



**BERLIN
METROPOLITAN
SCHOOL**



Quarterly News

June 2022

Dear BMS Families,

The current part of each academic year is always very busy. As we focus on closing the school year positively with many learning opportunities in and out of the classroom, we remain very much committed to ensuring that that we can guarantee a good start for our students and staff alike in the coming academic year.

As is true with any school year, this part of the academic year is also the most exciting period, as students are given the opportunity to showcase their work and celebrate their learning in our ELC, Primary, and Secondary classrooms. One very special celebration is always our Gr. 12 Graduation, which we just hosted here on our BMS Campus, bidding farewell to 57 students and celebrating this important milestone with our community. These moments are very special because many of these students have been with us since Preschool. Moreover, this was also for many families the conclusion of an era here at BMS and in turn, made the ceremony very emotional and touching for everyone involved.

We also recently celebrated our former Grade 10 students, now in Grade 11, for their outstanding results in the IGCSE examinations last summer. Due to COVID restrictions, we were unable to host their IGCSE Awards Ceremony earlier but wanted to ensure that also those 58 students could experience this special moment in which we highlight their academic achievements as a community. The cohort managed the highs and lows during the examination sessions very well, and we were happy to celebrate their resilience with their teachers, families, and peers.

Our Grade 10 and Grade 12 examinations are now finished, and we wait in anticipation with our students and families regarding the outcomes and the results. Our greatest hope is, as always, that our students were able to transfer their dedication and hard work into successful examination outcomes, so that especially our Gr. 12 students will be able to pursue their preferred university track. We look forward to updating you with the examination outcomes in the September edition of our Quarterly Newsletter, featuring our most current examination data.



PYP Exhibition

We were also very pleased with the superb dedication and engagement from our Grade 6 students during their PYP exhibition project, which also marks the formal conclusion of their time as Primary School students! We have been impressed with their professionalism throughout the many stages of their exploration projects, the dedication they have shown in preparing their content, and their confidence and poise in presenting their findings during exhibition. It was wonderful to see the pride with which they presented themselves and their projects! Our entire team was very impressed with the quality of work and our Secondary team looks forward to welcoming them to Grade 7 next year. The next milestone is their Grade 6 Graduation, which we will celebrate here on campus with our community.



Events & Transition

The last weeks of the school year are also full of community events such as our Grade 5 musical performances, the sports day for Primary and Secondary School, our CCEP Club Program Expo, the Enrichment Program Expo, Science Week, end-of-year assemblies and much more! Celebrating our Preschool and Grade 6 students is especially important this time of year, as these students are reaching an important milestone in their development as they prepare for a critical transition phase. For both of these age groups, transition is a very important

topic which comes with excitement and pride but also with a certain level of insecurity and trepidation. Our teams are aware of this, and we placed transition management as one of our core priorities for this academic year. Transition includes the level of preparation for our students, effective consultation of our families, efficient handover procedures, the processing of important data, as well as a smooth process management which provides clarity and support for our students.

Our hope remains that every BMS student experiences a smooth transition for their next step of development and that they feel supported by and benefit from the various systems we established and our commitment to provide the support and care they need.



Outlook: Academic Year 2022/23

We will also welcome many new students in the 2022/23 school year. As in line and comparable with other international schools, we also recognize that with the increased number of international and mobile families, we have a consistent yearly transition rate of approx. 20%. We are very happy to report that BMS is very attractive for many families in Berlin and also from abroad. We have received to date, 1,300 applications for the 150 open spots we have available, which is an indication of the need many families have currently to find a good school and a caring and aspirational learning environment for their children. We dedicated a lot of time to meet with many families and students to ensure that we enroll students who are able to succeed in our ambitious program and who are contributing to our community in the best possible way.

Of course – as in every year – we have also set high ambitions for our institution to further improve our programs, our organization, and the level of service we provide. I am very happy to welcome many new staff members for the coming academic year with a wealth of teaching experience and subject knowledge. They all seem to be positive and caring people, which is a very important aspect when establishing a team. We remain committed to nurturing and developing a culture in which students love to learn, are encouraged to strive, and feel the care and commitment they need to feel empowered to express themselves and to take safe risks. To achieve this, we need a team who loves their profession, who enjoys working with children in different age groups, and who remains ready and able to invest in personal relationships.

I am especially happy that we will also welcome 3 new members to our leadership team and that we will appoint a long-term member of staff to take over a leadership position next year. As communicated already in a previous Quarterly Newsletter, we will welcome Mrs. Saliha Aslan as our new Primary Principal. Mrs. Aslan is from Turkey and is currently leading an international school in Istanbul. We will welcome Mrs. Erica Coutrim as Vice Principal, Academics in our Primary School. Mrs. Coutrim is from Brazil and is currently working as Primary School Principal and Educator in Escola Concept Bilingual School, Salvador. Both are relocating to Berlin together with their families and children, who also will become members of our school community. Together with Tim Stroh as Vice Principal, Student Well-Being, they will ensure that we as an institution will develop according to our set aims and that we will provide the best possible program and the utmost care to our students in all our classrooms.

We will also welcome new members to our leadership team in Secondary School: Andrés Suarez is from Mexico and is currently leading St Francis College, São Paulo, Brazil, where he is Head of Secondary. He brings a wealth of knowledge in the IB Diploma Programme, which will help us to develop our program and offers further. He will work together with Hannah Bevis, who will take over the role of the Vice Principal, Student Pathways. Ms. Bevis is a long-term member of our Secondary School Team. We are very pleased that she will take over this important role, which focusses on the consultation of students and families about the most successful pathway and the best possible learning environment. Together, they will establish a strong foundation for our students, so that they in turn can realize their professional ambitions based on excellent academic results.



Advisory Board

We also announced in a previous Quarterly Newsletter that we are in the process of establishing our BMS Advisory Board for a new term and asked all parents to apply if they are interested in supporting our school in the institutional development as an active and committed Board member. Our elections opened up on June 27, 2022, for the 9 interesting and engaging candidates who are now running for 3 seats on our BMS Advisory Board. As you would have read from the election ballot, each candidate brings commitment and a wealth of professional experience to the role, and we look forward to working with the elected members when we hold our first meeting in the new school year. I look forward to updating you on the outcomes! For now, please go and cast your vote!

The first task for the Advisory Board will be the evaluation of our success in achieving our strategic goals we set for BMS in 2019 based on the feedback from CIS (Council of International Schools) and NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges). It is critical that we reflect on our common success and discuss if the actions we have taken created the impact we expected and intended. Given these goals as well as the feedback from NEASC/CIS, we will step into our new accreditation cycle and will prepare for the accreditation visit, which will take place in Spring 2024. We will ensure that you have the opportunity to be actively involved in sharing and collecting feedback regarding the different topics and aspects of our school development. We also will make sure that the results will be transparent to all stakeholders of our community.

With this brief outlook into the coming academic year, I would like to close this edition of our Quarterly Newsletter and the current academic year with my best wishes for you and your children. I would like to use this opportunity to thank you for your trust in BMS and in our team, for your ongoing support, and the constructive collaboration on so many levels and in so many initiatives and projects.

I wish you and your families a fantastic summer and look forward to welcoming you all back in August to begin a new academic year, full of rich learning experiences and community spirit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Silke Friedrich', written in a cursive style.

Silke Friedrich
Executive Director