



January 15, 2016

Volume 9

Issue 17

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 Back: We hope everyone had an amazing break, and that you have all come back rested and ready for a very busy six months of growing and learning. There is a lot of information in this week's Buzz so please read. Thanks.

After School Activities: Due to the practice schedule any child in "**Annie**" will not be able to participate in any other after school activity this trimester. "**Annie**" will be presented on March 24, 2016 at 6:00pm at Ocean Bay Hotel.

Tuition Bills: Tuition bills were sent out on December 18, 2015. All tuition is due on January 15th. Tuition not paid at that time will be charged 5% interest. Tuition not paid before January 29th will be charged 10% interest. It is important to remember about 90% of BAES funds come from tuition and it is important that tuition is paid promptly when the invoice is received.

PTO News: The PTO would like to thank everyone who was involved and volunteered their time to help with our most recent fundraiser event, the annual BAES Holiday Bazaar. A special thank you goes out to the teachers for orchestrating so many wonderful games and activities for the children (and parents!) to enjoy. Another special thank you goes out to our Peace Corps volunteers who enthusiastically helped us by traveling into town especially for it all. It was such an amazing show of support for our community. Our goal was to raise D50,000 and we achieved that by raising a net profit of D52,000. We look forward to adding that money to the bank to continue to work towards our year end goal of raising 2500.00 USD to help enhance the school for future programs and events.

Coming up in the next few months are a few more events. First will be a movie night in February. In April we will organize another talent show. Students, teachers, AND parents are encouraged to perform. Be on the lookout for announcements as they unfold.

The next PTO meeting will be held Tuesday, January 19th, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Vineyard Restaurant located on the second floor of the Village. Please join us if you are interested in volunteering with us.

Reading Month is Coming: February is reading month at BAES and for those families new to BAES this is a very important month. Your children will be challenged to read as much as possible (PreK parents you will be challenged to read with your children). We will focus on international author with one week being an Africa focus. Prizes will be awarded and we will have two very special days during the month. This year we will have a caterpillar circling the library with all the books read.

January 17th International Day

January 26th Author's Tea –PreK-5 and Poetry Reading 6-9

We will be asking for parent help on these two days and more information will follow in a future BAES BUZZ. International Day we will ask parents to provide an international dish, ideally from their home country that will serve 15. On the Authors Tea day we will try and build the menu around the Hungry Caterpillar story by Eric Carle.

And Now a Word from Our Faculty

In **Pre-K** we made fun crafts for Christmas!

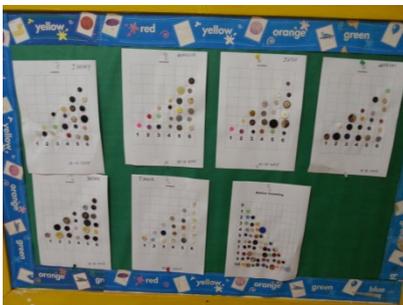
Prickly Christmas Trees

First, we dyed some rice green with vinegar and food coloring, then we sprinkled the green rice over top of the triangles, then we pressed it down. Then we shook off the excess. We're left with a prickly tree! Finally, we drew trunks for our trees.

Here are some more crafts from our class:



Math in PreK:



Kindergarten

Hello and Happy New Year to all! New year, new beginnings... Kindergarten has started new units in social studies, math, and English language arts. In social studies we're learning about maps: what they are, what information they can give us, and how we can use different maps for different purposes. We will learn to use map keys, identify cardinal directions, distinguish landforms and some geographic features on maps. We will also try our hands at cartography, mapping out our classroom and the BAES campus.

In math, we wrapped up our unit on numbers 0 – 5. Counting and identifying these numbers is old hat to most of us, but we're still getting used to writing the numbers ourselves and working with ordinal numbers. Now we're working with numbers up to 10. Again, we're quite competent in counting and identifying these numbers, but we're expanding our knowledge base by exploring the concept of comparing numbers (more, fewer, greater, less, forward, backward, etc.) and continuing with ordinal numbers up to 10th.

