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As I was travelling around the world, I landed in Brazil
And there I met an ancient friend who loved Brummana still;
‘How is the dear old school’, he said, ‘and is she thriving yet?’
Oh, we won’t forget Brummana school, and won’t let you forget!
Oh, we won’t forget Brummana school, and won’t let you forget!

As I was travelling to New York its wonders for to see,
A comrade from Binghampton came and met me on the quay;
‘Oh, tell me of the school’, he cried, ‘where my affection’s set’;
Oh, we won’t forget Brummana school, and won’t let you forget!
Oh, we won’t forget Brummana school, and won’t let you forget!

As I was travelling in the South, I reached Australia’s strand,
And there a man from Lebanon came up and seized my hand;
‘I owe Brummana this’, he said, ‘come let me pay the debt’;
Oh, we won’t forget Brummana school, and won’t let you forget!
Oh, we won’t forget Brummana school, and won’t let you forget!

As I was travelling around the world, I reached Beirut again
And as I climbed the mountain side, I heard the joyful strain,
From all the boys and girls at once: ‘Well met, my friend, well met’;
Oh, we won’t forget Brummana school, and won’t let you forget!
Oh, we won’t forget Brummana school, and won’t let you forget!

By Christopher G. Naish
Tune: The Lincolnshire Poacher

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The OSA Board wish to thank all the colleagues and friends who contributed to the 2016 Yearbook:

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CONTENTS

BHS OSA COMMUNITY
BHS School Song & Acknowledgements p2
Contents p3
25th Silver Jubilee International Convention Programme p4
BHS OSA Community p6

ADDRESSES
OSA Honorary President – H.E. General Emile Lahoud ’53 p8
OSA President – Mr. Nazih Khattar ’66 p9
BHS Chairman of QuiET – Mr. Paul High p12
BHS Chairman of the Board of Governors –
Mr. Hani Aboul Jabine ’61 p14
BHS Principal – Dr. Walid El Khoury p16
Mayor of Brummana – Mr. Pierre Achkar ’69 p18
BHS Head of Secondary Section – Mr. Chadi Nakhle p19
BHS Parents’ Association Chairperson –
Mrs. Zeina Zeinoun p20 – p21
BHS May Queen 2016 – Miss Anna Carina Batrouni ’16 p22
BHS Class Representative LP – Mr. Marc Onaissy ’16 p24
BHS Class Representative IP – Miss Serena Semaan ’16 p25
BHS 143rd Speech Day English Speaker –
Miss Talar Boghossian ’16 p29
BHS 143rd Speech Day French Speaker –
Miss Serena Semaan ’16 p30
OSA 24TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION – Ms. Mona Karam ’00
OSA 24th International Convention p32 – p36

REUNIONS
Class of 1988 – Mr. Edmond Goraieb ’88 p38
Class of 1995 – Mr. Bishara Boujaoude ’95 p40 – p44

BRIEFINGS & NEWS
OSA BRIEFINGS & NEWS – Ms. Mona Karam ’00
Back to the Campfire 2015 p46 – p50
OSA Social Visit to H.E. P.M. Tamam Salam ’64 &
OSA Official Visit to H.E. General Emile Lahoud ’53 p52
OSA Prom Contribution Presentation p54
OSA 2016 Graduates’ End of Year Gathering p56 – p58

BHS BRIEFINGS & NEWS
BHS Walkathon & BHS Founders’ Day – BHS Newsletter p60
BHS Independence Day & BHS Drama Club “With Friends
Like These” – BHS Newsletter p61
BHS Christmas Shows – Ms. Mona Karam ’00 p62
BHSMUN Programme – Ms. Mayssa Haidar p64 – p67
IB Programme Certification – Mr. George Rizkallah p70
BHS Field Day & Games Day – Mr. Rabih Aouad p71 – p72
BHS Drama Club “Troy” – Ms. Mona Karam ’00 p73
BHS May Festival – Ms. Mona Karam ’00 p74 – p75
BHS Prom Night – Ms. Mona Karam ’00 p76
BHS 2016 Graduations – Infant & Upper Elementary –
Ms. Mona Karam ’00 p78
BHS 2016 Graduations – 143rd Speech Day –
Ms. Mona Karam ’00 p79

BHS LEGENDS – Ms. Mona Karam ’00
Mrs. Renee Abu Khalil Baz ’35 p80 – p81
Mr. Saad Saad ’64 p82
Mr. Emile Sawaya p84

2ND & 3RD GENERATION
OLD SCHOLARS – Ms. Mona Karam ’00 p86 – p88

ARTICLES
BHS: The Unforgettable Days that I Will Always Miss –
Miss Dalia Arab ’97 p90
Congratulations to the Class of 1966 –
Dr. Kamal Beyoglugow ’66 p91 – p94
Our Story with BHS – Mrs. Jocelyn Campbell p96
After Thirty Years – Ms. Dorine Janjanian ’86 p98
Outside the Photographer’s Lens –
Ms. Mona Karam ’00 p99 – p100
The BHS Tapestry – Mr. John Kirkbright p102
Raised by the BHS Motto – Mrs. Serene Musallam ’92 p103
My Experience at BHS –
Mrs. Lyne Rehayem Majdalani ’00 p104
BHS Gives in Abundance – Mrs. Serene Musallam ’92 p106
Our Island of Sanity – Mr. Jalal Saad ’66 p108
Renewing Our Local Community – Mr. Philip Salem ’75 p109
BHS: An Educational Institute for the Future –
Mr. Nassib Solh ’69 p110

BRUMMANA ONE GROUP – Chief Jane Abi Farah ’11
Brummana One Group p112 – p113

ACHIEVEMENTS – Ms. Mona Karam ’00
Dr. Mazen Abu Fadel ’91 p114 – p115
Chef Karim Bibi ’96 p116 – p118
Interview with Andrew Sawaya p119 – p122
Sally Sawaya ’93 p124

TRIBUTES
Tribute to Dear Ones 2015 – 2016 p125
Tribute to Adnan El Aswad ’54 – Miss Maha El Aswad ’98 p126
Tribute to Usama Jayyusi ’64 –
Mr. Bashir Koleilat ’64 p127 – p128
Tribute to Renee Abu Khalil Baz ’35 –
Mrs. Na’amat Baz Little ’64 & Friends p129 – p131
Tribute to Abdel Majid Hammour ’62 –
Mr. Hani Aboul Jabine ’61 p132

ARABIC
My Beautiful School – Mr. Fayez Shallah ’65 p133
My Memories at Brummana High School –
Mr. Chafic Dagher ’51 p134
BHS 143rd Speech Day Arabic Speaker –
Mr. Kareem Abi Fadel ’16 p135

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Brummana High School Old Scholars Association

SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION

15 - 16 - 17 JULY, 2016 PROGRAMME

Friday, 15 July, 2016
Convention Day (Private Function)
Membership Registration (BHS) 10:00 - 19:00 hrs
Reception at Grand Hills Hotel and Spa 19:00 - 20:15 hrs
Convention Dinner at Grand Hills Hotel and Spa 20:15 - 01:00 hrs

