

BSM's Weekly Newsletter 6 March 2010

News From The Principal

Theodore Pender Achieves Olympic Qualifying and USA National Qualifying Time – On Friday 26 February at the UAE Swimming League Meet, elite swimmer Theodore (Teddy) Pender (10GH) achieved a AAAA time in the 50m freestyle. This qualifying time would enable him to swim in the Junior Olympics and the USA National Championships. This is the first time a swimmer from BSM has ever reached this standard of exceptionally high standard of performance and is a credit to Teddy's hard work and the coaching he receives from Director of Swimming Mr David Rogers and the support of Teddy's parents, Dave and Melonie Pender. I am extremely proud of Teddy's remarkable achievement and look forward to seeing him go on to even greater things in the future. Theodore is planning to swim in the Irish Age Group National Championships in July; he already has his qualifying times. He's a name to watch out for!



Theodore Pender (10GH)

Swimming: BSM's Marlins Win Trophies & Set Even More Records! – On Friday 19 and Saturday 20 February 38 members of our BSM's Marlins competed in the first ever Muscat International Swimming Championships. The meet was hosted by the BSM Marlins Swim Team and their parents in collaboration by the Oman Swimming Association and the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex and 275 competitors from every Gulf country took part. Our Marlins swam a total of 246 races and gained 197 (77%) personal best times, 73 individual school records, 7 relay school records and an astonishing 80 Junior Olympic qualifying times. The swimmers were: David Starling (2S), Morven Smith (2T), Peter Hine (3D), Rebecca Cramp (3D), Angus Lindsay (3E), Finley Robins (3E), Emi McKerracher (3K), Jack Overton (3K), Brodie Smith (4D), Wei-Zhang Chan (4M), Aaron Lewsey (5H), Alex Murray (5H), April Baird (5H), Charise Edmondson (5H), Danya Boothway (5H), Harry Watt (5H), Robert Starling (5H), Angus Robins (5T), Jason Keelor (6B), Wei-Han Chan (6B), Toby Andruskevicius (6H), Abigail Petrie (6J), Chloe Barrow (6J), Joshua Edmondson (7JDR), Katie Birch (7JDR), Abdullah Khalid (8AJ), C.J. Van Dyk (8CHL), Georgia Mahoney (8CHL), Wei-Kin Chan (8MM), Patrick Pender (10GH), Theodore Pender (10GH), Emily Baird (10JT), Hanna Kozak-King (10KW), Olena Kozak-King (11CB), Arsy Baruno, Alex Galois, Marie-Lousie Galois and Stefan Vlad.

Then on Friday 26 February 11 of BSM's Marlins competed in Meets 5 & 6 combined of the UAE Swim League. They swam in 80 races and gained 40 (50%) personal best times, 20 school records and a remarkable 45 Junior Olympic qualifying times. Additionally, five swimmers won first place high point trophies in their age and performance groups and two won second place trophies:

Development Group Swimmers: UAE League High Points Trophy Winners

Boys 7 & 8	Brodie Smith (4D)	1 st
Boys 14 & Under	Patrick Pender (10GH)	1 st
Girls 12 & Over	Lavanya Chowdhury (8JRO)	2 nd

Elite Group Swimmers: UAE League High Points Trophy Winners

Girls 11 & Under	Chloe Barrow (6J)	1 st
Girls 14 & Over	Olena Kozak-King (11CB)	1 st
Boys 14 & 15	Theodore Pender (10GH)	1 st
	Mohammed Khalil (10GH)	2 nd

The UAE League swimmers were: Brodie Smith (4D), Angus Robbins (5T), Charise Edmondson (5H), Chloe Barrow (6J), Joshua Edmondson (7JDR), Lavanya Chowdhury (8JRO), Patrick Pender (10GH), Theodore Pender (10GH), Mohammed Khalil (10GH), Hannah Kozak-King (10KW) and Olena Kozak-King (11CB).

We would like to thank our two sponsors for this event, Park Inn Hotel and DHL.
Congratulations and well done everyone!

Oman Dive Centre Trip for Year 4 - On Tuesday 16 February 2010, sixty six excited Year 4 pupils gathered at the Oman Dive Center to begin their first BSM residential camp. For some of us this was our first time sleeping in a tent



while for others it was our first time sleeping away from home. Although this may have seemed to be a daunting prospect, we all brought our teddy bears with us, to help us get through the long night away from Mums and Dads; even the brave Mr Edwards brought along 'Villa Teddy' to cuddle when things got a little scary!

