



# THE BEACON ACADEMY

## NEWSLETTER

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR DEAN OF STUDENTS

Dear Beacon Academy Community,

As we conclude the year with the midyear examinations and our unique Griffin Christmas celebrations, it is with immense joy and gratitude that I extend my heartfelt Christmas wishes to each and every one of you on behalf of the leadership of Beacon Academy. And as we start sharing the warmth of this festive season with our families and loved ones, I would like to invite you to take a moment to reflect on the values that bind us together as a community.

This Christmas, we celebrate not just the joy of the season, but the enduring strength of our Griffin community as well. Beacon Academy has always been more than just a place of learning; it is a tapestry of diverse talents, shared dreams, and collaborative efforts. For most of us, it is a second home where our collective resilience has shone brightly as we faced challenges head-on, proving that together, we can overcome anything. Let this sense of unity be the guiding light that illumines our path into the coming year.

Amidst the glittering snowflakes and festive Christmas wreath decorations, the adorable herd of Santa's reindeer around campus, and Coi's passionate drum strokes, I hope that we can let a flame of hope burn bright in our hearts. As we turn the page to a new year— as we begin the journey towards expanding our community, let us embrace the promise of new beginnings and the potential for positive change. In times of uncertainty and in the face of hopelessness, grief and hardship within, in our country, and in the war-torn areas in the world, hope becomes our anchor, and together, we can inspire one another to reach new heights and achieve collective success. May the spirit of hope rest in our hearts and in every corner of our school, fostering an atmosphere of optimism and determination.

Gratitude is a theme that resonates deeply during this season of giving. I extend my sincerest thanks to each member of our community – students, parents, teachers, and staff alike. Your unwavering commitment to a Beacon education, growth, and each other does not go unnoticed. It is through your dedication that our Academy continues to thrive as a nurturing environment for learning and personal development. Let us express our gratitude not only through words but through actions that demonstrate our appreciation for the wonderful community we are privileged to be a part of.

I hope that we can carry the spirit of community, hope, and gratitude into the new year. May the bonds we share continue to strengthen, and may the light of understanding and kindness shine brightly around our campus and in our homes. Wishing each and every one of you a happy Christmas filled with love, joy, and the warmth of cherished connections.

**Lui Morano**  
Dean of Students  
The Beacon Academy

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# THE BEACON ACADEMY

## IMPORTANT DATES IN DECEMBER & JANUARY

<b>December 15, Friday</b>	End of 2nd Quarter (No Classes)
<b>December 16 - January 3</b>	Christmas/New Year's Break
<b>January 4, Thursday</b>	Start of 3rd Quarter (Classes Begin)
<b>January 11, Thursday</b>	College Visit   USF & Lewis U
<b>January 12-13</b>	Grade 9 Class Night
<b>January 20-26</b>	Parent Teacher Conferences (Online)

## IMPORTANT DIPLOMA PROGRAMME ASSESSMENT DATES

For our Grade 11 & 12 Families, the IB Diploma Programme Coordinator would like to remind you of the following assessment dates during the second semester.

<b>March 18-27, 2024</b>	Grade 12 Mock Exams
<b>April 24 - May 17, 2024</b>	Grade 12 IB External Exams
<b>May 20-24, 2024</b>	Grade 11 Year End Exams

Please also expect a new bulletin with important reminders to be sent out by the IB DP Department starting next semester.

## IT'S NOT TOO LATE: SIGN UP FOR THE HARVARD MENTORS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

We are pleased to share that the Beacon Academy will host a unique Harvard Mentors Leadership Program this January with the following details:

### The Ivy Tutors Academy Leadership Program

*A unique and intensive 3-day program on leadership and how to become future change makers.*

**Location:** Beacon Academy Campus in Biñan, Laguna

**Dates and Times:** January 19, 20 & 21, 2024 (Friday to Sunday) from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day

**Requirements:** Open to all Grade 6-12 students from various schools

**Fee:** USD 450 to be paid directly to Ivy Tutors Academy

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For those interested, please register to take part in the program before December 15 using this link:

<https://forms.gle/RQL3JQpSYbatJAGn7>

Watch a recording of Harvard mentors, Eric Tan and his team, as they shared the program in detail during an Information Session held last Saturday, December 2.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CTz67eKilvc>



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**Meet the Mentors**



Eric Tan  
Harvard, 2025  
Published STEM  
Researcher  
and Presidential  
Scholar

**REGISTER FOR THE PROGRAM**






# THE BEACON ACADEMY

## BEACON TENNIS TEAM JOINS ISTA

The newly formed BA Tennis Team started competing in the Inter-School Tennis Association. The team is composed of Grade 10 students Martine P. (Team Captain), Mantha T. Nina E. and Sab R. One Grade 11 student, Lizzie C. also trains regularly with the team. Over 20 schools are part of the tournament such as Woodrose, Assumption College, Everest and Poveda. ISTA is held every Saturday at International School Manila.

Best of luck to the tennis team who is competing for the first time!

"Joining the ISTA tennis tournament was a fun and enjoyable experience. This is the first ever tennis team representing BA with only four members including myself, Nina, Sab and Mantha. We played different schools such as Poveda, Assumption and Everest in the Junior High School league for Division 1.

During the tournament, my teammates and I were very nervous but we were able to still push ourselves and support each other to keep going on no matter the circumstance of the game. Though we encountered losses, we kept our mind on the exciting experience that it gave us. This made us look back on the skills we could improve individually and as a team. We gained more confidence and determination that will help us in our upcoming tournaments. Overall, the tennis team and joining ISTA have been a great experience. Hopefully, in the coming years, the team will grow and get to encounter many more tournaments!"

– Martine P.



## Let's go, Griffins!





# THE BEACON ACADEMY

## RECAP: OUIE BADELLES 40TH DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE

On December 1, Friday, our community including alumni, parents, and the family of Mr. Badelles, paid respects to our beloved art teacher on the 40th day of his passing. The Beacon tradition of planting a tree in honor of a member of our community who has left us was greeted with a rainbow at the end of the ceremony. An art exhibit of Mr. Badelles' work has been placed in our Visual Arts gallery for those who would like to stop by.



## CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AT THE ACADEMY

We are loving all the DIY Christmas decorations that are sprinkled around the Beacon Academy campus this month. A warm thank you to our student, Sofia P., who designed the wreaths and stars and Operations team who did our reindeers and Christmas trees. You have all brought the holiday cheer to BA while showcasing creativity and sustainability this Christmas season.





# THE BEACON ACADEMY

## RECAP: CHRISTMAS SHOWCASE

Last Thursday, December 14, the campus was alive with festive Christmas cheer as our community ended the 2nd quarter of the school year with our traditional Christmas showcase. Here are some photos from this festive occasion!





# THE BEACON ACADEMY

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE ACADEMY'S FACULTY & STAFF!



HAVE A GROOVY HOLIDAY BREAK, GRIFFINS!







# THE BEACON ACADEMY

## BEACON ACADEMY 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	2
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