

Headteacher's Newsletter – February 2023

Quote of the month

The best way to not feel hopeless is to get up and do something. Don't wait for good things to happen to you. If you go out and make some good things happen, you will fill the world with hope, you will fill yourself with hope

Barack Obama, Former President of the United States

The recent earthquakes that have struck Turkey and Syria have generated an outpouring of sadness and sympathy not only in the region but globally. In Cyprus we have also undergone those same emotions and at the Senior School we have responded with initiatives to raise funds to send to organisations and charities that are working to assist those who are in need in those areas. From a non-uniform day - that not only generated funds but also raised awareness - to bake sales and collection points, our students have led on ensuring that our school remains at the forefront of charity drives. This has been reflected in previous newsletters and is one of the constants about which we can always be proud. Well done to students and their teachers who have been so active in charity initiatives and events both for causes here at home as well as overseas.



Thank you to the Student Council for organising the event

Offering hope

In the context of Business Week, the faculty organised a bake sale in support of 'Ένα Όνειρο Μια Ευχή' – One dream, One Wish. This is an organization which supports children suffering from cancer and cancer-related conditions. This was also an opportunity to raise awareness and involved our students in actively supporting this cause. The president of the organisation, Mr Penintaex, honored us with his presence and talked to the students about the work of their work which also includes support for the families of those children including psychological support. Many thanks to Mr Pipis and the Business Faculty for this initiative and, of course, to all students involved.



Business week: Students and staff with Mr Penintaex, President of 'One Dream, One Wish'



The Student Council has also been active in leading a collection for those in dire need, including the vulnerable, marginalised communities and refugees.

Business Week

February has also been a very active month for other reasons. The Business Faculty arranged a number of events in Business Week during the week of 6th-10th which included exhibits of our Junior Achievement teams (Connecteen, Tech-Off and Money Bible), activities in breaks related to business and economics, accounting, financial education and the work of NGOs, video presentations on a number of related themes in Form Tutor periods and, of course, the charity drives. Much appreciation to the Business Faculty for all their work and to the students in support.

Humanities Week

The Humanities Faculty has been very busy with the organisation of a range of activities in the week of 13th-17th February. Events included assemblies on marine life and human rights along with presentations on historical themes, work from Global Perspective students, talks by specialists in their field, a movie night (The Death of Stalin) and support for Tsiknopempti traditional games. We had the opportunity to share with our students an interview between Mr Dean and a Professor of Political Communications on the importance of Humanities subjects and their value within a curriculum. In addition, we had the pleasure of hosting Mr. Alexey Starukhin, who shared with us his remarkable experience of living in the Soviet Union during his youth. Students in a number of year groups along with the Eco Committee also took on a beach clean-up:



Well done to SS students and the Eco committee for helping to clean up the beach at Mackenzie in Larnaca!



Humanities week: This department really loves to dress up!

Modern Languages Week

The MFL department organised a number of events to celebrate languages, cultures and traditions during the week of 19th-24th February. The menu of events and activities is wide-ranging: Much of the week involved cultural as well as linguistic interest for our students such as those related to dying languages, the power of language and language and career, along with encounters with Argentinian, Indian, Chinese and Arabic cultural traditions and foods. We also welcomed to the school the multi-lingual Niki the Robot from the University of Nicosia. Tango and Salsa workshops were also arranged along with an introduction to the culture and art of belly dance! Thank you to Ms Papanastasiou and the MFL department for laying on all activities.

Sporting success

Well done to our KS3 Girls Basketball team for reaching the Final 4 of the Nicosia Schools District basketball Championship!



Great work, girls. And many thanks to their coach, Ms Efthymiou

First Aiders qualify



Congratulations to all students who have passed their First Aid exams. In total 30 passed and in doing so exhibited exceptional skill and dedication. Thank you to Mr Vyrides for leading the training.

English Essay Global Success!

Earlier this year Rebecca Petrou (Y11) entered a scholarship competition run by Immersive Education for which there were over 10,000 entries from students all over the world. Rebecca's essay was selected to receive a partial scholarship of 50% to participate in the Female Future Leaders programme 2023. We would like to congratulate Rebecca on her wonderful achievement and to share her success with the school community!

Public Speaking thrives at the SS

MUN Conference - Nicosia

On 3rd and 4th February a delegation of students from Years 12 and 13 participated in the 2023 Model United Nations conference which was held at the University of Nicosia. Ava Atiyah, Natalia Eleftheriou, Mohand Alghol, David Bitton, Jack Gu, Chris Kyriakides and Nicolas Pernaros represented America and South Africa in all 4 General Assemblies. Over the past few months, the delegates have been researching their respective countries, preparing their resolutions which dealt with issues such as the weaponization of artificial intelligence, combatting plastic pollution in the ocean, violence against LGBTQ+ communities and establishing a legal framework for the reproductive rights of women. The quality of debate within the General Assemblies was high and our students were prepared and ready to debate and defend their resolutions. Our congratulations to the Senior School delegates for their great presence and contribution to this prestigious and well-attended conference. And much appreciation to their teacher, Ms O'Riordan for her support of our students.



