



The American School of Kinshasa TASOK TALK – SPECIAL JUNE FAREWELL EDITION 2024

In This Edition:

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- *Celebrating our Departing Faculty
- *The 2023/24 Yearbooks Are Here

Ba béni or Ndaku mokolo, so long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, adieu, and Bokeyi elamu to all our faculty who are leaving TASOK this year!

International school teachers have wonderful opportunities to share their gifts in a wide variety of places and spaces. However, this does mean that we often have to say goodbye to great teachers moving on to new adventures!

During their time at TASOK these departing teachers and faculty have taught across grades, supported students and shared their passions through ASAs, Athletics and events. We would like to thank these teachers, coordinators, and administrators for all their dedication to our students at TASOK, significantly adding to the school programs and community.

As is similar to many American schools around the world, TASOK has a very transient population of students and teachers. While this time of year can be difficult saying 'goodbye', it is also an opportunity to celebrate relationships and connections that will last a lifetime.

This special edition includes information about our departing TASOK Faculty, their next adventures, and contributions during their time at TASOK. We wish them well on their next journey and know that in our international world it's less farewell and more until we meet again, we wish you all the best.

Yours in Education,

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.*

Our TASOK Team: Farewells and New Beginnings....



Dan Mullen
Director

- How many years have you been at TASOK? 5 Years
- Where are you headed next in your adventures, and what role?
 - Utahloy International School Guangzhou (UISG), China
 - Head of School
- What do you consider your biggest accomplishment during your time at TASOK?
 - I am proud to have been part of so many improvements over the past 5 years to ensure TASOK continues to be a great place of learning for our entire community! From the new IB Programs, new facilities, amazing teachers & staff, and beautiful campus, I look forward to seeing and hearing about TASOK's next chapter! .



- What IB Learner Profile best describes you and why?
 - I consider myself a risk-taker and communicator, looking for opportunities to strengthen relationships in our TASOK Community; to be stronger and more resilient for years to come!
- What are you going to miss most about TASOK?
 - All of the wonderful friendships that I have made over the past 5 years with students, staff, and parents in our community. I will also miss the culture, art, and food of Congo and living on our beautiful campus!

Elementary Team 2023/2024



Mike Bailey
Elementary Principal

- How many years have you been at TASOK? 3 Years
- Where are you headed next in your adventures, and what role?
 - Head of School and Head of Secondary at Utahloy International School Zengcheng, China
- What do you consider your biggest accomplishment during your time TASOK?
 - What I am most proud of during my time at TASOK is building up our community as a place that celebrates each other and learning.
- What IB Learner Profile best describes you and why?
 - While principled might be a fun answer since I am the Principal, I think I need to go with two others being a Thinker and Caring. The reason I chose those two, I am always thinking about new challenges, opportunities, and the big picture. I also included caring, as all the decisions I make come from a place of genuine positive feeling and hope in regards to what will help individuals, the school, and community to grow and develop.
- What are you going to miss most about TASOK?
 - I will miss the students and my colleagues. I find great joy in greeting students each day and working with a team that is full of learning and growth. I will remember the people that shared the TASOK experience with me.



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Vitna Bailey
Elementary PYP Coordinator/Math Coach

- How many years have you been at TASOK? 3 Years
- Where are you headed next in your adventures, and what role?
 - PYP homeroom teacher for K3/Y1 combined class at Utahloy International School Zengcheng in Guangzhou, China
- What do you consider your biggest accomplishment during your time at TASOK?
 - Collaborating with teachers to further develop learning and teaching
- What IB Learner Profile best describes you and why?
 - Principled - I do my best to act according to my beliefs and values, take responsibility for my actions and consequences, and am committed to personal growth and learning.
- What are you going to miss most about TASOK?
 - Wonderful students and teachers! Collaborating with teachers to further develop learning and teaching.



Kimberly Hall
PYP & MYP Music

- How many years have you been at TASOK? 5 Years
- Where are you headed next in your adventures, and what role?
 - Bishop Mackenzie International School, Malawi, G1-5 Music
- What do you consider your biggest accomplishment during your time at TASOK?
 - I'm proudest of witnessing my students' musical journey over the last 5 years. Building a strong foundation together empowered them to be musical inquirers who explore their own creativity. It has been a joy to see them learn and grow as musicians. I'm also proud of mastering InDesign in just a few weeks to produce the TASOK yearbooks for the past 3 years!
- What IB Learner Profile best describes you and why?
 - Risk-Taker. I am always willing to try new things without too much worry of failure. As we say in Jamaica, 'nothing beats a trial but a failure'. Which means You can't succeed if you don't try.
- What are you going to miss most about TASOK?
 - How open and welcoming everyone is. I will miss the ability to walk to work and seeing the faces each day of my students and coworkers (atelier, staff and faculty).



