

TEMA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

MONTHLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER

December, 2015



DEAR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS,

Sarafina

What fabulous performances last Friday and Saturday night from the cast of Sarafina! This magical event highlighted the acting, dancing, singing and musical talents of TIS students. Of course, there was a tremendous crew who ensured everything looked good and went well on stage. To Mr Elikem and all the students and staff who committed themselves over the past 2 months to this brilliant event, I thank and congratulate you on your outstanding efforts.

Dr Anis Haffar, TIS Board Chairman, thoroughly enjoyed the Saturday night performance. "I have seen quite a few concerts, plays and musicals in my life, living in the vicinity of Hollywood and Beverly Hills – in the so-called entertainment capital of the world.

But the Sarafina production by TIS is one of the best I've seen. It

literally brought tears to my eyes: in terms of the quality of the production, music and the sheer artistry of such young performers."

I would like to acknowledge our sponsors:

- Buck Press;
- Mobile Water;
- BrazAFric consult;
- Peace FM – 104.3;
- Asamdwee FM – 100.9;
- Okay FM – 101.7;
- Hello FM; and
- UTV.

Footnote: A key feature to the success of TIS students is the balance required to fulfill obligations and responsibilities among the myriad of opportunities that are provided at TIS. Watching

Sarafina, I marvelled at the fact David Quampah had come second in the ISSAG 1500m event the

week before. Cyprian Ampomah-Mensah completed oral and written exams on Saturday morning from 8.00am until 2.00pm and gained admission into the Medicine Program at the University of Debrecen, along with Daniel and Samuelina, before starring again in Saturday night's performance. Focus, goals, balance, self-discipline, determination, and commitment are key traits of our successful students.

ISSAG Swimming and Volleyball Championships

TIS will host these championships tomorrow, Saturday 28 November, commencing at 9.00am. Both events will be conducted at the TIS Sports Complex and parents and families are welcome to attend. We wish our swimmers, and ours boys' and girls' volleyball teams all the best.

University and College Applications

November is a busy time for students who are busy applying for university and college admission in 2016. In October, I attended an IB Higher Education Symposium. It was a valuable insight into current trends in university admissions, including:

- Scotland appears to be the cheapest country to complete an undergraduate degree. [Scotland has always had an outstanding reputation in education.]
- European universities offering degree programs in English are also an affordable option.
- Similarly, Australia with currency fluctuations is an attractive option also.
- Admission in many instances is just not about the final result, but also other skills and experiences that an applicant can demonstrate.
- The change in demographics is working in favour of international students, in terms of available places.
- Capstone projects are becoming big as part of undergraduate degrees. Students need to look at their EE and CAS to illustrate their readiness for university. Some universities regard this very highly. [Once MYP is implemented, Personal and Community Projects should provide the perfect

springboard to enhance EE and CAS.]

- Visit universities with IB programs and know what they want.
- Check out college admission counselor posts on social media.
- For the most current information about a college or university, go directly to the sources.
- The IB Student Registry has been established. Initially, universities and schools were invited to complete their data, before students can add their own documents. Students will be able to access this through MB (who created it.) The site is located at:
<https://registry.ibo.org>

NOTE: A new parents' site has been established by IB:
<http://www.ibo.org/information-for-parents/>

End of Semester Exams

These commence next Monday, 30 November. Parents are reminded of the policy for student absences during exams.

If a student provides written evidence of illness or other exceptional circumstances which prevented a student from attending an examination session, the teacher may extend the period of time for completion of the exam after consultation

with the Principal. The duration of the extension is at the discretion of the teacher, with the approval of the head of Department and the relevant Curriculum Coordinator. However, the exam must be conducted on the designated date, as scheduled.

The student may be given some time to recover and write the exam later, provided the student is isolated from other students who have taken the exam earlier in the day. The student may be approved to use a scribe, if there is an injury to the hand that is used in writing.

For approved absences, the teacher will use continuous assessment marks for the reporting period to project a grade for the examination session if the above two measures, are not applicable.

Unapproved absences in any exam session will result in no exam grade. This action will have a significant impact on the overall grade for the subjects for which there is no exam grade.

