

BISAK NEWSLETTER

2nd September 2009

BISAK THEME 2009

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

3rd

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:

"Cultivate minds to have a lifelong passion for learning"

Dear Parents and Students,

A warm welcome to you all from the Staff at BISAK and the Board of Governors. We look forward, as ever, to working with your children through the year ahead and seeing them develop into fine young BISAK people.

It is our aim to ensure that each child is able to develop to the best of his/her abilities, and to be selfless and caring individuals—all this with a framework of positive thinking. This newsletter is sent from my office each week throughout the school year via e-mail. It is an important link between the school and home.

So far as email addresses are concerned, would you please send your most readily accessible, most frequently used email address to Nooreen Kauser our IT Manager at this address:- nooreen@britishschool-ksa.com

Enrolment this year has been the highest ever, with waiting lists now in all year groups up to year 4, and for the first time a waiting list in year 7. Numbers are anticipated to exceed 620! Our year 11 students will be making important decisions this year as the school moves to A level next year, and possibly IB the year after. I am pleased to advise you that we now have an additional 6 classrooms to cater for the growth in the school and an exceptionally talented staff team to deliver the curriculum—where the student always comes first. This year is also an important year as we complete the CIS accreditation process, with a team visit planned for March 2010.

As ever we have a thriving activities programme offered at BISAK—which will start on September 12th, details which can be found on the website. Please ensure that your names are clearly stated on the Return Activities slips. Also in this edition you will be able to find out more information on the new staff that have joined us this academic year, link to website available on page 2.

As always, a 'My Opinion Counts' sheet, has been attached to this newsletter for your comments—as we are always pleased to hear from you.

Regards

Dr Tassos Anastasiades

BISAK Board of Governors

Founder & Chairman Emeritus:	Dr George Saadeh
Chairman:	Mr Ziad Najjar
Acting Deputy Chairperson:	Mrs Shadia Dajani
Treasurer:	Mr Ebraheim Hajjarah
British Trade Office Representative:	Mr Neil Wilson
Community Representative:	Mr Mike Tunstall
Community Representative:	Mrs Karen Daly-Gherabi
Community Representative:	Mes Emmie Pollard
Community Representative:	Mr Nadim Zakharia
Parent Representative:	VACANT
Parent Representative:	VACANT

We wish the Board well, as it provides us with governance for another year.

BISAK STAFF

A very warm welcome to our new members of staff and welcome back to our existing staff members.

We wish you all well in your year ahead at BISAK and I look forward to working with you all.

The complete Staff List 2009/10 is on our website, please use the following link to access it: <http://www.britishschool-ksa.com/HTML%20Pages/Staff%2009-10.html>

Collection of Primary students

Primary students are dismissed at 1.15pm. (School buses also leave the school premises promptly at 1.15pm). Therefore, students who go home on buses leave their classes earlier so that the buses can leave on time.

Students not on buses should be collected at 1.15pm promptly.

AFTER-SCHOOL ARABIC

Dear Parents,

After-school Arabic will start next week Saturday 5th September.

Primary:- 1.15pm to 3pm Secondary: 2pm until 3pm

For further information please contact Mrs Randa Abou Zeid - Head of Arabic.

GATE PASSES

For new parents: The application form for gate passes onto BISAK premises is available from our school website. This pass will allow you access through the right hand barrier of the Oasis Gardens security lanes.

Please click on the following link: <http://www.britishschool-ksa.com/Documents/pdf%20files/Awards%20Newletters%202009-2010/BISAK%20Vehilce%20Pass.pdf>

Print and complete the form and return to the Estate Manager:

Mrs Amal Fakhoury as soon as possible.

For returning parents: Your passes is valid until the end of year (December 2009).

Gate passes in the new format will be placed on the website in the first week of December 09. We will keep you posted.

COMMUNICATION

Dear Parents,

We are presently streamlining our organizational efficiency and as such we do realize that communication is very important. Please do ensure that you read the BISAK newsletter each week. For any concerns regarding your child/ren, the first point of contact will be class teacher. Positions of responsibility have now been introduced:

Mr Mark Furlong	-	Head of Secondary School
Mr Richard McMahon	-	Deputy Head of Secondary School
Mr Costas Gikas	-	Head of Primary School
Mrs Angela Gunn	-	Deputy of Primary School
Mrs Randa Abou Zeid	-	Head of Arabic

Please feel free to make appointments to meet with any of the above personnel to discuss your matters of concern.

