



# Marina International School

## Newsletter

### January 2023

#### Directors News



Greetings Marina Family,

Welcome to a new year and term. HAPPY NEW YEAR, 2023! I hope everybody had a restful break and enjoyed a wonderful holiday; it's time to return to school with raised spirits and jubilant hearts. It was an exciting end of term with many fantastic activities which brought the Marina Students and community together. We enjoyed the Junior school's Speech & Prize Giving Ceremony, and both the Junior and High school had an energized and successful sports day. Parent three-way conference, exciting house competitions and, of course, our end-of-term fun day. Congratulations to High School **Green** House and the Junior School **Yellow** House for winning the 2022 Sports day.

Behind the scenes, we have been progressing on the completion of our strategic development plan. The direction for the next four years will be released in the New Year. There will be opportunities for families to meet with me to discuss the strategies, goals and direction the School is moving toward. It will make a HUGE difference in the success of all our students.

**To our students**, you should never forget that every problem has a solution, and every student has a talent, and we must nurture this talent and let it bloom. Success is those who never give up. You have unmatched potential to do impossible things, and I wish you explore your strengths this year and enjoy great success in every phase of life. You must try to break a bad habit, learn a new skill, read a new book and do a good deed every day. Learn to be active, read more often, see the good, forgive soon, respect your elders and love everyone.

**To our parents**, parent-teacher cooperation is essential for students to achieve their potential. To bring out the best in a child, family influences should help inculcate desirable behaviour patterns, healthy habits and positive attitudes in personal and social life. We look forward to a continued productive partnership with you to ensure our children can achieve their highest potential. We understand that to be successful in school, our children need support from home and school. I firmly believe a strong partnership with you will make a significant difference in your child's education. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children's success and want you to know that we will do our best to fulfill our responsibilities.

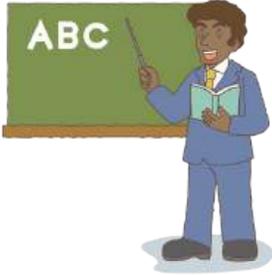
**To our teachers and staff**, we value you and sincerely appreciate your commitment to the most important profession. There is no substitute for quality education because it helps change the lives of thousands of individuals and their families forever; therefore, I would like to thank you for your invaluable contribution to Marina International School. May God bless you with the strength to achieve greater personal and professional growth in the future.

**To our elected Board**, thank you for your continued support and dedication to the most important resource The Gambia has, our students. Your guidance and commitment to the cause are impeccable. Thank you!

On behalf of Mr. Apha Barry, Chairperson of the Board and the entire Board, we hope this year will bring you more strength and continued dedication to achieving all our goals. Happy New Year, and best wishes for a successful 2023!

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

### Year 6, Forms 3, 5, 6, and 7 OPEN DAY



The first Mock Examination for year 6, forms 3, 5, 6 and 7 took place last December 2022 and was conducted successfully. Teachers are currently doing their entries in preparation for the Open Day. Families of Year 6, forms 3, 5, 6 and 7 are reminded of the Open Day Session scheduled for Friday, 13th January 2023, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. An opportunity to discuss the student's performance in the last Mock Examination and how well they have been prepared for the Cambridge External Examinations ( Checkpoint, IGCSE and A' Level). If you are

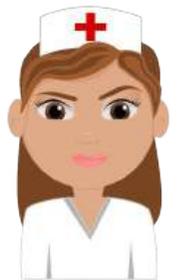


unable to attend, please contact your teachers. We would love to see 100% of our parents/guardians attend this session.

**Mr. Conteh will send a link to parents to log online and book a time. If you are unable to access the link, please contact the secretary at the schools and they will assist you.**

### Communicating Medical Concerns

As part of our Safe and Caring initiatives, Marina has developed a protocol regarding communication between the Nurse station and the home for incidents requiring follow-up. Communicating with the home may include addressing a potential medical concern, explaining an incident, and making recommendations. Sometimes, our nurse cannot connect with families over the phone because a phone number has been changed or disconnected. There have been times when a family member didn't recognize the phone number and decided not to answer. During these times, the nurse may email you or provide the child with a document. If there are any changes to your phone number, you must contact your teacher in the Junior School and the main office in the High School. There may be times when an emergency arises, and we need to contact you immediately.



Nurse Njie Ndey would like for you to program her phone number into your contacts if she is required to contact you due to a medical concern or emergency. Please add Nurse Ndey to your contacts: 7394424

### Canteen Services.



Watch for the weekly canteen link sent to your email and Whatsapp. The lunch providers do an outstanding job providing our students with fresh, quality, healthy and reasonably priced food items delivered daily to your children. Please provide feedback in the forms as they wish to continue to improve their service. Please also send any positive feedback, as that is always appreciated.

## Online Safety Corner at MIS

Dear families,

Take some time to discuss the following with your children. There is a video link that we have used in kindergarten up to High School. It is all our responsibility to monitor our children's online usage.

