



THEOPHILLUS WALDMEIER
FOUNDER OF BRUMMANA HIGH SCHOOL
1873

BRUMMANA HIGH SCHOOL

Volume 21, Issue 4 — 25 January 2018

NEW PRINCIPAL

The Board of Governors has appointed David Gray as the next Principal of Brummana High School starting from January 2019. Born in Scotland, David Gray graduated in 1977 with a BA in English from the University of Bristol, where he also did his Postgraduate Certificate in Education the following year. He taught at several schools in Greece and the UK and has nearly 26 years of experience as Headmaster and Principal of leading independent schools in the UK. David is currently Principal of Erskine Stewart's Melville Schools (ESMS), Edinburgh, Scotland. ESMS are a unique family of independent schools for boys and girls, with 2,800 day and boarding students and 550 members of staff. They are the largest independent schools in the European Union.

When offered the position, David Gray said, "I am delighted to accept the position of Principal of Brummana High School, one of Lebanon's leading schools. Its Quaker origins and associated holistic, educational philosophy are ideal to help develop a sense of responsibility, purpose and confidence in young people. I am very much looking forward to leading this fine school." We look forward to welcoming David Gray and his wife, Marie-Helene, to BHS.



The New Principal David Gray with the Chairman of the Board Antoine Wakim

QUIET VISIT

We were very pleased to welcome the trustees of the Quaker International Educational Trust (QuiET). Five of the trustees travelled from the UK for their January meeting with the local trustees. During their visit, they held meetings with the Student Council, the Parents' Association Committee, the OSA Executive Committee, and attended a welcoming reception with staff on 11 January. QuiET is a UK registered charity whose trustees are responsible for the safe keeping of the school.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The English Department delegated teacher Faeed Halabi to attend a training session organized by the Union of Teachers in collaboration with the Centre for Educational Research and Development (CERD). The session was held on 25 January in Collège Central Jounieh (CCJ). The session pertains to the Lebanese Official Programme, more particularly the methods implemented in writing tests, the recent changes to the lessons and subject descriptions, and other important issues.

HOLIDAYS

On the occasion of Mar Maroun the school is closed on Friday, 9 February 2018.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

- If a sudden decision is made to close the school, we will send an SMS message to the contact person in each family (as specified by each family in the most recent Family Data Update returned). If school is closed before the end of the school day, parents will be informed one hour before the bus departure.

- All information will also be posted on the school Web site: www.bhs.edu.lb. To view the latest Web site updates, please remember to refresh your browser by clicking the Refresh or Reload button on the toolbar (whilst on-line). Parents who need further information should contact either Reception or the appropriate section office.

- Please assume that we are open, unless you are otherwise informed by a reliable source.

HONOURING RETIREES

Two members of staff who recently retired from service were invited with their spouses to the staff Christmas lunch on Friday, 22 December. Former Elementary teacher of Arabic/French Afaf Al-Akl was presented with a 10g gold bar mounted on a gift plaque. Former Grounds and Buildings Worker Ziab El Kreidi was unable to attend and will receive the same gift at a later date. These gifts are a token of the school's appreciation for the years of hard work and dedication.



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

The PA Committee welcomes all parents to this academic year and wishes you a successful and prosperous year. The BHS PA is a volunteer group that represents parents and, in co-ordination with the school, the PA aims to take care of student matters and safeguard student interests. The PA helps the school by organising activities and events to raise funds for financial aid and to improve school facilities. I would like to take this opportunity, to express my gratitude for the cooperation provided by the trustees (QuiET), Board of Governors, Principal, administration, teachers, and parents for the benefit of BHS family.

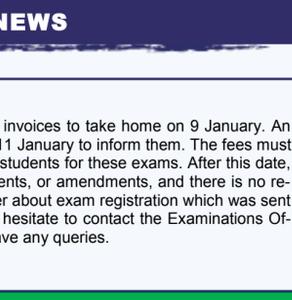
SCOUTS NEWS

- The month of December was the very eventful for BR1 Group and very fruitful. We have set the coming year's slogan "Leave a Mark" and prepared our annual calendar.

