



The British School - Muscat

'An Outstanding School' - Inspectors 2009



BSM's Weekly Newsletter 20 June 2009

Swine Flu Reaches Oman – The school is working with its partners to closely monitor the spread and effects of the virus, which has now, unfortunately, reached Oman following the recent confirmation of three cases. The three Omani students, who returned from the USA, are, according to press reports, showing mild symptoms and they are being treated at home. Their families are also being checked and monitored.

It is extremely important that our children make good hygiene a habit and wash their hands frequently. Please would you reinforce this message at home. Thank you.

The school's current position is still to continue with all aspects of school life as normal. However, 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.

If your child is unwell in any way then please keep them at home and, if necessary, contact your doctor. Please do not send sick children to school. This is our standard advice to parents and needs to be followed even more carefully under present circumstances. Thank you in anticipation of your co-operation.

The Flu Hotlines for Oman are 92466422 and 92466642. Please call if you have any concerns or require information.

Year Five's Victorian Day, Tuesday 16th June 1885 – “After weeks and weeks of preparation, background reading, searching the Internet, writing and rehearsing lines, making and painting props, preparing costumes, and practicing singing, the big day finally arrived. Victorian domestic servants, factory workers, writers, inventors and even royalty cautiously made their way to school, admiring each others' costumes, going over their lines, and posing for photographs with Mr Parsons esq. and his new fangled digital camera.



We welcomed parents, teachers, and children from all over Key Stage Two and Three to take part in our interactive Victorian museums. Guests could meet and talk with famous Victorian inventors, authors, philanthropists, scientists and artists, and even an over-grown chimney sweep.

All the scripts were written by the children themselves after hours of careful research and discussion. They made their own props, painted their own scenery, and organised their own rehearsals. They presented their work to each other to help improve their performances and learn from each other. The sense of team work and shared purpose was excellent, and everybody made a substantial contribution to their group.

A big thank you to all our mums and dads who once again answered the call and helped put together, by hook or by crook, such excellent costumes that made our day come alive.” From Mr Richard Turley, Mrs Tamsin Turner, Mrs Christine Mackay and Mrs Joanne Birch.



BSM's Youth & Community Choir 'Sing Summer' – Last Thursday evening BSM's Youth & Community Choir, instrumentalists and Silver Sounds Steel Band presented Sing Summer at the Al Nada Resort. The concert helped to raise awareness and support for leper invalids and their dependents in Kachele Village, Zambia. Well done to everyone who participated.



Some members of BSM's Youth & Community Choir

Off The Wall Dance Productions – At 6:30pm tonight over 100 children from Reception to Year 13 will be performing on stage in our hall as part of Off The Wall Dance Productions' annual performance. It promises to be a spectacular performance and very entertaining. I look forward to seeing many of you either tonight, tomorrow night or even on both nights. It will be a good night out! (NB. The performances will finish at about 7:45pm.)



Some members of the Off The Wall Dance Production

Double House Points – Last week I awarded double house points to the following primary children for exceeding their teachers' expectations: Harry Cockerham (2L), Carmen Greasby (2L), Sabrina Rosillo Silva (2L), and Vanya Priyandoko (2L) for art, Struan Robertson (4B), Li Bohan (4M), Max Sambrook (4M), Habib Khan (4F), Santiago Hernandez (5T) and Sulaiman Al-Riyami (5M) for English, and Cameron Holt (6C) for music.

From the Board of Governors –

“Dear Parents,

Here is a summary from the recent meeting of the Board of Governors, held on 2nd June.

The meeting was chaired by Dominic Myers and all the governors attended, along with Steve Howland and Warwick Hardy. There have been some changes to the Governors on the Board (Gorvinder Pannu has replaced James Harbridge from Trowers and Hamlins, Ted Edwards has taken over from Christine Mackay as Primary School Representative, and Ian Pugh-Cook is replacing Clare Douglas as the President's Representative), and a further change agreed was that the decision to have 2 Parent Representatives which was taken for this year should be extended for the next 2 years. Both Parent Governor positions will be up for election in September.

Steve Howland updated the Board on the progress being made towards the objectives of the School Development Plan. This year each area of the plan has been overseen by one of the Governors, and the Board was pleased with the way this has been working. There will be some adjustments next year because Ofsted is changing its framework, and the school is keen to keep itself aligned, but the close involvement of Governors will continue.

The bulk of the meeting was spent discussing the school fees for 2009/2010, based on projected school numbers, staffing costs (which account for more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of our total annual spend), educational resources and our plans for maintaining and upgrading the school. It was stressed that parents should be aware that the school is truly “not for profit”, and does not retain substantial reserves or distribute dividends to any party. Since the meeting, a letter has been sent to all parents detailing the enrolment and tuition fees for 2009/10.

The Board approved a number of improvements to the facilities at the school. In addition to the new equipment for the Key Stage 2 playground, which was approved at the previous meeting, we shall be installing solid shading over several areas of the campus including the two remaining playgrounds and some of the walkways. The swimming pool changing rooms will also be refurbished over the summer.

Kind regards,

Julie Towler
Parent Representative to the Board of Governors
British School, Muscat
jetowler@yahoo.co.uk, 99807740”

Blue and Silver Masquerade Ball – Please note in your diaries that we will be holding a Blue and Silver Masquerade (BSM) ball for about 400 at the British Ambassador’s Residence on Thursday 12 November. It promises to be an outstanding evening! Further details will be released in due course.

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.

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

Crawling Speed, Phones Down and Engines Off – Please carefully crawl through our car parks, don’t use your phone whilst driving, and turn your engines off when leaving your car.

Cream-up and Hats On – Please protect your child’s skin with sun block and a wide brimmed hat.

Are you Ready For School Closure? - Have you learnt what to do in the highly unlikely event that we close the school and do you know where your Child Collection Packs are?

Have a good week.

Steve Howland MBE
Principal

Influenza A(H1N1)

How to Protect Yourself and Others



Cover your nose and mouth with a disposable tissue when coughing and sneezing



Dispose of used tissues properly immediately after use



Regularly wash hands with soap and water



If you have flu-like symptoms, seek medical advice immediately



If you have flu-like symptoms, keep a distance of at least 1 meter from other people



If you have flu-like symptoms, stay home from work, school or crowded places



Avoid hugging, kissing and shaking hands when greeting



Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands

For more information:

<http://www.emro.who.int/csr/h1n1/index.htm>
<http://www.who.int/en>