

Blyth Academy Newsletter



November 9, 2017

General Announcements

Our SCHOOL UNIFORMS have arrived. Students (barring the small number of secondary students with sizing issues that are being resolved presently) are expected to be in uniform from Sunday morning. Please note that middle school and high school students are expected to wear skirts or long pants with their uniforms. Shorts and athletic wear are not permitted classroom attire. Students not in uniform with a valid reason may be removed from class or further reprimanded.

- November 12-16: Kindness Week. Various activities around the school will take place to encourage kindness and kind actions amongst students.
- The **South Africa** trip has been **cancelled** due to low registrant numbers. The **Oman trip** is going forth and will **now include Grade 9 students**. Forms can be found at the end of this newsletter for interested students.
- Sr. Desert Camping Thursday and Friday
- **Calendar Change:** The last day of school for 2017-2018 will be June 14. Grade 12's will be exempt from diploma exams semester 2. To get the required number of hours in for Alberta during semester 2 all grade 10,11 and 12 students will have to remain in class until 2:10 pm every Tuesday. All other grades will be dismissed at 12:10.

Class Notes compiled by Grade 11 ELA

Junior Kindergarten

The junior kindergarten class has been introduced to a new letter of the week: H! They are having fun and learning new words like "hair" and "home". The students' printing and coloring skills are improving weekly. They are also beginning to understand the days of the week and months of the year.

Senior Kindergarten

The senior kindergarten class have had a very fun filled week. They prepared for the Celebration of Peace assembly. The students coloured globes and learned a new song that will be sung at the assembly. They were also introduced to the letters “N” and “J”. They also learned their ‘popcorn’ words: I, see, a, and at. They were introduced to representing the numbers 8 and 9 in multiple ways. They also had Lantana show the class her adventures with Thomas the Teddy and Marwan showed his special item to the class as the Star Student of the Week!

Grade 1

The Grade 1 class showed great enthusiasm for the Favourite Fictional Character Day. Students enjoyed showing their costumes to each other and had full participation from all the class members.



Grade 3

The Grade 3 class had a special art class with Mr. Muter the art teacher. They made and decorated cat masks which reflected their personalities and personal expressions.



Junior High

This week, in Science class, the grade 7's had a contest to see who can build the tallest and strongest tower using household items like straws, toothpicks etc. The structure must be able to handle the force of certain objects being thrown at it, without breaking. We're excited to see which team is going to win and build the strongest tower!

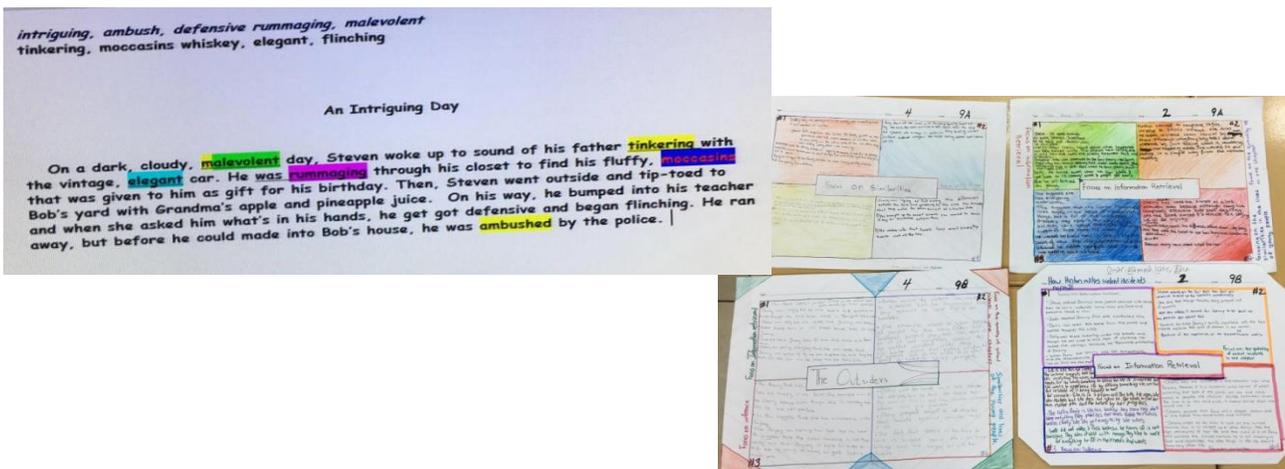
The grade 9's, in Math class, have been designing parking lots and analyzing how much it would cost to build one. Also the grades 7, 8 and 9 are preparing for midterm exams by reviewing previous chapters and doing practice tests.

