

# BISC Bulletin

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## NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### **Open Morning – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February**

Our final Open Morning of the academic year will take place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February. This is a great opportunity for new parents to see the school at work and to meet with senior managers.

Should you have friends or family who might wish to attend, please invite them to contact Ms Iman Khalil, BISC Admissions Officer, to register their attendance ([admissions@bisc.edu.eg](mailto:admissions@bisc.edu.eg)).

Competition for school places will be as intense this year and so early application is strongly advised. Given the current demand for places, we shall not be holding an Open Morning in the Summer Term.

### **Gordonstoun International Summer School 2012**

Mrs. Jenny Needham (Director of Gordonstoun International Summer School) is advising BISC parents to visit their website for more information on this year's summer school. The web address is [www.giss.org.uk](http://www.giss.org.uk)

### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February – The Prophet's Birthday**

The School will be closed on Sunday.

### **BISC Parent Portal**

Where parents and teachers keep in close touch with one another, children benefit through a shared sense of purpose. For this reason, we wish to enhance the range and quality of communication channels available to parents.

We shall be launching our new *parent portal* at Easter and this will give you web based access to core information on your children: their attendance and punctuality, the information we hold and recent reports. There will be more to come on this towards the end of term.

## NEWS FROM THE SENIOR SCHOOL

### **BSME Games U15**

The boys and girls under 15 sports squads travelled to Dubai last weekend to take part in this annual event. The girls played netball on Friday and football on Saturday. The boys played basketball on Friday and football on Saturday. The girls won 2 out of their 4 games then got knocked out at the quarter final stage by the winning school, Dubai College. The boys reached the semi-finals of the basketball and finished a highly creditable 4<sup>th</sup> place. On Saturday both teams reached the quarter finals of the football competition. However, over the whole football competition, the girls' team scored more goals than any other team and from the boys' perspective, James Harvey was voted 'Player of the Tournament'.

### **Nuclear Disarmament and Nuclear Non-proliferation**

On Monday afternoon Y9, 10, 12 and 13 students enjoyed an audience with two experts in the fields of diplomacy, nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the promotion of world peace. Joe Cirincione, CEO of The Ploughshare Fund, led the exposition with a session on what he called the 'Basics of Nuclear Disarmament'. Paul Ingram, CEO of The British & American Security Information Council, maintained the momentum with an explanation of the changing currency of power associated with the possession of nuclear weapons. Our students were very impressive throughout this engaging session involving an effective mix of high quality exposition and the ding dong of question and answer.

### **THIMUN**

Upon arriving at Cairo Airport on Saturday January 21<sup>st</sup>, it was clear that the excitement had battled its way through having to wake up at 5am to catch the 10am flight to Amsterdam. It was THIMUN2012; we were excited, researched, prepared and fervent to begin a week of fiery and interesting debate. Although the week began on a rather slow note with the tedious but ever-so-essential Lobbying and Merging process, once debate began - the delegates of Mauritius began to take over their respective committees and commissions. With Srishti Nirula and Michel Bakhom stirring up trouble in ECOSOC, Faris Shamsi declaring war on the USA in the Disarmament Commission and Zein El Azzouni offering her expert views as Cyprus in the Advisory Panel on the Question of the Mediterranean Region, BISC students were the talk of the THIMUN town. Essam El Messiri, given the prestigious position of President of GA6, also endured an exciting, albeit stressful, week of dictating debate in his committee and ensuring everything ran smoothly. After five tiring days of extensive debate and nights socializing with fellow delegates from all over the world, returning to school on Sunday seemed like the last thing we wanted, but alas-classes had to resume and, despite having to control our excitement only a week beforehand-we now have to control our PTSD: Post-THIMUN-Depression.

### **Food Glorious Food**

The Student Councils of both Junior and Senior School have long championed the virtues of pizza and burger days and their uplifting effect on student morale. Their persuasive arguments have prevailed and the PTA will be happy to run the first pizza day on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Exam Reports issued**

The exam reports have been issued for Y10, 12 and 13.

### **The Sound of Music**

We have rehearsals on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February from 10am-2pm. Show dates are 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> March and we ask you to keep your diaries free on these dates for what will be a spectacular musical.

### **Year 11 IB Options**

With the January GCSE exams out of the way, I should like to encourage year 11 students to talk with their parents, teachers and IB students as they consider what course of study they should pursue beyond GCSE in order to realise their aspirations. Careers interviews are in progress to support this process. Sixth form application forms should be submitted by Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February.

