



October 2, 2015

Volume 9

Issue 5

## **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.**

**Congratulations Kindergarten:** Congratulations to Ms. Jen and the K's for being risk-takers and having the first assembly.

**Congratulations Grades 4/5:** Each year students in grades 4/5 seem to be our cheerleaders. Thanks for helping us to see the BAES vision clearly.

**Special Thanks to the parents who have volunteered to come and read and to help out in the library.**

**Don't Forget October 7<sup>th</sup>-Picture Day!**

**Calendar 2016-2017:** The calendar for next year has been approved by the Board. It was based on input from the survey last year:

- Parents wanted to start in September
- Parents wanted three weeks at Christmas
- Parents wanted Good Friday
- Parents did not want a full week in October
- Teachers and the Director agreed it was not good to go longer than 6-8 weeks without at least a mini-break.

**It is very important for your child to be in school when school is in session. We ask that you book your holidays around the school breaks. We do not send work home for students who take extended holidays. The calendar will be posted on the website and sent with this BUZZ.**

**AGM:** The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 21st at 6:00 in the library. This is a very important meeting. There are four openings. Please send a brief biography, include grades your children are in school and why you want to run for the Board or what you will bring to the Board for expertise. A short paragraph is enough. This will be printed in the Buzz on the 9th and the 16th so please get your paragraph to me no later than COB (close of business) on the 7th of October. This meeting is run by the Board not the Director though I will do a presentation.

### **Agenda**

- Presentation Acting Chair
- Presentation PTO
- Presentation Director
- Presentation Board Treasurer
- Election
- AOB

**Writing Tests:** This year we are beginning writing tests K-9 (K will begin trimester two). One of the reasons that we are holding internal writing exams is that MAP does not have a writing component. Students in each grade will be given a narrative and an expository writing prompt. Students will write one day and then have the opportunity to revise the second day. This will be done once each trimester. The writing tests will be scored against a specific rubric appropriate for the grade. All tests will be blind scored so student's names are not on the tests. These tests will be scored by the child's classroom teacher and by two other people.

The tests will be given each trimester and our aim is to improve both narrative and expository writing at BAES. We hope and expect to see growth throughout the year as we make writing an important focus at BAES this school year. The test booklets will be included in your child's portfolio at the end of year. You can help your child at home with writing by:

- Encouraging your child keep a journal especially on holiday trips.
- Encouraging children to email family and friends
- Modeling when you are writing, explain what you are writing and why
- Encouraging your child to write thank you notes, descriptions of something he/she has seen
- Praising good writing

**MAP-** We have MAP testing coming up October 19<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> for all students K-9. We ask that you ensure your child gets plenty of sleep, eats a healthy breakfast and has a good snack and lunch. The Parent's Toolkit from Map has lots of great suggestions for parents of students who are taking MAP. Go to:<http://www.stjoe.k12.il.us/parenttoolkit.pdf>

**Halloween:** Halloween will be here at BAES for BAES students only from 11:15-12:15 on Friday October 30<sup>th</sup>. The student council will be helping with this activity. We are asking parents to provide candy for trick or treating. Students may bring their costumes to school and change at 11:00.

Have great weekend!

Sharon

\_\_\_\_\_ I will provide candy for Halloween Trick or Treating.

Parent's Name (please print)\_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name\_\_\_\_\_

Grade\_\_\_\_\_



## **Important Dates**

October 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Kindergarten assembly
October 5 <sup>th</sup>	After-School Activities
October 7 <sup>th</sup>	Picture Day
October 12 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup>	Writing exams (internal) Gr.1-9
October 13 <sup>th</sup>	PD Noon Dismissal
October 19 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup>	MAP Testing (external) K-9
<b>October 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>AGM 6:00pm</b>
October 22 <sup>nd</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup>	Long weekend
October 30 <sup>th</sup>	Grade 1 Assembly
October 30 <sup>th</sup>	Board Meeting
November 9 <sup>th</sup>	Last Monday after school
November 19 <sup>th</sup>	Last Thursday after school
November 20	Grade 2/3 Assembly
November 20 <sup>th</sup>	Board Meeting
November 21 <sup>st</sup>	“Best Practices in Education” Conference
November 26 <sup>th</sup>	PD Day Noon Dismissal
November 27 <sup>th</sup> /28 <sup>th</sup> /29 <sup>th</sup> /30 <sup>th</sup>	Long Weekend
December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Parent Teacher Conference
December 5 <sup>th</sup>	Holiday Bazaar
December 11 <sup>th</sup>	Board Meeting
December 18 <sup>th</sup>	½ day Holiday Begins



# BAES 2016-2017 School Calendar

## August 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

26 & 29 – 31 –Teacher Inservice

## February 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

18 – Gambian Independence  
19-20 - Long weekend

## September 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

1–Classes begin –Noon Dismissal

## March 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

16 – PD –Noon Dismissal  
11 – End of 2<sup>nd</sup> term (58 days)

## October 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

12 – PD –Noon Dismissal  
13 – 16 – Long Weekend

## April 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

14 – 23 –Spring break  
24 – School Resumes

## November 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

25 – End of 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester (60 days)  
24 – PD –Noon Dismissal  
25 – 27 – Long Weeknd

## May 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

1 – Labor Day  
24 – PD –Noon Dismissal  
25- African Liberation  
26-27 Long Weekend

## December 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

3 – Parent Teacher Conferences  
End of 1<sup>st</sup> term (57 days)  
21-31 – Holiday Break

## June 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

7 – PD –Noon Dismissal  
20– Student Led Conferences  
22– Last Day of School –Noon Dismissal

## January 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

1 – 8 Holiday Break continues  
9 – Classes resume  
25 – PD –Noon Dismissal

## July 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

182 School Days + 4 Teacher Orientation Days = 186 days  
Trimester #1 = 60 days  
Trimester #2 = 58 days  
Trimester #3 = 64 days