Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Friends of TBS,
I hope you enjoy reading about some of the highlights this week. Please do visit the website if you need to know more or contact the people listed on this page if you need any clarifications.

This week!

Secondary Charity and Communities & MUN Assembly
The secondary students were very good on Monday in outlining their plans for the year. Although there will be some elements of fundraising for their chosen good causes, the emphasis was on building links with other organisations and working with them rather than just raising funds. It was particularly telling how many of them highlighted that working for the benefit of others helps oneself grow. Students who attended the Model United Nations were also very enthusiastic about the skills they were required to demonstrate on their residential weekend and we plan to enter more MUN events.

Play equipment
Rules are slowly emerging on the play equipment. It has been another safe week and the children are being really considerate with each other. We will keep the general rules, as below, in place but once the main rush is over after school (say from 2.45 and from 3.45) we can let everyone use it. Common sense should dictate our actions and, although a part of one’s soul dies when we make rules about play equipment, it is in the best interest of safety.

Upcoming events
• Sunday 4pm City Centre Premiere organised by Year 9 ‘Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles’
• Monday 1st September - Year 9 Charity week
• Friday 5th September 2pm - Primary Family Assembly led by 6Z
• Saturday 6th September 2014 - The Big Lunch 11am-2.30pm

TBS AGM & Parent Governor vacancies
The forthcoming AGM will see the election of Parent Governors. Information was circulated regarding these vacancies earlier this week. Mrs Tumika Sthapit-Priest is the Board of Governors’ secretary and she can advise any parents who would like further information.

Class representatives meeting!
Thank you to all the class representatives for coming to the meeting on Tuesday this week. It was good to hear some positive opinions and what school needs to continue to develop. In every great school problems occur, people make mistakes and there are things
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29th August 2014  The British School Kathmandu

we know we have to work on. TBS is no exception and sometimes we work in more challenging circumstances than might be the case in other contexts. However I hope that between the parents, school staff and the wonderful children we all work to support, there is no problem we cannot find a good solution to and that we can continue to work to understand each other!

Sixth Form

The Sixth Form have had a fantastic week, starting with speaking very passionately about the Dhading Project in Monday’s charity assembly. On Tuesday every Sixth Former began their role as a "Parent", working with our KS3 students on getting to know you games in preparation for a year of team building. On Wednesday we welcomed Mr Prakash Bhave into school, and we couldn't have asked for a better launch to our "Buzz Careers" mornings. We were treated to an insight into his fascinating career as an Environmental Engineer specialising in air pollution, a talk that was informative and inspiring. Thursday found us in primary classrooms reading to younger students and really forging bonds between the different parts of the "TBS family". To cap off our amazing (and busy!) week, today we welcomed student ambassadors and admissions staff from Cambridge University and Trinity College Dublin.

Congratulations to all Sixth Form students for being such enthusiastic role models for the entire school community. Any parents or friends of the school who would like to experience the vibrant community at the top of the school, by giving 15 minutes to talk about their job at a "Buzz Careers" morning, please contact Miss Khetan on nkhetan@tbs.edu.np to find out more. Anyone who wants to follow Sixth Form news as it happens can follow @TBSsixthform on Twitter!

Paired reading

As mentioned above, our paired reading involves every single child in the school celebrating the joy of reading. The students from secondary come into primary classrooms for fifteen minutes or so and they all simply read stories together. It is a joy to watch. This is one of the benefits of having 3-18 year olds on one site and strengthens our school community feel. I hope that we will continue to be able to find the time to inspire all our children to read, to work together and to make new friends in different year groups.

Year 7 Leadership & Team-Building Day

This was an excellent day and the students made some fantastic food, worked together extremely well and enjoyed getting muddy. Ms Radlett and the mentors, Mr Jackson and Mrs Taylor thought the Year 7s were excellent throughout the day and the end product in
after the Christmas break.

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Key Stage 2 Curriculum

Swimming postponed

Just to clarify that we have postponed the swimming to Term 4 for a wide range of reasons. When we assess possible swimming venues we have to bear a wide range of factors in mind including travel time, depth of pool, cleanliness and size of changing rooms and pool, willingness of the venue to rent their pool to us, child protection in terms of unveiled adults being near our groups. Between us, the Senior Leadership Team went to at least 6 venues and we could not reasonably guarantee that your children would not be ill, injured or worse as a result of taking them swimming, so we cannot make it a compulsory part of the curriculum this term. There are risks to everything we do but the risks involved at all the pools in the local area were not acceptable and/or the venue could not help us. I realise this is disappointing but I am happy to explain some of the fairly unpleasant details for anyone who has a strong stomach. We will begin the search for a venue for Term 4 after the Christmas break.

Year 9 film premiere - Sunday 4pm - City Centre Mall

The Year 9s have a film premiere of ‘Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles’ at City Centre Mall on Sunday 31st August at 4pm. Although it has been a short time in which to organise the event they have done well to sell so many tickets. If you would like to purchase tickets from the Year 9s on the day, this is also possible. The profits go to the Sungava charity that we have supported for some time and tickets are 800NRS (or 1000NRS for VIP seats). Please note that the film is a 12A which means that children below 12 need to be accompanied by an adult.