Ms. F has now arrived in our class for English language arts, joining Mr. M and Ms. T who had already made the trip from Land of the Letter People. She is helping us to increase our phonemic awareness, which we think is fantastic, and to learn about feelings. Already this week the students shared with Ms. F some fabulous strategies for resolving conflicts and mending hurt feelings.

Thanks very much for reading, and here's to a great 2016 for us all!

Ms. Jen & the Kindergarten class

Grade 1



Happy New Year from Grade One! Hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday break! Grade one students have been enjoying talking and writing about all the fun activities they did over the break. 2016 is off to a running start in our classroom. Students continue to advance to higher and higher reading levels and showing growth in their writing skills. We look forward to showing this off during the upcoming Authors Tea. In Math students are working on simple addition and coming up with ideas for Math/Science Day. In Social Studies students are working on a unit about Neighborhoods. This is an interactive unit where students will not only create a neighborhood, but solve minor issues that arise and take a field trip or two in our local neighborhood. So much fun!

Grade one is looking for some guest readers to join us in the library each Wednesday at 2:15. If you or a family member would like to come in and read a book or two to grade one please let Ms. Savage know. We would love to have you join us☺

Grade 2/3

In Grade 2/3, we are finishing up a social studies unit, "The Early Northwest Coast People", which has helped us gain an understanding of how native tribes faced the challenges of the 19th century expansion. We encountered a friendly "settler" who traded goods (Miss Jessica!) and helped give food to a starving settler who had measles! (Miss Jessica again!) Our most difficult challenge came when a "mean settler" appeared, demanding that we stay out of our forest so that his people could chop down our trees! (Mr. David Greathouse) We held community meetings with our chiefs (Julia and Batiste) when the Governor, (Ms. Sperry) presented us with a treaty. After much discussion, we decided (sadly) that signing was our only option. We cheered up when we got to go make totem poles with Ms. Leen in art and everyone is excited that our next focus will be our new science unit, "Electricity and Magnetism"!

Grade 4-5

After a long and welcome break, students are back and have eagerly shared their experiences away or here and are now fresh and willing to explore once more with me.

We are putting finishing touches on our Science FOSS unit on nutrition with a final investigation on calories and students will work in small collaborative teams to create menus, using specific ingredients and supplying eaters with a balanced meal. This unit has taken us longer than expected, but students appeared more than willing to work and now wish to make these meals, rather than merely create them on paper, which means that once more we will be getting dirty in the 4/5 classroom!

We are simultaneously back into our Social Studies unit on map reading and the history of cartography, which is still a work in progress, and will take us on the journeys of a few famous explorers who were also makers of maps. We are currently reading about the “Vinland” map forgery and will do some research into Norse sagas, the journey of Erik the Red, Newfoundland, the design and purpose of the knarr vessel, the recent trip of a replica knar, as well as the importance of Martin Waldseemüller in the Renaissance, before moving onto later explorers, while also carrying on further study of modern map reading that we had started in December.

In Language Arts we are enjoying Ruth White's Belle Prater's Boy, set in 1953 in Virginia. The book lays emphasis on small town prejudice, on the importance of physical appearance, and its “message” is the importance of seeing with the heart as well as the eye. The book opens with a quote from Saint Exupéry's The little Prince, which may well follow as our next shared reading.

In we are continuing with lines, segments and shapes in geometry, Grade 4 and 5 are usually working separately on this, as the Grade 5 had covered some of this last school year. Students are coming to grips with the use of a compass and protractor, and appear to enjoy this and are growing in confidence.

Grade 6-9 Humanities

After a restful vacation, the middle school students appear rested and ready to roll into the second semester. In the 6/7 class, we have launched our unit on children's daily lives during the Victorian era, which we will be comparing to that of children today in China, The Gambia, and the UK. These students are studying Charles Dickens' novel *David Copperfield*. They should be reading for half an hour a night in the novel (it is loooong!). They might also need to look up unfamiliar words as they read. Additionally, they will have corresponding research or activities in history and geography twice a week. This week, students worked on individual research projects on the current state of the world's children using reports from UNICEF and resources from the World Bank. They began to learn how to isolate a single indicator, such as net primary school attendance, and describe the effect of the change over time of that factor statistically.