Music class is going great! The students are almost done putting a song together, unfortunately will not be presenting on Peace Day. However, if they're willing, we might get to see them present at the Winter Concert.

English class, this week, was hectic yet super exciting for junior high. Grade 7A, who is currently reading "Sounders", analyzed the characters in the book and described their traits. They were then asked to choose a character from the book and compare how similar or different it is from that same character, but in the movie. 7B, on the other hand, is reading the same book as 7A but they're just doing different assignments. The class finished designing their storyboards this week. What that is, is that they had to pick a chapter from the book and sketch a comic strip drawing describing the events that took place in that chapter.

The grade 8's practiced how to write their *thesis sentences* by gathering information from the internet, to build their body for their expository writing. In order to help build their vocabulary, Ms. Whyte chose certain words from the book they're currently reading "Walk Two Moons" and asked the class, to work as a team, and build one paragraph using these words. This exercise is useful for the students, so they can see how words are used in different context. This is an example of *Coral Teaching* which is going around class, gathering different ideas and having the students correct their own work, therefore improving their skills.

As for the grade 9's, their assignment was to choose a character from the novel they're reading and write a compare and contrast essay about them. Whether the students choose a character that was really similar or completely different to their personality, was up to them to decide. *Round Robin Learning* is also a new technique Ms. Whyte is trying out to give students a better understanding of the novel. How it works is that, tables are arranged around the classroom and positioned so that there are multiple brainstorming discussions taking place at one time. When the timer goes off, each group moves to another table where the topic is different. This allows students to share their thoughts and, at the same time, learn how others see it and their perspectives on the topic.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Grade 11/12 Physical Education Class took a trip to Bounce Qatar, The largest trampoline park in the Middle East. Students learned bounce techniques and safety protocols and then got to spend 60 thrilling minutes having the entire park all to their Themselves. Students loved the experience and are looking



forward to more time at Bounce in the near future. Blyth is working with Bounce to create special rates for our school so we can take full advantage of their proximity and services.

HOUSE SYSTEM

Blyth Academy Qatar has introduced a house system to our campus this year. The four houses are representative of four North American bear populations, Grizzly, Kodiak, Polar and Black Bears. A house system has shown to have a positive effect on student engagement and fostering positive relationships within the school. Students earned points for their teams by wearing their

favorite fictional characters. Next Tuesday will feature our next house activities event, with students competing for house points in a variety of fun and challenging events.

When the dust had settled, the points stood as follows.

Polar Bears	280
Grizzly Bears	280
Kodiak Bears	210
Black Bears	205

Good Luck to all the houses going forward and keep watching this newsletter for updates throughout the year.

