



THE BEACON ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Beacon Academy Community,

This message will be published at the end of our third quarter. While it is customary to advise everyone to “take a deep breath” before diving into the demands of the final weeks of the school year, I find it insightful to reflect on the two-day quarter recess on Monday and Tuesday—specifically, on the concept of rest.

Rest and work are often viewed as polar opposites. We typically consider rest as something done after work or during breaks. A school, like many places, has built-in markers for this, such as daily recess and lunch breaks, pauses between school terms, and family vacations during Christmas or at the end of the academic year.

However, we can think of the relationship between rest and work differently. As Alex Soojung Kim-Pung asserts in his book “Rest: Why You Get More Done When You Work Less” (2016), “Rest is not work’s adversary. Rest is work’s partner. They complement and complete each other.” The author finds evidence of this in the lives of historical and contemporary luminaries who prioritize focused work with deliberate downtime, suggesting that consciously integrating rest and work in our daily lives may paradoxically provide the best conditions for producing quality and valuable work.

Last quarter, we observed this in experiences designed as a form of rest from conventional working and learning modes in the school—alternative class days, athletics training and competitions, and even preparations for and the successful return of the Beacon Academy Fair. These moments, distinct from our daily academic life, are significant because by pausing our “regular programming,” they energize us to work and learn better.

This insight on the partnership between rest and work may prove useful as we move into the final quarter of the school year. In a few weeks, academic work will reach its peak, examinations (both internal and external) will begin, and ongoing preparations for the next school year will intensify. Viewing rest and work as binaries would imply pushing ourselves to our limits in an endurance race rewarded (hopefully) at the very end. However, considering rest and work as partners in producing valuable outcomes shifts our focus to enjoying the journey itself as it recognizes the importance of intentionally incorporating rest into our work. In short, as we continue to concentrate on work and learning, it may be beneficial for us to deliberately schedule our rest: to find moments of solitude away from constant distraction; to stand up and take a walk in nature from time to time; to sleep early and eat well; to exercise, and yes, even to play.

These insights emphasize the importance of recognizing and prioritizing moments of rest as essential contributors to our personal and professional pursuits and to a well-rounded and fulfilling life.

And we might be surprised at just how much a restful mind can achieve.

Mark Vincent Escaler
Head of School
The Beacon Academy

WHAT’S IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

General News:

