



The British School Tripoli (IAPS)
P O Box 6122
Tripoli
Libya

UK Department for Education No. 7036155
Headmaster: Mr. Alistair Bond

office@britishschooltripoli.com
www.britishschooltripoli.com

Telephone - 00218 21 477 2452
Fax - 00218 21 477 9133

AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER 2010



200!

I am delighted to inform you that a small piece of history was made on Monday. For the first time since the school was established in 1968 we have two hundred children attending the school! I would like to welcome our newest family, Sergio and Julie Romeo and their daughters Giovanna and Sarah, to the school. I spoke with Sam Amponsah at the school gate this morning who informed me that when he joined the school in 2002 there were just forty-two children on roll. There have been several occasions in the history of the school where numbers dropped to extremely low levels. At one point, in 1986, the school had just two children on roll. It would be wonderful to think that this good news could find its way back to all those people who worked hard in keeping the school open during more challenging times. (28th October)



History in the making!

A new chapter in the history of the school was opened on Sunday as our Year 9 students began their term. Not only is it the first time the school has had a Year 9 class, with 196 pupils currently on roll, it is also the most number of children the school has had to date. (16th September)

Upcoming events

Management Committee AGM – Wednesday 8th December

Carol Concert – Monday 13th December, 6pm

Christmas Parties – Wednesday 15th December

Last Day of Term – Thursday 16th December, school finishes at 11.30am

First Day of Term – Tuesday 4th January

Open Afternoon – 23rd January 2011

Half Term Holiday - Thursday 24th February 2011

International Week – Sunday 3rd to Thursday 7th April

Last Day of Spring Term – Thursday 14th April 2011

Recent tour

Finally, one of my favourite moments of this week was to provide a tour to two parents who had children attend the school from 1986 to 1995. It was a pleasure to hear that they credited the school with giving their two sons, one now a doctor the other a senior research scientist, with the best possible start to life. It was particularly heartening to hear that they felt that the school atmosphere and ethos had remained intact despite our considerable growth. (16th September)

Night Under Canvas

The first of the four nights under canvas take place this week. I would like to thank the members of staff who are involved in these evenings. It is a very good reflection on the school that all of the teachers, even if they do not teach the classes that are actually camping out, volunteer their time to help organise the activities or help to prepare the food. Previous nights under canvas have been extremely enjoyable and I am sure the children will gain a great deal from the experience this year.

I am delighted to inform you that the KS3 night under canvas will take place at the OEA camp. Alex Georgalakis, a former student of our school, has kindly allowed us access to the beach. The beach is a perfect location for camping and will allow our older students an opportunity to take part in games and activities in a different environment. I would like to thank Alex for his generosity in agreeing to accommodate us. (30th September)



Bingo Night

I think it is fair to say that the Bingo Night was an extremely enjoyable evening. It was a super way to start the year with a social gathering of this nature. I am pleased that so many parents and teachers were able to attend the event. I am most grateful to the PTA for organising the night, in particular I would like to thank Jill Reid and Jackie Convey who were our expert bingo callers. We are very fortunate to be given the opportunity to request the use of the Oasis Club and I would like to thank the Oasis Committee and British Embassy for kindly allowing us to use it. (7th October)

Guitar Club

I am delighted to inform you that Mr Morgan is starting a guitar club for children in Year 6 – 9. The club will be run during lunch times. There is a separate letter attached to the newsletter. If successful, the long term goal will be to then start a school rock group/band. This is a tremendous addition to the school and I would like to encourage the children in years 6-9 to put their names down. My thanks also go to Mr Morgan for providing this opportunity. (7th October)

Newsletter –

The school office was a sea of calmness last week as we emailed the newsletter. Traditionally you don't go near the office on a Thursday morning, as the printer and stapler are being put to the test along with the nerves of Mrs. Badash! Emailing the newsletter has made a significant difference to the office stress levels. We are happy to add email addresses to the mailing list. Please email the school office to add any extra addresses to the mailing list. (7th October)

Recent tour, continued...

I mentioned previously that I showed two former parents of the school around the site. Mrs. Rauf returned to the school this week to show me some photographs of their time here from 1986 to 1998. As she was leaving she asked if I would be good enough to accept £100 as a donation to the school library. Her two sons, one now an A&E doctor in London, the other a senior engineer with Shell in Egypt credit the school with instilling in them a love of learning. (7th October)



Art Work

The art work around school never fails to get a reaction from visitors to the site as well as from many of our parents. I have included on this newsletter some examples of the art work currently on display. The Tripoli sky line has featured in a previous year book. With the many new construction projects taking place around Tripoli we now have the new Marriott Hotel alongside the more familiar towers of Dhat El Imad.

I am sure you will agree, the Year 6 portraits below are extremely interesting and quite striking. We have many talented artists throughout the school; I look forward to including more impressive artwork in future newsletters. (14th October)



Coffee and Cake

I appreciate that many of you find yourselves at a bit of a loose end when waiting for the clubs to finish. With this in mind, Khamis Ali has offered to sell coffee and cake on Sundays and Mondays, 2.30pm-3.30pm. I hope this will make waiting for your children at this time a bit more comfortable! He will set up shop in the collection area at the front of the school. (14th October)
Elvis lives!

