# TASOK TALK



#### **DIRECTOR - BEN MARSH**

Dear TASOK Families,

It is hard to believe that it is already November, and reflecting on all we have accomplished so far this semester is a pleasure. October was packed with many events that captured the spirit of our TASOK community, and I'd like to take a moment to thank each of you for the roles you play in making our school a great place to learn, grow, and connect. Whether you're a parent, student, teacher, or member of our support team, every contribution you make helps to build upon the strong foundation of TASOK for our students.

October started with a well-deserved break for students and staff, followed by some exciting activities and opportunities. Our students received their Semester Progress Reports, parents engaged with teachers in valuable Parent Conferences, and we celebrated our annual Harvest Festival, a wonderful reminder of the warmth and enthusiasm that make our community unique.

# Gratitude, Growth, and Goals - A Message from the Director

From the commitment of our Parent Teacher Committee, who are already preparing for the February Gala, to the dedication of our athletic coaches as they train teams for the upcoming SAISA competitions in South Africa, we're seeing the rewards and commitment of our community in supporting TASOK and our students. Similarly, our Model United Nations students prepare for KINMUN, while our talented cast and crew are ready to perform "Blood Brothers" this weekend. Seeing such diverse events happening simultaneously is lovely, showcasing our community's dedication to our mission to provide "dynamic and individualized educational challenges and opportunities that promote diversity and empower each of our students to develop into independent global community leaders."

A significant part of our mission involves supporting our students and continuously enhancing our faculty's ability to work together with purpose and impact. Collective Efficacy—the firm belief that, as a team, our teachers and staff can profoundly support every student's learning journey—is central to our approach to how we operate at TASOK. We're thrilled to share that we have welcomed a curriculum expert to review and audit our curriculum, offering further insights on strengthening our programs. Alongside this, we're partnering with a data consolidator to provide faculty with dashboards for analyzing student progress, enabling us to understand each student's unique needs better and adjust our support strategies accordingly.

In our commitment to excellence, we're also taking steps to ensure our school's infrastructure keeps pace with the dynamic needs of 21stcentury education. We have engaged with technology specialists to review and upgrade our campus tech systems, improving internet access and reliability for students and teachers. We're also excited to announce that a brand-new website is on the way, designed to make it easier for our community and future families to connect with the heart of TASOK. Look for our refreshed online presence by the end of the academic year!

A special thanks to everyone who has made these events and initiatives possible. The time and energy put forth by parents, faculty, staff, and students reflect our core values of Excellence, Integrity, and Inclusivity. By working together, we're building on the incredible TASOK legacy and creating an inspiring space where every student feels supported and challenged to become a global leader.

Here's to a beautiful November, and thank you once again for your support, trust, and commitment to TASOK.

### Go Condors!

Ben Marsh Director



# In this October Issue you can expect:

Gratitude, Growth, and Goals - A Message from the Director

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MYP Corner

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**DP** Corner

Animal-Inspired Pottery

Fall Play: Blood Brothers College Corner

KINMUN & THIMUN

**TASOK Libraries** 

Canteen: EkonzoMiz Nurse

Upcoming Events

The 2024/25 Academic Calendar is here!

### **Upcoming Events**

🥞 Fall Play: Blood Brothers 🐾

7 Oct. 31 - Nov. 2 at 7PM CAC

Don't miss the drama, the suspense, and the performance of a lifetime! Mark your calendars!

🤭 Mock Visual Arts Exhibition 🤭

7 Oct. 31 - Nov. 6

Step into a world of creativity! See the incredible talent of our student artists on display!

🞶 Elementary School December Musical Concert 🞶

📅 December 7, 2024 | 1 PM - 3 PM

↑ CAC

Join us for an afternoon of festive melodies and heartwarming performances!

**BENJAMIN SHERIDAN** 

### A Message from the Elementary Principal

Dear TASOK Elementary Families,

As we wrap up another month at TASOK, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on our journey together and celebrate the collective efforts that make our school such a dynamic and nurturing place for learning and growth. Witnessing our community in action and seeing our motto of Inclusivity, Integrity, and Excellence come to life daily is inspiring.

First, thank you for participating in our recent parent-teacher conferences. These meetings provided opportunities for meaningful conversations about your child's progress and development. It's a privilege to partner with you to support your child's learning journey and build a foundation that allows every student to thrive.

