

Head of School's Newsletter No 4

February may be a shorter calendar month but here at TNS Beaconhouse we have a full and exciting month planned. I think the table below will help give you some idea of what is in our calendar for February.

| Date | Event | Participants |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| 5 th Feb | Kashmir day –school closed | All |
| 16 th Feb | Tentative date for MYP/DP Sports day TBC | Parents, staff , students |
| 17 th Feb | DP Seminar , details to follow | Students, parents, staff |
| 19 th Feb | DP2 Mocks begin- a detailed schedule will follow | Staff, parents DP2 students |
| 20 th Feb | Grade 10 MYP personal project presentations | Staff, Grade 10, parents |
| 22 nd -24 th Feb | School Play – additional details to follow | All |

Looking back on January, I found the month to be filled with new experiences and familiar challenges!

The Rights of Children event that took place on Saturday was a powerful show of how dedicated and committed the staff and students are. I was delighted with the student work and I know that behind the scenes, many were involved in making this event so professional. Holding the Organic Market alongside our Rights of Children proved to be very popular with our visitors and parents alike. I found myself purchasing some amazing local goods, some which will find their way back to the family in the UK!

I often talk about the need to show transparency in our communications with parents and so I would like to share with you my updates regarding the continuous monitoring of bullying complaints. Bullying within most establishments, whether it be in school or the workplace does exist and I want to share my vision that we will create an environment that identifies, monitors, and reduces bullying in our school. In an ideal world I would create a system that eradicates bullying in all shapes and forms, but unfortunately reality is it will be very difficult to do this, however, by raising this common issue through assemblies and following a strict zero-tolerance approach I hope we can reduce the opportunities for those who think it is acceptable to create a situation that spoils an individual's school experience.

Within our DP programme, students have to select a project topic for their CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service) which, for one student, provided an opportunity to invite in a guest speaker to address the bullying issue that many schools (if not all-if we were to be honest) have to deal with. The style of presentation allowed our younger students to process the information and equips them with skills to deal with bullies. I hope to follow this with an additional assembly for our older students.

The school welcomed a team from Therapy Works, which held a seminar on Drug awareness last week. The session was extremely well presented and allowed students from Grade 8 and above to openly

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discuss these topics under direct supervision of experts in their field. The feedback from both staff and students was very encouraging.

I often comment on how impressed I am with the security measures within school. Our CRT (Crisis Response team) meet on a regular basis to discuss the overall monitoring of the security systems on site and we recently held our monthly Lockdown procedure that was completed in a timely manner. A visitor to the school at that time was impressed with the way we carried out the drill, as she found herself involved and safely directed to the nearest lock down room.

Evacuation procedures have been finely tuned and followed up with a Whole school fire drill so that all stakeholders on site are familiar with the routes to take in an emergency and their allocated areas for registration through the newly created Line Manager lists.

The Social Activism course continues to run, led by Ms.Aurelie Salvaire, who brings a wealth of background expertise in this area. Last week I was delighted to be given an update from the students involved in how they hope to create their own social experiments which include such interesting topics as peer pressure and gender inequality. The course has allowed students to better master key soft skills such as empathy, non-violent communication and public speaking and become better engaged citizens.

My favorite moment of this month was observing our younger students preparing for their school photographs! They were so excited to help their friends line up correctly for the BIG picture. Delightful to see such caring, attentive attributes in our little ones.

By the time we entered the final week of January we were celebrating the success of our Girls Football team who secured the trophy for the second year running at the 5th BCR Beaconhouse Sports League. The girls, Sasha, (Captain) Rida (player of the tournament), Zaaria, Neshmiyah , Sophiya, Parisheh, Arina and Amina are true role models for our younger students, showing that dedication, determination and team spirit can reap the most amazing results! I am very proud of them.

Finally, I know you will join with me in thanking the staff for their input and support in making sure our EY/PY Sports event was a memorable occasion. We got there in the end! As many of you will know, we had an interesting interlude! Good to see our improved evacuation procedures worked well.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the upcoming events that are planned and will begin my 'training' in readiness for that Teacher /Parent race I have planned for the MYP/DP Sports day!

Warmest regards,



Ms. Diane Metcalfe
Head of School