



# THE BEACON ACADEMY

## NEWSLETTER

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR DEAN OF FACULTY

Dear Beacon Academy Community,

September has just rolled along, and it is surprising that we find ourselves already mid-month, working steadily towards the first quarter summative assessments that will happen in October.

The school has been quite busy, to say the least. The Academic team has gotten students settled in their classes, and a lot of learning is taking place. The School Life office has been working to get students organized, put clubs and teams in order, and begin fielding out teams for competitions. Behind the scenes, work has been on-going for day to day operations. The return to routine was a lot more seamless this year and it is clear that this school year, everyone hit the ground running with intention and positivity.

As we carry on with what must be done, let us consciously pay attention to our surroundings, and the goings on around us. We are all navigating within shared spaces, and it is our collective responsibility to provide safe spaces that will allow for learning and engagement.

Let us celebrate and support each other's passions, interests, and uniqueness, and there is so much opportunity to do so. Let's cheer our teams on during their competitions. Let's watch Sara when she debuts onstage. We can share what we know of the various Personal Projects that have begun. Let's encourage discovery and add fire to the inquiry that's happening in our classrooms. Let's talk about books and the beauty of poetry and prose. And always a personal favorite, we can appreciate the music that emanates from the Music Room and Auditorium (the saxophone was a happy surprise!), and the art that is in constant production.

And finally, let us pay greater attention to each other. Let us not just have a meeting of minds, but of hearts as well. Yes, cliché, I know. But sometimes we need these clichés to remind us that we bring with us feelings and sensitivities that can deepen our connections with each other. By really listening and taking the time to understand one another, we can act with greater compassion. We can become more empathetic and inclusive. We can be more deliberate with our responses. We can find ways to make things work.

This is the Beacon community I wish for us all: one that is positive and supportive, one that has a culture of kindness, one that celebrates each and every one of us. Let us continue building on our positive start, together.

Have a good weekend, everyone!

**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 September

College Visits | Recap

Safety Protocol Talk | Recap

Campus Blessing | Recap

Invitation: DP Parents College Applications Talk

Zarah G. Part of School Librarians Board

Athletics: Volleyball Season 2023-2024

DP Econ Talk | Recap



# THE BEACON ACADEMY

## IMPORTANT DATES IN SEPTEMBER

<b>September 18, Monday</b>	College Visit   UC Berkeley
<b>September 19, Tuesday</b>	College Visit   City University of HK
<b>September 21, Thursday</b>	College Visit   University of Pepperdine
<b>September 25, Monday</b>	Faculty Professional Development (No Class)
<b>September 26, Tuesday</b>	College Visit   Loyola University Chicago
<b>September 28, Thursday</b>	College Visit   Campus Spain
<b>September 29, Friday</b>	College Applications & DP Pathways Orientation Filipino Week Culmination (4PM Dismissal)

## COLLEGE VISITS | RECAP

Earlier this week, Mary de Villers, a university representative from the University of Notre Dame, visited our green campus in Biñan, Laguna. The University of Notre Dame is a private Catholic university near South Bend, Indiana, committed to providing the full financial need of each of its students.

This visit was part of our College Counseling Department's year-long program to invite higher institutions from all over the world to meet and share their various programs with our students.


Over a dozen of the Academy's MYP (Middle Years Program) grades 9 & 10 students attended Notre Dame's presentation to begin their early exploration of universities they might be interested in.





# THE BEACON ACADEMY

## SAFETY PROTOCOL TALK | RECAP



**THE BEACON ACADEMY**  
**AY 2023-2024**  
**SAFETY PRESENTATION WITH DHOS**  
**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**  
**1:45 - 2:00 p.m.**  
**VIA ZOOM**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 953 3596 5570**  
**Zoom Passcode: 982333**  
 Recording will be shared with community

During this Wednesday's Assembly, the Academy's Deputy Head of School, Mr. Victor Villanueva, gave a short presentation on the Academy's Incident Command Structure, safety drills, and developing drug testing protocols.

A thank you to our parents who attended the talk via Zoom. Please see a link to the 10 minute talk here:

**<https://youtu.be/rxUA8ABp8Yk>**

## CAMPUS BLESSING | RECAP

Last September 9, Saturday, the Academy's faculty and staff were invited to join in a simple thanksgiving mass and blessing of the campus facilities for a successful return to campus life this school year. This meaningful ceremony was celebrated by Fr. Francis Alvarez SJ, with the wonderful voluntary participation of altar boys, Liam and Matthew G.







