Dear Parents,

I begin by thanking you and your children for your generosity in supporting the Make a Wish fundraiser yesterday. Organised by profª Monica Oliveira, the blue-themed non-uniform day was very successful and the school community raised 660 Euros; the proceeds will go to the Make a wish foundation in Portugal. Our children gain by giving and this is an area we wish to develop further throughout the school so that a culture of service, participation and concern are explicit at OBS and we are seen as a caring school.

Of course it is sometimes easier to show concern for those a distance from us and I want to ensure that this caring approach is both internal and external. In my discussions with parents many point to the importance of providing a safe, caring, inclusive and supportive environment. I see these as fundamental to ensuring that pupils listen to each other, work in teams, become critical friends and gain confidence to present their points of view. I am working with the leadership team to present a range of measures to further realise these goals in the coming academic year.

We wish to focus on the following:

- Working on clear targets with all pupils that are clearly communicated to parents and pupils;
- Developing the tutor system so that there is greater and more regular interaction with parents;
- Developing creativity opportunities for all pupils both in and outside the classroom;
- Focusing on academic excellence for all pupils and celebrating success;
- Promoting the IB Diploma Programme as the flagship of the school, ensuring that all stages of the school are being prepared for the challenges and opportunities that this brings;
- Providing a range of opportunities for the school community to celebrate together
- Ensuring that literacy skills in English are developed at every opportunity
- Focusing on our pupils to provide as positive an experience as possible for our children.

These are all laudable aspirations and my job is to ensure they become operational goals. Today (Thursday 30th April) our teachers have the opportunity to reflect on many of the above points as they spend a day focusing on the Council of International Schools Pre-Visit Report (October 2014) in preparation for the full visit in March 2016. This process gives parents an external validation of the school’s performance while providing us with a very detailed and structured school improvement programme. Throughout today various committees will meet to feedback on a range of areas of the school with a particular focus on Teaching & Learning. In addition, our Early Years staff have a workshop on inspirational dance thus addressing one small aspect of our creativity focus.

Wishing you all a very restful May weekend and my best wishes to all our students who begin external examinations next week.

Tom McGrath, Headmaster
WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

BLUE DAY - MAKE A WISH

On Wednesday 29th April the whole school dressed in blue to raise funds for Make-A-Wish Day. The mission of Make-A-Wish is to grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. They are dedicated to making every eligible child’s wish come true. After the start of Make-A-Wish in the United States, interest in granting the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions quickly spread to other nations. In 1993, Make-A-Wish International was officially formed to serve the five countries outside the U.S. and now helps to serve children outside the United States in nearly 50 countries on 5 continents.

With the help of generous donors and over 32,000 volunteers, Make-A-Wish has collectively granted approximately more than 334,000 wishes worldwide since 1980.

Every 22 minutes, a life-changing wish is granted to a seriously ill child somewhere in the world. The school raised €660 for this charity - many thanks to everyone who contributed.

“Obrigada a todos que ajudaram a tornar o “Make a Wish Day” um dia muito feliz e produtivo. Conseguimos angariar cerca de €660, que ajudarão a realizar um desejo de uma criança. Obrigada a todos que contribuíram para esta causa tão nobre e um especial agradecimento à turma 4P por ter angariado cerca de €83”

Event Organiser - Profº Monica Oliveira

www.makeawish.pt

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION REMINDER

Children, staff and parents are invited to enter our whole school photography competition. The title and theme is ‘This is the beautiful place that I live in........” “ To see current entries you can visit http://obsphotographycompetition.weebly.com/staff-photos.html To ensure everyone has the opportunity to submit photographs we have decided to extend the closing date to Friday, 22nd May. This is a Senior School event as well as a Primary School event.

James Harrison, Primary Art coordinator
PRIMARY NOTICES

HEAD OF PRIMARY COMMENDATION AWARDS

Commendation awarded to Duarte who has continued to produce excellent class work and has been striving towards improving his homework objectives

Commendation awarded to Rafael for excellent progress with his written work. He has closely followed and achieved his handwriting targets.

