



# Marina International School Newsletter

## Director's Message

November 2022

Greetings Marina Family,



On behalf of Mr. Alpha Barry, and the Board, we hope you all had an enjoyable October break and are ready for a busy term ahead. November is a time intended for giving thanks. Please ask your child what they are doing to support this important character trait. How are they showing thankfulness and appreciation? I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for taking the time to read with your children, checking homework, communicating with your child's teacher, supporting the school and countless other things you do as a parent or guardian to encourage and support the education of your child. We are very fortunate to have a school community with nurturing staff, happy students, a dedicated Board and caring parents.

Please take some time to celebrate a small sample of the great initiatives, learning and fun activities at MIS. At the end of the newsletter, check out our section called "Learning @ Marina". Please take note of some initiatives taken at the Junior School regarding the classroom environments which embrace 21st Century Techniques that support collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking.

We hope everyone has a wonderful and rewarding November.

Sincerely,  
Rodney D. Drover  
B. Ed., B. Ed. Mus. M.Ed. Leadership



Heartfelt congratulations to all Marina International School (High School) students for participating in the Student Council Election on Tuesday, 25th October 2022. Also, a warm congratulation to Mr. Oni, Year Head Form 6 and 7, and his team for organizing and conducting the event in a conducive manner.

Here is the list of our new Student Council members elected into office:

- President: **Rohey Darboe**,  
 Vice President: **Mustapha Jah**,  
 Organizing Secretary: **Rakey M. Kah**,  
 Public Relation Officer: **Binta Cessay**,  
 Treasurer: **Fatou Bin Cham (unopposed)**  
 General Secretary: **Hawa Sowe (unopposed)**.

Congratulations to all the Class Representatives that are also members of the Student Council.

**Class Representatives**

<p><b>Form 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fatoumatta S. Keita - 1C</li> <li>● Isha Wally - 1P</li> <li>● Mariama Suwareh - 1S</li> <li>● Adama Bah - 1T</li> </ul>	<p><b>Form 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Alasan Kamaso - 2C</li> <li>● Adame L. N'diaye - 2P</li> <li>● Mariama Jallow - 2S</li> <li>● Aisha Dibba - 2T</li> </ul>	<p><b>Form 3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Jatta G. Peter - 3C</li> <li>● Jarju Ibrahim - 3P</li> <li>● Tommy Jemille - 3S</li> <li>● Gai Serign Saliou - 3T</li> </ul>
<p><b>Form 4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Amanda Rosa Mendy - 4C</li> <li>● Adam Chingling Wang - 4P</li> <li>● Binta Cisse - 4S</li> <li>● Aminata Kebe - 4T</li> </ul>	<p><b>Form 5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mam Sira Darboe - 5C</li> <li>● Aji Jay Touray - 5S</li> <li>● Sola Potier Mahoney - 5T</li> </ul>	<p><b>Form 6</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Muhammed Nyabally</li> </ul> <p><b>Form 7</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Kelma Ngwa</li> </ul>

Marina is proud of our new members of the Student Council and we pray that they will have the goodwill to carry out their responsibilities as expected.

## Junior School Prefects 2022-2023

### HEAD STUDENTS AND PREFECTS IN THE JUNIOR SCHOOL



The Head boy, Head girl and their deputies are representatives of all students in the Junior School. They serve as good role models for students and share their collective ideas with the school's leadership. The Head students and the prefects are carefully selected by the staff after reviewing their overall performance (academic, sportsmanship and citizenship). They are a group of students who are well-mannered and have a good attitude toward learning. Once chosen they are awarded badges to wear and their position is made known to other students. They are also allowed to wear a waistcoat.

