OMR 60 for the Haiti appeal. Additionally, Holly, Danya Boothway (5H) and Emma Whittingham (5TT) decided to bake cakes and sell them in the Key Stage 2 playground. They raised over OMR 66. The girls came up with the idea and did all the organising themselves with a little help from their mums. Well done girls and thank you for being so helpful and for thinking of others who are less fortunate than you.



Emma Whittingham (5H), Holly Abbott (5H) and Danya Boothway (5H)

Chinese New Year Celebration – Just before the holiday, the Foundation Stage children celebrated Chinese New Year in their outdoor classroom. They started their celebrations with a drill as this is the way school children in China start their day. The children chose a range of activities including lantern and fan making, painting banners and messages, and tasting Chinese food. We offer huge thank you to all the parents who helped with the activities and cooked the food for the children to taste. Well done everyone! (Mrs Benjamin – FS Manager)



Foundation Stage Children



Karina Andrea (RV)

Double House Points – Just before the holiday I awarded double house points to Wei-Han Chan (6B) for exceeding his teachers' expectations in English and also for being exceptionally helpful. Congratulations and well done Wei Han!

The 'Ruby Red' Ball – Thursday 4 November 2010 at The British Ambassador's Residence. The theme is 'Ruby Red' in recognition of Oman's 40th National Day Celebrations. It promises to be a fabulous night. The cost will be OMR 40 per person. Already we now have 45 tables reserved (450 People); we are now taking a waitlist as we are potentially full. If you would like to attend, we are inviting you to put your name on our waitlist by return email to my secretary, Mrs Karen Casemore, at headbsm1@britishschool.edu.om.

Under 14s Win Sportsmanship Award – The weekend before the half-term holiday, members of our Under 14 boys' football team competed in an inter-schools tournament in Dubai. Although our 11 players played well and won two of their five games they did not win the tournament. However, they won the award which is arguably even better than the winner's trophy: the sportsmanship cup. This signals that our boys demonstrated the right attitude through the tournament. I am very proud of their achievement, which reflects well on the boys and our school.

U16 Boys basketball v TAISM - Congratulations to the under 16 boys basketball team who came through a close game against TAISM before half term. A fantastic team effort in both defense and attack meant that throughout a tense match they held their nerve. Govind Peringod, our top scorer this year, once again led the scoring with fantastic support from Jonathon Talabis. Both Marcel Borges and Jordan Jones were outstanding in defense, holding off a late push by TAISM to secure a famous 14 - 6 victory for the British School over their American rivals. The team were: Delzad Aga, Xing Yee Wang, Asshad Risvi, Jordan Jones, Jonathon Talabis, Richmond Suzara, Marcel Borges and Robert-Scott Hughes.

U19 Boys basketball v TAISM - A tenacious and athletic performance from the depleted U19 team meant that they competed well in all four quarters. The team, consisting of Jae Ho Kwak, Emre Oszoy, Leon Tugatjian, Jared Jones and JP Palm worked extremely hard for each other and look forward to their next game against Muscat International School on Tuesday 2nd March.

U16 Girls basketball v TAISM - In a game where both sides had extremely good defensive organisation and skill level, the girls performed very well and were unlucky not to steal a win against a strong TAISM team. The game was in the balance right up until the end when two late baskets from TAISM gave them a 9 - 5 victory. The team were: Katie Howland, Camilla Irvine-Fortesque, Aoife Mooney, Olivia Yates, Olivia Situmorang, Claire Dudfield and Catherine Dudfield.

U19 Girls basketball v TAISM - A fantastic performance from both teams led to a very close but high scoring game. Leading after two quarters with some excellent attacking play and consistent shooting from Ellie Jack and Georgie Smith, the girls unfortunately couldn't hang on for a famous victory as the game finished 25 - 20 to TAISM. They now look forward to the rematch in a couple of weeks. The team were: Melanie Boyd, Maxine Whelan, Georgie Smith, Jenie Morehead, Laras Hidayat, Lucy Ambrose and Ellie Jack.

