

YANGON ACADEMY

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

November, 2023 Newsletter



Mr. Miller, **Director**

Mr. Johannes Dippenaar, **ES Principal**

Mr. Gordon, **HS Principal**

Mr. Paing Tha Htoo, **CEO**

Mr. Schneller, **Asst. HS Principal**

Empowering Students Today Toward Making A Better World Tomorrow



MISAC U19 Volleyball and U14 Basketball Tournament

The MISAC league held a U19 volleyball and U14 basketball tournament on November 11th and 12th at the British School of Yangon. Our girl's volleyball team remained undefeated throughout the season and claimed 1st place in the league standings and at the tournament! The boys volleyball team earned 2nd place in both the league and tournament. We are all very proud of the hard work and dedication of our students and coaches, Barani and Eisan. Way to go!

The U14 basketball boys and girls teams played their hearts out against older, bigger teams and showed Yangon Academy's spirit of sportsmanship and determination. A big thank you to the hours of dedication by coaches Kam and Brett! We are all very proud of our boys and girls!

UK University Visit

Yangon Academy was honored to host ten universities from the UK on Monday, November 13th. Grade 11 and 12 students met with representatives and learned a lot about the UK university admission process, programs of study, and about living in the UK. We look forward to hosting them again next year.



MSA Accreditation



Yangon Academy earned yet another prestigious certification from the Middle States Association of Colleges and School Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools. This accreditation, in addition to the current WASC and Array Global accreditations, shows that Yangon Academy, "has demonstrated that it is effectively advancing the quality of educational experiences it offers its students and meets its responsibilities to the public and the profession of education"

Essay Competition

The creative writing club held a student led essay competition in which Yangon Academy's four wolfpacks competed against each other. The winners will receive certificates of achievement and earn points for their wolfpack.

Coffee Talk

Yangon Academy hosted a coffee talk with parents on Thursday, Nov. 16th where the school director, David Miller, gave a talk about the results of the MAP test administered last month. Yangon Academy significantly performed better than the global average!

A second coffee talk was hosted on November 24th to train parents on how to access their child's grades online through Plus Portal. Additionally, the results of a student climate survey were shared showing how the students overwhelmingly felt supported by Yangon Academy's teachers and principal's.



Child Protection Team Meeting



Yangon Academy hosted counselors from several regional schools for a Child Protection meeting on Tuesday, November 7th. Counselors discussed how schools can work together with the aim of providing a framework of child protection services.

The Elementary Wolfpack Assembly Tuesday 14th November - Critical Thinkers.

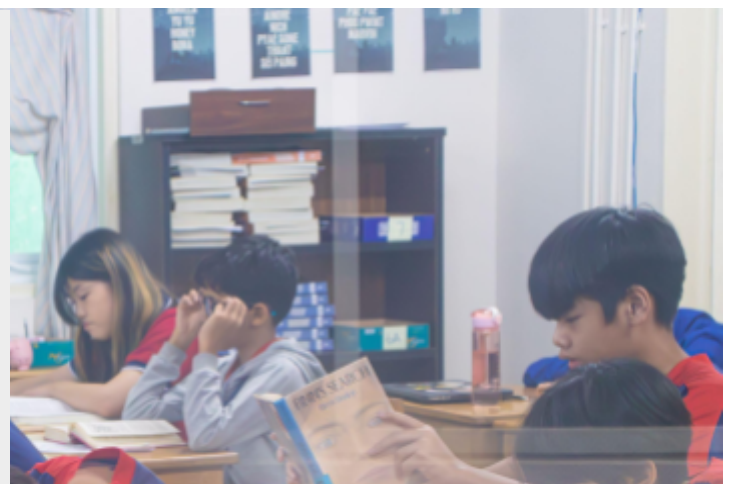
Our Wolfpacks enjoyed a FUN-filled morning and again worked together in groups to solve problems in different activities.

Challenges such as Direction Fish, Close the Lid, Tangram Bird, Number Puzzle and Donkey Puzzle challenge the Wolf Packs to work together and solve the problems.



Wolfpack Reading Challenge

The Yangon Academy Literacy Team has organized a K-12 reading competition between wolfpacks from Nov. 20th through Dec. 13th. Students can log completion of all grade-level, multichapter books they read and the wolfpack with most books read will win points and receive award certificates.





Spelling Bee

Grade 3 - 8 students participated in an annual Spelling BEE organized by BFI Education Service on November 25th and held at Shu Khinn Thar International College Campus from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm. In preparation, Yangon Academy conducted its own spelling bee and twelve finalists from grades 3 - 5 and twelve finalists from grades 6 - 8 were chosen to attend the BFI spelling bee. Two of our students, Thiri in Grade 4 earned over all 6th place in the Junior competition, and Thiri in Grade 8 earned a 4th place overall in the Senior Competition. Well done!