### **BISCMUN 2012**

Our Y11 conference team are working extremely hard to ensure this conference is truly World class and, on their behalf, Ms. Connolly has launched the BISCMUN website <http://biscmun.bisc.edu.eg/> through which the event is being promoted world wide.

## NEWS FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

### **CIBSA Basketball Tournament - Friday 27th January**

Mr. Croft writes: 'Last weekend, two teams from BISC competed in the annual CIBSA Basketball tournament. The main focus of the morning for the Under 9s was to give the boys and girls exposure to games and a number of coaching sessions. The U-9s played extremely well, winning two of their three games against MBIS. The Under 11s had the opportunity to play a double round robin against MBIS and NCBIS. Games were tight, with NCBIS and the pupils from BISC competing in the final. Despite excellent passing and defensive play from BISC, NCBIS prevailed to win the final 11-4. Well played to all the boys and girls. The Coach Award for Best Player went to U-9 Ramsey Bower (U-9s) and Ahmed Fayek (U-11s).

### **Year 2 Cookery Special Event – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January–Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February**

Mrs. McGlynn writes: 'Reading scales' and 'Changes to materials when heating' have been just two of the learning objectives taught to our Year Two classes in the Cookery Room this week. The children were presented with the task of working in pairs to follow a recipe and produce fairy cakes. After much measuring, mixing and stirring, the children created a feast of fancy cakes, good enough for even our Deputy Head of Junior School, Mrs. Layton-Short, to eat. Delicious - and a wonderful recipe for exciting learning!

### **Key Stage One 'Lining Up Olympics'**

The health and safety of our children is very important to us. We understand that lining up and walking in line are activities that keep us safe in our school life but, to young children, these can sometimes be difficult to achieve. Therefore, to encourage the development of these skills, the children have had great fun participating in our very first 'KS1 Lining Up Olympics'. With the chance to be awarded a bronze, silver or gold medal for their 'lines' in our weekly assembly, we have been proud of the effort by all our classes. Well done, KS1!

### **Junior School Parents' Conferences**

Parent Conferences for the Spring Term begin on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February (3.15 - 5.30 p.m.). A letter will be sent to parents shortly, with further details.

### **Absence Procedures**

Please may we remind parents that, in accordance with BISC Attendance Policy, permission for pupil absences should be made in writing and in advance. Where this is not possible, for example because of sickness, the School should be contacted on the first day of the absence. Our preferred method of notification is by email to Ms Eman Gamal in the Junior School Office at [juniorattendance@bisc.edu.eg](mailto:juniorattendance@bisc.edu.eg) Thank you in advance for your support.

### **National Holiday, Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February**

The School is closed for the Prophet's Birthday holiday on 5<sup>th</sup> February and re-opens as normal the next day.

## NEWS FROM THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

**Parents in Touch Workshops** (Saturday 18 February 2012 from 10am) – please find attached flyer for details.

We hope to introduce a variety of workshops throughout the year for parents to address key and relevant issues we face, and provide a support network. The first workshop will be held on **Saturday 18 February from 10.00am-2.30pm**. The morning session will look at a holistic approach to children's well-being, with three highly qualified presenters. The afternoon session will be an address by Dr. Gad Elbeheri specifically on the theme of dyslexia.

To help us plan the event, we ask that parents contact Mrs. Sara Tawfik ([Sara.Tawfik@bisc.edu.eg](mailto:Sara.Tawfik@bisc.edu.eg)) to reserve a ticket. Further details about the event can be obtained by emailing Mrs. Zora ([basman.zora@bisc.edu.eg](mailto:basman.zora@bisc.edu.eg)).



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### **Parents in Touch** *Workshops for Parents and Carers* **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

#### **10.00-1.00                    Healthy Child, Healthy Brain**

A holistic programme for optimising your child's physiological and psychological well-being.

##### **Session One: The Brain vs. The Mind**

A discussion of how the brain functions and how the physiological affects the psychological and vice-versa, followed by a brief description of common complaints and remedies.

*Diane Tayeby, M.A., N.C.C. - Psychotherapist*

#### **Break**

##### **Session Two: The Value of Nutrition**

A discussion about the importance of nutrition in the overall well-being of the child, including food allergies and common ailments.

