

THE PAW PRINT

April 2018

How to Succeed in the



In This Issue:

- **International Day of Silence**
- **Butterfly Boy**
- **Teacher Quotation of the Month**
- **Humans of BBIS**
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BERLIN
BRANDENBURG
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

Editors Note

Hello Readers!

Thanks for picking up the second edition of our 2018 Paw Print school newspaper! We've written a broad selection of articles for your perusal, so we hope that you'll find something that you enjoy.

We'd like to introduce several exciting new segments this month, that we hope to bring back on a regular basis:

Teacher Quotation of the Month

Humans of BBIS

Meila's Monthly Message

Memes

Creative Writing

We'd like to acknowledge the contributions made by both Nelli Molfenter for designing the fantastic Paw Print logo, and by Liza Rogova for providing the outstanding photographs that illustrate our editions.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us at bbisnewspaper@gmail.com or visit www.bbisnewspaper.wordpress.com for more info. You can also follow our Facebook page to receive updates: www.facebook.com/bbisnewspaper
We meet every first Tuesday of the month in Ms. Barker's room, 3409.

Sincerely,
Luca Pistor and Chantal Materne

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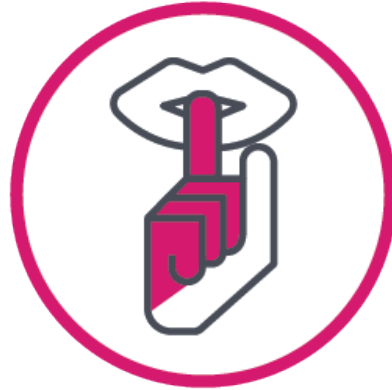


International Day of ~~Silence~~

April 27th marks this year's International Day of Silence. You are invited to join in on the initiative organized by the library, the Student Council, the GSA and the Paw Print on Friday to raise awareness and build tolerance for minorities including the LGBTQ+ community. This event has been repeated ever since the first time Maria Pulzetti launched it at the University of Virginia in 1996. It consists of taking a vow of silence to highlight the silencing and erasure of LGBTQ people at school. Several hundred thousand students at more than 8000 institutions regularly take part all around the world. Refer to this week's bulletin for more info. Here is a comment from Mr. J on this topic:

"Much of the world has an inability to accept people whose sexual orientation is not straight. The inability can come from a cultural or religious upbringing where different orientations are condemned by parents, teachers, community and religious leaders, or others in a position of authority. No child is born with an innate sense of hatred or intolerance; such attitudes and resulting intolerant behaviors are taught. When a student partakes in the Day of Silence, the student is showing solidarity and support for students who have been silenced by a society's intolerant environment.

At BBIS, we are fortunate to have a community that is supportive of people of all orientations, and the Gay Straight Alliance helps provide a safe space for students to express who they are. Still, there are no utopias. Recently, the GSA has discussed small incidents of intolerance, usually in the form of jokes and stereotyping, within the BBIS community.



What we have found surprising is that the stereotyping and non-inclusive joking are not only about sexual orientation; they are often about race, religion, or cultural and regional differences. The GSA has been used to students bringing up how they may feel marginalized by or uncomfortable around others who are intolerant towards people who are LGBTQ+. However, the GSA as a group assumed that acceptance of LGBTQ+ people was the last step BBIS had to make to achieve full acceptance as a community. In fact, students have broken the silence with stories of intolerant comments and attitudes towards race, gender, religion, and national origin made by their fellow BBIS peers.

Thus, the Day of Silence and the participation in refraining from speaking for an entire school day not only shows solidarity with those who have had to stay silent for fear of bullying or marginalization, but it is also an encouraged experiential awareness of the power that words may have on the atmosphere of a school and on the impact words may have on the life of another human being."

Berliner Tafel Food Drive

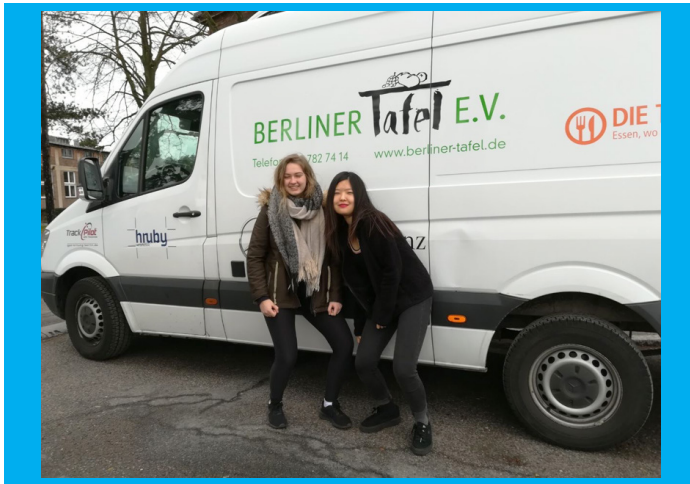
A Success!

