



## BSM's Weekly Newsletter 4 January 2010

### News From The Principal

#### *Happy New Year!*

**Welcome** - A very warm welcome to all new parents and welcome back to everyone else. I hope you've all had enjoyable holidays and I wish you all a happy New Year!

**Swine Flu Summary** – Last term we had two confirmed and six suspected cases of swine flu. We may encounter more cases this term because many people are returning to school from holidays in countries with relatively high numbers of cases. Therefore, it's very important that we follow our hygiene and quarantine procedures.

Please keep your children at home if you suspect that they might have a flu-like illness and also keep their brothers and sisters at home. This is very important. You will then need to follow medical advice, especially if your children fall into a high risk category. 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. You can contact her on 99432613.

Good personal hygiene, especially hand washing and respiratory etiquette, are crucial to preventing the spread of the virus. Therefore, please reinforce this at home so that we can work together to disrupt the spread of the virus.

The school's position is to continue with school life as normal but I will contact you if this needs to change.

You can keep up-to-date with progress and advice by monitoring the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office's link: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travelling-and-living-overseas/swine-flu> and/or the WHO's website: [www.who.int](http://www.who.int).

**A Busy and Exciting Term Ahead** – This term will be a busy and exciting term for the children.

Examinations - Early in the term, as many of our Senior School's students are only too well aware, there will be mock GCSE examinations for all students in Year 11 and full GCE A level examinations for those in Years 12 and 13. Also GCSE, AS and A2 drama examination performances.

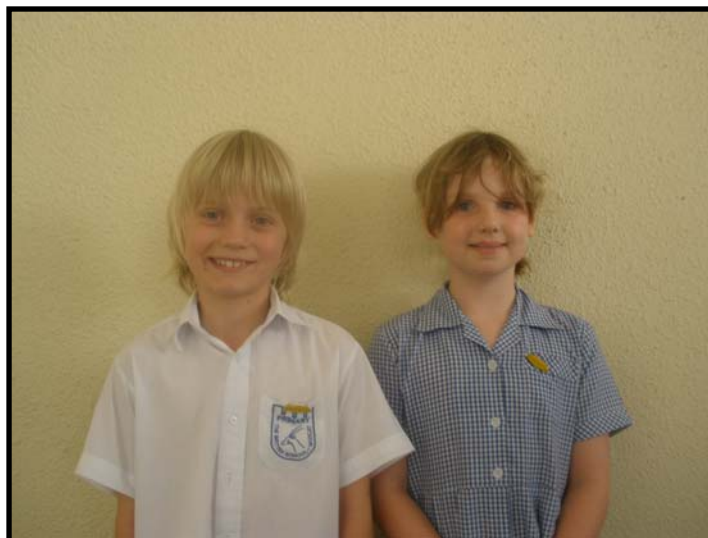
Special Days - There will be some special days including curriculum enrichment days in the Primary and Senior Schools, the Sixth Form's Charity Fashion Show (see below), sports days and swimming galas for Primary children, pancake day, teddy bear day, beach day and the Primary School's traditional Easter Egg competition.

Trips - Several trips will be undertaken by pupils in the Primary School including Reception's trip to the Fire College, Year 4's over-night camp at the ODC, Year 5's three-night stay in the desert and Year 6's adventurous activity trip to Fujeirah. Year's 5 & 6 participation at the BSME games in Cairo. In the Senior School there will be several local art & design trips for students in Key Stage 3, a Year 8 geography field trip, a Year 12 geography field trip to Juniper Hall, the Senior School's annual ski trip to Verbier, Switzerland, a trip to the Model United Nations Conference in St Petersburg, three separate football tournaments in Dubai for BSM's Under 14, Under 16 and Under 19 teams, and UAE Swim League competitions, also in Dubai, for members of the BSM Marlins.

I will keep you informed of these activities as we make progress through this term and will report on the children's successes in our weekly newsletter.

**Sixth Form Charity Fashion Show** – Members of our Sixth Form's Fund Raising Committee have been busy planning for this year's charity fashion show, which will take place from 6.00pm to 9.00pm on Wednesday 10 March at The British Ambassador's Residence. Further details will be issued later this term.

**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 Brodie Smith and Zamzam Foster from 4D:



Brodie Smith is 8 years old and was born in Glasgow in Scotland. He loves swimming, tennis and playing football. He is reliable, polite and a good team player. He would like to be an Olympic swimmer or a football manager when he's older. He would like to make the school a cleaner and more hygienic place.

Zamzam Foster is 8 years old and was born in Muscat. Her interests include swimming, playing music and cooking. She is reliable, helpful and polite. In the future, she would like to be a photographer. As a student councillor, she would like to make sure that everyone enjoys their time at school, and it is a comfortable and welcoming place for all the children.

**The British School Muscat - MEDDIA event – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:headbsm1@britishschool.edu.om)

### **News From The Board of Governors**

Happy New Year! – The Board of Governors wishes all members of our school's community a happy and prosperous New Year and looks forward to keeping you informed of its activities as we progress through the term.

### **Last But Certainly Not Least...**

**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.

**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 20kmph
- 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.