“A single death is a tragedy; a million deaths is a statistic”  

Joseph Stalin

Dear Parents,

Following on to my recent historical dates, this week is the 70th anniversary of the Yalta Conference. This meeting of Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin effectively carved up Europe into zones of influence, and in certain cases, zones of occupation. This resulted in the Iron Curtain and the Cold War in Europe. There is a tragic irony in that the current unrest in Ukraine was sparked by the annexation of Crimea, a Ukrainian province last year; Yalta is an important town in the Crimean peninsula.

We are looking forward to our Carnival week in Primary and there are a number of events planned with house dances, carnival parade, talent show and Valentine’s Disco. I wish all the students much fun over the coming days.

On Friday, 13th February the school will be closed for students but we have a day of professional development for the school teaching staff. Our focus is on Literacy and in the Early Years we are looking at integrating dance and music into learning.

Much of my work this year is preparing the foundations for the next phase of development of our school. Working with the Board of Governors, teaching staff and school community I want to ensure that we set our school on a successful and sustainable path forward. It needs careful consideration in terms of campus, finance, size and the provision of various programmes both educational and co-curricular. Of more import however is the end product, the outcomes that we want to see. We need to describe these and put in place the steps to reach these goals. The students come to us with many attributes, qualities and skills and the home is the most significant influence on all our students. We can, as a school, make a great deal of difference and the school is there to make the pupils shine.

We want to see accomplished, polished students, confident in all settings, bilingual if not trilingual, with skills, qualities and attributes to undertake university or advanced study significantly. Moreover we want them to make the world a better place.

May our school ethos: ‘To strive for success and to serve’ be embraced by all.

With the Senior Leadership group and the Board of Governors we will be spending time over the next few weeks to reflect on the school’s strategy and direction. I would welcome your comments and suggestions on such strategy and look forward to your feedback.

Finally, please check out our information on safe internet use that is included in the Bulletin. It is important for all parents to be aware of the dangers of unsupervised access. My thanks to Cristina Bridges for her initiative.

Tom McGrath, Headmaster
tom.mcgrath@obs.edu.pt

Please note, there is no School on Friday, 13th February
School re-opens Monday, 23rd February
WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

VALENTINE´S DISCO WEDNESDAY 11th FEBRUARY

As part of their fundraising efforts for this year’s CAS oversees trip the Form 11 students are holding a Valentine’s Disco. This will be in the Teage Hall on Wednesday 11th February. Tickets cost €2 and include a soft drink per ticket. Other food and drink will be on sale during the disco, including Pizza! The Disco will run at the following times:

Primary 15:30-17:30 (Form 4 and 5 from 16:10)
Secondary 19:00-21:00 (Pupils are welcome to go home and change before the disco)

Please ensure your child is picked up from OBS by 21:00.

Please note that due to health and safety requirements tickets must be purchased in advance of the event, any pupil who attends without a ticket will not be admitted to the disco. Tickets will be sold in school on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday break and lunch time by Form 11s.

In addition to the disco pupils will be able to order a carnation to be delivered to their Valentine during the day. Again these will need to be ordered before Wednesday 11th February.

Thank you for supporting our fundraising events.

Form 11 CAS team and Mr Simson (CAS Coordinator)

WHOLE SCHOOL HALF-TERM ACTIVE8 INITIATIVE

As we near the Carnival Half-Term, the school would like to announce a partnership with Active8, a company “committed to providing programmes to Active8 children’s physical, cognitive and social skills through new and fun experiences during their school holidays”. They will be providing a week-long programme of fun, healthy, innovative and creative activities from 9.00 to 3.00pm on the school premises during the half term week (February 16th -20th). The cost of this 5 day experience will be €300 per pupil. For more detailed information please contact active8@outlook.pt or Mr Luis Mota on 917450776. You can book a place using the schools online booking system: https://oportobritishschool.parenteveningsystem.co.uk/ and we will inform Mr Mota of your interest in the club. All communication should be directed to Mr Mota.

Luis Mota, Active8

SKIING TRIP TO LA MOLINA 2015

For the last 20 years Fernando Soares has organised successful skiing trips to La Molina. This year, due to his foot injury it had to be postponed to the Easter Holidays, from Saturday the 28th of March till Saturday the 04th of April 2015. Mr Soares intends to organise ski activities for all ages and assist with accommodation in the area as well as other matters.

This year the total cost of this trip is 475 Euros. (565€ with transport included). Mr Soares will take a minimum of 20 students. If pupils are interested in organising their own transport, they can fly to Barcelona and then catch a train to La Molina or drive from Porto to La Molina. For more information please contact Mr Soares directly: fernando.soares58@gmail.com

Please note, this is not a school run trip.

Fernando Soares
PRIMARY NOTICES

This has been a short, though very packed, first half term of the new year. Inevitably, this period tends to be affected by the rain, cold and flu bugs though I have continued to feel that we still have a very positive environment around the school. The pupils came back from the Christmas holidays smiling and they have continued to be very happy throughout this term.

