

FRIDAY | JANUARY 31, 2025

THE BEACON ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear Beacon Academy Community,

This month, The Beacon Academy comes together to honor our past, celebrate language and literature, and strengthen our bonds through friendly competition. These moments remind us that history shapes our present, stories connect us across cultures, and teamwork helps us grow as a community. In each of these celebrations, food plays a quiet but powerful role—not just in nourishing us, but in bringing people together, preserving traditions, and deepening our shared experiences.

As we commemorate Biñan Day, marking the liberation of our city from Japanese occupation, we reflect on the resilience, courage, and sacrifices of those who fought for our freedom. This day is more than a remembrance; it is a call to carry forward the lessons of the past and uphold the values of unity and perseverance that define our community. A lasting symbol of our heritage is Puto Biñan, a delicacy that has been lovingly crafted and passed down through generations. More than just a beloved treat, it tells the story of patience, craftsmanship, and the spirit of a people who have endured and thrived. Like history, food connects us to our roots, reminding us that traditions endure because they are shared, honored, and carried forward. Stories, much like food, bring people together. World Languages Week celebrates this connection through a cherished tradition—literary-themed picnic baskets, each inspired by a particular book or text. These carefully curated meals bring literature to life in a tangible way, engaging not just our minds but our senses.

This year, students will explore a diverse collection of baskets that reflect the worlds of literature and language. Whether it's the rustic breads and cheeses of The Hunger Games' District 12, the socially discriminatory hot cocoa from Noli Me Tangere, a basket of cookies to celebrate C is for Cookies from Sesame Street, or the rich flavors of Middle-earth from The Lord of the Rings, each meal tells its own story. Through this tradition, we recognize that language is more than words on a page—it is a gateway to understanding cultures, histories, and perspectives different from our own.

Competition also brings people together, and few things symbolize that spirit better than pizza. Whether celebrating a hard-earned victory or regrouping after a tough match, pizza is a food meant for sharing—just as teamwork is about supporting one another. Our Griffin Games highlight the values of sportsmanship, discipline, and collaboration. Each player contributes something unique, much like how each ingredient in a pizza blends to create something greater than the sum of its parts. The true victory is not just measured by the scoreboard but in the effort, strategy, and camaraderie built along the way. And of course, after all the hard work, nothing beats coming together over a shared meal, celebrating both the challenges and triumphs of competition.

Whether we are honoring our city's history, exploring language and literature, or competing in sports, each of these moments reminds us of the connections that shape our experiences. Through food, we see how traditions endure, how stories bring us together, and how teamwork strengthens our bonds. As we reflect on our past with Puto Biñan, engage with literature through our diverse literary-themed picnic baskets, and share pizza in the spirit of competition, let's take the time to appreciate the moments that bring us closer as a community. Thank you for being part of this journey. Let's make every moment—and every meal—count.

Warm regards,

Vic Villanueva
Deputy Head of School
The Beacon Academy

WHAT'S IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

Letter to the Community:
Deputy Head of School

Important Dates

**BA Online Information
Session**

My Griffin Journey

**The CRIBS Connection
Project**

**World Languages &
Literature Week**

**Communications
Protocols**

**BA Calendar AY 2024-
2025**

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, February 3	Biñan Day (No Classes)
Tuesday, February 4	Griffin Games
February 5-7	ISA (Grade 9 & 10)
Monday, February 10	Faculty Professional Development (No Classes)
Friday, February 14	College Visit University of Sydney
Saturday, February 15	Online Information Session for Grades 11 & 12

PLEASE SHARE: BEACON ACADEMY INFORMATION SESSION

As part of our recruitment efforts, the Beacon Academy is inviting all interested parents and students to join an online information session hosted by our Head of School, Mark Vincent Escaler, along with students, alumni, parents, and teachers from the Beacon Academy community.

This session will provide valuable insights into our International Baccalaureate® Diploma Programme (Grades 11-12), our vibrant school life, college framework, and scholarship opportunities.