End of Semester 3-Way Conferences

These will be held on Tuesday, 15 December, from 7.30am-1.00pm, prior to the departure of students for the Christmas break. Parents will be advised of details for booking interviews online in next week's Parents' Bulletin.

Providing Money to Students

There was a request from a Hostel Prefect to allow a Visiting Sunday on 6 December. The purpose of this request was that parents could give their son/daughter money for the hostel parties during the last week. Obviously, the food that would be brought that day would be a bonus for the students. However, as end of semester exams will be continuing after 6 December, the likelihood of some students missing exams following the weekend, as a result of upset stomachs or gastro, made this request untenable.

However, there are different options for parents to provide money to their children. Those parents who live or work close to the school are able to drop off the money at the security gate. For non-local parents, there are a range of money transfer options. For any further details, please email Bijoux or contact Alex Tay.

IBDP UPDATE

Academic fever is gripping TIS as we approach our end-semester exams next week. Students were given thorough revision of the syllabus this week to enable them

give their best performance in the exams. Grade specific messages include;

Grade 11

- Students have submitted their extended essay subject choice and I will come out with the final subject allocation list by this weekend. Students will formally start working with their supervisors after their end-semester exams.
- Subject change requests can be made after the end-semester exams in the appropriate format.

Grade 12

• IA submissions have been happening smoothly this week. I am personally communicating with the parents of students who have not met the deadlines. Please note students will be receiving their exam grades from the IA's they are submitting for all subjects, except English and modern languages. In English and modern languages, the class test in the next week will contribute to the exam grades while the exercises and assignments will contribute to the course work grade.

- We will be closing the Extended Essay on 7-12-15, from 4 PM to 5 PM.

- The TOK essay will be wound up in a camp format after 7-12-15. A schedule for the same will be communicated to you at the earliest.

I am looking forward to sharing more success stories in future updates. We are hopeful for 100% result in May 2016.

CREATIVE ARTS DEPT. UPDATE

The Role of the Creative Experience!!!!

Humans are creative beings hence our expressive nature either to an event or emotions. This expressive nature when carefully nurtured develops individuals who inquire, are knowledgeable, caring, open-minded, balanced, reflective, principled, thinkers, risk-takers and communicators. Besides students developing their creative ambitions into careers in the arts, they learn very valuable lessons that make them fit and succeed anywhere they find themselves. Through the creative arts, students represent experiences that they cannot verbalise. They may visually exaggerate what is important to them either in a painting or in performance. When we value student's creativity, we help them feel valued as individuals and as part of a group of people (society).

Here is a typical example of the importance of creativity in a child's development.

Feedback after their SARAFINA production experience:

During my experience working as a Sarafina make-up artist, I acquired the skill of working under pressure and sharpened my hair braiding skills. **Bridgette Kpornu-Dawson**

The school play has given me the courage and has showed me how you can do anything as long as you set your mind to it.

Rinnah Krobo-Edusei

The school play uses an unforgettable moment; every move that I created will stay with me for a long time. I learnt teamwork and how it feels to take both positive and negative criticism.

Nubuke Gadzekpo

As a sound director, it took a lot of diligence on my part. I had to follow up on the play, know who is about to talk, when they are going to sing and master what is in each scene. **Aaron Osebre**

Working as an assistant sound director to my classmate, I learnt how to be patient in receiving directions on what to do and also gain experience and training in the field of "sound engineering." **Felix Gray**

As part of the band, it has helped me improve my piano skills, coordinating with people as well as synchronizing with the action on stage. Sarafina helped me in my time management and discipline. **Elikem Hermon**

The journey of the orchestra proves that together everyone achieves

more.
Addo

Ofeibea Sakyi-

MODERN LANGUAGES DEPT. UPDATE

Report on the Summer Language and Culture Immersion Programme in France in June/July 2015

In line with the school's objective of producing internationally-minded and world class citizens, and as part of its measures to enhance the learning and teaching of French, the department of Modern Languages of Tema International School organized the 9th edition of the Language and Culture Immersion programme in France in June/July 2015. In all, thirty-seven (37) students and four (4) staff namely John Mensah, Lily Agbezuge, Kodzo Agbeko, Barbara Provençal participated in the programme.

