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Volume 9

Issue 1

Mission Statement

The Banjul American Embassy School is an international community providing a high quality, accredited American-Style education for students. In partnership with our community, we empower students to become enthusiastic, creative, lifelong learners who value integrity, cultural diversity and global responsibility.

Welcome To/Welcome Back: Great to see so many returning faces and new faces at BAES. I encourage all parents to get involved with their children's education by coming to events, participating on committees, being part of the PTO or running for the Board. BAES is not a school where you pay tuition and drop your children off leaving it all up to the teachers, BAES is a school where parents and teachers are partners in learning.

Open House: Open House for Parents will be held September 10th 6:00pm-8:00pm. This is an opportunity for parents to meet their children's teachers and:

- Learn about how your child will spend the year
- Receive schedules
- Learn about ixl
- Learn about expectations and assessments

This is not a time to discuss individual children, you may make an appointment at any time to discuss your child's progress or any concerns you might have. We will begin with a general meeting in the assembly area (about 20 minutes) and then teachers will run 20 meetings. The specials will all be in the library and ready to explain their program when you have time between 6:20pm and 8:00pm. Looking forward to sharing with you all the great things that will be happening this year.

T-shirts: T-shirts were sent home to all students at BAES with the exception of PreK on the first day of school. It is expected that T-shirts will be worn K-9 from now on. Prek T-shirts are optional but available for sale. PreK students do not pay the student activity fee and T-shirts are a big part of the fee along with all the after school activities.

Music: This year Ms. Sanyang will be very busy with Grades 2/3 so she will not be teaching music. However, I believe that it is really important that children are exposed to music. In line with our Mission, this first 14 weeks your children will have African Drumming once a week on Thursdays. Later we hope to introduce African Dance and Music. Ms. Sanyang will be offering the musical *Annie* as an after school activity in the spring.

Lunch Orders: All Lunch orders should be in for the month.

New Security: Thanks everyone for being so patient the first day. As part of accreditation and one more way to ensure the safety of your children we have instituted a Visitor's Badge system. We ask everyone to sign in and out and get a badge. Please do not tell the guards "oh I am only going to be

here for a second to drop off a lunch” as it puts them in a difficult position. Thanks everyone for your cooperation.

BBQ: Saturday September 5th 12:30pm-2:30pm unless it is Set Satal than it will be 1:00pm-3:00pm. I will be cooking hamburgers and hot dogs, the school will provide:

- Hot Dogs/Hamburgers/Buns
- Plates
- Napkins
- Forks
- water

We ask parents to bring either (enough for 10)

- Salad
- Dessert
- Side
- Own drinks and cup for drinks or water (no alcohol please)

Rain date the 12th after that we will give up☺

Assembly: Parents are always invited to assemblies. Assemblies are always the **last** Friday of the Month, unless there is a holiday. Assemblies occur at 8:00 in the Middle School Area. **There will be an assembly at 8:00am this Friday, September 4th.**

Spraying: We will be spraying for mosquitoes and other creepy crawlies today. I do recommend that on Saturday you bring spray with you and also when you come for events. The problem is that the folks around us do not spray so our neighbor’s mosquitoes visit us.

Accreditation Year: This will be a very busy year as we prepare for the team visit April 23rd-30th. We will be very busy working on curriculum design again this year to ensure well-prepared units in all areas. We also want to ensure that our curriculum is both vertical and horizontally aligned. Curriculum Design is an on-going process that never ends.

IT: Did you know BAES has 20 new laptops, two new printers, 3 document cameras, a new still camera, new video camera and new LCD Projector and screen and we will be getting as a donation from Promethean a new interactive board with all the bells and whistles? We are working hard to move BAES forward into true 21st century learning.

Library: We have about 80 brand new books to scan and get on the shelves. We are looking for volunteers who will be willing to set up a library schedule to help. There will be a meeting on Friday, September 11th at 9:00am and we invite everyone to join us. **Amal will help show you how to use the database to input books and I will show you how to shelve books.**

Late Fee: Last Year at the May Board Meeting, the BAES Board instituted a late pick up fee. We had students left at school last year anywhere from 20-60 minutes after the close of school. There is a 15-minute grace period. If school ends at 3:15pm you have until 3:30pm after that you will be charged D500 for every 15 minutes or portion of that you are late. Prek finishes at 12:00noon so after 12:15pm you will be charged D500 for every fifteen minutes or portion there of. So if you are 45 minutes late D1500. Students work very hard at BAES they need to be picked up on time after a busy day of growing and learning.

Afternoon Reminder: On days we do not have activities with the exception of Tuesday and Friday, students may play on the playground until 3:30 but at 3:30 students will need to go and sit on the bench even if parents are there chatting. This is for your child's safety!

BAES BUZZ: The BAES BUZZ goes home by email every Friday and is also posted on our website. In the next couple of months we will be getting BAESaddle up and running. This will provide an internal communication system for teachers, teachers/students, teachers/parents.

Have a great weekend and hope to see you all tomorrow! SAS



Dates for your Calendar:

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| September 5th | BBQ (rain date 12th) |
| September 10th | Open House 6:00pm- 8:00pm |
| September 23rd | Possibly Tobaski |
| September 25th | Kindergarten Assembly |
| September 25th | Board Meeting |