



The British School - Muscat

'An Outstanding School' - Inspectors 2009

BSM's Weekly Newsletter 12 September 2009

News From The Principal

Swine Flu – School opened smoothly last week and attendance was at normal levels. No cases or suspected cases of swine flu were detected or reported.

We continue to work with the British Embassy, Ministry of Health, World Health Organisation (WHO), Ministry of Education and Medident in order to ensure that we receive the latest information and take appropriate action. I'll keep you informed.

In the meantime, 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 the advice that I sent you previously and contact your doctor. Please seek early medical advice if your children fall into a high risk category. Please do not send sick children to school. This is our standard advice to parents anyway, but it needs to be followed even more carefully under present circumstances.

Good personal hygiene, especially hand washing and respiratory etiquette, are crucial to preventing the spread of the virus. Therefore, please reinforce this with your children. We stress this at school and will do so for as long as the virus remains in our community.

The school's current position is 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.

A full size poster is at the end of this newsletter.

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

Safeguarding & Absence From School – We take the safety of your children very seriously and place it above everything else. Therefore, it's very important that you 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. If you don't contact us, then we will call you, but this will mean that a member of staff will be taken away from their main role, which could affect the teaching and learning of others. Therefore, please contact us so that we don't have to call you. 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.

Double House Points – Last week I awarded double house points to the following primary child for exceeding their teachers' expectations: Tehya Rana (2S) Congratulations and well done!

WANTED! - Peripatetic Instrumental Teachers - We offer a range of after-school instrumental tuition and are always on the look-out for instrumental teachers to add to our data base. If you are a qualified instrument or vocal teacher and are interested in working with our students after school then please contact Miss Proctor (Primary Music Department) or Mr. Jones (Senior Music Department) via Angela in the main office (Tel: 24600842). Thank you.

Influenza A(H1N1)

How to Protect Yourself and Others



Blue and Silver Masquerade Ball – There are only 8 Thursdays to go until it's our Blue and Silver Masquerade (BSM) Ball, so please watch out for our separate email about 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.

Blood Donors Required Please – Our Blood Donation Drive is planned for Monday 14 September at BSM. Every minute of every day, someone needs blood. That blood can only come from a volunteer donor, a person like you who will make the positive choice to donate.

Blood is regularly needed for emergencies, especially road traffic accidents. Blood and blood products are also required for routine surgery, child birth, and people who have cancer, blood disorders, sickle cell, anemia and other illnesses. Some people need regular blood transfusions to live.

Blood donation is a simple, safe procedure and if you fit and well, between the age of 18 and 60 and can spare 30 minutes of your day – please come and join our blood donation drive. Let's make a difference and save a life.

Donors are requested to eat breakfast on the day of donation and bring their ID or residency card because it is required for registration. If you require any additional information please contact our nurse, Mrs Cath Healey, on 99432613.


News From The Board of Governors

Facilities Meeting – Just a reminder that at 6.30pm on Tuesday 27 October we shall be holding a meeting in our sports hall for all parents who are interested in our plans for improving our school facilities and how we intend to fund the changes. We will outline our plans and listen to your views before taking any action.

Parent Governors Required – Last Wednesday our Bursar invited parents to stand for election for two places as parent governors. Please reply to Mr Hardy if you're interested.

An Invitation to Join a Governors' Fund Raising Working Party - If you would like to join a fund raising working party then please contact the Board's current Treasurer, Mr Ewan Stirling at ewanstirling@yahoo.co.uk. The first working party meeting will be arranged shortly, so please contact Ewan soon so that he can get started.

Governor Profiles – Each week we shall be profiling a member of the Board of Governors. This week it's our Chairman, Mr Dominic Myers, CEO – Enhance Operating Companies.

	Name:	Dominic Myers
	Governor Type:	Subscribing Company
	Occupation:	CEO of Enhance Operating Companies
	Responsibilities:	Chairman, Board of Governors
	Committees:	Principal Performance Management and School Improvement

Personal details: Dominic Myers, Chairman, Board of Governors

As a parent and Governor I have enjoyed association with the School since 1998 and been fortunate enough to serve as Chairman since 2000. As Chairman and as a Board of Governors we seek to constructively challenge and support the Leadership Team. We monitor for the standards and progress throughout the School searching for evidence of positive outcomes for students. Through the various committees, we seek to assist with the quality of resource provision. In the School Improvement Committee, which I chair, we review the School Development Plan with the Principal which provides us our direction on the Road to Outstanding.

Outside BSM I am CEO of Enhance Operating Companies (part of the W J Towell Group), the leading grocery, wholesale and convenience store retailer in Oman and many of you will also be enjoying the Dunkin Donuts franchise we introduced last year. My wife, Sharon plays an active role in administration of the Omanoil Football School and MCFL events. We have two children at BSM and our eldest daughter after 10 successful years at BSM is now at School in the UK. Those of you who know me a little will be aware of my enthusiasm for Liverpool Football Club.

Last But Not Least...

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
Principal.