- We prepared our Christmas Greeting Video which brought in many unexpected views reaching up to 5.5K viewers on FB worldwide, many of which are international scouts' organisations.

- We also collected clothes, toys, and books from our members and visited SOS in Bherisaf, where we spent half a day with a few children, who were more than happy to see us. Our members and chiefs were very moved by this experience.

- Last but not least, we held a big ceremony day on 6 January 2018 that included the official appointment of the new BR1 council, consecration of 3 members (Michel Ghaleb, Michel Sadek, and Jennifer Bujawdeh) of whom we are very proud, and 9 members moved to the Clan. We also had leader of the month of December, C. Farah Salem and member Daniel Abu Jawdeh who won Mount District's slogan of the year 2017-2018 "MD-Make a Difference". Congratulations to all!



UPPER SCHOOL NEWS

IGCSE Exams

Students who have committed to take IGCSE exams were given invoices to take home on 9 January. An SMS message was sent to parents of all G 10-12 IP students on 11 January to inform them. The fees must be paid by Wednesday, 7 February 2018, so that we can register students for these exams. After this date, penalty charges apply per subject for any new entries, late payments, or amendments, and there is no refund for withdrawals. For details please see the invoice or the letter about exam registration which was sent to all G 10-12 IP students on 27 November 2017. Please do not hesitate to contact the Examinations Officer, Jessica Lainie Fahed, on jessica.fahed@bhs.edu.lb if you have any queries.

SECONDARY NEWS

- On 19 December, the Upper School Christmas concert took place. Months of rehearsals for the Choir under the leadership of conductor Jules Youssef were crowned with a distinguished concert which brought together students, parents, and community.

- On 20 December, the community service groups of 10 IP students celebrated Christmas with Al Amal Institute and Deir El Rahme residents. They organized a lunch, brought gifts, and prepared an entertainment programme. Once more, our students succeeded in bringing some joy into the lives of their brothers and sisters in humanity. Also the IB1 CAS group celebrated Christmas on the same day with Dar El Awlad Kids. Santa Claus joined the celebration as well, and all together drew a smile on the faces of these children.



Dar El Awlad

- The "I Serve" Club, advised by teacher Pierrette Ashkar, and under the leadership of Omar El Turk (Grade 12 IP) and Tarek Yared (Sec. 2 S), also planned an event with a less fortunate family in the community. They helped in decorating their home for Christmas, and brought gifts from their hearts to make this holiday a joyful one for the family.

- A group of IB 2 students, whose CAS project consisted of training a group of Grade 4 students for a Christmas-themed play, put on an exceptional show on 19 December in the morning, in the presence of parents of grade 4 students, Upper Elementary students, and staff.

- IB 2 Theatre students, also put forth an excellent performance in a short play named "Dusk", on 20 December in the evening. Following the play, the audience, consisting of students, parents, and staff, had an exchange of questions and answers with the actors and crew members of the play.

- On 21 December, Honour Roll Certificates were distributed to Secondary Section students.

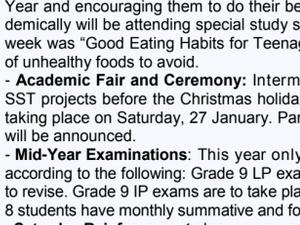
- The last day of school before the holiday was heart-warming as usual. The traditional Santa Fun Run took place on 22 December. Our students ran and cycled across town in Christmas-themed costumes and brought an atmosphere of joy into the community.

- IB 2 students sat for their trial exams from 8-10 January 2018. Students of IB1, Secondary 3 LP, and Grades 10-11 IGCSE, will be taking their mid-year exams in the week of 5- 8 February, 2018.

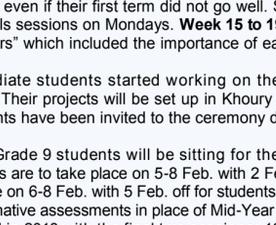
- Students of Grade 11 were exposed to the different majors and programmes offered by the American University of Science and Technology (AUST) on 18 January 2018.

- On the morning of Thursday, 25 January, a group of 8 British universities exhibited their programmes in a mini-fair to Grade 11 (LP and IP) and Grade 12 IP students.