Student Life & Wellbeing

Over the past two decades, a consensus has emerged among educators and researchers that social and emotional skills are important for youth (and adult) development. Yangon Academy places a great importance on developing these skills with your children and has formed a team of administrators, counselors, and coordinators to develop a relevant advisory curriculum that meets these needs. This year your children have been reflecting on their role and behavior in regard to their social media use, identifying bullying behavior, both in real life and digitally, and developing personal and academic goals for the year. Attention to your child's social and emotional needs doesn't stop when they leave school, and we hope that together we can make a positive difference in your child's life!

Season 2 MISAC Sports

U19 Football practice has started and will take place at Thuwunna stadium. Buses will transport students immediately after school for practice and return by 5:30pm. If you have a child participating in football please make arrangements to pick them up accordingly.

U19 Football Schedule:

November 28	:	YA at Network
December 8	:	YA at King's Yangon
January 11	:	YA at BSY
January 16	:	YA at MISY
January 18	:	YA at King's International
January 25	:	YA at MIS

U14 volleyball has started and boys will practice on campus after school on Monday and Thursday and girls on Wednesday and Friday. Please welcome our esteemed and highly qualified new coach Mr. Thein Soe Oo, a former member of Myanmar National Men's Volleyball team.

U14 Volleyball Schedule:

November 28	:	Network at YA
December 5	:	King's Yangon at YA
December 12	:	YA at BSY
January 9	:	MISY at YA
January 16	:	King's International at YA
January 23	:	MIS at YA

MISAC will host a U11 basketball tournament Friday December 1st at BSY. In preparation, Yangon Academy is now coaching our youngsters.

Winter Performance

Yangon Academy warmly invites all parents and students to the annual winter holiday festival on December 13th from 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm at the Novotel. The celebration will include elementary class performances along with secondary band and choir performances. There will also be an art display featuring work from our students. This year marks the 20th anniversary year of Yangon Academy so please help us celebrate by honoring our student achievements.

Winter Holiday

Yangon Academy will be closed for winter holiday from Saturday, Dec. 16th and will resume on Monday, January 8th. We will dismiss students at 11:30 am on Dec. 15th so please plan accordingly.

Parents, Students, and YA Community,

I often get asked the questions, "Why are you in Myanmar, and how do you see your personal mission there as a teacher and as an adult working with other teachers and students?" As a general answer, let me paraphrase a part of a recent post that I saw on social media that fits. "Our work, all of us, is the special thing that we add to this world. Our Vision. Our Light. Our particular Passions and Excitement. Our Love. What we Share. How we make people Feel. This is truly our "work". Hence, although the external conditions are often difficult here in Myanmar, working with Myanmar students, parents, teachers (both local and ex-pats), and our school community is a wonderful opportunity to bring vision, light, and love to all who are trying to overcome exceptional hardship and contribute to a better world. This means both academic growth and character development, with the aspiration that our school community develop not only good academic and career skills, but importantly, we also aim to develop and become good persons with heart. Cheers.

David Miller
School Director

Principal's corner

Johan Dippenaar (Elementary School Principal)

November quickly passed on by, along with all the academic work and sport activities. It is hard to believe we are already at the end of November. We are moving towards the December break and may all of you experience peace and prosperity during this special time of the year. We are very proud of all our students who excel academically and in other school activities. All of us have a role to play in making both our school and the world a better place to work and live. Thanks to everyone for a great start to the 2nd Quarter. We are privileged to be part of a well organized school environment. Sincerely, Mr. Johan Dippenaar

Mike G (Secondary School Principal)

As we approach the Month of December and the Holiday Season, I know well how busy everyone is here at school. So, it is a good moment to pause, to reflect, and to express gratitude to the entire school community: Our wonderful teachers, dedicated staff, exemplary students, and supportive parents! At the secondary school, the students are working very hard on their studies and teachers continue to challenge, guide, and mentor our young people – it is inspiring to experience such a community of learners. To our staff – the back office, IT department, maintenance, cleaners, security, and drivers – thank you very much for your amazing service to the students and faculty! Lastly, it is important to acknowledge our parents who sacrifice much for their children and support the school in countless ways – thank you! Wishing everyone good health and lots of happiness. Go Wolves!

Alumni Spotlight

I spent 15 years of my best years at Yangon Academy, which needless to say became my second home. I think the meaning of YA is how we always come together to support each other as if we were a big family. With that being said, I would like to wish Yangon Academy a happy 20th Anniversary. Go Wolves!

Velma, Materials Engineering Student, UCLA