



April/May 2015

The British School of Lomé

BSL BUZZ

Congraduations!

Thunderbolts and Lightning!

Our Year 13 IB students formally graduated on May 23rd in a ceremony at the school stage. The presentation of their BSL Diplomas was interrupted by a huge clap of thunder followed by torrential rain! Not even the terrible weather could dampen the spirits of our graduates as they received their diplomas and threw their hats in the air! A huge thank you to Her Excellency Mme Olatokunbo Ige, the Resident Representative of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights in Togo. Mme Ige gave an inspirational speech to our graduates emphasising the importance of their continued service to others.



Our Valedictorian Srijana Holland stands among her fellow graduates at our graduation ceremony. All staff at BSL would like to offer their heartfelt congratulations to the class of 2015 and wish them the best of luck for their future endeavours. IB results will be released to the students on Monday 6th of July.

Excelling through life at BSL!



The Graduating Class of 2015

Top (Left to right) Jung Mo Kim, Bolarinwa Balogun, Nicholas Jillali, Olaoluwapo Odukoya and Jessica Milogo.
Bottom (Left to right) Eilfried Gbedey, Precious Egeonu, Srijana Holland, Yuting Cai, Clara Kiehl, Saniya Vaswani, Deborah Tilley-Gyado and Parmeet Khanna.





From the Headmaster...

Unfortunately most people didn't get to hear Mr Thompson's speech at the graduation ceremony because of the deafening thunder and heavy rain so here it is in full!

Good Morning Everyone. It is a great pleasure to address you all and the Class of 2015 at this Commencement Exercise. This is my fourth BSL graduation and like the graduates themselves it will be my last as I too will be moving on. When I began thinking of what I would like to say to this fine group of Year 13s it suddenly occurred to me that my graduation from school happened exactly 50 years ago today. I too was a member of a small class at a small international school very much like British School of Lome. I remember very well that day and my fellow classmates. Although I must say, at my age, it helps to look at some of the pictures to remind me of the details!

But it is worthwhile to ask what will this group of students be doing 50 years from today? Just like my group in 1965, I don't think anyone here today can even imagine what life will be like in 2065. The world of today is amazingly different from what I thought it might be when I was 17. And so it will be for our graduates today. But here are a few predictions that I can make. They will all keep in touch with each other and others they got to know here at BSL. They form a core group of best friends that each and every one will go back to repeatedly even when the span of years and distance of separation gets extreme. With the magic of the internet I have news of every single member of my class. The most surprising thing is most of them are all still alive and mostly healthy (a little creaky maybe!!) But I know that our BSL graduates will be successful and will live long and even healthier lives.

They now go on to the next major step of their lives and all of us here at BSL know they are prepared and will do well. Live long and prosper and keep in touch!

The Prelude to Graduation



The night before our graduation ceremony primary and lower secondary students presented a superb musical performance to members of the school community. The primary school sang songs inspired by the movies and our secondary students sang 'We are the World.' This was followed by an amazing performance from BSL teachers who sang 'Let it go' from the film 'Frozen.' The teachers were joined on stage by many students providing an unexpected finale to a wonderful show!



Enriching Lives BSL!



BSL secondary students perform 'We are the World' to a packed audience!

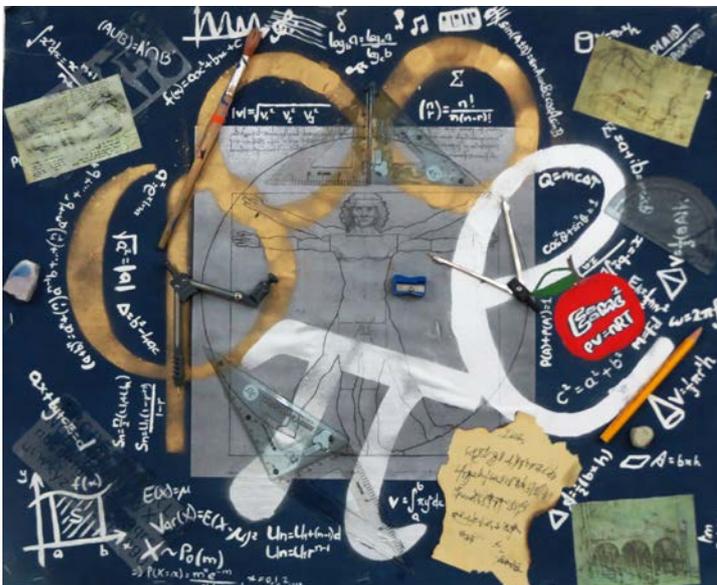


Stage Invasion! BSL Teachers and students perform an uplifting version of 'Let it go' at our prelude to graduation!