Saturday, 16 July, 2016
OSA General Assembly (Private Function)
Mankoushi Breakfast at BHS Main Drive 11:00 - 11:50 hrs
Opening Ceremony by Brummana One Group (Scouts) 11:50 - 12:00 hrs
OSA General Assembly at BHS Meeting House 12:00 - 14:00 hrs

The Jubilee Festivities
Kids’ Zone at Brummana High School Main Drive
Souk El Tayeb
Food Court
Arts and Crafts Kiosks
Live Entertainment including an Interactive Dabké

12:00 - 01:00 hrs

Street Party
This includes DJs, Bands and Live Entertainment and Dancing
Fireworks

20:30 - 01:00 hrs
23:00 hrs

Sunday, 17 July, 2016
The Jubilee Festivities continue
Kids’ Zone at Brummana High School Main Drive
Souk El Tayeb
Food Court
Arts and Crafts Kiosks
Live Entertainment

12:00 - 00:00 hrs

The Concert
Bee Gees Revival Band - A tribute to the Bee Gees
Fireworks

20:30 - 22:00 hrs
22:00 hrs

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7 - 9 JULY 2017

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

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General Emile Lahoud ’53
Former President of the Lebanese Republic
OSA Honorary President

Dear Old Scholars Class of 2016,

As I address your commencement, I am honoured and hopeful that the legion of bright and selfless Lebanese youth is constantly being reinforced, by equally vigorous and forward thinking women and men. At a time of war, intolerance and massive dislocation, the principles that are imbued in you and upon which BHS rest make you exclusive but carry a great deal of responsibility. In the years ahead, whether in the public or private sectors you will be called upon to lead, yet the obstacles you will face have never looked more daunting. Sectarianism, corruption and the demonisation of the “other” have obfuscated unity, sound governance and development. Yet, signs of hope are burgeoning in the darkest of places and hours, and with your stewardship, hope can lead to salvation and renewal. This is where you come into play.

I am always reminded that, in BHS’s Quaker heritage one is asked to see God in the “self” but most importantly, in OTHERS. One is asked to “serve” and be selfless while doing so. At no time in our modern history have these values sounded more reprehensible and pointless to our leaders than in this last year. At no time has the need of a sound electoral law been more acute. A modern proportional representation law based on a nationwide district will salvage our country and give its youth greater hope for the future. Reversing this tide of despair, takes a lot of dedication and perseverance, and starts with each and every one of you. I take heart from your courage and hope; after all, this is what keeps us alive.

In closing, as I ask you to remain hopeful, because only then can we remain hopeful, I remain confident that you will, as did many generations of “Old Scholars” before you.
My heartfelt congratulations.

I SERVE
Dear All,

It is 2016… 24 years since the 1st International Convention was held in 1992 and 50 years since the class of 1966 graduated.

I would like to wish you a warm welcome to the 25th Silver Jubilee International Convention and a Happy Eid to all those who celebrate Ramadan.

This year, we have put together a special programme and we are very excited to have everyone be a part of the 3-day Silver Jubilee Celebration from 15 – 17 July, 2016. In 2017, Ramadan Eid will fall at the end of June and as such, we will go back to the tradition of holding the convention during the first weekend in July.

To recap briefly – the 1st OSA International Convention was held in July 1992 after the cessation of hostilities in Lebanon. Since then, Old Scholars have met every summer in Brummana and this year “2016” marks the 25th anniversary of the OSA International Convention. We have all come a long way since our school days and many of the friendships formed at BHS have become an integral part of our life today. It is our privilege to be able to celebrate this important milestone together this year.

As far as networking is concerned, the OSA Administrative Committee and the OSA office have had a lot of positive feedback this year. We have more than 1000 followers on Facebook now, many more hits on our website and more old scholars have contacted and have been contacted by the OSA office to update their coordinates. Meanwhile, we have stayed in close contact with the school, the student body and the present graduates of 2016.

In an effort to create a strong link with the OSA, the Board of Trustees has granted an ex-officio seat to the Chairman of the OSA Board. I have been really impressed with the professionalism of the Board of Trustees and appreciate the positive energy prevailing amongst the Board. We should all be proud of their achievements.

I have spent a major part of this year working on updating the OSA Charter and Bylaws that have been in place since 1972. With the new Bylaws, we will have 3 main bodies that will be instrumental in the working of the OSA i.e. General Assembly, the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees. The idea of creating the Board of Trustees is to ensure continuity and yearly financial support to the OSA by collecting funds i.e. donations to the school scholarships, building improvement funds, new projects etc. Hopefully, we will have the revised Charter and Bylaws ratified before the end of this year, thereby providing the appropriate vehicle to help the OSA Executive Committee and OSA membership, backed by the OSA office, to achieve the OSA Mission i.e. promote, support and protect the interests and welfare of Brummana High School.

I am proud to inform you that Brummana High School has recently been accredited to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. A big thank you to Dr. Walid El Khoury and all the BHS staff for their continuous efforts to make this achievement and dynamic progress a reality.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who supported the OSA this past year with donations, Yearbook advertisements, articles and most of all, thank you to all those who have tirelessly worked towards organising this special convention.

We have a festive programme for the 3-day event and I am sure this will create a big impact for the school, the Brummana community and the international community that will be hearing about it.

Being a 1966 graduate, it gives me great pleasure to celebrate both the silver jubilee (25th International Convention) and the golden jubilee (50th anniversary of the 1966 graduates) this year.

Wishing you all a wonderful convention. I am sure you will enjoy it.

I SERVE
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Well, it’s great to be back in connection with Brummana High School again after a break of 8 years away from being a member of QuIET... but QuIET was not even a twinkle in anyone’s eye when I first heard about this “fantastic school in beautiful Lebanon”. It was in 1966 that I returned to the UK with my wife, from being Education Officers in Kenya. My new job was as Head of Geography in a Quaker Co-educational boarding school. I had had no connection with either boarding schools or Quakers but my mentor, the Deputy Head, a fine teacher would help me to understand and appreciate both. That man was Richard Wright who had taught at BHS and worked in Ramallah and was appointed as Head of BHS although serious illness prevented him from taking up the post. Richard encouraged me to work on the boarding staff team and held a regular Sunday coffee evening with his wife Hildegarde, in their kitchen for new staff and their wives. It was not until much later that I became a Quaker and later still, the Chair of the Boarding Schools Association of the UK. That’s how the love of a school and its systems can influence not just one’s own life but the lives of many others too. Talk about BHS.

And so I hope it is with you too, that you carry with you, throughout your personal and working lives, the mark of having been a member of a school that cherishes the values of freedom, equality, tolerance of differing views, simplicity and a belief that there is that something of God (whichever God you may, or may not, choose) in each and every one of us. A school that has provided you with the education that you needed for your life journey to reach the place you are in now and for the onward journey too.

