



# The British School - Muscat

*'An Outstanding School' - Inspectors 2009*

## BSM's Weekly Newsletter 7 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](http://www.who.int).

**Key Orkian's Drama Workshop** – Last week 24 pupils attended a drama workshop with professional actor, comedian and pianist Kev Orkian (he's just completed a one-man show in Leicester Square, London), and produced a 40 minute show which they performed to an audience of about 100 on Friday evening. The show was excellent and was scripted by the cast who also chose the songs and structure much of the choreography. Head of Drama, Mrs Jilly Witcomb, who has created a positive drama culture at BSM, was delighted with the pupils and their performance. I was also extremely pleased to hear Kev Orkian praising the exemplary behaviour and exceptional talent of our students. We hope to see him again next year.



Pictured above are the performers, from top left back row to bottom right front row, with Kev Orkian: Sebastian Amann (10JT), Sarah Millward (9JW), Elliot Turner (7JWI), Alex Davenport (10KW), Josh White (7JDR), Brett Fletcher (7JDR), Milo Etherton (11JIR), Alex Amann (7AH), Ben Thomas (12MK), Frederique Vossen (10KW), Harriet Doyle (10GH), Melanie Boyd (12JR), Aastha Arora (9SR), Caitlin Anderson (9JW), Emily Doyle (8MM), Kate Spalding (8MM), Kardelen Ozsoy, (8CHL), Alice Withers (10JT), Katie Pohlen (7JWI), Amy Parsons (10JT), Elsa Hofland (10JT), Tamara Wong (11CB), Maya Davenport (7JDR) and Oeishi Mukherjee (8JRO).

**Double House Points** – Last week I awarded double house points to the following primary children for exceeding their teachers' expectations: Daniyal Ahmed (5T) and Iva Pavlovic (5T) for French. Congratulations and well done!

**The 2009 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal** - Every year calls for help come to the Legion from both the young and old. There are more than 200,000 of these calls annually and the number will continue to increase.



The Legion offers help to ex-servicemen and women, in need of housing, employment, rehabilitation, training, advice or simple friendship. One person in four in the United Kingdom is eligible for help from The Royal British Legion, which makes it one of the most powerful achieving charities in the world.

Your support will help to provide the funds needed to continue these invaluable services.

The School supports this appeal annually and consequently poppies will be on sale from Angela Bham at the Reception desk. In addition poppies will be distributed throughout the school for pupils to purchase and wear as a sign of their support from Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October through to Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November. We thank you for your support of this worthy cause.

**Red House Book Club** – Last day for ordering books is Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November. By ordering through the Red House Book Club you will be able to buy a wider range of books than is available locally. You will also contribute to the school resources, as we are able to order free books for the library through the book club. Please send your order to the Primary Office. Thank you.

### **Sports Round-up**

**Swimming: PBs, Records & Junior Olympic Qualifying Times for the Marlins** – On Monday 26 October at ABA's pool 19 Marlins swam in 46 races and gained 23 (50%) personal best times (PBs), 3 school records and 4 Junior Olympic qualifying times. Then on Friday 30 October 11 Marlins swam in 52 races during the first meet of the UAE Swim League in Dubai and achieved a remarkable 43 PBs (82.7%), 26 school records and 18 Olympic qualifying times. Very many congratulations and well done! The swimmers were: Aaron Lewsey (5H), Scott Petrie (5H), Harry Watt (5H), Wei-Han Chan(6B), Innes Hulse (7JDR), Sarah Holmes (7JWI), Rachel D'Amours (7JWI), Wei-Kin Chan (8MM), Georgia Mahoney (8CH), C J van Dyk (8CH), Annalie Greasby (8CH), Nina Greasby (8MM) Kieran Armstrong (9SR), Amy Broughton (9SR), Katie Howland (10GH), Emily Baird (10JT), Emily Field (11CB), Alexandra Galois and Marie-Louise Galois.

Friday 30 October 1<sup>st</sup> UAE Swim League Meet: Brodie Smith (4D), Charise Edmondson (5H), Angus Robins (5T), Joshua Edmondson (7JDR), Lavanya Chowdhury (8JRO), Patrick Pender (10GH), Theodore Pender (10GH), Mohammed Khalil (10GH), Hanna Kozak-King (10KW), Olena Kozak-King (11CB) and Arsy Baruno.