Over the course of the two days, the pupils had the opportunity to take part in a range of activities including: a boat trip studying coastal erosion, an OS mapping task, sand Aboriginal art, trail making, poetry writing, camp fire compositions and, of course, a sandcastle competition.

While we were at the ODC it was

gratifying to be approached by so many guests at the Centre complimenting our children on their excellent behaviour and obvious enthusiasm for the tasks they were undertaking. They were wonderful ambassadors for the school and demonstrated the first rate manners and positive attitude which epitomise a BSM student.

So many people were instrumental in making this a successful trip. A huge thank you goes out to the many parents who came along to help set up tents, who purchased or distributed snacks and who helped strike tents on the second day. Special thanks go to Mr Miln and Mr Phipps for their assistance and enthusiasm during the whole trip. Thanks also go to Mr Edwards and Mr Grey for bringing their experience and expertise to the trip. Finally, thank you to the Year 4 team who planned a fun filled, safe and educational adventure for the year group.



Year 4 at Oman Dive Centre

Al-Madina Art Gallery Trip - After an inspirational trip to the Al-Madina Art Gallery, I thought that the children from the British School would benefit greatly from a 'real life' visit to a local art gallery and be inspired by different local artists. I encouraged some year groups to combine the gallery visit with their desert and landscapes topics, which also then enabled each of the year groups to fulfill part of the Art and Design National Curriculum unit of work which the British School follows.

So in early February children from Years Two, Three and Six took part in a visit to Al-Madina Art Gallery in Madinat Al Sultan Qaboos.



The Al-Madina Art Gallery is situated on Al-Inshirah Road and is only a 10 minute walk for the children from the British School. The gallery is quite small but holds a wealth of inspirational fine art by local artists, a framing service and a small gift shop.

Whilst visiting the gallery, proprietor Mr. Richard Woodhead and his staff gave the children a tour of the art work, highlighting the different media and styles that artists used to represent landscapes. The children were then asked to demonstrate their own age specific skills in different year group practical activities. The children were then given the opportunity to buy merchandise from the shop and use their skills of handling local money.

This was a wonderful experience for the children and highlighted the 'classroom without walls' approach to learning. This trip also combined local community resources and forged links with local artists. One such artist was Dutch artist, Tania Hens.

Some children in Year Two were very lucky and highly delighted to meet a 'real life' artist. They wanted to talk to her about her art work and where her inspirations came from. The children were also given the experience of watching Tania's and other artist's work on a slide show.

After the visit some of the children were asked to comment on their visit to the gallery, all of which are really inspiring;

Georgie "I really enjoyed using the pastels to make a design for the paper bag"

Matthew "I loved the different paintings on the wall"

Hani "I really liked the house photographs"

Vivian "The art gallery was beautiful because it had proper artist pictures and photographs"

David "I have visited before with my family but it was also nice to visit with my class"

Carmen "It was fun at the gallery because we got to make our own pastel pictures. I also liked buying something from the gift shop. I bought a pink camel keyring"

Crea "I enjoyed the details on the paintings and I enjoyed looking at the slide show of artist's work"



Sriuthi "It was a really good visit, I liked the way they structured the frames. It looked difficult to do but very interesting to watch. I liked the professional paintings"

Vaishnavi 6J "I thought it was a fantastic opportunity to use oil pastels and crayons. The best thing I liked was shopping in the gallery."

Michael "I really liked the trip. I thought the paintings on display were fascinating because the different artists used different techniques. I also enjoyed the drawing whilst I was there."

Jenny "The paintings were fabulous and it was a really good visit. I liked the way there was abstract paintings there."

Vaishnavi 6B "I thought the paintings were really nice and I loved the colours that were in the paintings. I think the painters have put a lot of hard work into their paintings."

Mrs. Birchall "I thought it was a fantastic opportunity to see real art in a gallery with the knowledgeable input from the residential expert artist."

Mr. Robins "It was fabulously enriching and I know that parents were inspired to visit independently of the schools input."

I do hope after reading these comments from a selection of the children that you will take the opportunity to visit the Al-Madina Art Gallery with your children. Mr. Woodhead has kindly offered the British School 5% discount on gallery owned merchandise and 10% off framing on presentation of your BSM card.