Preparations

Interested parents registered their wards for the trip and paid a non-refundable commitment fee of one hundred dollars, followed by the payment of the programme fee of five thousand nine hundred US dollars. This was followed by the signing of Parental Consent forms and letters of Authority by the parents of participating students. Finally, through the help of the school Administration, visas were acquired for the journey.

Pre-Department

A pre-department conference was held for the participants and their parents on the 6th of June 2015 after the school's Achievers Day Celebration. The conference served as a briefing session for parents about the various activities involved in the programme and offered them also the opportunity of knowing the addresses of the organizers and the host parents of their wards.

Departure and Arrival

The group left Accra on board KLM/Air France on the 13th of June around 10:30pm and arrived in Nice (South France) at 11:00 am on June 14th with a transit at Amsterdam.

Programme in France

The first two weeks were spent in Nice (Antibes to be precise) while the last two were spent in Paris. The group transferred to Paris on Friday 26th June and stayed there till the end of the programme on July 13.

The Course

The programme was in two sessions. Lessons involving the skills of speaking, listening, writing and reading were delivered by French teachers assisted by their Ghanaian counterparts. Lessons ended at 12:30 pm each day, followed by lunch.

The afternoons were reserved for outings. In Nice, visits were organized to places like Monaco,

beaches , museums, Cannes, Fragonard etc.

In Paris, we visited places like La Tour Eiffel, Les Champs Elysees, La Seine (Bateaux Mouches), France Miniature, Versailles, Euro Disney, Parc Asterix , Musee Grevin, La Defense etc.

Board and Lodging

Throughout the four week stay in France, the participants lived with French host families. This arrangement offers them the opportunity to continue to discover more about the French language and culture.

From the host families, they converged at a rendez-vous to be transported to classes and excursions.

Return Journey

The return journey was smooth in spite of a few connection problems which were seen as normal.

Benefits

- Within a span of four weeks, the students had their confidence boosted as most of them allayed fear of making mistakes when speaking French.
- The host families served as a source of motivation for the students who were determined to communicate with them in French.
- The remarkable progress chalked by the beneficiaries

will surely make them overcome the fear for the listening aspect of the final IGCSE examination.

- The students had the opportunity of socializing with the French and other participating nationals.

Problems

Food: there were a few marginal complaints about food from a few students who were not initially used to French meals.

There were also instances where some participants failed to adhere to teachers' advice, resulting in the loss of a mobile phone, an Ipad a perfume and money.

Registration and Payment

Late registration of participants and the failure of parents to ensure payment on schedule were serious issues for the leadership of the programme.

Connection

Indecision on the part of parents and the failure to pay for non-accompanied minors who connect to other destinations after the programme is another problem for the leadership and the accompanying teachers.

Suggestions to Improve Upon Future Trips

- The deadline for registration, payment of the programme fee and the

submission of necessary documents for the programme should be strictly observed.

- Students on medication are advised to come along with the prescribed medicines.
- Parents are advised to pay for unaccompanied minors to facilitate connection processes for accompanying teachers.

Appreciation

The Department of Modern Languages greatly appreciates the contribution and support of the Management of the school for the running of the programme.

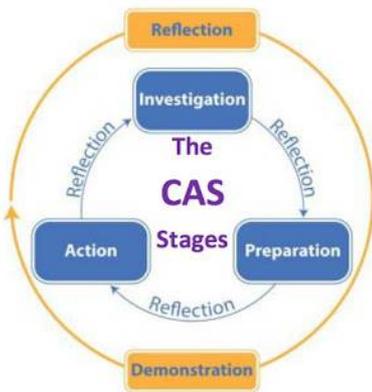
We also thank the parents/guardians of participants for the trust reposed in us by entrusting their children in our care.

Finally we thank God for a successful trip.

CAS UPDATES

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams” ~ Eleanor Roosevelt

The five CAS stages



1. **Investigation:** Students identify their interests, skills and talents to be used in considering opportunities for CAS experiences, as well as areas for personal growth and development. Students investigate what they want to do and determine the purpose for their CAS experience. In the case of service, students identify a need they want to address.



