

NEWSLETTER

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Happy New Year!

Often as we start a New Year we think of how we can improve certain aspects of our life. Perhaps we might set some goals or set a resolution that we aim to keep throughout the year. Have you ever considered setting a New Year's resolution with your child? You can work with your child to help them choose a specific, achievable resolution to set them up for success in the New Year.

Setting a New Year's Resolution is a not only a valuable teaching moment about setting goals and sticking to them, but the practice of choosing an achievable resolution for the new year can be a fun way for our students to develop their communication and decision-making skills.

Here are some top tips for you to consider:

- * Resolutions should always be discussed in a **positive** way with children: for example, saying "I'm going to do this..." instead of "I'm going to stop doing this...". It is important to frame the conversation in a way that encourages them to think of how they can do things better.
- * Take care to help your child pick a resolution that is both **achievable** and **specific**. If your child suggests well-intentioned but vague ideas like "Be a better friend" or "Be healthier," try to help guide those ideas into tangible actions that can be done every day, for example "Help my friends with their bed after nap time" or "Eat my vegetables at dinner time."
- * Be the perfect **role model** by leading by example. Set your own goal and share your progress about it with them.
- * To keep your child interested in their New Year's Resolution, find ways to **make it fun**. You can create a visual tracker by adding marbles to a jar or by using a calendar. Find out what motivates your child and stick with that.



The Annual BMH Parent Tasting Day

On January 9th, 2019, it was such a great pleasure to have twenty four class parents from Pre and Prep school join us at our Parent Tasting Day.

Planned and organised by Penny Liu, Deputy Head of Prep School, and Yola Fu, Deputy Head of Pre School, this Parent Tasting Day was a great success thanks to the efforts and help from our Admin staff as well as the Pre and Prep Kitchen teams. Parents shared their feedback about each dish, offering suggestions and praise from the perspectives of Look, Smell, Taste, and Nutrition & Balance. A short presentation with photos of students' actual choices of food taken during lunch time was given to our parents. In addition, tips and reminders about maintaining a healthy and balanced diet were also shared prior to the tasting. Anna Packman, Head of Pre and Prep School, together with Arlene Chen, Deputy Head of Prep School, and our Pre School Coordinator, Jo Callaway, also joined the meal and listened to parent feedback.

After enjoying the meal, parents were led by Prep School Students, Sabrina and Rani from P3A, to visit the Prep Dining Hall, and were greatly impressed by our students' confident introduction. Students also shared with parents the good news of our 'A Level' Dining Hall Certificate granted by the FDA; parents were all very pleased by this news and extended congratulations to the school. Such events, news and collaboration help BMH grow stronger day by day.



Parent Helper Training

Next Week's Parent Engagement activity will be Pre School Parent Helper Training on Friday 18th, run by Joanna Callaway, for those parents who have already volunteered for this. This will be in place of our Coffee Morning this time round.

A Leveled Kitchen@BMH

At the outset of 2019, we are proud and delighted to share a piece of good news to our community members: Pre and Prep Kitchens have both won the Excellent Level in Food Safety Quantitative Grades Category appraised by Shenzhen FDA. This recognises our continuous efforts and strict standards regarding the design, construction and management of our school kitchens, and facilitates us in continuing to serve healthy and delicious food for our students.



Upcoming Events

Date: 18th of January

Event: Parent Helper Training

Time: 8:45

Location: Orchid Room, Bamboo

Date: 22nd of January

Event: Prep CNY Celebration Performance

Time: Starts 8:45am (Lion Dance @ 8:15am)

Location: Kapok Atrium+Quad

Recruitment Season Begins

In addition to the recruitment of our Head of Senior School, who is set to join us well in advance of its opening in 2020, the recruitment season for teaching staff for the 2019-20 academic years has already begun. Recruitment of excellent staff each year is a key priority for the school leadership team, who seek to find the very best teachers from across the globe to work at BMH.

When recruiting for teachers we use the highest quality recruitment channels available to us, including the reputable organisations of TES, which originated in the UK and leads recruitment of UK as well as international teachers, and Search Associates, which is one of the most established international teacher recruitment organisations in the world. All applicants submit their resume along with a Philosophy of Education, which helps us to determine teachers who may be a good fit for the school. Candidates are initially screened through their submitted documents and on line files available to us through databases provided by TES and Search Associate including evidence of their university transcripts, Bachelors and Masters degrees, teaching qualifications, police clearance records and so on. If a candidate meets our standards and is elected to move forward for interview, they must then complete multiple interviews with school leaders who ask them questions about their career successes to date, their track-record with academic outcomes, what they may bring to our holistic learning programme in the school, their approach to behaviour management, research they have carried out on our school, their values and their personalities. We also have a survey that we often use with applicants that helps us identify the core values and beliefs of our candidates.

At this point, we may ask teachers to visit the school face to face, for lesson observations and teaching demonstrations where appropriate; for those teachers who are currently overseas or too far away for this to be viable, we will ask them instead to submit videos and planning of recently taught lessons for our review. Where a candidate is applying for a bilingual position, they may be asked to perform a written translation task; where a candidate is applying for a middle leadership role they may be asked to perform an 'In-Tray' activity to identify how they prioritise and how they communicate. All candidates are followed up with reference checks and it is not unusual for us to collect as many as six written references on a candidate. In line with best international practice, we also make a phone call to at least one of their referees.

If we get to the point of making an offer to a candidate it is achieved through much deliberation; time is taken to ensure the best candidates are elected with the right skills for our school and with the right approach for our students. We are delighted to have already started making appointments for the year ahead, as our school is set to continue growing. While we have also rejected several candidates who have not met our standards, there is a high demand for our school and we will continue our recruitment throughout the first half of 2019 to ensure the very best teachers for your children.