### PROTECTING PRIVATE INFORMATION ONLINE

This is a lesson done with my kindergarten and first-grade students to introduce the idea that strangers exist on the internet and to discuss how we should interact with them. You'll need a computer and internet access. Why not take a few minutes this week and have your child watch this video and then ask them these questions: Click here for the [internet safety video](#)

- "What is a stranger?" Ensure your children understand that a stranger is someone we don't know. Remind your children that some strangers may want to hurt them, but not all strangers are bad people. You can mention examples like a stranger who opens a door for you or picks up something you dropped and returns it to you.
- "What kinds of things should we not tell a stranger?" Ensure your children suggest the following: **"address," "phone number," and "full name."**
- "Are there strangers online?" Your children may have played games online before and may offer answers related to those experiences. I've had students as young as kindergarten say that they think there are strangers online because you don't always know who you are talking to. Hopefully, the video will help them address this concern.

### Welcome Head of Junior School Ms. Lucretia Dibba.

On behalf of the Board, Mrs. Coker, and myself, we would like to take this opportunity to introduce our new Head of Junior School. Please join me in welcoming Ms. Lucretia Dibba to the Marina Family. She will begin officially on Tuesday, January 3rd, 2023. Ms. Dibba will focus on the teaching and learning environment in all our classes providing students and staff with best practices as we move every child to their potential.

Ms. Dibba has a wealth of experience in the educational system:

- A Master's in Education.
- Worked extensively in International schools throughout Africa (Nouakchott- Mauritania, Zanzibar-Tanzania, Banjul American Embassy School, Bakau, The Gambia).
- Worked for 13 years in The United States of America (California).
- Experience in teaching English as a Second Language and Language development.
- Has participated in the International Accreditation process.

Ms. Dibba's work email is [headjschool@mis.edu.gm](mailto:headjschool@mis.edu.gm); please join us in welcoming our newest family member.

## Drop off/Pick up



We take the security of your children very seriously. As a school, we believe that once your child enters our school, all staff becomes “in loco parentis,” a Latin term “in place of the parent.” With that understanding as our foundation, we would like to remind families and drivers of the following drop-off expectations:



1. Students are expected to arrive between 7:45 - 8:14 am.
2. Students are late at 8:15 am.
3. Supervision begins at 7:45 am
4. Students **DO NOT** have permission to leave school once they enter.
5. Please be aware we have observed High School students leave the vehicle; as you drive away, some will turn to leave for food items, socialize, etc. Marina is NOT responsible for children that do not enter the gates. It is unreasonable to expect any school to monitor students outside their boundaries. Please ensure your children are instructed to enter the gates. If security observes a child walking toward the gate and abruptly turning around, we will try and address these rare occasions.
6. We have two lanes established at the front of the gates.
  - a. Lane 1 is our thoroughfare lane. **DO NOT STOP IN THIS LANE TO DROP YOUR CHILD OFF.**
  - b. Lane 2 is our drop-off lane (Closest to school)

## MRC celebrates 75th Anniversary



The Medical Research Center, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Sciences celebrated their 75th Anniversary, and our senior students ( Forms 6 & 7) were invited to the occasion. Students had the opportunity to meet individuals that make a difference at MRC. Many of our students will have the opportunity to build a relationship with MRC for future employment and education.



## Delivery of packages to High School students

Please be aware that family members or designates are the only individuals permitted to drop items off at the school. We do not allow items to be delivered to students during instructional times that a family member or designate doesn't drop off. If a parent/guardian requires to drop an item off to a child, please drop it off in person or contact the receptionist with details regarding who is dropping it off so we can ensure the item gets to your child safely. Please call the receptionist at 449 7178.

Items dropped off without parental direction will remain at the reception office until a family member, or we receive family direction.

## January Calendar of Events

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

Date	Event
Dec. 19th - Jan 3rd	Christmas Holidays
Wed. Jan 4th	Classes Resume
Jan 9th - 13th	Health Week - HS/JS
Jan. 11th	Wednesday Extracurricular activities begin
Jan. 11th	Walk to School
Jan. 13th	Open Day (Year 6 & Forms 3, 5, 6 & 7)
Jan. 23rd	Across the Board Test Commence -HS See schedule email to parents
Jan 27th	Speech and Prize Giving Day - High School
Feb. 10th	Cross Country - HS
Feb. 20th	National Independent Day Holiday
Feb 23rd	Mid-Term Break
Feb. 27th	Classes Resume
Feb. 28th-March 3rd	Form 3 Subject Option Interview with Parent & Students

## Junior School Fun Day





**High School Fun Day**

Thank you to the school community for assisting us in our Fun Day activities with donations. Your contributions made the day more special. Special thank you to Yankuba Darboe, Ihuoma Anthony Nwajei, Omar Sarr, Maya Ismael, Ramatoulie Njie, Abdou Khadri Sowe, Dr. Malick Njie, Magic Touch, High School Teachers, High School Students. We appreciate your kind gestures of support.



Junior Sports Day



Senior Sports Day



**JUNIOR SCHOOL SPEECH & PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY**  
**FRIDAY, 2ND DECEMBER 2022**  
**THEME: - A BOOK TODAY,**  
**A FUTURE TOMORROW**

It was great to see such a large turnout of our parents/guardians. The opportunity for students, staff, and the Board to come together in a beautiful setting to celebrate the students' accomplishments is undoubtedly a proud moment for all of us. We all enjoyed the performances and laughed through an outstanding production written by the staff and students of Marina. When you see parents, students, and the Board engaged in the dance and theatre productions, you know you have a winner. Well done, everyone.