Ski Trip to Verbier, Switzerland - 29 January to 6 February - As always, the main objective of the ski trip is to provide an experience which will enrich the lives of all who take part. Skiing and snowboarding provide an assault on the senses on so many levels: the sights, the sounds, the tastes, the smells, and definitely the touch of body parts against snow. La Tzoumaz is a small Swiss village built at 1500m above sea level, some 90 minutes drive from Geneva. It provides superb skiing on its own side of the valley, and is also linked into the vast three valleys skiing area centred on Verbier in the next valley. As a result of its size, La Tzoumaz has developed into a resort based on individual private chalets rather than on hotel and apartment buildings. The charm and appeal of the resort is a major reason why so many of the staff were the same this year as last. BSM were the sole residents of the hotel which helps to engender such a close, friendly relationship amongst the skiers and snowboarders. The existing groups based on year groups at school, expand to become completely open and flexible. The mix between students throughout the week is great to watch. They speak to anyone, sit and eat with different people each day, they join in and help each other. It is a remarkable and refreshing change of style. This year we were joined by students from year 7 to year 12. All of them had a brilliant time because of everyone else! The weather this year was all inclusive from white outs to sunbathing, from minus 16 to plus 2 on the temperature gauge, dead calm to gentle breeze. It was all captured in the 600 photos and films which were taken over the week. The promotional DVD's for next year will be based on this year's collection so do come and have a look at the 2011 launch later in the term.

Once again this year there was a large group of beginners, especially on skis. Having instructors working with the groups for about 7 hours a day for six days works wonders with the skill level of everyone. The development during the week is excellent with everyone keen to display their style and skills on race day at the end of the week.

Waiting for a "perfect weather" day to film the GCSE skiers and snowboarders produced some stunning visual assessments which will be used to support their examination marks. Personally I think all students taking GCSE and A`Level should be required to be examined in skiing or snowboarding.

Unfortunately this year there were a few accidents during the week, notably Andrew breaking his arm and Chieneke loosening a tooth which was extracted later that evening. Both were superbly dealt with by the staff in attendance. Andrew lost a few days skiing but has now become expert in the art of snow-shoeing and one armed pool! His positive attitude never changed throughout the week which does him enormous credit. Walking 10kms down the mountain through the forest tracks and on the pistes with him was great fun and a great challenge. For him to do it with only one pole to balance against was truly remarkable!



One of the highlights during the week was to hear the comment made by one of last years instructors that the British School were the best group she worked with throughout the season last year, and that she was looking forward to us coming again this year. Testament indeed! Another highlight was the addition to the staff of “Sher Khan” the one-year old huskie dog belonging to Nuno, who runs the operation in La Tzoumaz. His presence and attitude provided many a moment to treasure for everyone. The sight of him pulling his “Dad” down the mountain on skis at such speed was wonderful. It will be interesting to see how much bigger he will be next year.

Finally my thanks go to all the young people who came on the trip this year who made it such a good time, the parents who let them come by filling in all the forms, my colleagues Mr Keach and Mrs Whittingham, and a special mention to Mrs Smith who spent so many hours setting up the trip and but for her accident would have been with us. That she continued to watch the web-cam in La Tzoumaz from hospital to see if anyone was waving was definitely “above and beyond.” The book in which the students all personally commented to her is a treasured possession for which she sends her sincere thanks.

We now look forward to the planning of next year, and of seeing so many of this year`s trip going again and of being joined by many new skiers and snowboarders.

Andy Taylor
Ski Trip Leader

Sixth Form Fund Raising Events – Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Nadia Megnin and sixth formers Siddharth Gopakumar (13DA), Leon Tugatjian (13DA), Cristina O'Hanlon (12MK) and Malavika Subramanian (13TW) were all very busy during the half-term holiday finalising arrangements for two major Sixth Form charity fund-raising events:

- *Sixth Form Walkathon at 4.00pm on Friday 5 March at PDO*
- *Sixth Form Charity Fashion Show at 6.00pm on Wednesday 10 March at the British Ambassador's Residence.*

Sixth Form Charity Walkathon – Friday 5 March 2010 – Oman Oasis & Oxiplus (A Zubair Corporation Group Company) and the Sixth Form Fundraising Committee



The Head Boy and the Fundraising Committee would like to invite you to participate in a Charity Walkathon to begin from the parking area opposite PDO recreational club on Friday 5 March 2010.

The Walkathon is organised by a team of our students in order to raise money for Dar Al Atta's Student Care Programme. Our main sponsor for the event is Oman Oasis & Oxiplus (Oasis Water Company, a Zubair Corporation Group company). Deloitte has kindly agreed to sponsor the T-shirts.