Head boy: **Ryan Kadri**  
Head girl: **Palakshi Ropchandani**

Assistant Head boy: **Mamadou Barry**  
Assistant Head girl: **Haddijatou Sarr**

Prefects:  
**Hadija Mahoney, Hassan Touray**  
**Khadeeja Sowe, Fatou Ndow**  
**Yusuf Lamin Manga,**  
**Iman Bensouda**

## Fine Arts @ Marina



### The University of The Gambia Theatre in Education Literature programme

On Wednesday 12th October 2022, The University of The Gambia Theatre in Education Literature programme, in collaboration with Alliance Francais The Gambia, organized an exhibition and performances, to celebrate the literary achievements of Moliere, one of the most famous French playwrights, actors and poets.

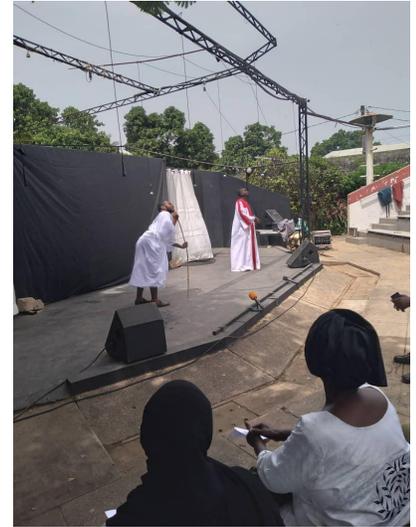
In her opening remarks, Ms. Grace Chapman, Director of the programme, said that in his satirical dramas, Moliere skillfully exposes and ridicules human vices such as avarice, corruption, betrayal, hypocrisy, jealousy, deceit forced marriages and male dominance, all of which are prevailing in human societies everywhere. She further said that the target audience was high school students

and that the programme aimed at developing interest in Literature and reading in general.

The exhibition featured books and photographs commemorating Moliere's 400th birth year and performances by students of The University of The Gambia. For their part, the performances showcased short scenes from four of Moliere's most memorable satires namely: The Misanthrop, The Imaginary Invalid, The Miser and The Hypocrite. It also featured extracts from The Hand of Fate by Gambian playwright, Mrs. Janet Badjan Young and The Trials of Brother Jero by the Nigerian dramatist and Nobel prize laureate, Wole Soyinka

Marina International High School was invited to the programme and was represented by Mr. Jaia Samba, Mr. Sulaiman Quadri both of the English Language Department and three sixth formers, in the persons of Kodou Gaye. Fatou Arete Jeng and Isa Jallow.

Our student representatives were particularly interested in the dramatization of two scenes from Soyinka's The Trials of Brother Jero as it is one of the texts they are currently studying for their Advanced Subsidiary Literature examination.



### Professional Choreographer visits MIS

MIS had the opportunity to welcome a visiting professional choreographer, Ms. Edna Stevens, from the United States. Edna Stevens is a choreographer, performing, and teaching artist that has taken her craft locally, nationally

and internationally. She has performed and offered instructional dance presentations and performances in Korea, Japan, Senegal, Nigeria and now The Gambia. Students of Form 1 and Form 3 during their PE were lucky enough to work with Ms. Stevens learning about the art of movement.



## Canteen Services



Canteen Services are now available. We are happy to announce that the Junior School Canteen will be serviced by Aji Yandeh Jallow and the High School Canteen service will be Bakery Yaharr. On behalf of the Marina International family, I would like to thank the Canteen Committee for your hard work in making this happen.

A detailed form was sent out last week for this week's (October 31st - Nov. 4th) orders.

### Junior School

**Package deal** - This option offers a pack for D250 on Wednesdays and D200 on other days of the week. The pack includes lunch, a drink (choice of either juice or water), fruit or yoghurt.

There is a breakfast menu, but this is not part of the package. It costs D60.

**A Detailed menu:** This option offers a detailed menu for parents that do not want to order from the pack.

Please note the total weekly cost should be inputted in the payment section of the form.

**The deadline for the order form is Friday of each week.**

**IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PAY THE RESTAURANTS PRIOR TO THE DELIVERY OF ITEMS.  
PLEASE SEE THE FORMS EMAILED FOR DETAILS.**

If you are having any technical issues or require assistance with the form, please call our secretary at 392-3528.

