



THE BEACON ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DEPUTY HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear BA Community,

While change is both inevitable and to some degree, unpredictable, there are mechanisms that are set in place to prepare and assist us. These mechanisms and events happen in cycles. The predictable cycles of life in our community are here to constantly remind us that changes are upon us. It seems to be a contradiction but it is not.

As we end the first month of the second semester, we see major events beckoning in specific cohorts' horizons. The Seniors are poised for upcoming exams, of their TOK and Extended essays. The Juniors are finalizing college choices they will pursue next year and polishing their TOK presentations. As the Sophomores are readying to present their Personal Projects, the Freshmen are gearing up to take their first International Student Assessment.

These challenges and milestones are new for each student of every class so the occasional giddiness is understandable. But the Academy has successfully guided batches through the years. Many lessons from the past have been learned and a lot of these are held by teachers and staff. The knowledge is accessible to any and all students who will have the curiosity and the openness to ask.

I encourage all students to trust your teachers, librarians, counselors, and administrators. Trust that we do have the answers to some or even most of your questions, and if we don't, we likely would know someone who does and point you to the right person.

Trusting us will help you cope well with all these changes in the coming months. If we do this, we will do well with all these changes. And then, we will open Grades 7 and 8. But that is for a different issue of the Newsletter.

Sincerely,

Vic Villanueva
Deputy Head of School
The Beacon Academy

WHAT'S IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

General News:

A Message from Our Deputy Head of School

Important Dates in January & February

BA Online Info Session | January 27

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MYP Personal Project Highlight

Grade 9 Class Night | Recap

Math & Science Days | Recap

My Griffin Journey | Recap



THE BEACON ACADEMY

IMPORTANT DATES IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY

January 27, Saturday	BA Online Information Session
January 29, Monday	Faculty Professional Development (No Class)
January 30, Tuesday	College Visit SHL Schweizerische Hotelfachschule Luzern
January 30-31	Alternative Class Days
January 31-February 1	World Languages Days
February 1-2	Grade 10 Batch Night
February 2, Friday	Binan Day (No Classes)
February 6, Tuesday	College Visit NSLC
February 9, Friday	Chinese New Year (No Classes)

PLEASE SHARE: BA ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION | SATURDAY, JANUARY 27



BEACON ACADEMY

ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION

Learn more about the Academy's International Baccalaureate® (IB) curriculum, complete junior & senior high school program, active school life, pioneer batch discounts (for grades 7-8), and scholarship opportunities (for grades 9-12).

Scan this QR code to register and receive the Zoom link.

Saturday, January 27
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
via Zoom








The Beacon Academy would like to invite all interested parents and students to an online information session hosted by the Academy's Head of School, Mark Vincent Escaler, with the participation of parents, students, teachers, and alumni in BA's community.

This session will include information on the Academy's International Baccalaureate® curriculum, junior & senior high school program (grades 7-12), active school life, and scholarship opportunities.

This recruitment effort is targeted towards parents and students interested in enrolling their children in the Beacon Academy for the coming school years. Current parents are welcome to attend if interested. Please share this event with friends and family.

They can register here: <https://forms.gle/JiM7RxXbaHr1zaCo8>



THE BEACON ACADEMY

RECAP: THE IVY TUTORS ACADEMY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Ivy Tutors Academic Leadership Program held at the Beacon Academy's campus last January 19- 21 had a successful turnout with students from Beacon Academy, Beacon School and other schools around the Metro strengthening their leadership skills and taking part in immersive learning discussions and mentorship with Harvard student Eric Tang. Here are some pictures from this successful event.



MYP PERSONAL PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS | MANDY

MANDY

RAISING AWARENESS FOR SCHOLARS

GRADE 10 PERSONAL PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

I created a website dedicated to raising awareness for reputable scholarship foundations. This cause is close to my heart because of my family's long standing support for scholars through the Tapulanga Foundation. My passion for this advocacy was reinforced when I witnessed one scholar succeed in her education with my assistance. I feel strongly about the importance of helping to provide deserving students access to quality education.