A Message from Our Head of School

Important Dates in March & April

You’re Invited: BA VA Exhibit | April 4

You’re Invited: Parent Coffee at TBS | April 4

Alex M. Football Camp

Les Roches Visits Business Management Class

UpServe Biñan Day Care Visit

Athletics Updates

COSA Early Readers Project



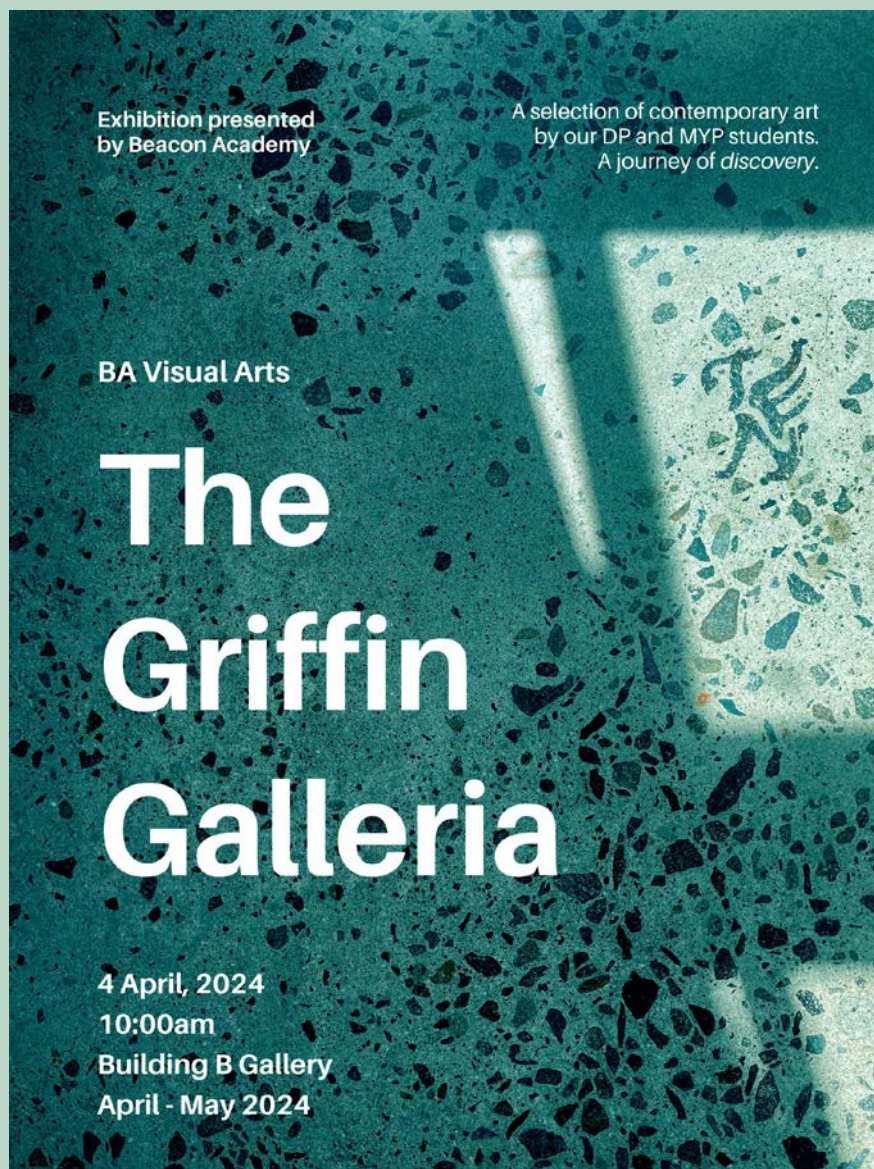
THE BEACON ACADEMY

IMPORTANT DATES IN MARCH & APRIL

March 11-12	Quarter Recess (No Classes)
March 13, Wednesday	Afterschool Activities Moratorium for Seniors
March 18-27	Seniors Mock Exams
March 27, Wednesday	Holy Wednesday (Half Day)
March 28 & 29	Holy Week Break (No Classes)
April 1, Monday	Faculty Professional Development Day (No Classes)

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

YOU'RE INVITED: BEACON ACADEMY VISUAL ARTS EXHIBIT



The Beacon Academy would like to invite all interested parents and friends of our Beacon community to the launch of our annual Visual Arts Exhibit happening on Thursday, April 4 at the Building B Visual Arts Gallery. This exhibit will feature the works of both MYP and DP Visual Arts students.

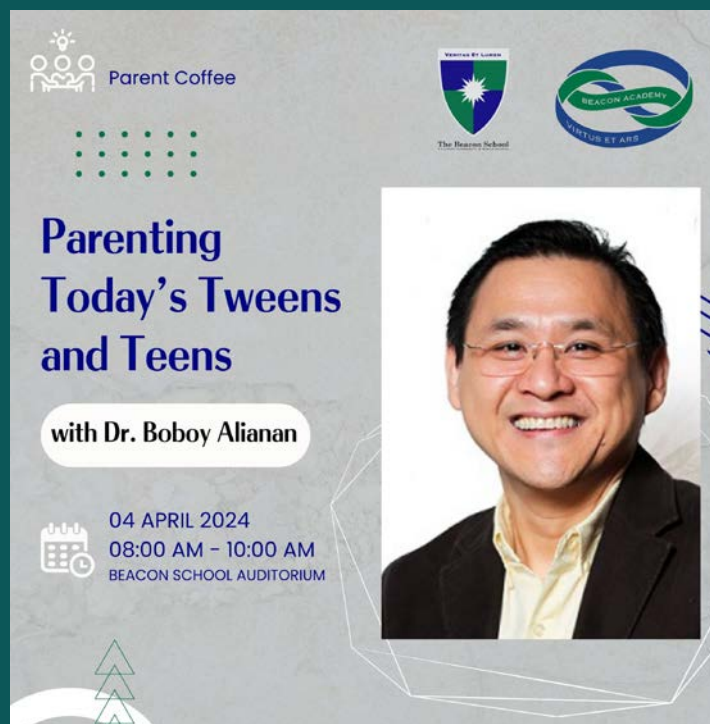


THE BEACON ACADEMY

YOU'RE INVITED: PARENT COFFEE AT BEACON SCHOOL ON APRIL 4

The Beacon School and Beacon Academy would like to invite our parent community to a Parent Coffee on **Thursday, April 4, from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. at the Beacon School Auditorium (Makati).**

We have invited Dr. Boboy Alianan, a renowned Clinical Psychologist, to talk about "Parenting Today's Tweens and Teens".



