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THE BEACON ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BASC PRESIDENT

Dear Griffins,

We have made it to that sentimental time of the year. As the typhoons begin to trickle in, we find ourselves finally being able to let out a deep exhale.

The year's exams are over. For the Seniors, this has been met with a colorful range of emotions: some left elated, others deflated, many still entranced, not quite sure what to do with themselves. Regardless, there is a shared feeling of accomplishment, and well, it has been rightfully earned.

For the Juniors, witnessing this has hopefully psyched them for their own looming battles. With a fruitful first year in the DP program under their belts, the summer ahead becomes about clocking in all the rest needed to be raring to go come August.

The same can be said for the Sophomores who are making a big jump themselves, from Building B to A, MYP to DP, and in the process are setting themselves up to discover their own future paths, as daunting as that may be.

Finally, there are the Freshmen who have now completed the first leg of their Griffin journeys, one where we all watched as they grabbed all opportunities to show off their diverse talents and characters, something we hope they continue to do.

It has been a busy past year. BASC set out to perpetually have projects in the works, organizing events for every month. Starting from day one, the NSO, where a newly established tradition of musical chairs got the ball rolling. Filipino Week followed, marking the first big event of the year. Halloween, Christmas, and Valentine's all came tumbling after. The backdrop to all of this was the sophomore year of our House System. Diwata, Kataw, and Minokawa clashed in all sorts of contests - we had water rockets shooting for the gym roof, swoon-worthy lip-synced haranas, and a few rather chubby bunnies. Amidst the noise of the houses, the Griffin Games gave us an opportunity to boost our batch spirit, which was on full display in the ever crowd-pleasing cheer dance competition.

Arguably the most memorable event of the school year, however, was the return of the BA Fair. Titled "The Great Griffin Carnival," it was the result of months of hard work and preparation, with more than half the student body lending a hand in some way. On a sunny February Saturday, it brought together the entire community, extending towards friends and family who all came to campus to enjoy the food, a variety of student-led booths, and of course, the electrifying Battle of the Bands that took place on an honestly jaw-dropping stage setup on the front lawn. It took the whole village to make it happen, with the combined skills and talents, grit and drive of those involved - a true celebration of our Griffin community.

On behalf of BASC 2023-2024, I would like to say thank you for the support and enthusiasm you have shown us from the very start. Without you, the joys and successes of this year would not have been possible. To the faculty, from the management team to the ates and kuyas, we owe so much of our Griffin experience to you and all that you do. To the students, we are proud to have represented and led you, and we hope that our achievements have had a great impact on your year. Thank you all for putting your faith in us.

To next year's BASC, I wish you the best of luck as our beloved green campus looks to welcome not only the usual influx of new students, but also the much awaited arrival of Grades 7 and 8. You all definitely have your work cut out for you, but I am confident that you will shine as leaders in this exciting new chapter for the school.

And with that, for the final time, I will say...thank you, Griffins! It has been a pleasure. Signing off now, goodnight.

Noah Salazar

BASC President AY 2023-2024



BEACON ACADEMY'S 12TH COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

The Trustees, Faculty, and Senior Class of

THE BEACON ACADEMY

invite you to our

TWELFTH COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Friday, June 7, 2024 at 9:00 in the morning

BA Gymnasium

The Trustees, Faculty, and the Senior Class of the Beacon Academy would like to formally invite our community to watch our 12th Commencement Exercises happening at 9AM on Friday, June 7 via a Zoom live-streaming:

https://zoom.us/j/96551198246?pwd=R0dxbkc0cWIWbUhYY3ZJbIUycG1HUT09

Meeting ID: 965 5119 8246 Passcode: 647170

THE BEACON ACADEMY

Twelfth Commencement Exercises | June 7, 2024

PROGRAM

Josh Bersamina Master of Ceremonies

Processional and National Anthem

Invocation: Nathan Cruz

Welcome Remarks: Mark Vincent Escaler

Message from the Board of Trustees: Robert Suntay

Commencement Address: Isa Lorenzo Awarding of Diplomas: Iris Morga

The Beacon Academy Graduation Awards: Lui Morano

Senior Speaker: Lili Regino

Presentation of Graduates: Mark Vincent Escaler

Recessional



BEACON ACADEMY'S 12TH COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER: MS. ISA LORENZO



The Beacon Academy is honored to share that Isa Lorenzo, founder and co-director of Silverlens Galleries (2004, Manila; 2022, New York City), will be the Academy's 12th Commencement Speaker this June!