Our delegation of debaters at the MUN Nicosia

MUN Conference - Thessaloniki

Iliana Skordi (Year 10), Emily Kyriakides (Year 11), and Stephanos Artemis (Year 9), recently attended the ACMUN Conference in Thessaloniki. The students took part in lively debates and discussions with students from all over the world, showcasing their exceptional public speaking skills and knowledge on global issues. The conference culminated in the production of a final resolution, which included one of the clauses proposed by these talented students. Moreover, Iliana Skordi received an Honourable Mention Award for her outstanding performance! In addition to the aforementioned students, Andriana Dombo (Year 12) held the position of chair in one of the GAs of the ACMUN Conference. As a chair, Andriana played a crucial role in facilitating discussions and debates, ensuring that the conference ran smoothly. Her dedication and leadership skills were greatly appreciated by the conference organizers and participants. We are so proud of these students and their achievements at the conference. Their hard work and dedication to learning about global issues has truly paid off. We are also very grateful to their teacher Mr Nicholas Shixiate for his guidance.



Stephanos takes the floor



Iliana speaking at the podium



Emily argues her point at the dais



Andriana chairs and facilitates debate

Tsiknopemhti 2023

Tsiknopemhti was celebrated in traditional fashion with music, dance, games and food! Many thanks to the SSPGA for their input in preparing the souvlaki orders and to all staff who made significant contributions to the success of the day. A special thank you goes out to Mr Paphitis and Harry Ioannou from Year 12 for helping with the sound equipment (and, Mr Paphitis, for that amazing drone video – see below!), Mr Mohammed Awwad for his impressive performance as ‘emcee’, PE, Humanities and grounds staff as well as ancillary staff for assisting with the Year 13’s own BBQ event. In particular, I would also like to convey the school’s gratitude to Ms Maria Zapitis for her hard work in the organisation and promotion of the entire event, supported ably by the Greek Department!



The boys are back in town



Girls just wanna have fun



School days...



Student leaders rock!



It's all about the food...

Drone video of the day: [Tsiknopempti 2023 Senior Sch.mp4](#)

'Almost Alice' is almost here!

Rehearsals are well under way for this year's Senior School musical **'Almost Alice'**, which will take place at **Satiriko Theatre on 7-8th April**. The original musical is based on 'Alice in Wonderland' by Lewis Carroll, and on the devised production 'Alice, or something like it' produced by Senior School students in 2015.



Rehearsals in full swing!

Our 2023 cast (more than twice the size of the original cast!) will, we are certain, deliver a night to remember! Save the dates - You will be informed as soon as tickets are available!



Save the dates in your diary!

Year 8 public speakers shine!

Year 8 students, following their response to an extended writing task, prepared and delivered speeches with an accompanying PowerPoint, which was presented to their peers and their teachers.



Students drew on diverse religious and non-religious worldviews, demonstrating outstanding 21st century learning design skills in the submitted work. Well done to all who demonstrated excellent ability in public speaking and presentation – Valuable life skills! Many thanks to Ms Kakkoufa for her guidance and support.

Other news

Following on from a report last month on some of our successes, we would like to convey our congratulations to Ayla Sayegh in Year 13 who has received an offer to study a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Musical Theatre at Marymount Manhattan College in New York City. Ayla has also been offered a scholarship to study at this highly renowned university which has produced an array of television and Broadway stars. We wish Ayla every success for her future!

We are very excited to announce that on **Saturday, 18 March, 2023** the Senior School will be hosting the *inaugural History Bee and Bowl of Cyprus*. The event will take place under the umbrella of International Academic Competitions, the world's largest academic competition organizer: <https://www.ihbbeurope.com/regional-bowl-sites/>. Students who finish in the top 50% in each event (History Bee, History Bowl) qualify for the 2023 IAC European Championships on 10-12 June in Barcelona.

Great news about one of our Year 8s. Pavlos Eriksson has been selected to be a part of the Youth Advisory Team for the Children's Rights Commissioner. This will involve his participation in meetings throughout the year along with students from other schools. Well done, Pavlos!

We would like to wish all our Year 12s and Year 13s the very best for their Mock examinations which will begin immediately following half term. Please note that the school will also have optional revision/past paper practice in the two weeks after Easter for Year13s since their exams will begin a little later. The Mocks and revision/exam practice classes will be essential in terms of thorough review and skills preparation for their actual AS/A2/A Levels in May and June.

Please note that proper school uniform is required at all times. We have this month permitted students to wear the new *PE sweatpants* during the school day since the weather has been rather chilly for them and they seem to be popular. However, after half term, we expect students to be properly dressed in school trousers, school shirt/pullover/sweatshirt/hoodie and black shoes. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this regard. We do not wish to be put in the position of having to send anyone home to change.

Yiannis Georgiou

Senior School Headteacher