



THEOPHILUS WALDMEIER  
FOUNDER OF BRUMMANA HIGH SCHOOL  
1873

# BRUMMANA HIGH SCHOOL

Volume 20, Issue 7 — 30 May 2017

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I have the pleasure of announcing our upcoming major **theatre production: Mount Purgatory**. The BHS Drama Club and IB Theatre Group, in collaboration with the Lebanese American University, will be presenting the play on Friday and Saturday, 2-3 June at 8:00pm in the BHS Amphitheatre. Mount Purgatory is a collective creation directed by our drama instructor Omar Moujaes and adapted from Dante's Divine Comedy. Tickets for 5,000LL (students) and 10,000LL (adults) are available at the BHS Bookshop. Hurry up and secure your tickets before they are sold out!

A MAJOR THEATRE PRODUCTION

# MOUNT PURGATORY

A Collective Creation  
Directed by Omar Moujaes  
TICKETS FOR 5,000 LL (UNDER 18) & 10,000 LL (ADULTS)

Adapted from "The Divine Comedy"  
Written by Dante Alighieri

**June Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>, Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017 at 8:00 PM**

Location: Outdoor amphitheatre, BHS  
Located near the boarding house and soccer field. Tickets must be purchased at the Bookshop or at the door before the performance.

## BHS SUMMER CAMP 2017

The dates for the BHS Summer Camp 2017 are as follows: **Day Camp** – Ages 3-6 years > 6 July till 22 August; Ages 7-15 years > 5 July till 22 August; **Boarding Camp** – Ages 6-15 > 10 July till 20 August. Please check the summer camp website [www.bhscamp.com](http://www.bhscamp.com) and brochure for further details.

- Any Secondary student interested in a position as a **Summer Camp Monitor** should download an application from the summer camp website, complete it, and submit it to the Receptionist, Antoinette Hage, as soon as possible.

### SWIMMING POOL

The BHS swimming pool is open on Wednesdays and Fridays after school. Entrance is free for BHS students.

## EMERGENCY SMS MESSAGES

Please note that in an emergency only one SMS message is sent to each family. This is the contact person specified in the most recent Family Data Update returned, e.g. mother, or father, or guardian. If the contact person specified did not receive the SMS messages sent on Saturday, 20 May or Wednesday, 24 May, please contact the Registrar to ensure that we have the correct contact information.

## BHS CULTURAL SOCIETY LAU SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The BHS Cultural Society (BHS-CS) has gifted \$300,000 towards an endowed scholarship fund at LAU, for which deserving BHS graduates will benefit. Such an initiative is meaningful to our students, who work hard for their success. It lets them know that others believe in them and will make a significant difference in helping ease the financial burden of attending LAU. We appreciate the vision in providing a gift that will keep on giving well into the future, and thank the BHS-CS for the continued support of BHS students.

### DONATION TO CARITAS LEBANON

We are proud of our students' philanthropy in donating a total of LL1,540,000 to Caritas Lebanon in April & May.

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- On 11 March 2017, maths teachers Mouhana El Hajj and Gisele Hanna attended a workshop entitled Flipped Learning during the SMEC Conference at AUB. They have introduced student-centred educational tools in some of their classes. The Maths Department will explore that area further.
- On 17 May 2017, the Head of the Maths Department, Aline Alam, attended a workshop called Robotics Integrated with Maths at the St. Joseph University.
- Our Bursar, Raymond El Feghali, represented BHS at the Independent Schools' Bursars Association (ISBA) conference and annual general meeting in Manchester, UK, on 17-18 May. As always, the event's emphasis was on professional development, offering school professionals the chance to hear from expert speakers on the key operational issues affecting them and their schools. In addition to the opportunities for networking and sharing best practice with colleagues at the conference, attendees benefited from a dedicated exhibition of more than 120 professional advisers and suppliers to the independent education sector. The keynote addresses were: 'Inside the battle for Brexit?', 'Should we worry about the economy?', and 'How do we "future-proof" education?' Other sessions that the Bursar attended throughout the two days were: 'Thinking international - import or export?', 'Trends - what's in store for 2017 and beyond?', 'Ongoing strategic vs. operational challenges facing schools - how to get the balance right?', and 'In times of crisis, when reputation is everything, how well prepared is your school?' The Bursar found the conference a valuable opportunity to learn about new developments, exchange views, and discuss problems.