Ms. Lorenzo takes the lead role in artist management, sales, and programming, including special projects and art fairs for Silverlens. She has been instrumental in establishing and maintaining the professional structure of the gallery, finding the right opportunities for artists, and keeping in close contact with the different members of the art world, locally and internationally.

Through artist representation, institutional collaborations, and exhibition programming including art fairs and gallery partnerships, Lorenzo aims to place its artists within the broader framework of the contemporary art dialogue.

Image Credit Courtesy of Silverlens (Manila/New York). Photo by Tammy David



THE BEACON ACADEMY'S CLASS OF 2024



I feel excited about life after High School, because Beacon has put me through such a rigorous program that I feel like I can truly pursue anything I set my mind to. As for the country, I hope that the education I and others have received will allow it to one day solve its current issues and make it a better place.

- Tomas Miguel Paraiso



I'm grateful for the community and the experiences I had in school. I had so much fun learning, mostly because we got to help each other and see each other prosper. I feel so content. I think it was mostly because of the support of all the teachers and staff who always encouraged us to go above and beyond. Because of this, I did so much and I feel so content with my high school life.

- Liliana Regino



I am most grateful for meeting amazing people that understand me and whom I know will be my life long friends. I feel excited about life after high school because Beacon has prepared me to face the outside world. I know that I am ready to go out to experience and learn new things while carrying all that I have learned from my days in Beacon.

- Kirsten Paige Perrine



I am most grateful for the supportiveness of teachers and students on an individual level. They built an atmosphere where at no point did I feel like I was in it alone. I hope to end up in an environment where I feel comfortable, one where what I do aligns or intersects with what I find enjoyable and fulfilling.

- Noah Diego Salazar



I am very grateful for all the friends I made. As a new student I was quite anxious about fitting in so I was really glad to have met people that I can call family. I was also very grateful to be surrounded by such a loving and supportive faculty. The IB was such a challenging course and I believe I would not have made it if I did not get that guidance I was given in my time here.

- Czarina Royce Rebanal



I hope I grow more into myself and learn how to navigate the big world out there. I hope that I can try new things and become a person who isn't afraid to extend myself. For the country, I hope that we can find pride in ourselves as Filipinos, which to me means really investing in our growth and improvements.

- Sara Angela Sicam



THE BEACON ACADEMY'S CLASS OF 2024

We asked our graduating batch to share some reflections from their time at Beacon Academy. We look forward to seeing them shine brightly in their chosen paths.



I am grateful for all my experiences in BA because of all the people that I got to know. In the future, I want to help the people of this country.

- Avenilo Enzo Aventura III



I feel hopeful for my life after high school. I believe my experience at the Beacon Academy has been good preparation for both the obstacles and celebrations to come in our experiences in university, and even extending to our life after college, in the workforce.

- Ashley Denise Caharian



I find that the aspect of Beacon that I will remember the most is the people— the many friends I made from various different grade levels, the teachers who have helped shape the way I think, and the academic and non-academic staff on campus. The community of Beacon is very close, and I'm happy that I can take a walk through the campus and know the names of every person I meet.

- Lucas Xavier Bakker



I am most grateful for being able to have developed my skills in communication with the help of the Beacon community. I feel confident about my life after high school. Although things did not really go as planned, the journey I accomplished allowed me to fully create the best version of myself. This in turn, gives me the confidence to tackle the new challenges to come for college.

