

# TASOK TALK



**DIRECTOR - BEN MARSH**

## From the Heart of Our New Director: A Call for Community and Collaboration

As I begin my journey at TASOK, I am optimistic and enthusiastic about what we can achieve together. Our school is more than just a place of learning; it is a vibrant community where diverse cultures, ideas, and perspectives come together to create something extraordinary. I believe strongly in collective efficacy—that by working together with a shared purpose, we can elevate the learning experience for every student.

Whether enhancing our sustainability efforts, embracing new technologies, or strengthening our ties with the local community, I am committed to leading TASOK with a vision that honors our past, embraces the present, and looks forward to a bright future.

Together, we will build on the strong foundations that have already been laid, and I am confident that with the dedication of our students, staff, and parents, TASOK will continue to thrive as a leader in international education. I look forward to working with our community to make this vision a reality.

At TASOK, our mission is to foster a supportive and inclusive environment where every student is encouraged to explore their potential and develop a lifelong love for learning. We are committed to integrating the rich Congolese culture into our international setting, as it allows our students to appreciate and celebrate the diversity that makes our community so unique. While we may face challenges, they are opportunities to innovate and

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# Meet Our New TASOK Leadership Team



**Andrew Przekurat**  
Secondary School Principle

## **A New Chapter at TASOK:**

Meet Mr. Andrew, the New Secondary School Principal. The American School of Kinshasa (TASOK) is welcoming a new face this academic year, and it's someone who brings a wealth of experience, enthusiasm, and a deep commitment to fostering a vibrant educational community. Mr. Andrew, the new Secondary School Principal, with a background that spans continents and cultures, is eager to make a lasting impact on the Condor community.

## **A Global Journey to TASOK**

Having been involved in eight international schools across the globe as a student, teacher, and administrator, Mr. Andrew's journey to TASOK is both a culmination of a rich professional history and an exciting new beginning. "I am thrilled to have had my career bring me to TASOK as your new Secondary School Principal," he shared. "TASOK is the fifth international school I've been a part of within Africa, and what an excellent welcome it has been! I look forward to all the wonderful things to come this academic year and in the future for this incredible Condor community!"

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**Ben Marsh**  
TASOK Director

## **A New Era for TASOK: Vision and Leadership Under Director Ben Marsh**

In a recent interview, Ben Marsh, the newly appointed director of The American School of Kinshasa (TASOK), shared his thoughts, vision, and aspirations for the school. With a rich background in international education and a commitment to building a thriving learning community, Marsh is prepared to lead TASOK into a promising new chapter.

## **Background & Experience**

Marsh's journey into education was largely inspired by his mother, who recognized his innate teaching abilities from a young age. "My mother was the one who truly inspired my career in education," he reflects. "She always recognized my natural teaching ability and encouraged me to pursue education when I was in university, deciding on my major." Marsh's passion for teaching and a desire to see the world led him to a career as an international educator, beginning in 2004 and now bringing him to his new role at TASOK.

## **Vision for the School**

Marsh comes with a clear and ambitious vision for TASOK, focusing on enhancing the learning environment and optimizing operations to support these goals.



**Benjamin Sheridan**  
Elementary School Principal

## **A Fresh Vision for TASOK: Benjamin Sheridan Takes the Helm as Elementary School Principal**

As TASOK welcomes its new elementary school principal, Benjamin Sheridan, many are eager to learn more about the motivations and experiences that brought him to this role. Sheridan's passion for creating impactful learning environments is a driving force behind his decision to join TASOK. "My passion for creating impactful learning environments where students and teachers can thrive inspired me to become an elementary school principal," he shares.

Sheridan's journey to leadership has been shaped by diverse experiences across international schools. From serving as a classroom teacher to a technology coordinator and innovation coach, he has seen firsthand the significance of leadership in shaping a school's culture. "These experiences reinforced my belief that leadership is crucial in shaping a school's culture and ensuring every student can succeed," he says.

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# Meet Our New TASOK Leadership Team

## **First Impressions: A Warm Welcome**


Arriving in July, Mr. Andrew quickly immersed himself in the life of the school. His first impressions have been overwhelmingly positive. "Since my arrival in July, I've been impressed by the vibrant Condor spirit and the warmth of the community," he said. "There's a strong sense of collaboration and a commitment to student success. I've loved observing our diverse and engaged student body, as well as the dedicated staff who are eager to embrace challenges and support our students' learning."

## **Bridging Cultures through Education**

As a seasoned educator with a unique perspective as a Third-Culture-Kid, Mr. Andrew understands the importance of integrating the school's International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum with local Congolese culture. He emphasized, "Integrating our IB curriculum with Congolese culture is essential for creating a well-rounded educational experience. I plan to work closely with the community to support providing culturally relevant content and experiences to the fingertips of our diverse student population." His personal experiences growing up in multiple cultures have given him insight into the power and impact that global collaboration can have on a community, something he is keen to harness at TASOK.

