



PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

No 13 – 2023/2024

The British School of Lomé

26-04-2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ 27th April Togo National Day
- ❖ 29th April Election Day, School closed except for exams
- ❖ 1st May Labour Day, School closed except for exams
- ❖ 9th May Ascension Day, School closed except for exams
- ❖ 18th May Year 13 Graduation Day and Prom
- ❖ 20th May Pentecost, School closed except for exams

Message from The Head of Primary

Dear parents and guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well. I wanted to take a moment to share some exciting developments with you regarding the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into the educational environment. This week we had a training session 'How To Use AI For Productivity' at work attended by our staff.

Advantages of AI in Education:

- 1. Efficiency and Productivity:** AI has the potential to revolutionise how we work and learn. Just as it is transforming industries, it can supercharge efficiency in education. Imagine personalised learning experiences for each student, automated administrative tasks, and intelligent tutoring systems that adapt to individual needs.
- 2. Personalised Learning:** AI algorithms can analyse student performance data and tailor educational content to individual needs. This personalised approach ensures that students receive targeted support, allowing them to progress at the correct pace for them.
- 3. Automated Grading:** With AI, grading assignments and assessments becomes faster and more accurate. Teachers can focus on providing meaningful feedback rather than spending hours on routine grading tasks.
- 4. Enhanced Teaching Tools:** AI-powered tools can assist teachers in creating engaging lesson plans, suggesting relevant resources, and identifying areas where students need additional help.
- 5. Predictive Analytics:** By analysing historical data, AI can predict student performance trends, enabling early intervention for struggling students.

Wishing Our Exam Students all the Best: As we approach the upcoming exams, I would like to extend my heartfelt wishes to our hardworking students. Remember that your efforts and dedication will pay off. Stay focused, believe in yourselves, and give it your best shot. You've got this!

In Conclusion: AI is not in the distant future—it is here, and it's transforming education. Let us embrace these advancements and create an environment where our students thrive. If you would like to know about where AI is used today, please click on this website: <https://itchronicles.com/artificial-intelligence/where-is-ai-used-today>

Kind regards,

Gareth Jones

Head of Primary



Crèche and Nursery

In Nursery and Crèche we continued our topic about transport. Our focus this week is boats. The children have designed different boats using different skills. We also made transport biscuits and have been doing various other activities linked with transport.

We have been singing lots of transport songs: 'Driving in my Car' and 'Driving my Tractor'. You can listen and sing along to the songs on these links.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lj_odhwo81s
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BdrZWu2dZ4c>



Year 2

Year 2 had a fantastic learning experience in science. We have been exploring the needs of animals and humans for survival and how changes can impact our lives. Students investigated how natural resources such as rocks, sand and soil can help purify water.



Year 3- **Congratulation for a wonderful Assembly!**

Year 3 combined their literacy and creativity skills to prepare for their Assembly about the Titanic ship. They rehearsed their speaking parts with confidence and collaborated on making an awesome Titanic ship out of cardboard!

In Science they had fun discovering and investigating different types of soil. They truly enjoy learning through activities. As a wise man once said - Tell me and I will forget, teach me and I will remember, involve me and I will learn.



Leader in Me—An Interview with Two Students from Year 5

LEADER IN ME – An Interview with **Yedzi Enora HANTZ** and **Salman OUSSEILY** (Year 5).

Enora is appreciated for her artistic abilities. Salman is appreciated for his helpfulness to others.

What is your favourite thing to do after school or on weekends?

Enora: Stay at home with my family and sometimes go out with my friends.

Salman: To go to my friend's house, play with my dogs and spend time with my family.

Do you have any hobbies or activities that you really enjoy?

Enora: Art and singing.

Salman: Play football and learn other languages.

What's the best thing about school for you?

Enora: Art

Salman: To learn about History, English and Science.

Can you tell me about something cool or interesting you've learned recently?

Enora: About leadership.

Salman: How to be a leader.

If you could create a new game what would it be about?

Enora: How to sketch and paint.

Salman: Fortnite.

If you could have any superpower, what would it be and why?

Enora: To be invisible and teleport. Not to feel pain.

Salman: To have sharp nails, to be fast and the best in football, plus flying powers.

What's something special you love doing with your family?

Enora: Travelling together and going to the beach.

