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BHS SCHOOL SONG

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 2015 Yearbook:

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Asso Brummana Hig		4 th International Convention
	RVE	24 - 25 July 2015
Day 1: Friday 24 th July 2015		
 Welcome Tent: Refreshments Membership Registration Desk Souvenir Photos Convention Dinner at Al Bustan Hotel, Beit Mery Master of Ceremonies Presentation of 50th Graduation Anniversary Awards to Classes of '64 & '65 Live Music Entertainment throughout the dinner 	ТВА	20:30 hrs 22:00 hrs
Day 2: Saturday 25 th July 2015		
 1 Registration continues Traditional Mankoushi Breakfast at BHS Main Drive Souvenir Photos 		10:00 hrs onwards
2 • Opening Ceremony by Brummana 1 Group (Scouts)		10:50 hrs
 3• OSA General Assembly @ BHS Meeting House Lebanese National Anthem followed by the BHS Song Welcome note - Master of Ceremonies Update from the OSA President Keynote Speaker Update on behalf of the School Principal Update from UK Chapter Head Presentation of Financial Report 	Mrs Tanya Nammour Mr Nazih Khattar '66 Mr John Kirkbright Mr George Rizkallah Mrs Nayla Tawil Cookson '65 Mrs Emily Kanaan Salem '82	
- Young OSA Achievers	Joline Chakhtoura '04 Michael-Patrick Azar '14 Joe Halabi '14 Tarek Yared G9	12:30 - 13:10 hrs 12:30 12:40 12:50 13:00
 Presentation of Awards Free Discussions Announce the date of the 25th International Convent Traditional Group Photo End of General Assembly 	ion	13:10 13:20 13:40 13:45 14:00
 4. Street Party Souvenir Photos Food & Beverages in Street Kiosks Live Entertainment: DJ Parade Ray (Percussionist) Brazilian Show (4 Dancers) Dalida (Belly Dancer) Omar (Oriental One Man Show) Homesick (School Band) Nazih Tabbara Artisitic Fireworks A United, Visible, and Affluent Global Networks 	the seried Cit S worked by the seried by the se	20:00 hrs onwards
	satweets @ : info@bhsosa instagram : +961 4 964 4	







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- Kuwait
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• Mr Tewfic Alfar '75

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United Arab Emirates

- Mr Zeki Farra '66
- Mr Joseph Georgie '68 Deputy Chapter Head, Abu Dhabi

• Mr Naji Hawayek '00 Deputy Chapter Head, Dubai

Levant

Iraq

- Mr Nasier Abadi '66
- Jordan • Mr Sami Mina '75
- Syria • Mr Nabil Shagoury '65

Europe

- United Kingdom
- Mrs Nayla Tawil Cookson '65

The Americas

United States • Mr Hani Khouri '68

Canada

• Mr Kamal Khoury '92

BHS Board of Governors

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- Dr Rida Abdul Wahab '64
- Dr Khater Abi Habib '69
- Ms Juhaina Abu Khalil '83
- Mr Sabah Baz '66
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CSR Initiatives







By General Emile Lahoud '53 Former President of the Lebanese Republic

Dear Old Scholars, Class of 2015,

Once again, it is with great honour and joy that I address Brummana High School's Old Scholars, Class of 2015. Having assumed the highest public posts as President of Lebanon and Commander of the Lebanese Armed Forces, I remain grateful to BHS's Board of Administrators and Trustees who continue to do a wonderful job in preserving this school's aura as a great temple of learning, safeguarding it from the taxing vagaries of instability and uncertainty, and sheltering it from the winds of division and sedition. I look at you and see great hope facing insurmountable odds and challenges. In a way, I feel both envy and apprehension because the Class of 2015 is unlike any, as it faces the greatest ruptures and hopes of our modern Arab era.

Looking across the region, the great shifts that marked the last 5 years have left people in a quandary.Today, many find that the cost of "change" has been unpredictably exorbitant in "blood and treasure". In most places, people have resigned themselves to the status quo as they watch the dismemberment of neighbouring countries, the destruction of their institutions, and the ever deepening sectarian divide. This is not what we are about. This is not what BHS instilled in us, and certainly this is not what we should resign ourselves to.

We were taught the principles and values of Pan-Arab nationalism, unity and secularism, as the foundations of a modern and viable state. Persevering in our service of a higher purpose should continue to pave our private and public lives. We should never tire of BHS's motto 'I Serve' as it continues to pave our way to a meaningful and rewarding life.

Once again, I salute Brummana High School and the Class of 2015, hoping that you reach the heights you have locked in your sights.



OSA President

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to the BHS Old Scholars Association's 24th International Convention. This weekend, which we have all been looking forward to, promises to be, as in previous years, an enjoyable and memorable occasion. I am sure we will all have a wonderful time together.

The theme of this year's yearbook is: "A United, Visible, and Affluent Global Network."

"In unity lies strength," and as such, this yearbook shows our strength and our unity as promoters, supporters and protectors of Brummana High School, which we all love so much.

This year has been especially remarkable in the number of reunions old scholars of all ages and backgrounds have had 'globally' - in Lebanon, the Gulf, Canada and

the USA, which I personally attended. We have made these reunions 'visible' on all our social media platforms, on our website, as well as in the present yearbook, which will soon be available online.

Networking is a vital communication tool in our world today, and with the latest technologies available, we no longer have an excuse to lose touch, no matter how fast-paced and busy our lives have become.

The Executive Committee and I have been working tirelessly to strengthen the Secretariat and to enhance our communication and networking capabilities, not only in order to keep our association and our global community better connected, but also to extend it even further.

> I would like to thank all those who have helped us this year reach out and reconnect with old friends and classmates far and wide, to remind them of our beloved Brummana High School, and that we need their presence and support to continue our mission to promote, support, and protect the school's interests and welfare.

> The gratitude we feel towards our school is immeasurable. Besides the quality education it has equipped us with, it has blessed us with many lifelong relationships, both personal and professional. Most importantly, it has instilled in us high ethical and moral values, such as equality, integrity and humility, not to mention the spirit and the will to serve our communities and the world at large.