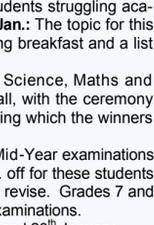
- The upcoming Upper School Academic Fair is scheduled for 25 and 26 January. A ceremony for parents, students, and staff will be held on Saturday, 27 January at 9:00am. The fair will remain open on the same day till 12pm.



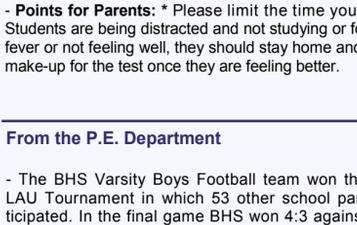
Al Amal Institute



Deir El Rahme



Less fortunate family



IB Play: Dusk



IB 2 students rehearsing with Grade 4 students

INTERMEDIATE SECTION

- **With Gratitude:** We would like to thank all those who brought in food donations before the Christmas holiday. The offerings were the most that have ever been donated. The generosity of the BHS community helped get food to more than 60 families in the area of Brummana and its surroundings.

- **Assembly: 11 Jan.** - The Advisers distributed the Term 1 Honour Roll Certificates. The numbers of recipients were as follows: Grade 7 - 18 students, Grade 8 - 14 students, and Grade 9 - 20 students. Congratulations to all those who achieved high averages and good luck to the others in hope that they too may improve their grades. **18 Jan.** - Intermediate Counsellor Eve Riachi gave a talk on reasons why some children may feel the impulse to take things which do not belong to them. In this meeting students were also told how to protect their belongings whether in school or outside.

- **Advisory: Week 8 to 12 Jan.:** Advisers spent this session welcoming the students back for the New Year and encouraging them to do their best even if their first term did not go well. Students struggling academically will be attending special study skills sessions on Mondays. **Week 15 to 19 Jan.:** The topic for this week was "Good Eating Habits for Teenagers" which included the importance of eating breakfast and a list of unhealthy foods to avoid.

- **Academic Fair and Ceremony:** Intermediate students started working on their Science, Maths and SST projects before the Christmas holiday. Their projects will be set up in Khoury Hall, with the ceremony taking place on Saturday, 27 January. Parents have been invited to the ceremony during which the winners will be announced.

- **Mid-Year Examinations:** This year only Grade 9 students will be sitting for the mid-Year examinations according to the following: Grade 9 LP exams are to take place on 5-8 Feb. with 2 Feb. off for these students to revise. Grade 9 IP exams are to take place on 6-8 Feb. with 5 Feb. off for students to revise. Grades 7 and 8 students have monthly summative and formative assessments in place of Mid-Year examinations.

- **Saturday Reinforcement classes** resumed in 2018 with the final two sessions: 13th and 20th January.

- **Medical Examinations:** In December, all Intermediate students were sent in turn to the Sick Bay for a medical examination by our School Doctor, Dr. Mireille Zalzal Batrouni.

- **Weekly Maths Riddle:** The winners of the 10 Jan. Maths Riddle are: Grade 7 IP - Kaya Haddad and Stephanie Milan. The winners of the 17 Jan. Maths Riddle are: Grade 9 - Ivan Andrea, Lea Maria Rizk, Karim Tohme, and Marc El Khazen; Grade 7 - Hashem Ben Said and Joanne Chartouni. Well done to all.

- **Points for Parents:** * Please limit the time your child spends on social media (mobiles, iPads, etc...) Students are being distracted and not studying or focusing as they should. * When your child wakes up with a fever or not feeling well, they should stay home and not worry about a test they might have. They can sit for a make-up for the test once they are feeling better.

From the P.E. Department

- The BHS Varsity Boys Football team won the LAU Tournament in which 53 other school participated. In the final game BHS won 4:3 against Jamhour School. Scorew Sawaya was the MVP Player and Best Scorer. Emile Nader was the Best Goal Keeper, and the MVP in the Final Game, and Kevin Farhat was the MVP in the Semi Finals. Congratulations!