Our pupils continue to excel in all forms of performing arts. This half-term parents were invited to see a wonderful Form 4 assembly connected to their study of Fables, Myths and Legends - this was a truly superb performance from all pupils. We have also had our intense trials and auditions for the upcoming Talent Show and I am sure this will prove to be another success. We have also seen small performances from Escola das Artes pupils exhibiting their skills with many different musical instruments - we will be continuing, and building on, these performances over the coming term to allow all pupils an opportunity to perform in front of an audience.

Form 4 and 5 pupils represented OBS at the Porto sports festival at CLIP last week. Though their performance was excellent with all OBS teams achieving 3rd place, I was extremely proud of the way the pupils conducted themselves while at CLIP.

This is a very important term for all classes as we prepare the pupils for the rigors and expectations of the Summer term examination period. This is still a long time away though I am seeing some very good progress being made in all classes. I would encourage parents to also regularly check their child’s class blog and the Accelerated Reader website to keep informed of all progress and curriculum support being made available to you.

I hope you all have a wonderful half term and ‘Carnaval’ celebration

Mark Evans, Head of Primary

HEAD OF PRIMARY COMMENDATION AWARDS

Commendation awarded to Artur for his excellent attitude, great enthusiasm and continued effort towards learning 4F

Commendation awarded to João for his excellent tapestry painting as part of an ‘Understanding the World’ activity Rec

Commendation awarded to Guilherme and Henrique for writing a very creative Fantasy story as part of a class literacy objective 3C

ARTUR SILVA
JOÃO CAVACA
GUILHERME LOPES
AFONSO MOURA

TALENT SHOW

All parents are invited to watch the Primary Talent show on Thursday, 12th February at 2pm in the Sports Hall.

We had 40 superb acts perform at our recent auditions though our judging panel had the unenviable task of reducing this to 15 acts for the final. We have now chosen, and informed the 15 acts that will represent the Primary School next week.
Please do come along to see performances of singing, dancing, music and gymnastics. The complete performance should last about 1 hour.

CARNIVAL CELEBRATIONS

As many parents of OBS will already know, this half term will end with our Primary School ‘Carnaval’ celebration. For Thursday the pupils are all encouraged to wear some form of fancy dress (please do not include any costume weapons with outfits). We will begin the day with a ‘Carnaval’ parade at 09:15am around the Astro Turf. This event should be no more than 20-30 minutes so please do stay for this event if you are able to.

Mark Evans, Head of Primary

CLIP FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

The division 5 boys’ football team travelled to CLIP last Thursday and Friday to take part in an interschool sports tournament. They played 4 games and finished in third place overall. On Thursday OBS beat Colégio do Rosário 1-0 in their opening game then lost 7-1 to École Française. The first game on Friday saw a revived OBS beat the home side, CLIP, 4-0 before drawing 4-4 in a tense final match with the German school. Preparations for the Lisbon tournament in April are going well.

Jonathan Bridges, Division 5 Football Coach

CLIP BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

The Division 5 Girls Basketball team had an enjoyable time at the Benjamin Sports Tournament that took place at CLIP last week. It was a fantastic opportunity for the team to bond and try different players in a variety of positions. The highlight was beating the German School 51:10 on the opening day. Every player had the opportunity to play their part in that game thus contributing to the success of the team. The team finished the tournament in 3rd place which is a good achievement considering the girls had never played against opposition before. Preparation is well underway for the Lisbon tournament!

Sarah Lee, Basketball Coach

READING BOX

Reading Clubs in both Primary and Secondary are progressing nicely and are becoming increasingly popular with pupils of all reading abilities and ages. Many pupils are reporting how attending these sessions is not only helping improve their reading fluency, comprehension and vocabulary - but moreover how they are able to make more connections between the language and content they encounter through the reading box programme and their wider curricular learning. If you would like your child to take advantage of these additional reading opportunities please do email Mrs Torcato and Mrs Hann who will be more than happy to provide you with further information.

Emma Torcato, Head of Learning Support
SECONDARY NOTICES

NOTICES

All key secondary notices are found at http://www.obs.edu.pt/page.cfm?p=428. Please do check this on a regular basis.

In addition, all key dates, letters, guidance can be found in the relevant areas of http://www.obs.edu.pt/page.cfm?p=7

Half term Secondary OBServer will be out next week!

FORM 10&12:

6 weeks to go!

MONDAY - EXTRA-CURRICULAR FOOTBALL F8-F12 PUPILS

Due to unforeseen confusion at our facility provider, Thursdays F8-F12 boys Football club after school will be moved to Mondays after school from 4:15 until 17:30 from next week (starting February 9th). All permission slips received so far will be assumed to cover the changed date. If this is not the case, please email Mr Homewood on matthew.homewood@obs.edu.pt. For those who have not yet submitted their permission slips, please ensure these are available for Mr Homewood at 16.15 on Monday or your child will not be able to attend the club. I am sorry for any inconvenience that this change may have. I can assure you that this is as a result of circumstances completely beyond the school's control.

Boys Football for Forms 6 & 7 will continue on Wednesdays from 4:15 to 5:00 with their new coach Mr Packett.

