



The American School of Kinshasa TASOK TALK – OCTOBER 2023

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PTC Welcome Picnic

Message from the Director:

PTC Welcome Picnic

A **BIG** thank you to all those students, staff, and parents that helped to make the '*PTC Welcome Picnic*' a huge success. What a wonderful way to start the year off together with food and great conversations with both new & returning families!

MAP Testing

What is MAP testing? You may have had your child come home last week sharing that they finished '*MAP testing*' - but what is this and why is it important? The *Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) Growth* test is the most trusted and innovative assessment for measuring achievement and growth in K–12 math, reading, language usage, and science.

Who uses MAP testing? Close to 1000 international schools in more than 145 countries trust MAP as their preferred assessment provider to meet the most rigorous global standards and achieve and maintain accreditation. MAP is also used in 1000's of schools throughout the United States in grades 3 to 10.

Why do we use MAP testing? Using MAP Growth insights, teachers can confidently tailor instruction to challenge every student, whether they are below, at, or above grade level. MAP Growth student reports also present realistic learning goals by subject areas so that, through a teacher's guidance, students can individually see their progress and be inspired to take charge of their own learning.

What's next? The MAP testing window has closed and Principals are starting to process the results to share with families and teachers prior to the October Break. Additionally, teachers will use this valuable data to align their instruction to meet the needs of our students.

Be safe, be well, be kind,

Dan Mullen - TASOK Director



Our Mission for Excellence: *The American School of Kinshasa provides dynamic and individualized educational challenges and opportunities that promote diversity and empower each of its students to develop into independent global community leaders.*

MEET OUR TASOK TEAM!

We dedicate this space to celebrating all the amazing people at TASOK, supporting the school and TASOK Mission, making TASOK a great place to live, work, and learn! Each month we will share information about our team, some of whom work behind the scenes. Make sure to say 'hi' next time you see them on campus, and a quick 'thanks' for all they do for our community!

Interview with: **Ferdinand Ikofo**
Elementary French
Teaching Assistant.



Interview with: **Charly Elembo**
Elementary Kindergarten
Teaching Assistant



What do you do at TASOK?
I am French Teaching Assistant

What do you do at TASOK?
I am Elementary Kindergarten Teaching Assistant

How long have you worked at TASOK?
I have been working at TASOK since August 2023. Actually, this is my first year in TASOK

How long have you worked at TASOK?
I have been working at Tasok since August 22,2023. This is my first year here.

What province are you from/which Kinshasa commune do you live in?
I am originally from Equateur. Now I live in Mont-Ngafula Commune-Mbudi, Kinshasa.

What province are you from/which Kinshasa commune do you live in?
I am originally from Mongala(Equateur). I live in Ngaliema Commune, Mama Yemo area , Kinshasa

What do you appreciate about TASOK?
I really appreciate the diverse community which TASOK brings together. Working with diverse staff and students from all over the world is the greatest opportunity. I am enjoying the natural environment of TASOK with many trees and flowers. I also appreciate the different co-curricular activities which hone the talents of children and assist them to develop some specialized skills.

What do you appreciate about TASOK?
I do appreciate different cultures, people from all over the world. So, I am impressed by the school's strong community. People are very hospitable and nice. The most important thing is the natural environment of the school which can help students to learn well. I also like its commitments of inclusivity and diversity.

What job accomplishment are you most proud of during your time at TASOK?
So far, I am proud of fostering a supportive learning environment, where students demonstrate personal contribution to solve a shared problem, while providing individual's content knowledge. I am also proud of supporting the French team with materials needed for French classes.

What job accomplishment are you most proud of during your time at TASOK?

- I am proud of working with a passionate team of educators who are really dedicated to providing students with a well-rounded and immersive learning experience.
- I am proud of fostering a love of learning among students. The school's commitment to promoting a growth mindset aligns perfectly with my own beliefs about education.