UNESCO WORLD AND COPYRIGHT BOOK DAY 2015

The Primary Section celebrated UNESCO World Book and Copyright Day on Friday 24th April. Children enjoyed having a special guest come and read to them. Classes were matched with a reading partner from another year group. Pupils were also invited to take part in two competitions. Firstly a writing competition where they had to produce a diary entry or letter from the perspective of a book character and secondly an artistic competition where they had to redesign a book cover. The winners, who will receive their special book prize in assembly on Monday are:

- **(Writing Competition)** Aniela McGrath 5B, Matilde Liz 5L, Filipa Pipiras 4F
- **(Book Cover Competition)** Molly Costello 1L, Nicole Carpenter 4F, Alejandra Otero Bozzano 3C

Thank you to everyone who entered either competition and thanks to all the staff who volunteered to be special guest readers and help promote books and reading in the Primary Section.

Jonathan Bridges, Primary English Coordinator

PRIMARY DATES FOR THE DIARY

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>Prep Trip to Casa da Musica</td>
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<td>05th May</td>
<td>Form 2 Trip to Porto</td>
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<td>F4 Portuguese Examinations - 2:00pm</td>
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<tr>
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<td>KS2 Examinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>29th May</td>
<td>F2 Portuguese Examinations</td>
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EXTERNAL IBDP AND IGCSE EXAMINATIONS

External IBDP and IGCSE examinations will start on Monday, 04th May. We are delighted with the effort our students have put into preparing for these examinations and wish them a calm start to the exam season. We would remind them of the importance of rest and sleep during the examination period and also remind them that their teachers are available during the exam season to answer any last minute queries they may have. Lastly, we ask that everyone be at the Sports Hall at least 15 minutes before the examination start time, in full uniform for Form 10 and in appropriate attire for IB students (no facial hair, trainers or jeans please).

We look forward to sharing their results with them on Sunday, 5th July (IBDP) and Tuesday, 11th August (IGCSE).

Internal examinations will run from May 25th until 2nd June inclusive. We are currently finalising the timetable for Forms 6-8, 9 and 11 and will send this to you early next week.

THE IB: A QUALIFICATION THAT DEFIES BOUNDARIES

The International Baccalaureate gives pupils a global outlook, according to teachers

In an increasingly globalised world, where national boundaries are becoming less and less relevant, an international education appears an ever more enticing prospect. And for its devotees, there is no qualification more appropriate to the modern age than the International Baccalaureate.

“It is an international approach to a globalised world,” says Katy Ricks, head of Sevenoaks School in Kent. “I think that is absolutely vital for the future.” Sevenoaks has offered the IB diploma for more than 30 years, at first alongside A-levels before focusing just on the IB from 2006.

And the breadth of its outlook is a key part of its appeal. “Students learn to look at things not just from a British perspective. The IB has an international element built into the curriculum,” says Dr Ricks. “They are thinking about other languages and other countries’ histories. They’re thinking about literature in translation and studying economics and geography from other vantage points. It fosters a genuine global understanding.”

While A-level students typically take three or four subjects and are free to focus on either the humanities or the sciences, the IB diploma requires a mix of disciplines. Students must take at least one science, maths, a language, their native literature and a humanities subject, in addition to the IB’s core elements (see below). This aims to ensure students do not become too narrowly focused, says Dr Ricks.

Read more at http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/expateducation/11506012/The-IB-a-qualification-that-defies-boundaries.html
IB WORLD STUDENT CONFERENCE

Form 10 and 11 pupils and parents have received a letter from me this week inviting them to take a look at the IB World Student conference which is scheduled to take place in Barcelona this year from July 5-11.

As the conference is being held so close to Porto, OBS would like to take advantage of this unique opportunity by offering the opportunity for a pupil to attend the conference. The OBS PTA will sponsor the cost of the registration fee for the conference as well as return flights.