- Andre Nicolas Chua



I am most grateful for the teachers and the loving community. It has been a wild ride full of memories and lessons, moments that I will cherish for the rest of my life. I am truly grateful for everything that has happened to me in the past 4 years.

- Jose Gabriel Alfonzo Blancaflor



I feel ready about my life after high school. Being ready can be a mix of both excitement and nervousness for me. It is almost inevitable to feel both these emotions. I am without a doubt excited because I will be going to the school I've worked so hard to get into, while being in a country I've dreamed of living in. The thought of meeting lots of new people excites me a whole lot.

- Nathan Zachary Cruz



THE BEACON ACADEMY'S CLASS OF 2024



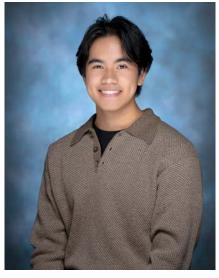
I aspire to be more confident and secure with myself. I want to be able to get along with others but not entirely dependent on my relationships so that I can comfortably venture out. For the country, I hope it will grow into a more stable place where culture and art can flourish. But above that, I hope that the people receive fair treatment and acknowledgment for their hard work.

- Amanda Nieva Duque



I am grateful for the education I got, my teachers and peers that supported me along the way throughout my entire MYP and DP school experience. I feel curious and excited about my life after high school. I think that this will be a new chapter in my life I am looking forward to go through, especially going into a course I like doing.

- Sophia Cecille Hipolito



Coming from a traditional school, I am most grateful for the way that my teachers have changed the way I think and approach problems. With the Harkness-style classes, my engagement and critical thinking skills have greatly improved and now form an integral part of my thinking process.

- Iñigo Jose Eleazar



I'm really grateful for all the people I met. The variety of people I've been exposed to has opened my eyes to new points of view and changed how I look at myself and everyone else. I feel nervous about my life after high school because the support system I've found here is a big part of what made my time at BA such a positive experience.

Princess Leanne Lopez



I am most grateful for the teachers I had at BA and I am nervous about my life after high school, because I am growing up.

- Santiago Martin Fandiño

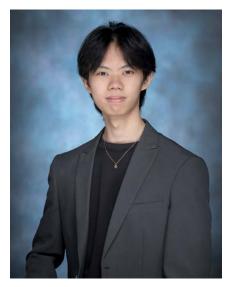


I am grateful for the opportunities Beacon provided for me to grow as a person. I hope to make my family and loved ones proud wherever I go. I hope that everyone can learn to be kinder to others and to themselves.

- Maria Andrea Marquez



THE BEACON ACADEMY'S CLASS OF 2024



I feel grateful about my life high school life and the experiences I had. I was able to grow a lot as a person despite the challenges. A lot of the people at BA have helped me venture out of my comfort zone, allowing me to find my passions and push past my limits.

- Jose Manuel Sychiuco



I feel so excited about my life after high school because I feel like my life has just started. Beacon has given me so many lessons about life, like how to study, to interact, collaborate with and care for people, to manage my time, and to lead with my heart. I may not have done all of these incredibly well, but I sure have learned the importance of pursuing a good life for myself and others. I'm ready to bring the BA legacy of goodness and passion to the world around me.

- Patricia Beatrice Zagala



Fly high, Himaya! Once a Griffin, always a Griffin.



BATCH 2024 COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ACCEPTANCES



BATCH 2024 COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY ACCEPTANCE LIST

Congratulations to our Batch 2024 Griffins on being offered a place in these colleges and universities for next school year!

