



THE BEACON ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DEAN OF FACULTY

Dear BA Community,

To be a life-long learner requires us to be continually curious about the world. And the world has much to offer- there is as much beauty as there is grime, and there are so many things to be learned and discovered amidst the colors and the grays. It is but natural to be curious with what the world has to offer, and this curiosity encourages engagement through the questions that arise from our day to day experiences, and encounters with people around us. There is so much that can be gained from observation, interaction, and exposure to what is around us.

As a learning institution, the Beacon Academy has always believed that learning is best when it is relevant, meaningful, and contextualized. Finding connections between what we are learning and with the real-life situations that are presented to us allows us to see the intersections between the taught curriculum, and, well, life. The more connections and applications we are able to make between what is taught with and what is experienced results in a greater depth of understanding and appreciation for learning. And because learning is not limited to the classroom, it is important for us to allow the world in, or, allow students out.

Last week, the students engaged in the Alternative Class days wherein they registered for tours and workshops that piqued their interest. There was a lot of excitement, a lot of energy, and a lot of opportunity to learn something new. Many came away with a greater appreciation for their culture and heritage. Others discovered new creative outlets and developed new skills. And yet others found joy in their own backyard. All these tours and workshops engaged students to discover, create, explore, and reflect.

The World Languages and Literature Week celebration that closed last week brought a bit of the world to Beacon Academy. The students wanted to look into the reality of the members of our deaf community. They invited guest speakers from the NGO Hand in Heart, and listened to the challenges they face as deaf members in a hearing community. Students also learned the basics of sign language in the hopes of building greater sensitivity to the needs of others.

And this is the power of curiosity and exploration- it allows us to discover, to find relevance, to seek answers to questions and solutions to problems. Curiosity and exploration allow us to continue to hopefully, grow into better versions of ourselves.

Let us continue to be curious, and let this curiosity fuel our learning and growth.

Happy Chinese New Year!

All the best,
Ceci Francisco
 Dean of Faculty
 The Beacon Academy

WHAT'S IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

General News:

A Message from Our Dean of Faculty

Important Dates in February & March

Please Share: BA Online Info Session | February 17

You're Invited: The Great Griffin Carnival

You're Invited: BA College Fair

BA Golf Team Wins at JGFP

Grade 10 Parents Intro to the DP | Recap

Alternative Class Day | Recap

AY 2024-2025 Calendar



THE BEACON ACADEMY

IMPORTANT DATES IN FEBRUARY & MARCH

February 12, Monday	BA College Fair
February 12-16	Valentine's Week Activities
February 15, Thursday	College Visit University of Essex
February 17, Saturday	BA Senior High School Online Information Session
February 20, 21, 27, 28	Phase 3: Early Readers Program
February 24, Saturday	BA Fair
February 28, Wednesday	Career Fest
March 6, Wednesday	Career Fest Part 2
March 18-27	Grade 12 Mock Exams

Please note these important DP Dates:
 April 24 - May 17, 2024 - Grade 12 IB External Exams
 May 20-24, 2024 - Grade 11 Year End Exams

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

**THE BEACON ACADEMY
 SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
 (GRADES 11-12) &
 SCHOLARSHIP
 OPPORTUNITIES**

ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION

When: Saturday, February 17
Time: 9:00am to 10:30am
Via Zoom
Scan the QR code for the link

Learn more about the Beacon Academy's unique college preparatory framework during Senior High School and the various scholarship opportunities available.

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 the Academy's college counselors, admissions / scholarship officer, teachers, and alumni in BA's community.

This session will include information on the Academy's Senior High School Program (Grades 11-12), college framework, 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.

They can register here: <https://forms.gle/obTny3GoqzPgDEJS7>



THE BEACON ACADEMY

YOU'RE INVITED: THE GREAT GRIFFIN CARNIVAL | SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

THE BEACON ACADEMY FAIR 2024
THE GREAT GRIFFIN CARNIVAL

CECILIA ARANETA PARKWAY, BINAN, LAGUNA
FEBRUARY 24, 2024
 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

BATTLE OF THE BANDS
 FEATURING...