Timothy Hatcher
ES Teacher - PYP Grade 5

- How many years have you been at TASOK? 5 Years
- Where are you headed next in your adventures, and what role?
 - I am going to work at the International Community School of Abidjan in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.
- What do you consider your biggest accomplishment during your time at TASOK?
 - At TASOK, I'm most proud of developing engaging transdisciplinary inquiry units for the Grade 5 class, culminating in a successful and fun PYP Exhibition. These units fostered student agency and inclusion, ensuring every student felt seen and valued. It was a rewarding challenge to embrace the diversity in my class and craft learning experiences that catered to each student's strengths and passions.
- What IB Learner Profile best describes you and why?
 - I am an inquirer who is fueled by curiosity and passion. I believe being an inquirer requires an open mind to challenge my own thinking and a researcher's spirit to find answers. Analyzing information and making connections are crucial. Being a risk taker cultivates a growth mindset, essential for lifelong learning. I model this approach for my students, believing it equips them to succeed in any learning journey.
- What are you going to miss most about TASOK?
 - TASOK has been a place to grow. Teaching here challenged me to embrace diverse perspectives, enriching my life. The unwavering support of my colleagues will be deeply missed, as will the warm atmosphere on campus – those friendly smiles and greetings each day were truly special. Most importantly, I'll cherish the time spent with my amazing students. It's been a privilege to be a part of their learning journeys.



Meritaton Kirigha

ES French

- How many years have you been at TASOK? 2 Years
- Where are you headed next in your adventures, and what role?
 - ISU (International School of Uganda) as a French teacher.
- What do you consider your biggest accomplishment during your time at TASOK?
 - I helped to create the French report card descriptors from K-5 and helped to organize the ES French resource bank that has teaching and learning resources and other important departmental documents that facilitated our collaboration as a team and enhanced the learning of our students.
- What IB Learner Profile best describes you and why?
 - I think, balanced - because I try to balance my intellectual, physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being so that I can be a caring individual and give off the best of myself to my students, colleagues and the people around me.
- What are you going to miss most about TASOK?
 - My students and colleagues.



Megan Mullen

ES Teacher - PYP Grade 2

- How many years have you been at TASOK? 2 Years
- Where are you headed next in your adventures, and what role?
Dwight School, Seoul, Korea
Grade 3 PYP teacher
- What do you consider your biggest accomplishment during your time at TASOK?
 - My biggest accomplishment at TASOK has been creating meaningful connections with my students while continually growing as a PYP teacher.
- What IB Learner Profile best describes you and why?
 - Open-Minded - I welcome the opportunity to grow and learn from others!
- What are you going to miss most about TASOK?
 - There are so many things I'll miss about TASOK, but above all, it's the amazing community that has made my time here truly special.



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Secondary Team



Sarah Clover Secondary Principal



- How many years have you been at TASOK? 2 Years
- Where are you headed next in your adventures, and what role?
 - Vientiane International School (VIS), Laos
 - Secondary Principal
- What do you consider your biggest accomplishment during your time at TASOK?
 - Putting in systems that allow the school to continue to grow as an IB Continuum School.
- What IB Learner Profile best describes you and why?
 - Thinker - working to think both creatively and critically in any situation that arises .
- What are you going to miss most about TASOK?
 - The students, teachers and staff with the range of diverse experiences they bring to the school. It makes for a unique and special international environment

Chris Clover DP Coordinator SS I&S



- How many years have you been at TASOK? 2 Years
- Where are you headed next in your adventures, and what role?
 - Vientiane International School, Vientiane, Laos.
- What do you consider your biggest accomplishment during your time at TASOK?
 - Developing relationships with students, listening and supporting them to help them see that they can all be successful learners.
- What IB Learner Profile best describes you and why?
 - I think all of us show every trait. I do a lot of thinking and reflecting, but I'll choose Caring - I do my best to empathize with students and colleagues.
- What are you going to miss most about TASOK?
 - My quiet green view in the morning, the campus, the birds, how happy my kids were to be here, and most of the people.



Michael Eells

SS I&S

- **How many years have you been at TASOK? 4 Years**
- **Where are you headed next in your adventures, and what role?**
 - **Stonehill International School, Bangalore India, DP Business and Economics teacher**
- **What do you consider your biggest accomplishment during your time at TASOK?**
 - **Teaching wonderful Tasok students these past four years! I know they've had a big impact on me and I hope I've helped them along the way.**
- **What IB Learner Profile best describes you and why?**
 - **I'd like to think I'm reflective--always trying to think about better ways to do things.**
- **What are you going to miss most about TASOK?**
 - **Tasok has great students and I'll miss them. I'll also miss the campus and its trees and trails.**

Rachel Eells

CAS Coordinator SS English

- **How many years have you been at TASOK? 4 Years**
- **Where are you headed next in your adventures, and what role?**
 - **Stonehill International School in Bengaluru, India, TOK and DP/MYP English teacher**
- **What do you consider your biggest accomplishment during your time at TASOK?**
 - **My biggest accomplishment at TASOK might be helping the English department select texts that better represent and connect with the range of students in our school community.**
- **What IB Learner Profile best describes you and why?**
 - **Communicator—I work hard to communicate clearly with individuals and groups and to ensure that my communication is caring and honest. I try to think about intent and impact.**
- **What are you going to miss most about TASOK?**
 - **The students and Congolese music and dancing!**