Salman: Buying presents for my family and going out with them.

What do you want to be when you grow up and why?

Enora: A singer because I love singing.

Salman: A footballer because I want to be popular and make people happy.

Can you tell me something you really want to learn how to do?

Enora: Learn other languages.

Salman: Be smart and know things I don't know yet.

What's your favourite book or story and why do you like it?

Enora: Dork Diary because she's funny.

Salman: Dog Man because it's really funny and makes me laugh.

How do you think we can help people who might be sad or upset?

Enora: Cheer them up.

Salman: Play with them and ask them what they want to do.

Is there something that was difficult for you at first and then became easy with practice?

Enora: Fractions.

Salman: Fractions.

What's something you'd like to get better at?

Enora: Mathematics.

Salman: All types of division.

If you could have any animal as a pet, even if it's imaginary, what would it be?

Enora: A tiger.

Salman: A horse.



Earth Day 22nd April 2024

Earth day is a reminder of the importance of environmental conservation and sustainability, encouraging us to come together and take action for a healthier planet and brighter future. (<https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2024/>)

In Science, Mr Snell spent the day with the A/C temperature increased by a few degrees and using the lights as little as possible. The reasons for why saving energy can help our planet were then discussed and how everyone can be a small part of change.

In Year 10 PE, Mr Aryee discussed the benefits of being outside and not staying under the A/C all the time.

The Year 12 Geographers and Mrs Snell calculated their ecological footprints last week and spent Monday's lesson considering how global development and the growing middle class increases the pressure that we place on Earth in terms of the water-food-energy 'nexus'.

Delegates in the Model United Nations (MUN) club spent Monday afternoon researching the challenges created by multiple countries having to share the River Nile as a water source. The most recent conflict involves the construction of a dam on the White Nile in Ethiopia and the extent to which it would reduce water supply in countries downstream. Earth Day encourages collective awareness and action to combat climate change, and one argument is that the construction of the dam will allow Ethiopia and its neighbours to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels and strengthen their economy and standard of living.

More information about the conflict can be found here: <https://www.dw.com/en/how-could-ethiopias-dam-dispute-escalate/a-66798628>

Mr Siri shared that he tries to **use Ecosia as his search engine. Ecosia uses proceeds from all searches to plant trees in Africa and around the world.** <https://www.ecosia.org/>



Trip to the Chinese Confucius Institute University of Lomé, Togo

A number of pupils from Primary and Secondary school visited the Confucius Chinese Cultural Centre at the University last week. The day was a celebration of traditional Chinese culture - dance, singing, traditional games and art. The pupils who represented BSL gave a fantastic account of themselves and it was lovely to see them participate in the full range of activities on offer.