BRAVO • LIAMDOOGIE • THE CHERUBS
 ROADTRIP TO SAWI • THE RUBBERDUCKS

WITH A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY
 ★ ★ **PAOLO SANDEJAS** ★ ★

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The Beacon Academy's 2024 Fair, The Great Griffin Carnival, is finally here! Step right up and join us for a day filled with laughter, games, and endless fun! From thrilling performances, delicious treats, to various activities prepared by the BA community, there's something for everyone!

When? Saturday, February 24, 2024

Where? Beacon Academy Campus, Binan Laguna

Time? 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Who is welcome to attend? Everyone!

Ticket price? 400 php for pre-order and 450php for walk-in

Ticket can be pre-purchased on campus or on the day itself as a walk-in.

We look forward to seeing you there!



THE BEACON ACADEMY

YOU'RE INVITED: BA COLLEGE FAIR | FEBRUARY 12, MONDAY



Please message Ms. Maricar Pascual at maricar.pascual@beaconacademy.ph if you have any questions.

BA GOLF TEAM: FIRST RUNNER UPS AT JGFP SHS DIVISION



Congratulations to the Beacon Academy's Golf Team who recently placed 1st Runner-up in the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines (JGFP) Interscholastic Senior High School Championship Division and have qualified for the JGFP National Championship which will be held from February 9-11 at the Caliraya Springs Golf Club. Go, Griffins! (in the photo: DHOS Vic V, Niko T., Inigo L, Jaime A., Santi P.)



THE BEACON ACADEMY

GRADE 10 PARENTS INTRO TO THE DP SESSION | RECAP

The College Counseling Department would like to extend their thanks to all the Grade 10 parents who attended and actively participated in the Intro to DP Session held last Saturday, February 3.

If parents would to go back to some parts of the session or were not able to attend, here is the Zoom recording of the orientation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eHAmIYw6hYg&feature=youtu.be>

The College Counseling Department would like to kindly ask that you fill out this short evaluation form if you have not accomplished this yet and which should only take less than 5 minutes of your time:

https://www.google.com/url?q=https://forms.gle/S3UD6EtXtNusrLkH6&source=gmail&ust=1707527681318000&usg=AOvVaw3MaKP8VWp1QAeu_jRqLBvb

As we await for the catalogue of each Subject Briefs that we will provide your child, you may refer to Annex 2 of the BA Student & Parent Handbook wherein you may refer to the Annex 2 section to give you a general overview and get a head start of on these course descriptions. A copy was also sent to all preferred emails.



INVITATION: BEACON SCHOOL ALUMNI NETWORK

Attention all former students of the Beacon School, please read this letter below:

Dear Beacon School Alumni,

We hope this message finds you well and thriving. As proud members of The Beacon School alumni community, your journey beyond our halls is of great importance to us. In our continuous effort to strengthen and maintain connections with our esteemed graduates, we are reaching out to you for a simple yet vital request.



To ensure that you remain informed about exciting news, upcoming events, and invitations to alumni gatherings, we kindly ask you to update your contact information by completing the attached form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc6FXH50jg--dKwQ_Kv3W3vN77D1blyuexxxkgkXxNN9X5wDw/viewform

Your responses will help us keep our records current and enable us to stay in touch with you on matters related to The Beacon School.

We encourage you to share your latest contact details and any updates on your professional or personal achievements. When providing your email, we kindly request that you share your personal email account rather than your current school or work email. This ensures that we can reach you regardless of any changes in your academic or professional affiliations. Additionally, we encourage you to share your Viber number, making it convenient for us to connect with you whether you are in the country or abroad.

We genuinely appreciate your time and effort in assisting us with this endeavor. If you have any questions or require assistance, please feel free to contact me at sybeng.grace@beaconschool.ph.