> Brummana High School has enriched our lives enormously, and has contributed to making us the people we are today. Let us be grateful and reciprocate by working together to ensure a sustainable future for our school, so that it continues to thrive and prosper, and to make us proud of being BHS Old Scholars.

Wishing you a pleasant and successful convention.











Chair of QuIET

Quaker International Educational Trust





By Philip McDonagh

'Brummana High School? In Lebanon? Where's that? Is it not dangerous to visit there?'

These were some of the questions that my family asked when I was invited to become a Trustee of the Quaker International Education Trust (QuIET) back in 2008. QuIET is the UK based charity that holds in trust the ownership of the extensive property on which Brummana High School is situated, so it has an important role in ensuring that the site continues to be used successfully for the educational purposes for which it is intended, and that students therefore continue to benefit from the broad range of curricula that it offers.

I am a Quaker from Belfast in Northern Ireland, so after 30 years of Troubles in our country, followed by a period of highly unstable power-sharing government, I feel I can empathise strongly with the experience of the Lebanese people. Our levels of violence in Northern Ireland may have been less severe and less intense than the Civil War in

Lebanon, and the other important difference in Northern Ireland is that we only have two communities to worry about - Protestants and Catholics! We also have not had to cope with the influx of over a million refugees from a neighbouring country, as has been your experience in Lebanon.

Nevertheless, when I arrived in Brummana for my first visit in January 2008, I felt I was partly prepared for what life would be like here. And what have been my actual impressions of BHS and its wider community over the last 7 years?

First, I have been overwhelmed by the genuine warmth of the welcome every time I come to visit Brummana, which has been at least once a year since 2008. The Board of Governors, Principal, Bursar, teaching and administrative staff, students, parents, the small local Quaker community, the OSA, even the security guards on the school gates, all give us such a warm welcome to BHS that one feels very special. It is just like being at home in Ireland - but with better food and better weather! I have learned that business is much better conducted over a meal of wonderful Lebanese food and drink!

What also becomes clear very quickly to a regular visitor to BHS like me is that there is something very special about this School. All old scholars speak openly and freely about their fondness for the School and what they have learned there, not just in an academic sense but about life in general and respect for others. The Quaker values of seeing that of God in every person, and on which the School is founded, somehow seem to be absorbed by every student who walks through the gates.

I am also impressed by the very high quality of the BHS school management. The Board of Governors, under the leadership of Mr Hani Aboul Jabine '61, includes individuals with experience and expertise that would be the envy of any school anywhere. These people, many of whom are former students, have given their valuable time and energy to realise the vision of BHS becoming the leading school in Lebanon and the whole of the Middle East. QuIET fully supports their efforts and wants to work with them in whatever way we can.

The role of the Old Scholars Association is vital in supporting the future development of Brummana High School. I have had the pleasure of meeting your President, Mr Nazih Khattar '66, and other members of your Board on a couple of occasions recently, and I am deeply impressed with the energy and commitment that they are applying to their role. I am confident that the groundwork they are laying down at the present time will reap great rewards for the development of the Association and its support for the School.

Being a Trustee of QuIET has been a wonderful experience for me as it has allowed me to experience the special place that is Brummana High School. I have learnt a lot and made some great friends for which I will always be grateful.









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BHS Chair of the Board of Governors



By Hani Aboul Jabine '61

In this, my first year as Chair of the Board of Governors, I would like to express my appreciation for the new OSA Board for their efforts to encompass all those that came before them in order to continue to support BHS and move the association into the future.

I would also like to congratulate Dr Walid El Khoury for a consistently excellent job of managing the school, and proudly announce that we have been able to convince him to extend his contract until 2019, so that he can continue leading the school in the next few years, a task which promises to be challenging in these turbulent times.

One of the biggest achievements of the Board of Governors this year has been the ability to bring about a close cooperation between us, QuIET, the school administration, the Parents Association, and last but not least, the Old Scholars Association, which is the backbone of the school community and the fountain of our future leaders, ensuring its continued success and safeguarding its reputation locally, regionally, and internationally.

One of my current main concerns is finding ways of providing consistent funds to enable us to maintain the school's beautiful old buildings and infrastructure, most of which badly need upgrading. This can be done over a number of years and hopefully without any restrictions limiting the availability of much needed funds. I hope that the new and young old scholars can be persuaded to contribute whatever they can (on an annual basis) to enable us to plan how best to manage these essential upgrades.



I also hope that the new generation of old scholars will continue to nurture their close relationship with the school as our older generations have for the last fifty plus years...

Wishing the OSA and all old scholars a productive and successful year.





Chair of the Board's Speech to the 2015 Graduates

As an old BHS scholar and the Chair of the Board of Governors, I feel very humbled standing in the very same place I gave the valedictorian speech in 1961.

In these 54 years, the world has changed beyond my wildest imagination - from slide-rule to superfast computers, from landline or telegraphic communication to Internet and social media. Travel has also dramatically changed from earthbound to outer space.

I'm proud to note that about half of the graduating class of today comprises young ladies, while during my days there were only 3, but unlike the Nobel Laureate who claimed that girls are a distraction, we boys were certainly not a distraction to them, and they, like all those who followed them, have excelled in their fields.

I will therefore not presume to portray what the next 50 years will bring, as our generation will not be here to witness it. But you will be, and you should be the engine driving that change.

The only thing that has remained consistent is the strong and genuine friendships forged during my years at BHS and more importantly, if possible, the true Quaker values that were instilled in and upheld by us and that have guided us throughout our personal and professional lives. An excellent example of all our values put together is embodied in our present Prime Minister, His Excellency Tammam Salam '64, who is an old scholar of this school and who, I'm sure, has been guided by them in meandering through these unsettled and troubled times. The

bonds that united us Brummana graduates, are honesty, transparency, and tolerance, while always looking out for each other no matter where we may be in the world, have made us the envy of most other institutions.

I beseech you to carry forward our motto, "I Serve" in all your endeavours throughout your lives and hope you will always acknowledge that this school, its staff, governors, and trustees were effective in your formative years and that

you will always return as part of the Old Scholars or Parents' Association to give back and enable future generations to carry forth this mission.