<p>What are you most proud of in the DRC? I am most proud of the Rhumba music, the friendship and hospitality of the Congolese people.</p> <p>What do you do as a hobby? In my free time I enjoy reading novels or articles, I watch soccer and most especially the English Premier League and my favorite team is Liverpool FC. My GOAT player is Lionel Messi. I also enjoy traveling and having fun with friends</p>	<p>What are you most proud of in the DRC? I am most proud of Rumba music, the hospitality of Congolese people from all walks of life, the resilience, the unity and citizenship.</p> <p>What do you do as a hobby? I'm eager to learn new things, I like reading books, newspapers, magazines, I also like reading news on different social media like twitter, facebook and Instagram. My favorite soccer team is Barcelone. But also I love the local team Renaissance du Congo.</p>
<p>What do you appreciate in your current position? What I really appreciate about my current position is the different learning opportunities that I come across. I am exposed to many tasks, and most of these provide me with new skills.</p>	<p>What do you appreciate in your current position? What I really appreciate about my current position is working in a safe and supportive environment. I am so passionate about working with kids and fortunate to be in my class.</p> <p>I also appreciate learning about the PYP Programme which can help me during my current position here at TASOK to be a better T.A and frankly speaking, I'm getting the hang of it.</p>

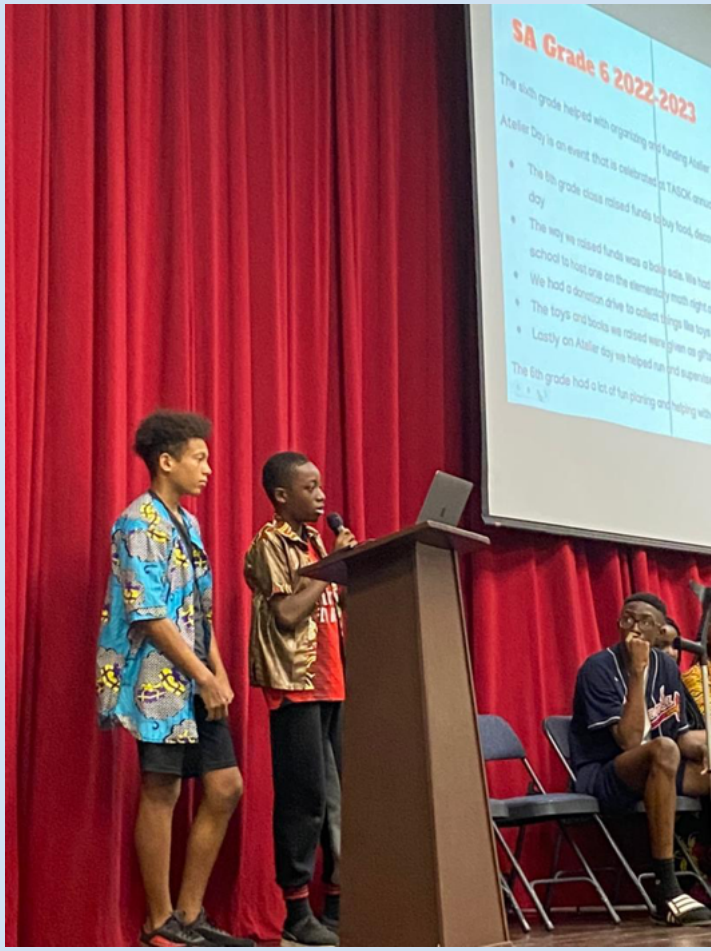
SECONDARY SERVICE CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Sarah Clover - Secondary Principal

Last year during our MSA Accreditation visit, the team mentioned that so many wonderful things were happening at TASOK, but we sometimes fail to take the time to celebrate what is happening. As part of Congo Week, we decided to take time to celebrate many of our student's service activities that happened last year. Ms. Eells, our CAS Coordinator, and Ms. Kerssemeeckers, our SA Coordinator, worked with students to collect photos and put together information for students to share in our Service Celebration Assembly. We decided to make this part of Congo Week to help students to see that a week dedicated to understanding more about our host country, should include a spotlight on ways that we can give back through service. Here is the [PPT](#) shared during the Assembly and some photos of students presenting. We hope this inspires everyone to get more involved.









CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 MYP GRADUATES

Sarah Clover - Secondary Principal

After our Service Celebration on Wednesday, September 27th, we were able to honor our 2023 MYP Graduates with their official IB Graduation Certificates. These students passed their Personal Project, completed their Service as Action and passed all necessary classes to move on to the DP Program in Grade 11.



Lifelong Learning at TASOK

Dan Mullen - Director

Developing lifelong learners does not stop with the classroom walls. While our TASOK mission of academic excellence clearly focuses on students, to fulfill this mission requires a dedicated team with a similar mindset.

