

BISAK Newsletter

21st October 2009

Inspiring young minds to do the best they can with the gifts they have!!!

Dear Parents and Students,

In order to familiarise parents with our Philosophy and Objectives, we will introduce a different statement each week in our newsletter. This week's objective is:

"Nurture an appreciation, respect and a sense of responsibility towards the environment and the natural world."

Newsletter from the Principal

School Closure

I would like to thank all parents who were able to respond to the survey re school closure. Indeed the staff are now working on your feedback in order to improve practice should we have similar closures in the future. I am sure that the concept of virtual learning, will never replace the classroom experience, however, it does have its benefits in developing students to work independently which is really a higher order of learning skill, so in every cloud, there really is a silver lining! You will find some feedback on page 3 and the data will be on the website on this link: <http://www.britishschool-ksa.com/Documents/pdf%20files/Survey%20Summary%20with%20bar%20chart%20pdf.pdf>

Moving from Good to Outstanding

Most recently, we posted a school action plan on the website: <http://www.britishschool-ksa.com/HTML%20Pages/Action%20Plan.html>. Our aim is to continuously improve the quality of education at the school for each individual child thus we are continuously reviewing this action plan. At present every child has been assessed in English and other core areas, and strategies are being implemented to provide support for all students taking into account their different learning styles and individual needs. As we move towards the end of this term, we will work at updating the action plan. Your feedback is therefore very valuable to us and can help us monitor and take all parental views into consideration. A school improvement survey has been emailed to you. We would appreciate your response by midnight Wednesday 28th October. In addition all teachers are now supporting the school objectives and are focusing one of their professional development targets on assessment for learning.

CIS accreditation

Meanwhile, our school is now working through the final stages of the CIS accreditation process, with the visiting team aimed to arrive in March. This has been an exhaustive process, which has looked at every aspect of the school, and has involved the whole community. Staff are working on action plans as we speak to move BISAK from a Good school to an Outstanding school. As always, most important to us is what happens in the classroom, which is where our main focus has been. You will find more information on this in the Newsletter.

Key dates

I would like to remind you of two key dates for your calendar. On November 2nd you are invited to the school to see what we are planning to offer for A levels next year. On the 24th November is our Annual AGM, where I will be providing a summary of the years achievements, a reinforcement of our vision and you will also have an opportunity to see the audited accounts.

Association of Parents and Friends

As ever, we would like to encourage parent involvement and are still looking for parents to support the Association of Parents and Friends and indeed Chair the committee. Please email secretary@britishschool-ksa.com if you would like to help, or contact one of the Parent Governors, Siobhan Hanna sio_hanna@yahoo.co.uk or Steve Dyer shdyer@ssafara.net to discuss how you can help become involved in supporting the students of the school.

Every opinion counts

And remember your opinion really counts! <http://www.britishschool-ksa.com/Documents/doc%20files/Every%20Opinion%20Counts.doc>. Do take time to send back any opinions or comments directly to me on principal@britishschool-ksa.com

Regards

Dr. Tassos Anastasiades
Principal

BISAK Council of International Schools accreditation update

BISAK has nearly completed the self-study phase of the accreditation process with the Council of International Schools (CIS). The self-study phase is divided into seven groups which form committees to look at in detail the school in rating it against specific standards while keeping the schools own philosophy and objectives in mind. A team has now been appointed to visit BISAK in March 2010

The self-study committees that have finished their findings and produced reports identifying the strengths, weaknesses and actions that need to be addressed by the school include:

Philosophy and Objectives (The school vision)

Staff

Governance and Management

Student Support Services

Curriculum - this was looked at in detail by fourteen different committee groups all focussing on either a specific curriculum area or recognised school within BISAK.

Student and Community life

The only self-study group that needs to complete it's findings is the Resources group. This committee will look at resources and infrastructural needs across the whole school.

Once the self-study groups have finalised their findings they pass these onto a further committee called the Steering committee. The Steering group streamline and identify the main strengths, weakness and actions that need to be addressed by the school. The Steering committee have finished the report for the first six committee groups and will process the findings of the Resources committee when they finish.

The Steering group have passed their recommendations on to the school "Senior Leadership and Management Team" (SLMT) who are currently working on addressing the issues and recommendations identified by the Steering Group. These findings will be incorporated into the ongoing school action plan which will ensure that the necessary changes occur to develop and improve the school.

In addition BISAK will be visited in late November by a BSME accreditation team, consisting of experienced head teachers from the UAE and OFSTED trained inspectors to have a brief look at BISAKS Learning Centred School Evaluation.

Results of School Closure Survey

Dear Parents,

Thank you for taking part in the School Closure Survey this week. We value your feedback. Please find enclosed results from the parents' survey addressing the recent school closure. Please click on this link on our website showing the results we received: <http://www.britishschool-ksa.com/Documents/pdf%20files/Survey%20Summary%20with%20bar%20chart%20pdf.pdf>

In summary,

- We would like to thank parents for their cooperation and support during the closure, and appreciate the fact that in many families both parents work but they were still able to go through the work with their children.
- Thank you to all the teachers for their commitment and hard work. The work the teachers sent out was a great effort and delivered in a very short time frame. Please be assured that the teachers will revise the topics that the children covered over the two or three weeks to ensure any gaps will be dealt with.
- BISAk would like to reassure you that the work will be marked as part of the on-going teaching and learning in the classroom.
- Feedback will be given in the homework books or at parent teacher meetings.
- Your children are continually assessed in the classroom and any problem areas will be communicated to parents directly from the teacher.