By Jocelyn Campbell

Recent Developments at BHS BRUMMANA LINK NEWSLETTER No. 36, February 2015

This is the thirtieth year since I started sending out the Link Newsletters. Anyone looking back at earlier reports will see how much the school has prospered and advanced since those difficult war years, and how the attitude of the students has altered.

I have just returned from a visit where I found that in spite of the troubled political situation, life in school is progressing steadily. The students' academic achievements continue to be high, and although numbers may fluctuate in times of political tension in the region, especially among the boarders, there continues to be a steady demand for entry, and there are consistently about 1100 students attending. The school has now obtained accreditation by the American AdvancED and is seeking accreditation

from the British International School Quality so that the students can sit the International Baccalaureate. Some already sit for the British IGSCE and 'A' Level exams, as well as the Lebanese Baccalaureate. Qualifying for these accreditations means a lot of work by the teaching staff to qualify them to manage different curriculums.

The amazing new building as the second part of the Infant Department, which was designed by the late Omar Salhab '66, is now complete. It must be the most modern infant school in the region. It is now possible to consider the ninety new applicants at this early stage, who will hopefully be the core students throughout their school career, giving stability and gaining the spirit of the unique education offered, which is built on its hundred and fifty year old Quaker foundations.

Teachers have been offered training in the use of new methods in the classrooms, and it was great to see the enjoyment the young children were having with the interactive boards during their English classes. Throughout the school, improvements are being made with new technology and teaching aids.

One impressive, and much needed improvement, is that of the completely new kitchen. The old has been gutted, and bright new stainless steel and white tiled facilities installed, with separate preparation bays and walk-in fridge rooms. There is beside the large new cooker a domed oven where the cooks were baking manoushi and where presumably pizzas and bread can be baked. The grin on Ghassan Abu Fadel's '66 face and that of his kitchen 'boys' tells it all!

The students come from a far greater area than in the past and are bussed-in from Beirut and the surrounding hills. Understandably, parents are reluctant to send their children where they feel security is unpredictable, and this has affected the intake of boarders from the greater region. The hoped for numbers are not yet achieved, nor will they ever be as great as in the past with travel so much easier. Although there are numbers of Syrian students, they are among the more affluent classes whose families have fled from Syria and who rent accommodation in Brummana and send their children as day students, rather than as boarders.

Many of our students still rely on bursaries. The economic climate in Lebanon is very difficult. An increase of thousands of Syrian refugees is swamping the country. These people will accept low wages to gain any income, and in such a small country this is sometimes resented by some indigenous workers. Many refugees are confined to the Bekaa Valley and live in small tented camps. I had the opportunity to visit two schools there with Suha Tutunji '83



(Emile Sawaya's daughter) who works for a local charity to organise schools among the refugees. This was a heart-breaking experience, which I won't go into here.

Apart from outbursts of conflict in some areas of the country, the Lebanese, resourceful as ever, just get on with things, avoid certain areas, and do what they can. The Metn area superficially at least, appears normal.

Back at the school, our students shine in national school activities. In five out of seven projects they gained first places, in Science subjects, Maths, Technology and Design, and third places in English Essay, Maths





modelling demonstration, Film making, and music. The girls' basketball team won a first place. Their record in Art is also excellent. There is a lot of interest among students in The Model United Nations conferences. Students attended in Turkey and Qatar, among a majority of College students, and won the prestigious positions of Secretary General and Diplomacy awards.

Community work remains a high priority in the school curriculum, and the students speak warmly of their experiences in a home for the elderly, an orphanage, a school for the mentally challenged (run by old scholar Nassib Solh '68) and their involvement with fund raising through marathons and sales for such things as the Children Cancer Centre.

The appointment of a Dean of Students who helps organise out-of-hours clubs has greatly increased the forming of new extracurricular activities. Seventeen such groups meet for anything from a Debating club to Drama club, and Music to Environmental club, mostly run by the students themselves.

Both students and staff are working hard for the future. The school is held in high regard by the parents and old scholars. It is gratifying to hear comments from parents, Old Scholars, and teachers who find the atmosphere quite unique in the school.

We are fortunate in having a good Board of Governors working with QuIET, the Trustees. The loyalty of the Old Scholars' Association remains a key to the school's success nationally and abroad. We are proud that so many old scholars worldwide make unique contributions to their communities, not least the new Prime Minister of Lebanon, Tammam Salam '64, and the number of old scholars in Parliament and Government, academics, medics, business men, teachers and others.

During my visit, I had the opportunity of meeting the local Quaker group, whose number seems to be increasing, and of course the school principal, administration staff and teachers. I spent very enjoyable hours with local Governors, including those some of you will remember: Khater Abi Habib '69 (and Louis Abi Habib '63, mayor of Roumieh) George Younis '65, Sabah Baz '66, Antoine Wakim, Ramzi Cortas '62, Rida Abdul Wahab '64, Juhaina Abu Khalil '83, and Talal Droubi '61. Their new Chairman, Hani Aboul Jabine '61 was in London with the Chair of QuIET, Philip McDonagh, and this necessitated a video meeting.

The Baz family still gathers around Renée '37, who is her usual self at ninety-six years. There is a newcomer in the household, Karim, the four month old grandson of Sabah and Hilarie '75. I had a nice tea with the Cortas', the first time I have met all four together for many years, Nadeem '60, Ramzi '62, Sami '65, and their wives plus their sister, Miriam. I hadn't met Miriam in forty years. She is the widow of Edward Said and still active with the orchestra he formed with Barenboim.

I will finish with a few comments made by the 2014 graduating class:

"...looking back on those opportunities, the one real similarity that I can find is that I wouldn't have succeeded in any of them, had I done them alone. They all required teamwork and only flourished because of that, which brings me to the most important life lesson I learned at BHS: happiness is only real when shared, and the only way to buy happiness is to spend time and effort helping others." Michael Abou Jaoude

"One thing BHS has taught me throughout my years here is responsibility. I believe this is the most important asset a person needs in life. As International Programme students, we are given the freedom to choose our classes as if we were at University... I will truly miss this school but I will forever treasure the lessons it has taught me and will cherish them for as long as I live."