# THE BEACON ACADEMY

## INVITATION: NAVIGATING COLLEGE APPLICATIONS & EXPLORING DP PATHWAYS

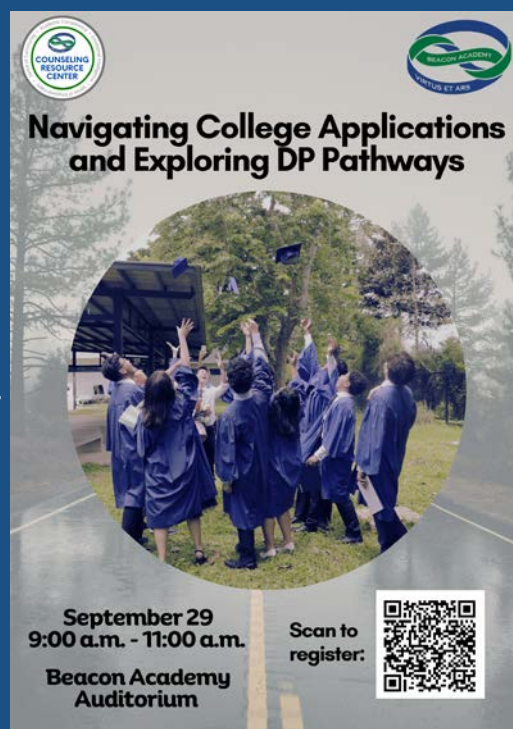
The Counseling Resource Center, in collaboration with the Diploma Programme Coordinator, cordially invites our Grade 11 & 12 parents to the Academy's annual college application orientation.

For the first time since the pandemic, we will be holding this event on campus on **September 29, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the Auditorium**. The orientation aims to inform families about the essential dates and requirements for both local and international college applications, as well as a discussion of the impact of DP pathways on college admissions. Please register for the event by accessing this link or scanning the QR code on the poster.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfzyfTqjAD5h9wFX6xMAGIT8f67hx1oSpCHpSDfsfn7LqT5g/viewform>

DP Parents are also invited to participate in our community lunch in celebration of Filipino Week and would highly appreciate those attending to bring Filipino food to share.

**(Please be reminded that all students will be dismissed at 4PM on Friday, September 29)**



## THE ACADEMY'S ZARAH GAGATIGA PART OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS BOARD (PASLI)

Congratulations to the Academy's very own teacher librarian Ms. Zarah Gagatiga, on her recent appointment as PRO of the Philippine Association of Schools Librarians, Inc. (PASLI). Ms. Gagatiga's term will run from 2023-2025.

Ms. Gagatiga has 13 years of work experience as a librarian trained in the IB Programs, namely the MYP and the DP. She receives continuous training on the conduct of the Extended Essay (EE) being assigned as EE supervisor in every academic year and having been an EE Coordinator in 2015 and 2017. Apart from her regular administrative and academic duties as teacher librarian, she is a part of the core team in-charge of the regular assessment of the Academy as a PCNC certified NGO.

She is an author of children's books, storyteller, bibliotherapist, reading clinician and literacy coach. Her exposure and experience as school librarian, storyteller and bibliotherapist inspire her to learn and understand inclusion, diversification of library services and programs and the promotion of safe space. Recognized by peers in the school library profession for her contributions to the growth of children's literature in the country, Zarah designs and develops modules and toolkits on the conduct of book clubs, bibliotherapy sessions, and the restorative value of stories through storytelling for children and young people. She is the PRO of the Philippine Association of School Librarians (PASLI) and a board member of the Philippine Board on Books for Young People representing librarians.



Please be sure to stop by the library to give Ms. Gagatiga a warm congratulations on her new position.



# THE BEACON ACADEMY

## VOLLEYBALL SEASON 2023-2024

The Volleyball season kicked off with an exhibition game held last Wednesday, September 6. The BA Boys Volleyball Team played against Sta. Rosa Volleyball Club. The entire BA community cheered on during the exciting game.

Both the Boys and Girls Teams have started playing for the Inter Scholastic Sports Association (ISSA) Volleyball Tournament. They will go against teams from different schools such as International School Manila, La Salle Greenhills, Xavier School, Everest International School. Games will be held every Saturday. Go Griffins!