## **Empowering Students to Lead**

Mr. Andrew's vision for the school includes a strong focus on student engagement,




"My vision for TASOK, a shared vision within our community, is to focus on improving learning, enhancing the learning environment, and optimizing all operations supporting these goals," he explains. He places great emphasis on collective efficacy, striving to create an environment where students, teachers, and the entire community can excel. "We aspire to be a leader in international education," he adds, "and by emphasizing collective efficacy, we aim to support our students, teachers, and the entire community in our pursuit of excellence in student learning."

## **First Impressions**

Marsh's enthusiasm for TASOK is evident as he speaks about his first impressions of the school and its surrounding community. "Since visiting TASOK in October 2023, I've been eager to join the school and local community," he shares. His initial excitement has only been reinforced since his arrival. "TASOK is a remarkable school; the local community is warm and welcoming. I genuinely feel I am now part of TASOK and our community, which has a bright future and immense potential."

## **A Personal Message to the Community**

As he begins his journey at TASOK, Marsh expresses optimism and enthusiasm for the future. To him, TASOK is more than just a school; it is a dynamic community where diverse cultures, ideas, and perspectives come together to create something special. "Our school is more than just a place of learning; it is a vibrant community where diverse cultures, ideas, and perspectives come together to create something extraordinary," he says.




The decision to take on a leadership role as an elementary school principal stems from Sheridan's desire to make a broader impact on the school community. "After supporting many other leaders in the schools I worked with as a consultant, I wanted to be in a position where I could help shape the vision and direction of a school more directly," he explains. His goal is to foster a community of learners who are academically proficient, socially, and emotionally well-rounded.

Sheridan's journey to TASOK continues his dedication to international education. After spending several years in Southeast Asia, he was drawn to the opportunity to work in the DRC at a school that aligns with his educational philosophy of inclusivity, integrity, and excellence. "The opportunity to work in the DRC at a school that values inclusivity, integrity, and excellence aligns perfectly with my educational philosophy," he notes.

Sheridan is enthusiastic about building upon the rich history of TASOK and contributing to its growth as a premier educational institution in the region.

## **First Impressions**

Since joining TASOK, Sheridan's first impressions have been overwhelmingly positive. "I was joining a warm and welcoming community, and these impressions have only been reinforced during the past month," he reflects. Sheridan is eager to learn more about TASOK, the community it serves, and the DRC in general.



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# Meet Our New TASOK Leadership Team

"I hope to support the implementation of initiatives that emphasize student voice and choice throughout the community," he explained. "This includes creating opportunities for students to take leadership roles, participate in school decision-making, and engage in extracurricular activities that align with their interests. I am certain our students are up for the challenge!"

## **Embracing Innovation**

In today's rapidly evolving world, Mr. Andrew is committed to fostering a culture of innovation at TASOK. He plans to support the community in "leveraging technology, promoting collaboration, and building upon our inquiry-based learning for students." Additionally, he hopes to encourage a culture of innovation by "sharing best practices through regular and accessible communication," ensuring that both staff and students are equipped to thrive in a modern educational environment.

## **A Passion for Community and Exploration**

When he's not leading the charge at school, Mr. Andrew enjoys a range of activities that keep him engaged with the community and the world around him. "Outside of work, I enjoy a variety of sports, music, and being involved in the local community," he shared. "I've always loved to explore and will certainly be looking for opportunities to engage and participate in events in and around Kinshasa. I look forward to learning more about the DRC and experiencing all it has to offer!"

Marsh believes strongly in the power of working together with a shared purpose. "I believe strongly in collective efficacy—that by working together with a shared purpose, we can elevate the learning experience for every student," he emphasizes. His goal is to create an inclusive environment where every student is encouraged to explore their potential and develop a lifelong love for learning. "At TASOK, our mission is to foster a supportive and inclusive environment where every student is encouraged to explore their potential and develop a lifelong love for learning," he states.

Looking ahead, Marsh is prepared to face challenges head-on, viewing them as opportunities for growth and innovation. He is dedicated to leading TASOK with a vision that respects its past, embraces the present, and looks forward to an exciting future. "Whether enhancing our sustainability efforts, embracing new technologies, or strengthening our ties with the local community, I am committed to leading TASOK with a vision that honors our past, embraces the present, and looks forward to a bright future," he declares.

As he wraps up, Marsh shares his confidence in the TASOK community's ability to flourish under this new leadership. "Together, we will build on the strong foundations that have already been laid, and I am confident that with the dedication of our students, staff, and parents, TASOK will continue to thrive as a leader in international education," he concludes. With this forward-looking vision, Marsh is eager to work closely with the community to make TASOK's bright future a reality.

## **Looking Forward: Vision for Elementary Education**

Sheridan's vision for elementary education at TASOK is centered around creating an environment where every child feels valued, engaged, and empowered. "I believe that elementary school is a foundational stage in a child's life," he emphasizes. His focus is on providing academic skills alongside the social and emotional support necessary for students to become well-rounded individuals.

A strong advocate for deeper learning pedagogical practices, Sheridan aims to encourage critical thinking, creative problem-solving, and meaningful application of knowledge. "Our PYP inquiry-based approaches support this while providing opportunities for students to pursue their interests within the curriculum," he explains. Sheridan also believes in the importance of play in learning, having seen "first-hand how students and adults learn best when engaged in rich, meaningful tasks."