Interested families can register here to receive the Zoom link:

<https://forms.gle/mcoUa45JWap6G66w6>



THE BEACON ACADEMY
VIRTUS ET ARS

ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION

FEBRUARY 15
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
VIA ZOOM

for families interested in
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL (Grades 11-12)
at Beacon Academy

www.beaconacademy.ph

REGISTER HERE



MY GRIFFIN JOURNEY

On January 27 and 28, the Counseling Resource Center facilitated another round of activities for the My Griffin Journey program. The program aims to support new students by checking in on their transition and imparting strategies to help them succeed through the second semester. The activity began with a game called “Bring Me,” where students were asked to share some of their ‘firsts’ and memorable moments from the previous semester. Afterward, the students were divided into four groups, giving them the opportunity to reflect on and share their experiences from the first semester, focusing on both highlights and challenges. They also discussed the activities they were looking forward to in the second semester.



Here is some feedback from new students regarding the My Griffin Journey midyear check-in:

The "Griffin Journey" activity was fun and meaningful. It allowed us to share personal stories, challenges, and what we're excited about for the new semester. The “Bring Me” game was a highlight, energizing everyone, and the prizes were a nice touch. In the second activity, we formed small groups to discuss what we're looking forward to in the new semester, the challenges we've faced, and our favorite memories from the first semester. Many of us shared similar struggles with time management and procrastination, and we're all excited to make more memories with the BA community. Overall, it was a great experience that helped us connect and understand each other better.

– **Carolina F., Grade 7**

It was fun! I liked the activities, especially the “Bring Me” game, and I enjoyed the prizes. I also liked the sharing part and the entire activity!

– **Zach C., Grade 7**

The My Griffin Journey activity helped me reflect on how I've changed this school year, how I made new memories, and how I made new friends.

– **Nach D., Grade 8**

During the group sharing activity, it was refreshing to discover that we shared similar highlights and struggles from the first semester. We were able to learn from each other about how we cope with these struggles.

– **Saidee B., Grade 8**



MY GRIFFIN JOURNEY (continued)

I enjoyed the My Griffin Journey activity. It was a chance to share my experiences as a new student, and it made me reflect on the times when I was trying to get comfortable with my classmates, like the senior-freshman party, which helped us get to know each other better.

– **Javi G., Grade 9**

My Griffin Journey was a good activity! The sharing part gave me time to reflect on how I overcame challenges, and it felt fulfilling to see how much I've grown. Listening to other people was also helpful and insightful. I was new to the community, but it gave me the chance to feel welcome.

– **Maxie Y., Grade 10**

My Griffin Journey has helped me break out of my shell and meet others who had the same experience as me. It allowed me to adjust to the Beacon community.

– **Ysabel DG, Grade 11**



THE CRIBS CONNECTION PROJECT

As part of their IB CAS project, BA students Samantha R., Madi B., Chiyo V., Niko T., and Nina N. are rallying the BA community to donate to the CRIBS Foundation. The funds will support various sectors where the orphanage has requested financial assistance, with the specific areas to be determined based on the total amount raised.

The group chose CRIBS because one of their members had previously worked with the organization and witnessed firsthand the impact of their work. The mission of CRIBS, which provides care for abandoned children and offers recovery programs for those who have experienced abuse, resonated deeply with them. Initially aiming for ₱20,000–₱30,000, the students are thrilled to have surpassed this goal and are now striving for ₱40,000–₱50,000. Donations will be accepted until February 7, 2024. Please refer to the posters for more details.



THE CRIBS CONNECTION PROJECT

WHO ARE WE?

A STUDENT-LED INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT AND BRING JOY TO THE CHILDREN OF CRIBS FOUNDATION, A NON-PROFIT THAT CARES FOR ABANDONED, NEGLECTED, OR SURRENDERED BABIES AND YOUNG SURVIVORS OF ABUSE.

THE GOAL OF THIS DONATION DRIVE IS TO RAISE FUNDS TO HELP THE CRIBS FOUNDATION ORPHANAGE MEET THE NEEDS OF THE CHILDREN IN THEIR CARE.

ALL DONATIONS WILL GO TOWARDS THE ORPHANAGE'S PROGRAMS AND SUPPLIES.



THE CRIBS CONNECTION PROJECT

DONATE NOW!



