



Editor's Note

Hello again readers,

This is our 2nd edition of the academic year. We hope you enjoyed the first "6th Form Diaries". Our aim is to update you on recent exciting events we in the 6th Form have organised; to keep you abreast of the aims, activities and achievements of our various committees and make those all important announcements.

BSM's 6th Form offers a dynamic and active environment to all its students - so we believe it deserves to be talked about!

Fundraisers have been particularly successful this half-term - the Human Pink Ribbon Day, the NACA Walk and doughnut sales for Cancer Awareness in Oman.

Other exciting events this half-term were the school's International Day; the Inter-House Football and Chess Tournaments; the Year 12 group expedition to Singapore to take part in the Model United Nations and finally and excitingly the school production of "West Side Story" in which many 6th Formers took part.

Enough from us: now sit back and read what the leading organisers and participants have to say about many of these wonderful events.

Finally, we wish all our readers 'Eid Mubarak', 'Happy Christmas' and a prosperous New Year.

- Cassie Buckley & Kate

Note From Head Boy & Head Girl

To start off with we would like to thank Cassie and Kate for their efforts in producing the Newsletter. They made a great job of the first edition and they are getting better!

So far this term we have established a hard-working Student Council which has met every Tuesday to discuss student issues and projects such as 'The Prom.' At the beginning of this term the student body voted Katie and Mohammed as Deputy Head Boy and Girl. They have been working on a number of projects. The efforts and successes of the Student Council will be covered in a subsequent issue of the "6th Form Diaries".

We would like to thank everyone who attended the 'Human Pink Ribbon' and the 'Walkathon' which were organised by the National Association for Cancer Awareness.

One of the changes we are proud of is our new notice boards in all the senior play grounds. We will be posting information on Student Council deliberations, student activities and upcoming events.



We want to give you an update on "The Prom" next year. We are already looking into location options and need to warn you that inflation will be pushing prices upwards. We'll be doing our very best to minimise the costs, but we are certain that they will be higher.

This is our last "Diaries" of term one so we would like to take the opportunity to wish all the students sitting exams in January the best of luck.

Eid Mubarak and Merry Christmas. Hope you all have a wonderful break and we look forward to seeing you all back and refreshed for another busy term next year.

-Richard Newell and Sara Imtiaz





Walkathon – NACA Walk

The NACA (National Association of Cancer Awareness) with generous sponsorship from Dunkin’ Donuts (amongst others) organised the annual Walkathon for Cancer Awareness. The event started and ended by the ministries in Al Shatti and took the participants on a two kilometre walk through the suburbs.

Over a thousand people in total turned up, amongst them a great contingent from BSM, who not only walked the walkathon but were also encouraged to contribute money to this worthy cause.

The atmosphere was inspiring and we’re convinced that next year will be even bigger and better. Most importantly, more people – especially women – are now more aware about the risks and cures when detected early!

- Nialla Gough

Note:

The Sixth Form Fundraising Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the ‘Dare to Wear Pink’ Mufti. We raised OMR 248.700 for the NACA on Monday 24th of November.

- Karyn & Emma

Human Pink Ribbon

The “**Human Pink Ribbon**” was organised by the **National Association for Cancer Awareness (NACA)** at the Police Stadium in Wattaya on the 15th October 2008. The grand plan was to form a huge Human Pink Ribbon, the emblem for the fight against Breast Cancer. NACA gave all the participants pink t-shirts with the slogan “Stand Up 2 Cancer.” printed on the back.

The event was a great success for the charity and a credit to all the BSM students who took part. More than 100 students were there as BSM representatives, some 10% of the total number of students present from all over Oman. This was really great particularly as we didn’t get confirmation of the event until just a few days before it took place.

It is really wonderful to know that such a strong group of supporters exist at the British School Muscat. By participating we helped increase awareness about cancer across Oman. Next year NACA plan to hold the event again and involve more students. We hope that we will be able to encourage even more support from amongst the students and parents of the British School Muscat.

- Richard and Sara

Inter-House Team Chess Championship

The inaugural Senior School inter-house team chess championship took place from 18th - 20st October during 2nd Break in the Main Hall. The format of this tournament was that each house had four players at the same time in a round robin format. Because the tournament was held during 2nd Break, the games were played in blitz form and had to end within 20 minutes.