Sheridan is committed to ensuring teachers receive high-quality professional development and fostering a supportive environment for both staff and students. "We aim to create a safe, inclusive environment where every child feels supported," he says.

Sheridan is committed to building a supportive community and fostering a safe, inclusive environment where every child thrives, positioning TASOK's elementary school for growth and new opportunities.

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# A Message from the Secondary Principal

Andrew Przekurat

Welcome to the start of another exciting year at The American School of Kinshasa (TASOK). I am very excited to be working with your children this year as they discover more about the world and about themselves as learners. Over my first few months being a part of the Condor community, I have been overwhelmed by the welcoming and supportive community; I am truly excited for the year to come.

As in our mission, we embody “Excellence, Integrity and Inclusion”. At TASOK we strive to provide dynamic and individualized educational challenges and opportunities; promoting diversity and empowering each student to develop into an independent global leader.

As a mission and vision driven school our identity, culture, and teaching creates a unique learning environment that aligns with our school values. We are committed to continuous improvement, welcoming ideas and feedback from members of our community. Our goal is to ensure individual agency and empowerment to inspire life-long learning for everyone.

I encourage you to join our TASOK Parent-Teacher Community (PTC) to help guide and support our TASOK community.

Please also consider joining the PTC Year-Level WhatsApp groups to stay informed and connected with events and updates throughout the year. Our reception on campus has access to QR Codes to simplify this process.

I am always available to discuss matters regarding the TASOK community and look forward to working with everyone soon. I hope you all have a smooth and successful start to the year.

All the best,

Andrew Przekurat  
Secondary School Principal  
The American School of Kinshasa  
[aprzekurat@tasok.net](mailto:aprzekurat@tasok.net)

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# Libraries

## Library Catalog - Follett Destiny

TASOK uses Follett Destiny for all physical library resources. We have thousands of great books for education and recreational reading, and all TASOK staff members are welcome and encouraged to check out books from either library.

You can access the library catalog by going to [destiny.tasok.net](http://destiny.tasok.net) and logging in. Your username is your TASOK email before the @ (so mine is ledwards because my email is ledwards@tasok.com) and your password is your student ID number. If you have trouble logging in, please let us know!

## Sora - Online Library

TASOK also has a subscription to Sora, an online library shared between many international schools in Africa. Go to [soraapp.com](http://soraapp.com) and follow the prompts to log in using the same credentials as your TASOK email account. Every person with a TASOK email has access to Sora.

## Elementary Library

With the change to a 6 day rotation, the elementary library schedule is very different this year.

Mr. Morgan will continue to teach lessons to PreSchool, Kindergarten, and Grade 1. With the 6 day rotation, he will now see these classes twice per rotation. This way, they can spend more time engaging with books and using the library as it is intended.

Ms. Leanne will continue with Grade 2, 3, 4, and 5. These classes come to class only once a rotation, which means that some weeks some students may not have a library class. These students are especially encouraged to visit the library on their own time to find new books to read.

Students can check out up to 4 books at a time, so long as at least 1 of the books is in French. We have a nice selection of French books, ranging from beginner to advanced readers.



You don't need to log in to see the library catalog, but once you are logged in you can easily put books on hold so a librarian will find it for you.



Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
Arrival time					
	4A		4B		5A
			3A		5B
Morning recess					
		PreS			PreS
Lunch recess					
1A	1B	K	1A	1B	K
Afternoon recess					
	2B		3B		2A

Books will still be checked out for 2 weeks, although library classes are not held on the same day each week. We ask that books are returned as soon as you are finished with them, but we will be very flexible this year especially.

You will receive an email reminder once a week about which books are checked out. This is just a friendly reminder, not a demand that the books be returned right away, especially if you're not finished with them yet!

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# Secondary Library

Secondary students are welcome in the library before school, after school, and at lunch (after the first 15 minutes, after they eat their lunch). The library is a great space for working, reading, and quietly collaborating with friends. Please note that there is no eating in the Secondary library.

MYP students have 1 library lesson a week, during which there will be lessons on citation and academic integrity and other media literacy skills. These classes are also intended as Study Hall, with time for students to finish homework and work collaboratively on class work.

DP students have at least 1 Study Hall block per A/B rotation. Study Hall takes place in the Secondary Library, and is intended as an individual study opportunity for the students.

## DP CORNER

Lionel Honnorat - DP Coordinator

It is a humbling privilege to serve the great TASOK community as its new DP Coordinator this year. This is only my second year here, at TASOK, but I have been teaching in various American IB International schools across Africa for 22+ years. Apart from that, I have been working for several years for the IB Organization as a Diploma examiner and as an internal assessment moderator.

I have been very busy ever since I came back from vacation, analyzing our exam data and planning for the new DP school year of our dear new Juniors (11 Graders) and our proud Seniors (12 Graders).

Among these preliminary tasks, a few of them deserve to catch your attention.