The Walkathon will bring together the entire community and promises to bring lots of fun all for a good cause. Registration forms can be found in the school office.

The main details are outlined below but if you have any further questions do not hesitate to contact the office on 24600842 and ask to speak to Siddharth Gopakumar (Yr13), Malavika Subramanian (Yr13), Leon Tugatjian (Yr13) or Cristina O'Hanlon (Yr12).

Date: Friday 5th March 2010
 Timings: Walkathon begins at 4:00 pm
 Venue: Parking area, opposite PDO Recreational Club
 Registration Fee: 1 OMR

T-Shirts will be on sale for 2 OMR and student volunteers will be selling refreshments!

We all hope that you will attend. The Student Care Programme is an excellent initiative and together we can provide support to all those underprivileged children here in Oman.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Kind Regards,

Siddharth Gopakumar Head Boy
 Malavika Subramanian Chairperson – Fundraising Committee
 Leon Tugatjian Chairperson – Fundraising Committee
 Cristina O’Hanlon Deputy Head Girl & Fundraising Committee

Sixth Form Charity Fashion Show - Wednesday 10 March 2010 – Oman Oasis & Oxiplus (A Zubair Corporation Group Company) and the Sixth Form Fundraising Committee



We are writing to inform you that thanks to your support last year which culminated in a successful event, we are organising another charity fashion show which will be held at the British Ambassador’s residence on Wednesday 10 March 2010.

The residence has superb grounds and we are extremely grateful to H.E. Noel Guckian and Mrs Lorna Guckian for their support and for allowing us to hold our event there.

We wish to thank our main sponsor, Oman Oasis and Oxiplus (a Zubair Corporation Group Company) for their generosity and without whom this year’s event would not be possible. We are extremely fortunate to have their continued support.

The generous support received from our community is overwhelming. Our sincere thanks go to the following sponsors:

Main sponsor: Oman Oasis & Oxiplus (A Zubair Corporation Group Company)			
Platinum Sponsors:	Gold Sponsors:	Silver Sponsors:	Bronze Sponsors:
Arab Art Production Arab House for Advertising Bank Muscat Intercontinental Hotel Oman International Bank Oman Telecommunications Company (Omantel)	95.9 Hi FM Amouage Capital Stores LLC Standard Chartered Bank Douglas OHI Enhance Operating Companies Gatherings Khimji Ramdas Madi International Marina Oman India Fertilizer Oman Oil Company Star Lights Zoppini	Al Hashar Group Assarain group of companies Bank Dhofar BG Oman Muscat Pharmacy Nasser Bin Abdullatif Alserkal Establishment Oman Qatari Telecommunications Company (Nawras) Oman Arab Bank Samsung and Sarco	Areej Vegetable BAE Systems Caledonian Society of Oman Cunningham Lindsay Deloitte Denton Wilde Sapte Oman Oil Industry Supplies and Services (OOISS) Risk Management Services Tebodin and Partners Trowers and Hamllins

To each and every one of these we offer our heartfelt thanks.

The fashion show will feature some of the latest and hottest collections from fashion houses such as L’Artisan, BHS, Fat Face, H&M, Indian Art Palace (Heritage of Indian Art), Lyne’s, Mango, Mexx, Monsoon, Next, Pumpkin Patch and Sacoor Brothers.

Sixth Former Rona Sales will be teaching the choreography to our young models.

The event will be a “multi-cultural” fashion show incorporating classical and traditional Indian Music. We would like to thank Mrs Vasantha Vaikunth, Director of the Performing Arts Centre for organising this for us. BSM students and staff will also be performing.

Student Council Representatives - Each class in KS2 elects student council representatives, who meet every two weeks with Mr. Turley to discuss the issues which are important to the children. The student council reps have an important job, and they take their responsibilities very seriously. We thought it would be nice if we introduced them to a wider audience, so they have written short profiles of themselves. Each week we profile two members of the Student Council. This week it's Gayathri Peringod and Ross Grieve from 6J:



Gayathri Peringod is 10 years old and was born in Kerala in India. She enjoys reading, chess and being a Student Councilor. She would like to be a doctor when she is older. Her goal is to improve the Play-squad equipment for the all the children.