This past month, I have had the pleasure of recognizing the following two members of our staff that are true examples of lifelong learning in action. We congratulate them on their achievements!

Dieu Merci Masanga Phanzu - Secondary Math & Learning Support

Dieu Merci successfully completed his Masters in Education from University of the People in early August. He completed this internationally recognized program over the past two years and we are excited to have him as part of the Secondary Math Team!



Kevine Katenda Pikani - TASOK Reception

Kevin recently joined us this year and successfully completed his major in Business Administration, with a focus on Strategic Management. He presented and defended his thesis this past weekend and was awarded his Bachelor's Degree! Félicitations!



Celebrating Congo Week





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Grade 4 Field Trip and Celebration of Learning

Ms. Blair - Grade 4 Teacher

In Grade 4's first unit of inquiry, How We Express Ourselves, learners explored the connections between culture, media and how we communicate. We enjoyed a field trip to Symphonie des Arts to view art created in different media. For our final project of the unit, students teamed up to research different online platforms and issues of their choice: YouTube, Roblox, TikTok and cyberbullying. We shared with families and other classes about what these are, different perspectives people have about them, and how to take responsible action.

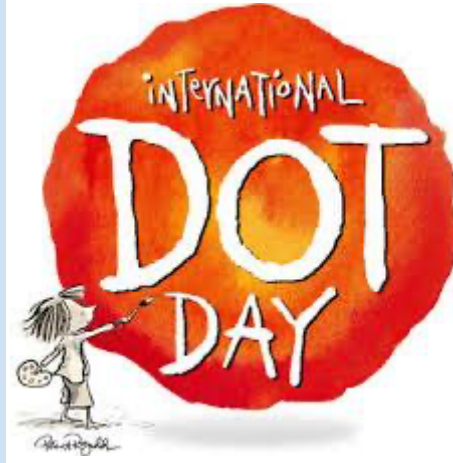




Day of the Dot

Ms. K - Art Teacher

The Dot book by Peter Reynolds teaches us to be risk-takers, have a growth mindset and celebrate self-expression. International Dot Day was celebrated by the PYP students and teachers to shine a light on creativity, risk-taking, self expression and collaboration.



The PYP students created a dot mural and made a mark to celebrate creativity.





Grade 1 UOI

Ms. Sofi - Grade 1 Teacher

Our first unit was filled with laughter, insightful connections, and playful learning. Grade 1 students had the opportunity to explore how play changes as they grow. They focused their learning on the concepts: connection, change, and responsibility. During this incredible journey of learning, children deepened their understanding by researching, sorting information, creating posters, and working in teams to come to our final step: Taking action. We had the opportunity to work hand in hand with the P.E teachers to create their final project. During a beautiful morning, we met with the 2nd grade students and presented the 4 games created by our students. Grade 1 students explained to them how to play the game, what rules they created, and what were the roles in the game. Grade 2 students had the opportunity to play all of their games and had a wonderful time. Later, we moved to the reflection part, where we had reflective feedback from the 2nd graders with their opinions about our games. This was an incredible experience for all of them to collaboratively learn together.





TASOK PERFORMING ARTS 2023-24

Kelley Marchant, Director

We have a CAST for our Fall Production! The cast of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* has continued rehearsals and tickets are now on sale! We have a talented group of **35** very excited 4th-12th grade cast and crew members working hard over the next month to put the show together. **SAVE THE DATE (November 2,3,4 - 7:00pm)**

TASOK Performing Arts
presents

William Shakespeare's

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

NOVEMBER | 2,3,&4 | 7:00 PM

All Seats - \$10 (advance) & \$15 (at the door)
Location: CAC

Design by
Rida Fatima

Tickets are on sale now through this link:
[A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM TICKET ORDER](#)