ASIA

Hong Kong Baptist University
International College of Liberal Arts (iCLA)
New York University Abu Dhabi
University of Hong Kong
Nagoya University of Commerce and Business
Korea Institute of Advanced Science & Technology
Temple University Japan
Ateneo de Manila University
University of Asia and the Pacific
University of the Philippines
University of Santo Tomas
De La Salle University
Singapore Management University

OCEANIA

Macquarie University
Trinity College
University of Melbourne
Deakin University
Monash University
Victoria University of Wellington
University of La Trobe
University of Sydney
University of Queensland
University of New South Wales
University of Western Australia
Massey University

UK

Aberystwyth University Hult International Business School Lancaster University University of East Anglia

UK

University of Exeter University of Hull University of Leeds University of Nottingham University of Edinburgh

EUROPE

Amsterdam University College Constructor University Leiden University IE University Universidad de Navarra

NORTH AMERICA

Adelphi University Berklee College of Music DeSales University Duquesne University **SUNY Binghamton** University of California, Riverside Creighton University University of Connecticut Fordham University Carnegie Mellon University University of California, San Diego Pepperdine University Hofstra University Purdue University University of Toronto University of Waterloo University of British Columbia







BA ATHLETICS: VOLLEYBALL UPDATES







What an incredible season it's been for the Beacon Academy's Volleyball Teams during the Manila International Schools Athletics Association (MISAA) Tournaments.

BA's Mixed Volleyball Team

(Champions vs. Fountain International School)

BA's Boys Volleyball Team

(Champions vs. Everest International Academy)

BA's Girls Volleyball Team

(First Runner Ups vs. Everest International Academy)

We couldn't be more proud of the hard work and dedication these teams put in this season.

GO GRIFFINS!

BA ATHLETICS: STAFF GAMES

IThe Manila International Schools Athletics Association organized a 3-day event for staff games last May 18, 25 and 26. Faculty and staff from Beacon Academy, Beacon School, CISM, Domuschola and Everest International Academy participated in three events: Badminton, Basketball and Volleyball. Congratulations BA for being back to back champions in basketball and champions in badminton this year!







RECAP: BA MUSIC RECORDING SESSION

The Grade 10 Music Class band "Off-Beat" went for their first ever recording studio sessions! They were joined by their Music teacher, Sir Butch and chaperones and supporters Ms. Ming, Ms. Maricar, Sir Josh. The guest instrumentalists included the BA Chairman of the Board, Andy Locsin, the Head of School, Mark Escaler and Rob Balonkita of Grade 11 on the sax. Marla Marquez of Grade 12 came for support and even sang with the group for a practice track. This project is the culmination of two years' work of the Adastria Music students and teacher. We will let the community know when the single is available.





The process was incredibly meaningful; I am very grateful that we were able to translate songs that we have worked so hard on for the past year into mastered pieces. The writing and recording journey was a difficult one, but despite the ups and downs, we finished with 2 tracks that we truly have put our all into. "Blue Nail Polish" and "Find Me" are out this May. We would like to give our deepest thanks to all of our teachers, advisors, and members from management and staff who have helped us make this happen!

- Sofia





I never knew that I'd be able to experience something that my favorite singers did. Playing such high quality instruments and working with professional people and equipment is one I'll remember forever. Although what made the experience most memorable was the people I was with. I really enjoyed playing and working with my classmates and teachers. Because of this very busy experience, I hope that the release of our single comes out well. I really enjoyed playing and working around with my classmates and teachers. Because of this very busy experience, I hope that the release of our single comes out well.

- Mandy







MY GRIFFIN JOURNEY

As a finale of the My Griffin Journey Program, Beacon Academy's Counseling Resource Center gathered the new students last May 15th to look back on their experiences, both highs and lows, during the school year and celebrate together as new students. They were very creative as they created timelines, images, and symbols to represent their journey through the activity called, Griffin Lifeline. A couple of students were eager to share their work and explain the highlights of this year for them. After the sharings, the activity ended with a pizza party to cap off their journey as new Griffins!







"I think the last activity was a great way to end our My Griffin Journey Program. Aside from the pizza, the activity we did regarding the line chart, to me, was really fun as we were really able to look back on the school year from day one until then. Doing it with my friends also made the experience better as we were able to look back on some of our individual highlights and lowest points, while also looking back on the events we shared together. The My Griffin Journey Program helped me a lot in approaching the new school year, especially with me having to adjust both socially and academically (new to IB!!). The program helped me meet and get to know some of my closest friends now which really helped me throughout the year. It also let me know that BA has a really cool group of counselors ready to listen and help me with the whole experience."