2. **Preparation:** Students clarify roles and responsibilities, develop a plan of actions to be taken, identify specified resources and timelines, and acquire any skills as needed to engage in the CAS experience.
3. **Action:** Students implement their idea or plan. This often requires decision-making and problem solving. Students may work individually, with partners, or in groups.
4. **Reflection:** Students describe what happened, express feelings, generate ideas, and raise questions. Reflection can occur at any time during CAS to further understanding, to assist with revising plans, to learn from the experience, and to make explicit connections between their growth, accomplishments, and the learning outcomes for personal awareness. Reflection may lead to new action.
5. **Demonstration:** Students make explicit what and how they learned and what they have accomplished, for example, by sharing their CAS experience through their CAS portfolio or with others in an informal or formal manner. Through demonstration and communication, students solidify their understanding and evoke response from others.



These **CAS stages** represent a process and sequence that can assist students in many aspects of their life. They follow a process whereby they investigate an interest that often raises questions and curiosity, prepare by learning more, take some form of action, reflect on what they have done along the way, and demonstrate their understandings and the process. By applying these stages to CAS, students have a reliable yet flexible structure they can then apply to future situations with confidence.

***Below are updates on our student's ongoing projects, and School events:**

Liter of Light Ghana – the Liter of Light Ghana team has commenced its fundraising campaign ahead of project 100 this December. Please take a look at our crowdfunding page on indiegogo and take a positive step in helping us reach our goal. No amount is too small. With

your help, we can light up the Trawa community one liter at a time.

Together we can make the world a little better than we found it.

“Mosquito Free Zone” – “Anyone



can complain but it takes a committed group of people with wisdom to turn those complaints into solutions”. Just last month, a couple of IB1 students – *Afia Addai, Mawuena Gadzekpo, Nii Odartey Wellington, Essie Baiden, David Gbate, Abena Boateng, Bridgette Kpormu-Dawson, Nubuke Gadzekpo and myself, Ryan Apraela*, came up with a project to be implemented right here on TIS campus. This project, we called the **MOSQUITO FREE ZONE**, was originally aimed at plummeting the number of mosquitoes around the school. The prototype which was made using a bottle, yeast and brown sugar actually caught flies, moths as well mosquitoes. The reaction of yeast and glucose produces carbon dioxide which

attracts the insects and then traps them inside the bottle. Knowing now that our project is going to work, we aim to start setting traps around the school by January 2016.

Sarafina remarks – Following the incredible display of talents by our students during the Sarafina production, several members of the TIS community could not harbour their thoughts and dismay. The following are a few remarks:

- “Superb, creative, unique, melodious voices & super energetic kids. Your students are incredible. What is the secret? Impressive, do you offer music and theatre for IB?”
- “TIS is indeed a unique example and a trendsetter. A worthy example in 21st century education the future looks brighter flying the TIS flag.”
- Wow, this is awesome. It just keeps getting better. It’s wonderful! I’m so proud of them!!! Eyyyyy TIS... I’m just dumbfounded. I’m so glad!!! Yes!!! I’m so glad...
- **Elorm T. T. (IB Class of 2015)**

Sponsors: Once again we want to appreciate the support of proud sponsors of the Sarafina production, who believed in the talents of our students and went ahead to invest in the production. On behalf of Co-founder, management, and the entire TIS community, we say thank you to the under-listed: **Buck Press,**



BrazAfric Consult, Peace FM, Asomdwee Fm, Okay FM, Hello FM, UTV.

Sarafina CAST Appearance – On 26th of December, 2015, some of the cast of the Sarafina play will make an appearance at the African Regent hotel to interact and have an autograph session with attendees of the hotel’s Christmas lunch. In this regard, we would be much grateful if parents whose children are part of the cast, and are available during the Christmas break would cooperate with us by dropping their wards at the venue and collecting them after the program. A letter will be sent to

respective parents in due course. All are invited to attend.

After Party: A big thank you to the generous parents/guardians who contributed some delicious treats. The students had a great time!