In grades 8 and 9 we began reading Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* to coincide with our unit on the reasons why Middle Ages have been called the Dark Ages. The 9th graders will have about 45 minutes a night of reading (the novel plus research or related texts) while the 8th graders will have 30 minutes of reading in the novel and corresponding activities which should take 10-15 minutes. This week this class had a ton of fun using the new Smart Board in Humanities! Ms. Amal showed us how to use the software, and then the students were off and running—scanning a poem for rhyme scheme and meter was a piece of cake! We also got a close-up look at the feudal system with super visual diagrams which we worked with on the Smart Board. All students in the middle school have the second of three Writing Assessments coming up the week of February 8th. How can you help your child to prepare? You can periodically read your child's writing assignments, with the teacher comments, and discuss these with your child if you like. Having your child read from non-fiction texts, such as magazines and newspapers, and discussing the structure of the writing with him or her is also a good idea. We are moving into our Service Learning Unit in Pastoral Care. We are looking forward to this, as we have a super tradition of Service Learning at BAES; plus the students have already picked a problem they would like to solve (lack of electricity in rural villages). Our next step will be to make contacts with community members who can participate. Following that we will schedule visits field trips, and guest speakers. Students will take on these tasks as they gain skills and experience. By the end of next month, the students will have a detailed Service Learning Proposal—complete with desired outcomes and expectations

-Wendy Morrill

ESL

Last term ESL students were assessed and assigned a Language proficiency level. We then began working on essential skills within each domain of language: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. For beginners this meant learning letter sound correspondence, basic conversational greetings and phrases, and useful school vocabulary. For intermediate students, the focus was on topics such as body parts, animals, and later reading and saying sight words. The advanced student, our new student Kelvin from China, has been polishing his intonation, reading comprehension, and working very diligently to master irregular past tense forms in written and spoken English. This week we have endeavoured to hone in on sticky pronunciation problems—such as that pesky English /th/sound! This group of students deserves a big pat on the back for keeping up with regular classes and learning a new language and culture at the same time!

-Wendy Morrill

Grades 6-8 Mathematics

Sixth and seventh grade students are wrapping up their unit on Fractions Action. They have learnt how to add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions and mixed numbers. Fractions usually pose a challenge for students and it is important to gain the skills acquired to handle operations involving fractions as they are needed in the units to follow such as percentages, ratios, rates and proportions. Students have used real-life problems such as doubling a recipe or calculating the price of a sale item that is a half off and more. All these help enhance their understanding and the importance of this topic in mathematics and how it relates to everyday life. The 7th graders also worked on solving two-step equations and learned to apply them in word problems. Students in both grades 6 & 7 will be exploring topics and problems involving ratio, rates and proportions.

The grade 8 students started the unit on Ratio, Rate and Proportion & Percents. Some of the enduring understandings that this unit is built upon is that ratios and proportional relationships are foundational for further study in mathematics and science and useful in everyday life; and that ratios arise in situations in which two (or more) quantities are related. A technique of finding or calculating measures known as 'indirect measurement' is explored. *This is a very important technique based on similar triangles and proportional relationships used to find measures that are usually hard to calculate such as: the height of a tall building or the distance across a lake or 'how deep is the water 62 meters from the shore' are just some examples.* The students will also be working on creating scale models (either an enlargement or reduction) and learn to represent the relationship between a measurement on a model and the corresponding measurement on the actual object. This project will give them a chance to see first hand how they can use the proportional relationships of similar objects to work out the dimensions of their scale model based on the actual dimensions of the original object. The ninth graders continue their work on functions, equations, and plotting straight lines using the slope-intercept form of an equation and function table of values.

Middle school math is also integrated with science in several of their projects. Integration with art lessons can also be fascinating and enabling them to explore mathematics concepts from an artist's perspective. The grade 8-9 is working on the Golden Rule in arts and will therefore be exploring the Fibonacci Series and the Golden Ratio in mathematics.