**Continuing...**



If you would like to contact the TASOK libraries, please email us at:

- Whole school librarian, Ms. Leanne Edwards: [ledwards@tasok.net](mailto:ledwards@tasok.net) or [librarian@tasok.net](mailto:librarian@tasok.net)
- Elementary library assistant, Mr. Morgan Bamani: [mbamani@tasok.net](mailto:mbamani@tasok.net)
- Secondary library assistant, Mr. Bruno Mambu: [bmambu@tasok.net](mailto:bmambu@tasok.net)



## Our Mission for Excellence

- We have had a few issues with our emails, so please call us on our contact number if you need to get in contact with us sooner rather than later.
- For the food drive, please ensure you bring food that will not go off or food that does not need to be refrigerated.
- We have had a few issues with our emails, so please call us on our contact number if you need to get in contact with us sooner rather than later.
- Remember we are made up of mostly volunteers so please be kind!

# DP CORNER

Lionel Honnorat - DP Coordinator

## May 2024 IB Diploma exam results

In July, our departing Seniors, who sat for the May 2024 IB Diploma Exam Session, received individually and electronically their results. We are thrilled to announce that our number of IB Graduate students keeps increasing along with our passing rate (Covid time excluded).

20 TASOK IB candidates took the full IB Diploma last May. Half of them attempted an IB Bilingual French & English Diploma, which will prevent them from having to prove their proficiency level in either language to both Universities and future employers in any English or French speaking countries across the world. 15 of our candidates have been awarded either a bilingual or a regular IB Diploma.

One candidate has requested to retake a single exam in the November 2024 Session this year and we are confident in the candidate's success. We are also proud to announce the TASOK average grade of 32/45, which is 2 points higher than the IB World's average.

## Grade 12 Mini-mock catch-up - Sep 9th-12th

The Diploma Programme is exam driven. It is therefore important to practice exam taking skills and exam preparation skills. This is the job of mock examinations. Mock exams provide strict exam condition experiences to help manage anxiety and improve on revision planning. They also provide reliable data for teachers who can extrapolate predictions and tailor lessons focusing on individual identified gaps.

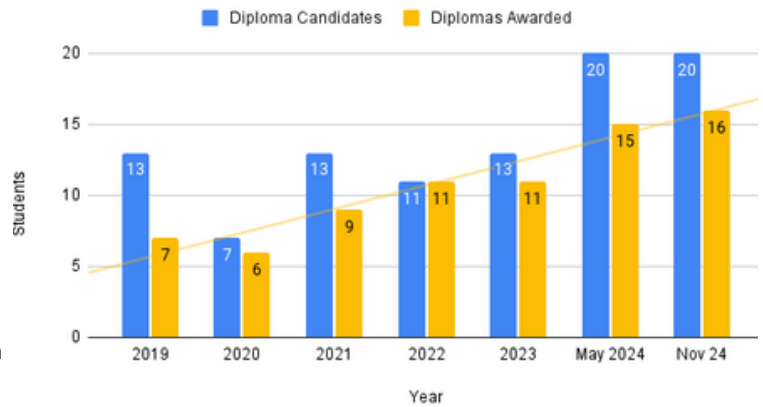
This is why on Sep 9th-12th, our Seniors will catch-up on the mini-mock exam they missed last May. Seniors voted themselves for the mini-Mock Exams to happen on that particular week in order to accommodate other DP deadlines that could have conflicted.

So, mark your calendar for Sep 9th-12th, four days during which Seniors will be off-schedule, revising and sitting for a maximum of 2 mock exams a day. Authorization forms will be sent home should you give your son or daughter permission to come later or leave earlier than regular school hours.

## Grade 11/12 DP retreat day - Sep 13th

Following the mini-mocks, we are going to have our annual DP retreat, which involves both the Juniors and the Seniors. It is a kind of an induction event for our Grade 11 students who get a chance to learn from their fellow 12 Graders. This year, the event is directly planned by a couple of 12 Graders as one of their

## TASOK Diploma Programme Growth



## School statistics

School statistics	
Number of candidates registered in the session:	22
Number of diploma and retake candidates registered in the session:	20
Number of subject entries in the session:	163
Number of candidates who passed the diploma:	15
Average points obtained by candidates who passed the diploma:	32
Highest diploma points awarded to a candidate:	38
Average grade obtained at the school by candidates who passed the diploma:	5.07
Total number of candidates excluded from statistics:	0

CAS projects. During this day, both 11 and 12 students will be off-schedule. The event happens within the regular school day time frame. Along with DP specific sessions and keynote speakers, fun and bonding activities will take place. Food and refreshments will be available to students and participating staff.

## Grade 12 Extended Essay final drafts

It has been a long journey for our Seniors who are finally ready to hand in their best shot at their personal, articulated and educated response to the research question they had independently chosen a few months back. The extended essay, also known as the EE, is an independent research paper; it is a milestone in a full diploma candidate's life. Combined with TOK, it can provide up to 3 bonus points to boost exam results. May 2024 TASOK DP exam candidates obtained 1.5/3 bonus points in average. Please, join us in encouraging our 2025 TASOK International Baccalaureate candidates as they are entering the last 100 meter zone of this 4000 word endurance essay!