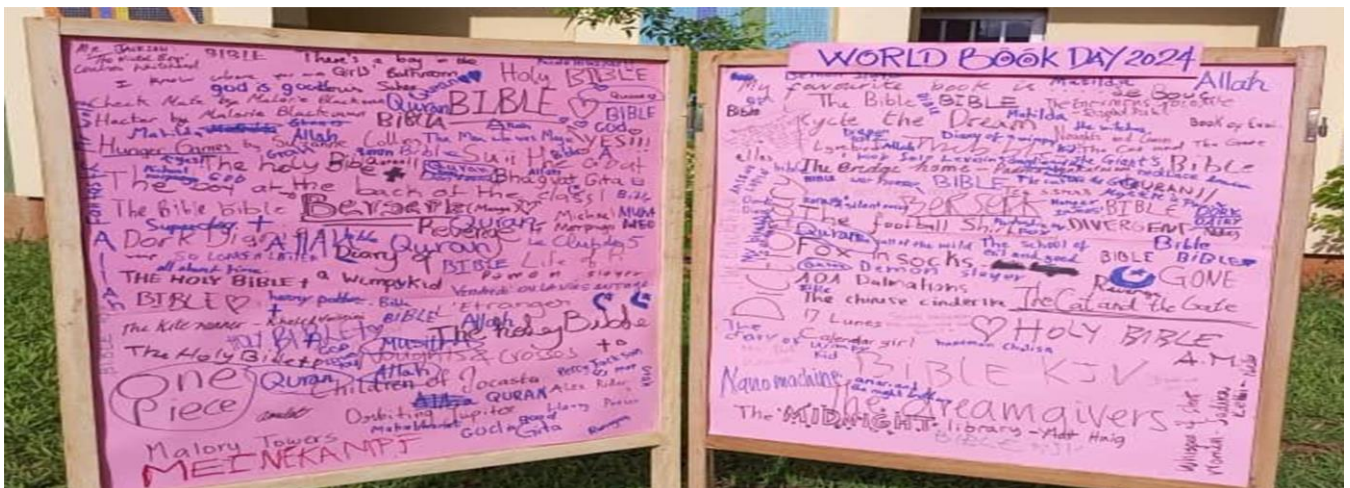


World Book Day 2024

In order to celebrate our collective love of literature, we acknowledged World Book Day. The students had the opportunity to enjoy a plethora of activities. However, one standout feature stole the spotlight: a crafted wooden imitation book. This symbolic structure became a platform for our school community to detail their favourite books.

In addition, the English and MFL (Modern Foreign Language) classes ignited a passion for reading through a range of engaging activities. From lively discussions on beloved literary classics to creative writing sessions where students showcased their literary prowess, every moment was centred on the joy of storytelling.

The celebration wasn't merely about books; it was a testament to the power of words to inspire, educate, and unite. Next year we hope to have even more success!



MFL Department showcasing BOOK DAY!

The discovery of the importance of having a good chronology in stories

BSL 'Book day' event was held on 23rd April 2024 and it was the opportunity for the MFL team and the English department and students to be involved in various activities.

KS3 students in a francophone group of Y8 HL with Mme Eliane Amegnizin carried out some creative writing tasks: starting from a draft to obtain an interesting fiction story: Mongolia.

Students also read some poems : first one about 'La paix '(Peace) [link 1](#) and the second one, 'Je suis un homme' (is about being a human being despite the skin colour). [Link2](#)



The Y8HL group had some discussions around these poems.

The group of French beginners with Miss Claire were involved in discovering different stories and the topic of reading to enrich students' vocabulary, discussed the reasons why we read, (Pourquoi lit-on?) and completed a book reading sheet with information about a recently read book. At the end of the lesson, students each choose a short paragraph from a book to read aloud, to their peers.



From KS3 to KS5: Special moment !

With Mr Guy Missodey, the groups of Year 9 HL and Y10 HL were introduced to literary creation using the exercise accessible at this [link](#)

On Friday 26th April to finish this cycle of French activities around the book , learners from Year10 and some Y12 students received a Togolese writer (Koffivi Assem) and an illustrator who dealt with a cartoon entitled : ' Si le Togo m' était dessiné...' .[LINK](#)

In Y9, Spanish group students carried out some reading tasks as shown in the following photos.

They worked especially with the book "Roca Roja" (Red Rock), one of the story books in the bilingual Spanish-English series. A Reading Book for Independent Child Readers. Students enjoyed exploring their 'new' language with original, exciting and varied stories. The parallel text, pictures, and speech bubbles provided a student-friendly bridge to reading and speaking in another language. A quiz page at the end helped check understanding.



ALUMNI Interview – We are proud of you!

Interview of **JESONG SHIN**, conducted by Year 12 student ZOE NKPA

Zoe Nkpa: What country are you from if I may ask?

Jesong Shin: *I am from South Korea.*

ZN: How did you end up attending The British School of Lomé and when did you graduate?

JS: *My family moved to Togo when I was 8 years old. My parents were Methodist missionaries. I was more inclined to learn English at the time so I ended up attending BSL. I graduated in 2003 when I completed the IB diploma.*



ZN: How long were you at BSL for and how would you describe your time at the school?

JS: *I had 9 wonderful years in BSL. I learnt a lot from great teachers, and they gave me the confidence to keep going when I left school. The personal lessons in diversity from my classmates were invaluable as well.*

ZN: What extracurricular activities were you involved in during your time here?

JS: *I enjoyed photography and playing tennis, which I continue to maintain as hobbies. I also have very fond memories of DofE expedition trips to Kpalimé!*

ZN: You got your IGCSE certificate and IB diploma at BSL. News here at school is that your IBDP score is a record yet to be broken. Kindly let us in on your secret to that achievement.