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Secondary Student Council

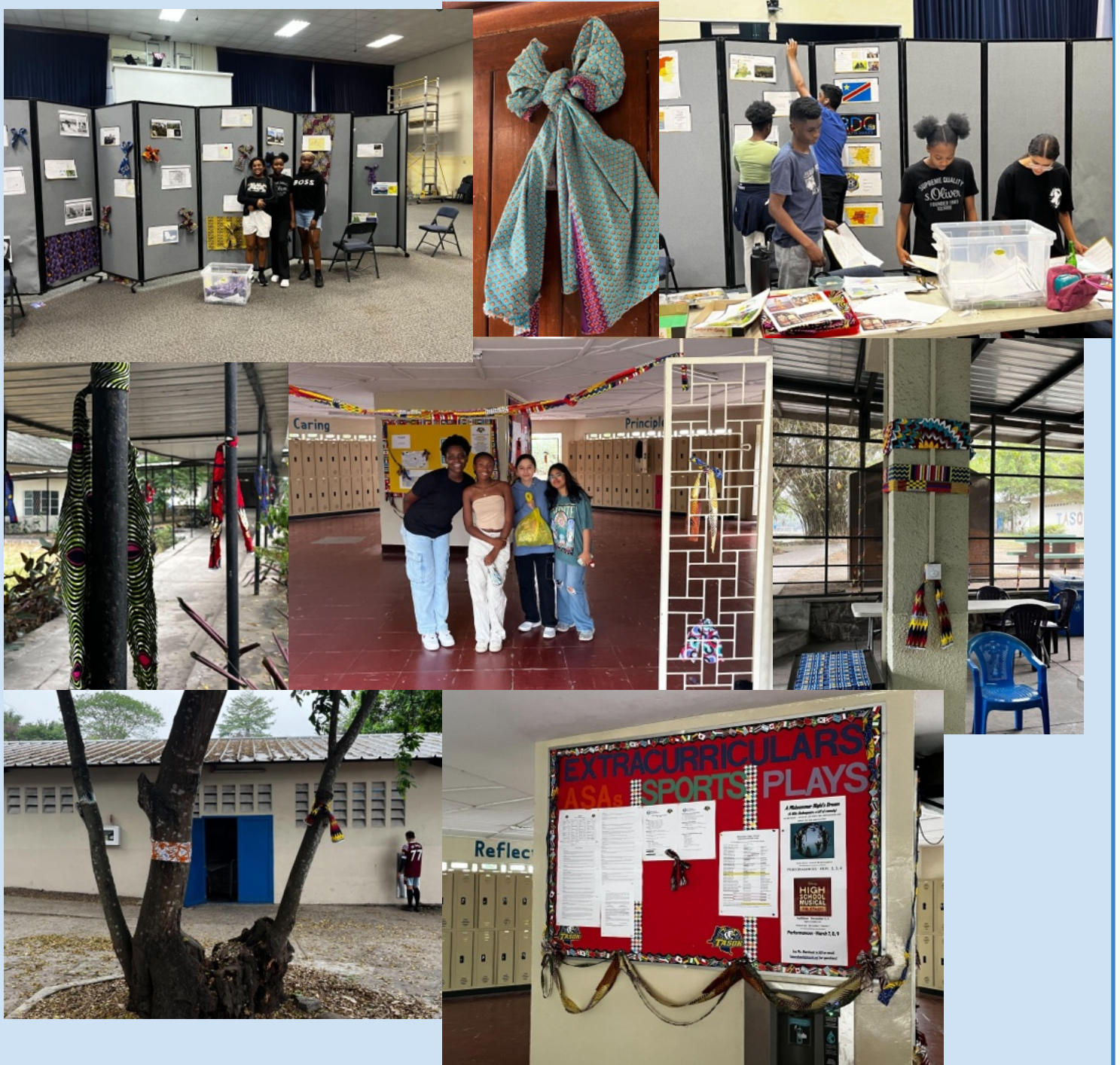
Kelley Marchant, Advisor

Secondary Student Council had an energetic start with volunteering at the PTC Picnic on September 9th!



After that, the focus this month was CONGO WEEK! All our student council members got involved in designing and prepping decorations for the Secondary campus to help get everyone in the Congo Spirit!! From classroom doors, to an informational display, to corridors, to the canteen and even the covered court, TASOK was ready for the big week!