## BHS BUS RULES

Students on the bus must abide by the school rules, respect the designated monitor, and follow these BHS bus rules:

- Get on and off the bus in an orderly manner in single file.
- No physical play or rough conduct is allowed at any time.
- Remain properly seated at all times and keep head and other parts of the body inside the bus and out of the aisle.
- Avoid loud conversation and singing.
- Musical instruments may not be played inside the bus.
- Ask the bus monitor's permission before opening a window.
- Eating, drinking, chewing gum, and smoking are not allowed on the bus.
- Respect the rights of others inside and outside the bus.
- Written parental permission is required if a bus registered student who comes to school in the morning is not using the usual bus on the homeward journey (because he/she is not returning by bus or is going on a different bus).
- A student who is not registered to use the bus service may not use a BHS bus, unless it is a BHS sanctioned activity.
- A student who misbehaves on the bus will be reported to the Head of Section. A student who repeatedly misbehaves on the bus will be banned from using it.

### REPORT CARDS

Please note that in order to receive report cards, all books on loan must be returned and all fines and tuition fees must be settled.

### TUITION & BUS FEES 2017/18

Next year's tuition fee invoices will be given out with the report card for the eldest student in each family. First payment of tuition fees and the bus registration fees is due by 31 August.

## PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Parents' Association held the annual May Festival on Thursday, 25 May. The opening performance was by the BR1 Scouts in the presence of the Aley 1 Band, who played beautifully. It was an unforgettable and successful day filled with wonderful performances by the students who were dressed in beautiful costumes. The remarkable event, included inflatable games, kermes, and a variety of food and accessory stands. In the afternoon, there was a packed programme with a performance by stilt walkers and clowns, who distributed balloons to all the children. After that, we all enjoyed The Voice Kids star Zein Obeid's wonderful performance followed by a parade and a Brazilian show. At the end of the day, the coronation of the May Queen was presented by the talented singer and actor Marc Hatem in the presence of the TV presenter Nadia Bsat. The five May Queens looked stunning, and we are proud of them all. For the first time, **two May Queens** were crowned: **Maysa Abou Khalil and Valeria Hilany**. We wish them and the first runner-up, Jana Zeinoun, the best of luck in presenting the finest image of Brummana High School.



May Queen

## SCOUTS NEWS

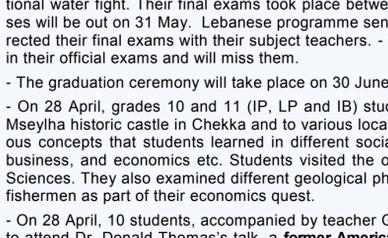
- We would like to congratulate C. Andrea Maria Saad on her appointment as Asst. Pack Leader.
- The Panther and Kangaroo patrols, led by Daniel Aboujawdeh and Jennifer Bujawdeh, will be having a joint patrol camp in the beginning of June.
- We had an overnight in BHS on 24/05/2017 in order to prepare for the May Queen Festival.
- That is all for now. Stay tuned for more exciting news from your friendly local Scout group.



## UPPER SCHOOL NEWS

### SECONDARY NEWS

- BHS students had a tremendous success at the **LAU MUN**, at which three students qualified to be part of the six-student national delegation to New York. Our three students made us and Lebanon proud. Stephany Ashkar, Adrien Touzot (10 IP) and Michel Sadek (Sec. 1 LP) won the highest-ranked award, Secretary-General Award at MUN New York! Thumbs up to our young diplomats!
- On 26 May at 5:00pm, **IB students** presented their Group 4 (Sciences) projects at Khoury Hall in the presence of the Principal, Vice-Principal, staff, parents, and potential IB1 students currently in Grade 10 IP. The audience was impressed by the seriousness, meticulousness, and eloquence of students as they presented their scientific findings.
- Rached Ghanem (Sec. 1 LP) participated in the **European Karting Championship** in France, and got a very good ranking among professional drivers sponsored by automobile companies. We are proud of our young sports driver!
- Michel Sadek (Sec. 1 LP) was selected by the French team L'Olympique Lyonnais to take part in an intensive one-week **football training camp** in France. Well done to our budding football star!