By Jessica Yun

As many of you know, the Berliner Tafel Club had its first food drive from March 12th to 23rd. As a student organized event, we would like to thank all staff, parents and students who participated and contributed!

With the help of all, we successfully collected 527 items, varying from canned goods to pasta and cereals. Many people were able to have a warm meal with their families over the Easter weekend.

We highly valued the support of the BBIS community, and if you are interested in joining the Berliner Tafel initiative, feel free to contact me via email or by person!



<https://sites.google.com/view/berliner-tafel-bbis-club/home>



DRUM ROLL, PLEASE!

POETRY BY HEART

by Chantal Materne

Did you know that March 21st was World Poetry Day? Mr. Grissett aims to organize the BBIS Poetry By Heart competition on that exact date every year. Considering that 2018 was only the third time it happened at our school, it was a well-attended and received event. Part of this success is owed to the PTA, who supported the initiative with a grant and a cosy coffee lounge at the entrance. The IBCP team, however, was also vital to the organization of the event, by contributing to set up, photography, lights and sound.

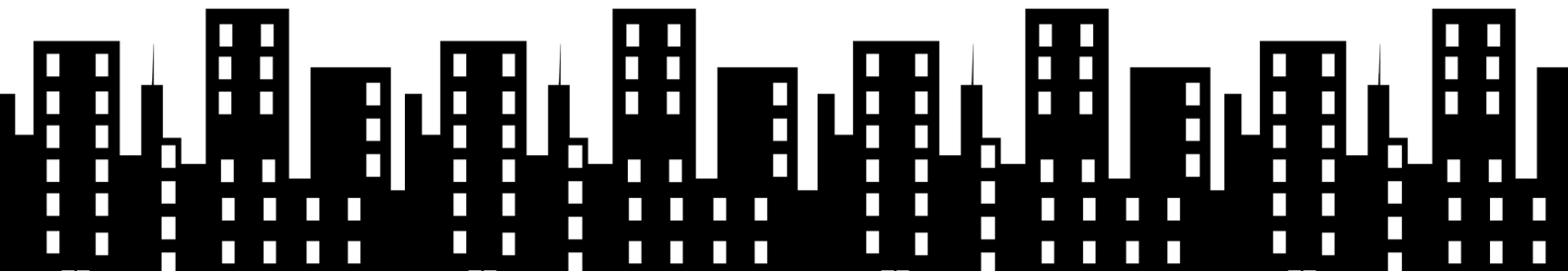
Grade 10 has been working on the project since November, each student choosing a poem from the online anthology that spoke to them in a particular way. Titles included “What is life?”, “Lights out”, “I was thirteen”, or “Alone”. While this was an excellent opportunity to improve public speaking skills, the gloomy tone of some of the poems suggests that perhaps it would be wise for the participants to consult a counselor in the near future...

This year, the judging panel received the award-winning, poet-by-occupation Jeffrey Yang, to evaluate the accuracy, voice, understanding and performance of our peers. Another detail that made this year’s contest special is that our students were joined by finalists from the Berlin British School, who brought an additional share of talent to the table. In fact, two of the four eventual winners represented BBS and returned home with an array of presents. Despite very close scores, Arabela stood out for her range by interpreting Rita Dove’s “Ö” followed by Shel Silverstein’s witty piece “Smart” in the second round. She is the lucky contestant qualified for the next round held in London, in the United Kingdom. Looking forward to updates from our candidate!

Mr. Hand wrapped the event meaningfully with the closing remark:

“poetry was not written to be left on paper, but to be recited, performed, and shared.”

