

FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 29, 2024

THE BEACON ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear Beacon Academy Community,

As we approach the end of the calendar year, I want to take a moment to celebrate our collective achievements, prepare ourselves for the last major hurdle of the semester, and look forward to the festive season ahead.

The second quarter has not been without its challenges. The storms and fog presented a series of frustrating disruptions that affected our everyday rhythm. However, the resilience of our community was a wonder to witness.

We continued with our academic and school life. Everyone pressed on to finish pending requirements, complete academic papers, prepare for their classes — all while carrying on with club activities, preparing for Math and Science Week, and participating in numerous athletic competitions. Our athletes competed in basketball, badminton, tennis, and chess matches, gaining experience and earning victories. Through it all, we also found the time to have meaningful discussions about the impact of a calamity and ways to respond to those affected by the storms.

The first-ever class nights for grades 7 and 8 took place. We've never had such young students stay overnight on campus, but these nights allowed teachers and students the opportunity to better understand and appreciate each other. The support of our parent community for these class nights was deeply felt and appreciated.

The next two weeks are the final hurdle for the year. Next week, the club moratorium begins. From December 2-5, students will be assigned make-up or review classes that will run from 2:45-3:25 p.m. These classes are designed to give students time to finish academic requirements and support their revision process. We hope our students will maximize the time given to them to complete all requirements and prepare for the midyear examinations, which will begin on December 9 for all DP students and December 11 for all MYP students. Please note that the midyear exams are regular class days, and all school rules will apply.

After we all heave a collective sigh of relief when the exams end, we can look forward to December 16 — the last school day of the quarter. Class parties and the holiday program are scheduled for this day. Secret Santas will be revealed, treats will be shared, and talents will be showcased and celebrated. Please expect more details on this soon.

So, this is the final push for everyone. Students, know that your BA community is here to support you through this last academic stretch. Eat well, sleep well, and take the time to breathe as you prepare for your exams.

Go, Griffins! We believe in all of you!

Warm regards,

Ceci Francisco
Dean of Faculty
The Beacon Academy

WHAT'S IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

Letter to the Community:
Dean of Faculty

Important Dates

BA Athletics Updates

Woodrose Librarians Visit
BA

Work in Progress Fair

Beacon School Grade 8
Visit

Grade 8 Class Night

Core Camp

Communications
Protocols

BA Calendar AY 2024-
2025

IMPORTANT DATES

December 2-16	Moratorium on After-School Activities
Monday, December 16	Christmas Showcase & Student Christmas Party
Tuesday, December 17	Start of Christmas Break for Students & BA Employees Christmas Party
December 18 - January 5	Christmas Break
Monday, January 6	Start of 3rd Quarter

REMINDER: MORATORIUM ON AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Please be reminded that from December 2 to 16, there will be a moratorium on after-school activities. Dismissal times will be as follows:

December 2-5

Buses will depart the BA campus at 3:30 p.m. Students may also be picked up at this time. This dismissal time is to accommodate catch-up sessions and revision classes.

Buses will depart at 3:00 p.m. on **December 6**.

December 9-16 (Midyear Exams)

Buses will depart the BA campus at 3:00 p.m. Students may also be picked up at this time.

ATHLETICS UPDATES

On November 16, Saturday, the Griffin Girls' Volleyball, Boys' Volleyball, Basketball, and Football teams participated in their first MISAA (Manila International School Athletics Association) games against CISM, DIS, and NAISM at Beacon School. All four teams came out victorious, with the volleyball teams both winning in two sets, the basketball team winning 43-34, and the football team winning 9-3. The Griffin Tennis team also played their first game in ISTA (Inter-School Tennis Association) at CSA, where they defeated CSA 4-1.

The following Saturday, November 23, the Tennis team faced Faith Academy and Poveda, continuing their winning streak with a 4-1 win over Faith and a 3-1 win over Poveda. The Basketball team had their second MISAA match against ISM-B at ISM, and the Chess team competed in their first tournament at Beacon School, where they secured two medals in the MISAA Chess Tournament, earning bronze in the 14U division and silver in the 19U division.

On November 24, Sunday, the Griffin Badminton Team participated in their first tournament, competing in the first leg of MISAA, where they played four matches. The teams' next matches will be held in January, along with other MISAA tournaments, so please continue to support them as they train hard until then. Go Griffins!



TEACHER LIBRARIANS FROM WOODROSE VISIT THE BEACON ACADEMY

On November 27, Thursday, teachers and librarians from Woodrose PAREF visited the Beacon Academy library for a collaborative exchange of ideas. The BA library team shared their best practices in library programming and research skills instruction, fostering a productive discussion. This enriching session highlighted the value of partnership and knowledge-sharing between educational institutions.