JS: *It's nice to be remembered in some way! If you find subjects you enjoy and do well in, I think you naturally have the desire to push yourself further. Working hard will pay off, particularly with coursework for example. However, I think the biggest challenge is maintaining a steady focus and motivation through the years. Dream big but set small short-term goals. Also, learn to enjoy the journey and be kind to yourself!*

ZN: What were your subject choices for the IBDP?

JS: *I studied Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry at higher level. Other three subjects were English, French A2 and Geography.*

ZN: Which teachers had a long lasting impact on you during your time here?

JS: *Mrs Collins was ever so patient and taught me English at the start. Mr Joy really fuelled my love for mathematics and Mr. Hacquebord was instrumental in helping me decide what I wanted to learn in university.*

ZN: Did you form any lasting bonds with your classmates at BSL who you still keep in touch with?

JS: *I am very proud to have introduced Korean food to Selom Ahadji even before K-culture was a thing! We became friends in my first year in BSL and we continue to share our kids' photos on WhatsApp!*

ZN: What university did you attend after BSL?

JS: *I went to Canada to attend the Trinity College in the University of Toronto.*

ZN: You graduated with honours in Physics and decided to do medicine after that. Why the change in course and was the transition easy for you?

JS: *I found out that physics, while interesting, wasn't leading me towards a career I'd enjoy in academia. I decided to combine my love for solving complex problems with a passion for helping people directly. Luckily, with my flexible liberal arts degree, I could choose subjects related to health sciences and graduate with a dual major in human biology. It was tough, especially mentally, feeling like I started late. I couldn't have done it without my partner and family who were there to support and encourage me every step of the way!*

ALUMNI Interview (Continued)

ZN: Where are you now, what do you do, and would you describe your current career path as fulfilling in any way?

JS: *I am currently a senior resident in urological surgery in 'bonnie' Scotland. Career in surgery is long and arduous but I love what I do. It is a real privilege to be able to help patients and there is not a single day that feels the same. I also have incredible fun 'playing' with cool technologies like LASERs and robots in the operating theatre, so my enthusiasm with physics is not all lost! What I also found incredibly rewarding recently was visiting Senegal to help some surgeons and residents in a university hospital train in laparoscopic surgery. I hope I will be returning to Togo someday too!*

ZN: Do you have a family of your own?

JS: *Yes, I am married to my college sweetheart from Toronto! We currently live in Glasgow with our daughter, Sofia.*

ZN: What advice would you give to someone who aspires to achieve this kind of success you've had so far in life?

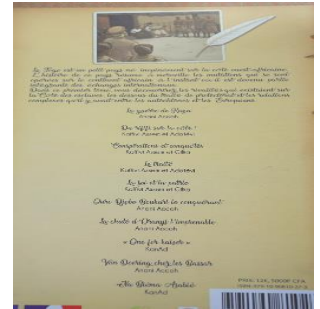
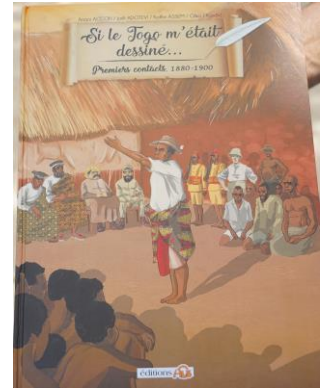
JS: *Being remembered by my alma mater is truly an honour! While I wouldn't label my achievements as a big success, I've certainly found the journey rewarding and I have gained valuable lessons throughout. There have been numerous setbacks, but I think it is about resilience and having a supportive network to lean on at times. Remember, it's okay not to have all the answers as you navigate through life. BSL laid down strong foundations for me, and I encourage you all to have the courage to persevere in your future endeavours!*

Thank you so much for taking the time in spite of your busy schedule to do this. Wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

This week's Golden Ticket Winners! Bravo!



Meet the authors of Si le Togo m'était dessiné...



Writer team (Anani ACCOH, Joël ADOTEVI, Koffivi ASSEM, Gilka, Kanad) with Mr Guy, Mr Emmanuel, Mr Naqvi & Mr Jones

If you would like to buy a copy of this amazing comic book (for only 5000F CFA)- Please contact the librarian Mr Emmanuel Passigüe.

APRIL Birthday Students- Happy Birthday to you... ❤️

