Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Friends of TBS,

Occasionally parents and teachers send me interesting articles and research on learning and teaching and within the school we have ongoing debates about learning based on some of the latest research in our various meetings. This restlessness in questioning what works best for learners is essential and it formulates policies and practices as we move forward. It is a very exciting time to be a teacher with new technology allowing much more scientific analysis of the brain and what happens to it when we learn. This in turn is influencing debates about how teachers should support learners to give them the best possible experience. I thought it would be nice to share my favourite education books of recent years. They are not without flaws, but all 3 have been influential in schools across the globe and they provoke interesting debate.

1. Carol Dweck - *Mindset series*. There are different versions of the original Mindset book. The notion of a ‘growth mindset’ is a powerful tool for promoting resilience, positivity, risk-taking, etc in learners.

2. John Hattie - *Visible Learning*. Again this has been around for 3 or 4 years, but is a fascinating basis for discussions about schooling.

3. Sheryl Feinstein - *Inside the Teenage Brain*. There are now hundreds of books about teenage brains, but this was an influential one. There are a lot of interesting insights!

Mind you, this is like any list. By the time I wrote these down I had thought of 3 better ones! My own doctoral thesis on gender identities, achievement and learning came a close fourth, being cited as a very powerful cure for insomnia by my avid readers, i.e. family and/or friends. All TBS staff are encouraged to keep up to date with influential research and educational thinking as we are all learners too!

I hope the children and young people have found being at TBS stimulating, enjoyable and challenging this week. They have had some really rich learning experiences and, as is often the case, have done some wonderful things which I hope you enjoy reading about.

**Upcoming events**

- 24th Nov - Year 5 Boys’ Basketball vs KISC
- 24th Nov - Year 12 Parents’ Consultation from 3.45pm
- 25th Nov - Primary Open Afternoon from 2.45pm
- 27th Nov - Year 11 Sixth Form Information Evening (essential!)
- 1st Dec - Year 13 Parents’ Consultation from 3.45pm
- 2nd Dec - Governors’ Meeting 6pm
- 5th Dec - Christmas Bazaar - contact Tumika Sthapit-Priest for a table

Follow TBS on twitter@TbsKathmandu
www.tbskathmandu.org
TBS Eco Blog
http://tbsecoblog.wordpress.com

**This week!**

**Under-15 FOBISIA Games in Bangkok**

Thank you to Mr. Phillips and Ms. Beech for organising the successful U15 FOBISIA Games trip to TRAILL International school in Bangkok. This is their report of an action packed and challenging trip. ‘After a good flight, the first day involved some sightseeing around the Grand Palace, all important student shopping, and a brilliant experience learning to surf at the Flowhouse, Bangkok.

The first day of competition saw the team achieve a massive 8 bronze, 5 silver and 2 gold medals in athletics and swimming. The star performer of the day was Nina who achieved 8 of those medals.
Next week!

Year 12 Parent Teacher Consultation - Monday 24th November from 3.45pm

The Secondary teachers begin a series of information evenings and parent consultations starting with Year 12 on Monday and Year 13 the following Monday. They then continue in Term 3 for other year groups.

Primary Informal Open Afternoon
On Tuesday 25th November, from 2.45–4.30pm, we will be holding an informal Open Afternoon when you and your child will have a chance to meet your child’s Class Teacher, look at their books and chat informally about your child’s progress and targets. The idea is to attend with your child so that they can talk you through the work that they have been doing this term. We appreciate that this is not always easy for working parents so we can be flexible if some parents need to arrange alternate times with the class teacher.

Year 11 (and younger years welcome) Sixth Form Information Evening - 27th November 2014, 6pm in the Hall

There is a Sixth Form Information evening on Thursday November 27th at 6pm. All Year 11 students and their parents are invited to hear information about life after IGCSEs and the various options available to students as they start to think about their university preparation courses. There will also be a chance to talk to individual teachers about subject choices for next year and find out more about the courses on offer here at TBS. If any parents or students would like to visit our new Sixth Form Centre, the gates will be open at 5.30pm for an informal tour. The centre houses several new classrooms and seminar rooms, a conference room, a student common room and study area, and the Sixth Form Office. We are aware that many families like to start thinking early about post-16 options for their children, so parents of students in Year 10 are welcome to join us for the early part of the evening at 6pm, when the talks will take place.

21st November 2014

The second day got off to a good start with the boys’ football team getting 2 draws against difficult opposition. The girls started with two losses, but then subsequently performed very well to beat Garden International and Kota Kinabalu. No medals were achieved, but a lot was learnt by all.

The boys went into the final day knowing to win in the basketball was going to be a tough task given the level of competition. Despite losing all their games, they performed particularly well in the first 3 games, losing by 4 points and 1 point to St Stephens and Kota Kinabalu respectively.

The girls’ football team came up against the eventual gold and silver medalists in their first 2 games and lost despite battling hard. In the final 3 games they dominated possession and struggled to score the goals to get a win, but worked hard to get draws in all three.

The games finished with the end of games disco and award ceremony. Once again the FOBISIA games were played in a friendly, but competitive manner, and undoubtedly it will be the new friendships, teamwork, and enjoyment had by all that will be the memories that last a lifetime.