Thank you for your continued commitment to The Beacon School, and we look forward to celebrating your successes and milestones in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Mary Grace C. Sy Beng
Admissions, Advancement, Communications, and Student Services Manager
The Beacon School



THE BEACON ACADEMY

ALTERNATIVE CLASS DAYS | RECAP

Linocut Stamps and Doodles

In this workshop, students explored the basic foundations of printmaking, and patterns in global art traditions from zentangles, to moorish tile patterns, mandalas, and more. The students learned basic concepts surrounding shape, form, texture, and repeating pattern making through mindful doodling and linocut stamping; sharpening creativity and providing stress relief. We started conducting pattern studies through their doodles, and carved a final stamp created on a linocut. Some objectives from the workshop included enhancing the technical skills in relief printmaking, understanding the relation between linocut and drawing, layouts, developing composition, cutting the block, registration and proofing, and printing the linocut by hand in black.

It was wonderful to see students approach art intuitively, celebrating the imperfect and restoring confidence in their own work by drawing their own way.



We Are Happy Potters!

The Happy Potters had an enjoyable and relaxing morning with Ms. Bing Bernardo Gaw of Pottery Nuvali who taught the group the basics of handbuilt pottery. The calm and nurturing atmosphere in her studio were perfect ingredients for creativity to flow and stream out into pots, plates, mugs and clay toys. That is why, Day 2 of Alternative Class Days was equally productive as the Happy Potters wedged, molded, pinched, slabbed, slipped and scored.

Here are some insights and takeaways from our Happy Potters.

"I thoroughly enjoyed the pottery session. It definitely exceeded my expectations. We learned a lot of basic techniques and how to use the different equipment while applying it to our own products (which we were given much freedom with). I had lots of fun!" - **Francesca, Grade 11.**

"I learned the basics of pottery, and how to make use of these newly learned skills on future projects."- **Brielle, Grade 9**

"I was able to learn different techniques such as the pinching method and slab method. I found this experience very relaxing." - **Maya, Grade 11**

This is the third time we had Pottery during the ACD. The positive feedback inspires us to continue learning about this art and industry. Who knows where this will take us? Our only limitation is imagination.





THE BEACON ACADEMY

ALTERNATIVE CLASS DAYS | RECAP

Quiapo-Chinatown Cultural Heritage Tour

14 students across Grade 9-12 with 3 faculty and 3 staff embarked on a one-day journey. The destination was Quiapo - Binondo. It started with a tour at of San Sebastian, then proceeded to Quiapo Church, the Golden Mosque and Binondo.

The tour had the following objectives: (1) expose the BA students to the richness of Filipino, Muslim and Chinese heritage (from San Sebastian Church, Quiapo Underpass, Quiapo Church, Quiapo Mosque and Binondo Chinatown); (2) make students appreciate the authenticity of local businesses, cultures and traditions, ways of life inherent to the common Filipino masses; and (3) provide students the avenues to gain first-hand information on the history of Manila City landscape as shared by the locals in the area.

And here are some of the feedback from students:

- The culture of Quiapo-Chinatown is very rich and diverse. There's a sense of community and a rich history at the heart of Manila. It's so interesting to see how Manila became how it is now, and the Manila which is different from the one I'm familiar with. Also, I find it interesting how religion brings people together - Grade 12
- I learned that my life isn't so bad compared with the people I saw living on the streets. I love learning about our history and the different cultures we have as Filipinos. It's good to be open-minded when exploring new places. - Grade 9
- The significance of multiculturalism seemed to be the overarching theme of the cultural trip, as both the Catholic priest and the Imam emphasized the need for greater exposure to and dialogue between both Muslims and Catholics in order to foster understanding and dispel xenophobic perceptions. - Grade 11
- This ACD experience exposed me to the rich cultural history of Filipinos with real life experiences in Quiapo and Binondo. As it was my first time visiting both places, the tour opened my eyes and I learned many historical facts about churches and places I would have never known, dated decades and centuries back. I was able to observe historical architecture and appreciate the techniques used to allow the structures to stand the test of time. I was able to appreciate the Chinese and Filipino culture, especially the food. Most importantly, I was able to see and understand the daily life, livelihood of Filipinos and environmental struggles affecting them. - Grade 11
- Overall, I enjoyed learning about our culture, the faith of the Philippines and tasting all the food. I also enjoyed being able to do this with friends and the independence we had. The entire experience was really enjoyable and informative. - Grade 9





THE BEACON ACADEMY

ALTERNATIVE CLASS DAYS | RECAP

Paper Engineering

The goals of this workshop were to introduce the participants to the art of paper engineering through the tools and techniques of the craft, and to develop new skills as we learned how to bring paper to life with interactive mechanisms. Everyone was able to apply their new knowledge and creativity as they set out to work on their own output.