Opinion on the **Boarding Renovation**



By Luca Pistor

Joining BBIS boarding earlier this year was probably the most impactful shift in my life to date. Despite my initial trepidation at living apart from my family, I soon fell in love with the boarding community that did so much to make me feel welcome. When I arrived, boarding was in a state of complete restructuring, from top to bottom. A few months into the year,

the fourth and fifth floors opened, and the second floor closed for renovations. This provided single-occupant rooms to many students who were previously not able to board alone due to a lack of accommodations, and it also allowed many boarders to settle into far more comfortable rooms. Going into the future, boarding plans to reopen the second-floor rooms to fur-

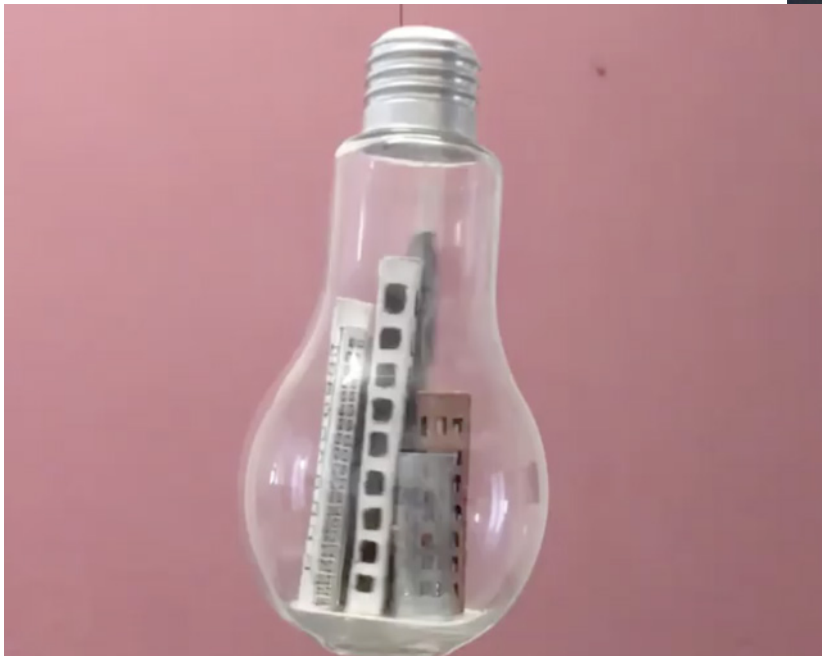
ther increase the building's capacity. 11th grade boarder Yahli Didi commented on the changes, appreciating how, "the design for the new bathrooms utilizes the area well, creating a more spacious setting in the small space." I also appreciate the gradual transition that boarding is currently going through, and look forward to seeing new changes in the future!

ART EXHIBITION



By Salma Abudagga

On Sunday, March 11th, the IB art exhibition was held in the Heizhaus, in which BBIS' IB art students put their creative, expressive work on display, where the audience of BBIS students, staff, and parents enjoyed the chance to explore the result of two years of extensive preparation. Students displayed their pieces in their own personal room, with their chosen themes. Decorative objects, ranging from simple colored lights to rose petals and beds were used to personalize the space and enhance the mood. All the participating students' efforts showed extravagant results and it was quite heart-warming to witness that our school holds such talent.



MEILA'S
MONTHLY
MESSAGE*Eight Tips for the IBDP*

By Meila Heidt

- 1.** It's not as different as you think. Just because you might be going from a normal high school programme to an IB diploma programme, it does not mean that you'll be doing anything different. Classes are more structured, you have more deadlines, more topics, but all in all, there's no major transition.
- 2.** CAS is important, as surprising as it may sound, so IB students recommend to start early. At the end of your two year programme, you are obligated to deliver a presentation on the activities you have been doing. While doing CAS, you might do a couple of reflections and perhaps three projects. But what you probably don't realise, is that it is basically preparation for the real deal. A lot of universities receive Diploma Certificates from students with high marks all over the world, so CAS gives them a chance to see you stand out.
- 3.** Start thinking about multiple possible topics for your Extended Essay. Sure, when you start 11th grade, you still have about half a year until you actually finalise your question. However, having ideas in advance will allow you to continue living stress-free and be able to concentrate on normal class assignments, and also be ahead.
- 4.** Do study. Mocks may not be real examinations, but they help you analyse what you still need to work on and how you might need to prepare for the real exams. Being able to write a good mock grade means you are on track and you'll be prepared for the entire school year, where you constantly have quizzes, tests, and assignments.
- 5.** Stop worrying. IB is not going to kill you. The programme is here to prepare you for the life that's ahead, for the life at university. Sure, it might be a big, scary step, but it's easy to get used to it and after a while you are once again in a comfortable environment. Concentrate on keeping your time between academics and activities organised, and as long as you don't procrastinate it will go better than expected.
- 6.** Your teachers are here to help and guide you, not only to throw assignments at you. What you may not realise, is that they too, have a lot to organise in order to fulfill a good class outline prepared by the IB. If you ask any of your teachers, they most definitely will ask you to arrange a meeting to sit down and talk to you about what you can do to improve, catch up, or just stay focused.
- 7.** You can always drop a higher level or change a class within the first few months in the programme. It's not a place where you have no choice; many people move from one science to perhaps even another science, and realise that this was a better solution.
- 8.** Have fun. Take part in activities, go somewhere to gather more information. This means if possible, go to university fairs, and ask about subject choices. Go on the IBO website and check the requirements of subjects to enter a university in a specific country. Be prepared, and do nothing last minute. Ask your teachers about specific subjects in the IB, ask current IB students about the structure. In short, inform yourself in order to achieve comfortability.