If you have any issues with your food order please **contact the restaurant at 390-5110.**

### High School

**Package deal** - This option offers an option of two lunches. Beverages and desserts are also included in the weekly menu.

There is a breakfast menu, but this is not part of the package. It costs D60.

**Snacks:** A weekly snack menu will also be offered.

Please note the total weekly cost should be inputted in the payment section of the form.

**The deadline for the order form is Friday of each week.**

**IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PAY THE RESTAURANTS PRIOR TO THE DELIVERY OF ITEMS.  
PLEASE SEE FORMS EMAILED FOR DETAILS**

If you are having any technical issues with ordering or require assistance, please call our secretary at 264 8080. If you have any issues with your food order please **contact the restaurant at 929-8427.**

## UK Schools/Universities address High School Students



The success of our students—both now and in the future—is very important to Marina International School, not only because we personally want them to succeed, but because the mission statement of our school clearly specifies that we want our students ... “to reach their full potential and contribute to the progress of The Gambia and the world”. It is important that every student who graduates is ready to achieve excellence in higher education and the workforce. Many of the transferable skills that students learn in school are the same ones necessary to succeed in college, universities and the real world which I might add



are the same as those that will help them succeed on the job (e.g., time management, teamwork, honesty, and responsibility).

Tuesday, October 18th, MIS provided all students at the High School an opportunity to learn about future opportunities regarding formal education particularly opportunities in the UK. MIS believes it is never too late to start planning for the future and we can't start early enough. It is important that schools and families start the conversation regarding their future and how we will achieve this vision. High School students had the opportunity to meet Heads of Schools from prestigious educational institutions such as Scarborough College, Rochester Independent College, St. Felix, and Cardiff. Special thank you to Dr. Yemisi Akindele of High Achievers Academy for facilitating this initiative.



## Online Safety Corner at MIS

We encourage parents to talk to their students about the appropriate use of cell phones, specifically in regard to their own safety. Parents, please take a moment to read through six suggestions as we all work together to protect our students:

### 1. Bring awareness to problems and examples of addiction and deception

Ludovic Chung-Sao, Founder of Zen Soundproof suggests:



Parents have to bring awareness to their children of what owning a phone involves. This means teaching your family about securing data, identifying scams, and being aware of how much time is spent on a screen. To secure data, put a passcode (or fingerprint) on the device and apps with sensitive family information.

We may feel safe when nothing bad happens to us, but showing teens examples of scams can be enough to shed light on the risks. It's important to separate moments when a phone should be used and a moment when it shouldn't. For instance, forbid the use of smartphones during family meals.

Many topics, such as body shaming, trolling, and craving for likes and followers can deceive reality perception. Get interested in what your child does on social media. Ask about their feelings and opinions about what they encounter on social platforms.

## **2. Teens should analyze their screen time data to understand how much time is spent scrolling**

**John Li, Co-Founder & CTO**, suggests that teens routinely monitor their cell phone screen time. It can be easy to burn hours of time browsing social media, especially on a mobile device if you're always on the move.



For this reason, teens in particular should monitor their screen time to get a better idea of how long they're spending online. It's important to stay connected, but at the same time, excessive use can cut into their time for studying, socializing with friends in person, and even spending time with family.

## **3. If a website doesn't look right, it probably is not safe**

Brian Turner, Chief Technology Officer, suggests that teens should be mindful of the websites they visit while using their cell phones. These days, malicious websites can look incredibly convincing. They duplicate the look and feel of typical social media, and it can be difficult to discern the difference – especially while using a small screen of a cell phone. Cybercriminals can lure in unsuspecting users and trick them to enter their passwords and phishing for their private details.



#### 4. Role model the phone usage you want your teens and tweens to display



Role modelling phone usage is the primary step in encouraging your teen to use their mobile phone responsibly on the internet. To avoid spam and malware, instruct them to not download apps from unknown sources. Screenshot capabilities can allow teens to record unsolicited media on the internet. Constant notifications, private messaging, and instant uploads can be dangerous for both adults and teens. As a family, foster a culture of no phone usage during family moments or have occasional no-internet holidays.