Learn more about Mandy's Personal Project here: <https://www.beaconacademy.ph/news/personal-project-highlight-mandy-raising-awareness-for-scholars/>



THE BEACON ACADEMY

WORLD LANGUAGES PICNIC BASKET AUCTION REMINDERS



**World Languages
Picnic Basket Auction**

Contribute a basket of goodies that will be up for auction on February 1 at 12:00 p.m. and join us for the picnic!

Proceeds from the auction will go towards fundraising efforts for the BA Fair in February.

Guidelines:

- Each basket must contain food worth at least Php 500 that can be easily shared picnic-style.
- Pick a theme for your baskets, be it literature or culture, and feel free to interpret it as you wish through food and other non-edible treats.
- Please make sure that all food is safely prepared and nut-free

Please email Cel Coscolluela with your theme and contribution by **Tuesday, January 30** (cel.coscolluela@beaconacademy.ph)

Parents, please RSVP here if you will join us for the auction and picnic: <https://forms.gle/QDgGmjsKMLCZxAGm8>

BA.COSA: HELPING HANDS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



On Monday, January 22, the Academy's Community Outreach Student Association (COSA) held their first Helping Hands Birthday Celebration for this semester. This is our way to show gratitude and share with the Academy's auxiliary teams who do so much for our community.



THE BEACON ACADEMY

GRADE 9 CLASS NIGHT | RECAP

Our Grade 9 batch held the first class night of the school year last January 12-13 on our campus. Here are some photos from this fun day filled with swimming, a BBQ, crafts, games, and the traditional bonfire.





THE BEACON ACADEMY

MATH & SCIENCE DAYS | RECAP

On January 4-5, the Math & Science Department held their Math & Science Days which had our community doing a variety of challenges including the popular rocket challenge. Here are some photos from these eventful days on campus.



ALTERNATIVE CLASS DAYS REMINDERS

Alternative Class days are workshop sessions that engage students in focused experiential learning. The days are spent in an exploration of ideas that are not usually taught in the regular classroom setting. Workshops are led by current teachers, but some are facilitated by practitioners outside of school.

We have them to remind ourselves that not all learning happens in the classroom, or within the traditional construct of subjects, class discussions, or textbooks. Some of the best learning comes out of exploring someone else's passion and making it ours. Alternative class days are still school days, so all the BA handbook rules apply. The school will cover basic workshop costs. For some workshop activities, additional costs will be covered by the students for professional fees, transportation costs and other incidentals.

The Alternative Class days this year will run from January 30-31, Tuesday and Wednesday next week, and is comprised of on-site and off-site workshops that are meant to extend learning in the classroom, develop new skills, and allow students to make meaningful connections. All off-campus workshops are supervised by faculty, staff and a security officer.

This year's final ACD offerings are the following: Doodles and Stamps, Happy Potters, Paper Engineering, Quiapo-Chinatown Cultural Heritage Tour, Intramuros-Luneta Tour, Buhay Binanse, Sports and Adventure, and College Survival Cooking. There was much excitement during the registration to these workshops.

Note that all students on the Quiapo-Chinatown Cultural Heritage Tour and Intramuros-Luneta Tour will depart from PCPD at 7.15 am, and should be back by 4pm. Those on the Buhay Binanse Tour will depart from BA at 8.30 and should be back on campus before 4pm.

All students who are going off-campus, and/or have signed up for workshops with participation fees, need to submit the requisite permission slips to Ms. Francia Olayon either physically or via email at ibassoc@beaconacademy.ph, and forward payment to the Finance Office, or via bank transfer. If this has not been done yet, it is requested that this be completed by **3pm on Monday, 29 January**.

We thank you for your continued support and we look forward to sharing with you the output from these class days.



