



April 8, 2016

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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.

ANNIE: One final thank you and applause for Ms. Sanyang and all the people who supported her to insure a wonderful musical evening for all. Special thanks to Ocean Bay and all their staff for a great evening and dinner. Most of all thanks to the student performers—YOU WERE AWESOME!!!!

AGM: There will be an AGM meeting on May 31st we need a quorum, so please plan to attend at 6:00pm. The first order of business will be to vote to move the AGM from October to May. The reason for the move is that so many people leave over the summer that we often do not have a full board until after October. We would like to start each school year ready to “rock and roll”. Sandra Amalfi and Haytham Hassan will be stepping down so we need to have other people send in their bios by April 22nd so they can be printed in the BUZZ the following week. We are very, very grateful to both Sandra and Haytham who have spent many, many long hours serving the BASES Community of Learners. Please, if you are going to be here for the next two years, consider serving your community in this very meaningful way. You will make a difference!

Agenda

1. Move the AGM from October to May
2. Board Chair’s report
3. Director’s Report
4. Treasurer’s report
5. Election of two new Board members

The annual report will be given out at the AGM.

Visiting Team: Invitations have gone home (and one is included at the end of this BUZZ, we encourage all parents(**this is an adults only reception**) to attend the reception and meet the visiting team who are giving up time away from their own schools and lives to help move our school forward. It is important for BAES parents to understand that the Visiting Team receives no compensation for this visit. BAES simply covers their flight, meals and accommodation. The four-team members visiting BAES understand how important accreditation is and are willing to give the time necessary to help BAES grow. Please do your part as parents and come to the reception on Sunday, April 24th 4:00-6:00.

Mr. Good serving on visiting team: Next week Mr. Good will be traveling to Morocco to serve on a visiting team. It is important that BAES be willing to send team members if we expect teams to visit us. Last year both Mrs. Morrill and Madame Joof made visits. I will cover Mr. Good’s classes while he is away. We all wish him a safe journey and a great learning experience.

After School Activities: The final session of after school activities begins on Monday April 11th. After school activities are on Monday and Thursday from 3:15-4:15. Please note that if your child's permission slip was not returned by yesterday he/she will be unable to participate this trimester. Also students may only change their minds during the first week of activities, after that they have to stick with the activity they have chosen or not participate.

Standards Based Report Cards: You have now received your second standard based report card. Yes, they are different from reports you may have received in the past or even reports that you received when you were in school. The purpose of standards is to have teachers use real data to evaluate students. The narrative portion tells you first what your child has covered during the semester and then how your child did in relation to what was covered. He/She is measured against the standards. We are trying to move teachers forward to dealing with real data and not the "gut feeling" that teachers of my generation used to use. "Ming is a nice girl and does her work well". We are working hard to move away from the "warm and fuzzy" reports of bygone eras and use real data to inform instruction and to help your children do quality work and learn to grapple with problems and find solutions. If you have questions please ask your child's teacher or check out this link to learn more:<http://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/rethinking-report-cards/>

ASCD states: "In the adult world, everything is a performance assessment. If adults on the job make poor decisions or cannot determine the quality of their own work, the results are generally undesirable. Quality matters and the ability to measure the quality of one's own work is a learned skill.

So how can we teach this essential skill? One way to teach quality is to demand it. We must create an environment where standards can and must be met and where students are not permitted to submit substandard work without being asked to revise.

If we base our grades on standards rather than attendance, behavior, or extra credit (which often has nothing to do with course objectives), we can actually help students grapple with the idea of quality and walk away with a higher degree of self-sufficiency. We can and should report information about student performance in areas like attendance and effort, but we can report it separately from academic achievement." (O'Connor, 2007; Tomlinson & McTighe, 2006).

**Please join us for a reception welcoming
the *MSA VISITING TEAM***

Date: April 24th 2016

Time: 4pm-6pm

Venue: BAES Campus

RSVP : 4495920

- ❖ **What's happening at BAES next?**
- ❖ **April 11, 2016 - After School Activities begin**

Have a great weekend!

Sharon



Lots Happening at BAES- Please put these dates on your calendar. Please note that a few days such as French Assembly and Math/Science day have changed since the original was made.

Important Dates

April	What is happening at BAES?
April 11 th	After School Activities begin
April 22 nd	Pre-K Assembly
April 22 nd	Math/Science Day
April 22 nd	Board 2:00pm
April 23-April 30 th	MSA Visiting Team is here for the Team Visit
May	What is Happening at BAES?
May 3 rd	PD noon dismissal
May 1-20	MAP Testing
May 16 th —20 th	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 20 th	PE Assembly
May 25 th -29 th	Long Weekend May 25 th is Africa Liberation Day
May 30-June 2 nd	Writing Prompts
June	What is Happening at BAES?
June 8 th	Moving Up Day Grade 5
June 9 th	Moving Up Project Presentations Grade 5
June 15 th	Student-Led Conference Students come only when they have their conference with their parents/guardians
June 17 th	Board meeting 2:00pm
June 21 st	Field Day
June 22 nd	Graduation and Leaving Ceremony. School Finishes for the year directly after the ceremony
June 22 nd	After Graduation and Leaving Ceremony Summer Holidays begin.