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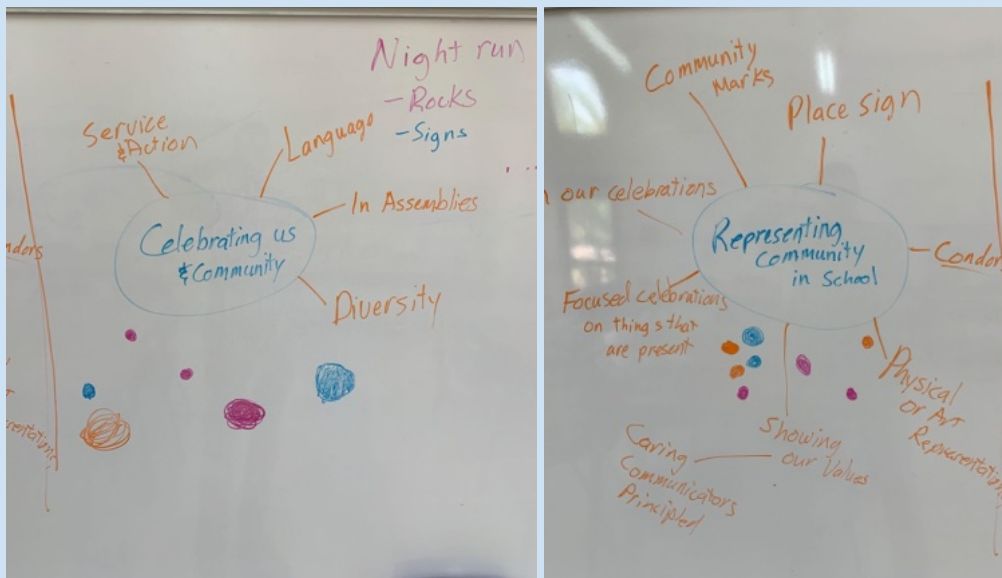
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 @TASOKinshasa



Elementary Student Council-

Mike Bailey- ES Principal

The elementary student council started the year preparing for the Night Run and looking at what is important to us in our school and also looking at areas we want to further develop. The StuCo focused on two areas for our work: making sure our community is represented in our school and celebrating who we are. We decided to start by looking at who we are as an IB PYP school and to prepare for some school events.



To show what we value we are starting on 3 of the learner profiles- being **Caring**, being **Communicators**, and being **Principled**. We broke into 3 action groups.

Our Caring Action group started their campaign of being caring by writing letters of appreciation to our support staff who help keep our classrooms clean and the teachers who support us. We will continue to explore ways we can show appreciation to our teachers, staff, and community.



Our Communicator action group is creating communication challenges for each day of the week. Oct. 2 -Oct. 6.

Challenges

Whole Week Challenge all week- Use kind words

October 2- Make sure you take turns talking

October 3- Be nice/kind to 5 people you do not regularly play with

October 4- Use 5 appropriate actions to express your emotions/feelings

October 5- Follow the communication agreements in the library and other learning spaces

October 6- Try to play or talk with 5 different people

Our Principled action group started by creating a board where students can share who they saw being principled and how. They put the board out and students have been adding shoutouts for the principled behavior that they have seen.



Pictures of us preparing for the night run!
We cleared rocks from the trails and made signs to guide runners.





DP CORNER

Chris Clover, DP Coordinator

A lot of behind the scenes work has been happening in collaborative planning sessions. MYP and DP teachers have been standardizing assessments in order to build common understandings and increase our accuracy in assessing student work against the MYP and DP criteria. This is a really valuable exercise and the conversations in teams have been very productive, helping us reflect on how we teach and assess and on the skills that connect the MYP and DP.

The Grade 12 students and their supervisors are nearing the end of the Extended Essay process. Students will submit their final drafts by October 16th, have their final meetings, and reflect on their research & writing experience, finishing up on November 8th. Grade 11 students will start their Extended Essay journey in November.

Our DP students enjoyed the activities of Congo Week. Congratulations to Grade 12 for winning the pagne and the trivia contests. Grade 11 showed their spirit too, with a 3rd place in the pagne contest.

