



# The American School of Kinshasa TASOK TALK – MAY 2024

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The end of the school year is quickly approaching with a flurry of community building activities planned over the next 6 weeks. While busy, what a fruitful way to end the school year!

I encourage you to take a look through this **TASOK Talk** and check the **TASOK Events Calendar** to get a glimpse of all the great things in store for our community, along with how our families can be involved.

As is very common in international schools, the end of the school year also marks a time where some families may move on to new adventures around the world. This can be a difficult transition for both students and staff departing TASOK, as well as those returning next year. It is therefore particularly

important that we work together to support our community members during this time.



A BIG THANK YOU to everyone that helped to make the 2024 TASOK Gala a HUGE success!

Next week, we celebrate our dedicated instructional teams during '*Teacher Appreciation Week*' taking place from May 6th -10th.

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.

#### **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: **Laurent Tumba**Kindergarten Teaching Assistant



# Interview with: Monique Libya Kindergarten Teaching Assistant



What do you do at TASOK? At TASOK I work as a teacher and currently hold the position of Teaching Assistant in kindergarten B.	What do you do at TASOK? I'm working as a Teaching Assistant.
How long have you worked at TASOK? So far, I have worked at TASOK for a month.	How long have you worked at TASOK? I have only 1 month
What province are you from/which Kinshasa commune do you live in? I come from Kasai central province, and I live in the commune of KASAVUBU.	What province are you from/which Kinshasa commune do you live in I'm from Kasai, and I live at Mont- ngafula commune, CPA 25
What do you appreciate about TASOK? There are so many things that I appreciate about TASOK that they may fill many pages. In short I will say that I appreciate the unity, care, diversity, respect, love and acceptance of everyone's views and	What do you appreciate about TASOK? What I like about TASOK is their community is strong, we can find diversity of cultures and the protection of the kids is the priority.

# beliefs. What job accomplishment are you most proud of during your time at

I am proud of the academic improvement that my students have achieved over the past month, this was facilitated by the incredible support I receive from the TASOK staff in general and from Mme Suda in particular.

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

I'm most proud of the professional development of the assistants because I've never seen it before and the collaboration between teachers.

#### What are you most proud of in the DRC?

I am proud of our culture which includes music, food, and social life as well as tourist attraction sites.

#### What do you do as a hobby?

I love listening to music, reading, socializing, and doing sports, especially soccer and athletics.

#### What are you most proud of in the DRC?

I'm the most proud of the diversity of cultures and food. What do you do as a hobby?
Concerning my hobbies, I like cooking and reading.

#### What do you appreciate in your current position?

I do appreciate the conducive working environment, once more good cooperation with all the staff members, new methods of teaching from Mme Suda as well as Mrs. Vitna Bailey and Mr. Robert through PDs as well as the opportunity to meet new students.

#### What do you appreciate in your current position?

I discovered many things I never knew before and different methods that the homeroom teacher uses to make her lesson easy to understand. For example she uses videos, games, questions, and the connection which exists between her and the kids is wonderful!





The American School of Kinshasa hosted another successful gala on Saturday April 27. Over 180 guests danced to the music of <u>Kongo Latino</u> and enjoyed international cuisine by Ferengui restaurant. TASOK invited <u>ISAM and ABA</u> to promote the work of their students. The Silent Auction featured 20 artwork of selected Académie des Beaux-Arts (ABA)'s painting department students.



A few artwork from the 2024 ABA students' exhibition visit the <u>SILENT AUCTION</u> for the full display and more details

The PTC and the administration extends a special THANKS to all who attended and contributed and to the 2024 Gala Patrons & Sponsors
SOCIMEX-Brussels Airlines-Aquasplash-Société Jiang Motors Congo







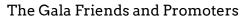


The Gala Champions and Supporters

Jeffery Travels-JustBeads&Creations-World Hair Transplant Center-Ferengui &

Bralima





Diamond Showroom - Clinique Diamant-Jemi's Cuisine - Tandoor - Eggiterian - Eric Kayser - Optique Plus Luxe - Nice Cream - Chocolate Sarayi-Meraki Spa - Les Saveurs D'Afrique - Clinique Diamant - Pera Restaurant - Joyland - Lubembo

#### Watch the Partners Slideshow/Video

The photo coverage of the event will be available at the end of this week. Once the Silent Auction closes, the organizers will share the amount of funds raised.

Proceeds will benefit Elementary Outdoor projects.