Senior Leadership and Management Team

SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP

Our delivery of school sweatshirts has now arrived and they are available from the shop during normal opening hours. Logo badges are also in stock again.

Please remember that you can also send in uniform orders and money with your child and the items will be sent home with them. The following link will give you the prices for items of school uniform: <http://www.britishschool-ksa.com/HTML%20Pages/School%20Shop.html>

Mrs Pauline Gair

AFTER SCHOOL COOKERY CLASSES

This club will start on Monday 26th October. Parents are informed that there are still several places left to be filled by any of our young aspiring cooks.

If your child is willing to participate. Please inform Mrs Pauline Gair by Saturday the 24th.

Thank you

OASIS VEHICLE PASS

Dear Parents,

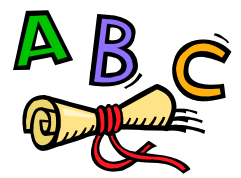
Please click on this link to access the gate pass that will allow vehicles entry and exit to and from BISAk: <http://britishschool-ksa.com/Documents/pdf%20files/Awards%20Newletters%202009-2010/BISAk%20Vehilce%20Pass.pdf>

Please print and complete this form and return at your earliest convenience.

Thank you.

Estate Manager—Mrs Amal Fakhoury

*Congratulations!!!
to all of this week's achievers*



Star of the Week

- PSO *Lelya Harkous*
- 1M *Tala Mahgoub*
- 1T *Sean Grieve, Jakob Weinmann, Fedrica Annoni, Ryan Hanna*
- 2H *Farrell Rachmat*
- 2G *Musub Bin Alam*
- 2P *Sneha Chakravorty*



House Point Winner

- EAL *Arkady Deliev*
- RC *Ammar Amin*
- 1M *Jana Ahmed-Fathy*
- 1T *Jakob Weinmann*
- 2H *Sara Captan*
- 2G *Amera El-Nakla*
- 2P *Wian de Jager, Dima Hassenieh*

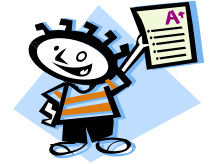


Bronze Certificate

- 1M *Tala Mahgoub, Manie Human, Ozan Yildiz, Majed Alami, Max Millar, Lucy Gilmour, Layan Al-Mayadmeh, Korcula Cowan, Jana Ahmed-Fathy, Aymaan Saqib*
- 1T *Nadine Elkhatib, Sean Grieve, Jakob Weinmann*
- 2H *Sara Captan, Farrell Rachmat*
- 2P *Wian de Jager, Raheela Butt, Dima Hassenieh, Sneha Chakravorty*



Congratulations!!! to all of this week's achievers



Silver Certificate

- 4P Francois Human
- 6B Hassaan Azhar, Zaid Haj Ali
- 6M Thilini Baduge



House Point Winner

- 3P Emma Harries
- 4B Nicholas Armstrong, Faris al Jundi,
Ronnie John
- 4H Murad Bajwa
- 4P Simon Joseph
- 5A Azfer Khan
- 5S Hasna El Nakla, Iman Khwaja
- 5W Amar Ramly
- 6B Marium Khwaja
- 6M Zeena Haddad, Thilini Baduge,
- 6T Mustafa Hamdani



Bronze Certificate

- 4H Muhammad Salik Khan, Bella Cho, Noura Elbayrouti,
Murad Bajwa, Gabriela Barreto
- 6B Saman Khan Malik, Marium Kiwan, William Owen, Rebekah
Murray, Tarek Ajjane
- 6M Saeed Mohanna, Zeena Haddad, Osama Masadeh, Jenna
Fernandes
- 6T Benedikt Weinmann, Yusuf El Hassan, Nada Adulaziz



FORTHCOMING EVENTS UNTIL EID AL ADHA HOLIDAYS

- Wednesday 21st October ICC Concert at 7.30pm in the Lower Hall
- Wed 21 & Thurs 22 October U/16 Girls Volleyball at ABQ Aramco
U/16 Boys Volleyball at Rastanura
- Sat 24th October Joseph Production " Dress Rehearsal from 2pm to 3pm
- Thursday 29th October U/14 Girls Volleyball at Jubail
U/14 Boys Volleyball at Jubail
- Wed 4 & Thurs 5 November U/14 Girls Volleyball at Riyadh
" U/14 Boys Volleyball at Yanbu
" Adventure Service Junior Award Camp
- Tuesday 10th November Arabic—Parents/Teachers Meeting 1pm to 3pm
- Wed 11th November ICC Concert at 7.30pm in the Lower Hall
- Sun 15 & Mon 16 November Parent/Teacher Consultation - 1.30pm to 3.30pm Foundation Stage & Key Stage 1
- Tues 17th November Yr 8 & Yr 9 Parents' Evening - 3pm to 6pm
Michael Hamilton Gallery
- Wed 18 & Thurs 19 November Adventure Service Senior Award Camp
- Sun 22 & Mon 23 November Parent/Teacher Consultation -
1.30pm to 3.30pm Key Stage 2
- Sunday 22nd November Yr 5 & Yr 6 Inter-house Football & Netball
- Monday 23rd November Key Stage 3 Inter-house Football & Netball
- Tuesday 24th November Key Stage 4 Inter-house Football & Netball