Music Fridays have also become a treasured part of our routine, and it's been wonderful to see so many of you join us each week. We celebrate our students' talent and enthusiasm. We're grateful for the sense of community these Fridays bring as students, parents, staff, and community members come together to share the joy of music, dance, and poetry.

Our parent coffee mornings have been equally enriching. They foster open dialogue and create a personal space for us to connect. These sessions speak to our commitment to inclusivity and the strength of our supportive community, which we're so fortunate to have.

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Progress reports went home this month, giving a snapshot of each student's growth and highlighting their hard work and accomplishments. I'm proud of the dedication shown by our students, who continue to advance through resilience and curiosity. This success would not be possible without our dedicated teachers. Their professionalism, creativity, and passion shine through in everything they do, and they are indeed the heartbeat of our school.

Another memorable event was school picture day, an excellent chance to capture this particular time in your child's life at TASOK. We hope you enjoy these keepsakes as much as we do.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and for embodying the values of Inclusivity, Integrity, and Excellence alongside us. Together, we are building a community where every child feels seen, valued, and inspired to reach their fullest potential.

Warm regards, Benjamin Sheridan Elementary Principal



# Grade 5 Highlights

Ms. Jennifer – Ms. Vincentia – Ms. Philo (TA)

## A VALUABLE ENCOUNTER WITH ERASTUS ASARE DONKOR

Our 5th graders recently had the privilege of hosting Erastus Asare Donkor, an investigative reporter and documentary filmmaker, as a guest speaker for their inquiry into natural resources. Mr. Donkor's presentation focused on the significant environmental impacts of illegal gold mining in Ghana, emphasizing the urgent need for responsible resource management. His firsthand experiences offered a compelling perspective that connected directly to the students' studies on how access to natural resources affects our planet.





## SPARKING ENGAGING DISCUSSIONS

The presentation sparked a lively discussion, as students eagerly asked questions and delved deeper into the issues raised. This interactive dialogue broadened their understanding of environmental challenges and encouraged them to think critically about their roles in promoting sustainability. The engagement fostered by Mr. Donkor's visit underscored the importance of dialogue in the learning process.

# LASTING INSIGHTS FOR FUTURE LEARNING

This enriching experience provided students with valuable insights they can apply in their research and daily lives. Mr. Donkor's visit will undoubtedly resonate with them as they continue to explore the complexities of natural resources and their impact on the environment. It was a memorable encounter that reinforced the lessons of global responsibility and stewardship.







### **ANDREW PRZEKURAT**

Dear TASOK Secondary Families,

As we finish another excellent month of learning at TASOK I would like to take the moment to highlight some of the great events that have occurred on our campus.

I would like to begin by thanking all of those parents who were able to attend our Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences. This was a wonderful opportunity for families to engage with our dedicated educators. It was inspiring to see so many parents take an active role in their children's education, and the feedback was filled with positivity, highlighting our collective commitment to fostering an environment where every student can thrive. Thank you to everyone who participated and for your continued support!

Beyond the classroom, our athletic teams have been showcasing their incredible dedication this season! The volleyball team has shown remarkable teamwork and sportsmanship, consistently

### A Message from the Secondary Principal

pushing themselves to new heights in every training. Meanwhile, our swimmers have been working hard and TASOK can't wait to host our first Swim Gala on campus since 2019 on November 4th. The crosscountry runners also deserve recognition for their determination and perseverance as they train for their upcoming event on November 15th. The SAISA traveling students will be a highlight of the calendar year and we are looking forward to both our swimmers and volleyball players representing TASOK in Johannesburg soon. Congratulations to all our student-athletes for their hard work and dedication!

I am thrilled to announce the successful run of our school play, Blood Brothers. This production captivated audiences with its powerful storytelling and outstanding performances by our talented students. The cast and crew poured their hearts into every scene, bringing the themes of friendship and fate to life. A huge thank you to everyone involved in the production—from the actors to the backstage crew, our dedicated directors, and all those who attended to watch the production. Your hard work has truly paid off, and we couldn't be prouder of your accomplishments!

Finally, I would like to take a moment to recognize the exceptional dedication of our Student Council and Student Ambassador bodies. These students have taken on

leadership roles that enhance our school spirit and foster a sense of community and inclusivity.