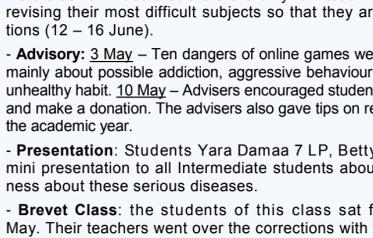


New York MUN Conference

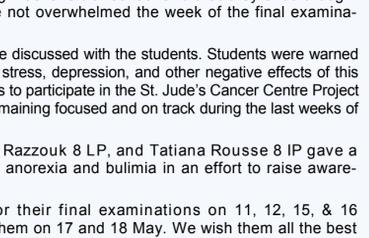


Seniors last day

- Nabih Harfouche (12 IP), travelled to Thailand, with the **national futsal team** for the Asian qualification tournament. We are proud of our futsal star and our national team!
- **Final exams** for grades 10 and 11 (LP, IP) will take place between 13 and 16 June. IB1 classes will continue throughout that week. IB1 finals will take place the following week, between 19 and 23 June. Report cards for all these classes will be out on 7 July.
- On 25 May, the **May Festival** took place. Parents, students, staff and guests, spent a wonderful time with the diverse programme for that day. The Secondary Section talent show featured a song performed by our talented young musicians and singers: Jennifer Bu Jawdeh, Gabrielle Ghanimeh, Michel Sadek, and Michel Ghaleb (Sec. 1 LP). This group won the gold medal in the show. Joanna Abou Khazaa (Sec. 2 S) also performed a beautiful song which earned her the silver medal. Congratulations to all.
- The **last day** of school for **seniors** was 28 April. Students paraded in convoys and then had the traditional water fight. Their final exams took place between 16 and 19 May. Report cards for senior classes will be out on 31 May. Lebanese programme seniors came for 2 days, on 23 and 24 May and corrected their final exams with their subject teachers. - We wish the graduating students the best of luck in their official exams and will miss them.
- The graduation ceremony will take place on 30 June and the prom on 5 July.
- On 28 April, grades 10 and 11 (IP, LP and IB) students went on a **Social Sciences field trip** to the Mseytha historic castle in Chekka and to various locations in Batroun. The trip aimed to reinforce various concepts that students learned in different social sciences classes such as history, geography, business, and economics etc. Students visited the old Phoenician wall and the Museum of Nautical Sciences. They also examined different geological phenomena on the shores of Batroun and met with fishermen as part of their economics quest.
- On 28 April, 10 students, accompanied by teacher Gisele Hanna, went to UNESCO Palace in Beirut, to attend Dr. Donald Thomas's talk, a **former American Astronaut at NASA**. The event was organized by AUST. The students were thrilled to hear about space missions, astronomy, and cosmology.