Mrs. Amal A. Alfa

Grade 6-9 Science

The grade 6/7 students will discover the nature of materials that make up themselves and their universe. They will explore the general properties of matter and their connections. The students will also discover the four phases that matter can exist in, and learn about the gas laws.

They will learn to distinguish between a chemical change and a chemical property. In addition, the students learn how to classify matter according to its makeup.

As they learn about the various kinds of mixtures, they will discover why solutions are different from mixtures. Finally, the students will learn to use chemical symbols, formulas, and balanced chemical reactions

Grade 8/9

Any parade would prove chaotic without a theme to hold it together, and the parade of life is no different. Therefore, grade 8/9 students will begin the study of living things with a discussion of the five-kingdom system of classification and its evolutionary basis. The theme of evolution provides a basis for in-depth discussion of viruses and monerans, protists, fungi, and plants. Students will learn the characteristics of members of each of these kingdoms, as well as the importance of these organisms in our world. The study of plants will be divided into two parts; plants without seeds including algae, mosses, and ferns, and plants with seeds. Students will investigate the characteristics and functions of the roots, stems, and leaves, and the role and mechanics of photosynthesis.

Mr. Jain

French K-9

Bonne Année 2016!

G6-7 students are working on the French Polynesia .All students are gathering information on these islands, the resources and the cultural life of its inhabitants. Students will write in French about the French Polynesia.

In G8-9, we continue working on the dialogues which can take place in shops: how do you ask for a pair of shoes? What are the sizes used in the French speaking countries? What is a fitting room in French? These are some questions the students will use and come up with answers in their writing.

In G4-5, we are exploring the French conjugation; regular verbs, pronouns (je, tu). Students express their preferences using the verbs: aimer, preferer, and detester.

Il est quelle heure? Il est trois heures et quart! It is fun learning the time in French. Students review numbers and talk about how they get ready every morning for school.(Je me lève à sept heures, je me brosse les dents, je m'habille, je prends mon petit déjeuner et je vais à l'école)

G1 students continue learning about pets and try to give a simple description of them (mon chien a de longues oreilles. Mon chat a une longue queue)

Kindergarten students are learning the letters in their names and those of their friends as well. We try to speak only in French during class and it works! Bravo les petits!

Madame Joof French K-9

Grade K-9 Physical Education

There is a lot of excitement and fun as the PreK's learn creative ways to play with a parachute. Color recognition and playing safe has been a major part of our lesson this week.

In Physical education at the elementary school level there has been Scarf exploration with Kindergarten, an introduction to the 'Jumping' unit-rules and expectations and safety precautions with Grade 1, The 'Bunny Hop' dance routine with Grade 2&3 and with Grade 4&5, an introduction to stunts and tumbling.

Basic volleyball forearm pass has proven an individual challenge for Middle school as they begin the second trimester. With everyday practice with the Passing 21 drill, it will soon become second nature.

Mr. Stephen Wright

Art K-9

Before the winter break all the students put their hands together and created Christmas ornaments, cards, gifts, and decorations to sell during the Winter Bazar. The student council sold quite a few items and will organize a fun activity for all students with the money raised.



Kindergarten



Grade 1



Grade 2-3



Grade 4-5



Grade 6-7

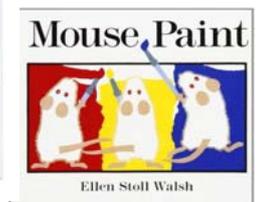
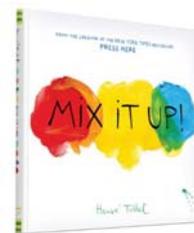


Grade 8-9

The Kindergarten and grade 1 students are getting their hands and clothes (Sorry!) dirty exploring color, the second element of art. I have been reading them the books *Mix it Up* by Herve Tullet and *Mouse Paint* by Ellen Stoll Walsh to introduce the students to color mixing theory.