The full results are posted on our website: [www.britishschoolmuscat.com](http://www.britishschoolmuscat.com).

### **Football**

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October** U19 Boys Football v ABA: BSM won 3 – 1. A fine start to another busy week of fixtures. BSM played some very incisive football, coping well with the requirements of playing on Astroturf. [Mr Taylor]

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November** U16 Boys Football v ABA: BSM won 2 – 0. Another fine performance by the boys. Tactically the BSM team developed their advantages in relevant areas of the pitch to produce a fully deserved result. [Mr Taylor].

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** U19 Girls Football v ABA: Match drawn 2 – 2. BSM conceded a goal in the first minute and then were required to attack to repair the damage. It took until mid-way through the second half before the equaliser was forthcoming. Shortly after BSM took the lead and held it until 5 seconds from the end when ABA scored to draw the game. [Mr Taylor].

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November** U16 Girls Football v ABA: ABA won 3 – 2. This was a match of extraordinary decisions which finally resulted in a winning record of three years coming to an end. The winning goal was scored with the last kick of the game. [Mr Taylor]

### **Community Hockey**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November** BSM Adults Hockey v Elite Properties Oman: Match drawn 3 – 3. The standard and popularity of these games increases each week. The intensity of adult sport was ably demonstrated which provides a great learning opportunity for the invited students who represent the school team. Their learning curve is getting steeper each week, but the benefits are very obvious and a great credit to them. [Mr Taylor]

**Fancy Playing Community Hockey?** Anyone wishing to play community hockey should contact the respective managers for further details: BSM - Mr Andy Taylor, BSM's PE Dept, GSM 99348320, Elite Properties Oman – Mr Will Blake, E-mail [will@elitepropertiesoman.com](mailto:will@elitepropertiesoman.com)

Very many thanks to Elite Properties Oman for providing this opportunity for people to play competitive hockey whilst supporting fund raising for our floodlights.


**Blue and Silver Masquerade Ball** – This Thursdays is our Blue and Silver Masquerade (BSM) Ball, we are almost sold out but please contact Karen Casemore on [headbsm1@britishschool.edu.om](mailto:headbsm1@britishschool.edu.om) if you would like tickets. This event is at the British Ambassador’s Residence on Thursday 12 November. It promises to be an enjoyable evening.

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

**Curriculum Committee** – Last week the governors’ Curriculum Committee approved several policies for further consideration by the Board for final approval at its next full meeting on 6 December.

**Principal’s Performance Management** – Last Tuesday our School Improvement Partner (SIP) - who is an Ofsted inspector, National Challenge Advisor in England and former consultant Head of School Improvement for Buckinghamshire and Gloucestershire Local Authorities - assisted the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board with the Principal’s performance management. Our SIP also assessed the ability of members of the school’s Leadership Team (LT) to accurately judge the quality of teaching during lessons observations. All of their judgements were confirmed as being accurate and in accordance with Ofsted’s latest grade descriptors for the quality of teaching.

**Governors’ Profiles** – Each week we profile a member of the Board of Governors. This week it’s parent governor Sarah Whitelaw

	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Sarah Whitelaw</b>
	<b>Governor Type:</b>	<b>Parent Governor</b>
	<b>Occupation:</b>	
	<b>Committees:</b>	<b>Sub Committees – Premises and Pupil Discipline</b>

**Personal details: Sarah Whitelaw Parent Governor**

Sarah has lived in Muscat for nearly nine years with a break of 18 months when she moved to New Zealand. Sarah is a Physics Graduate from Edinburgh University and is a Chartered Electrical Engineer. She has spent 10 years working as a Systems Analyst mainly implementing Finance systems. She recently worked at Auckland University as a Process Improvement Analyst.

Sarah is married to Bob and has 3 children – Fraser (Year 8) Lewis (Year 7) and Jordan (Year 4). Before moving to New Zealand, Sarah kept busy making evening wear and since her return to Muscat has started teaching a few mums the basics of computing and hopes to continue this year. She also does voluntary work at the recently opened Outward Bound Office in Muscat.

Sarah enjoys playing squash and has been involved in setting up a league system and web site to promote squash in Muscat. She enjoys most sports and recently learnt to snowboard to keep up with her three boys!

### **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.