Our responsibility as members of QuIET is to ensure that the ethos and heritage of the school is well maintained. We do that by appointing Governors who have all aspects of the school, its management, its teaching and learning, its pastoral care, its security, its human resources, its finances as their responsibility. BHS is fortunate in having a very talented and committed Board led by Hani Aboul Jabine (Class ’61) but it would be good to know of any younger Old Scholars who would like to be considered for Board membership in the future. Don’t be shy, there would be plenty of help and advice at hand.

One last little story... some years ago I was in Brazil recruiting students for UK schools. I took time out to venture up the Sugar Loaf Mountain in Rio. I was waiting in the queue for the second cable car to the top, holding the novel that I was reading, behind my back, when I heard an American male voice immediately behind me whisper to someone “Hey honey, I remember my teacher reading me that book at school”. Being the curious fellow I am, I turned round and asked “Where were you at school?” “Well I live in Canada now with my family but I used to go to school in Lebanon...you wouldn’t know where. Would it by any chance have been Brummana High School?” We spent the rest of our time on Sugar Loaf talking Brummana with his lovely family. I wrote his email address in the back of the novel and lost it on the journey home. So if you’re out there and recognise the photo do get in touch!
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ADDRESSES

Hani Aboul Jabine ’61
BHS Chairman of the Board of Governors

Chamoun, and the British Ambassador, H.E. Sir George Humphrey Middleton, who were the trustees. The trustees in turn appointed a board of governors of 3-11 persons, half appointed by the President and half by the British Ambassador.

The licence to open the school was given by Presidential Decree no. 1468, dated 10 June, 1959, and signed by the Prime Minister of the Lebanese Republic, H.E. Rashid Karami, and the Minister of Education, H.E. Pierre Gemayel.

Based on a school of 270 boarders and 90 day boys the cost of building was expected to be £400,000. Initially, contributions of £187,000 were received: £120,000 from the British Government, £30,000, £20,000 and £10,000 from their Highnesses the rulers of Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar respectively, and £7,000 from other sources. This left a shortfall of £213,000, for which an appeal was launched in 1961.

The funds received were held in trust, and part of the money was used to buy the Serjbal Land, which is a picturesque scenic mountain site some 7 kilometres from the coast at Damour, at a price of 567,924.25 LL (purchased in stages from 1956). The firm Farmer and Dark, in partnership with Assem Bey Salam, were engaged as architects, and detailed plans were drawn up. They were paid a fee of 158,611.70 LL. It was originally thought that the area was 191,000m² (according to an aerial survey carried out during the French mandate), but it turned out to be much larger at 588,000m².

For various reasons, including failure to reach the target figure of £400,000, the project was abandoned in 1963. After paying for the land, architects, and associated expenses, a sum of LL 1,529,850.69 remained in trust. The BSL Board decided to donate the remaining funds for the expansion of Brummmana High School. This funded the BHS Development Programme, and 3 buildings were built: Edinburgh Building, Little Building, and the Arts and Crafts Block. The cost of the buildings turned out to be greater than the donation, so Brummmana High School paid the balance of LL 32,928.16.

In consideration of this, the Serjbal land along with liabilities (including LL 18,046 owing to BHS for furniture and equipment) was offered to Brummmana High School by the BSL Board. BHS accepted ownership of the land in a letter dated 25 October, 1971 signed by Nuhad Es-Said, Chairman of the BHS Committee, and Barty Knight, Principal and Honorary Secretary to the BHS Committee. The land was formally donated to BHS in 1973 and has remained in agricultural use since then.

I SERVE
WHERE LEBANON LOVES TO SHOP

Centrepoint Stores: City Mall Beirut, City Centre Beirut and Saida | Home Centre Store: Sin El Fil, Futuroscope Building
Max Stores: Chiyah Mar Mikhael Street, City Centre Beirut, Hamra Main Street, Tripoli Al Mina Street
What a remarkable year full of accomplishments this academic year has been.

In addition to being a Cambridge International Examination Centre and accredited by North America AdvancED in 2013, BHS sought and obtained British accreditation from the Education Development Trust after a team of 5 inspectors from the UK visited the school and observed 70 lessons in core subjects and across a selection of other subjects. They held 43 meetings in total, including those with: a representative of the governors; the Principal; school staff, parents and representative groups of students. Last but not least, BHS is now an IB World School authorised to offer the IB Diploma Programme as of September 2016. This recognition of the high academic standards of the school is a tribute to the vision and support of the Board as well as that of the parents and old scholars and the commitment of BHS staff to the education of students from KG I to Grade 12. This is what the EDT team wrote about our teachers, “Teachers’ subject knowledge is a clear strength and enables them to teach with authority, to question students deeply, and to field questions that go beyond the lesson’s immediate remit. Teachers’ enthusiasm for their subject ignites students’ engagement and commitment to do well.”

Our students attained high achievements, demonstrated leadership, continued to distinguish themselves in sports, and won top prizes in mathematics, science, arts, writing contests and fairs.

The BHSMUN team won second place in the 5th Model Arab League Conference which was held at the Lebanese American University, and Roy Makkar was selected to join the Georgetown Washington delegation after going through a tough competition against 850 delegates. Congratulations, Roy!

At the 11th High School and 6th Middle School Conferences, the BHSMUN team of 26 delegates won 22 awards.

The BHSMUN team also organised and held the first BHSMUN Model United Nations conference which accommodated 10 schools from Lebanon and 150 delegates. Special thanks are due to the team especially Mrs. Mayssa Haidar and Enzo El Adm.

Academic excellence is paralleled by an outstanding programme for the development of students. Again from the EDT report, “The exceptional programme of enrichment activities, extended learning, international and local visits and trips enriches students’ appreciation and awareness of different cultures, environmental issues, community links and charitable work, develops sporting and musical talents, as well as giving opportunities for leadership. The Community Service Programme encourages students to put into practice the values of service and consideration for others which are at the heart of the school’s ethos.”

In fact, the “I SERVE” motto which is ingrained in our community is not limited to raising funds for the disabled, elderly and needy but extends to environmental issues such as recycling and cultural ones such as organising an arts exhibition for the community or performing in plays or holding a concert. I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to Mr. Omar Moujaes for the splendid job he did in putting on two plays: “With Friends like These” in December and “Troy” in June.

The “Spring Professional Development Workshop” which took place on 9 April 2016, titled “Education for a Changing World”, is another example of the BHS commitment to community service and to sharing its expertise with other schools in the region. It featured 40 workshops led by professionals from Brummana and other institutions.

Dear Graduates,

David McCullough Jr., who famously gave a “You are Not Special” graduation speech, said in one of his graduation speeches, “The great and curious truth of the human experience is that selflessness is the best thing you can do for yourself.”

Let me add that you are well prepared to go out and succeed, but be careful lest your success leads you to the greatest failure which is arrogance and pride.

Maintain your humility and desire to learn and serve.

I SERVE
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Brummana is a haven for all.