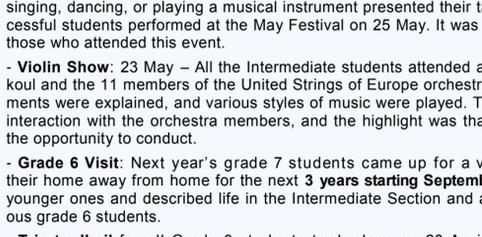


Talent Show at May Festival

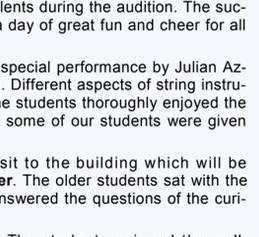


## INTERMEDIATE SECTION

- **Assembly:** 5 May - a special talk was given to the students about the physical and emotional hazards of using a mobile phone. Students were advised to keep phones off when carrying them. They were also reminded that there are only few teaching weeks left of school and that they should begin revising their most difficult subjects so that they are not overwhelmed the week of the final examinations (12 - 16 June).
- **Advisory:** 3 May - Ten dangers of online games were discussed with the students. Students were warned mainly about possible addiction, aggressive behaviour, stress, depression, and other negative effects of this unhealthy habit. 10 May - Advisers encouraged students to participate in the St. Jude's Cancer Centre Project and make a donation. The advisers also gave tips on remaining focused and on track during the last weeks of the academic year.
- **Presentation:** to students Yareta Damaa 7 LP, Betty Razzouk 8 LP, and Tatiana Rousse 8 IP gave a mini presentation to all Intermediate students about anorexia and bulimia in an effort to raise awareness about these serious diseases.
- **Brevet Class:** the students of this class sat for their final examinations on 11, 12, 15, & 16 May. Their teachers went over the corrections with them on 17 and 18 May. We wish them all the best when they sit for the official government examinations starting 6 June.
- **Crossing the Bridge Ceremony:** On Thursday, 18 May, in Khoury Hall, Dr. El Khoury welcomed all the parents, teachers, and students who were present for this event. Following further talks from the Head of Section and the three Grade 9 Advisers, the sixty-seven Grade 9 students read out their quotes, received academic and social certificates, and walked in the procession as they "crossed the bridge" from Intermediate into the Secondary Section. We wish them all the best in their years as Secondary students.



Crossing the Bridge



- **Field Day Awards Ceremony:** On 18 May, many students received medals for their Field Day achievements in a ceremony held on the sand field. Congratulations to all the winners.
- **St Jude's Cancer Centre Project:** the Intermediate students have been working on writing letters to the children of the cancer centre and also gathering donations for the sick children.
- **May Festival: Auditions for the talent show** were held on 15 May. Students with a talent in singing, dancing, or playing a musical instrument presented their talents during the audition. The successful students performed at the May Festival on 25 May. It was a day of great fun and cheer for all those who attended this event.
- **Violin Show:** 23 May - All the Intermediate students attended a special performance by Julian Azkoul and the 11 members of the United Strings of Europe orchestra. Different aspects of string instruments were explained, and various styles of music were played. The students thoroughly enjoyed the interaction with the orchestra members, and the highlight was that some of our students were given the opportunity to conduct.
- **Grade 6 Visit:** Next year's grade 7 students came up for a visit to the building which will be their home away from home for the next 3 years starting September. The older students sat with the younger ones and described life in the Intermediate Section and answered the questions of the curious grade 6 students.
- **Trip to Jbeil** for all Grade 9 students took place on 28 April. The students enjoyed the walk through the old souks and the boat ride on the Mediterranean Sea.
- **Trip to Arnaoun:** Grades 7 and 8 went on a trip to Arnaoun Village (near Chekka) on 30 May. The outing included sightseeing and educational workshops and lunch at the village. The trip was preceded by classroom lessons on the history and geography of the area they visited.
- **Upcoming Dates:**  
13, 14, and 16 June - final examinations will take place for students in Grades 7, 8, and 9 IP.  
8, 9, 12, and 15 June - no classes - days off for students to prepare for their final examinations.  
07 July - end of year Report Card distribution in the MTB Building from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon.
- **Points for Parents:** Parents leaving the country before 7 July need to contact the Head of Section to discuss the academic results of their child and to determine if they might need extra academic support/work during the summer.



Violin Show

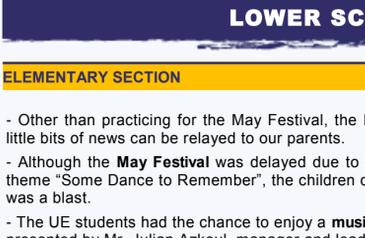


## FROM THE MATHS DEPARTMENT

- On 1 April, student Kevin Farhat won the third maths prize at the AUB Maths Fair for the project entitled: The Best Angle for a Basketball Shot. Well done!
- On 6 May 2017, five Grade 10 students were selected for the Eighth Maths and Science Olympiad at AUST. A group of three students (Fayez Al Gabea, Tarek Yared, and Kevin Farhat) participated in the Mathematics Olympiad and a group of two students (Stephanie Ashkar and Michel Sadek) in the Science Treasure Hunt. Kevin Farhat won the 2<sup>nd</sup> Individual Maths Competition. Well done!