We live in a truly inspirational country where there are many opportunities for observational drawing and photography using a wide variety of subjects and using a wide variety of media. Please encourage your child in these areas as it's worth remembering that art and design stimulates creativity and imagination. It provides visual, tactile and sensory experiences and a unique way of understanding and responding to the world.

Sallianne Smales

Art and Design Coordinator
British School

Primary Recital - If you attended the Primary School's recital last Monday you would have been amazed by the number of very talented children we have in key stage 1 and 2. Thirty seven children took part in all; in fact, we had so many names put forward by our peripatetic teachers that not everyone was able to perform this time. Next year we are planning to hold a recital every term to give everyone the opportunity to perform at this level.

The programme was extremely varied and children from as young as year two up to year six took part. We heard pieces played on the piano, electric guitar, acoustic guitar, clarinet, saxophone, flute, drums, tenor horn and Carol Chaaya sang beautifully for us. We heard duets as well as solo pieces, and were also entertained by our recently established flute group.

I was very proud of all the children as they performed with great confidence - it can be very nerve-racking performing in front of an audience. If you weren't able to make it this time round here is a list of all our performers that you can look out for in the near future:

Flute group: Alex Pereyra, William Hamilton, James Parteka, Ieuan Hutchinson, and Sophie Millward

Piano: Michele Resele, Jordan Whitelaw, Jet Kraaijveld, Crea Butlin, Tanya Pongkanta, Jasmin Denudom, Anna Rehling, Jae Woo Kwak, Chizu Emenyeonu, Safiyya Suhaimi, Daniel Rehling, Samiya Garrod, Chloe Anderson, Koen Kraaijveld, and Zoe Taylor.

Clarinet: Vaishnavi Vijayan and Freddie Wilks

Saxophone: Tessa Kolster

Voice: Carol Chaaya

Flute: Brogan Robertson, Sophie White, and Clara Weber

Electric Guitar: Ben Parker and Isabelle Cunneen

Drums: Caleb Leith and Ruari Dolan

Violin: April Baird and Sofina Suhaimi

Tenor Horn: Dylan Turner and Ellie Gladwin

Acoustic Guitar: Robert Starling and Brodie Smith

Well done and thank you to you all! Miss Sue Proctor

Sixth Form Charity Fashion Show - Wednesday 10 March 2010 at 6pm – Oman Oasis & Oxipus (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 at 6pm.

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 *Asad Al Khaleej TRAD. And Contractors Est. Capital Stores LLC Standard Chartered Bank Douglas OHI *Deloitte Enhance Operating Companies Gatherings Khimji Ramdas Madi International Marina Oman India Fertilizer Oman Oil Company *PricewaterhouseCoopers 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 Denton Wilde Sapte Oman Oil Industry Supplies and Services (OOISS) Risk Management Services *Starbucks Tebodin and Partners Trowers and Hamlins

*** Denotes Additional Sponsors**

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.

Sixth Former Leon Tugatjian is organising a raffle for this event and we are extremely grateful to Douglas OHI and Samsung and Sarco for the excellent prizes which they have donated.

All the proceeds from this year's event will be shared between the children cancer wards at the Royal Hospital and Sultan Qaboos University Hospital; Al Noor Association for the Blind; Special Care Baby Unit at Khoula Hospital and PETRA, a new charity association which aims to offer opportunities for therapy to enable young Omani people with disabilities.

Tickets are now available from Anglea Bham in the main office.

We hope to see you there.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Nadia Megnin
Head of Sixth Form
Leon Tugatjian

Siddharth Gopakumar
Head Boy & Walkathon organiser

Chair – Fundraising Committee & Walkathon organiser
Malavika Subramanian
Chair – Fundraising Committee & Walkathon organiser
Rona Sales - Choreography & Fashion Director
Cristina O'Hanlon - Deputy Head Girl & Walkathon organiser

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

Congratulations Teddy Pender – The Board of Governors wishes to congratulate Theodore (Teddy) Pender upon his remarkable achievements in swimming (see above), particularly his AAAA time for the 50m freestyle. We are very proud of his outstanding achievement and are sure that it will be the first of many at such a high standard of performance. Well done Teddy!

Last But Certainly Not Least...

Swine Flu – Last week 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!