Matt Homewood, Head of PE and Games

CAS UPDATE

Twelve Form 11 students will be travelling to Morocco in April to work with the following charity www.atlasculturalfoundation.org.

This is their long term project, an integral part of their CAS programme for the IB diploma. They have raised over €1000 so far which will be donated to charities in Morocco that they believe make a difference to people’s lives there.

Upcoming fundraisers this half term:

CAS SPONSORED SPELLING

Forms 2 -7 have been challenged to learn either 30 or 50 words for a spelling challenge to raise money for our CAS oversees charity. The words are all related to Morocco and developing countries. Please support our fundraiser by sponsoring and encouraging your child to learn as many spellings as possible.

Congratulations to the following secondary pupils who scored 100% on their tests:

Adriana Mak, Jerry Yang, Mathilde Palsson

Emma Palsson, Pedro Fernandes

Also a massive congratulations to Pedro Fernandes 3C. He achieved 29/30 on his test and raised the most money so far - well done Pedro!
Please encourage your child to bring in their sponsorship money to their Form Teacher or Mr Simson ASAP.

SAFER INTERNET DAY 2015

The 12th Safer Internet Day will be celebrated worldwide on Tuesday 10 February 2015. The theme for the day is: “Let’s create a better internet together”.

Celebrated globally every year, Safer Internet Day offers the opportunity to highlight positive uses of technology and to explore the role we all play in helping to create a better and safer online community.

The objective is to promote a safer and more responsible use of online technology and mobile phones, especially amongst children and young people across the world.

At Oporto British School every student from Forms 6 to 8 starts each academic year with a unit about E-Safety. This theme is also part of our IGCSE ICT Syllabus (Unit 8: Safety and Security) and we discuss it in various topics of the IB ITGS Syllabus.

You can help make sure that your children know how to stay safe online, by using our SMART rules for Primary aged children and 5 tips for teens below:

5 SMART Rules for primary aged children:

Safe: Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information when you’re chatting or posting online. Personal information includes your email address, phone number and password.

Meet: Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents’ or carers’ permission and even then only when they can be present. Remember online friends are still strangers even if you have been talking to them for a long time.

Accepting: Accepting emails, messages, or opening files, images or texts from people you don’t know or trust can lead to problems – they may contain viruses or nasty messages!

Reliable: Someone online might lie about who they are and information on the internet may not be true. Always check information by looking at other websites, in books, or with someone who knows. If you like chatting online it’s best to only chat to your real world friends and family.

Tell: Tell a parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone, or something, makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online.

5 Tips for Teens:

1. Protect your online reputation: use the tools provided by online services to manage your digital footprints and “think before you post.” Content posted online can last forever and could be shared publicly by anyone.

2. Know where to find help: understand how to report to service providers and use blocking and deleting tools. If something happens that upsets you online, it’s never too late to tell someone.

3. Don’t give in to pressure: if you lose your inhibitions you’ve lost control; once you’ve pressed send you can’t take it back.

4. Respect the law: use reliable services and know how to legally access the music, film and TV you want.

5. Acknowledge your sources: use trustworthy content and remember to give credit when using other people’s work/ideas.

For further advices and resources please visit www.childnet.com and www.saferinternetday.org

Cristina Bridges, Head of ICT
SOLIDARITY CONCERT

In Dec 2014, OBS organised the Solidarity Concert. As well as raising money for “Acreditar”, we also helped Ajudaris, please see below their letter of gratitude for our support.

ASSUNTO: Agradecimento.

A Ajudaris é uma associação particular de carácter social (Registo de IPSS 06/09) e humanitário de âmbito nacional, sem fins lucrativos, considerada de utilidade pública desde 2008. Através dos vários projetos de intervenção social que desenvolve, - http://www.ajudaris.org/ - procura combater a fome, a pobreza e a exclusão social através da educação e formação.

A Associação Ajudaris apoia várias famílias, crianças e idosos através dos projetos que desenvolve – http://site.ajudaris.org/noticias/imprensa/.

Para podermos terminar o ano de 2014 absorvidos pelo espírito da magia e da solidariedade, vimos agradecer a Vossa Excelência a amabilidade que teve para com a Ajudaris.

Com a realização da venda solidária dos livros "Histórias da Ajudaris" no Concerto solidário na Exponor conseguimos angariar o donativo de 200 € .

Assim, reiterámos o nosso profundo agradecimento pela vossa colaboração!

Coloriu o Natal de muitas famílias!

Obrigada!

Exmos. Senhores
Oporto British School
A/c Dra Joana Saraiva
Rua da Cerca, 326-350,
4150-201 Porto
### DATES FOR THE DIARY

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; February</td>
<td>Primary Talent Show and Carnaval Celebration</td>
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<tr>
<td>13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; February</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL - INSET day for Staff</td>
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<td>16&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;-20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; February</td>
<td>Half-Term</td>
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<td>23&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; February</td>
<td>School re-opens</td>
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<td>26&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; February</td>
<td>F5 Trip to Theatre</td>
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<td>28&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Feb-01&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Duke of Edinburgh Expedition</td>
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