Their hard work in organizing events, supporting fellow students, and representing our school in various capacities has made a significant impact.

Thank you to our Student Council and Student Ambassadors for your unwavering enthusiasm and leadership—you are making a difference!

Thank you all for your continued support in all of these excellent events. It's been a pleasure supporting our team and bringing so many ideas to light.

I look forward to what is coming next!

All the best,

Andrew Przekurat Secondary School Principal



### MYP CORNER

#### Lennan MacDonald - MYP Coordinator

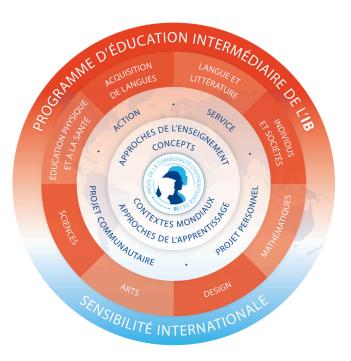
I know we are a few weeks from Thanksgiving, but this seems as good a time as any to give thanks. I am so very thankful to be part of the TASOK community. I know every school says they nurture the community, but at TASOK community is a living, breathing reality that positively impacts all of us here, every single day. From our wonderfully supportive students to their caring parents, from our incredible teachers and coaches to our generous admin, we all work together to facilitate so many amazing opportunities to make possible the success and growth of all our students. I am thankful so many of our families were able to join us for three-way conferences last week. The power of parents, teachers, and students all pulling in the same direction to ensure academic and social success is very powerful indeed.

I am also thankful and so very impressed with the initiative shown by our students and the support from our teachers and admin in organizing so many on-campus events: from Sports Day to the grade level soccer tournament, from The Autumn Festival to Family Day, from Volleyball games to the Secondary School play from Music Fridays to a myriad of after-school activities (ASAs). Here at TASOK, there are so many opportunities for our students to grow and shine and support each other.

Finally, I am both thankful and impressed that so many of our students have put their hand up to serve. Whether it is the Student Council or the Student Ambassadors, so many of our students have volunteered to serve their school community to challenge themselves and grow and both shine and give others the chance to shine.

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you and may you too find opportunities to grow and shine in the warm embrace of this community that is anxious to celebrate that growth and that light.







### DP CORNER

#### Lionel Honnorat - DP Coordinator

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# STUDENT COUNCIL (STUCO)

### **Members**

### Grade 6:

- Malaika Kaburu
- Iliyan Gilani
- Eunice Kabeya Bokulu

### Grade 7

- Abigaelle Kouakan
- Nehemie Corneille Kashala Katumbayi

### Grade 8

- Piper Lindstrom
- Lucie Te Litho
- Moriel Luamba
- Hontongnon (Marley) Houndje

### Grade 9

• Naa Akoley Odoi

### Grade 10

- Hyunjin (Vicky) Lee
- Lazin Khwaja
- Janice Quarshie
- Divyanshi Gupta
- Riya Sothiya
- Khushi Nathani
- Memoriale (Memo) Mabiku
- Precieuse Mabiku

### Grade 11

- Lea Tarhini
- Nour Yahfoufi
- Shukrany Tunasi
- Ziya Gilani
- Lucas Trappers
- Meagan Starck
- Andy Panou

## Animal-Inspired Pottery

Naomi Trego – MYP/DP Visual Art



**Title: Octopus Covered in Soup Artist**: Kellyanne Mahuku (Grade 8)

**Medium**: Glazed ceramics **Size**: 5.5 x 7.6 x 2.5 cm

Kellyanne crafted a cartoon-style octopus inspired by her love for octopus with mushroom soup. Using a reference photo, she made a cute, zoomorphic figure with a round head and short tentacles. She used bright colors to emphasize its food-like appearance and created the base with a pinch-pot technique, adding legs for stability. Simple details, like a round mouth and textured ridges, evoke octopus features without full realism.

**Title: Monstera** 

**Artist:** Sire Sanoh (Grade 8) **Medium:** Glazed ceramics Size: 17 x 10.5 cm

Inspired by a passion for the Amazon and nature, Sire created a realistic monstera leaf in ceramics. Using slab and coil techniques, he crafted the leaf shape and edges. Though his intended blue-green ombre with pink accents blended into solid green, the piece includes realistic leaf spaces typical of monstera leaves.