About the session

Parenting today's tweens and teens entails both familiar and novel challenges. There are the usual challenges of helping youngsters navigate school and extra-curricular demands, manage strong feelings, and develop positive and mutually supportive relationships. The youth's more novel challenges further complicate parenting roles. The pandemic's impact on the youth's social development and mental health continues to be felt. There is a need to balance between gadget and technology utilization and building hands-on practical skills. The youth is likewise pressured to learn about and accept their identity amidst changing cultural norms. They are also challenged to foster hope in their future within a tense and conflicted global environment and impending catastrophic climate change. As our children enter a critical phase of their development within this complex personal and global context, parents need to adapt their parenting styles to foster healthy communication, build strong connections, and enable responsible decision-making. This Parent Coffee aims to focus on effective communication techniques, setting realistic boundaries, and nurturing life skills for resilience.

About the speaker

Boboy Alianan completed his doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the Ateneo de Manila University. He is a certified clinical and assessment psychology specialist of the Psychological Association of the Philippines (PAP), and a registered psychologist. He is an Associate Professor of the Department of Psychology at the Ateneo de Manila and the Executive Director of the Ateneo Bulatao Center. He is also a founding member of PsychConsult, Inc., a private mental health service provider in Quezon City, and currently does private practice there. He enjoys his work tremendously as it allows him to know people better.

Please let us know if you are available on April 4 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. through this form on or before April 2.

(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe2bxxpQ5tnBQY_H6KIZ09YrJZ72TGQ6hK5d6CjMHDSRtbIg/viewform)



THE BEACON ACADEMY

ALEX M. FOOTBALL CAMP HIGHLIGHT

At Grade 10 in the Academy, students are asked to take part in a Personal Project that better the community around them or themselves. Grade 10 student Alex M. chose to do a football camp for children from our neighboring public schools. Here is Alex's brief writeup about the experience:

"For my Personal Project, I held a football training camp on campus for students from Inchican Elementary School. The camp aimed to teach them the fundamental skills needed to play the sport using simple drills I learned from playing in a club academy and attending a football camp in Spain. I enjoyed being able to share my love for football with young athletes alongside my friends and fellow students. It was a very rewarding experience and possibly something I would like to continue in the future."



LES ROCHES VISITS BA'S BUSINESS MANAGEMENT CLASS

Last February, representatives from prestigious Les Roches Hospitality School in Switzerland conducted a Global Hospitality Workshop for the Academy's Business Management students. Each group of students was given \$250 million startup funds and asked to devise business plans that would eventually show sustainability, return on investment, and success.. Thank you to the Career and College Counseling Department as well as Mr. Tarek Kouatly, Sommet Education's Regional Director for Asia Pacific, and Mr. Mano Soler, Les Roches Marbella Campus' Managing Director for setting up this workshop. Here are some photos from this fun activity.





THE BEACON ACADEMY

UPSERVE BIÑAN DAY CARE VISIT | RECAP

On Friday, February 16, the Academy's community service arm, UpServe, brought Valentine cheer to the children and families of the Biñan Day Care Center. Here are some photos from this activity.



MYP PERSONAL PROJECT HIGHLIGHT



CAITLIN

GRADE 10 PERSONAL PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

CREATING A COOKBOOK FOR DIABETICS

I created a cookbook targeted to diabetics. The book contains a choice of four dishes per meal complete with images and video tutorials I filmed. I chose to do this because I was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes when I was 8-years old and I love to cook and bake especially for my friends. This project provided an opportunity to share my love for food in a more personal and meaningful way.