After making your donation, kindly send your receipts via Viber to 09165871322 (MADI BERTOTTO)

WORLD LANGUAGES & LITERATURE WEEK AT BA

From January 27-31, Beacon Academy celebrated World Language and Literature Week with a series of exciting activities that showcased the beauty of language, literature, and culture.

Grades 7-9 kicked off the festivities with a Spelling Bee, where Grade 8's Seve S. took home the champion title. Meanwhile, Grades 10-12 put their teamwork to the test in a fun-filled race to solve riddles, write haikus, and learn songs and dances representing different cultures.

The week also featured inspiring book talks by three Filipino authors: Joel Donato Ching Jacob, Robin Sebolino, and Artie Cabezas.

For the grand finale, the Picnic Basket Auction and Community Picnic brought everyone together. The Beacon community generously bid on baskets of treats to raise funds for the Community Outreach Student Association, collecting 40K for outreach projects. The auction was followed by a lively community picnic with food, music, and performances by our talented students and faculty, showcasing the school's new busking equipment.

As an IB school, Beacon Academy is committed to fostering international-mindedness while staying rooted in the Philippine context. Through events like World Languages and Literature Week, we continue to offer meaningful and enjoyable experiences to our growing community of learners.



**WORLD LANGUAGES
AND LITERATURE WEEK
2025**
JAN 27 - 31

HOUSE GAMES

MYP SPELLING BEE
Jan. 27

DP PASSPORT
Jan. 30

JAN. 31

COSTUME DAY
book- or movie-inspired

**PICNIC BASKET AUCTION
& COMMUNITY PICNIC**



**BOOK TALK SERIES
MEET THE AUTHORS**



ROBIN SEBOLINO

Author and educator with published works inspired by Southeast Asian mythology. Writer of the historical novels *Vassals of the Valley* and the upcoming *Bells & Incense*.



JOEL DONATO CHING JACOB

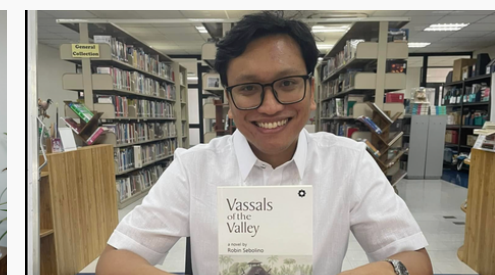
Author of *Wing of the Locust* (winner of the 2018 Scholastic Asian Book Award Book Award, the 2021 Madrigal Gonzales Best First Book Award, and the 2021 Ani ng Dangal for Literature) and *Orphan Price*.



ARTHUR RIEL CABEZAS

Illustrator and writer. His work, *Too Loud!*, was nominated for the 2025 IBBY Outstanding Books For Young People With Disabilities and graphic novel, *Those Which Descend*, was selected at the 2025 Philippine International Comics Festival.

LANGUAGES & LITERATURE WEEK AT BA (continued)



Beacon Academy Communications Protocols AY 2024-2025

Matters relating to....	Department / Email
Students Academic, School Life, Learning Support	Faculty Advisers / Homeroom Teachers
IB Diploma Programme Senior High School (G 11-12)	Iris Morga / DP Coordinator dpcoordinator@beaconacademy.ph
IB Middle Years Programme Junior High School (G 7-10)	Roy Villegas / MYP Coordinator mypcoordinator@beaconacademy.ph
College & Career Counseling	Maricar Pascual / C&C Counselor maricar.pascual@beaconacademy.ph Chinny Inumerable / C&C Counselor chinny.inumerable@beaconacademy.ph
Mental Health & Well-Being	Din Mendoza / JHS Counselor din.mendoza@beaconacademy.ph Vian Erasmo / SHS Counselor vian.erasmo@beaconacademy.ph
Curriculum, Exams, & Faculty	Ceci Francisco / Dean of Faculty dof@beaconacademy.ph
Student Conduct, Support, & Activities	Lui Morano / Dean of Students dos@beaconacademy.ph
Health, Safety, & Bus Services	Luvim Encinares / Student Services Asst. studentservices@beaconacademy.ph
School Records	Marnell Lagan / School Registrar registrar@beaconacademy.ph
Finance	Lorna Sabino / Finance Manager finance@beaconacademy.ph
School Leadership & Policy Child Protection Committee Committee on Decorum and Investigation	Mark Escaler / Head of School mark.escaler@beaconacademy.ph Victor Villanueva / Deputy Head of School victor.villanueva@beaconacademy.ph