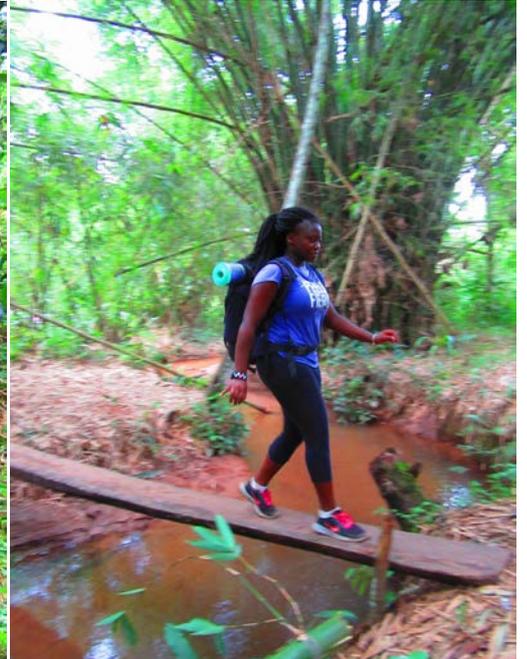


Art Attack!

The school hall was transformed into an art gallery this month for our secondary school art exhibition!



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S INTERNATIONAL AWARD



Both the Bronze (Year 10) and Silver (Year 12) International Award students completed another practice expedition this month in Kpalime where they hiked across ridges, through bamboo forests and across rivers while carrying everything they needed! They will complete their assessed expedition in September. The year 13 International Award students were awarded their Silver Certificates during their graduation ceremony.

European Union Fete

On Wednesday 13th May the European Union held its annual Fete to celebrate and promote its projects and contributions in Togo and West Africa. As a part of the festivities several schools from the Lome area were asked to send a small contingent of students to join in the performance of a mass choir. In addition to this, schools were also requested to contribute an additional item, be it a song or a poem. We sent a choral group of 11 students ranging from Year 7 to Year 9 and also had Rosette Ntagungira from Year 7 present a poem written by Aya Vako from Year 7 called 'When the People Will Speak.'



When the People Will Speak

by Aya Vako

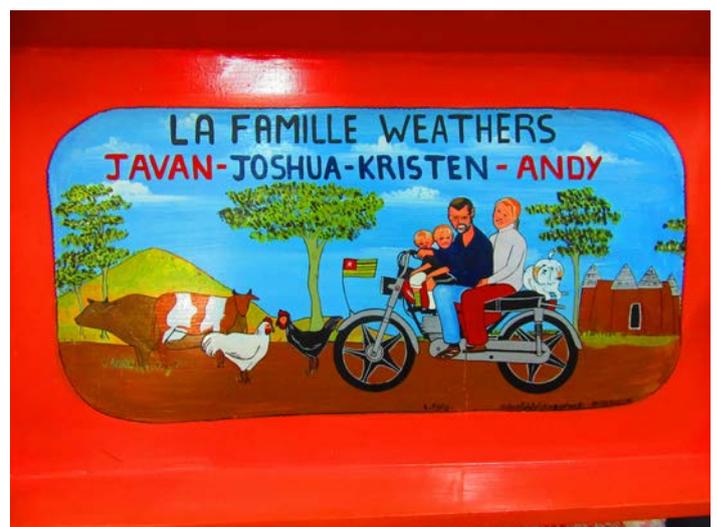
Yester night I had a dream,
A short just-passing-by dream,
Swimming and flowing,
Making my head pound,
Making me turn around.
Making me realize something
Until now covered by a veil,
Like when the moon covers the sun,
And leaves us with complete dark,
Or when the sun is shining bright,
And you pass into a never-ending
tunnel...
My dream is the clue to the sun's
recovery
The exit to our tunnel.

In my dream
The People spoke.
When they spoke,
Earth smiled with gratefulness,
The Sun shook with pride,
And the World changed.
The lights in the dark night
recovered from power cuts
The small and sweet breeze
from the Titanic's freedom
blew each of us away,
Dignity cleansed all of our faces.
In the green apple grass,
The flowers re-grew as
pretty as they can be,
The clouds got fired.
The good feeling of crawling
into a comfy bed was
available for all,
And the sentiment of being
where we should be
was sensed again.....