#### With appreciation, the 2024 Gala Planners

Saran Dioubate, Fatima Vazir, Toral Shah, Vaneeta Somani, Mehreen Rahemtulla, Ladji Fofana, Louise Ngake, PTC volunteers, Robbie van der Merwe & the facilities team, Kareen Laplanche & the admin/operations team & Dan Mullen, TASOK Director





# What you need to know about MAP Testing

Sarah Clover - Secondary Principal

In the month of May, all students at TASOK in G3-G10 will take part in MAP testing in Math, Reading and Language Arts.

# 

#### How is MAP testing unique?

MAP stands for Measures of Academic Progress. The test is not a standardized test, rather this computer-adaptive

test responds to the way a student is answering, so subsequent questions will be selected to provide an accurate picture of what the student knows. Correct answers and the test provides more challenging questions, incorrect answers and the test provides less challenging questions to give a complete picture of each students' learning.

#### Why is MAP testing reliable?

After completing the test, students will receive a RIT score. These scores are the students' achievement level in that subject area at that moment. RIT measures academic growth over time (compared with testing in September and previous years at TASOK). In addition, MAP Growth can be compared with other students testing in the same grade and the same subject around the world. Over 9 million students worldwide in over 140 countries take MAP testing, these are therefore considered consistently reliable measures.

#### How does TASOK use MAP testing?

TASOK uses MAP testing in a variety of ways. MAP testing guides teachers in grade levels to design units and lessons that respond to the needs of individual students and groups within a grade level. Teachers also use MAP data to work with students to set individual goals. We also evaluate data on MAP growth to adjust curriculum across grade levels and discuss the value of different interventions. MAP testing is one of many data points we use to evaluate the success of both individual students and our programs.

#### Preparing your student for MAP testing.

In preparation we ask families to look out for emails with MAP testing schedules, dates and times. Ensuring that students on the day of MAP testing are set with their charged device, a good nights' sleep and a healthy breakfast will set them up to perform at their ability level. Please discuss with your student the value of the testing and encourage them to do their best so that growth data is accurate. We thank you for your support in this partnership.

For more information please see this post about the NWEA and commonly asked questions about MAP.









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#### **MYP CORNER**

Kelley Marchant - MYP Coordinator

In the month of May, our MYP program will be gearing up for the transitions on both ends of the program!

**Grade 10 - Introduction to DP -** our Grade 10 students are continuing their introductory activities to the DP program for next year: choosing classes and finishing this year strong as they get ready for next year!

**Grade 9 - Introduction to the Personal Project -** our Grade 9 students are working through introductory activities for the capstone project of the MYP Program: the Personal Project. They are reviewing requirements and considering options for some summer projects that might help them get ahead for their final MYP year next year!

**Grade 5 & Grade 6 - Transition Day is Coming -** On Tuesday, May 28th, our current 5th grade students will be coming up to Secondary to shadow our Grade 6 through the day. They will learn everything they need to know about the Secondary school including: meeting new teachers, the Secondary timetables, using a locker, and how their school day will look different in the Fall! We are excited to welcome these students and get them prepared for the next steps in their educational journey!

#### **DP CORNER**

Chris Clover - DP Coordinator

**Grade 10 Parent Night** - On April 16th, TASOK hosted Grade 10 parents and students for an informational session about the DP program. We continue to love this format, where most of the information is coming directly from students taking the courses about what they love and what to expect from the class. Thanks to teachers and students who participated in the subject group carousel to help our upcoming DP students learn about the program.





**Grade 11 TOK Exhibition** - Grade 11 students had their Theory of Knowledge exhibition in the CAC on April 7th. This was the culminating event for year one of the Theory of Knowledge course. In TOK, students explore the nature of knowledge, how we acquire it, and its implications for different areas of knowledge. The exhibition allowed our students to display this knowledge through commentaries written about real-world objects.

Grade 11 Mini-Mocks - Our Grade 11 students will get a taste of what the next year's IB DP exams will be like at the end of May. Mini-mock exams will take place from May 20-23rd with morning and afternoon exams sessions modeled after the IB DP exams.

**Grade 12 Exams** - The IB DP Exams are underway and will continue until Friday, May 17th. Don't forget that DP Exams will take place on the holidays May 1st (Business Management & Mathematics) and May 17th (French acquisition and French Language & Literature). Good luck to all of our students!











# **Secondary Engagement - CAS**

Rachel Eells - CAS Coordinator

DP students work towards a healthy balance in life. CAS helps students remember to foster creativity, physical activity, and service in their lives. As seniors reflected on the experiences that taught them the most, some of the examples were: planting trees as part of a larger project, running a camp for kids in the community, learning to play an instrument, setting a personal workout routine, exploring photography and other art forms, leading an ASA, baking, learning to cook traditional dishes, researching and implementing different approaches to composting, volunteering at school events, leading TASOK Recap, raising money for local schools, building connections with local schools and organizations, participating in MUN, teaching English classes in the community, running events to educate people about the climate crisis, and trying new sports.

