



The British School - Muscat

'An Outstanding School' - Inspectors 2009



BSM's Weekly Newsletter 17 October 2009

News From The Principal

Swine Flu Summary – Last week we had two suspected case of swine flu. I'll keep you informed of developments on a daily basis as we go through this week.

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.

Outward Bound – Last week 10 more students from Year 9 attended Outward Bound Oman and developed their leadership and interpersonal skills while taking part in challenging adventurous activities on top of Jebel Al Akhdar. They were all from 9CLU and were: Jack Studman, David Butler, Callum Hutchinson, Foppe Koper, David Broughton, Hannah Cotterill, Daniel Goodwin, Calvin Buckley, Yasmin Al Attar and Edward Douglas.



A Busy Week For BSM's Marlins – Last Tuesday 45 marlins swam in the TAISM relays and recorded many strong relay performances. Then over the weekend 8 Marlins swam in a distance development swim meet in Dubai, during which they competed against some of the best swimmers in the Gulf in distances of 200m and above. Many Marlins improved their long distance personal best (PB) times with 19 out 20 swims resulting in a new PB. Well done Marlins! The swimmers were: Olena Kozak-King (11CB), Charise Edmonson (5H), Joshua Edmondson (7JDR), Patrick Pender (10GH), Theodore Pender (10GH), Chloe Barrow (6J) , Khalil Mohammed (10GH) and Alexander Galosey (French School).

Senior School's Music Recital –The Secondary Music Recital on 10 October was a great success with numerous secondary school students displaying their musical talents to an extremely appreciative audience. The instrumental sounds that filled the main hall included clarinet, voice, saxophone, piano, guitar and flugal horn, and the musical genre was equally diverse in style.

Many thanks to all the performers who volunteered so readily for the concert and played so well. And 'thank you' to the parents who formed such an enthusiastic and supportive audience.

We hope to see you at our 'Sing Christmas' concerts in December.

The musicians were: Amalina Adzlan (11SS) Piano, Amy Parsons, (10JT) Singing, Annabel Kennedy, (8JRO) Soprano, Beatrice Karabaczek, (11LS) Guitar & Voice, Caitlin Anderson, (9JW) Saxophone, Eewen Chew, (8CHL) Piano, Ewan Macfarlane, (11CB) Clarinet, Joanna Ashkhanian, (10KW) Piano, Joel Abrahams, (9TE) Piano, Lavanya Chowdhury, (8JRO) Flute, Louisa Berak, (10GH) Piano, Myra Farooq, (8JRO) Piano, Nisa-Lin Croad, (9JW) Piano, Oeishi Mukherjee, (8JRO) Singing, Olivia Yates, (10KW) Piano, Omar Al Zidjali, (12MK) Guitar, Pedra Rabiee, (10GH) Violin, Rachel Raynor, (13TW) Singing, Sophy Purnell, (11JIR) Singing, Tiara Kamarudin, (11LS) Piano, Guitar and Singing, Yameen Bhatti, (13TW) Singing and Robert Yates (parent) Flugal Horn.

Double House Points – Last week I awarded double house points to the following primary children for exceeding their teachers' expectations: Sophie Jones (1EB) and Finn Young (2T) for English. Congratulations and well done!

Blue and Silver Masquerade Ball – There are only 4 Thursdays to go until it's our Blue and Silver Masquerade (BSM) Ball, so please contact Karen Casemore on headbsm1@britishschool.edu.om for your tickets. This event which will be for around 400 at the British Ambassador's Residence on Thursday 12 November. It promises to be an enjoyable evening.

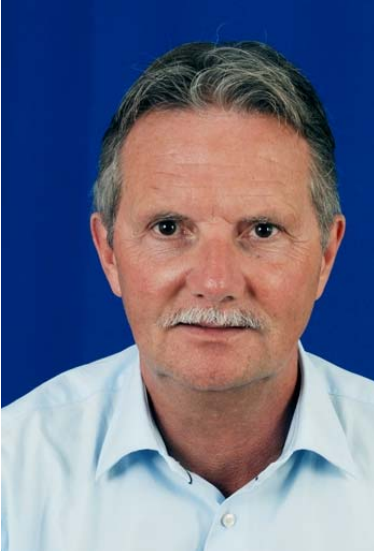
News From The Board of Governors

Improving Our School's Facilities – This week the Principal will be inviting you to attend a meeting at 6.30pm on Tuesday 27 October during which we'll outline our plans for improving our school's facilities and explain how we might fund the improvements. Please come along so that we can listen to your views.

AGM and Board Meeting – This Sunday we shall be holding our AGM for subscribing companies during which the Chairman and Principal will report on the school's performance during academic year 2008-09. For those of you who would like to read a summary of performance, provision and areas for improvement, please go to our website and read our School Profile 2008-09: <http://www.britishschoolmuscat.com/schoolprofile.pdf> .

After the AGM, the Board will hold its first full meeting of this academic year. A summary of the minutes of this meeting will be issued in this section of next week's newsletter.

Governors' Profiles – Each week we profile a member of the Board of Governors. This week it's **Jan Vossen from Shell Development Oman LLC**

	Name:	Jan Vossen
	Governor Type:	Subscribing Company (Shell Development Oman LLC.)
	Occupation:	Production Manager
	Responsibilities:	Section Leader “Outcomes”
	Committees:	Marketing, and SDP Section-1

Personal Details: In 2008 I had the opportunity to join the Board of Governors on behalf of Shell Development Oman LLC. I am a member of the Marketing Committee, and on behalf of the Board I am leading Section-1 “Outcomes” of the School Development Plan. In this role I am responsible for monitoring and supporting the school towards achieving its improvement plans.

I am Dutch and have been working for Shell for over 30 years in various locations around the world. Mid 2007 I came to Muscat with my wife Truus, and daughter Frederique who is also at the BSM. I am currently working in PDO as a Shell secondee in the role of Production Manager. After work I enjoy exploring the beautiful nature of Oman, making many waddi trips and digging out my car from the sand during the Whahiba desert challenges.

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.

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

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. Thank you for your co-operation.

Have a good week!

Steve Howland MBE
Principal.