#### 5. Create a teen cell phone agreement

Make a smartphone agreement specifying:

1. Whether the phone goes to school (Please be aware, we do not permit cell phones at school. If a parent supplies a cell phone please insist your child keeps the cell phone in their book bag. If you require to contact your child, DO NOT CONTACT HIM/HER ON THEIR CELL PHONE DURING INSTRUCTIONAL TIME)
2. When phone use is allowed
3. Appropriate online behaviour
4. That monitoring software is non-negotiable
5. That the smartphone can be confiscated for poor behaviour
6. That the phone is checked into a central location at mealtimes and before bedtime

Students aren't getting enough sleep due to smartphone use. The light from phone screens interferes with melatonin production and the sleep-wake cycle. They also text throughout the night, leading to interrupted sleep. This is affecting health, behaviour, and school performance.

#### 6. Keep an open dialogue



The best way to keep students safe on their smartphones or other devices is to make sure as a parent you are constantly checking those devices. This lets students know that those devices aren't theirs. They are able to use them because their parents provide them. Only by keeping an open dialogue and letting students know that you're involved will the students be safe.

### **DO YOU KNOW YOUR CHILD'S PASSCODE?**

**Cell Phones are not permitted during instructional time (Monday to Friday 8:00 am - 3:00 pm).** If you require to contact your child, please call our secretary and we will communicate your message. If your child requires to contact their home, they have permission to use the phone at school.

### **Junior School Extracurricular Highlight**



#### **Dance Club**

The Dancing club is open to one and all, talent is not required; however, a willingness to have a great time and learn is. Students and teachers work together to create choreography, and experience the fine art of movement. Students and teachers work on traditional as well as modern steps. We look forward to seeing this group perform in the future.



#### **Arts and Design Club**

Fun with arts is a club where children showcase their talents. They are free to be creative and come up with different designs. The club is open to all ages. Pictured are some of our students working on their unique kite designs.



## High School Extracurricular Highlight

### ROBOTICS CLUB



The robotics Club is vibrant at Marina International School. It provides an opportunity for students to learn and share their knowledge in diverse areas related to STEM. Students develop teamwork and enhance their creativity while preparing for future careers.

Students enjoy participating in complex programming at a young age by learning how to code and write commands for robots while having fun. The knowledge and skills acquired by students in the Robotics club are useful and applicable beyond the Classroom.

Students in the robotics club have represented The Gambia at International Robotics competitions in different Countries in the world and have won accolades.

The development of technology is rapidly changing our environment, as such, it is necessary for students to keep up with the trends in the field of science, information technologies, and robotics, as well as to acquire the skills of the digital age.

Robots require a certain level of computer programming and are known to be widely applicable, which makes them an ideal technology for the future. Given that the field of robotics continues to develop, students inadvertently will have to learn to master these skills, because it will likely be in every field of study in the coming years.

#### **Join our robotics club**

This is the best way to familiarize yourself with the world of modern technologies and to build the foundations for your future career in the IT industry. Given the fact that this industry is developing at a tremendous rate, the need for experts will continue to grow, and now you have a chance to prepare yourself for the most promising jobs of the future. The robotics club invites you to join us!



### INTERACT CLUB

**Interact** stands for International Action. It is a Club for young people between the ages of 14 and 18. Most Interact Clubs are based in schools but in some parts of the world, they are in villages and towns as part of the community.

It is not a religious organization – it accepts young people of all creeds and ethnic backgrounds. The motto of Interact is **SERIOUS FUN** which gives a



good idea of what it is like to be a member. The serious part is the fund-raising and project organizing which leads to helping an individual or a group. The fun part is in joining with others to do it! Clubs often organize social occasions for themselves and for others and it is certainly not intended that all activities have a serious intention.

It is not always easy for young people to find opportunities to serve their communities in a positive way or to develop leadership skills. Interact provides these opportunities. Over the years, the Interact Club of Marina International School has impacted the lives of many people in the community and the Club is dedicated to touching as many lives as possible.