The league phase of the tournament saw the Ruwi team led by Owain Richards and consisting of Kaarthik, Aled and Ibrahim combining well together to win all their team matches. The battle for the other place in the finals went down to the match between Bowsher and Yitti. It was an interesting match, however the Bowsher team led by Sharjil and comprising Ashwin, Samuel, Maaher and Josh managed to prevail and set up a rematch with Ruwi in the finals.

After losing 1-3 to Ruwi earlier, Bowsher began the finals well by scoring the first point. However Ruwi managed to equalise on board 2 and the Board 1 clash between Sharjil and Owain ended in a draw after a tense and interesting battle. Aled sealed the tournament with a win on Board 3 to give Ruwi a 2.5-1.5 victory in the match and the tournament. Ahmed, Kaarthik and Aled also deserve a special mention as they won all of their games in the tournament.

I would like to thank Mr. Keach, a staunch supporter of the 6th Form, for giving me this opportunity to organise and run this chess tournament. I would also like to thank all the 20 players who took part and all the spectators who contributed to making the tournament an even greater success through their support and interest.

-Siddarth Gopakumar

Inter-house Football Competitions

On 19th to 21st November the Isaac Football Tournament was held in which BSM's Under19 boys came second and our girls a credible 4th. Our opponents came from ABA, TAISM, and The American International School Riyadh, who came all the way from Saudi.

Boys' under 19's

The games were intense and competitive. Our supporters were definitely the loudest, ably egged on by Mr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson! We didn't win any matches in the group stages but we did win in the semi-finals of the tournament.

At the award ceremony, each team received a Certificate; we were presented with a flag on coming 2nd. TAISM were the overall winners with ABA 3rd and AISR the valiant backstop!

Girls' under 19's

Each team played on average two games a day. We all played our hearts out and gave our best in every match. Every challenge was met with a smile and every attack defended with great determination! We knew that this tournament was not only about the medals or beating the opponents, but most importantly about playing the game we love to play.

Each team (BSM, TAISM, ABA and AISR) had its own strengths and weaknesses to give advantage and disadvantage.

The weekend was one big adrenaline rush! It was competitive, exciting and most importantly it was FUN!! The tournament grew in excitement each day. Faced the challenges with heads held high and adrenaline still rushing was the order!

The ISAC tournament's was truly outstanding: the final outcome was 1st ABA, 2nd TAISM, 3rd Saudi and last, but by no means least, 4th BSM. However, despite the placings, in the end every team was a winner.

Finally, both the teams would like to offer a big thank you to Mr. Andy Taylor and Mr. Wilson for coaching and supporting us during the week, and for all their efforts, time and for the opportunities they have created for both the boys and girls in BSM.

- Yameen & Shelizia

'Model United Nations (MUN)' Trip to Singapore

Singapore - sensual, exciting, vibrant and extremely enjoyable: these are all words that the delegates of "Morocco" would use to describe the BSM MUN trip to Singapore on the 17th - 23rd November.

Our trip started with a flight from Muscat to Doha, with an interesting 8 hour layover in the airport before we boarded for Singapore. We spent the time revising our resolutions, finalising preparations for the conference and some time playing inventive card games from Christina. We landed at 3 pm (Singapore is four hours ahead of Muscat) and after a relaxing evening, the conference began the following morning.

Registration began by 9am at the SALT Centre in the Hwa Chong Institute, where all the delegates received their placards, official badges and the information packs. Thereafter, we went to our different committees (in different sections of the building, and sometimes, as with the case of Yasmeen and Sharjil, in different buildings altogether) to start "lobbying". Lobbying is one of the most important features of the MUN experience. You meet with other delegates and compare resolutions and operative clauses (clauses in your resolution that deal with a problem). If you have a similar resolution, you can merge with another delegate's resolution, and become a co-submitter. This strengthens the resolution, as different ideas and strengths will be incorporated to form a single resolution, which will then be submitted to the chair. The opening ceremony of the General Assembly was conducted in the gigantic auditorium, where spectacular performances from a pianist and the dramatic Hwa Chong drum band were held. Lobbying took up the entire first day and that evening we went to Orchard Road, the main shopping area in Singapore.