## FROM THE P.E. DEPARTMENT

- The Field Day medals were distributed on 18 May. Little House is the winner for this year. Congratulations.
- BHS students ran in support of those who are less privileged in **Al Amal Institute's Wheat Race** on 7 April. **Senior Girls Category:** Stephanie Ashkar won first place and Gabrielle Ghanimeh second place. **Senior Boys Category:** George Aswad won first place. **Junior Girls Category:** Lynn Ghanimeh won first place. **Junior Boys Category:** Danny Chokr won sixth place, Anthony El Hage sixth place, and Jad Jaber eighth place. Well done everyone!



Wheat Race



Little House

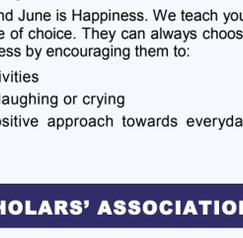
## LOWER SCHOOL NEWS

### ELEMENTARY SECTION

- Other than practicing for the May Festival, the Field Day, and finalizing our academic programme, little bits of news can be relayed to our parents.
- Although the **May Festival** was delayed due to weather conditions, it was a huge success. On the theme "Some Dance to Remember", the children danced to the best of songs from the 60's to 2017. It was a blast.
- The UE students had the chance to enjoy a **music workshop** in Khoury Hall which was organized and presented by Mr. Julian Azkoul, manager and leader of the United Strings of Europe.
- Well done to student Carl Sadek (Grade 6B) who won first runner up in the Higher A category at the **UCMAS** Lebanon Abacus & Mental Arithmetic 4th National Competition which took place at UNESCO Palace in Beirut on 13 May. Keep it up Carl!
- Congratulations to student Omar Hamaty who won several races at the **swimming competition** at Antoinette Sisters School, Ghazir, on 30 April. He won first place in breast stroke, second place in free stroke, and also second place in back stroke. We are proud of you, Omar.



May Festival



UCMAS



Swimming Competition

### INFANT SECTION

- KG 2 and KG 3 students impressed the audience on 25 May during the **May Festival**. They danced to "Milhem Baraket" songs wearing beautiful costumes. I would like to extend a big thank you to PA Chairperson Zeina Zeinoun and her team for providing us with everything we needed for this festival.
- KG 1 students reinforced the topics they taught in the classroom by taking their students to **visit the zoo** to see different kinds of animals. Students had a great day out at a farm interacting with the various animals, having a turn planting a seed, milking the goat, feeding the sheep and to top it off: a ride on a pony.
- KG 3 students will **visit the first grade classrooms** on Friday, 2 June. The purpose of this visit is to familiarize the children with their surroundings for next year. Be sure to "get the scoop" from your child on this exciting mini introduction to first grade.
- Our **value for the months** of May and June is Happiness. We teach your children that happiness is an attitude of choice. They can always choose to be happy. We emphasize happiness by encouraging them to:
  - participate enthusiastically in activities
  - express feelings freely, whether laughing or crying
  - enjoy friendship and have a positive approach towards everyday dealings.



Visit to the Zoo



## OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Old Scholars' Association held its annual gathering for the graduating Class of 2017 in Little House on 19 May, 2017, in the presence of OSA Board Members, OSA Secretariat, BHS Principal, Dr. Walid El Khoury and BHS Secondary teachers. Representing OSA's President, Nazih Khattar '66, Caroline Zayoun from the Secretariat Office and Board Members Michel Azar '04, George Obeid '78, and Emily Kanaan Salem '82 addressed the graduates, welcomed them to the OSA, and gave them their free membership ID cards, along with pins and a copy of the 25<sup>th</sup> Silver Jubilee OSA Yearbook. On behalf of the OSA, the Board Members also presented the Head of the Prom Committee with a cheque for \$7,000 as a contribution towards their prom night. The graduates were also encouraged to join the upcoming 26<sup>th</sup> International Convention which will be held on 7-8 July, 2017.



## THANK YOU TO...

- Donors to a Friends' appeal for donating LL407,100 to the Financial Aid Programme.
- Gr. 7 IP student Ray Baaklani for donating books to the Elementary libraries

The Newsletter will be published **once a month**. If you would like to receive a free copy of the Newsletter by email, please send an email with "subscribe" in the subject line to: [najal.wakim@bhs.edu.lb](mailto:najal.wakim@bhs.edu.lb)