Elvis lives! Or at least I am sure I think I heard someone who sounds like Elvis entertaining the KS3 students at their night under canvas. As I dropped off some extra supplies of water last night, I was witness to all of our KS3 students sitting around Mr Morgan joining in with various Elvis songs. (14th October)



SAT's Results

As a school we have a policy of placing the emphasis on recognising the improvement your child has made in the time they have been with us. We undertake a variety of both summative and formative assessments throughout the year to allow the teachers to assess the progress of your children. This information is used to improve the quality of teaching and learning that takes place in the school. The SAT's tests are a valuable tool in this process. The tests also allow us to compare ourselves against other schools, both in the UK state and independent sector. We are absolutely delighted with the results that our children achieved in the SAT's test last year. The expectation is for children to achieve a level 4 in English and Maths by the end of year 6. As you can see, our results far exceed this -

English - 100% of our children achieved level 4, 92% achieved level 5

Maths – 92% of children achieved level 4, 77% achieved level 5

To put these results into context, the UK national average for achieving level 5 in English and Maths was 23%. A superb set of results. I would like to congratulate the children, staff and not forgetting their parents for their efforts.. (21st October)

Halloween – I think it is fair to say that the British School celebrated Halloween in grand style last week. The hall was a truly terrifying place to be as a large spider web and all sorts of ghoulish items decorated the hall. We even put our new smoke machine to the test in order to create even more of an atmosphere. I would like to thank the various members of the PTA who worked hard to ensure the evening was a success and to the teachers who took the time to dress up and join in with the party. (4th November)

Autumn Fair

I would like to thank everyone involved in the Autumn Fair last week. It was a most enjoyable day with many people making extremely complimentary remarks about the atmosphere, games and organisation. It is important to thank all of the members of the PTA, teachers, students and everyone else who contributed to make the day so enjoyable.

It is on these days that it becomes apparent just how much goodwill and support the school enjoys. The atmosphere on the day reflected this. The generosity of the many companies and the time given by the many supportive parents is very much appreciated. (11th November)



Night Under Canvas

The final nights under canvas took place this week. I had a super time on Tuesday night with the Year 3 children. They were immaculately behaved and you will be pleased to hear that I managed a full night sleep! The KS3 students had an equally as enjoyable time last night at the OEA camp. Although the wind picked up and threatened to lift a few tents away, the students came back having had a most enjoyable and sandy time. I would like to thank Miss Usher, Ms MacKinnon, Mr Battye, Mr Human, Mr Maye and Mr and Mrs Morgan for giving their time and for giving up their air-conditioned beds for the night. Once again, I would like to thank Alex Georgalakis for kindly allowing us to use the beach at the OEA camp. I hope to be able to twist his arm into allowing us to use it again in the future! (14th October)

Blogs

Various classes throughout the school have been working hard in creating class blogs. In addition to the older students, our two Nursery classes and Reception classes are in the final stages of completing their blogs ready for publication. In the meantime, please follow the link below to read the blog from our Reception Blue Class, there is also a chance to hear them sing their Divali song – www.bstrecblue.edublogs.org

I look forward to providing you with blog addresses for the various other class blogs that are being developed. (25th November)
Remembrance Service

As I am sure those of you who were present will agree the Remembrance service at the War Graves Cemetery was most moving this year. The school choir sang their rendition of 'Burning in the Wind' with great clarity. Many people commented on how well they sang in quite blustery conditions. My thanks go to Rasha Frazier and Justin Morgan for accompanying the children on piano and guitar. (25th November)



Father Christmas

Finally, the highlight of the week was receiving a very special email from the North Pole. It would seem that we will be having a special visitor to the school on 12th December, but only if everyone has been good this year.....(25th November)

Book Boat

I was fortunate enough to visit the book boat with Miss Usher and three children this week. The boat travels around the world selling an impressive range of books. Using money from various donations the children enjoyed choosing a variety of books for the library. I believe the boat is due to leave Tripoli harbour on Sunday but will be open on Friday and Saturday. It is well worth a visit. (28th October)

Vomit words

The other highlight this week was being introduced to 'vomit words' in year 6. Apparently using boring words such as 'nice,' 'good' and 'happy' are not acceptable in year 6. They prefer to use more elaborate and descriptive words.

I hope you all have a ~~good~~, ~~nice~~, wonderful weekend! (28th October)



I hope you have enjoyed reading about some of the events and activities that have taken place at the British School this term. I also hope you have enjoyed viewing some of our outstanding artwork that students across the school have produced.

I take great pride in showing prospective parents or interested members of our community around the school. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to visit us and learn more about the many exciting and interesting activities that take place at our school.

Best regards,

Alistair Bond
Headmaster