But when I awake I see sorrows
I perceive blown candles,
leaving us in the dark.
I identify people suffering.
I observe people bathing in
puddles of blood.
I remark people drowning in their own
sweat.
I note the chains attached to us,
Eating us alive.
I recognise a passionate,
hungry shark seeking us.
I witness the crime of our
greedy masters,
I sense time escaping through my fingers.

I wish reality was similar to my dream,
and I know how
to make it be.

The People shall speak.
I just did so.



The school said goodbye to one of our reception teachers Kristen Weathers this week. Thank you Kristen for your hard work and dedication! The Weathers family are returning to the USA for one year before returning to Togo!

Eco Council News



World Environment Day is celebrated every year on the 5th of June to raise global awareness of the environment to take positive environmental action to protect nature and the Earth. In June we will celebrate World Environment Day through in class activities designed to raise awareness of environmental issues. This year the activities will be organised by members of the sixth form. They have been running a T-Shirt competition this month for students to wear on the 5th of June. The following designs from primary students Iman and Kerane won the competition! T Shirts are on sale now for 2000CFA.

7 Billion Dreams



One Planet

Designed by Kerane

7 Billion Dreams



One Planet

Designed by Iman

Eco School Guidelines

Reduce! Reuse! Recycle! Waste is a problem. Fortunately there are things that we can all do about it!

Reduce means cutting the amount of stuff you use in the first place so that you have less to throw away! It is much better to reduce waste in the first place!

Reuse means using things again and again and again!

Recycle means using things that have already been used to make new things. After you have reduced and reused as much as you can, Recycle!

Top Ten Easy Eco Tips



1. **Reduce** fuel. Cycle or walk whenever you can. It is better for the environment and it is better for you!
2. **Reduce** energy! Turn off lights and air conditioners when they are not needed.
3. **Reduce** the amount of paper you use. Send your work to teachers digitally to be marked! Print double sided when you print. **Reuse** paper that has only been used on one side!
4. **Reduce** water needs. Turn off the tap when you are cleaning your teeth and you will save up to 10 litres of water! Take a shower instead of a bath!
5. **Reduce** plastic bags. Take your own reusable bags when you go shopping instead of using and throwing away plastic bags every time you shop.
6. **Reduce** plastic bottles. Use reusable bottles for drinking water instead of plastic bottles, cartons or cans.
7. **Reduce** fuel used to fly in exotic products. Buy locally produced products as much as possible!
8. **Reuse** old clothes and toys by giving them away to people who are less fortunate than you. BSL organizes deliveries several times a year to local orphanages!
9. **Reuse** old magazines to create amazing collages in art!
10. **Recycle!** Almost everything can be recycled! Make sure that you know what you can recycle and put it in the correct bins!

BSL Lions



BSL Lions Smash Teachers

On Friday 8th May, a group of staff members put the skills of the BSL Lions Basketball team to the test with a hard fought staff verses students Basketball match. Although the students won, beating the staff team 38 - 26, it wasn't without a struggle. Highlights of the game included the skilful, almost telepathic teamwork, between Franck, Gideon and Florian, Miss Fuchs' amazing 'nothing but net' three point shot from the side lines and some great lay-up shots by Miss Spence.

The staff will be challenging the students again in June with a staff and students football tournament on the 10th of June and a staff verses students chess tournament on the 22nd June. ! Come along and support both staff and students!!



The staff basketball team!

May House Events

Keats, Lawrence, and Eliot battled it out in another round of inter-house events this month. Year 7,8, and 9 tested their luck in a table tennis tournament. Solene, Johnny, and Roshan were the top competitors and earned 90 points for Lawrence. Marlene from Keats earned 30 points for her first place win as well.

On the football pitch, years 10, 11, and 12 competed in a round robin tournament. Keats was victorious with 2 wins and 2 ties leaving them the overall winners of this month's inter-house. A big thank you to all the students and teachers who participated in the events. There was lots of fun had by all!

The current scores for the house teams are Keats with 450, Lawrence with 250 and Eliot with 200. With the school year coming to an end, the individual merits of the students will decide if Keats will win the cup again this year!

This Saturday (30th May) come and watch the BSL Lions compete in a basketball tournament organised by our very own IB students. Stop by and support the team. GO LIONS GO!