*Nada Iskander DipBCNH, mBANT, mIFM - Nutritional Therapist*

##### **Session Three: Homeopathy**

An introduction to homeopathy, followed by a presentation of case studies.

*Hana Holdijk, Chi Nei Tsang, IMLCHom - Homeopath*

#### **Lunch 1.00-1.30**



#### **1.30-2.30: Guest Speaker**

##### **Dyslexia – how can parents provide help at home?**

*Dr. Gad Elbeheri, PhD*

*The Lighthouse School, Cairo*

For further details, please contact Mrs. Zora: [basman.zora@bisc.edu.eg](mailto:basman.zora@bisc.edu.eg)  
For tickets please contact Mrs. Sara Tawfik: [Sara.Tawfik@bisc.edu.eg](mailto:Sara.Tawfik@bisc.edu.eg)



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## Guest Speakers

***Diane Tayeby, M.A., N.C.C.***

***Psychotherapist***

Diane Tayeby specialises in Counselling Psychology. She received her Masters of Arts in Applied Psychology, Clinical Mental Health Counselling from Antioch University New England, in the U.S. She is Board Certified by the National Board of Certified Counsellors in the U.S. She has worked as a clinician with children, adolescents and adults and also facilitates group and family therapy sessions. She is a member of the American Psychological Association, American Mental Health Counsellors Association, American Counselling Association and National Board of Certified Counsellors. Diane describes herself as a Multi-cultural Counsellor, open to using a variety of counselling modalities, including neurofeedback, cognitive-behavioural, meditation, hypnotherapy to name a few, to suit her clients' individual needs and styles.

Website: [www.cairocounselingpsychology.com](http://www.cairocounselingpsychology.com)

***Hana Holdijk***

***Homeopath, Chi Nei Tsang***

***IMLCHom***

Hana Holdijk is a second generation homeopath who has 6 years of training and experience. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences with a major in Psychology from the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands. Upon returning to Cairo she spent 3 months in Thailand learning 2 types of Body Work and then went on to earn her degree in Homeopathy from the Lakeland College of Homeopathy in the UK. After graduating, she spent 6 months in Seattle studying in a clinic with two renowned homeopaths who specialise in treating children with behavioural and learning difficulties. She has been running a successful practice here in Cairo since 2009. She teaches introductory courses in alternative health and homeopathy promoting the use of herbs, vitamins and homeopathic remedies as a viable alternative for helping both children and adults for a variety of problems.

***Nada Iskander***

***Nutritional Therapist***

***DipBCNH, mBANT, mIFM***

Nada Iskander is a Holistic Health Consultant specialising in Nutritional Therapy. She graduated with Distinction from the UK's foremost nutrition college, the UK College of Nutrition and Health (BCNH). Her passion for nutritional therapy started over 10 years ago when a personal experience made her realise that optimal healing is achieved by addressing the underlying factors of a disorder rather than by suppressing its symptoms. Originally a telecommunication engineer with 10 years of work experience in Nokia, managing various businesses around the world, Nada decided to change her career and become a full-time nutritional therapist.

***Dr Gad Elbeheri***

***PhD, The Lighthouse School, Cairo***

Dr. Gad Elbeheri is a consultant to the Centre for Child Evaluation & Teaching; the leading centre in Kuwait which combines research and practice on specific learning disabilities across the Arab World. He is also the United Nations Development Programme's Technical Director for the Early Learning Challenges and Disability Project; a collaborative nationwide project executed by the United Nations Development Programme and the Supreme Council for Planning & Development. An applied linguist who obtained his PhD from the University of Durham, UK, Dr. Elbeheri has a keen interest in cross-linguistic studies of dyslexia and other specific learning difficulties and their manifestations in Arabic. He is a national Board Member of the International Dyslexia Association and an Editorial Board Member of *Dyslexia: An International Journal of Research & Practice*. Dr. Elbeheri is a co-founder and Executive Director of the Lighthouse School & Nursery (a specialist provision school for children with specific learning difficulties) in Cairo, Egypt. He has made over 30 conference and seminar presentations in more than 10 countries. He has published over 5 books in both English and Arabic in the field of dyslexia, published over 8 peer reviewed journal articles on dyslexia and Arabic and has recently co-edited a special issue on Arabic Literacy in *Reading & Writing: A Multidisciplinary Journal*. He has participated in producing nationally standardised tests in Arabic as well as computer based dyslexia screening in Arabic.