Natasha Ghawi

Everything BHS has given me, I have cherished and learnt from, and it has shaped me to be the person I am today. The Quaker values, which are the foundation of our community, create an environment that is diverse and peaceful. The different cultures BHS has exposed me to taught me not only about building friendships but also about equality."

Michelle Bado

I could quote many more... In Friendship,





15

BHS Principal



By Dr Walid El Khoury

The 2014-2015 academic year at BHS has been truly remarkable in more ways than one. We welcomed 1150 students from 47 different nationalities and had to place a substantial number of applicants on the waiting list. We witnessed further acknowledgement of our excellent educational programme, major improvements in the physical facilities, and BHS served as a cultural centre for the community. On this occasion, allow me to seize the opportunity to thank the Board of Governors whose vision, care and support made it happen.

Our students in KGII and KGIII enjoyed the newly constructed state-of-the-art building which was inaugurated under the patronage of His Excellency old scholar, Prime Minister Tammam Salam '64. To better serve our students and staff, a new kitchen was installed, coupled with a complete refurbishment of the cafeteria. Fibre optic cables were installed throughout the campus, combined with a new server room, the

server room, me

purchase of 50 new computers, 9 more interactive smart boards, and the installation of an electricity transformer in the basement of the Arts and Crafts Block.

Being aware of its role as a cultural centre for the community, BHS organised an exhibition of paintings and sculptures by the renowned artist Emmanuel Guiragossian, a poetry and musical evening by poet Btouli, and a brilliant performance by international pianist Oliver Poole and his team, who were in Lebanon as part of the Al Bustan Festival. This was in addition to the various events that took place on campus, such as musical concerts, plays, careers fair, book fair, International Day, and



Founders Day. Our students continued to raise funds for the needy and to be active participants in the Beirut Marathon, the BHS walkathon, and many other community service programmes, and of course, the May Festival continues to attract record crowds from the region, who come to enjoy a splendid day at BHS. Many thanks to the Parents' Association who helped organize the event, and who also helped in providing a lounge for the Secondary students.

Having the best interest of the students in mind, we continue to pursue new academic challenges by seeking the highest international standards in education. Dr Robin Attfield, the consultant assigned by Cfbt wrote after his first professional visit to the school:

The school has many strengths and rightly enjoys a high reputation and the trust of those associated with the school. It knows itself well and is in a good position to move forward for accreditation within the next eighteen months and possibly before.

Students' personal development appears close to outstanding.

Throughout, the school is developing students who are genuinely trilingual (some students have a fourth language).

Let me congratulate the French Department for having 51 6th and 7th graders sit for the Delf exams. Those students should be prepared to take the next level in two more years and then, with two additional years of study, should be prepared to pursue higher education in French universities. The 264 IGCSE and A level exams taken by our students covered many subjects namely History, Geography, Business Studies, Sociology, Economics, Accounting, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, Arabic, English, French and ICT.

24th International



Our commitment to high quality, challenging, international education, and the desire to serve our students prompted us to seek authorisation to offer the International Baccalaureate. Our application for candidacy for the **Diploma Programme** has been accepted as of 1 September 2014, and we expect to be authorised to offer the programme in the 2016-2017 academic year. In preparation for the IB, our teachers enrolled in certain courses on-line and attended workshops in Dubai, Istanbul,



Amman, Oxford, London, Athens, Amsterdam and Florence. Others will be going to The Hague and Barcelona.

Our students entered contests organised by local universities and won top awards in Science, Photography, Poster Design, Drawing, Sculpture, English Essay, English Poetry, English Short Story and Arabic Short Story. Our young diplomats who went to the **LAU Model United Nations** (MUN) excelled, and twelve out of the fifteen delegates from the Secondary Section won the most prestigious awards and earned the best 2015 delegation award. Congratulations to Enzo Adem, Secondary II student who was chosen by LAU to be one of the delegates representing the country in New York. BHS won first place in several tournaments in Basketball, Football, Swimming, and both BHS Varsity Girls Futsal Team and BHS Varsity Girls Basketball Team won the Lebanese Schools Championship in their respective sports.

Dear Graduates, looking at the 200+ college acceptances you have received, the majority of you will stay in Lebanon, while the remaining ones will be studying abroad in the USA (Penn State, Purdue University, University of Texas), UK (King's College, Central Saint Martin's University of the Arts), Canada (University of Toronto), and France (Science Po). But no matter what college you will be attending, you are going to be good ambassadors of BHS in serving your communities. Congratulations to Douha Knio for being the recipient of a merit scholarship from AUB and also to Mario Hage for receiving a full merit scholarship to study at North-Eastern University in Boston.

Dear Graduates, today you join the ranks of old scholars, and I invite you to be active members of the OSA; this organisation that proves day after day that the love, loyalty and commitment our graduates have to BHS are not matched by the graduates of any other educational institution. Knowing that you will always be active proponents of peace, and seeing all the violence surrounding us, I find it fitting to end with the following words by Martin Luther King, Jr:



The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it. Through violence you may murder the liar, but you cannot murder the lie, nor establish the truth. Through violence you may murder the hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate. Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

Go shine and love, and God bless you!



Mayor of Brummana





By Pierre Achkar '69

Brummana gave its name to one of the prominent schools of Lebanon and the Middle East: Brummana High School. Its founders, the Quakers, had chosen it as their main headquarters, and since then, BHS was behind Brummana's phenomenal reputation in the Arab world and the world at large.



BHS is known for attracting an

exceptional calibre of students who are attracted to this institution because of its prestige and its well deserved reputation for providing high quality education.

BHS is a meeting point of civilization, religion and culture.

Its students – day and boarding – come from many countries, many cultures, and religious faiths: Lebanese, Arab and Western expatriates from across the Middle East. Their beliefs in their own religions are never challenged or censured. BHS is also one of the oldest boarding schools in the area. Such diversity is encouraged and valued.

BHS is more than a school, it is a way of living.

Its education is based on fundamental Quaker beliefs and values, the most important of which is instilling in students the spirit of service so that upon graduation they are equipped to serve their communities.