Brummana is nostalgia and renewal, urban and green. This city has always been a meeting point where cultures, religions and generations converge. A true and tangible sample of this union can be found within the diverse students of Brummana High School along the years. The diversity of nationals and expatriates from all around the world, from different cultures and beliefs, comes to complement the high quality of learning, to result in the stellar education BHS offers.

It certainly makes of BHS, and Brummana on a wider scale, a great environment to live, work, meet, learn, and most of all breathe.

Today, in light of the recent pollution and commotion of our coastal cities, everyone is looking for a green break. We conducted a test with a European company to examine the environment of Brummana, and the results prove it is not only pollution-free, but also well above other Lebanese regions.

Tourism, sports and all sorts of activities are part of the core of Brummana, most of all initiated or taking place at BHS.

However it is not only recreational but also an elevated hub of life: booming real estate, multiplied working offices and spaces, and home to our beloved prestigious school that nurtured and forged some of the strongest minds of today.

Our Brummana is indeed unique; a city nestled in the green mountains, dotted with fresh air, and the kindest of people. It is a cradle of diversity on all fronts.

Dear scholars, all of the above undoubtedly brands our Brummana, as the only Cosmopolitan Mountain City. The BHS alumni are living proof of this cosmopolitan nature: many grew to become leaders in all fields, here and abroad, challenging norms and striving to accomplish greatness.

It is time for Brummana to look and speak in a manner that reflects its true character! And so, it is about to undergo a great revival at the doors of the upcoming season. We are installing a fresh face and modern communication, for the world to truly grasp the Brummana cosmopolitan spirit and way of life.

In the same spirit as the year past, our city and its people are hosting a great number of events, both traditional and new: the season is looking prosperous! Its hospitality sector is also still expanding, with more than 32 top notch restaurants and bars opening their doors at the heart of Brummana.

This along with all our efforts will definitely hold Brummana’s name at the forefront of the Middle East summer destinations this year.

Dear BHS Alumni, we owe it to ourselves to be ambassadors of our dear Brummana, and support the place that was once our square one. Let each who doesn’t know this national treasure, discover and revel in it like they should.
Dear Graduates of 2015 - 2016,

As you set out on a new adventure, I hope you will always carry the values you have lived by at BHS in your hearts and actions. I hope you will be messengers to the world of the motto “I SERVE”. I hope you will always witness to the values of Truth, Equality, Diversity and Peace.

I strongly believe you will all shine in different fields and on different levels, as BHS has strived to give you an all-round education. I am certain you will stand out as your student government and President stood out this year. I hope you will all follow your passions and excel as you did in the different clubs and activities which you organised or took part in.

Many of us at BHS will always remember you as a rebellious group in the positive sense of the word. You always strived to change and enhance the school life in general. Many of you were leaders who positively influenced the others. Many of you will be leaders and hopefully will induce change; the kind of change we all aspire to see in the world. Always remember: “No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world.”- Robin Williams.

Farewell Graduates of 2016. You will all be missed.

I SERVE
Zeina Zeinoun  
BHS Parents’ Association Chairperson

The BHS Parents’ Association is the structure through which parents and the school work together to ensure the best circumstances for our students. From the delivery of a rich and extensive curriculum to the enormous range of activities and events that have enriched the BHS community’s life. The past year was successful indeed.

I would like to start by congratulating our beloved school for receiving accreditation. The school is in good hands led by Principal, Dr. Walid El Khoury, in collaboration with the staff, teachers, students, and of course, parents. The International Baccalaureate Programme will also be implemented soon.

This year has been, undoubtedly, fruitful and successful. We started off with the morning coffee to welcome new parents which was attended and enjoyed by many. Then we held the annual brunch where parents and friends mingled and enjoyed an unforgettable morning.

On Teachers’ Day, we honoured the beloved teachers in gratitude for their hard work and endless sacrifice.

Mothers’ Day at Le Royal Hotel was exquisite. Before the Easter vacation, the Infant, Lower and Upper Elementary sections enjoyed the presence of the Easter Bunny who distributed goodies. The smiles on the children’s faces revealed extreme happiness and excitement.

The biggest and most awaited event of the year was the BHS May Festival. A full day of events where Lower and Upper Elementary students danced to lively music under the theme “Let’s Dance”. We were honoured to have the children from The Voice Kids as special guests. This glamorous day was celebrated by the coronation of the BHS “May Queen” where contestants shone with confidence, beauty and pride. One of the unforgettable festivals that was treasured in hearts of all the BHS community forever.

The Parents’ Association of BHS continues tirelessly to engage in a variety of events and projects as all the money we make is used for scholarships and enhancing the school premises. Our successful events would not be possible without the support of the Trustees, the Board of Governors, OSA, our beloved Principal, Dr. Walid El Khoury, the BHS Staff, Administration, and of course our dear enthusiastic parents.

Team work and cooperation are the basis of our work and success... I quote, “we are as strong as we are united as weak as we are divided”, so definitely Unity is Strength.

I SERVE
For me, like every year, the BHS May Festival was something to be excited about. Beginning with the scouts opening ceremony and ending with the May Queen coronation, this day was something that was spoken about for weeks prior to the actual day. Throughout my 7 years at BHS, people had spoken about me participating in the May Queen event, and it never really hit me until I was actually nominated as 1 of the 5 candidates.

I began to get nervous once I realised that I would end up on stage answering questions like the girls in the previous years. To me, this was a fear to conquer as I do have stage fright when it comes to public speaking. In the end, I told myself I had to give it a try, both, to attempt to overcome this fear and to try and make my father proud, as he was the only May King at Brummana High School.

Before getting on stage, we had the voting procedures and talent show to go through. Since the votes were not necessarily in our hands and the talent show was, I began to think about a talent that I had and I realised only a day before that photography was one of them. After the talent show, the only thing left to worry about was the last panel, which was the most anxiety filled one.

As the day came closer, I worried about how I might trip walking down towards the stage (which actually happened, lucky me) and how I would answer my questions. I also had to worry about what our scouts’ mast would look like, as I was part of the team who helped build it.

When the day finally came, I began to get more and more nervous. I began to visualise how things could go. Well I can tell you, it’s nothing like I imagined. Although, I did not imagine I would mess up my answers, I realised that it happens to the best of us and it’s nothing to worry about, because in the end I found it pretty funny and I would not be who I am without my mistakes. Be assured that having this title means nothing if you are unable to portray kindness and humility in your character.

I would really like to thank everyone at Brummana High School for allowing me to represent our school as May Queen. It truly is an honour and it’s something I will remember for the rest of my life. Thank you.

I SERVE
... the touch of nature

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As I get ready to graduate, and end a 15 year journey at BHS, I can’t help but have mixed feelings; gratitude for starting a new path in life, and dismal for leaving the place that has had so much positive impact on my life. The strong, independent individuals who my peers and I have turned into today are chiefly due to the values that I believe BHS has implemented in us both inside and outside classes.