More information about the conference can be found here: [http://grados.salleurl.edu/ibwsc/](http://grados.salleurl.edu/ibwsc/).

Students who go to Barcelona will hear from inspiring speakers, participate in excursions and – most importantly – collaborate to discuss ‘technology in a global society’, the theme for the conference.

If you are in Form 10 or 11 and are interested in attending this conference please let Miss Macleod know as soon as possible.

THE BIG HAND   [www.thebighand.org](http://www.thebighand.org)

Please see the following link for the latest news on the Big Hand project in Mozambique:
VIDA NORTE  www.vidanorte.org

For the month of May the school will be collecting the following baby items (FORMULA MILK (STEPS 1 AND 2) NAPPIES (SIZES 1, 4 and 5), NAPPY CREAM, BABY CREAM, BODY LOTION, BATH GEL, SHAMPOO, TOOTHPASTE, SALINE SOLUTION, COTTON BUDS AND BREASTFEEDING PADS) to donate to Vida Norte. Mª do Rosário Carneiro da Frada (Form 11) will be organising this as part of her long term CAS project. Please leave any items with Vera in the front office.

Caros Pais do Oporto British School

A Vida Norte é uma Associação Particular, sem fins lucrativos, constituída juridicamente em Abril de 1999 e com sua sede no Porto. Os objectivos da Vida Norte consistem na promoção dos Direitos Humanos, trabalhando na Defesa da Vida Humana desde a concepção até à morte natural, no apoio à Grávida e às Famílias em risco de exclusão social e na promoção da Igualdade entre homens e mulheres.

Desde a sua origem que a Associação procura actuar de forma abrangente e integrada e, para que isso seja possível, conta com uma equipa multidisciplinar e com um corpo de voluntários de diversas áreas.

Ao longo do ano de 2014 foram apoiados pela Vida Norte 145 agregados familiares, representando cerca de 500 pessoas apoiadas. É essencial destacar que o apoio material é uma componente crucial para o sucesso das intervenções implementadas, tendo em conta a situação de carência financeira em que nos chegam as mães.

A Vida Norte está neste momento com falta de produtos de alimentação e de higiene para os bebés e famílias acompanhadas, nomeadamente LEITES ADAPTADOS (ETAPAS 1 E 2), fraldas (tamanhos 1, 4 e 5), creme muda de fraldas, creme de corpo, gel de banho e champô, pasta de dentes, soro fisiológico, cotonetes e discos de amamentação.

Neste sentido, vimos pedir aos pais e mães que têm os seus filhos no Oporto British School que colaborem na nossa campanha de angariação de produtos de higiene e leites adaptados no que lhes for possível e considerarem mais adequado. Estes produtos podem ser deixados entre os dias 1 e 31 de Maio.

Desde já, agradecemos a vossa atenção.

Pl’ A Equipa da Vida Norte

FORM 7 THEATRE TRIP

On the 7th May pupils will be furthering their cultural and linguistic knowledge in Portuguese. Details can be found at http://www.obs.edu.pt/en/essentials/recent-trip-letters/

END OF YEAR EXAMS (WEEK BEGINNING 25TH MAY)

All pupils will receive an exam timetable within the next two weeks. They will also receive revision lists for Maths, English, Science and Portuguese. A reminder that for Forms 6 - 8 only English, Maths, Science and Portuguese examinations will be held in the Sports Hall. All other examinations will be held during normal lesson time therefore it is essential that students attend school as normal over the exam period. Form 9 and 11 will sit all of their examinations in the Sports Hall and should be onsite all day during the examinations as they should be revising in school when they do not have an exam.
SECONDARY DATES FOR THE DIARY

04th May  
External IGCSE and IBDP Examinations start

06th May  
F9 and F11 Parents Evening

07th May  
Form 7 Trip to Theatre

25th May - 02nd June  
Internal Examinations