Many of those educated at BHS have become leaders in their own countries in politics, business, trade, investment, medicine and education. Their work, achievements, and impact have made them prominent personalities. It would be difficult to find a Council of Ministers in Lebanon or in the Arab World without at least one BHS Old Scholar, if not many!

At the turn of the 19th century, BHS built the first tennis court in the Middle East and since then many international tournaments have been held on its court. As a result, Brummana, famed for its international sport competitions, has become a magnet for athletes from the Middle East, the United States, France, Russia, England, Belgium,



Australia, South Africa, Brazil, Spain, Mexico, Germany, Italy and many more countries.

Dear Old Scholars, wherever you are in the world, the annual International Convention in Brummana is the best way to maintain your ties with each other, to make new connections with new generations of old scholars, and to remember the good old days.

This year, as the Mayor of Brummana, I invite all BHS Old Scholars to be Brummana Ambassadors in their own countries and wherever they go!





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By Ingrid Aswad '15

Fifteen Years at BHS

The last fifteen years I spent at BHS, the place I call my second home, have been very happy. The memories I take with me and the everlasting friendships, I will cherish for eternity, but now it's time to say goodbye and with my childhood friends, to welcome the

new world waiting for us. I feel, though, that even if I leave, the doors will always be open for me at BHS, where every stone on campus has grown to have a special place in my heart. I remember being eager to graduate in grade 4. I wanted to leave the school and be independent, but now I want to stay and never leave...

BHS has made me the person I am today and for that, I'm grateful to all the teachers, as well as the students who supported me when I needed it the most. BHS has also prepared me for the challenges that I will be facing in the future; the effective teaching programme allows students to enjoy learning, and the teachers make it a fun experience to be part of a class. The values that the school has taught me cannot be forgotten either; I have followed the "I Serve" motto for as long as I can remember, and that will probably never change for as long as I live. With the help of the community service programme, the school motto has taught me how to seek out other people's pain and to soothe it. It also taught me how to offer my help not only when it was needed but at any moment and for that, I am truly thankful. The different experiences that the school has offered me also allowed me to strive for success and to aim higher, even if it meant summoning all my courage to take part in the 2015 May Queen contest — my biggest fear — as well as taking part in other extra-curricular activities.

During this, my final year at BHS, I realise that it won't be easy to say goodbye to such a lively place, but I know I have to. A thank you is not enough to give back what this school has given me, and I hope that someday, somehow, I will be able to pay it forward.

I will never forget my BHS, all my teachers and friends, but it is time for me to say farewell. After spending fifteen breathtaking years here, my school life has come to an end.



24th 20

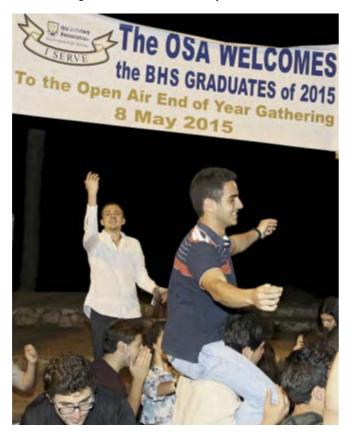


A Lifetime at BHS

Ten years of living at BHS... and now I have to admit it's hard to think it is over - hard but thrilling at the same time to think that a new chapter in my life is about to begin. But no matter how many stages a person goes through, the memories and events which leave an impact on their character will remain with them forever...

Now more than ever, education has become a means to serve the economy, be it on a personal or communal level. This has changed most schools from being educational establishments devoted to the development of the whole person to commercial companies being primarily run for profit. The general educational decline that has resulted from this new perspective can only be reduced with an approach that has distinguished BHS from other schools: BHS strives to develop students' characters as well as their social, intellectual and physical skills.

At BHS, you find teachers who are passionate about teaching and in return, students who are eager to learn. Unlike other schools as well, BHS has willingly and eagerly changed its curriculum from one that is based on memory to one that is based on critical learning - skills that are in greater demand in today's world.



Travelling to Ireland with Generis NGO and taking part in the GC LAU MUN programme during my first secondary year has made me aware how great BHS is. During my second secondary year, we were lucky enough to have Mr Chadi Nakhle as our Dean of Students



By Daniel Hilal '15

(a new position at BHS), who really contributed to the school's development. That is when I started to feel more responsible and when I decided to join the Speakout Magazine Club, as well as to become the manager of the Music Club.

Having these clubs gave us, students of different ages and nationalities, the chance to work together. The cooperation taught us to understand, accept, and respect difference and diversity in a country which tends to breed sectarianism and other kinds of discrimination. In the past two years, Dr El Khoury and Mr Nakhle taught us the meaning of freedom. We were given the choice to pick our own courses, clubs and even the clothes we wore to school, while being held responsible for the choices we made.

Finally, I would like to congratulate BHS on the accreditation it got last year, on the IB program that will start next year, on the smart boards installed in classes, and on the new Rizkallah Building Extension that was also inaugurated this year.

I hope BHS will give all students the same opportunity we were given with Generis NGO. I want to thank the school for inviting remarkable speakers to our assemblies; I will never forget any of them. Last but not least, I'm proud be an OSA member now and I will help them raise BHS's academic and social standards even higher... Oh, we won't forget Brummana School...









By Teaba Abdullah '15

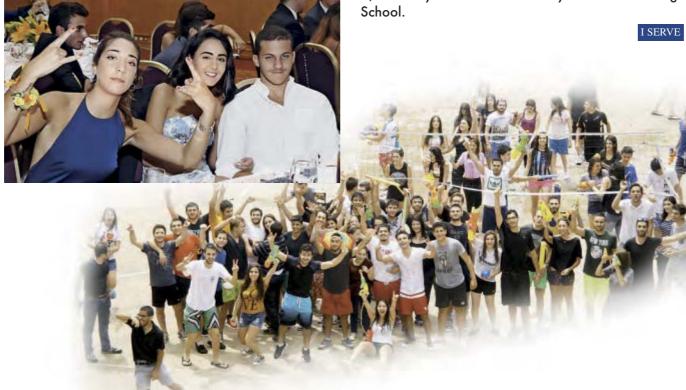
To BHS with Love

I left my home in Iraq at a young age, but I was lucky enough to join another home, Brummana High School. For the rest of my years, when asked what was so special about Brummana High School, I would not waste a second to think for I would immediately

say "acceptance of others". I did not have the time to feel alone or friendless as a child. I remember walking into the class and the teacher had everyone sit in a circle and welcome me. I grew up in Brummana High School never feeling left out as an Iraqi. The situation in Lebanon was getting worse but regardless, the "Jaww" at Brummana High School was not affected, and I can honestly say I cannot remember anyone ever asking me what my religion was, or which "7ezeb" I followed. I will always respect this about BHS because throughout the chaos in Lebanon, this school was like a safe haven for the students to feel at home, to feel secure, and to enjoy their time and not worry about the political situation.