Freedom of expression and communication, are 2 traits that I am proud to say I acquired through my second home. Model United Nations (MUN) plays such a vital role in shaping a person’s views on international events, and is an eye opener regarding regional incidents. It grants us the chance to be able to discuss these incidents making us gain knowledge, confidence and diplomacy. My first conferences were at the Lebanese American University, where I was granted first prize and a scholarship, and at the American Community School in Beirut where I came in second place. I’m proud to say that I’m leaving BHS knowing it has gained a dedicated position towards MUN firstly through its students and secondly through its 1st Annual Conference this year, where I was able to chair and be part of the conference.

Self governance has also recently become an important factor of students’ lives at BHS. As a class representative and member of the student council, I have noticed that unlike many other schools, we experience democracy first hand; since we are granted the chance of voicing out our problems and desires through this council. This, I believe, is what would raise a future generation in Lebanon capable of truly choosing the right leaders, and being leaders ourselves.

Another thing I found favourable during my years at BHS is its policy towards arts and sports and its appreciation of such activities. BHS always finds a way to encourage its students to take part in events such as art exhibitions, choirs, and sporting tournaments, often guiding them towards their career choices as painters, singers and athletes. These careers might not be the usual traditional ones you would encounter elsewhere. This has helped a lot in my own career choice, since exposure of students to those activities at a young age helps them find the area they find most comfortable. It allows them to bloom in their favourite aspects and shapes their future path.

Welfare and public aid are 2 social skills I personally gained during my secondary years at BHS, which made me aware of the real problems people face in society and shaped values of appreciation of the things I have and taught me how to be caring for others. These skills were acquired through the Community Service Programme at BHS which dedicates its time to helping orphans, the elderly and the disabled.

Multiculturalism is a common thing at BHS between its diversified communities. What makes BHS different than other schools in Lebanon, is that not only does it have a diverse Lebanese community, but also a diverse international community. This has influenced us students to give up sectarian, regional and ethnic mindsets and pushed us to exchange our cultures and ideas by celebrating them at events committed to that cause such as International Day.

Finally, as my BHS experience comes to an end with the opportunities it has offered, one phrase will accompany me anywhere I go “I SERVE”. Within all the values and activities mentioned above, you find the importance of this phrase. No matter where we go and no matter what we do, as BHS students we will always seek to serve first and foremost.

I SERVE
ADDRESSES

Serena Semaan ’16
BHS Class Representative LP

Three Years at BHS

Despite having been at BHS for only 3 years, Grades 10 to 12, it truly feels like I’ve been here ever since Playgroup. I will never forget the feeling I had every morning while entering the main gate, as if I’ve entered my own little bubble, my personal safe haven. These 3 years have truly been blissful, full of beautiful experiences and new opportunities. No words can describe how thankful I am.

BHS has given me several opportunities which have made me the person I am today. The very first opportunity I got was being one of the 2014 MUN delegates representing BHS at LAU, Beirut. From that day forth a burning passion grew within me, and I have been part of the BHSMUN team (whom I consider family) throughout my schooling years at BHS; as a delegate, a trainer and Head of Organisation for which I hope will be the first of many MUN conferences hosted by BHS.

The second opportunity was given to me at the end of Grade 10, when BHS Head of Secondary Section, Mr. Chadi Nakhle, put his faith in me and appointed me as Head Usher for Prize Day and Graduation. This experience taught me the true meaning of being a leader. I held the title of Head Usher throughout Grades 11 and 12, whereby at every event I’d learn from my mistakes and seek improvement.

And last but definitely not least, was when I received the honour of being appointed by Principal, Dr. Walid El Khoury, as Senior Prefect in Grade 11 and Head Prefect the following year.

Dr. El Khoury and Mr. Nakhle, thank you for these truly amazing opportunities, for motivating me to improve, putting your trust in me and believing in my capabilities to handle these responsibilities. Thank you for never doubting me, I hope that I lived up to your expectations throughout those years.

Mum and Dad, thank you so much for going out of your way to ensure that I was always present at every event on time be it ushering or attending MUN meetings, even though it made you change your daily routine, I am grateful for your endless support.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Brummana High School for valuing its students, not only for their grades, but by seeking strength within each one and giving them the chance to show off their passion and talents and the ability to share those with everyone.

BHS, words cannot express how thankful I am for everything you have given me.

I Served, I SERVE and I will always Serve
Talar Boghossian ’16
BHS Class Representative IP

My Memorable Years at BHS

It may seem like a very short period of time, but my last 3 years of high school at BHS have taught me so much and were the most significant years of my life. The atmosphere and homeliness at BHS created a nest for me to develop not only intellectually, yet socially too. I made remarkable memories as a boarder and shared heartfelt moments with open-minded and genuine teachers, students and the BHS community as a whole.

The most important thing I learnt during my time here was that it is essential to put yourself out there. We were given so many opportunities to express our talents, skills and ideas and we were privileged enough to exhibit them.

BHS taught me to be independent, it also taught me to take responsibility for my choices and decisions. Each individual at this school has a unique character with a different background, together on school grounds we were taught to coexist and share opinions and beliefs. For 3 years I worked hard to leave a mark at this school; I participated in MUN conferences, joined many clubs and conducted numerous events such as International Day and the “Waste into Art” exhibition. In doing so, I gained so many skills and qualities that I will carry with me after leaving my beloved school.

I am certain that in the future I will always continue to work hard and contribute to BHS in every way possible.

Thank you BHS for making me the person I am today, you will be truly missed.

I SERVE
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How BHS Has Changed My Life

“Every new beginning comes from another beginning’s end.”

Such a beautiful truth can make anyone feel both sorrow and delight. Knowing that everything must start anew. Yet my ambivalence stems from the thought of time catching up with me, it stems from having to say goodbye once again, and hello after that, and it most significantly stems from my acceptance of it.

I came to Brummmana High School in 2014 for my 3rd attempt at Grade 11, seems bizarre, but I was pretty ludicrous before coming to Lebanon. I lived in Qatar for 11 gracious years and after making the most out of my last years there, my parents decided it was time I experienced real education and Quakerism, but they had no idea how much BHS changed my life and how much their decision was actually good for once. It was risky throwing me in boarding school, knowing they couldn’t have their eyes on me, yet I’m still alive and finally graduated! And it’s all thanks to the great people I’ve had the privilege to feel cared by at BHS.

To mention a few of those great people, I’d start by thanking my fellow boarders, Saud and Abdulmohsen Al Ghanem for always being the best of friends and for surpassing all expectations. I stayed an extra month in boarding after school ended to attend an MUN conference, and it was then that I realised how genuine they are because they were gone. You truly never know what you had until you’ve lost it, and I’m glad to say they won’t be going out of my life anytime soon. A person I’m sure no boarder will ever forget would be our Boarding Houseparent, Mr. Rabih Aouad, because for as jaded and pokerfaced as he made us feel, we all knew that deep down inside, he cared about us.