So – Welcome to Interact – a fun group doing fun things for a serious purpose.

## How do I report a concern?

### What to do first (Step 1):

Most of our parental/student concerns can be resolved by speaking with your child's teacher. The teacher will make every effort to resolve the concern informally. We must understand your concern and support your child in a safe and caring environment. **Your first contact should always be your child's teacher if you have academic or social concerns.** Please email or contact your teacher with your concern. Your teacher may require meeting you as they work through your concerns. Our experience is your teacher will have the tools and strategies to support your child. **Your teacher will always be your first point of contact.**

### What to do next (Step 2):

If the concerns are not improving and you are not satisfied with the teacher's response or direction, we recommend contacting the teacher again and informing our Head of Pastoral through email (c.c)(High School: [highschooldeputypastoral@mis.edu.gm](mailto:highschooldeputypastoral@mis.edu.gm) OR Junior School: [juniorschooldeputypastoral@mis.edu.gm](mailto:juniorschooldeputypastoral@mis.edu.gm) or phone call. The teacher or a member of the administrative team will contact you to arrange a meeting to discuss your concerns. This will provide all parties with an opportunity to understand the concerns, review ongoing strategies, and provide additional strategies to bring your concerns to a resolution. You may have another family member or friend with you during all meetings with our school.

### What to do next if still concerned (Step 3):

If the concern continues after interventions from the teacher and Heads of School, please contact the Director ([director@mis.edu.gm](mailto:director@mis.edu.gm) ). The Director will require a meeting to discuss your ongoing concerns. You may have another family member or friend with you during all meetings with our school, and a translator will be provided for those that require it. The Director may request other educators (Heads, Classroom Teacher, etc.) as required to support the concerns of the family and child during any meeting.

A collaborative restorative justice approach will always be our guide. Conversations will always be respectful and caring, with the child's best interest as our guide. We will continue to recommend changes where required. Our goal is for your child to feel safe in a supportive environment where they can learn to their potential.

All teachers' emails can be found below and uploaded to our school website: [mis.edu.gm](http://mis.edu.gm)

[2022-2023 Academic Calendar](#)  
(Please click this link and add the calendar)

Date	Event
Tue. Oct 25th	Student Council Elections
Oct. 26th - 28th	No School: Mid Term Break
Mon. Oct 31st	Classes Resume
Wed. Nov. 2	Extra Curricular Activities Year 1 - Form 6
Tues., Nov. 8th	Select students from High School will participate in celebrating 75 years of Impactful Health Research with MRC.
Nov. 14th -18th	ABT for both Junior and High School
Nov. 24th - 25th	Inter-House Sports Competition - HS
Nov. 28th - Dec. 14	Mock Exams for High School
Fri. Dec. 2nd	Speech & Prize Giving Day -JS
Dec. 7th	KS2 Sports Day - JS
Dec 12th - 14th	Mock Exams for Year 6 and Form 3 - HS / JS
Thurs. Dec.15th	Fun Day/End of Term
Fri., Dec 16th	Parent Consultation Day
Dec. 19th - Jan 3rd	Christmas Holidays
Wed. Jan 4th	Classes Resume
Jan 9th - 13th	Health Week - HS/JS

**Learning @ Marina**

**Scroll Down Please**



**RECEPTION**  
Social studies: Writing about their hobbies and Creative Writing

**NURSERY**  
Future Engineers designing and planning the next big project for the Gambia.



**Special Guest Reading Sessions @ Marina**



**Grade 5 students**  
Math Instruction at it's best



Students working collaboratively and communicating together to solve math problems. True examples of 21st Century Techniques.



**Grade 3 Math Session**

Our critical thinkers working collaboratively and communicating the learning.





**Form 6 students conducting experiments during Chemistry Class**



**Special Guest Reading Sessions @ Marina**



**Grade 5 students working collaboratively on their Maths**



**Future Doctors, Scientists and researchers**



**Maybe our next FIFA Soccer Players @ Marina. Phys. Ed Club**



Have a great November!