Christmas Lunch (9/12/15)- This is a special lunch which affords students and staff the opportunity to bond and share messages of love and hope, wishing each other a merry Christmas and the best of the year ahead.

Christmas Fiesta (13/12/15) – If you were part of the audience of the Sarafina production and you loved the display of artistry by our students, then this is another event in which students put their talents on display, welcoming the Christmas festivity in grand style, with carol songs, solo performances, dance, etc. Kindly find attached the invitation.



Christmas outreach postponement – Due to the final semester exams and activities lined-up for end of semester the students suggested the Christmas outreach to be done during the break. A letter to all IB 1 students will be send to their parents for consent and information about the program. Please we are counting on your support in the form of donating nonperishable food items, toys, clothes and books. **We are the change we want to see.**



The Come Back Festival

The IB Class of 2016 & 2017 are very enthusiastic about The Come Back Festival (FunFair). A range of activities will be happening on campus with the aim of raising funds to pay the very urgent heart surgery costs for Clementine Nyozie and Davor Mawuena. The average cost for each surgery is GhC 28.000,00 (twenty eighth thousand Ghana Cedis), which their families cannot afford to pay. They are desperately seeking for funds, and we are confident that the

TIS family once again will join us to make a difference.

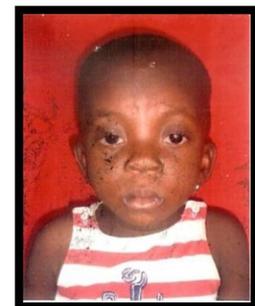
Davor Mawuena, is a 1 yr,



9months old boy who loves climbing but has difficulty in walking

due to being diagnosed with **‘Perimembraneous Ventricular Septal Defect’.** He is on a GH¢50 weekly medication to clear his lungs and keep him alive, but his parents are running out of money to provide the medication. His life depends on a surgery that would cost his family \$6,000. Let’s give him a future.

Clementina Nyozie is 3yrs, 6



months. She loves to play with her dolls and dream of going to school. Two

years after her birth, she was diagnosed with **‘Ductus Arteriosus and Ventricular Septal Defect’,** which makes it difficult for her to breathe freely; she is always tired and sick. Her future

depends on the huge amount of \$8,000. **“Have a heart save a life”.**

Inter-colour competitions –Below are the inter-color events that have taken place so far, those that are yet to take place, and the points and standings of the various color groups.



Current Colour Group Standings

- **Red Kigelia – 1st**
- **Blue Cedar – 2nd**
- **Yellow Outeniqua – 3rd**
- **Green Wisteria – 4th**

Inter-color events coming up

- Handball (December 7th 2015)
- Sport Family (2016)
- Spelling Bee Contest
- Dance Battle
- Current Affairs Quiz
- Chess Tournament

ASCUUS Update

IB Student Profiles

IB is excited to launch the IB student registry, a free service available exclusively to IB students to showcase their individual profiles and achievements to colleges and universities around the world.

Join us in encouraging our IB students to take advantage of this new platform. The IB Student Registry will benefit IB students in the following ways:

- Expressing their interest to dream universities
- Browse IB credit and awards
- Direct communication with admission officers
- An opportunity to present CAS projects, EE and other portfolios.

Kindly note that this platform will be active in February.

College Visits

ALU (African Leadership University)

- Mauritius is one of the safest destinations in Africa
- No visa application difficulties; the school would represent accepted students in this regard
- ALU offers Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Sociology, Psychology, etc.
- Courses are modeled along Africa's unique situation.

ALU promises that graduates will be relevant change makers in Africa.

- Affordable fees of about \$14,000 per year.

EU Business School

- **Geneva, Montreux, Barcelona and Munich,** EU Business School gives you the luxury of four campuses.
- Exchange opportunities and further study programs with schools in the UK, Russia, Kazakhstan, Taiwan, Malaysia, U.S.A., Germany, etc.
- Prepares students to be **successful business leaders** within the international business world.

Drexel University

- Strong Engineering Programme
- The opportunity for International Undergraduate students to get a full scholarship through the **Global Scholar program**. Visit the Drexel Central's [Special Interest Scholarships page](#) to learn more about how to apply for the Drexel Global Scholar program.