## **GAME ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **ISSA VOLLEYBALL**

**SEPTEMBER 16**

**@ ISM (MS GYM)**

<b>11:00 - 12:30</b>	<b>BA GIRLS VS. LSGH</b>
<b>12:30 - 2:00</b>	<b>BA BOYS VS. LSGH</b>
<b>2:00 - 3:30</b>	<b>BA GIRLS VS. DLS-Z</b>



# THE BEACON ACADEMY

## UNDERSTANDING THE MONETARY POLICIES OF THE PHILIPPINES | RECAP

On September 12, Tuesday, the Academy's Economics Department hosted an informative webinar with Ms. Rogie Ann Vasquez, from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, to talk about the rationale behind the monetary policies of the Philippines. The talk covered important topics like inflation, high bank interest rates, unemployment, and what our government is currently doing to alleviate them. Here are some reflections from our Grade 12 students about this informative session.


--

I learned more about the pivotal role of the central bank in the government as they handle the growth of the economy and the intricacies of the movement of money. I also enjoyed learning about how banks handle inflation rates and how the global economy abroad has a huge impact on our national and local economy. - **Brio B.**

Ms. Rogie's presentation gave me a new perspective that is often disregarded when criticizing the efficacy of our government and central bank. I realized that any type of policy cannot simply be implemented due to its possible consequences for the country's stakeholders. Making our country a better place isn't as easy as I thought. - **Nico C.**

The class was honored to have someone from the BSP come and talk to us about macroeconomic policies in the Philippines. It gave context to our lessons and helped us further our understanding of monetary policies in particular, the tools they use and the functions they serve. - **Noah S.**


I thoroughly enjoyed learning about Monetary Policy in the Philippines with Ms. Rogie. It was fun to learn more about the country's financial situation from someone who's handling it. - **Marla M.**



*Econ 12 invites you to a talk on*

## Understanding the Monetary Policies of the Philippines

---



*A talk with*

*Ms. Rogie Ann Vasquez*

*on*

*Sept. 12, 2023*

*from 10:00 am*

*to 11:00 am*

---

Zoom link:  
<https://zoom.us/j/96284084367?pwd=VGZ3TlJNR3YrbnJseEpyWGJzYW50dz09>





# THE BEACON ACADEMY

## Beacon Academy Communications Protocols AY 2023-2024

Matters relating to....	Department / Email
<b>Students</b> Academic, School Life, Learning Support	<b>Faculty Advisers</b>
<b>IB Diploma Programme</b> Senior High School	<b>Iris Morga / DP Coordinator</b> dpcoordinator@beaconacademy.ph
<b>IB Middle Years Programme</b> Junior High School	<b>Roy Villegas / MYP Coordinator</b> mypcoordinator@beaconacademy.ph
<b>College &amp; Career Counseling</b>	<b>Maricar Pascual / JHS Counselor</b> maricar.pascual@beaconacademy.ph  <b>Jesu Salvador / SHS Counselor</b> jesu.salvador@beaconacademy.ph
<b>Mental Health &amp; Well-Being</b>	<b>Din Mendoza / JHS Counselor</b> din.mendoza@beaconacademy.ph  <b>Vian Erasmo / SHS Counselor</b> vian.erasmo@beaconacademy.ph
<b>Curriculum, Exams, &amp; Faculty</b>	<b>Ceci Francisco / Dean of Faculty</b> dof@beaconacademy.ph
<b>Student Conduct, Support, &amp; Activities</b>	<b>Lui Morano / Dean of Students</b> dos@beaconacademy.ph
<b>Health, Safety, &amp; Bus Services</b>	<b>Luvim Encinares / Student Services Asst.</b> studentservices@beaconacademy.ph
<b>School Records</b>	<b>Marnell Lagan / School Registrar</b> registrar@beaconacademy.ph
<b>Finance</b>	<b>Lorna Sabino / Finance Manager</b> finance@beaconacademy.ph
<b>School Leadership &amp; Policy</b> Child Protection Committee Committee on Decorum and Investigation	<b>Mark Escaler / Head of School</b> mark.escaler@beaconacademy.ph  <b>Victor Villanueva / Deputy Head of School</b> victor.villanueva@beaconacademy.ph



# THE BEACON ACADEMY

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR AY2023-2024



### THE BEACON ACADEMY ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2023-2024

Semester 1 JULY 2023							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	2	3	4	5	6	7	1
	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**