The last few hours of lobbying the next day was a frantic scramble amongst the delegates to finalise their resolutions and get to the Approval committee before everyone else. To get a

resolution debated in your committee, the draft had to be edited and approved first by an MUN director before being printed and passed to the chairs of our committee. As every ambassador of each delegation had to make a policy statement (a short speech on the issues that are the most important to the country you represent), many people went to watch these in the GA3 auditorium. After many excellent and quirky speeches (especially from Cape Verde and Cameroon), and a great speech made by our own ambassador, Siddharth, we went on to debate the first resolutions in each of our committees after lunch. Debating a resolution involves the main submitter of the resolution outlining the operative clauses, and then the co-submitters stating the benefits of the resolution. Points of information (questions by other delegates to the speaker) are made after the speech and it was interesting to see the speed that some of the delegates pointed out the flaws in others' resolutions. In my committee, the legal committee GA6, we debated two resolutions on the first day, one which was passed and one rejected.

We continued debating resolutions on Friday and the resolution I co-submitted came up for debate just after lunch. After making the opening speech, the delegate of Guyana (the main submitter) yielded the floor to the delegate of France to reinforce the points that she had made. This tactic was utilised by a number of delegates, as it builds support for your resolution. I also made a speech on one of the operative clauses, and I must admit points of information are incredibly scary, even when it's one of the delegates you merged with asking the question!

The MUN dance took place that evening and was held in 'Orchidville' - a garden centre. The dance-floor was extremely small, and, although the food was amazing, we were all far too tired to actually dance!

The last day was frantic, to say the least - the final resolutions were debated and the

Student Development

delegates whose resolutions were going to be debated in the Plenary session (where all the delegates from every committee attend, roughly 1000 people) were preparing last-minute speeches and practising with their friends.

The plenary sessions were definitely some of the scariest and most interesting parts of the entire MUN experience where resolutions were discussed and grilled. Siddharth and Yaseer went on stage to give a speech on different resolutions and made a number of points of information.

The final closing ceremony was a time of mixed emotions - the end of the THIMUN experience for all and the growing urge to return home!

Sunday, the last day of our trip, was the most fun. We visited Sentosa Island, Singapore's main theme park area. After taking an INCREDIBLY scary cable car ride from the city (through a skyscraper) and across the river, we went to a little museum and a disappointing 4D 'Pirates' ride. We tried to see the famous pink dolphins, but after a heavy downpour the show was cancelled, and instead we went to the 'light and laser' display, which had actors telling the story of an enchanted village (which was slightly cheesy but nevertheless the source of a few jokes) before going to Changi Airport to catch the flight home.

On behalf of everyone who went on the MUN trip, I would like to thank Mrs El-Alwan and Mr Richards who looked after us and made the trip possible. Thanks!

- Owain Richards

Secret Santa

Secret Santa is the concept of picking one person out of a group of people without them neither knowing nor agreeing to buy a gift for that person.

Secret Santa started in the 6th Form Common Room in 2007 – and was a great success for everyone. It has helped the new Year 12 and Year 13 bond through the exchanging of gifts amongst the entire 6th Form. The entire Sixth Form Community really comes together through “Secret Santa” at the start of the festive season.

To add to the festive spirit, everyone places their gifts under the 6th Form Christmas Tree on the 3rd of December – one of the last full school-days before the holidays. At the end of the morning the Tree with all the gifts under it, is the focus of fun and joy as gifts are exchanged and each student's ‘Secret Santa’ is revealed!

- Nialla Gough

Drama

British School Muscat

Based on a Conception of
JEROME ROBBINS
Book by

**ARTHUR
LAURENTS**

Music by
**LEONARD
BERNSTEIN**

Lyrics by
**STEPHEN
SONDHEIM**

Entire Original Production
Directed & Choreographed by
**JEROME
ROBBINS**

Originally Produced
on Broadway by
Robert E. Griffith
& Harold S. Prince
By Arrangement with
Roger L. Stevens

WEST SIDE STORY is presented through special
arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorised performance materials are also supplied
by MTI 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019.
Phone: 212-541-4684 Fax: 212-397-4684
www.MTIShows.com

PERFORMANCES

Sunday 30th November @ 6pm

Monday 1st December @ 6pm

Tuesday 2nd December @ 6pm

Wed 3rd December @ 4.30pm

Adult: Oa6 Child (016): Oa4

Doors open at 5.30pm/4.00pm



Tickets available from
Saturday 8th November
at School Main Reception
The British School Muscat
Senior School Drama Dept.
PO Box 1907, Ruwi 112
Sultanate of Oman
Phone: 24600842
admin@britishschoolmuscat.com
Design: Rachel Connor

WEST SIDE STORY