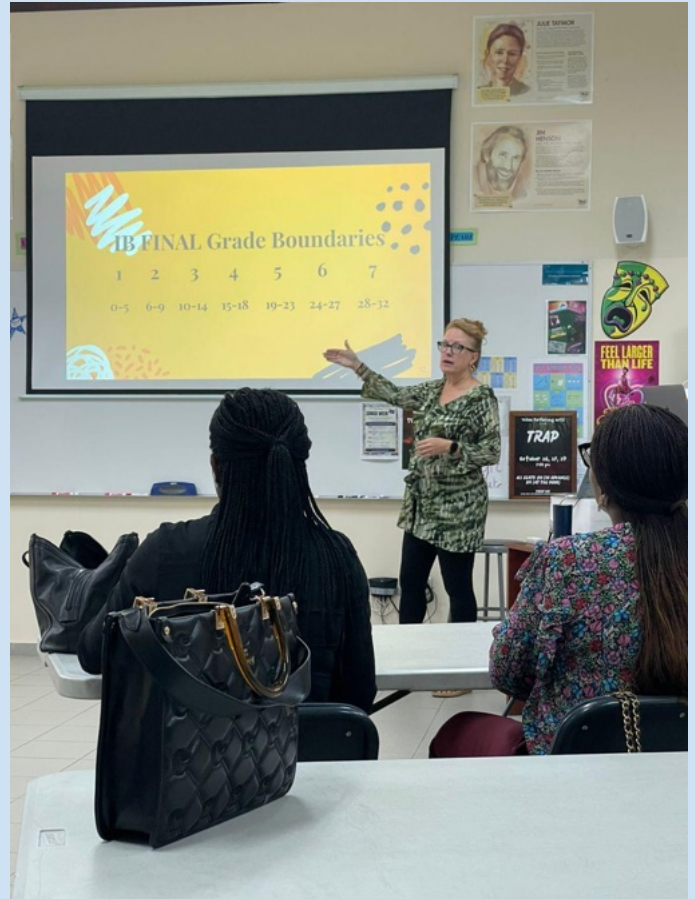


Save the date! The DP Visual Arts Mock Exhibition showcasing student work is coming up on November 1st. Thanks to Ms. Trego and the DP Art students, we will be using a new format this year utilizing spaces around campus. Be on the lookout.

MYP CORNER

Kelley Marchant, MYP Coordinator

Thanks to all the parents who supported us in the Workshops on Tuesday, September 19th, 2023.



If you were not able to attend the workshops, here are the links to the two presentations:

[Understanding MYP Assessment
\(Grades 6-10\)](#)

[ManageBac for Parents](#)

If you still have questions, please feel free to contact me at kmarchant@tasok.net! Watch

for Progress Reports coming out the last week of October and we look forward to having you come to visit with teachers on

Friday, November 3rd for our Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences.

Getting to know the PYP

Vitna Bailey - PYP Coordinator

Thank you, parents, for joining our first ES parent workshop, Getting to Know the PYP. It was a very engaging and meaningful session learning about the PYP. We talked about the key elements of the PYP and

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the inquiry cycle and what learning looks like using the grade 3 unit, How We Organize Ourselves. For the parents who weren't able to attend, these are some main ideas shared.

The PYP is a curriculum framework from Preschool to Grade 5. It is based on the belief that all children are capable of in-depth learning and that they learn best by doing. The PYP focuses on five key elements:

- **Knowledge:** The PYP curriculum is based on a broad and challenging set of transdisciplinary themes. These themes are designed to help students develop a deep understanding of the world around them.
- **Conceptual Understandings:** Conceptual understanding allows the learners to apply what they learn in all areas of their lives. Each unit and subject has a set of key and related concepts they focus on. The PYP curriculum focuses on seven key concepts: form, function, causation, change, connection, perspective, and responsibility. Some examples of related concepts are diversity, culture, continuity, progress, technology, control, relationships, etc.
- **Skills:** The PYP curriculum emphasizes the development of both academic and transferable skills. ATL (Approaches to Learning) Skills include thinking skills, social skills, communication skills, research skills, and self-management skills.
- **Dispositions:** The PYP curriculum values the development of positive attitudes towards learning and others. The IB learner profile represents 10 attributes valued by IB World Schools. Learner Profile Attributes: Inquirers, Knowledgeable, Thinkers, Communicators, Principled, Open-Minded, Caring, Risk-Takers, Balanced, Reflective
- **Action:** The PYP curriculum encourages students to take action to make a difference in the world. This action can be taken at the individual, local, or global level.

We use Kath Murdoch's inquiry cycle which is well-aligned with the PYP as a model for teaching and learning. The inquiry cycle consists of six phases:

- Tuning in: engage students' interest in the topic of inquiry
- Finding out: gather information about the topic of inquiry through a variety of activities
- Sorting out: process the information students have gathered and begin to develop their own understandings
- Going further: extend students' learning by exploring the topic of inquiry in more depth
- Making conclusions: draw conclusions about their learning and share their findings with others
- Taking action: take action to make a difference in the world based on their learning (Action can happen anywhere in the inquiry cycle. It can be actions for learning and as a result of learning.)