- Samantha R. (G11)

I feel like the My Griffin Journey program helped me feel more immersed with the community and the environment. It was a way for me to get an idea of what BA is really like and I enjoyed the activities that we did. :)

- Matthew G. (G9)

I feel that the Griffin Journey significantly made my integration into the new community easier, making the transition for me smoother as a completely new student. I am very grateful for being able to have been part of the program! Luccia T. (G9)

The My Griffin Journey program was a fun way for me to build connections early on with people that were also trying to adjust to a new learning environment. We were able to gather again mid school year for check ups and to see how we were all doing. I'm glad I was able to have a fun support system throughout my first year at the Beacon Academy.

Chloe O. (G10)









GRADE 9 SERVICE AS ACTION PROJECT

Last March 17, our batch had a discussion in I&S regarding our Service as Action. In this discussion we discovered that there are many women inventors who aren't credited enough and appreciated for their work and inventions. Our task now was to spread awareness and knowledge regarding these inventors and their inventions in some way. Our class was split into two groups, the boys and the girls. In the end we decided to advertise the products created by women in order to represent and show appreciation to the products they made.

in order to represent and show appreciation for the products they made. Our group agreed to sell products created by women and we decided to sell boba tea, chocolate chip cookies, and the paper bag. We knew that students would want to buy these products because it supports women and many people chocolate chip cookies and boba tea.

- Matthew

While making the cookies and boba tea we had a really fun and new experience. While some people already knew how to bake, the other members of the group had a more enjoyable and amusing learning experience due to it being our first time. We were also able to spend a lot of time together as a group discussing not just about the activity but also random topics.

In the end we were able to sell the products and had a lot of fun doing so. This activity not only allowed us to collaborate but also helped us gain knowledge regarding the women inventors that aren't credited enough for their work. Without them we wouldn't have been able to enjoy their inventions and products. Without these people, our world and our daily lives would be different. That is why we need to appreciate these people and celebrate their accomplishments. The money we collected will go to a NGO called Hands on Manila. We requested them to distribute the money to different organizations that support women.

Lucas and I have had previous collaboration with them for our Grade 8 project. So we know they are reliable and chose to work with them again.

- Rocco







GRADE 10 TREE PLANTING PROJECT

Last May, The Grade 10 students of the Academy hosted an information session with Mrs. Mara Marzan from MARSSE Tropical Timber. This Service as Action project aimed to raise awareness about endangered and indigenous trees and sustainable tree planting practices. To apply what they learned from the info session and to help restore barren land, Our Grade 9 and 10 students are preparing to plant tree seedlings before the end of the school year. Here are some pictures from this wonderful initiative.









IMPORTANT: UNIFORM UPDATE FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR

Starting next school year, the Beacon Academy ladies will have different uniform skirt styles. Designed in consultation with BA parent fashion designer, Mrs. Richie Torres, the new BA skirts will feature two designs depending on grade level.

The MYP (Grade 7-9) skirt is a skort with kick pleats, while the DP (Grade 10-12) skirt is a pencil or an A-line khaki skirt that will be a little longer than the current skirt (approximately knee length). Both skirt designs will have built in shorts.

The new skirts will be available in assorted sizes and fits; fitting and pre-ordering will begin on June 17, 2024. Please set an appointment with Ms. Luvim Encinares at studentservices@ beaconacademy.ph. Pre-ordered skirts will be available by August 1, 2024.

Please note that the Academy will still allow ladies to wear regular, straight or tapered pants or trousers. Uniform pants should be full-length, with no large pockets, strictly in either khaki, beige, or sand-color. Dark colored pants, loose pants, hip hop-style pants, carpenter/cargo pants, jeans/denims/corduroy pants are not allowed.