Learn more about Caitlin's Personal Project here:
<https://www.beaconacademy.ph/news/caitlin-creating-a-cookbook-for-diabetics/>



THE BEACON ACADEMY

EARLY READERS PROJECT REFLECTIONS

The improvement of literacy and numeracy in the public elementary school system is one of the priorities of the Department of Education (DepEd). In response to this need, the Beacon Academy Community Outreach Group, using the Early Readers materials developed by Ms. Mailin Locsin, completed a three-phase literacy program aimed at developing basic reading comprehension and writing skills for zero-to-low-level readers of Southville 5 Elementary School. Here are some reflections and photos from our students about the experience.



The Early Readers Project was an amazing opportunity to connect with a partner community. It was very inspiring to see the interest that all of the students had in developing their reading skills. I would love to do it again! - **Bianca A. (Grade 10)**

It was quite nerve-racking for me at first since it's my first time engaging in this project. But as I kept going, I started to develop not only my tagalog skills but a relationship with students from our partner schools. I'll definitely do this again next year! - **Amanda P. (Grade 10)**

I hold UpServe's Early Readers Project very near and dear to my heart. While it was at times challenging, it was most of all rewarding to witness and contribute to the students' growth and development, as well as their genuine drive and passion for learning. I will surely miss all of the kids we worked with and I wish them nothing but the very best, as our Junior counterparts (hopefully) continue this project in the next years. - **Ashley C. (Grade 12)**

The Early Readers Project was a great opportunity to connect with a different part of the community here in Biñan. There are so many children that were very eager to learn with more opportunities like this one. - **Chloe O. (Grade 10)**

I've always strongly believed in the importance of literacy, especially in the Philippines, so it was extremely fulfilling to take part in the Early Readers Project. I was so happy to see the students of Southville 5 working hard towards learning more, and putting in so much effort to improve. In just a short period of time, I was able to see them gain more confidence and belief in their skills, showing a hunger for learning. - **Mandy L. (Grade 11)**

As a volunteer from the start of the program to the end, watching the kids grow in their reading skills made me so proud. Their excitement for every reading session really motivated me, and I hope that they continue to progress in their reading long after the program. I'm also proud of UpServe Core for our hard work in pioneering this program—hopefully it will continue for many years to come! - **Sara S. (Grade 12)**

It was very fulfilling to put my Filipino skills to the test in a way that would mainly help and benefit someone else. I haven't taught people younger than me any actual school material since I was in grade 5, so it was heartwarming to teach these kids something that I really love doing myself. - **Samantha G. (Grade 9)**

The Early Readers Project is a fantastic opportunity that allows us to connect with people from other communities such as Southville which enabled us to help further educate their students with basic reading. Being able to contribute to this program has made me realize the importance of education to younger children and how much of an impact it has on them. Hopefully next year, this program will continue to be successful and welcome more students to join in on the experience. - **Angela D. (Grade 11)**



THE BEACON ACADEMY

EARLY READERS PROJECT REFLECTIONS (continued)



COSA's Early Reader's Project was an incredibly fulfilling experience. Watching the children be so engaged and trying their best to learn each word and story made me really happy, seeing that initiatives just like this one actually have an impact was powerful. I was only there for the third phase, and I wish I was there for the first two.

-Olivia T. (Grade 11)

I had fun teaching young children how to pronounce some Filipino words! I like reading stories with them and giving out some cool facts! I am feeling like I became a tutor and I hope to meet more new children in the next Early Readers Project.

-Edward W. (Grade 9)

Being part of the Early Readers Project was a great experience. It was really nice to see the kids learn to read and how excited they were about it.

-Kimi J (Grade 10)

The ERP helped me to improve my skills in reading and interacting with younger children, and I think it was beneficial for both me and the pupils. I was initially interested in the project because when I was younger, I had a difficult time reading and writing as well. I understand the importance of having proper guidance in building fundamental skills, and I was happy to help those I could. There were times during the process I did also struggle in, but in the end I think it was a great learning experience for everyone.

- Caitlin C (Grade 11)

This experience allowed me to bond with the community around me while building skills individual to me through interaction with the children. This was heartwarming to see the progress of the child I took care of, and what he was able to achieve in a short amount of time showing the impact of this project.

- Jaime A (Grade 11)



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	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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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**