Well done to all competitors for the excellent performances and impeccable behaviour all week’.

Secondary Production
Return to the Forbidden Planet was a triumph and a great example of dedication, effort, talent and teamwork. Obviously a special thanks goes to the director, Mr Gordon, who has overseen another joyous and exuberant spectacle that I am sure we will all remember for a long time! The students involved were fantastic whether it be the cast who balanced all their academic schoolwork and other responsibilities alongside the hours of rehearsals, to the back stage crew led by Stage Manager Baishali Lama who were so professional, to the set designers, front of house, electricians (who battled inexplicable power cuts on Monday, fire alarms on Tuesday, lighting failures at the weekend to ensure it was all right on the night!), props, costumes and all the other supporting roles. Well done to all involved!

Year 6 visit to Kopan Monastery

Year 6’s visit to Kopan Monastery on Wednesday was a great learning experience and classwork is already building on the work that was done on the day out. (Much research cites learning in context as being most powerful, so these trips should promote deeper learning).

Year 2 Everest Expedition

Year 2 had a fantastic day on their Everest Expedition and there was a large cast of primary and secondary staff setting challenges, helping with ICT, and supporting the children in their investigations. Thanks to all involved especially the Year 2 teachers and it is the first time I have ever seen anything like this with twitter feeds, an ICT simulation of the top of everest, photographs from the top of the world, etc alongside some very challenging scientific problems.

Expedition reflection assemblies

Secondary students all gave reflection assemblies on their expeditions and there was good use of the medium of mime, drama and poetry to express some of their experiences as well as videos and presentations. The expeditions have clearly been a great experience.

FOBISIA Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) competition

Secondary students recently entered the FOBISIA MFL competition.
Excellence at the Top of the World!

Foundation 1 Parents afternoon
I have rarely seen such bounteous offerings in the school as when Foundation 1 parents prepared a cultural & celebratory meal for children on Thursday. A very nice opportunity to see children happily sharing and eating together.

Repeat
Reminders

Clubs notice
Just a reminder that clubs finish for this term on Friday 5th December, also known as Friday Week 8. Also during Week 8 the following clubs will not run due to the EYKS1 production.
Monday - Musical Theatre
Tuesday - Music Club
Wednesday - Get Creative & Library
Thursday - Mini-Football

Request for unused Christmas cards - TBS Amnesty group!
The Amnesty group will send Christmas cards to prisoners of conscience around the world. If you are able to donate any unused cards to this cause then please pass them via the Secondary reception.

Christmas Bazaar - December 5th
On December 5th we will hold the annual Christmas Bazaar on the school grounds. If any member of the TBS community would like to book a table, please see Mrs. Tumika-Sthapit Priest or sign up on the board near the school entrance.

21st November 2014
The British School Kathmandu

Although, during the online competition the system was inaccessible and it was during our expedition week when many students had no online access, we still finished in mid table coming 16th out of 26 schools. Well done to Jasлина Bohora (Y11) who won a bronze award (which has a prize of an iPod we are told!). The students have really appreciated the event and there will be another chance for French and Nepalese students to compete in April or May.

Disabled Newlife Centre (DNC)
On Saturday a selection of Year 5 & 6 students and Primary teachers travelled to the Disabled Newlife Centre in Thali. The bus was full of resources to donate and there was great excitement amongst the DNC children when they saw their individual bags of health & hygiene items, new bed clothes and pillows. We also donated a widescreen TV which was a fantastic surprise. TBS students organised a lovely morning of activities for the children, the interaction and participation of our TBS students with the DNC children is to be commended. Well done to all involved!

Key Stage 3 Football
The PE department write ‘On Tuesday, the KS3 Boys’ football team played a friendly against Chelsea Academy. Both teams were nervous at the kick off, but quickly settled into some great play. TBS opened the scoring with a rocket of a shot; the goalkeeper had no chance. Chelsea Academy played with great heart, but the TBS boys proved too strong in every area of the field. By half time TBS had pulled into a 3-0 lead. After the break Chelsea Academy scored, but could not capitalise on their possession to narrow the lead any further. TBS ran out easy winners with a 5-1 scoreline. Well done to all players and coaches involved’.

Mathematics in Nature competition
Mrs. Taylor, Head of Mathematics, congratulates all who entered the Mathematics in Nature photography competition. There were some great entries from students, parents and staff. There is a display of some of the entries in the school hall if you would like to see them.

Buzz Careers talk
Thanks to John Mannion who came in to talk to Y11-13 students on Wednesday morning. These short, focussed 15 minute careers talks are going down well, so thanks to John for talking about working for Accenture as a management consultant.

Year 12 Travel & Tourism Students Visit The Summit
The Year 12s learnt a lot about running a successful hotel this week. After a tour of the whole hotel and the booking procedure, they saw all the facilities that the hotel had to reduce waste and to ensure reasonable costs. They learnt what the hotel does to fulfill customer needs and had a chance to ask questions. This was a very productive visit which helped a lot with their coursework. Thank you to the Summit hotel!

Enjoy the weekend!

Breakfast for one member of F2

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