(Top Pic: MYP Design / Bottom Plc: DP Design)





RECAP: ENDERUN COLLEGES STOCK MARKET

Congratulations to the Academy's very own Liam G. and Jao D. For winning First Runner Up in Enderun Colleges' "Stock Market Showdown: A High School Trading and Investment Competition."

In partnership with Caylum Trading Institute, this exciting competition is designed to provide senior high school students with a hands-on learning experience in the dynamic realm of US Equity Markets.









RECAP PHOTOS: THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE EXHIBITION



Last Thursday, May 30, our Grade 11 batch showcased their hard work during their Theory of Knowledge (TOK) Exhibition. Teachers, students, parents, sat down with our students to learn about their various areas of focus.

RECAP PHOTOS: PERSONAL PROJECT FAIR



On the same day Thursday, May 30, our Grade 10 batch showcased their Personal Projects, a culmination of their time at the MYP Program of the International Baccalaureate.



RECAP PHOTOS: FINAL SHOWCASE



Last Thursday, May 30, our community was treated to an assortment of performances from our various batches. Here are some pictures from this fun showcase of Beacon talent.

RECAP PHOTOS: SENIOR-SEND OFF

It's a common practice at the Academy to send off our seniors with a number of heartfelt traditions. First is the tree planting where the senior batch chooses an indigenous tree to plant on our campus. Second is the senior goodbye ceremony where heartfelt gifts, videos, and good wishes are shared by all, even alumni. And finally, our proper send-off where the community lines up from the auditorium to the waiting shed to personally say goodbye to each and every senior. The seniors get on the bus for a ceremonial "last ride" as the community waves them off. Here are some photos from the send-off.





Jul 4

Jul 5

Jan 6

lan 29 Feb 3

Feb 10

Feb TBA

March 13 - 14

March 17

Apr16 - 20

Apr TBA

May I May TBA

Jun 6

Apr 23 -May 16

Mar 31

Apr 7

Apr 9

Jan 20-25

BEACON ACADEMY ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR AY 2024-2025



THE BEACON ACADEMY ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2024-2025

Semester 1 **JULY 2024** М w 2 3 5 6 7 10 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 30 31 Total No. of Days: 0

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Week	MAY 2025								
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	Total No. of days: 5								
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44

45

45

53

<u>187</u>

9 weeks

9 weeks

10 weeks

12 weeks

IMPORTANT DATES

Jun 10 - Jul 5 Campus Break Jul 1- 12 BA Summer Programs (TBC) BA Leadership & Management Returns **BA** New Faculty Orientation Jul 8 - Aug I All Faculty In-Service

Start of Quarter I Aug 2 Parent and New Student Orientation Aug 2 Aug 5-9 Classes Begin for All Students; Foundation Days Aug 21 Special Non-Working Day: Ninoy Aquino Day Aug 26 Regular Holiday: National Heroes Day Sep 11 Early Release: Faculty Professional Development

Oct 7-11 No Classes: Quarter Recess Oct 14 No Classes: Faculty Professional Development

Oct 15 Start of Quarter 2 Oct 21- 26 Parent-Teacher Conferences (Online) Nov I Special Non-Working Day: All Saints' Day Special Non-Working Day: All Souls' Day Nov 2 Early Release: Faculty Professional Development Nov 20 Nov 30 No Classes: Bonifacio Day Special Non-Working Day: Feast of the Immaculate Conceptic Dec 8 Dec 18 - Jan 3 No Classes: Christmas/New Year Break

> Start of Quarter 3 Parent-Teacher Conferences (Online) No Classes: Chinese New Year No Classes: Binan Day

No Classes: Faculty Professional Development National Achievement Test (Grade 12)

Quarter Recess

Start of Quarter 4 Eider Fitr (TBC) No Classes: Faculty Professional Development Regular Holiday: Araw ng Kagitingan No Classes: Easter Break IB Diploma Examinations 2025 - TBC

National Achievement Test (Grade 10) Regular Holiday: Labor Day

National Career Assessment Evaluation (Grade 9 & 10)

Graduation Day; Last Day of School

Updated 29 November 2023