Upcoming DP deadlines:

- Aug 30th → Year 2 SL Visual Arts Comparative Study due.
- Sep 6th → Year 2 EE draft due.
- Sep 6th → Year 2 HL English Essay draft due.
- Sep 9th-12th → Mini-Mocks.
- Sep 13th → Year 1 DP retreat day.
- Oct 2nd → Year 2 EE final due.

Should you have any questions, please, feel free to drop a line to [lhonorat@tasok.net](mailto:lhonorat@tasok.net)



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# MYP CORNER

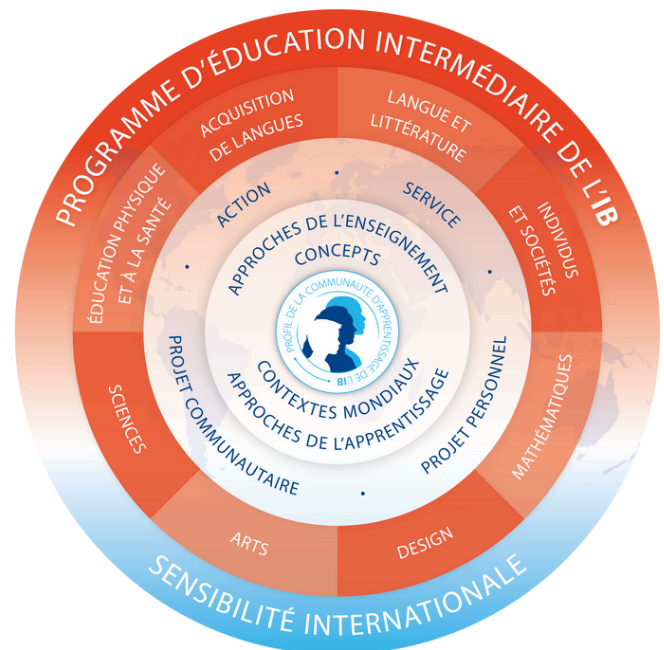
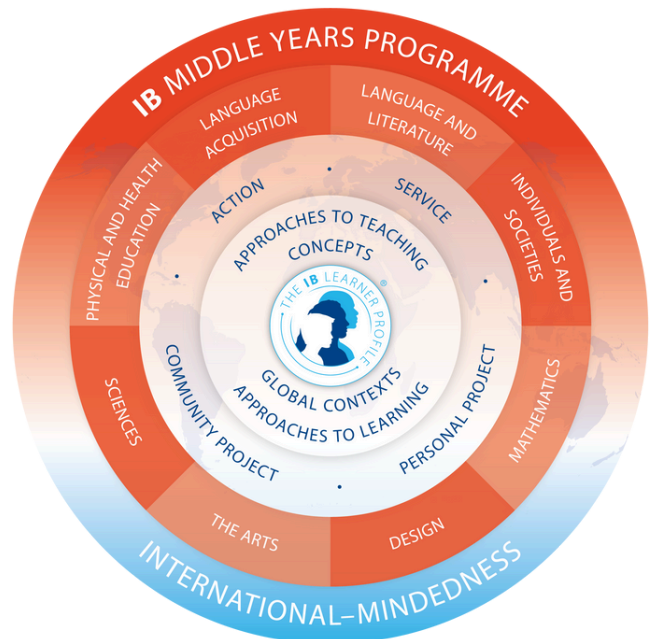
Lennan MacDonald - MYP Coordinator

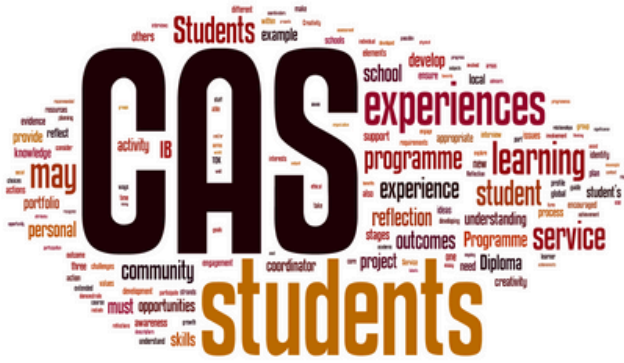
Good day to you all. I am Lennan MacDonald, the new MYP Coordinator here at TASOK and although I have only been on campus for a month I am so very appreciative of and impressed by the warm welcome I have received from everyone here at TASOK. The new administration has been amazing, as have my fellow staff members as well as the entire TASOK support staff. Most impressive has been the welcome from the TASOK students who have been a joy to teach and get to know over the past few weeks. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you who have gone out of your way to make my wife Tacy (grade 4) and I feel so at home here so quickly.