Tracks

'Making tracks within the local community'

The Primary School held a hotdog sale this month to raise money for TRACKS. Each person who bought a hotdog had their name entered into the raffle to win a free pony ride! The results were drawn at assembly:

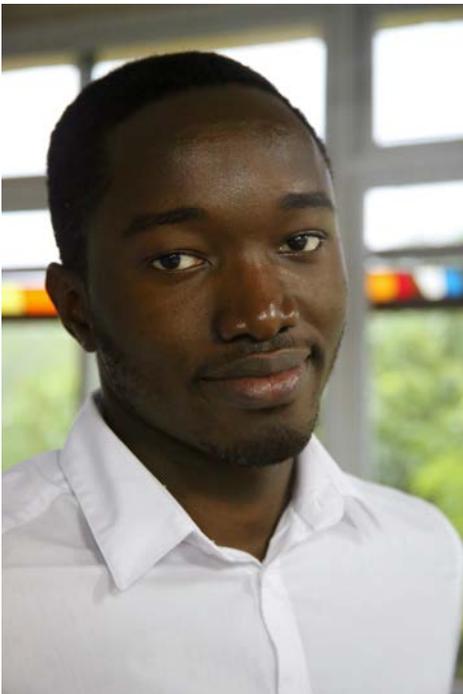
1st Place – Iman drew first place and won herself the coveted Pony Ride at Club Hip piqué. Yannis drew second prize and won an outdoor Games Set and Haeun won a set of dominoes for the third prize!

Thanks to all who bought a hotdog and supported the event.



Alumni News

Five students from the class of 2014 came back to celebrate the graduation of our class of 2015. They are all excelling at universities in the USA.



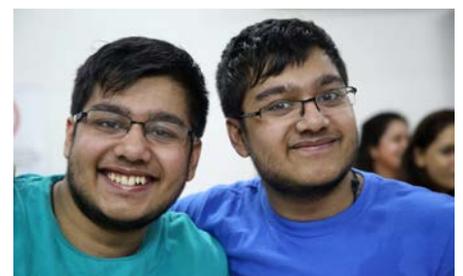
Richard Opara Ndudu is studying Mechanical Engineering at Illinois Institute of Technology



Harouna Coulibaly is studying Environmental Sustainability at Montana State University at Billings



Larrisa Takou-Ayaou is studying Civil Engineering at Syracuse University in New York State.



Nitin and Naveen Sabnani are studying Business Management at Clarkson University in New York State.

Internal Secondary School Examinations

Just a reminder that we shall be holding internal end of year school examinations in June. Examinations will run from Monday 8th through to Thursday 11th June. Students will be issued with a timetable this coming Monday to help them prepare for them. They have already been told by their teachers that the exams are coming and revision sessions have already started so this will not be coming as a surprise.

There will be no normal timetable for those four days and students will be allowed to revise for a forthcoming examination when there is a gap in the schedule. For Years 10 and 12, we shall be using the School Hall as the examination venue in order for them to get used to the "atmosphere" of the real examinations coming up this time next year. We will also get them used to the very specific examination regulations imposed by the IGCSE and IB examination boards.

This will be a very intense time for all the students, so, parents and guardians, you have your role to play in ensuring that revision is being done and plenty of sleep and early nights are on the menu. Friday 12th June is back to normal timetable but then everyone can look forward to the "Week Without Walls". Reports will be issued on the last school day of the year, Wednesday 24th June.

Many thanks for your usual cooperation.
John McGuinness, Head of Secondary

Up-Coming Events at BSL!

1. Friday 29th May 2015: Secondary Art Expedition in the school hall.
2. Saturday 30th May: Interschool basketball tournament.
3. Friday 5th June: World Environment Day Activities.
4. Monday 8th June - Friday 12th June 2015: Secondary School Examinations.
5. Friday 12th June: Primary Disco.
6. Monday 15th June - Friday 19th June 2015: Secondary 'Week Without Walls.'
7. Monday 15th June - Friday 19th June 2015: Primary Art Week with an art exhibition on the 19th June.
8. Friday 19th June: Primary Endeavour Awards Day and Year 6 Graduation.
9. Wednesday 24th June: Last day of school for students. Secondary Honours day/Endeavours Award Ceremony. Grade reports go home.

BSL Endeavour Awards



Dear Parents,

You are cordially invited to attend the Primary or Secondary Endeavour Awards to celebrate your child's achievements. The Primary ceremony will take place on Friday 19th of June at 8.15am in the school hall while the Secondary ceremony will take place at 10.30am on Wednesday 24th June also in the school hall.