As I look back, not only did BHS create a safe haven for the students but we were taught to create safe havens for others. Whether through donating food and clothes or even inviting orphans to spend a day at the campus, community service was and still is very important at BHS. I learned to love community service and to enjoy helping others. The special thing about BHS is that it encourages the creation of a student body which combines a spirit of cooperation, a sense of responsibility, and individual initiative; it is a community of students who are happy to cooperate and add their own little touch. I would just join a club or the prefect system and in a few weeks I would begin to feel that without me this club or prefect system would not be the same without my efforts. My fellow students and I were all present, active, and working at BHS. We were truly interacting with each other and if at any moment we felt like guitting, our Dean, Mr Chadi Nakhle, was there to spur us on to work harder through his reverse psychology methods.

All that has now come to an end. I thank BHS, the students, Jawad, the Security Guard, Raed and Sleiman for the "mana2eesh," Mr Rabih Awad for being a father figure, Hamada for keeping our campus clean. Thank you all for contributing to the best years of my life. No matter where I end up, even if my country of origin cannot give me a home, I have found a home where I learned, taught, laughed, cried and where I found myself. "Home is where the heart is," and my heart remains with you Brummana High School.





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By Mario Hage '15

Thank You BHS

My last 8 years at Brummana High School have been great to say the least. I truly believe that my experience at BHS is going to shape my entire future, and I wouldn't have wanted that experience at any other high school.

As a member of the BHS basketball team, I realise that many of the values of acceptance and fair play we were taught during our practice agree with the values that BHS has instilled in us.



I learnt to appreciate these values only when I was faced with situations that made me look back and think about what I had learnt. I feel strongly about BHS values and I'm confident that the BHS experience is going to help the class of 2015 thrive and succeed in their future.

Another thing about BHS I won't forget is its campus. We were really lucky to have a campus as beautiful as BHS's, since not many schools in Lebanon get to enjoy that benefit. Whenever I had a rough day, I would just look outside the window and I would immediately start feeling better.

What will certainly remain with me as I turn a new page in my life, are the unique memories I made at BHS and that I will treasure forever. I spent most of my childhood and my teen years here, and as I grow older I'm sure I will look back to my time here with longing and nostalgia. However, the Old Scholars Association will be a good way to keep in touch with all my friends and classmates, and I'm now proud to be a member of this association. Hopefully my new experience with the OSA will be as good as the one I had at BHS.

I wish all my fellow graduates the best of luck in their future. Thank you BHS.



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By Zaynah Kmeid '15

English Valedictorian

I would like to thank BHS for nominating me International Programme Valedictorian of the Class of 2015. It seems like it has taken forever to reach this point and I know we've all worked very hard to get here. The class of 2015 is one of the most dedicated

and competitive classes I've come across. Ever since I came to BHS in Grade 5, we've been challenging each other to do better and to be the best that we can be.

BHS has offered us many educational opportunities that most schools don't provide. In the past few years, we've taken the IGCSE's, 'AS' and 'A' Levels, along with other optional courses, such as Cultural Studies, Accounting, and Spanish. BHS offers this great variety in classes to help us be better prepared for our futures.

BHS is constantly striving to improve its academic standards as well as to expand the range of extracurricular activities it can offer to its students. In the secondary section we started from having two proper clubs to over 20, allowing for a wide range of options for the students to choose from. We have always been given the opportunity to serve our school through events, community service, clubs, and to help our teachers on a daily basis. This year I was a senior prefect, which was my favorite role in following the



motto "I Serve." I learnt to become responsible while serving my school and gaining many other useful skills.

I would like to thank BHS on behalf of my fellow classmates for the countless opportunities we've been offered and which have prepared us for the next stage in our lives. BHS has been great academically and opportunity-wise, and the environment in which it is located is also special. The campus is unquestionably one of the most beautiful in Lebanon, and the students who attend the school come from a diversity of backgrounds, which encourages students to develop acceptance and tolerance. The graduating class are all friendly with each other even if they aren't all close, and they all share fond memories of being together.

I would like to say well done to the football and basketball teams for their countless achievements this past year in representing BHS's sportsmanship and team playing, as I would like to congratulate all my classmates. It has been a good run. I wish you all the best of luck in your future endeavours. Live and Let Live!

I would also like to thank my family and all my friends, outside the school, for their constant support and encouragement.

To the wonderful teachers at BHS, thank you for the lessons you have taught us. Any teacher can provide information out of a book, but you, BHS teachers, have taught us about life.

As for the Administration, thank you Mr Nakhle, for everything you have done for me in the past year. You have controlled the entire secondary student body single-handedly, yet at the same time, you have managed to help every one of us individually. I still haven't figured out how you did that exactly. And thank you Mr George Rizkallah, for your patience in dealing with our concerns and constant visits.

On a final note, thank you OSA for supporting us graduates and for your generous Prom contribution.



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By Douha Knio '15

English Valedictorian

I don't know what to say... There's nothing to say – or rather, no words to explain it all. How to sum up years of experiences – years of your life – in one article? There is no perfect way to explain. But thankfully, most people reading this

have already graduated, so they know how we feel. The best way to describe it is bittersweet; saying goodbye to your second home after many years, but also, finally, graduating; finally achieving what we have worked hard for and yet, there is more work to be done.