Though the highlight of my first month was the aforementioned welcome we received here at TASOK, we also have a few other highlights to celebrate in the Middle School:

- We received our grade 10 Personal Project results, which were moderated by the International Baccalaureate. Last year's grade 10's earned an impressive 100% pass rate with over 20% of our students scoring 6 or higher.
- Not to be outdone, this year's grade 10's are already laying the groundwork for their Personal Projects with their formal proposals being finalized this coming week and their advisors being assigned next week.
- Our turnout for both our varsity boys and girls volleyball teams as well as our cross country team were fantastic, and I look forward to watching these teams compete and those runners run for their school.
- Auditions for our first school dramatic production of the year, Blood Brothers, are also well underway with casting decisions being made next.
- ASA's (After School Activities) also kick off next week to add another important layer to your child's TASOK experience.
- Finally, it was lovely to see so many of you out for our Parent Welcome Night this week. Your support for your children and their teachers and this school is so very appreciated.
- Enjoy your long weekend 😊. Be well and be safe.

J Lennan MacDonald  
MYP Coordinator  
lmacdonald@tasok.net





## Secondary Engagement - CAS

Jacqueline Mapessa - CAS Coordinator

Dear Parents,

I am pleased to introduce myself as the new CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service) Coordinator at TASOK. My name is Mme Jacqueline Mapessa, and I have been a part of the TASOK community since January 2013. As a Belgo-Congolese educator fluent in English, French, and Lingala, I am well-equipped to support and guide our students in their CAS endeavors, wherever they may lead.

### Some notable examples of recent student activities include:

- Planting trees as part of environmental sustainability projects
- Running a camp for local children
- Learning to play a musical instrument or exploring other art forms
- Setting personal fitness routines
- Engaging in photography and creative arts
- Leading after-school activities (ASAs)
- Baking and learning to cook traditional dishes
- Researching and implementing composting techniques
- Volunteering at school events
- Leading the TASOK Recap team
- Raising funds for local schools
- Building partnerships with local organizations
- Participating in Model United Nations (MUN)
- Teaching English classes in the community
- Organizing events to raise awareness about the climate crisis
- Trying new sports and activities



TASOK provides a unique environment where community service can be conducted both within and beyond the school grounds. My role as the CAS Coordinator is to facilitate and inspire students to actively engage in these meaningful activities.

### About CAS:

The CAS program encourages DP (Diploma Programme) students to maintain a healthy balance in life by fostering creativity, physical activity, and service. Throughout their CAS journey, our students undertake a wide range of projects and initiatives that help them grow as individuals and contribute positively to their communities.



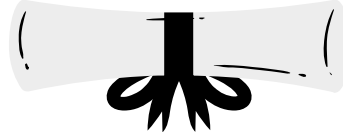
During their final CAS interviews this month, our seniors reflected on these experiences and shared their plans to continue nurturing creativity, physical activity, and service in their lives as they transition to college and beyond. Below, we highlight some of their most memorable moments..

I am excited to support your children on this journey and look forward to witnessing their growth and achievements through the CAS program.

Warm regards,  
Mme Jacqueline Mapessa  
CAS Coordinator, TASOK

# College Corner

Davon Campbell – College Counselor



Welcome back to a new school year at TASOK! We hope you had a restful summer and are ready for an exciting year ahead.

As we embark on this new academic year, the Counseling department is here to support you through the college planning and application process.

Whether you're a junior just starting to explore your options or a senior getting ready to apply, we are here to guide you every step of the way.



We are excited to work with you throughout this journey and help you achieve your college and career goals. Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

Looking forward to a successful year!

Davon Campbell

## For 11th Graders:

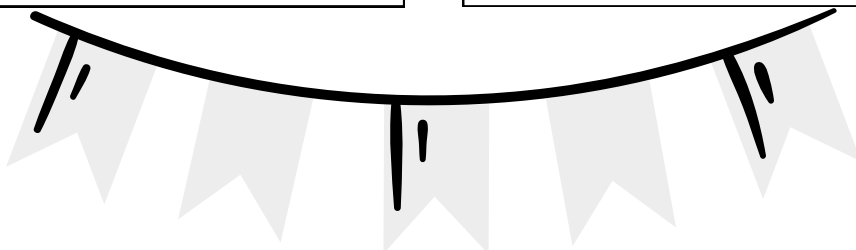
- **College Exploration and Research:** This is the time to start exploring various colleges and universities, understanding different programs, and identifying what matters most to you in a school. We encourage you to use tools like BridgeU and other online resources to begin your research.
- **Junior College Planning Meetings:** We will be scheduling individual meetings with each junior and their family to discuss college options, interests, and create a personalized plan for the application process. Be on the lookout later in the year for an email to schedule your appointment.
- **Standardized Testing:** Juniors should plan to take the PSAT in October. This will not only prepare you for the SAT but also qualify you for the National Merit Scholarship Program. We will also discuss the timing for taking the SAT later in the year.
- **College Visits and Fairs:** We encourage you to attend virtual and in-person college fairs and information sessions to learn more about different schools.

## For 12th Graders:

**College Applications:** Seniors should be finalizing their college lists and preparing applications. Remember to review the deadlines and requirements for each school. We are here to help you with your personal statements, essays, and any other components of the application.

**One-on-One Counseling Meetings:** We will continue to meet with seniors individually to provide personalized guidance, review applications, and offer feedback on essays.

**Letters of Recommendation:** Make sure to request letters of recommendation from your teachers early. Provide them with any necessary information about your goals and achievements to help them write a strong letter.