There are many ways that you can support your child's learning in the PYP. Here are a few tips:

- Talk to your child about their learning. Ask them what they are learning in school and what they are interested in learning more about.
- Help your child to find resources to support their learning. This could include books, websites, or even people who can share their knowledge and expertise.
- Encourage your child to ask questions. Let them know that there are no such things as silly questions.

- Help your child to think critically about what they are learning. Encourage them to question the information they are presented with and to come up with their own ideas and opinions.
- Celebrate your child's successes. Let them know that you are proud of their hard work and their learning.

Please feel free to learn more about the PYP by visiting the IB website (www.ibo.org) or talking to your child's teacher. We look forward to having you at the next parent session.

Upcoming Whole School Parent Workshop with the counselors:

Friday, Oct. 27th

8:00 - 8:45 AM

Upcoming ES Parent Workshop:

Mathematical Mindsets

Friday, Dec. 8th ES3

8:00 - 8:45 AM



COLLEGE CORNER – Preparing our Class of 2024!

Julie Mullen – College Counselor

We just finished the first round of the digital SAT on August 26th with students coming from all across Kinshasa.

For up to date information about online registration, please click on the:

[COLLEGE BOARD WEBSITE LINK](#)



SAT TEST DATE**	Deadline for Registration Registration Changes, and Regular Cancellation
November 4, 2023	October 20, 2023
December 2, 2023	November 17, 2023
March 9, 2023	Coming Soon
May 4, 2023	Coming Soon
June 1, 2023	Coming Soon

We are already starting great conversations about where to go after TASOK for our grade 12's so stay tuned!

XTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES 2023-2024

Gilbert Kaburu & Timon Kitakani– Athletic Director & ASA Coordinators

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

We have had a good start to the Trimester 1 After School Activities and Sports season. Our Elementary and Secondary students have enjoyed participating in athletic, creative, language and service activities across the school. A big thank you to our talented pool of ASA leaders and sports coaches who continue to make sure that our Extracurricular activities program is tailored to meet the needs of our student community.

ES



SS





2023 NIGHT RUN

This year's Night Run was held last Saturday, the 23rd of September. We had over 200 runners enjoying an evening of fun walking and running in our beautiful campus trail. We had students from both sections, parents and teachers joining in the fun. Congratulations to everyone who participated in one form or another.



Business Office Info

Kareen Laplanche - Finance & Operations Manager

Welcome New & Returning families!

This is a brief overview of the payment methods accepted at TASOK. TASOK offers families and companies the convenience of making tuition payments as well as miscellaneous purchases/bill settlements online. Traditional payment methods are still available.

The school partners with Diamond Mind/Community Brands, an independent school payment service provider. Other local services are also available. All payment information is completely secure using the highest security standards in the industry.

Payment Options

WEBSITE OPTION

Go to the school website's "Payment Portal" link, or enter it directly clicking here: [PAYMENT PORTAL](#)

You can find common answers to online tuition payment questions at [DM-FAQ](#).

MOBILE OPTION


You can also pay using our mobile payment app: MySchoolWallet©



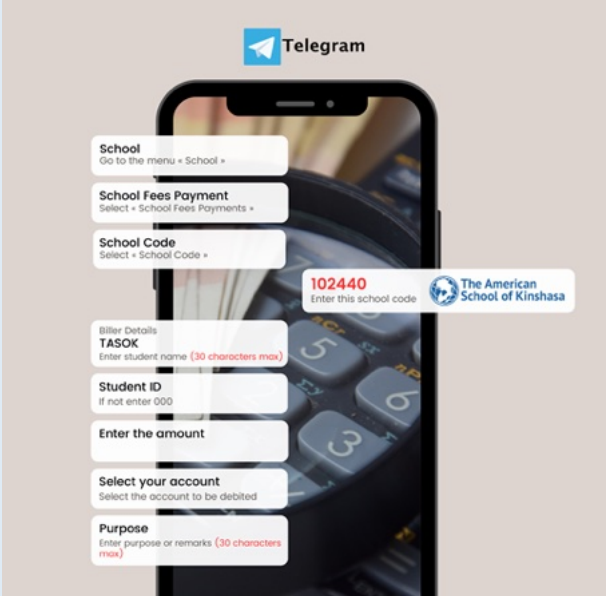
NEW MOBILE OPTION (for EQUITY BANK users only)

You can now make payments to TASOK with a click via the Equity mobile application. Follow the instructions below. See your Equity rep for more details.