THE BEACON ACADEMY ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2024-2025

Semester 1 JULY 2024							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31			
Total No. of Days: 0							

AUGUST 2024							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	3
1	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
3	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
4	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Total No. of Days: 19							

SEPTEMBER 2024							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9	29	30					
Total No. of days: 21							

OCTOBER 2024							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							1
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
3	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
4	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
5	30	31					
Total No. of Days: 17							

NOVEMBER 2024							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							1
4	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
6	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
7	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8	30						
Total No. of days: 20							

DECEMBER 2024							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30	31				
Total No. of days: 12							

Semester 2 JANUARY 2025							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1							
2							
3							
4							
Total No. of Days: 19							

FEBRUARY 2025							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
5							
6							
7							
8							
Total No. of days: 18							

MARCH 2025							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
9							
10							
1							
2							
3							
Total No. of days: 18							

APRIL 2025							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
4							
5							
6							
7							
Total No. of days: 17							

MAY 2025							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
8							
9							
10							
11							
Total No. of days: 21							

JUNE 2025							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
12							
Total No. of days: 5							

IMPORTANT DATES

Jun 10 - Jul 5

Jul 1

Jul 4

Jul 8 - Aug 1

Aug 2

Aug 2

Aug 5-9

Aug 13-14

Aug TBA

Aug 21

Aug 26

Sep 11

Sep 30 - Oct 4

Oct 7-11

Oct 14

Oct 15

Oct 21-26

Nov 1

Nov 2

Nov 20

Nov 30

Dec 8

Dec 9 - Dec 13

Dec 18 - Jan 3

Jan 6

Jan 20-25

Jan 29

Jan TBA

Feb 3

Feb 10

Mar 10 - 12

March 13 - 14

March 17

Mar 24 - Apr 4

Mar 31

Apr 7

Apr 9

Apr 16 - 20

Apr 21 - 25

Apr 28 - May 21

May 1

May 12

May 19 - 23

Jun 6

Campus Break

In-Service for All New Faculty

BA Leadership & Management Returns

All Faculty In-Service

Start of Quarter 1

Parent and New Student Orientation

Classes Begin for All Students; Foundation Days

National Career Assessment Examination (NCAE) for Grade 10

National Achievement Test (Grade 11)

Special Non-Working Day: Ninoy Aquino Day

Regular Holiday: National Heroes Day

Early Release: Faculty Professional Development

MYP Exam Week

No Classes: Quarter Recess

No Classes: Faculty Professional Development

Start of Quarter 2

Parent-Teacher Conferences (Online)

Special Non-Working Day: All Saints' Day

Special Non-Working Day: All Souls' Day

Early Release: Faculty Professional Development

No Classes: Bonifacio Day

Special Non-Working Day: Feast of the Immaculate Conception

MYP/DP mid-year exam week

No Classes: Christmas/New Year Break

Start of Quarter 3

Parent-Teacher Conferences (Online)

No Classes: Chinese New Year

National Achievement Test (Grade 12)

No Classes: Binan Day

No Classes: Faculty Professional Development

MYP Exams

Quarter Recess

Start of Quarter 4

Grade 12 Mock Exams

Eid al-Fitr (TBC)

No Classes: Faculty Professional Development

Regular Holiday: Araw ng Kagitingan

No Classes: Easter Break

Grade 12 BA Pathway Exam Week

IB Diploma Examinations 2025

Regular Holiday: Labor Day

Philippine Elections 2025

MYP/DP Year-End Exam Week

Graduation Day; Last Day of School

Number of Class Days in the 1st Quarter:

44

9 weeks

Number of Class Days in the 2nd Quarter:

45

9 weeks

Number of Class Days in the 3rd Quarter:

45

10 weeks

Number of Class Days in the 4th Quarter:

53

12 weeks

Total Number of Class Days:

187

Updated 23 July 2024