BHS VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

- The Santa Fun Run took place on 22 December 2017, and the winners were: Boys - Fadel Abou Fadel (1st place), Dany Chokr (2nd place), Jouy Angelil (2nd place), and Karim Tohme (3rd place). Girls - Tatiana Russo (1st place), Lea Lahoud (2nd place), and Jessica Hollis (3rd place). Well done!

- Students Jason Soufan, Joseph Alan, and Stephanie Ashkar were selected for the LAU Beirut all-star basketball team to play a game against LAU Jbeil all-star team. Bravo!

LOWER SCHOOL NEWS

ELEMENTARY SECTION

- Students, parents, teachers, and the whole of the school community enjoyed a wide range of Christmas celebrations before the holidays.

- The **annual Lower School Christmas Shows** paved the way for the Christmas ambience. Grades 1, 2, 4, and 5 sang Christmas carols, while grade 3 danced and conducted a play: "The Shoe Maker and the Elves". Grade 6 also presented two dances and the Christmas play written and produced by Miss Lama Najjar: "The Christmas Play that Went Wrong."

- Special thanks go to Mrs. Joyce Chrahieh for extending her services to the Lower Elementary. The children enjoyed the pumpkin character at the St. Barbara's party and the elf who visited classes bearing goodies during the Christmas parties.

- Also a special thank you goes to Mrs. Isabelle el Hajj for donating costumes for the Christmas dance show.

- After a good rest, we welcome 2018 with good spirits and we hope it brings nothing but success on every level.

- The first assembly this year was held by grade 2A. They introduced and elaborated on the meaning and importance of justice and fairness. Grade 4A also covered the topic of 'friendship' in their assembly.

- Grades 1, 3, and 5 are preparing for their Spelling Bee contests. Grades 2, 4, and 6 have started preparing for their Social Studies contests. Thus, second term is well under way.

- Finally, HoS Shatha Abu Khalil reminded students of their duties towards themselves as individuals and prompted them to exert every effort to be the best they can be.



INFANT SECTION

- The children settled back quickly into the school routine and are glad to see their friends again. Throughout January, all activities in the Infant Section are focused on the most visual aspect of winter, which is snow. They are using simple ways of creating winter scenes using construction paper, glue, glitter, cotton, and salt.

- KG 3 started reading books and taking them to practice with their parents. Students are starting to be more responsible regarding their homework.

- The value for the month of January is honesty, and you can't imagine how hard it is to teach it to little ones. Teaching children honesty is a real challenge given the examples of dishonesty that they encounter every day in the world around them. Your example, and your constant feedback, about your child's behaviour, can be a powerful influence on your child.

- Now that the weather is turning colder and many of our children are showing signs of colds and flu, please remember to keep your child at home if he/she shows any of the following symptoms:

- Oral temperature 38 degrees and above within the past 24 hours
- Uncontrolled diarrhoea
- Rash, bump or other out-of-the-ordinary skin conditions
- Flushed face, "watery" or "glossy" eyes
- Excessive running nose
- Sore throat
- Frequent vomiting
- Unusual irritability or fatigue

Any of these symptoms may indicate the beginning of an illness, which might be easily be communicated to other children.



STAFF NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Lower Elementary Homeroom teacher Helena Abou Harb who gave birth to a baby girl, Iris Christina, on Christmas Day 2017.

OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Old Scholars' Association held its second Round Table Discussions session on 15 December, 2017 at the OSA Clubhouse in collaboration with the Lebanese Red Cross, to shed light on the importance of being a first aider. Our main speaker, head of sector Hossain Saibani '89, former Red Cross, old school Mousa Sattar, shared his experience with the audience which comprised Brummana One Scouts (Chiefs and Members) in addition to many old scholars (most of which were also Red Cross members in their early years).

This session was an introduction to the many benefits of joining the Red Cross and learning life-saving skills that come in handy at any age. The session was followed by a training course on 19 and 26 January 2018, especially for BR1 members, courtesy of OSA President Nazih Khattar and the OSA Board, to help them receive their First Aid certificate and First Aid Badge.

THANK YOU TO...

- An anonymous donor for donating LL 9,000,000 to the Financial Aid programme.

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