A NEW CURE FOR GENETIC SKIN DISORDER?

Scientists replace 80% of a “butterfly” boy’s skin, using lab-grown stem cells

By Jaqueline Breitreuz

Genetic modification (GM) is a controversial topic, severely criticized since its first formal introduction to society in the 1980s. GM involves altering the genetic material of an organism, to contain DNA segments from a donor. It serves countless purposes, including making copies of certain genes or proteins, studying gene function, growing super-crops, as well as the developing cures for diseases. (Knowgenetics, 2015).

Sufferers of Junctional Epidermolysis Bullosa (JEB), a lethal genetic skin disorder, have a genetic mutation on one of the four genes LAMC2, LAMA3, LAMB3 or COL17A1. These contain instructions for the production of laminin 332, a protein vital for the stability of the skin. The function of this protein is the attachment of the upper layer, the epidermis, to the underlying layers of the skin. A gene mutation of any three genes causes the production of dysfunctional versions of this protein. Cells in the epidermis are fragile and delicate, therefore without functional laminin 332 proteins, any friction or slight trauma can cause layers in the skin to split and form wounds (Nih, 2017). JEB is one of the most severe forms of EB that also causes internal sores. This can prevent the consumption of food of the individual, which eventually leads to malnutrition. 40% of children with this disorder do not survive a year and most do not live beyond the age of five (Saey, 2017).

Hassan, a seven-year-old Syrian boy, who suffers from JEB, was admitted to a German pediatric hospital in 2015. Doctors attempted various treatments, such as a skin graft from his father, but Hassan’s body rejected the transplant. German plastic surgeons contacted an Italian stem cell researcher, Michele De Luca, for a consult. Only attempted in clinical trials, the team had grown small patches of GM skin.

In Hassan’s case, surgeons needed to create 0.85m² of GM skin, as the boy had lost 80% of his.

They collected a 4 cm² sample of non-damaged skin from Hassan’s groin, and this sample was used to grow skin stem cells in the lab. The team inserted a functional copy of the LAMB3 gene into the stem cells grown, using a retrovirus. Once the cells had grown into sheets of genetically corrected skin, the plastic surgeons grafted these onto the boy’s body.

Although some of his skin has been left untreated, the healthy stem cells will eventually multiply and spread to the untreated epidermis and replace it with new tissue. According to Dr. Hirsch, one of Hassan’s surgeons, Hassan now “goes to school and plays soccer”. Today, Hassan is well up thanks to stem cell and gene therapy. Researcher Elaine Rockefeller says: “It makes considerable headway in resolving a brewing controversy in the epidermal stem cell field”

With this successful new treatment, countless lives of JEB victims can be given a chance to live!





By Celine de Rouen

How often is it that one buys a plastic water bottle while on the go? The simple action of buying these synthetic containers, as the vast majority might know, has caused the growing concern of plastics flooding into the seas and harming the ocean life. 35 billion plastic bottles alone are being aimlessly dumped into oceans and waste disposal sites each year, where only 1 out of 10 are being recycled globally. With the other 9 out of 10 being dumped, the duration it takes for a single PET (polyethylene terephthalate) to naturally decompose, is approximately 450 years. An additional issue regarding plastic bottles, that some may not be aware of, is the associated health risk. BPA (Bisphenol A) is a carbon-based compound that is ubiquitous in all forms of plastic products, extremely toxic when consumed, and capable of damaging our bodies. So, what are our options in ways to improve our own drinking water, but also sustain the environment?