During final CAS interviews this month, the seniors shared personal plans about how they plan to continue to cultivate creativity, physical activity, and service in their lives in college and beyond. Samples of some of their memorable moments are shown below.





















# **Secondary Service as Action**

Sanny Kessemeeckers - SA Coordinator

During our last Parent-Student-Teacher conferences, we were happy to host a successful local artisan market with vendors our students in the MYP have worked with within the Service as Action program this year. Both parents, students and the vendors were excited to interact and learn more about each other, turning this day into a major success. Next year, hopefully this can be repeated, and more organization could be added.









# **Secondary Student Council**

Kelley Marchant - Advisor

Our Secondary Student Council is wrapping up the year with some activities to thank our teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week (May 6-10) and planning a Summer Spirit week with dress up/celebration days for May 27-31! They will also be assisting our Grade 6 as we welcome the 5th grade up to our side of campus on Grade 5 Transition Day - May 28!

Website:

## **COLLEGE CORNER –** Julie Mullen – College Counselor

Congratulations to our Seniors as they continue to receive college and university acceptances!

Check out all the opportunities our grade 12's have so far!

Here are the list of college/university offers received as of March (more to come!):

#### **United States**

**Howard University** 

University of Delaware

University of North Carolina Greensboro

University of North Carolina Wilmingham

North Carolina State University

East Carolina University

**High Point University** 

Chapman University

University of San Francisco

University of Denver

Arizona State University

Lewis & Clark College

Carleton College

Pacific Lutheran University

Manhattanville College

Virginia Commonwealth University

University of North Carolina Asheville

University of Minnesota

William Peace University

**Baylor University** 

University of North Texas

University of San Diego

Whitman College

University of Puget Sound

#### **United Kingdom**

Regent's University London

SOAS University of London

Anglia Ruskin University

Middlesex University

University of Westminster

University of Birmingham

Goldsmiths University of London

#### <u>Canada</u>

McGill

University of Alberta

Wilfrid Laurier University

York University

Concordia University

Toronto Met. University

University of British Columbia

**Carleton University** 

#### **Australia**

Western Sydney University

Queensland University of Technology

University of Canberra

#### **Europe**

University of Groningen

Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences

Erasmus

Maastricht University

#### **UPCOMING SAT TEST DATES:**

For up to date information about online registration, please click on the: **COLLEGE BOARD WEBSITE LINK** 

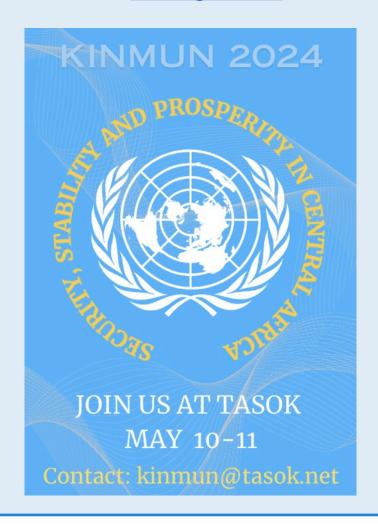


SAT TEST DATE**	Deadline for Registration Registration Changes, and Regular Cancellation
May 4, 2024	April 19, 2024
June 1, 2024	May 17, 2024

# KINMUN - May 10-11th

#### (open to all Secondary students - register before May 3rd)

TASOK will be hosting a third annual KINMUN (Kinshasa Model United Nations) event this month with schools from around Kinshasa. The Model United Nations are programs run throughout the world aspiring to help students understand about the role of the United Nations and ensuring that students around the world understand about world issues in an effort to promote peace through diplomacy and cooperation. Students also gain valuable skills in research, writing and speaking skills. The event is open to all students to participate; registration links can be found here and also on the TASOK Website under Extracurricular activities. Questions can be emailed to kinmun@tasok.net















#### XTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES 2023-2024

Gilbert Kaburu & Timon Kitakani - Athletic Director & ASA Coordinators

We are drifting around the last corner of our after-school activities program for this school year. It has been a wonderful year full of excitement and engagement from students and ASA providers. Thanks for being a big

part of this journey!

#### **TASOK Varsity Football Tournament**





## **ASA Key Dates**

ASA Trimester 3: March 11th - May 16 (8 weeks)

## **Upcoming Athletics Events**

- Friday May 24 and Saturday 25: MS Boys and Girls Tournament
- Season 2 Sports Celebrations (TBC)
- Season 3 Sports Celebrations (TBC)

Thank you for supporting the ASA and Sports programs. For inquiries, please contact Timon Kitakani (tkitakani@tasok.net) for Elementary School or Gilbert Kaburu (qkaburu@tasok.net) for Secondary School.