CLUBS AND TEAMS

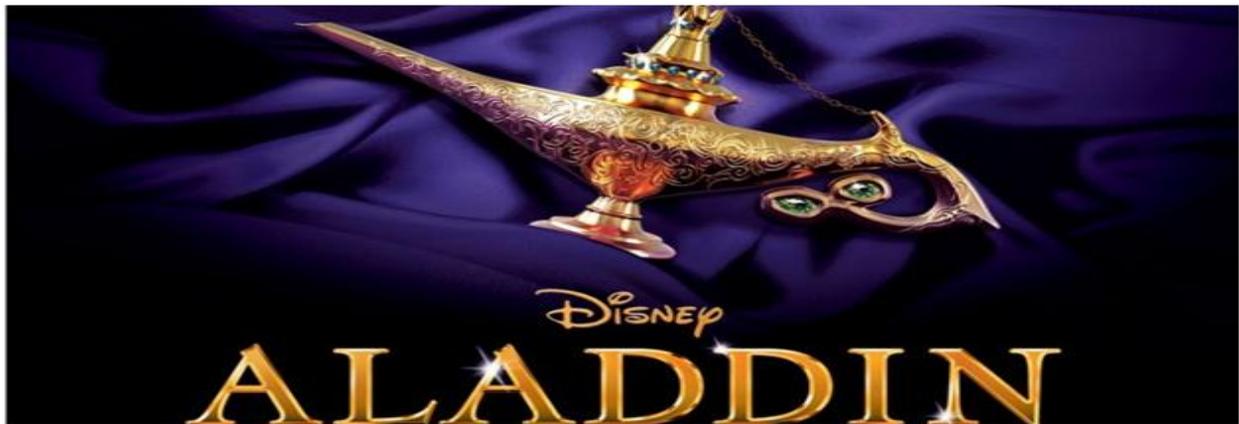
The Blyth Academy Soccer Team played a game this week against DeBakey High School. Despite losing 4-1, our team fought hard and look forward to building on the foundations set by their limited practice time. Thank you to the teachers that have been coaching and arranging the games. Blyth looks forward to continued development of our sports teams and competitions in the future.



CHESS TEAM

The Chess Team travelled to HUBS brand new school to compete in a highly anticipated rematch after Blyth beat them at home last month. After a series of hotly contested matches, **Blyth prevailed by a score of 10-7**. Special recognition should go to our lone female player, Riva Padiya, who battle tough against an internationally ranked girl from HUBS before losing a tight match. Congrats to all!

JUNIOR HIGH DRAMA PRESENTS-



STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFO SOON!

Con't



**It is time for the BAQ Annual Reading
Competition**

**Sign up at the Library for your chance to
win a prize.**

Read an appropriate book/novel.

Be prepared to answer few questions about it.

November 12 & 13, 2017

QURAN COMPETITION

The annual Holy Quran Competition will usually take place in end of February the beginning of March 2018. In addition, Hadeth Competition takes place in November 28th 2017. This prestigious competition will involve all schools in Qatar. If a student would like to participate please let him/her to see Mrs Mona by NOVEMBER 11th.

For further information, you can contact Mrs. Mona (mona.tammam@blythacademyqatar.com)

Grade 9's Invited to Oman – see contract below

SCHOOL TRIP STUDENT CONTRACT

BAQ Grades 5-9 Trip to Oman

These activities are organized to significantly enrich both the academic curriculum as taught in school and the social and personal development of those students participating in them. The organization, particularly of school overseas trips requires a significant investment of staff time and energy. The purpose of the following information (rules, forms, contracts...) is to assist the teacher(s)/group leader(s) when organizing any trip. On the trip there will be a 10:1 student/teacher ratio and student co-operation will be essential. The teacher in charge will have a phone number that will be given to parents in order to contact the group during the trip in case of emergencies.

Deposit: There will be a QAR 1500 deposit due November 2nd 2017, to be given to your Ms. Beena (between 7:30-8:00 and 2:00-2:15) or Ms. Abboud along with the signed forms.

RULES FOR Blyth Academy Qatar Overseas Trips

The purpose of the rules set out below is to ensure that the enjoyment of the trip is not hindered for any student or teacher.

RULES

- 1. The excessive consumption of behaviour affecting drinks such as red bull, espresso coffees or other drinks with enhanced caffeine is prohibited.**
- 2. Smoking is prohibited as under the school rules.**
- 3. Students are expected to attend all set meals unless permission given by a teacher.**
- 4. Students are to remain with the group during the day and evening unless authorised by the teachers.**
- 5. Hotel rooms/apartments are to be kept clean and tidy at all times. Failure to do so may result in sanctions.**
- 6. Students are expected to comply with set bed times and lights out times.**
- 7. It is forbidden for male students to enter the rooms of female students and for female students to enter the rooms of male students.**
- 8. Students are expected to treat teachers/supervisors/instructors/tour guides with respect at all times**
- 9. Teachers reserve the right to search students' bags/rooms at any time if they suspect contraband is present.**
- 10. All students are expected to turn up on time for all roll calls.**
- 11. Foul language is not acceptable from any student on the trip at any time.**