A young Berliner duo, Paul Kupfer and Georg Tarne, asked themselves the same question back in 2011. There the idea to found a company was born, and the innovative Soulbottles emerged. Paul and Georg wanted to tackle the often-overlooked ecological and health risks associated with plastic bottles. Unlike the bound-to-break plastic bottles, Soulbottles produced here in the city are incapable of losing their worth and quality, due to their being constructed from 100% durable and sturdy glass (the most environmentally friendly option). Also, due to the transparency of glass, no secrets are kept within, remaining faithful to what's happening inside. Often plastic bottles transfer a synthetic taste to water – something that doesn't happen with glass. According to the co-founder of this inspiring company, Paul Kupfer has seen immense impacts with the adoption of this product. "In the beginning, we did a survey, attempting to analyze how often a Soulbottle

is used. From there, we calculated how much CO₂ and plastic is being saved. Last year, we saved 90 tons of plastic, prevented the emission of 1000 tons of CO₂, and supported a project in Nepal with 30.000€ that helped more than 40.000 people. This proves the great change an accessory can do is truly inspirational, encouraging us to think ahead and work towards a better access to clean water worldwide," he states.

With the eco-friendly company Soulbottles, a great sea of change is already happening, offering a solution that is not only sustainable but also fun and well suited for everyday life. Printed in various trendy designs, and even available to personal customization (by sending in a design via their website), they give a flair to the brash traditional bottles. Clean water is the source of all life, which is what Soulbottles is advocating, trying to gear consumers, in the words of the founders, "to enable and inspire to live a conscious, sustainable, and happy life."



Withered Flowers

Short Story

By Friso Althius

Chapter 1: Wars and Flowers

He'd left the base at noon, he thought, and the sun was still high in the sky, beating down on him. Robert was making good progress, despite it. He reached into his right pocket for the pocket watch, a heavy silver heirloom. It'd stopped ticking long ago, after the event, but it was an item reassuring to hold. He slipped it back, checked to see if his weapon was still there, and picked up his pace. He was walking along a stretched junkyard of rusted husks of metal. A highway. It used to be called a highway.

He jumped onto the hood of a car to look around. His gaze followed the long road. "Far as the eye can see," he said, no one to hear him. Robert thought to pass the time. Sometimes he'd check if he could see his destination already, or if it was time to get off the highway. Sometimes he'd crouch if he were alerted by some sound. Then he'd get onto his knee and see if the owner of the car he'd been hiding behind had gotten out in time. His thoughts always returned to the war. World War 3. It had lasted 8 years, and eventually died out because no one signed up. In the end it turned out some infamous bio terrorist from years back started it all. Robert sighed and jumped over the rails into the going lanes, weaved through, and got off the highway.

The days were longer this time of year. The sun was now at a slight angle. He could see the hill in the distance. His destination. He'd been there only three times over the years since the event, but he was sure. The tree on top had grown notably. Robert started towards it at a jog and thought about the two years after the war he'd hated to serve in. A series of attacks had made the news. He could see each one building up. The release was two years after the war ended, on the dot. The event. Those two years after the war were undoubtedly the greatest in his life. He married the girl he'd been in love with, they bought a house, they had kids. Fraternal twins. A boy and a girl. They were beautiful. Then all the nukes in the world went off simultaneously.

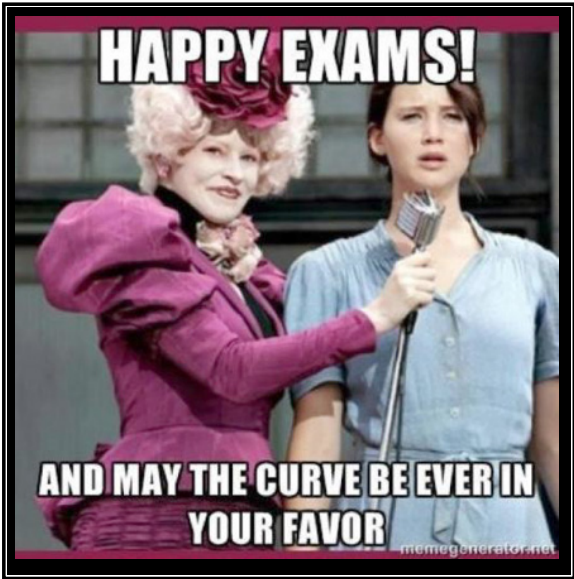
Next month's issue will feature the next episode!

TEACHER QUOTATION OF THE MONTH

“This student is so genius that I cannot even understand his question”
- Dr. Uspenskaia

HUMANS OF BBIS

Anna (grade 10): “I was born in Moscow, Russia, where my dad is also from. My mom is half Russian and half Bulgarian. I lived in Russia and then moved to Germany. So I speak Russian, German, English. For me, identity is the concept you develop about yourself that evolves over the course of your life. Being at BBIS did not specifically affect me in a cultural way, however, I learned a lot about other cultures.”



MEMES



Friday THE
27th of
April



DAY of SILENCE[®]