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# EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES 2024-2025

Gilbert Kaburu & Timon Kitakani- Athletic Director & ASA Coordinators



## TASOK ACTIVITIES & ATHLETIC CALENDAR 2024 – 2025

### ASAs:

ASA Trimester 1: August 19 - November 8 (11 weeks)  
Registration: August 19 - August 30 (2 weeks)  
Activities: September 3 - November 8 (9 weeks)  
ASA Trimester 2: November 11 - February 14 (11 weeks)  
Registration: November 11 - November 22 (2 weeks)  
Activities: November 25 - February 14 (9 weeks)  
ASA Trimester 3: February 24 - May 23 (11 weeks)  
Registration: February 24 - March 7 (2 weeks)  
Activities: March 10 - May 23 (9 weeks)

### TOURNAMENTS AT TASOK:

X-Country — November 15 (Friday)  
Volleyball — November 8 & 9 (Friday & Saturday)  
Swimming — October 25 (Friday am or pm)  
Basketball – Varsity February 14-15 (Friday & Saturday)  
Basketball - MS Basketball February 28 - March 1  
(Friday & Saturday) (Tent)  
Football - MS May 8 & 9  
Football - Varsity 1 – April 5 (Saturday all day)  
Football - Varsity 2 – May 23 & 24 (Friday 1 pm  
start/Saturday all day)

### SPORTS SEASONS (SS):

Season 1 (August 19 – November 8):  
Volleyball, Cross-Country & Swimming  
Tryouts: August 19 - 23

Season 2 (November 11 – February 14):  
Basketball  
Tryouts: November 11 - 15

Season 3 (February 24 – May 23): Football  
Tryouts: February 24 - 28

### INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENTS:

Varsity Volleyball & Swimming  
December 5 - 7 (SAISA - AISJ)

Varsity Basketball  
Feb. 7-8 (SAISA - AISCT)

Grades 6 - 8 Football - TBC  
Grades 6 - 8 Basketball- TBC

Varsity Football  
April 11-12 (SAISA - BMIS)

Thank You!

For supporting the ASA and our sports programs.

For inquiries, please contact

**Timon Kitakani** [tkitakani@tasok.net](mailto:tkitakani@tasok.net)  
Elementary School

or

**Gilbert Kaburu** [gkaburu@tasok.net](mailto:gkaburu@tasok.net)  
Secondary School.





# A Message from the Elementary Principal

Benjamin Sheridan

Dear TASOK Families,

Welcome to the start of a new and exciting school year at The American School of Kinshasa! As the new elementary principal, I am thrilled to join this vibrant community and begin our journey together.

At TASOK, we believe your children's education is a shared responsibility. It thrives best when there is a strong partnership between home and school. Your involvement, encouragement, and support are crucial to fostering an environment where every child can succeed, grow, and feel valued.

We are fortunate to have a fantastic group of dedicated teachers committed to creating the conditions for every student to feel included and realize their full potential. Their passion for education and care for your children is evident in everything we do. We are all working together to ensure that each child excels academically and grows in confidence, character, and resilience.

As always, we are committed to living out our "Excellence, Integrity, and Inclusion" mission in everything we do. We thoughtfully find ways to ensure these values are at the core of our teaching, relationships, and school culture.

Whether through our dedication to academic excellence, our focus on character development, or our commitment to embracing and celebrating diversity, we all work together to provide the best for your children.

I strongly encourage you to participate in the PTC (Parent-Teacher Community). If you haven't already, please consider signing up for the PTC year-level WhatsApp groups to stay informed and connected throughout the year. The school reception has access to QR code sign-up forms and can help you with this process. Your active participation helps build the solid home-school partnership that is key to our students' success.

Please know that my door is always open to you. I look forward to working closely with you throughout the year to support your child's learning journey and ensure that TASOK remains where everyone feels they belong.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Warm regards,  
Benjamin Sheridan  
Elementary Principal, TASOK

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## A Message From Grade 3

The Grade 3 teachers wanted to celebrate our Grade 3 team and students' incredible start to the school year. It has been truly inspiring to see students and teachers working together to create a vibrant and collaborative classroom environment. They've been establishing routines, building strong relationships through engaging activities, and supporting one another to ensure every student thrives inside and outside the classroom.



As I (Trentino) embark on my second year at TASOK, I am filled with excitement to launch an educational research project. This project will delve into how engaging in various activities designed to enhance concentration and focus can ignite students' passion for learning and foster their growth in both academic and non-academic areas.

As we move into the year ahead, I am eager for the continued growth and enthusiasm of our Grade 3 students. Their energy and curiosity inspire me daily.

This school year will be one of discovery, achievement, and joy. Thank you for your ongoing support, and I look forward to a great year ahead.



*Mr. Trentino, Mr. Tim, Ms. Jessica, Ms. Grace Grade 3 Team*

← **Nurse's Station Cell +243 817 252 011** →

Nathalie Katalayi- TASOK Nurse: [nurse@tasok.net](mailto:nurse@tasok.net)

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 do not allow students to carry their medicine. Please give the medicine to the Nurse so that she can administer it to your child at a designated time.