GCSE AND YEAR 11

This academic year the upper school year 11 students will be the first cohort of pupils in BISAK to undertake their GCSE examinations. The GCSE programme is now firmly in place with the year 11 students taking exams in term three and year 10's beginning the two year course this term. The GCSE's that are available to year 10 pupils include; English, Maths, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Business Studies, Economics, Geography, History, Art, Design Technology, Physical Education, Music, Drama, ICT, French and Arabic.

The following academic year 2010 – 2011, BISAK will be offering a range of A-Levels for the first time. The year 12 (6th Form) pupils will start the course following the AS specification and will move onto the A2 specification in year 13 to qualify for a full A-Level certificate. This will be another milestone for BISAK enabling pupils to undertake post 16 education in Kingdom that provides students with the necessary qualifications to apply for University entrance.

In addition to the A-Level programme, BISAK has initiated the process of applying to become an International Baccalaureate school for the academic year 2011- 2012. To become an IB school BISAK must first become accredited by the IBO. As such we are working towards the necessary standards to enable us to offer an IB programme.

If there are any parents who are interested in the A-Level or IB programme that we intend to offer students at BISAK please feel free to contact the school and leave your details. We will do our best to keep you up to date with future developments.

Interested to work at BISAK???

We are looking for casual/supply teachers, classroom assistants & nurses. If you are interested please contact our Personnel Manager at:-
personnel@britishschool-ksa
Thankyou

SCHOOL SHOP

Please note that the School Uniform Shop will be open at the regular times on:-

MONDAYS 7.15am TO 8.00am

SATURDAYS 7.15am TO 8.00am & 1.00pm TO 1.45pm

WEDNESDAY 7.15am TO 8.00am

Please ensure that any uniform orders brought to the shop by the children must be accompanied by the correct amount of money. The items ordered will then be sent home with the child.

APF

We have a thriving Association of Parents and Friends who work with teachers to raise funds for the benefit of our students. The committee is always looking for enthusiastic new members. If you are interested in helping please contact the Principal's Secretary. Please use this link to access the APF information on our website. <http://www.britishschool-ksa.com/HTML%20Pages/APF.html>

RAMADAN REMINDER

During the month of Ramadan, all people of the Muslim religion, fast during the daylight hours and only break their fast after sunset. In keeping with the customs of our host country, BISAK asks that students refrain from eating and drinking in public i.e. corridors and outdoors.

BISAK provides a prayer and reflection room for our students during their break time.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER!!

Sunday 6th September 3pm to 4pm Parents meeting Primary School Teachers

SATURDAY 19th TO WEDNESDAY 23rd
EID EL FITR HOLIDAY INCLUDING NATIONAL
DAY HOLIDAY

Saturday 12th September

After-school Activities begins

Children of the Forest



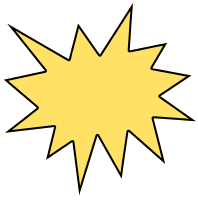
During the holidays the school handed over to the Children of the Forest (the school charity) 40,000 baht (about 4,000 SR). The school and home run by the charity are located just outside the town of Sangkhlaburi, near the Thai-Burmese border. The photographs below shows Daniel Hopsan, the Director receiving the money.



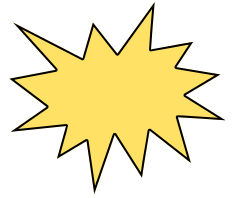
Children of the Forest provide a school and home for Karen, Mon and Burmese refugee children. The children who the charity helps have lost their parents, have no home and suffer neglect, abuse or extreme poverty. The home takes care of about 90 children who are at risk. Caring housemothers provide a safe loving place for these children.



The centre also runs a school for the children of the home and for day students living in the area. There are currently 360 students at the school. The children due to their extreme poverty and background do not have access to normal education system. The money that was raised from the students of BISAK will be used to feed the students of the school for 20 days.



Congratulations to All This Week's Achievers



PRIMARY SCHOOL

House Point Winner

- 3C Tara Haddad, Umnia Saqib, Huzaifah Mahmood, Ashleigh Kirby, Martina Annoni
- 3P Sophia Khwaja
- 5A Youssef El Shafei
- 5W Amar Ramly
- 6B Saman Khan Malik, Mustafa Boorenie, Callum Gilmour