As far as day students go, there are a few I’m sure I’ll always keep close to my heart, TGH – Talar, Luciana, Anna and Alma, the most beautiful girls both inside and out, always there to brighten my school days. Finally, Anthony Eid and Jad Haddad. Anthony will always be one of the funniest, most optimistic and outgoing persons I’ve had the pleasure of knowing, and Jad, the homie who was my opposite, but shared everything I enjoyed, gave it to me straight forward with all honesty and actually knew what was going through my mind most of the time I kept it in. Thank you all.

To put my entire BHS experience in a few sentences, I would say I learned more about myself than I did my studies, I enjoyed every moment I had being here, and I will forever be grateful to BHS for teaching me that the purpose of human life is to “SERVE” and to show compassion and the will to help others.

I SERVE
Talar Boghossian ‘16

BHS 143rd Speech Day - English Speaker

Good evening parents, teachers, fellow students and esteemed guests. Welcome to Speech Day 2016.

It is an honour for me to be here today standing before you all to address my last words of gratitude. For most of us Brummana High School has been our second home, and for some of us, like me, Brummana High School welcomed me not so long ago and created a nest for me to develop not only intellectually, but socially too. I made incredible memories as a boarder and shared heartfelt moments with open-minded and genuine teachers, students and the BHS community as a whole.

Over the course of a couple of years we were able to create unbreakable bonds between each other. I can speak on behalf of the entire graduating class when I say that this year especially, was such an exceptional one full of great experiences we shared as a group. We took in all the values BHS had taught us for years, such as being kind, loyal and helpful and demonstrated them not only in school but in society as well. When one person got in trouble we would all wait at HoS, Mr. Chadi Nakhle’s office in one big crowd. When one of us needed help we all passionately offered support. We became a family.

We are considered privileged for reaching this moment in our lives today, so once we leave the green gates (that are safely secured by the one and only Jawad) we should bear in mind the following: this world is becoming a violent and competitive place for all of us, that is why we should use the experiences, and morals that we have gained at BHS to stay on the right track.

Lastly, dream big, work hard and never give up because there is beauty in the struggle and success is certainly not rewarding if it were easy.

I would personally like to thank my parents for working so hard to provide the best for me thank you for all you have done...

Furthermore, a special thanks to Principal, Dr. Walid El Khoury, and HoS, Mr. Chadi Nakhle, our beloved teachers, parents and families for their persistent dedication and support.

Good Luck Seniors and Goodbye,

WE MADE IT.

I SERVE
Chers parents, camarades, membres de l’administration et invités d’honneur, c’est avec un grand privilège que je m’adresse à vous ce soir afin de célébrer la fin d’un chapitre mais surtout le début d’un autre.

Pour la plupart d’entre nous, nous attendions ce jour depuis longtemps: enfin la fin de l’école, la fête, l’Université qui nous attend.... Mais je crois que nous ne réalisions pas vraiment qu’avec cette cérémonie viennent des changements énormes pour chacun d’entre nous. C’est une étape importante que l’on franchit ! Et c’est grâce à BHS que nous arrivons à la franchir, elle nous a appris à défendre nos idées et nous a aidé à suivre nos passions tout en élaborant nos potentiels. Ceci a été possible à travers une orientation continue et l’opportunité d’initier nous-mêmes des clubs et activités. Pour la majorité d’entre nous, ces événements nous ont sculpté à être les individus confiants présents devant vous ce soir. Tout cela ne nous a pas seulement rendus confiants mais nous a aussi aidé à avoir une image plus claire de ce que nous cherchons à accomplir dans le futur. Preuve en est, je suis arrivée à Brummana High School avec aucune confiance en soi et ignorante de mes capacités. Ce soir je quitte cet établissement avec un amour pour la communication et une confiance en soi que je n’aurais jamais imaginé pouvoir atteindre.

BHS c’est surtout les gens qui y travaillent notamment nos enseignants magnifiques...

Mes très chers professeurs, je vous promets au nom de tous mes camarades ici présents, que nous n’oublierons jamais vos leçons si précieuses, votre effort et soutient envers chacun d’entre nous. Soyez certains que malgré toute la peine que nous vous avons donnée, nous sommes énormément reconnaissants pour tout ce que vous avez fait pour nous.

Je ne peux terminer mon discours sans consacrer quelques mots à l’équipe MUN, préfets et ushering committee qui aux cours de ses 3 dernières années sont devenus une seconde famille pour moi. Je n’oublierai jamais la passion et dévouement dans chacun d’entre eux qui ont rendus cette expérience vraiment inoubliable. Parlant de famille je ne peux mais saisir cet instant pour remercier mes parents et mon petit frère, qui tout au long ont cru en moi et ont donné de leur soin pour faire en sorte que je sois toujours couronnée de succès. Egalement, mais cette fois aux noms de tous mes camarades, j’aimerais remercier Dr. Walid El Khoury et M. Chadi Nakhle pour avoir équilibré loisir et étude aux cours de nos années au secondaire et qui ont fait l’impossible pour que nos dernières années à l’école soient vraiment les plus remarquables de notre vie mais aussi pour avoir cru en chacun d’entre nous. Et enfin, je tiens aussi à remercier ce soir mes camarades qui ont su m’accueillir chaleureusement.

En effet, bien que je ne sois arrivée à Brummana High School que depuis 3 ans, je quitte cet établissement avec un énorme sentiment de chagrin, comme si j’avais été élevée ici depuis toujours. Et tout cela, grâce à vous tous mes amis !

J’espère que nous resterons longtemps soudés et ensemble dans le futur. Mais dans tous les cas, je garderai dans mon cœur ces années à Brummana High school et tous les souvenirs qui vont avec.

Merci.

I SERVE
LOOK FORWARD TO YESTERDAY

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OSA 24th International Convention
24 - 25 July, 2015

The 24th International Convention was somewhat different this year as it was held over 2 days, 24 July and 25 July, 2015.

Commencing on Friday, 24 July, 2015 with a Gala Dinner held at Al Bustan Hotel in Beit Mery at 8:00 pm with an ambience of soft music performed by Mabelle & her Band, while old scholars enjoyed a fine dining menu.

The highlight of the evening was the commemoration of the classes of ’64 and ’65, as President Nazih Khattar ’66, presented 19 old scholars with shields, honouring their 50th anniversary upon graduating from BHS. The event was crowned by cutting the cake, laughter, fun, sharing memories and dancing.

The following day started with the Brummana One Group opening ceremony, by saluting and raising the 3 flags and performing their scouts’ cheers.

Old scholars enjoyed a saj breakfast of “Manakeesh”, while they renewed their memberships at the registration desk before the General Assembly began.

The Meeting House had a blend of old and young scholars, in addition to some former and current BHS teachers who came to encourage and listen to our speakers of the younger generation, mainly graduates of the years 2004 – 2014.

Master of Ceremonies, Mrs. Tanya Nammour (former OSA GM) presented the speakers to the audience, after President Khattar had given a summary on OSA’s achievements for the first half of 2015, covering all events and reunions that had taken place.