However, "If you love your job, it is not a job," one of Dr Walid El Khoury's recurring quotes, which makes sense to me now. The work that lies ahead should be something we desire, not something we dread. This is one of many BHS values that I have learnt.

Leaving BHS wouldn't be bittersweet if we had the ability to put all those memories in a bottle and pop it open whenever we miss school and feel nostalgic – memories of dear friends, classmates we grew up with, school activities and clubs to name a few; in fact, anything we shared that brought us closer together.

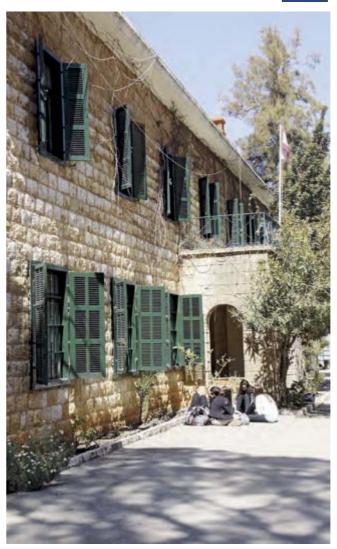
Our high school days have been unforgettable. Our teachers, who are not appreciated enough, have made a great impact on us. Had it not been for their patience and constant support, we would not be graduating today. So, words are never enough to



24th Convention thank them. We have also been blessed with this exquisite campus at BHS, a campus that has made our school stand out amongst all others, and I feel very lucky to be graduating from such a beautiful place.

As graduates, we have learnt that everything comes to an end. Nothing is constant but change. We adapt to a certain place, be it our home, school, university, country, or institution, but soon enough, we leave all those places as we grow and take the next step forward. There is no better place than where we are, because it is up to us to create those everlasting moments.

Finally, I want to thank BHS and everyone I have met at BHS for making every moment spent at BHS precious and worthwhile.





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BHS Dean of Students





By Chadi Nakhle Dean of Students

Every year at Brummana High School brings its special experiences with their distinctive flavour. This year, the introduction of an activity period in the Upper School, reinforced our vision at Brummana High School: We endeavour to educate the whole person in our students. In addition to helping them achieve academic excellence, we strive to help them develop their full physical, social, cultural and moral potential.

A Club Fair was organised at the beginning of the year to launch more than 30 clubs, most of which were initiated by the students themselves. Most of these clubs remained active all year long, bringing out the best in our students; the talents they developed and skills they acquired, such as communication, decision-making, conflict resolution and team-work, are as important as their academic achievements. The first fruits of this collaboration between clubs was the International Day. This year, more than ever, the event was fully planned, organised and executed by the students themselves. Various clubs came together and made the day an exceptional

tribute to diversity, a quality we pride ourselves on at BHS.

Another product of this collaboration and teamwork was a Community Service activity, which has been a tradition of the school for many years now. Eighty under-privileged children from Dar El Awlad, in Mansourieh, were invited to spend a Saturday in January 2015 at BHS. The programme of the visit was full of fun activities. Clubs, prefects and the Ushering Committee worked together for many weeks to make the event a memorable day for the little ones.

The clubs also had their individual successful events. Not only did the Choir Club perform at Christmas, but they also performed at Easter this year. In addition, two exceptional concerts were held in Khoury Hall in the new Rizkallah Building Extension. The Drama Club presented an end of year play, "When Shakespeare's Ladies Meet," on 4–5 June 2015 for parents, staff and students. Both performances were a tremendous success. The Model United Nations Club, where senior MUN contestants train their fellow younger participants in the competition achieved the best results our school has yet achieved. Twelve out of the fifteen Secondary students were given awards in the GC LAU MUN Competition; 3 Secretary-General Awards, 7 Diplomacy Awards and 2 Position Paper Awards earned our school the 2015 Best Delegation Award. Our students also earned 4 Best Delegates Awards in the Model Arab League competition, also organized by LAU.

Community Service on-campus and off-campus continued to be a priority for our secondary students. Some were designated reading buddies for the little ones in Grade 1. Many helped in supervising the Elementary Section breaks, ushered at school events and went every Wednesday to local centres in the region, such as Al Amal Institute, Deir El-Rahme and Dar El Awlad, to serve in any way they could. Their last community service initiative was to fully usher the Al Amal Wheat Race in May of this year. Our students also made us proud on the national level in sports. The BHS Varsity Girls Futsal Team won first place in the Lebanese School Championship and so did the BHS Varsity Girls Basketball Team.

As Dean of Students, my heart is filled with pride and joy to have been part of our students' school life and of their achievements. As I write these words, I'm overcome with melancholy for having to bid farewell to a very



endearing and special group of students: the Graduates of 2015. May each and every one of you realise your dreams and fulfil them. In the hope of seeing you all again one day, and to hear your wonderful news, I salute you from the depths of my heart.

"A place in thy memories, Dearest Ones, is all that I claim; to pause and look back when you hear the sound of my name..."

> Gerald Griffin I SERVE



LOOK FORWARD TO YESTERDAY

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2015 Graduates

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Prom Night

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24th



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BHS Parents' Association Chair





By Zeina Zeinoun PA Chairperson

The BHS Parents' Association includes parents, staff and members from the school administration who work together for the education and welfare of their children.

The Parents Association's main task is to serve BHS, which is achieved through the hard work, determination, and dedication of all our dear

parents, whose efforts and perseverance ensure that the reputation of BHS, in the country and in the region, remains high.

The past year was rich in various activities, which our Committee organised for the benefit of both parents and students. We started with the Morning Coffee to welcome new parents, at the beginning of the academic year, and ended with the Prom night for the sixth graders, last June.

The Annual Brunch was another occasion for mothers and friends of BHS to enjoy a great time together. In March, we celebrated Teacher's Day, and arranged a successful Mother's Day dinner. Soon after, we also had an Easter party for the BHS Infant, Lower and Upper Elementary sections. The biggest and most important event of the year was the BHS May Festival, which was a great success thanks to the cooperation and combined efforts of our teachers, students, parents, BHS faculty and staff, the PA team, and all the contributors. From the students' performances on the themes of "Happiness" and "Beirut," to the coronation of the annual May Queen, our students, parents and all the BHS friends spent an unforgettable time during that day.