Students shared the following insights in relation to this workshop:

I did enjoy the activity because I could use my own skills that I had just learned, to make art! The activity was very interactive and was easy to learn from because Ms. Amy provided an instructional booklet that allowed us to practice. I think that we did have enough time for a simple pop-up, but I did have to work at home. So maybe next time, more time could be given.- Isabella F.

In this ACD, I learned the basic skills of pop-up art. I got to understand the craft better which helped me to create my own piece using what I learned. Through this activity, I found my strength in crafting small art pieces and improved on my weakness of cutting along the lines. This activity was extremely fun and I enjoyed it very much. We had more than enough materials which allowed us to create anything and expand our imaginations. Our teacher, Ms. Amy was experienced, helpful, and fun to work with. I am glad I was able to meet her and learn from her. -Nina E.

Knowing that I'm not that good at working with paper, I was able to learn how to do it with my own touch. I have a bit of a problem when it comes to strategizing all the ideas I had in mind, but the fact that I had many ideas proved that this workshop really enhanced my creative thinking. -Mandy DP



Survival Cooking

The College Survival Cooking workshop aimed to give students the basic cooking skills that will allow even the most cooking-adverse person some success with a limited kitchen and pantry. Cooking the basic egg, an introduction to the one-pot rice meal, upgrading the instant noodles, and learning how to make adobo were part of the workshop basics that prepared the students for their pantry-raid cook off which was the highlight of the workshop. The students exhibited their new-found skills and creativity as they prepared an assortment of dishes which were sampled and evaluated by a panel of judges.





THE BEACON ACADEMY

ALTERNATIVE CLASS DAYS | RECAP

Buhay Biñanense:

Buhay Biñanense was an Alternative Class Day activity where a group of 15 students, in grades 11 and 12, went to the different heritage sites in Biñan, as well as famed restaurants in the city that serve local food and Filipino cuisine. The goal of the field trip is to introduce them to different historical and heritage sites in Biñan so that they can appreciate the local culture and knowledge of the city where The Beacon Academy is located. They went to the school where Jose Rizal studied, The Alberto's Mansion, The Biñan Studies Center and Museum, The City Plaza, Lutong Henerasyon restaurant, the Binan public market and Chef RV's Cakes and Pastries.

All the students who went on this tour were amazed and surprised to discover a lot of things in Biñan. The life of Rizal and how prominent his family was in Biñan made an impression. The preservation of some historical houses (Bahay na Bato) was a laudable program of the Biñan LGU. The business industries, especially the city market, is dubbed as the Divisoria of the South. Our Griffins enjoyed the 100 peso challenge in the public market because they were able to speak Filipino and Tagalog, as well as apply decision making and practical Math skills. They loved the different varieties of food in Lutong Henerasyon and lined up for puto Biñan and special bibingka at Chef RV's.

All the fun and homely experiences on that special day are worth remembering during about their High School days. Our teachers and staff chaperones hope that they bring with them this memory of Biñan as most of them are off to college in the NCR and abroad.



Intramuros to Luneta

The Intramuros to Luneta Alternative Class Day tour happened on 30 January 2024. The purpose of the activity was to give students a learning experience outside the classroom that will allow them to get a feel of our history within the walls of Intramuros, and experience park life in Luneta.

The tour began at Fort Santiago where the students met up with their guide who regaled them with stories and fun anecdotes rooted in historical record as they made their way to the Manila Cathedral. At the Cathedral they appreciated the architecture and religious artifacts, and at the museum, they immersed themselves in the rich art. Through this tour, students got a glimpse of how Catholicism preserved the Hispanic heritage of the Philippines, and a real appreciation for historical knowledge and our historical sites. Connections to their Individuals and Societies, Design, English and Filipino classes were also made. Students came away with thinking about how we can better improve the maintenance and preservation of our unique cultural heritage.





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**