Keynote speaker and beloved former BHS teacher, Mr. John Kirkbright spoke of his days at BHS, how they were etched forever in his memory and how fond he was of the school and Lebanon, his second home.

Our main speaker, Miss Joline Chahtoura ’04, winner of many awards, student at NASA summer school, and dual PhD student at Delft University in the Netherlands and KAUST in Saudi Arabia, came to share her achievements with us. Throughout all of Joline’s grand achievements and continuous success stories, she remains a BHS student at heart, one who carries her journey with her wherever she goes. One who is thankful for everything her school has taught her and for preparing her for the life she now leads as an Astro-Biologist.

Representing BHS Principal, Dr. Walid El Khoury, Mr. George Rizkallah gave an update on the school’s most recent developments, physically and academically, such as the inauguration of the new infant building, The Rizkallah Extension Building, which is home for KG I, KG II and KG III students. In addition to forming the Khoury Hall, which is being used for assemblies, shows, and plays. He also spoke of the new IB Programme which should be approved in the year 2016 by the British Ministry of Education. Among other updates was the renovation of the kitchen and the participation of BHS students in the MUN Programme at LAU, Beirut.

UK Chapter Head, Mrs. Nayla Tawil Cookson ’65, updated the audience on the UK Chapter’s activities and reunion held, which brought together old scholars of different age groups, who were very happy to meet, be reminded of their school and were dedicated to meeting regularly to help, support and promote BHS from miles away.

Other young achievers and speakers included Mr. Michael-Patrick Azar ’14 and Mr. Joe Halabi ’14, both of which spoke of their days at BHS and how their school prepared them for their journey in life. The values they learnt at school, academically and interpersonally, paved their paths by helping them cope with more diverse and different surroundings.

Our final speaker, the youngest one, Mr. Tarek Yared, is a current BHS student in Grade 9 and the author of the book “Phoenix”. Tarek spoke of his book writing experience, how it all started and what had inspired him to write this book at such a young age. His journey as a writer had just begun. Tarek was working on a new book “Paragon” (available in April 2016).

OSA Treasurer, Mrs. Emily Kanaan Salem ’82, presented the financial report covering 6 months from January 2015 – June 2015. After which the date of the 25th Silver Jubilee International Convention was announced (15 – 17 July, 2016) and the awards were presented to all speakers by President Nazih Khattar.

The best is always saved for last. We ended the 24th International Convention with our famous street party, bringing together old scholars of all age groups along with their families and friends. The one night where the streets of Brummana become exclusively car-free, where all visitors are welcome to join, dine, watch live entertainment shows on stage, mingle and have fun. The grand finale was lighting up the sky with the beautiful fireworks show and the samba dancers.

Until we meet again next year to celebrate 25 grand years of serving our school, our home and heritage, because “home is where the heart is”.

I SERVE,

Mona Karam ’00
OSA Community Manager
ONE SOLUTION
DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

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Edmond Goraieb ’88
1988 Class Representative

Class of 1988

I am a BHS old scholar and the Representative of Class of 1988.
I started at BHS in 1975 until I graduated in 1988.

Along the way I made many friends, whether they were class mates, school mates, team mates (Rizkallah House and the school football team), as well as some teachers whom I still respect till this very day.

My classmates and I still are in contact via Whatsapp, as we are spread across America, Canada, New Zealand, Europe, The Gulf and of course Lebanon. We always have regular, annual, big reunions in Lebanon (the last one we had was at Indie, Beirut in December 2015). We also have smaller gatherings like the one we held in Dubai in February 2016.

Our class of 1988 is a wonderful class. We remain in contact on a daily basis and whenever we get together, it feels as though we were still at school. These reunions bring along our childhood memories which are truly unforgettable and hold a dear place in our hearts.

Laughter is the main theme at our reunions as we remember the things we did at school. In addition to all the fun we have, it is good to catch up with everyone; what they are doing these days with their careers and families.

The Class of 1988 includes all students who came, left or stayed till graduation between 1975 till 1988 at BHS. Our next reunion should be held in April or beginning of May 2016.

Our gatherings usually depend on how many people are coming from abroad, so we time them accordingly.

I am looking forward to having another reunion during the OSA 25th Silver Jubilee International Convention in July 2016.

I SERVE
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REUNIONS

Bishara Boujaoude ’95
1995 Class Representative

I look forward to hearing from each and every one of you. I really miss those faces of 1995, a pleasure and an honour to see everyone again soon.

Cheers

P.S. If by any chance I have missed someone, please let me know. I went through my friends list twice not to miss anyone.”

To my surprise, everyone on the group started adding the missing people I never had connection with. I was thrilled to see that in a few hours, we had gathered over 45 members of our classmates and everyone was communicating with great pleasure, remembering the lovely memories at BHS.

Unfortunately, many of our classmates were either in the neighbouring Arab countries or somewhere in another continent. However, the ones who were working and residing in Lebanon responded to the call and agreed to meet on the evening of 8 September, 2015 at Giselle Coffee Shop in Brummana.

The group consisted of Louis Atallah, Bachir Boujaoude, Carmen Elias, Ghada Fadel, Jack Ghoul, Nahla Lahad, Mira Lammam, Margaret Jabara, Sharbel Zard and Myself (Bishara Boujaoude). We reminisced about our teachers, classmates, and beloved school BHS. We wished that more classmates could have joined that evening, so we decided to create a group on Whatsapp and work on our next gathering.

By 10 September, we had managed to gather all our classmates on the Whatsapp Group, and to my content, the conversations were rolling 24 hours non-stop, where each member had something interesting to share. This time, we had agreed to have simultaneous gatherings on 25 September, one in Lebanon at CRU Wine Bar in Hamra and one in the UAE at Wissam Khoury’s residence in Dubai. We connected with each other through SKYPE and shared the “cutting of the cakes” at the same moment.

Additional classmates were able to attend Lucien Azzi, Khalil Bechara, Naji Bechara, Rania Khoury, Rosy Sabbagh, Richard Semaan, and Paul Shayban joined us in Lebanon. While in UAE, the group consisted of Lina Abou Fadel, Nabil Abou Habib, Nancy Ahmar, Elias Constantine, Michel Hajj, Dany Haykal, Talal Khalifeh, Wissam Khoury and Serene Salloum. This gathering intrigued a lot of our classmates residing abroad to visit Lebanon and join us on 24 October, 2015 for our 3rd gathering.

Class of 1995

It was on Friday the evening of 4 September, 2015 when I, Bishara Boujaoude and Carmen Elias, BHS Class of 1995, decided to gather as many classmates as possible and hold a phenomenal reunion. It all started with a simple message sent on Facebook to all my classmates saying:

“Dear All,
I hope this message finds you well and everyone is in good health.

I have discussed with a few classmates from BHS class of 1995 and we thought we could arrange a small gathering sometime in the next week or so.