WORK IN PROGRESS FAIR | RECAP

On November 21, Thursday, the Academy held its MYP Work in Progress Fair, providing an opportunity for Grade 10 students in the Middle Years Programme (MYP) to showcase their ongoing projects and academic progress. The fair is designed to encourage students to present their work to peers, teachers, and the wider school community, while receiving valuable feedback. It is an important part of the MYP, fostering reflection, inquiry, and collaboration, as students demonstrate their growth in key areas such as research, critical thinking, and presentation skills. The event also emphasizes the importance of continuous improvement and encourages students to set goals for completing their projects in the final stages.



BEACON SCHOOL GRADE 8 VISIT | RECAP

On November 21, Thursday, as part of the One Beacon initiative, the Grade 8 class from Beacon School visited the Academy to learn more about the MYP continuum and experience life at BA. During their visit, students had the opportunity to sit in on BA classes, giving them a firsthand look at the academic environment and teaching approaches of the MYP. They also took part in a campus tour, exploring our facilities and gaining insight into the student experience at Beacon Academy. This visit allowed the Grade 8 students to better understand the progression from MYP to DP and to ask questions about their future academic journeys.



Here's what some of the Beacon School students had to say about their visit:

"I think Beacon Academy has a really nice campus with a tight-knit community. Everyone seems so friendly and knows each other. It also seems very free, allowing students to roam around." – **Felice**

"I liked the campus, and the community was really nice!" – **Hana**

"This day at BA was really fun. The people here are kind and friendly, and we had a great experience. Also, I thought the campus was big and nice." – **Kotaro**

"I enjoyed the campus. It was so pretty and full of students. The students assigned to show us around were very warm and welcoming. I loved everything about today, and I'm eager to come here next year." – **Alexa**

"It was really fun, and I feel like it made me more interested in BA. I feel, in a good way, different about BA now that I've been able to get a new perspective on the campus, community, workload, and other things." – **Erin**

"This day on the BA campus was really interesting because of the many new facilities we were introduced to." – **Cyan**

"A welcoming community and a green campus. I had a super fun day seeing my friends in Grade 9." – **Lexi**

"It was very fun, and I really liked the environment." – **Maia**

"It was a fun day, and the campus was really nice!" – **Elle**

"The BA campus is big, and the community is very welcoming." – **Amalia**

GRADE 8 CLASS NIGHT

On Friday, November 22, Beacon Academy's Grade 8 students enjoyed their first-ever Class Night at the BA campus, a cherished tradition designed to build stronger bonds within the class. The afternoon had them take a plunge in the pool while the evening was filled with team-building activities, including cooking, roasting marshmallows over a bonfire, playing games, and sharing stories.

The following morning, a special breakfast allowed students to continue their conversations, and parents were invited to join in, strengthening the sense of community. The Grade 8 Class Night was a memorable and successful event that deepened friendships and helped students feel even more connected to their peers and advisers.



CORE CAMP | RECAP

This Core Camp is a two-day activity designed to support student success in the Diploma Programme's Core Courses: CAS, EE, and TOK. During the event, students were given dedicated time for each core component, with the aim of striking a balance between structure and student agency. On October 18, the Grade 11 students hosted CAS Day with 60 pupils from Inchican Elementary School. It was a day filled with creative work, active sports activities, and plenty of fun and laughter shared among the participants.



Here's what our Grade 11 students had to say about it:

"Core Camp was an amazing opportunity to interact with students from Inchican Elementary School. We had so much fun doing dances, games, arts, and sports with all of the children while getting to know them better." – **Bianca**

"My overall experience of Core Camp was filled with chaotic and happy memories. I was able to bond with the children and introduce them to new art/sport activities, which sparked their interest." – **Samantha**

"It was a tiring, but fulfilling and fun event that I and the others definitely enjoyed." – **Marcus**

"I really enjoyed the Core Camp experience because it was fun getting to interact with the children and learn new skills myself." – **Gabriel**

"My overall experience for Core Camp was enjoyable. Although it was tiring and difficult in some areas of the program, I am very glad that I was able to do this and play with the kids." – **Leah**

"The overall experience of the Core Camp is a memorable one." – **Lucas**

"My experience was very good. I was very excited and nervous at first, as I didn't know how the kids would react to the activities we prepared for them. But throughout the whole thing, it was really fun, and I had a good time teaching different activities to the kids. It was very fun to interact with the kids by teaching and exposing them to new activities." – **Daniella**

"Core Camp was something that I will always enjoy doing. The kids were very energetic and really showed how excited they were from the beginning. While I had a hard time sometimes speaking with them, they were very easy to handle. It was a very fun day of just activities and not having to worry about other schoolwork." – **Athena**

"Core Camp 2024 was a fun experience for me, where I was able to directly interact with kids through activities that I personally enjoyed. Although we did have a few hiccups in the planning process, it was all worth it in the end and will go down as one of my favorite BA activities." – **Patrick**

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