

Westwood News



Westwood International School

Issue 8 / 9 March 2018

Our Mission Statement

Westwood International School provides a quality international education that enables students to meet future challenges as confident, socially responsible, life-long learners.

Our Vision

Inspiring Excellence – Instilling Wisdom.

FROM THE SCHOOL HEAD

International Week Coming Up!

Dear Student and Parents,

Our lovely school community will be celebrating “International Week” in four weeks, from Tuesday, April 3 – Friday, April 6! Please think about your country and its own wonderful culture, and stay tuned for much more information over the coming days and weeks from our International Week Committee!

A reminder to all that the Year 7, 8 and 9 Parent/ Teacher 3 Way Conferences will be taking place on Monday 12 March. With great thanks to all parents in advance for your attendance, as it is such an opportune day in which to speak with each of your child(ren)’s subject specific teachers.

The annual AISA – African International Schools Association – Conference revolving around Leadership, and Child Protection, with much of our SLT, together with Ms. Lily, our Admissions Officer, in attendance, was a most productive and worthwhile event. Over the coming days and weeks, our school will be further strengthening our safety procedures.

Because of the rain throughout this past week, the Boys and Fathers / Male Guardians Night Out will be taking place next Friday, 16 March 2018 – again, unless there is rain!!

Coffee Chat

When: Wednesday, 21 March

4:30 – 6 p.m.

Where: School Foyer

Topic: Open to Parents!

I wish you all a most happy week-end.

Warmly yours,

Mr. Matthew
Matthew Kirby
Head of School

FROM THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Translanguaging Presentation for Parents – 1 March 2018

A presentation was offered to parents about “translanguaging” and the benefits of raising bilingual children. Research has proven that bilingual children have higher IQ’s and generally perform better at school than their monolingual counterparts. They also acquire additional languages more effortlessly and have an inherent tolerance for the cultures of others.

We discussed the importance of maintaining and developing children’s home languages and how we, as a school community, would like to offer more opportunities to make this possible. Interest was expressed for a German afternoon activity, where children can converse with other German-speakers and read and listen to stories.

We would like to encourage our parents who would like to offer a home language club, to get in touch with us. We will offer as much assistance as possible. Please email Ms Martine Nel manel@westwood.ac.bw for any further information.

Year 3 “Dance Class”

In Dance, Year 3s have been working towards creating Traditional Dance presentations. In 3A, teams inquired into the following dances: a *Setswana Traditional Wedding Dance*; *The Afrikaans Polka* and a *Namibian Traditional Dance*. They explored the rhythm, the use of space and the function of the dance form as ritual, social or artistic.





FROM THE SECONDARY SCHOOL

On Thursday 1st March 2018, Mia Lebanna in Year 11 represented Westwood at the launch of the Botswana Children's Month of Broadcasting in the Countdown to 2019. The Initiative was opened by the Vice President of Botswana, Rre Mokweetsi Masisi. The aim is to use radio to engage youth in issues surrounding governance and democracy in the lead up to the elections. The initiative is to promote voter education in the youth, stimulate discussion and encourage youth participation in decisions which affect their lives. The youth are inquisitive by nature and have an interest to know, providing fresh insights into issues youth are facing and have innovative ideas to drive the country forward. It is hoped that the Children's Month of Broadcasting will encourage youth to study and fully understand local and global

politics so that they are empowered to productively lead Botswana forward. The livelihood and development of our nation is dependent upon its children which is why we must sensitize children on social issues, governance and democracy from a young age. During the 2014 elections, only 47% of youth who are age appropriate to vote, took up their right to exercise their democratic voice. This need to increase and the only way we can do this is through education, information sharing and developing socially responsible citizens. Platforms such as this broadcasting youth focused month will help to support such. Please keep your eyes and ears on local media as they raise awareness during this month and engage your children in meaningful discussions around democracy. As Rre. Masisi said "For you to be in our memories tomorrow, you must be in our lives today!"



Dates for your Diary

<u>Dates to Remember</u>	<u>Event</u>
Monday, 12 March	Secondary 3-Way Conferences Year 7-Year 9 only. NO school for Y7, 8, 9 and 12. Year 11 and 13 will have scheduled supervised work time.
Tuesday, 13 March	Secondary ManageBac Information Session 1 (BYOD) between 12:15 - 13:10
Tuesday, 20 March	Lower Primary Assembly at 12:25, Theatre
Wednesday, 21 March	Upper Primary Assembly at 12:25, Theatre
Wednesday, 21 March	Coffee Chat, 4:30 – 6 p.m., School Foyer
Tuesday, 21 March	MYP Year 11 Parent Information Session
Friday, 6 April	CAS Celebration. All IBDP parents invited
Tuesday, 10 April	Secondary ManageBac Information Session 2 (BYOD), 12:15 -13:00
Wednesday, 11 April	PYP 3-Way Conference, 7:00 to 15:00, Homerooms
Thursday, 12 April	PYP 3-Way Conference, 7:00 to 15:00, Homerooms
Friday, 13 April	Term 1, 2018 End
Tuesday, 15 May	Term 2, 2018 Begin