Make sure to let the nurse know if your child has an allergy or a chronic medical condition that requires taking medicine daily at school or if your child has a temporary prescription to take during school hours. Send your child to the Nurse first thing in the morning after 2 days of sickness absence.

**Birthdays:** Please send the list of the cupcake ingredients to the nurse at least 48 hours before the class celebration.

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





## KINMUN - Coming up in November! Thursday the 21st through Saturday the 23rd

TASOK will be hosting the fourth annual KINMUN (Kinshasa Model United Nations) with schools from around Kinshasa.

Students also gain valuable skills in research, writing, and speaking skills.

Model United Nations are programs that run throughout the world aspiring to help students understand the role of the United Nations and ensuring that students understand about world issues in an effort to promote peace through diplomacy and cooperation.

The event is open to all secondary students to participate. Registration and detailed information will be coming soon!

August - 14 Days	September - 20 Days	October - 18 Days	November - 19 Days
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## The 2024/25 Academic Calendar is here!

Also found on our TASOK website,  
[LINK!](#)  
TASOK CALENDAR OF EVENTS ALSO  
FOUND AT:  
<https://tasok.net/events-calendar/>

## This September in Elementary School

### Key Dates for September

- September 2nd - Holiday - No School
- September 3rd - Trimester 1 After-School Activities Begin
- September 6th - Elementary Leadership & Parent Coffee
- September 23-27th - Congo Week

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# Understanding the Primary Years Program (PYP) at TASOK

At TASOK, we proudly offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Program (PYP), a framework that guides our teaching and learning. But what does this mean for your child?

## What is the PYP?

The PYP is designed for children aged 3 to 12 and helps them grow as curious and thoughtful learners. It doesn't just focus on academics but also encourages students to develop as caring and responsible people. The PYP aims to nurture the whole child, focusing on their emotional, social, and intellectual growth.

## How does it work?

The PYP is organized around six big ideas, called "themes," that help students connect what they learn in the classroom to the world around them. These themes include:

- Who We Are: Understanding ourselves, our health, and our values.
- Where We Are in Place and Time: Learning about history, geography, and personal stories.
- How We Express Ourselves: Exploring how we share ideas, feelings, and cultures.
- How the World Works: Discovering the natural world and science.
- How We Organize Ourselves: How communities and systems work together.
- Sharing the Planet: Discuss how we live together and take care of our environment.

Teachers at TASOK use these themes to create meaningful and engaging lessons. This approach helps students see connections between different subjects, such as math, science, and language, and understand how these subjects relate to real life.

## Why is the PYP important?

The PYP prepares students not just for the next grade but for life. It helps them develop important skills like thinking critically, asking questions, and working well with others. These skills are valuable not only in school but also in everyday life.

The PYP also encourages students to reflect on their learning and take action. This could mean helping others, caring for the environment, or being a good friend. This way, the PYP supports the growth of confident, compassionate, and responsible young people.

## What are the benefits for your child?

By learning through the PYP, your child will gain:

- A strong foundation in critical academic areas like reading, writing, math, and science.
- The ability to think creatively and solve problems.
- A deeper understanding of different cultures and perspectives.
- Skills in communication, teamwork, and leadership.
- A sense of responsibility and a desire to make a positive difference in the world.

At TASOK, we believe in the importance of community, inclusion, and respect for all cultures. The PYP aligns perfectly with these values, helping us to create a supportive and nurturing environment where every child can thrive.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the PYP at TASOK, please feel free to contact Lorna Ossmann, our PYP coordinator. We are here to support you and your child on this exciting educational journey.

## PYP CORNER

Lorna Ossmann - PYP Coordinator

I am thrilled to introduce myself as the new PYP Coordinator at TASOK.

I am originally from England, with a diverse background spanning from South Africa, Botswana, Chile, and I continue to explore the world with my Minnesotan husband and our three boys.

My global journey, including a Bachelor's in the UK and a Master's in Education in the USA, along with certifications in various educational fields, has enriched my 16+ years in international schools.

From creative classroom activities to unique educational experiences, my goal is to make learning engaging and fun. My family and I are thrilled to explore DR Congo's culture and TASOK's vibrant community.

continuing...





## PYP Corner

Lorna Ossmann - PYP Coordinator

In my role as PYP Coordinator, I will be guiding the implementation of the Primary Years Programme (PYP), which is designed to offer a well-rounded, inquiry-based education for our students.

With the PYP model, your child will experience a classroom environment that encourages exploration, critical thinking, and active engagement. Students will delve into units of inquiry that connect multiple subject areas, fostering a deeper understanding of the world around them. Expect to see your child involved in hands-on projects, collaborative activities, and discussions that promote curiosity and reflection.

The PYP aligns perfectly with our school's mission: "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." Through the PYP, we aim to provide dynamic learning experiences that celebrate diversity and help students become thoughtful, independent thinkers and leaders in our global community.

I look forward to working closely with our dedicated teachers and families to create an enriching and supportive learning environment for all our students.

### **TASOK TALK CREDITS**

Editor: Andreas Tabu Muntu