Title: Snake Bowl Artist: Lea (Grade 8) Medium: Glazed ceramics Size: 7 x 15 x 7.5 cm

Lea designed a bowl featuring a snake wrapped around it, inspired by her love for snakes and their aesthetic form. Using vibrant, forest-inspired colors, she aimed for a smooth texture, though it turned out differently, adding unique character to the piece.

Title: The Snake Pot Artist: Benjamin Defise (Grade 8) Medium: Glazed ceramics Size: 13 x 9 x 11 cm

Inspired by pottery featuring a snake, Benjamin created a pot with a snake coiled around it and a lid to view the inside. He aimed to add realism and design using techniques like scoring, slipping, and hand-building. The pot was shaped with a slab roller and pinch pot technique, while the snake was crafted with a clay extruder for added detail and life.



## Animal-Inspired Pottery

Naomi Trego – MYP/DP Visual Art



**Title: Snake Plate** 

**Artist**: Vega Pehrsson (Grade 8) **Medium**: Glazed ceramics **Size**: 2.5 x 24 x 1.5 cm

Vega created a dark red plate with a contrasting blue snake with a yellow head, plus three small bowls. Inspired by Swedish forest snakes seen at a summer house, Vega crafted this zoomorphic plate using techniques like clay extrusion for the snake and walls, and the pinch technique for the bowls. The piece combines unique colors for an aesthetic, contrasting effect.

Title: The Turtles

Artist: Lucas Ossman (Grade 8) Medium: Glazed ceramics Size: 3 x 38 x 40 cm

Lucas crafted a green and blue sea turtle sculpture as a gift for his mom, inspired by her love of turtles. Using slab and coil techniques, with a ball for the head, he created a sleek, curved, and natural design.





Title: Snake Wrap Bowl Artist: Parignya (Grade 8) Medium: Glazed ceramics Size: 7.5 x 14 x 6 cm

Parignya crafted a "snake wrap bowl" featuring a coiled snake to symbolize eternity and divine knowledge. Using hand-building and coil techniques, they added realistic snake curves and a shiny glaze to enhance the design's visual impact and symbolism.

Title: Guatemalan Monkey Vase Artist: Jimmy Parys (Grade 8) Medium: Glazed ceramics Size: 10 x 15 x 19 cm

Jimmy created a zoomorphic vase featuring a Guatemalan monkey, inspired by his interest in natural forms. He aimed to make it both aesthetic and engaging by adding monkey features and enhancing the design with curves and details that evoke the monkey's likeness. He crafted the piece using hand-building techniques to blend natural beauty with functionality.



## Animal-Inspired Pottery

Naomi Trego – MYP/DP Visual Art

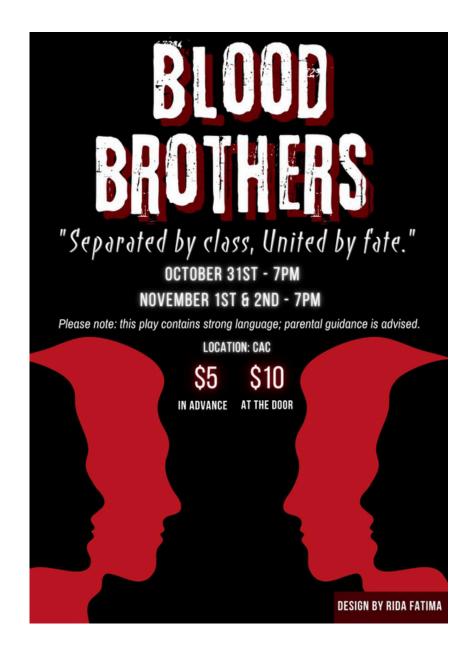


**Title: Sea Creature Bowls Artist:** Oriane Bodson (Grade 8) **Medium:** Glazed ceramics

Sizes: Turtle bowl: 3.6 x 9.5 x 8 cm; Starfish bowl: 1.5 x 8.9 x 9 cm

Oriane crafted a set of jewelry bowls inspired by sea creatures. Her green turtle bowl features layered green hues and a detailed shell pattern, while her pink starfish bowl contrasts with a pink exterior and white interior. Both pieces were designed for storing jewelry or small items, combining aesthetic design with functionality.