# **Preschool Celebration of Learning - How We Express Ourselves**

Dania Manasfi - Preschool Teacher

Our Preschoolers explored spaces at school and how spaces can be inspiring and have a function. While investigating the topic, they delved into the meaning of inspiration and perspective through many activities as well as engaged in designing the different areas of the classroom to make it more inviting. After recognizing all the spaces and their functions in their classroom, they discovered one space that is 'used for nothing'. Together they brainstormed ideas and voted on the concept of a puppet theater. They worked on designing the theater and created their own puppets and began using that space since then. They also re-invented the use of the space in the drama area and created a hospital which they named 'Preschool First Hospital'. At the end of the unit, the Preschoolers shared their learning with their parents by referring to all the photos and narrations on the posters displayed while elaborating on their work. You could see them proudly and excitedly leading their parents to all the different displays around the classroom. Thank you to all the moms and dads who joined us at the Celebration of Learning and made this learning experience for their child a valuable one.





















# **Gr. 3 Celebration of Learning - Sharing the Planet & How We Express Ourselves**

Trent Parcells - Grade 3 teacher

Website:

It's been an exciting journey in Grade 3 as our students have recently showcased their learning in two remarkable celebrations. Firstly, they captivated audiences with their weather projects, inviting not only parents but also students from all grade levels at TASOK to join in and learn from their insights. More recently, they presented their creativity in crafting realistic fiction stories as part of our "How We Express Ourselves" unit. These celebrations of learning have been highlights of the creativity students have in grade 3.

#### **HOW WE EXPRESS OURSELVES CELEBRATION**













#### **SHARING THE PLANET CELEBRATION**













## **ES Art Week**

Kezia Otoa - Art teacher



















Our elementary school transformed into a vibrant canvas of creativity and imagination, as students immersed themselves in various art activities. Art week ended with the elementary visual art exhibition that celebrated all students' artwork. "Every child is an Artist" Pablo Picasso.

Artweek was filled with engaging activities such as action painting to sculpture making with clay, and mural painting, our students embraced every opportunity to explore, create and express themselves through art. I would like to thank our students and teachers who participated in the art week activities. As we reflect on the success of Art week, let us continue to celebrate the importance of visual arts and its impact on our students' personal growth, self expression, and cultural awareness. - Ms Kezia



"I think the PYPx was important because it helped me create new pathways in my brain which helped with my inquiry. I was more focused and conscious of what I was doing. I grew my creative and critical thinking skills, and I gave my group members ideas that helped our project advance. Everyone contributed too, which made us connect many perspectives to one single idea that included everyone's thinking."

-Hoel Mandundu

whink my PYPx was very important because I learned how to adapt to people's allierent ideas, even though in some areas I still needed to grow. Nearned how to manage my time better because on the day of the exhibition we were not able to print out what we wanted, so we had to adapt and use it digitally. The challenges helped us form new brain pathways and learn from our experience. "Malaika Kaburu"

"I think that the PYPX was Important because I got to learn more about a topic (art's connection to well-being) that I would not usually research. I really enjoyed learning about art and became a more open-minded learner. I also think that it was important because it made me listen to other people's ideas which helped me realize that other people have interesting and important things that they want to share with everyone else, and I need to let them speak their mind. Another lesson I learned is that sometimes I say that I am going to do something that is too difficult, or I say I am going to do too many things."—Safiya Mulimbi

"I think the PYP Exhibition was important because at first I thought that cookies were from the USA, but they were from Iran! When I researched kimbap, I never knew Korea got the idea from China because China had the ideas first, and then it moved on to Japan, and next to South Korea. For a better understanding of the origins of different foods with my group."—Jaehee Kwon

Our understanding of who we are affects our relationship with ourselves and with others.

#### **PYP CORNER - Student-Led Conferences**

Vitna Bailey - PYP Coordinator

This past Friday, our PYP classrooms buzzed with excitement as we held our student-led conferences! It was a fantastic opportunity for students to showcase their learning journeys, demonstrating the skills and knowledge they've acquired throughout the year.

The core aspect of these conferences was student ownership. Students led the discussions, guiding their parents through their inquiry process, explaining key concepts they used, and highlighting their challenges and growths. This fostered a sense of pride and responsibility in their learning, allowing them to articulate their understanding in a meaningful way.