Looking back over the past year's events, I believe that each one of us has his own favorite moments at BHS. We are proud of all that has been achieved, from the delivery of a rich and extensive curriculum to the enormous range of activities and events that have enriched the BHS community's lives. As Chairperson of the Parents Association, I have valued enormously every visit to the school and every contact with the staff and the students. Our BHS family is unique.

As promised every year, the Parents Association will strive to maintain and will continue to engage in a great variety of events and projects. But this would not be possible without the support of the Trustees, the Board of Governors, our beloved principal Dr Walid El Khoury, the BHS staff, administration and, of course, all the parents.

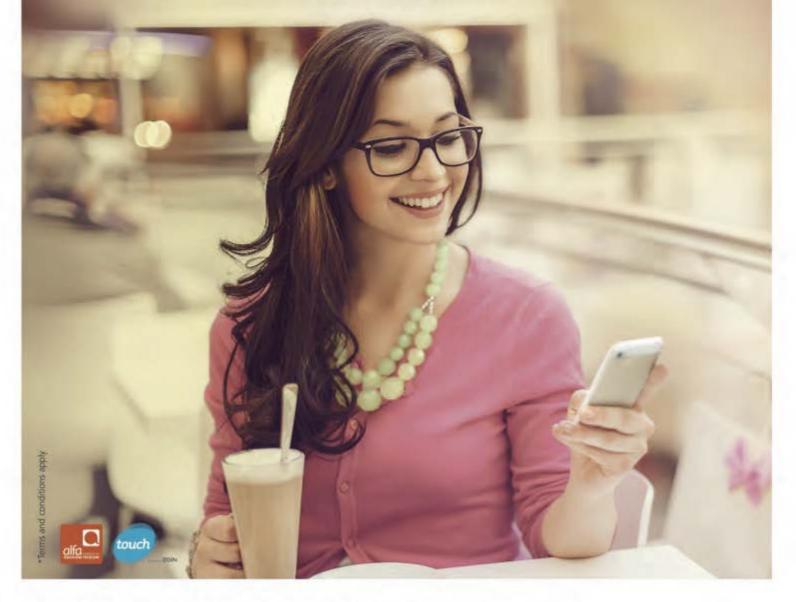
We are grateful to BHS for giving us the opportunity to participate in serving the school and our community.

Unity is Strength.



24th

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2015 BHS May Festival





















































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2015 BHS May Queen

By Ingrid Aswad '15

The BHS May Festival is an exciting annual event which requires weeks to prepare stands, games and many other joyful activities. However, the highlight of this day is the coronation of the May Queen.

I remember always cheering for the girls who were running for May Queen and watching them answer the questions they were given with anxiety, never thinking about the possibility that I might stand on that stage myself someday.

My last year at BHS, and the results of the elections for the nominees were taking place; next second I see my friends running up to me, telling me I had been nominated as one of the four candidates!

Weeks passed by, as I counted down the days until the event with a tugging fear in my heart, wondering about whether I would fall down on the stairs in my heels on the day, or whether I would mess up my answers.

Finally, the day arrived. Although in my view, the only purpose of my participation was, hopefully, to gain some experience and self-confidence, I was still nervous. As we prepared ourselves to go down the stairs, I decided to swallow my fear and to give it my best shot, especially for those who were supporting and cheering for me.

It all passed very quickly. Each nominee had two questions to answer, and then it was time for the results. The moment it was announced that I had won, I was overwhelmed with joy, not merely for winning, but also because I had made everyone I loved proud.

I've learnt a lot from that specific event. It taught me how to be who I am and to accept myself regardless of what people might say. It has also shown me that we are all winners, whether we come in first place or last; it's just a title that means nothing. What counts the most in a person is character, charisma, and honesty...

And so it ends here for me; it was an honour to represent my school and to show people that the motto "I Serve" plays a very important role in my life.

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24th Convention



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OSA 23rd International Convention



By Mona Karam '00 OSA Community Manager

The annual OSA convention held its 23rd year gathering last on 1 - 3 August 2014. extensive The three day programme was tailored to meet the interests of all OS generations, old and young.

With his first year as OSA President, Mr Nazih Khattar '66 and

the elected Board members maintained the traditional activities held in previous international conventions.

Day 1 was remarkably successful. Mounir Restaurant in Brummana was fully booked with many generations of old scholars. Some, who hadn't seen their classmates in years, gathered around the same tables, dined, chatted, took pictures, reminisced on their BHS days, and had a memorable evening.

The General Assembly was held on **Day 2** with the traditional "saj man2ousheh" breakfast, followed by presentations from President Nazih Khattar '66, Treasurer Emily Kanaan Salem '82, and Dr Mahmoud Barbir '69, the Keynote Speaker. The assembly also included a presentation of special awards given to Mrs Nuhad Misk '53 (OSA Executive Secretary), Mr Robert Goraieb '63 (OSA Events Committee Member), along with Dr Barbir. The day ended with a lively street party with live shows, stage performances, fireworks and a wonderful blend of OSA members, families and friends.

Day 3 was marked by OSA Little House winning the house cup after a long competitive day of football matches between the three houses (Little, Rizkallah, and Waldmeier). The younger generations teamed up with the older generations to compete against their rivals. President Nazih Khattar awarded the cup and distributed gold, silver and bronze medals to Little, Rizkallah and Waldmeier respectively. The matches were followed by a BBQ from Kabab-ji.

It was lovely seeing you all, and OSA "won't let you forget," until we meet again.











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During the 23rd International Convention on 1-3 August, 2014, The OSA presented 3 members with Special Recognition Awards:





Mrs Nuhad Misk '53 (OSA Executive Secretary) with a memento holding the school song, in recognition of her c achievements and ongoing support



Dr Mahmoud Barbir '69 (Keynote Speaker) with a memento holding the school song, in recognition of his achievements and ongoing support **~**

Mr Robert Goraieb '63 (OSA Events Committee Member) with a memento holding the school song, in < recognition of his achievements and ongoing support







24 - 25 July 2015



Congratulations to everyone on this occasion from an Old Scholar residing in Dubai