Fall Play: Blood Brothers



## College Corner

Davon Campbell - College Counselor

### Hello Tasok Community

The college application season is officially underway! We understand this can be both an exciting and overwhelming time as you prepare for the next steps in your educational journey. To help you stay on track, here are a few key tips to consider when applying:

- Stay Organized: Use a calendar or planner to track deadlines for each school, including application due dates, financial aid forms, and scholarship applications. Missing deadlines can impact your chances, so stay ahead!
- Highlight Your Unique Strengths: Be
   authentic in your essays and application
   materials. Showcase what makes you unique—
   whether it's your leadership experience,
   community involvement, or a personal
   passion.
- Request Letters of Recommendation Early:
  Give your recommenders plenty of notice to
  write thoughtful letters that speak to your
  strengths. Remember, a good
  recommendation can leave a strong
  impression on admissions committees.

- Prepare for Interviews: Not all colleges require interviews, but if yours does, prepare by practicing common questions and researching the institution. This is your chance to express why you're a great fit!
- Proofread Everything: Review all parts of your application carefully. Typos and mistakes can take away from an otherwise impressive application, so take your time with each component.

Additionally, we want to remind you that there will be one last SAT offered this year, scheduled for December 7. If you plan to take it, make sure to register by November 22.

If you have any questions or need support throughout this process, please feel free to reach out. We're here to help you succeed!

Best of luck, Davon Campbell





### KINMUN & THIMUN approaching!

#### **KINMUN**

TASOK will host KINMUN this academic year from Thursday, November 21st until Saturday, November 23rd. Our students are busy planning the event, including student delegates from 3 other schools in Kinshasa. This is a great opportunity for students to practice speaking skills and engage with global politics.

#### **THIMUN trip**

In January, the MUN club will send a delegation of up to 12 students to The Hague, the Netherlands, to participate in THIMUN, a large conference with students from schools worldwide.

### TASOK Libraries

Leanne Edwards - Bruno Mbambu - Morgan Bamani

#### **Secondary School - Library lessons on citation**

Students in Grades 6-10 are almost finished learning the fundamentals of MLA citation. Once we finish these lessons, we can happily move on to more fun activities!

#### **Elementary School - UOI-inspired books**

Elementary classes visiting the library have enjoyed reading books chosen with inspiration from their UOI in the classroom. Seeing students make those connections is a beautiful thing!

### **Subscriptions**

TASOK maintains subscriptions to some wonderful sources for reading and research. Please take a look at the following documents to determine if any of our resources can be utilized at home! - Secondary - Grades 3 to 5 - Preschool to Grade 2 -

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

- Whole school librarian, Ms. Leanne Edwards: <u>ledwards@tasok.net</u> or <u>librarian@tasok.net</u>
- Elementary library assistant, Mr. Morgan Bamani: <a href="mailto:mbamani@tasok.net">mbamani@tasok.net</a>
- Secondary library assistant, Mr. Bruno Mambu: <u>bmambu@tasok.net</u>



# 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.



### TASOK's Canteen - Ekonzomiz



### TASOK's Canteen - Ekonzomiz

Welcome to the process for ordering meals for your child at TASOK for 2024/2025 ORDERING MEALS ONLINE IS EASY TO DO AND WE ARE HERE TO HELP: orders@ekonzomiz.com

# PLEASE FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

- ↔ **REGISTRATION** on the website <u>www.ekonzomiz.com</u>
- $\leftrightarrow$  **LOGIN** to your family space
- ↔ADD your child(ren) to the Canteen
- ⇔ADD CREDIT to your E-POCKET with the available payment gateways (VISA, MasterCard, Mpesa, Orange Money, Airtel Money). No cash payment is allowed.
- ⇔ PLACE your weekly order for each member of your family registered in the canteen

#### Need help

Go to the link https://tasok.net/school-canteen to see all the steps explained with videos.
Or Call us for assistance at +243 851 315 465
WhatsApp: +243821113376

