



BSM's Weekly Newsletter 14 November 2009

News From The Principal

Swine Flu Summary – Last week we had no known cases of swine flu. Since opening on 5 September we have had two confirmed and six suspected cases. I'll keep you informed of developments on a daily basis.

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 Healy, 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.

BSM's Blue & Silver Masquerade Ball: Appreciation – Thank you to everyone who joined us last Thursday evening for our Blue & Silver Masquerade Ball. Not only was it an enjoyable and entertaining evening, but, thanks to your generous support and with significant help from our sponsors, we also managed to raise enough money to pay for out mobile dance floor for the hall and some portable staging units.

I would like to thank:

- our generous hosts HM Ambassador Dr Noel Guckian OBE and Mrs Lorna Guckian for allowing us to stage the Ball at their residence
- Mrs Karen Casemore and Mrs Roshan Nowroji for organising the event
- our students who performed superbly on the night: Joanna Ashkhanian (10KW), Ed Douglas (9CLU), Victoria Amos (9TE) and Sophy Purnell (11JIR)
- Head of Music Mr Teiron Jones for preparing the students so well
- Mrs Rachel Connor – Design of tickets, poster and programme
- Primary Music Co-ordinator Miss Sue Proctor, Head of Art Mrs Rachel Connor and parents Mr Adam Amos and Mrs Gina Lax for their superb singing
- Head of Modern Foreign Languages Mr Tim Weir for being such a congenial Master of Ceremonies
- School Nurse Mrs Cath Healy for being on standby to provide first aid...

and all of our very generous sponsors...

- The Zubair Corporation, OHI, Oman Air, BankMuscat, OUA, (Liquor & Travel) Oman Printers & Stationers, MHD, Talentz, Khimji Ramdas, Samsung (SARCO), Crowne Plaza Sohar, Crowne Plaza Muscat, Grand Hyatt, Cunninham & Lindsey, Bahwan Travels, Shangri-la's Barr Al Jissah Resort & Spa, Capital Stores, OUA Travels, Hanah Skin & Beauty Care, Muscat Beauty and Mustafa Sultan LLC.

Double House Points – Last week I awarded double house points to the following primary children for exceeding their teachers' expectations: Aydan Garrod (2T), Palesa Peachey (2T) and Samiya Garrod (5T) for English and Danny Henein (5TT) for excellent homework. Congratulations and well done!

British Embassy's Community Carol Service - The British Embassy invites the British Community in Muscat to Christmas carols at the British Embassy at 6.00pm on Monday 14 December. Please come along to sing some favourite carols and enjoy mulled wine and mince pies. BSM's Junior Choir, conducted by Mrs Rosie Kolster, will also be performing.

BSM's Christmas Carol Concert: Help! – We are short of a crib and some hay for the nativity scene. Therefore, if you have a crib or access to some real hay, please contact our Primary School's office on Tel: 24600842 Ext. 44 or contact Mrs Janine Doyle our Primary School Secretary on primary@britishschoolmuscat.com Thank you

Saturday 7th November U19 Girls Football v ABA: BSM won 0 – 2. With a full squad to select from, it was possible to keep the tempo of the game at a high level of intensity throughout the game. It is in these circumstances that the girls play their best and most effective football. The response after last week was superb. The team established the dominant position in the game and never allowed their control to slip. All were delighted! [Mr Taylor]

Sunday 8th November U16 Boys Football v TAISM: BSM won 1 – 4. A terrific performance by the boys, which puts them into the MSL final next week. Tactically the BSM team developed their advantages in relevant areas of the pitch to produce a fully deserved result. [Mr Taylor]. Good luck in the final boys, and well done for reaching it! – Mr Howland.

Monday 9th November U19 Boys Football v TAISM: BSM won 2 – 4. An excellent first half performance produced a three-nil half-time advantage. The home team rallied for a while in the second half before being finally defeated with a fourth goal late on in the game. The U19`s have had a fine season. [Mr Taylor]


Tuesday 10th November U19 Girls Football v TAISM: TAISM won 2 – 1. The BSM team displayed a tiredness which is extremely rare. As a consequence they failed to make the most of the chances they created. The second half performance was more characteristic of their talent but still not enough to get the draw they deserved. I`m sure a replay would be very different. [Mr Taylor]

News From The Board of Governors

BSM`s Blue & Silver Masquerade Ball: Thank You! – The governors wish to thank everyone who attended and supported our ball last Thursday evening. It was a good opportunity for members of our school`s community to mix in a splendid setting and support the children whilst having an enjoyable time. Thank you for your support.

Personnel Committee Meeting – Last Sunday evening the governors Personnel Committee held part-one of a meeting during which a variety of personnel matters are discussed in preparation for further consideration by the Finance Committee on 22 November and finally the full Board of Governors on 6 December. These meetings result in decisions which allow the school to issue contracts of employment for 2010-11. A summary of outcomes will be published by parent governor Mrs Julie Towler in the final newsletter of this term. Part-two of the Personnel Committee`s meeting will be held during the evening of Saturday 14 November.

Governors` Profiles – Each week we profile a member of the Board of Governors. This week it`s coopted governor Nick Smith

	Name:	Nick Smith
	Governor Type:	Coopted Governor
	Occupation:	
	Committee:	Sub Committee – Premises

Nick Smith – Parent Governor

I was until recently CEO of The Wave Muscat and I am now looking for a new challenge in Muscat. I am married to Charlotte, our daughter Georgie is in Year 12 and we have two older children, Nicholas and Anna, who live and work in West Sussex, England. Oman is the first country out of the UK that we have lived in, so we are enjoying the challenge! I have worked in housing development for most of my life; I am a qualified town planner and urban designer. I hope to be able to help the school with its plans to develop over the next few years.

I like to follow most sports, particularly tennis, football (lifelong Spurs fan) and golf. I try not to play tennis with my wife and daughter as they run me around too much. We have a small boat here, like to go to Dubai, and enjoy going out and entertaining. We take our summer break in Spain each year and have two dogs, Wispa in England and Billy in Muscat.

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 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
Principal.