The Kindergartners enjoyed experimenting with primary colors and creating their own secondary colors while the first graders have taken on the challenge to mix 100 different colors! They will be using their colorful 100 chart in math lessons with Ms. Savage!

The second to ninth graders are exploring balance, the first principle of Design. All students will observe and discuss a variety of artworks that demonstrate different types of balance. While the second and third graders will create their own personal totem pole and focus on symmetry, the fourth and fifth graders will create a special mandala while exploring radial balance. The sixth and seventh graders will manipulate their names to create radial balance and they will explore the rule of



Grade 1



Kindergarten

thirds in a photography unit. The eighth and ninth graders are exploring the Golden rule in arts and will make their own piece of art honoring the intriguing Golden ratio and integrating mathematics with arts.

I would like to take this opportunity to let you all know that I am leaving BAES at the end of March after seven wonderful and memorable years. I have had a great time teaching at BAES, it has been a wonderful learning experience but time has come for my family and I to move on. I'm grateful for being part of this community and all the great people I got to meet. Thank you for making me feel that my job is not a job, but a passion.



Important Dates

January 18th

January 27th

January 29th

January 30th

February

February 8th-11th

February 17th

February 18th

February 22nd

February 26th

After School Activities Begin

PD Day NOON Dismissal

4/5 Assembly 8:00am

Board Retreat/Meeting 9:30

Reading Month

2nd Writing Prompts

International Day/Lunch

No School Gambian Independence

After School ends(Not Annie)

Author's Tea/Poetry Reading

BAES PTO School Lunch Program

Child/ Staff
Name: _____

Grade: _____

Day	Date	Portion Size	Small- D100 Large - D200
Monday	Feb. 1		<input type="text"/>
Tuesday	Feb. 2		<input type="text"/>
Wednesday	Feb. 3		<input type="text"/>
Thursday	Feb. 4		<input type="text"/>
Monday	Feb. 8		<input type="text"/>
Tuesday	Feb. 9		<input type="text"/>
Wednesday	Feb. 10		<input type="text"/>
Thursday	Feb. 11		<input type="text"/>
Monday	Feb. 15		<input type="text"/>
Tuesday	Feb. 16		<input type="text"/>
Wednesday	Feb. 17		<input type="text"/>
Thursday	Feb. 18	Holiday	[Shaded]
Monday	Feb. 22		<input type="text"/>
Tuesday	Feb. 23		<input type="text"/>
Wednesday	Feb. 24		<input type="text"/>
Thursday	Feb. 25		<input type="text"/>
Monday	Feb. 29		<input type="text"/>
	Total		<input type="text"/>

Please remember that there are no refunds or credits. You must sign up a month ahead of time. Money collection will be at the office from 8:30- 3:00pm and the last day of collection will be January 27th. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Gida's Garden: Eugenija Daukas at 9904970 or 7792200 aura.enterprise.trading@gmail.com or gidas.garden.restaurant@gmail.com or the BAES Office 4495920

February	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
1 week	1	2	3	4
	Beefburger	Panini with tomato and cheese	Pasta Fussili with cream and vegetables	Chicken frankfurters with rice
	Green salad Fruit salad	Green salad Slice of honey melon	Cream Caramel cookies	Cucumber stick Fruit salad
2 week	8	9	10	11
	Tricolor pasta with chicken and vegetables	Fish fingers with rice	Lasagna with vegetables	Toast with cheese and tomato
	Slice of Fruit	Cucumber stick Fruit salad	Cookie	Slice of water melon
3 week	15	16	17	18
	Sheperd's pie	Pizza Margarita	Tacos with chicken and vegetables	Spaghetti with tomato sauce
	Sliced tomatoes Fruit salad	Green salad Slice of fruit	Fruit salad	Green peas Cup cake
4 week	22	23	24	25
	Pasta Pene Daily chef with vegetables and cheese	Chicken nuggets with rice and vegetables	Crepe with fruits	Beef dumplings
	Fruit salad	Slice of fruit	Cucumber stick Fruit salad	Green salad Brownie
5 week	29			
	Egg salad sandwich			
	Cucumber stick Slice of fruit			