



October 9, 2015

Volume 9

Issue 6

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.

Special Thanks: Many thanks to students in grades 6/7 who helped me shelve all the new library books that Barbara Bandar and Bessie Otero-Leighton processed for us. It would be great if perhaps the last Friday of the month after assembly a group of parents/guardians could go through the library and re-shelve misplaced books.

Special Thanks: Thanks PTO for organizing picture day. Once pictures are posted on line in a Dropbox parents will have a chance to order the pictures that they want. Please remember you need to abide by the due date. Special thanks to Barbara and Jen for doing all the organizing.

Bake Sale: There will be a bake sale on the 13th. Please remember the PTO will be holding bake sales on PD days at 12:00. If you would like to make something for this event (savory or sweet) please contact Mary or any member of the executive committee of the PTO.

Survey Monkey Survey: As you know we are getting ready for a team visit from Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges. I know that some of you participated in the survey last year but as many changes have been made during the past year we are asking for every parent, teacher, board member and student (4-9) to complete the survey. We really do need everyone to take 20 minutes of your time to help your school continue to improve. We also want to show MSA that we have an involved and engaged learning community committed to helping BAES get better every year. I thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. Please complete the survey by October 21st. Here is the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/L6NJRBB> but it is also on the school website: <http://www.baes.gm/>
(click on the scrolling news update with Survey Monkey icon on the right hand side of the page)

Writing Prompts: Writing Exams will now be done at BAES three times each year. One prompt will be expository, one narrative. Expository writing is used to explain, describe, give information or inform. The text is organized around one topic and developed according to a pattern or combination of patterns. Many of you use expository writing on a daily basis. Writing a narrative essay is like writing a story. Depending on the prompt given these narrative pieces might be anecdotal, experiential, and/or personal allowing students to express themselves in creative and often quite moving ways. Teachers are building in direct teaching for writing into all that they do. We recognize that all students are different and learn at different rates but we are setting benchmarks at BAES for what we want students to know and be able to do in the area of writing at the end of Kindergarten, Grade One, Grade 2 etc. For example we might say a student at the end of grade five at BAES should be able to write a well constructed five paragraph essay. There will be benchmarks leading up to that. This is another very important curriculum step for BAES.

MAP Testing: We will begin MAP on the 19th, please make sure your children are well rested with healthy snacks and lunches. It is important to remember that we always expect to see a drop in scores in October this is due to the summer holidays. Last spring our scores were equal to or better than all other schools in Africa that give the MAP tests. This was amazing considering some of the best-resourced schools in Africa give MAP tests.

Fever: Please, Please let me once again remind you if a child has a fever he/she must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school. We are currently just passing germs around BAES. Please practice with your children coughing in their elbow, not their hands and washing, washing, washing hands.

AGM: Sorry for the Typo: The AGM is October 21st at 6:00pm. We had such a low turn out at the Open House that the class with the highest % of parents will have a pizza party. We will take into consideration single parents etc. and it will be based on %. We have to a quorum for this event. Please come and hear what the BAES Board/PTO and BAES Director have to say and vote for your new Board members. The Board members who are staying for this year are:

**Sandra Amalfi
Haytham Hassan
Jimmy Owen-Ambassador's representative**

We need four or more additional people to run for the Board. If you are running for the Board I need to have a paragraph regarding you/grades your children are in and why you want to run for the Board or what you can bring to the table. Please get this into me Monday on the 12th at the latest. If you need to vote by proxy you may. Your proxy vote will count (but not for the pizza count- you must be present for that). I have attached a proxy at the bottom of this BUZZ.

PD Day: Please note that the 13th is a PD (Professional Development Day) all students will get out at 12:00. Please be on time picking up your children, teachers will be having a working lunch as we need to get off the three student objectives and two operational objectives by the first of November. We will then get feedback from MSA on these objectives and adjust at their request. This is just one of several timelines we need to meet this year.

Lunch Money: Please note lunch money will not be accepted after the closing date this month. Gida's Garden will not accept any money at any time so please do not call them and say please add my child.

Halloween: We will only have Halloween trick-or-treating at BAES this year if we have candy for trick-or-treating. We only received one response last week to our request to supply candy for trick or treating.

Also the Marine House *Halloween* is for BAES families only. I will let you know when tickets will be on sale at BAES. They will be D150 for students and D200 for adults. All students must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. The Marines are also looking for help with the games. If you are willing to help please let Jen Greathouse know.

PTO:

Bake Sale, Tuesday 12:00 p.m.

PTO Meeting Tuesday 7:00 p.m. at Ocean Bay, Lounge across from pool

Picture Retake/Make-up Day for absent students Monday at 10:00

Halloween Ticket sales to begin next week (date TBD)

BAES Website: We have posted the 2016-2017 calendar on the website. The activities calendar for the school is also there so you can check each month and see what is happening. It is important to note that all BAES Buzz's are posted there, so if you happen to delete from your phone or computer you can go back and check.

Parent Input Regarding Next BAES Director: The Search Committee for the next BAES Director seeks your input we are asking you for your input through a very brief survey attached.

Have a great weekend!!

Sharon

_____ I will provide candy for Halloween Trick or Treating.

Parent's Name (please print)_____

Child's Name_____

Grade_____

Survey for Parents

The Board is beginning the process of finding a new head of school for BAES and is seeking parent input. We would appreciate it if you would take a few minutes to let the Search Committee know what you are looking for in the next BAES Director.

1. What do you think three most important attributes of the next Director of BAES should be:

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-
-

2. Please feel free to make any additional comments. The Search Committee is looking for your input as we begin one of the primary functions of the Board.

Proxy Vote

I _____(please print name)

of _____

being a member of Banjul American Embassy School, hereby appoint

_____ (please print name)

of _____

as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the AGM, to be held on October 21, 2015

Signed:

Date



Important Dates

October 12 th -15 th	Writing exams (internal) Gr.1-9
October 13 th	PD Noon Dismissal
October 19 th -30 th	MAP Testing (external) K-9
October 21st	AGM 6:00pm
October 22 nd -25 th	Long weekend
October 30 th	Grade 1 Assembly
October 30 th	Board Meeting
November 9 th	Last Monday after school
November 19 th	Last Thursday after school
November 20	Grade 2/3 Assembly
November 20 th	Board Meeting
November 21 st	“Best Practices in Education” Conference
November 26 th	PD Day Noon Dismissal
November 27 th /28 th /29 th /30 th	Long Weekend
December 3 rd	Parent Teacher Conference
December 5 th	Holiday Bazaar
December 11 th	Board Meeting
December 18 th	½ day Holiday Begins
January 11 th	School resumes at 8:00