THE BEACON ACADEMY

SESSION 2 OF MY GRIFFIN JOURNEY | RECAP

Last January 9, as a continuation of the “My Griffin Journey”, Beacon Academy’s Counseling Resource Center had a quick catch-up session with the new students before this new semester gets all busy. The session started with a short game of “Bring Me with a Twist” of their ‘firsts’ in BA such as their first photo with their friends, a copy of their first notes, and many other interesting memories during the 1st semester. Then, students were encouraged to share in small groups the special highlights of their first semester, the challenges they faced & how they resolved them, and what they were looking forward to for the second semester. Interestingly, most of our new Griffins are excited about the various field trips, batch nights, and of course, the upcoming BA Fair! These activities will surely create core memories for our New Griffins!





THE BEACON ACADEMY

Beacon Academy Communications Protocols AY 2023-2024

Matters relating to....	Department / Email
Students Academic, School Life, Learning Support	Faculty Advisers
IB Diploma Programme Senior High School	Iris Morga / DP Coordinator dpcoordinator@beaconacademy.ph
IB Middle Years Programme Junior High School	Roy Villegas / MYP Coordinator mypcoordinator@beaconacademy.ph
College & Career Counseling	Maricar Pascual / JHS Counselor maricar.pascual@beaconacademy.ph Jesu Salvador / SHS Counselor jesu.salvador@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 AY 2023-2024



THE BEACON ACADEMY ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2023-2024

Semester 1 JULY 2023							
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:							

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

AUGUST 2023							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4	5
1	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
3	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
4	27	28	29	30	31		
Total No. of Days: 19							

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

SEPTEMBER 2023							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							1
5	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
6	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
7	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Total No. of days: 20							

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

OCTOBER 2023							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
12	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
13	29	30	31				
Total No. of Days: 16							

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

NOVEMBER 2023							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	4
14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
16	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
17	26	27	28	29	30		
Total No. of days: 19							

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

DECEMBER 2023							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							1
18	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
19	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: 10							

JUNE 24							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							1
23	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						
Total No. of days: 4							

IMPORTANT DATES

Jun 9 - Jul 4

Jul 5 - Jul 14

Jul 17

Jul 18

Jul 19- Aug 2

Aug 2

Aug 3

Aug 3-4

Aug 21

Aug 28

Sep 25

Oct 9-14

Oct 16

Oct 21 - 27

Oct 30

Nov 1

Nov 2

Nov 8

Nov 27

Dec 8

Dec 16 - Jan 3

Jan 4

Jan 20-26

Jan 29

Feb 3

Feb 10

Feb 25

Feb TBA

Mar 11-12

Mar 13

Mar 28 -31

Apr 1

Apr 9

Apr 10

Apr 24-May 17

Apr TBA

May 1

May TBA

Jun 7

Campus Break

BA Summer Program

BA Leadership & Management Returns

BA New Faculty Orientation

All Faculty In-Service

Parent and New Student Orientation

Start of Quarter 1

Foundation Days

Special Non-Working Day: Ninoy Aquino Day

Regular Holiday: National Heroes Day

No Classes: Faculty Professional Development

Quarter Recess

Start of Quarter 2

Parent-Teacher Conferences (Online)

No Classes: Barangay & SK Elections

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

No Classes: Christmas/New Year Break

Start of Quarter 3

Parent-Teacher Conferences (Online)

No Classes: Faculty Professional Development

No Classes: Binan Day

Chinese New Year

People Power Anniversary

National Achievement Test (Grade 12)

Quarter Recess

Start of Quarter 4

No Classes: Holy Week

No Classes: Faculty Professional Development

Regular Holiday: Araw ng Kagitingan

Eid al-Fitr (TBC)

IB Diploma Examinations 2024

National Achievement Test (Grade 10)

Regular Holiday: Labor Day

National Career Assessment Evaluation (Grade 9 & 10)

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: 40 9 Weeks
 Number of Class Days in the 3rd Quarter: 47 10 Weeks
 Number of Class Days in the 4th Quarter: 57 13 Weeks
 Total Number of Class Days: **188**