It is suggested that we meet during the week on an evening in Brummana, however, if anyone has any good suggestions, please feel free to share. We would like to have as many of you as possible and in case you are unable to join us this time, we can arrange another gathering sometime around Christmas hoping that everyone will be visiting family.
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As mentioned earlier, our next gathering was scheduled for 24 October, 2015 at Jeddo Mike in Roumieh, Lebanon, where Jack Ghoul brought his enormous barbecue grill, while Bachir Boujaoude provided the usual outstanding cake with our names written on it. Rania Khoury and Rosy Sabbagh made funky T-shirts for all who attended. It was set to be one of the most exciting gatherings we have had, as we had our classmates Michel Hage and Toufic Mady coming from the UAE, while Khater Ghoul came from Thailand and Youssef Ghantous from the USA.

Our day started early on with the preparation of 11 kg of pork meat, cooked by our marvelous Jack Ghoul for 9 hours straight with the help of some of the guys. That evening featured a bigger number of attendees; Wasfi Aboul Laban, Khalil Bechara, Naji Bechara, Bachir Boujaoude, Bishara Boujaoude, Carmen Elias, George Fares, Youssef Ghantous, Jack Ghoul, Khater Ghoul, Michel Hajj, Margaret Jabara, Rania Khoury, Richard Labaki, Mira Lammam, Toufic Mady, Rosy Sabbagh, Richard Semaan, Paul Shayban, Guilane Shoushani and Sharbel Zard.

It was a night to remember, every moment was cherished with a smile and laughter. We had the best food, dessert and our gathering took us 20 years back, especially when we wore our custom made T-shirts which read: “Maybe we got too PHAT, too Bold, too Curvy, or too Wrinkly... But after 20 years, the memories never grow too OLD – BHS Class of 1995”.

Following that great reunion, we decided to end our year with a blasting event scheduled for 28 December, 2015. So our Christmas gathering took place at Al-Bustan Hotel in Beit Mery which was a truly memorable evening. Dr. Elias Sawaya joined us all the way from France and Marcel Raad came all the way from Africa. Wissam Khoury was also able to make it through his busy schedule. Nahla Lahad, Sharbel Zard and I sang our hearts out with no regrets, even though we have horrible voices. Lucien Azzi, Jack Ghoul, Mira Lammam, Rosy Sabbagh and Richard Semaan were also present that night. We wished each other an early Happy New Year.

On Sunday, 6 March, 2016, I coordinated with our classmates in Dubai and we planned a small gathering on March 9. I felt very welcome during my presence in Dubai, as Michel Hage was a great host taking me to different locations to spend a great time. On the evening of 9 March, 2016, Nabil Abou Habib suggested we meet at Crown and Lion Pub, in Byblos Hotel, Dubai. I was delighted to meet Nabil Abou Habib, Elias Constantine, Michel Hage and Toufic Mady (who made it directly from the airport to meet us). Nancy Ahmar and Serene Salloum could not make it however, we agreed to meet this summer in Lebanon. We had a great time sharing lovely memories and raised a glass to our classmates around the globe.

This July we will be having a great big gathering hoping to gather our classmates from USA, Arab Countries and the Far East.

Time flies by quickly, it has been 20 years since most of us have seen each other. This is our message to everyone at BHS, always keep in touch with your classmates; the joyful memories of our beloved school are too precious to be forgotten.

Until we meet again, my dear Class of 1995.

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REUNIONS
Back to the Campfire 2015
29 - 30 August, 2015

“Once a scout... always a scout,” and what better way to accentuate that than through an event, which brought together the current Brummana One Group and the former Old Scholar Scouts.

The date was set for 29 August and 30 August, 2015 and the enthusiasm was beaming over camping grounds in the heart of every scout present, young and old. This first time ever event aimed at promoting the BR1 Group and introducing them to former scouts, who have kept our group alive, active and well known. A new experience where the new learnt from the old and vice versa, under the command of Chief Roy Younes ’10, BR1 Group Leader, and Chief Jane Abi Farah ’11, Assistant Group Leader, we were all scouts once more, chanting our old songs, standing in our patrols, cheering, following orders and reliving the scouting life.

We helped build the mast, put up our tents, saluted and raised our camp flags and prepared for the campfire on the first night. While the famous boiled potatoes and eggs (Beyd w Batata) dinner was being prepared, we gathered for the official camp fire entrance, current OSA Vice President and former Scouts Group Leader, Chief Naji Chakhtoura ’92 helped in lighting up the camp fire and we were all set for a beautiful evening of fun.

Chief Roy updated us on the group’s achievements and relationship with the Lebanese Scouts Federation. He then asked all former chiefs and scouts present to introduce themselves and share any memories they had of their scouting days.

Chiefs Ayad Baban ’64, Naamat Totoonchie ’66, Rana Sawaya ’87, Kameel Sawaya ’88, Naji Chakhtoura ’92, Maher Abu Fadel ’93, Michel Nehme ’98, Eliane Abu Fadel, Tony Hajj ’03, Mark Aswad ’03, Alfred Helou ’07 and other present scouts contributed their history of scouting days. They spoke of what scouts are all about, what it taught them and how it has helped them throughout life, by teaching them not only different types of knots, but rather values like self-discipline, integrity, helping others, patience, kindness, hard-work and persistence.

As we waited for the food, still, current and former scouts performed a hilarious sketch. We then battled against the young scouts while we sang our cheers versus theirs (no need to mention who won the competition, they were better equipped). Dinner was served and we proceeded with our competitions against the young scouts. After dinner, some went straight to their tents to sleep, others slept in their cars and locked their doors for fear of a night attack (a scouting camp tradition), while some stayed up the entire night reminiscing and guarding the campsite, one of which was yours truly.

The next morning, the wake-up call was at 6:00 am, followed by morning stretching by former Chief Alfred Helou at the BHS Football field. We had “Manakeesh”, tea and coffee for breakfast as Chief Jane put the final touches for the Big Game.

Current and former scouts were grouped and divided into 5 teams. Each team was asked to come up with a team name, a cheer, and to create a team flag. The Big Game included 5 posts spread all over BHS Campus. Each team was given clues to a riddle which would lead them to their destination, where every destination was marked with a challenge for them to complete.

One of the challenges required the scouts to use their tasting buds to identify the types of food given to them while blindfolded. The second challenge required 3 team members to go down the stairs while tied to each other and blindfolded. Challenge number three was shaving a balloon without it popping. The forth challenge, where the majority of the teams excelled, was to create the longest rope using clothing items. The fifth and final challenge was creating a perfect square out of 4 logs.

After 3 hours of running, completing challenges and additional challenges for answers to questions (eating an onion or having guys wax their legs were some of them), the contestants returned to the campsite for some lunch, a BBQ to be precise.

Before our lovely camp came to an end, we worked together to bring down the tents, the mast and clean up the campsite and premises.

OSA Vice President Naji Chakhtoura, presented Chief Roy with an award, in appreciation of BR1 Group’s