1. Go to Telegram app
2. Search for the chatbot Eazzy Chat DRC (@EquityBankDRCBot) or scan the QR Code
3. Go to the menu « School »
4. Click on Payment of school fees
5. Type in TASOK's biller Code : 102440
6. Type in Student ID if you don't have one, type 000
7. Insert the Student Name : 30 characters maximum
8. Enter amount
9. Select account number
10. Reason for payment : 30 characters maximum
11. Confirm payment with your PIN
12. Insert the OTP received by SMS



EQUITY
@EQUITYBANKDRCBOT



Telegram

School
Go to the menu « School »

School Fees Payment
Select « School Fees Payments »

School Code
Select « School Code »

102440
Enter this school code

Biller Details
TASOK
Enter student name (30 characters max)

Student ID
If not enter 000

Enter the amount

Select your account
Select the account to be debited

Purpose
Enter purpose or remarks (30 characters max)

The American School of Kinshasa

BANKING OPTION

- Direct deposits (cash or check) at bank counters into TASOK's account are accepted.
- Wire or ACH transfers are accepted.
- Online banking from your bank DRC or US bank to ours is possible. Check with your institution for options available to you.
- Most US transfer options work: wire, ACH, e-check, BillPay, Zelle, etc... These options are only available for US transactions, not international.

ON CAMPUS OPTION

- TASOK Cashier Office accepts cash up to 1,000 USD.
- TASOK Cashier Office accepts debit and credit cards for payments via POS. Both ATM & POS accept VISA ® & Mastercard ®.
- TASOK Cashier Office accepts paper checks issued to The American School of Kinshasa. Checks from a local DRC or US bank are accepted.

Help is available at the office to help you navigate the TASOK website and experiment with the tuition portal or the mobile app! If you need copies of invoices/agreements or would like a receipt for your payment(s), please email accounts@tasok.net.

Stay informed

Visit the Business Office page [link](#) for details on Tuition Rates, Payment Plans and Educational Loans at Local Banks.

For questions/comments, contact us at business@tasok.net | +(243) 81-880-1330 |

Nurse's Station Cell +243 817 252 011

Nathalie Katalayi– TASOK Nurse: nurse@tasok.net

At TASOK, we continue to reinforce healthy practices.

Make sure to let the nurse know as your child has an allergy or a chronic medical condition that is required to take medicine daily at school or if your child has a temporary prescription to take during the school hours.

Send your child to the Nurse first thing in the morning after 2 days of sickness absence.

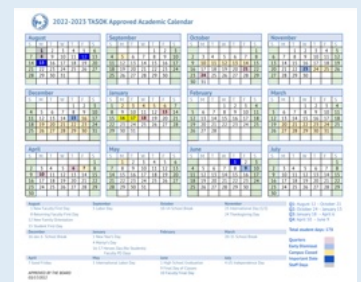
Should your child be sick or absent for any reason, please share the information via:
attendance@tasok.net

The 2023/24 Academic Calendar is Here!

Also found on our TASOK website [LINK!](#)

TASOK CALENDAR OF EVENTS ALSO FOUND AT:

<https://tasok.net/events-calendar/>



The image shows a screenshot of the TASOK Academic Calendar for the 2023-2024 school year. It features a grid layout with columns for months and rows for weeks. The calendar includes various dates, holidays, and school events. A legend at the bottom right explains the color coding used in the calendar.

Upcoming Events:

October

- 4 PSAT Grade 10 & 11 US Citizens
- Oct. 6 Music Friday
- 9-13 School Break
- 27 Parent Session- WS Coffee with Counselors
- 27 SS Semester 1 Progress reports published
- 27-28 Int. Volleyball Tournament (LIS)
- 28 Harvest Celebration

November

- 3 Conferences (No scheduled Classes)
- 2-4 Fall Play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
- 4 SAT
- 10 End of Trimester 1 ASAs and Sports Season 1
- 11 Volleyball Tournament
- 13-17 Tryouts for Sports Season 2
- 22 International Day & Lunch (Alt. Schedule)
- 22-24 Thanksgiving Break (dismissal at 2:00 pm)
- 27 Start of Trimester 2 ASAs and Sports Season 2

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Nelson Mandela

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