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Sanny Kerssemeeckers
SA Coordinator SS I & S



- How many years have you been at TASOK? 5 Years
- Where are you headed next in your adventures, and what role?
 - Kings Yangon International School in Yangon, Myanmar, as a teacher of Global Perspectives and English.
- What do you consider your biggest accomplishment during your time at TASOK?
 - Creating a curriculum according to IB MYP standards and expanding on the already great Service as Action program here at TASOK.
- What IB Learner Profile best describes you and why?
 - Communicator, as I can express my thoughts and expectations clearly to my students and my colleagues. Although all will tell you I love talking so much it is easy to get me off-topic.
- What are you going to miss most about TASOK?
 - The feeling of a strong support system by my administration team, colleagues, and students. Additionally, I will miss our beautiful inside-out classrooms with all the green spaces.



Kelley Marchant
MYP Coordinator/Theatre Teacher/Student Council

- How many years have you been at TASOK? 4 Years
- Where are you headed next in your adventures, and what role?
 - International School of Islamabad - Pakistan- Theatre Teacher
- What do you consider your biggest accomplishment during your time at TASOK?

Getting the DP Theatre program started and getting productions started here since COVID.
- What IB Learner Profile best describes you and why?
 - Communicator - I like to communicate with both students and colleagues so that everyone is on the same page and understands what is happening and why it is happening.
- What are you going to miss most about TASOK?
 - The people! We've developed some life-long friendships while teaching here and the students have been awesome to work with.

Philip Marchant
SS Science Teacher

- How many years have you been at TASOK? 4 Years
- Where are you headed next in your adventures, and what role?
 - International school of Islamabad (ISOI), Pakistan, Science teacher
- What do you consider your biggest accomplishment during your time at TASOK?
 - Enjoyed sharing my passion for the environment through classes and ASAs... the Green Team!
- What IB Learner Profile best describes you and why?
 - Caring.....empathetic towards others, compassionate
 - Sarcastic...is that a IB Learner Profile?
- What are you going to miss most about TASOK?
 - The inclusive community of caring people in such a beautiful setting!!! This was our very first international post, what a wonderful adventure we have been on! THank you so much for the experience!



David Mills
SS Math



- How many years have you been at TASOK? 3 Years
- Where are you headed next in your adventures, and what role?
 - International School of Kazan, Russia
 - High School Mathematics
- What do you consider your biggest accomplishment during your time at TASOK?
 - I would hope that my biggest accomplishment manifests in the virtues of our students
- What IB Learner Profile best describes you and why?
 - **Balanced:** I'm one who embodies curiosity and knowledge, thinks critically and communicates effectively, upholds ethical principles, embraces diverse perspectives, demonstrates compassion, embraces challenges, maintains a balanced lifestyle, and consistently reflects on experiences to foster personal growth and global understanding...thank you chatGPT...
- What are you going to miss most about TASOK?
 - People, campus, and my 60 second commute



Francoise Massicot

SS French

- How many years have you been at TASOK? 3 Years
- Where are you headed next in your adventures, and what role?
 - N/A
- What do you consider your biggest accomplishment during your time at TASOK?
 - Resilience
- What IB Learner Profile best describes you and why?
 - Risk-Taker, Knowledgeable, Open-minded, Reflective, Principled, Caring
- What are you going to miss most about TASOK?
 - The students, my colleagues, my classroom, the school campus, the birds and the song of bats , and the military music at 7 o'clock in the morning and the Congolese music all night through.



Julie Mullen

Secondary Counselor

- How many years have you been at TASOK? 5 Years
- Where are you headed next in your adventures, and what role?
 - Utahloy International School Guangzhou (UISG), China
 - Head of Year 10 & Grade 6 MYP Math/Science
- What do you consider your biggest accomplishment during your time at TASOK?
 - IB Programs & SEL Focus building relationships
- What IB Learner Profile best describes you and why?
 - Open-Minded - I enjoy learning from other cultures and listening to perspectives of others.
- What are you going to miss most about TASOK?
 - Our Amazing Students and beautiful campus!



Ben Ngambwa
SS Learning Support



- How many years have you been at TASOK? 2 Years
- Where are you headed next in your adventures, and what role?
 - Washington DC, Special Education Teacher
- What do you consider your biggest accomplishment during your time at TASOK?
 - My biggest accomplishment would be seeing the students I work with grow and evolve as learners and graduate.
- What IB Learner Profile best describes you and why?
 - Open-minded - When coming to a new country and a new school, I had never interacted with so many different cultures and people from so many countries at once. Being open minded in this new country and environment helped me to navigate a new "world" and create a place I can call home.
- What are you going to miss most about TASOK?
 - I will definitely miss the students the most.

Passez un bon été!

Upcoming Events:

JUNE:

- 1 SAT
- 1 TASOK Prom
- 3 High School Graduation (6.00 pm -8.00 pm)
- 4 G5 Moving up ceremony and celebration
- 5 Final Report Distribution
- 7 Final Day of Classes (Early Dismissal 11:30)

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



ITS HERE!

23/24

★ YEARBOOK ★



COST: \$40

CASHIER'S OFFICE

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