HIMS swimming tournament last weekend

Even though the pools are a problem, our keenest club swimmers continue to work hard and gain success in swimming tournaments. It was enjoyable to see so many of our swimmers competing at the HIMS tournament last weekend and we had athletes of all abilities involved. They all should be very proud of the way they competed and keep working hard in their club practice. Thanks as always, to the dedicated parents who were there for most of the weekend!

Next week

Year 9 Charity week - September 1st

Bake sales all week, ice lollies from Wednesday and a few willing teachers are being sponsored to dress slightly differently for a day. The students gain a great deal from running their own charity events and I am sure Year 9 will do a great job.

Making sure we do have enrichment and challenge for all!

A few parents have told me that others are talking about our Gifted & Talented policy. At the moment there is not a firm policy. We are trying to develop a policy that is slightly more inclusive than just being a Gifted and Talented policy as we believe in Enrichment for all. Saying that, we must make sure we do differentiate and provide something for everyone. Whilst we have many ‘general interest’ clubs, we should also have clubs and activities that will challenge those who are keen to do more. A strong feeling amongst the staff was that we needed to look at ensuring there were some challenging academic clubs and activities, particularly in higher primary and secondary. Therefore, we tasked Mr Zammit to look at the provision for our most able through a working party. We think we are doing a better job with activities and clubs such as Model United Nations, the extra Global Perspectives IGCSE group, some groups targeting higher level skills open to Year 5 & 6 children and a similar secondary club. A good number of us are giving up our lunchtime or free time to plan and run such clubs. Although the content is designed to challenge and inspire those pupils who need extra academic input, and we may ask some children if they would like to attend, they are open to everyone! There is also sometimes a perception that you are either gifted or not, clever or not, sporty or not, etc. Every teacher, and I hope every parent, would reject such closed categorisation of children. Research strongly suggests that the best learning comes when children are given challenges just beyond prior experience. This will be different for every child and the challenge for the staff at TBS is to provide these individual challenges. I do assemblies on this sort of thing for the children on a regular basis because it is so complex yet so important. This clip is the sort of thing I use to get children thinking about their learning
Year 5 trip to Patan
As part of their topic work, Year 5 will go to Patan Durbar Square next Friday (5th September 2014). It will allow them to study the architecture, the history and the cultural importance of one of the most interesting places in the world. I am sure they will have a great time.

Bollywood Themed Charity evening
Burns Violence Survivors Nepal (BVS-N) is organising a fundraiser at Hotel Soaltee Crowne Plaza on 13th September. It is Bollywood themed so guaranteed hi-energy music and the outfits will be high energy too, but no pressure! The tickets are priced at 2500NRS and the money will help BVS-N in its work helping survivors of acid attacks and burn violence by providing surgery, counselling, physiotherapy and rehabilitation support.

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and to encourage confidence, making mistakes and accepting tough challenges. You can learn anything! A number of teachers are also reading the work of Carol Dweck who advocates ‘Growth Mindsets’ as part of our thinking about how we encourage learning at TBS. I would recommend her work to anyone interested in helping children to be lifelong learners. If anyone has concerns about a potential Enrichment for all policy then we can have a discussion group as part of the meeting on 11th September (see ‘For the Future!’).

Big Lunch 11am - 2.30pm, Saturday 6th September
The Big Lunch is a chance for parents, teachers, children and friends of TBS to get together informally. The Sixth Form students will help me and Mr Priest sell some drinks and snacks (proceeds can go to their Dhading charity) and families bring their own picnic to share. The weather will be beautiful and we can sit and imagine how nice the new playing field will be in a month or so (but if it is raining we will set up under cover on the basketball court). I look forward to seeing you there.

For the future
International Day preparation and performers!
Wednesday 24th September is TBS International Day. School starts as normal at 8.15 but at 8.25am there will be a parade and all children and adults are asked to come in national costume and join in a parade around school. There is a Special assembly which begins at 1.30pm where children and adults are invited to perform a short cultural piece (like a song or a dance) during the assembly. Please inform Mr Gordon/Mr Cannon by Wednesday 17th September if you or your children wish wish to perform. Please speak to them sooner if you would like to arrange a practice. Any music that is needed to be played through the sound system should be provided by Friday 19th.
After the assembly there is a Food Fair (2.30pm-3.30pm) which is a chance for all nationalities to showcase their cuisines. It would be great if you could get together with you compatriots and start planning your national finger foods. Please contact Mrs Sthapit-Priest if you want to contribute to the International Day with a stall.

Parent ICT sessions (6pm) & CAT4 Assessment/Enrichment discussion (7pm)
On Thursday 11th September 2014 we will hold the first of the ICT sessions for parents we offered at the Meet the Parents Evening. As these sessions are designed to be practical and ‘hands on’ space is limited to 16. Please let Manisha know if you would like to attend any the ICT session.
On the same evening we will hold an information evening to explain how we use our baseline assessments in the school and what exactly they mean. As part of this evening, we would be delighted if parents wanted to come and give us their views on how we should ensure we provide Enrichment and challenge for all our students.

I hope all the children have enjoyed their learning this week - they seem happy and enthusiastic so I hope they have a very good weekend! PS - This newsletter is increasingly lengthy so I hope it is useful (let me know if it is becoming obsolete as it takes hours and if you are ready for a more continuous blog style communication that may be more effective!). Additionally, all the teachers are now on twitter and we hope that is an equally useful way for you to see all the wonderful things your children do.