12. **FREE TIME** – during trips it is common for students to be given some ‘free time’. During such time students should always travel in groups (minimum of 3). Under no circumstance should any student walk on their own. During this time students are expected to treat their surroundings with the utmost respect and are also expected to adhere to all the school rules applicable above.

Sanctions

Failure to comply with the rules of the trip will lead to sanctions which will be decided by the teachers/supervisors on the trip. Sanctions might include, loss of pass for certain activities, loss of free time, grounding etc. More serious breaches of rules will result in phone calls to parents/guardians with possible follow up action in the school after the trip. Disciplinary meetings will be convened by the staff where necessary. In the event of serious and/or uncontrollable incidents students may be required to return home. The costs in such an event will be charged to the parents/guardians. This will be done after full communication with the parents/guardians.

The teachers accompanying the group reserve the right to amend any rule during the trip as necessary. Clear notice, will be given of any such changes, to the students.

PRACTICAL ADVICE

Any student taking part on a trip should try their best to adhere to the following advice while on the trip:

- Try to find out as much as you can about your destination before you go.
- Do your best to help fellow students and teachers at all times.
- Do your best to ensure that all students are included in group activities at all times
- During foreign trips, try to speak the language of your host country if known.
- Refrain from using bad language at all times on the trip
- Do your best to be considerate of others at all times.

OVERSEAS SCHOOL TRIP PARENT CONSENT

Student Name:	
Class:	
Location of Trip:	
Organising Teacher:	

I/We understand that the Blyth Academy Qatar trip will take place on the following dates:-

Outbound Date:		Time:	:	hrs
Inbound Date:		Time:	:	hrs

to/from Hamad International Airport (in the event that the plane is delayed, the tour ends no later than 15 mins after arrival at Airport)

- v I/we understand that it is my/our responsibility to ensure that my/our son/daughter is at the airport on time and collected from the airport on time.
- v Should my/our son/daughter infringe on any of the rules of this tour which have been explained by the teachers and which he/she and I/we fully understand and accept, whether this infringement be of a minor or more serious nature, I accept whatever punishment may be imposed, including being sent home early and, should this situation arise, I/we will cover the cost of the ticket and any other transport necessary.
- v I understand the staff/supervisors from Blyth Academy Qatar will be acting in *loco parentis* throughout this tour and that my son/daughter will obey their instructions at all times. I/we understand that my son/daughter's behaviour in school in the lead up to the trip may have a bearing on their participation on the trip. I also understand that my son/daughter may be given some 'free time' at some stage on the trip and that during this time my son/daughter must obey all rules as explained to them.

Signature of Parent/Guardian:	
Signature of Parent/Guardian:	
Date:	

[Please return this completed form to the Ms. Beena (between 7:30-8:00 and 2:00-2:15) or Ms. Abboud]

SCHOOL TRIP STUDENT CONTRACT

Please complete the details below:

Student Name:		Class:
Date of Birth:		
Location of Trip:		
Organising Teacher:		

Agreement:

- v I agree to participate in and to make a commitment to the entire BAQ School trip
- v I have read the document, supplied by the leaders of the trip, listing the rules regarding the trip and agree to all of the rules included in that list.
- v I accept that any failure on my part to behave responsibly at all times to the teachers/ supervisors/instructors/tour guides, may lead to appropriate sanctions.
- v I am also aware that a possible sanction for what is deemed unacceptable behaviour could result in my being sent home from the trip after my parents/guardians have been informed.
- v I understand that failure to behave appropriately may have a bearing on my selection for future trips.

Student Signature:	
Date:	

[Please return this completed form to the Ms. Beena (between 7:30-8:00 and 2:00-2:15) or Ms. Abboud]