You can consult the proposed menus on https://ekonzomiz.com/en/15-canteen-t asok

# REMEMBER THIS WHEN ORDERING MEALS:

- →MEALS ARE PREPARED AND SERVED ON THE BASIS OF ORDERS MADE ONLINE: in the absence of an order, the child cannot be served, even if the E-Pocket is sufficiently credited.
- →WEEKLY ORDER . Orders are made over an entire week to avoid any oversights that could leave a child without a lunch. It is strongly recommended to place weekly orders over the weekend.
- ⇔DAY-TO-DAY ORDER. Orders are placed at least the day before no later than 8:59 p.m. in order to be available on the following day. Orders placed after 9:00 p.m. will not be prepared. Same day orders for lunch are available for limited products (Sandwiches, Wraps and Salad) between 12am-8am only.
- ⇔CANCELLATION OF THE ORDER . Cancellation of orders can only be made by email: <a href="mailto:orders@ekonzomiz.com">orders@ekonzomiz.com</a> and based on the following:
  - Hot meals : Cancel the day before no later than 11:59 pm
  - 2 Sandwiches: Cancel the day before or the same day no later than 6:00 a.m.

Meals will not be refunded if a child is absent. Only an order canceled within the prescribed time results in a corresponding refund in the user's electronic pocket.

A total interruption of the school canteen service (school closure, force majeure) also gives rise to a refund

### **PAYMENTS:**

**PAYMENTS ARE MADE AS FOLLOWS:** 

1 The E-Pocket is credited by



Meal orders are only payable with credits through your e-Pocket



FUND YOUR E-POCKET WITH AT LEAST 33.75 CREDITS PER CHILD TO COVER A FULL WEEK'S NEEDS.

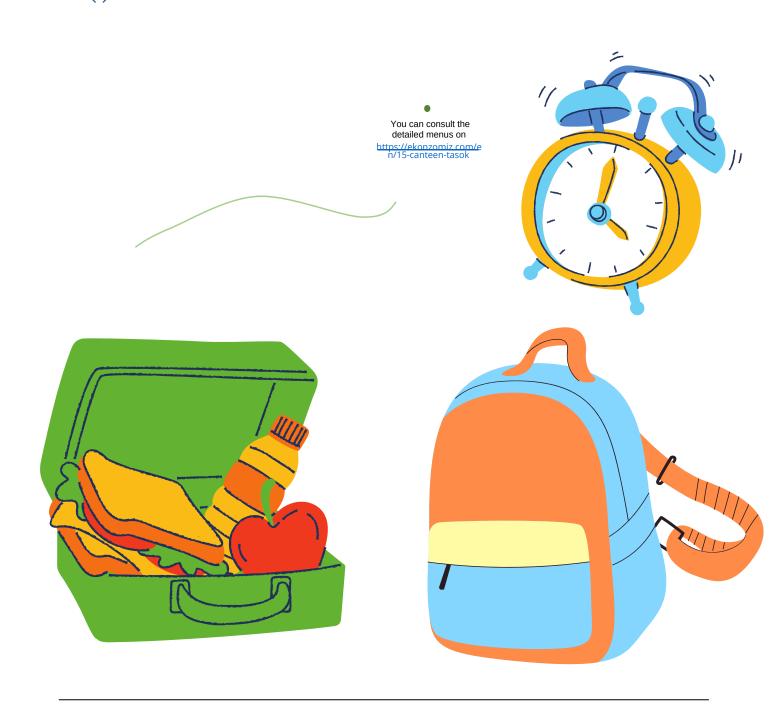
### TASOK's Canteen - Ekonzomiz

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### **CANTEEN GUIDELINES**

Our menus are varied and take into account the dietary balance of consumers: dishes are always served with fruit and vegetables

- → The Canteen also offers a menu for vegetarians
- $\leftrightarrow$  Our products are local sourced
- $\leftrightarrow$  The meat served is HALAL certified



### 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 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: <a href="mailto:attendance@tasok.net">attendance@tasok.net</a>

### **Upcoming Events**

🖏 Fall Play: Blood Brothers 🗞

₩ Oct. 31 - Nov. 2 at 7PM CAC

Don't miss the drama, the suspense, and the performance of a lifetime! Mark your calendars!

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Join us for an afternoon of festive melodies and heartwarming performances!



# The 2024/25 Academic Calendar is here!

Also found on our TASOK website, <u>LINK!</u>
TASOK CALENDAR OF EVENTS ALSO
FOUND AT:

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

### **TASOK TALK CREDITS**

Editor: Andreas Tabu Muntu

