Ross Grieve is 11 years old and was born in Perth, Australia. He enjoys football, fishing and chess. He is a good listener, and is kind and generous. When he grows up he would like to be a pilot. He would like to do something to improve the school uniform.

Book Fayre: 1 – 7 March 2010 - The senior librarian in collaboration with Pioneer house will be organising for a book fair to take place in the Senior School library, to commemorate the world book day which falls on the 3rd of March. The book fair will run for a week starting on the 1st of March until the 7th of March {excluding the weekend} 2010. The book fair will be open from 7.30pm until 2.30 pm on each day of the week where you can come in, browse and purchase books. 20% of the profit made will be donated to both the school libraries to purchase books from the fair. We value your participation and look forward to seeing you there. Mrs Chandrasekera, Senior School librarian.

The British School Muscat - MEDDIA event – Wednesday 5 May 2010 - The Media, English, Drama and Dance departments are pleased to announce the inaugural **MEDDIA** celebration evening this will take place at The Grand Hyatt Jabarin Ballroom on Wednesday 5 May 2010. It is designed to celebrate individual pieces of work by students studying subjects within these departments, rather than an overall award for continual excellence. The acronym **MEDDIA** stands for Media, English, Dance and Drama Innovation Awards.

The event will be run with an 'Oscars' night format, including black tie/posh frocks, red carpet, limousines, etc. and is designed to allow the students to experience how attending a media event like this would feel. It is also an opportunity for them to showcase their work, receive the accolades they deserve and for parents and staff to be entertained in a broad format.

As we go to press we are busy sourcing sponsorship for various stages of the evening in order to keep ticket prices at an absolute minimum with all nominees and award presenters being invited guests. If you are interested in being part of the event or if you have any questions please contact Mr Moul via Karen Casemore on headbsm1@britishschool.edu.om

News From The Board of Governors

Sixth Form Charity Events – We are delighted to see members of our Sixth Form acting so responsibly and selflessly in their quest to raise money and to help people who are less fortunate than themselves. We are also very pleased to see the engagement of so many companies with our sixth formers', and thank every company for their generous support. We wish the Sixth Form Charity Fund Raising Committee and all involved in the Charity Walkathon and Sixth Form Charity Fashion Show every success during the next two weeks, and thank Head of Sixth Form Mrs Nadia Megnin for her leadership and hard work.

Last But Certainly Not Least...

Swine Flu – During the week before the half-term holiday we had no cases of swine flu. Please consider having your children vaccinated, free of charge, at one of the Ministry of Health's health centres and if you do, please inform our nurse, Mrs Cath Healey, by text on 99432613.

Please keep your children at home if you suspect that they might have a flu-like illness and seek medical advice. The Flu Hotlines for Oman are 92466422 and 92466642. Please contact Mrs Cath Healey, our nurse, if your doctor suspects that your child may have swine flu. If so, then their brothers and sisters will be required to stay at home too.

Please reinforce the need to for your children to have good personal hygiene. Thank you.

Safeguarding & Absence From School – Please contact us before 8.00am on everyday that your children are absent from school. This ensures that you and we know exactly where they are and why. Thank you.

Parents are reminded that the Primary playground equipment is not supervised after school. We ask for your support and vigilance in ensuring that children are kept away from these areas. In the KS1 lower playground we would appreciate parents supporting the staff as they carry out their duties to maintain health and safety guidelines.

Low Attendance, Low Performance – That's the conclusion reached by Ofsted after inspecting thousands of schools in the UK. Please try to keep your child's attendance levels up but follow the advice on swine flu first. Thank you.

Tag Your Bags – Please remember to tag your school bags and name your lunch boxes.

Car Parking - Parents are asked to observe the following when using the school's car parks:

- have security passes ready to show the security guards on arrival.
- do not park or stop for extended periods outside of the designated parking bays
- keep speeds to a minimum, no more than 20kph
- remain observant at all times
- pedestrians have priority at all times
- be patient and courteous to other parents, security guards and car parking assistants
- use the pedestrian crossings where provided when on foot
- do not use mobile phones whilst driving
- turn your engines off when leaving your car

Thank you for your co-operation.

Clunk-Click Every Trip – Please make your children wear their seat belts.

Cream-up and Hats On – Please protect your child's skin with sun block and a wide brimmed hat. Thank you for your co-operation.

Have a good week!

Steve Howland MBE
Principal.