We are incredibly proud of our students for demonstrating their inquiry skills, communication abilities, and confidence during the conferences. This experience reinforces the PYP's focus on fostering lifelong learners who are empowered to take ownership of their education!



















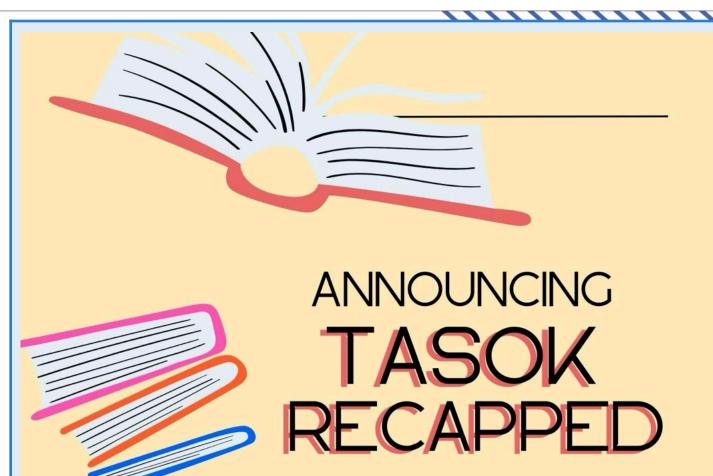






Contact:





# DON'T LET YOUR MEMORIES FADE PRE-ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK TODAY

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OFFICE



#### **Business Office Info**

Kareen Laplanche - Finance & Operations Manager

Thank you for completing the re-enrollment survey! A warm farewell to the <u>departing families</u> that will not be with us next year. We wish you all the best in your next adventure.

To the <u>returning families</u>, we ask that you stay tuned for the next steps.

- Tuition agreements and invoices will be issued starting May 6 until May 31.
- Learning Support & EAL invoices will be issued on the week of May 27 after assessments are completed by teachers.
- US Embassy, USAID, CDC & affiliates documents will be shared with their respective finance offices on the week of June 1.
- The 2024-25 Financial Aid applications open on May 6. The link and details will be posted on the school website www.tasok.net.

#### Important deadlines to note:

- June 3 return all tuition agreements to confirm your payment plan
- June 3 \$1000 re-enrollment guarantee is due
- June 6 Financial Aid application window closes
- June 14 Last day for UN & UN Agencies to request education grant forms signature
- June 21 Last day for cash transactions with the Business Office. The cashier's counter will re-open on July 29.

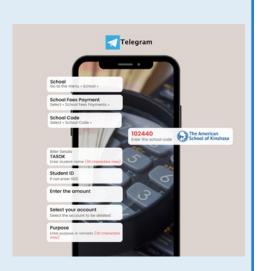
All accounts must be cleared of any balance to either exit this year or re-enroll for next. We urge parents to remit dues as soon as possible to reset accounts to zero. All payment options remain the same.

We continue to promote the new Equity/BCDC feature available to Equity users. The bank made it available for TASOK families. Please take advantage of this easy and secure way to pay from a local bank.



# MOBILE OPTION (for EQUITY BANK users)

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.



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

Website:

## Nurse's Station Cell +243 817 252 011

Nathalie Katalayi – TASOK Nurse: <u>nurse@tasok.net</u>

At TASOK, we continue to reinforce healthy practices.

Fever: Your child needs to be fever/fever relief medicine free for at least 24 hours before coming back to school.

Medication: For safety reasons we are not allowed students to carry their medicine, please give the medicine to the Nurse, so she can administer it to your child on a determinate time.

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 is the morning after 2 days of sickness absence.

Birthdays: Please send the list of ingredients to the nurse at least 24 hours before the class celebration. Should you child be sick or absent for any reason, please share the information via: <a href="mailto:attendance@tasok.net">attendance@tasok.net</a>

# The 2024/25 Academic Calendar is Here!

Also found on our TASOK website <u>LINK</u>!

TASOK CALENDAR OF EVENTS ALSO FOUND AT:

<a href="https://tasok.net/events-calendar/">https://tasok.net/events-calendar/</a>



# **Upcoming Events:**

#### **MAY**

6-10 SS MAP Testing (Grades 6-10)

6-10 - Teacher Appreciation Week

11 - Association General Meeting (AGM)

10-11 - KINMUN

20-24 ES MAP Testing (Grades 3-5)

20-23 Grade 11 Mini-Mock Exams

24-25 MS Soccer Tournament

24 End of Sports Season 3

24 CSP (Group 4) Working Day

28 Grade 5 Transition Day

29 CSP (Group 4) Presentations (G10-11)

30-31 MYP Art and Design Exp

31 Senior Day & Assembly/Clap Out

#### 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