Brag Rights: Here's our new monthly corner for our IB2 class' university offers.

Congratulations to our IB2 students who have received offers from the following universities:

University of Debrecen, University of West England, University of Leicester, University of Leeds, Suny Buffalo and Full Sail University.

All the best to the entire IB Class of 2016!

Test Updates

December SAT takes place on **December 5th**; all test takers are reminded that the only acceptable form of identification is the **valid unexpired passport**. (This is a College Board directive). All the best to our IB1 students who have taken the early step to take this test! We are proud of them.

January SAT Registration deadline: This Friday. All IB1 students considering studies in the U.S. are especially encouraged to register for this exam.

Payment Deadline: Monday, 30th November 2015 (**SAT registration fee: \$110**)

SAT Changes:

Changes to the SAT format take effect from March 2016.

Summary of Changes

Sections: Math, Reading, Writing, Essay

Scoring:

- **Total Points: 400-1600**
- **Math: 200-800**
- **Evidence based reading and writing: 200-800**
- Essay not included in total score
- No guessing penalty

4 answer choices for multiple choice questions

Optional essay

Birthdays Finally, TIS would like to wish our dear students, staff, parents and guardians whose birthdays fall in the month of December Happy Birthday!

Feedback

We welcome your comments and suggestions on how to make this newsletter more relevant to you. Do not hesitate to contact us via info@tis.edu.gh if you have any queries or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Warm Regards,
Dr. Ken Darvall



Principal



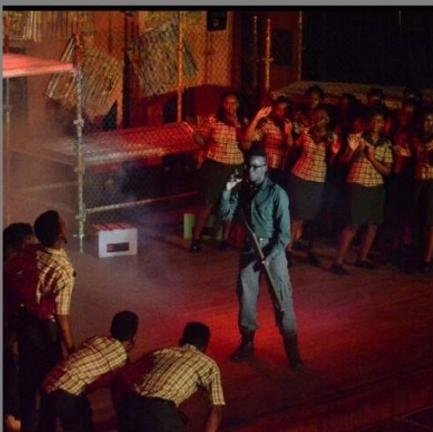
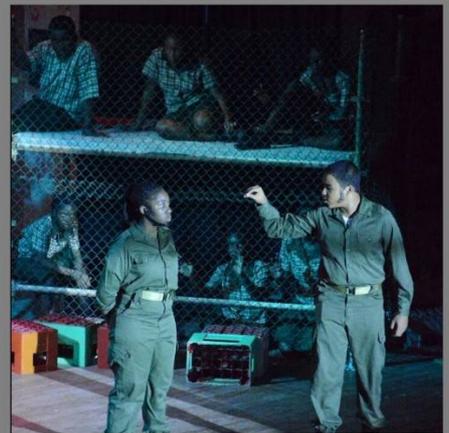
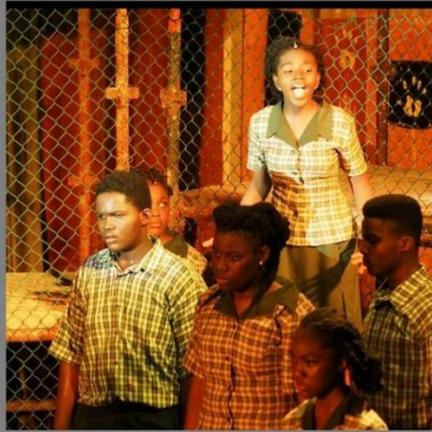
EVENTS	POINTS (color with least points is champion)			
	RED KIGELIA	YELLOW OUTENIQUA	GREEN WISTERIA	BLUE CEDAR
Math Day (Exhibition & Presentations)	2	1	4	3
Math Evening (Quiz)	4	3	2	1
Swimming Club-Sundays	2	1	4	3
Founders' Day Singing Competition	1	3	4	2
Swimming championships	2	1	4	3
Athletics Carnival	2	4	1	3
Volleyball League	2	4	3	1
TOTAL	15	17	22	16



IB2 Visual Arts Exhibition



Sarafina in Pictures





More Sarafina Pictures.











ISSAG Athletics Competition (Elwak Stadium)



