



**Bishkek
International
School**

VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 2 / 2019-20

August 30, 2019

BACK TO SCHOOL!

It was wonderful to see everyone back at BIS on Monday morning, full of energy and ready to start learning.

Out on the basketball court, old friends reunited after the long summer break, and new friendships began.

Students were met by their homeroom, co-teachers and form teachers started the day getting to know their classmates and finding their way around their new classrooms.

In Primary and Preschool, students worked together to produce some fantastic Essential Agreements for their learning environments and soon got stuck into their exciting Units of Inquiry.

Meanwhile Middle and High school students were busy learning about their new programmes and what the year ahead has in store for their learning. We were delighted to see how well our students settled into their new environment throughout the week and look forward to a productive year ahead.



Students gathered in their form groups and, after a welcome from Dr Grant, were taken to their homeroom/form classroom.

NEW FACES: MR TIM



New to the country, the school and the job, it's been a pleasure to take up the role as the IB Middle Years Programme Coordinator at BIS this year. When my wife, Ms Esther, and I first met as trainee teachers, it was our dream to move abroad to teach. Now we're here and happy to have discovered such a friendly, welcoming and dedicated school community in this fascinating country.

I grew up in Wales, UK, where I had the chance to study the IB Diploma Programme. It served me well and I went on to study German and Portuguese in Oxford. Here I received the opportunity to spend a year teaching English in a school in Austria as part of my degree. After graduating, I worked for a number of years as a fundraiser before ditching the office job to get back into teaching. Now, I bring with me teaching experience from a language school in Portugal and a secondary school in the UK, as well as most recently completing my master's degree in language teaching. All of

these will stand me in good stead to serve the community here.

We've been here less than 3 weeks and we're already falling in love with Kyrgyzstan. As well as its beautiful scenery which we can't wait to explore more of, we've found the people friendly and helpful as we've gone around setting up home, buying food and searching for various tech hardware. The fresh fruit and vegetables, the samsa (basically an even better version of our Cornish pasties!) and the bread are all delicious! I'm looking forward to improving my basic Russian, picking up some Kyrgyz and discovering more of the country in the coming years.

At BIS, I'll be coordinating the Middle Years Programme as well as teaching French and Maths. I look forward to building on the excellent programme developed by the teaching team and Ms Frances, the previous MYP Coordinator. We've got another exciting year in store with a packed curriculum, a great selection of extra-curricular activities and a fabulous anniversary show to look forward to. Thanks to the students, parents and staff who have made me feel so welcome already. I look forward to getting to know you all soon.

Mr Tim, MYP Coordinator

IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME UPDATE

We are delighted to welcome 25 students into the 'Class of 2021' which will be the largest graduating class in BIS history, and a big jump from the 14 students in the 'Class of 2020' who will graduate in June 2020. With more students in DP, we have expanded the courses we offer to include Chemistry and Music for the first time, and created a new quiet 'café style' balcony for DP students to study. It is not all study, as DP students have also been seen refreshing their minds, running around tree houses and using the big slide when younger students are in lessons!



One more change is that we will offer parents and guardians the chance to approve their child for flexible attendance at school so that students can leave the campus if they don't have scheduled lessons or meetings. This is to allow DP students to study wherever they are most efficient, but it is also a privilege that will be withdrawn if classes or assignments are missed. DP2 students will have this option from next week and DP1 students from next term. The approval form for parents to sign is here. [English](#) / [Russian](#)

Ms Makiko, DP Coordinator

BETTER TOGETHER

Our first week was spent getting to know each other and learning how to collaborate successfully. Primary 5 worked in groups of 3 to design and build structures out of plastic straws. Ms. Nuraida and I were very impressed with the students' enthusiasm, creativity, and collaboration. The students showed respect to one another and compromised to make decisions on how to construct their creations. After completing their designs in the time allotted, the students had time to reflect on the process.



Here is what some of the students said about the project:



"I think it was simply awesome making things out of straws and much easier working in groups!"

- Carys

"It was easier for me and my team because we worked together."

- Buyannemekh

To me it was pretty good. All of the groups had fun making this project. Sometimes it was hard. Sometimes easy. We had a great time making it."- Aisha

P5 students, Ms Rona, P5 Homeroom Teacher

LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

We have had a great week this week, meeting our new and continuing students and getting started with our classes! Across all our programmes, we have been getting to know each other and remembering elements of language we might not have practiced for a while in French, Kyrgyz, Spanish, English, Mandarin, German and Russian. This week, our news is about our Spanish classes. Some of our PYP Spanish classes went on a colour hunt around school, finding things in different colours in Spanish. P6 were super-excited to find a Praying Mantis during our colour hunt – verde (green)! They took it back to 6A where Mr. Alex had a habitat prepared already! In MYP Spanish, we have practiced giving our opinion in a variety of ways, and made an opinion continuum that stretched the whole length of the basketball court outside! We hope that, as we begin to learn more vocabulary, we will be able to express what we want to say in lots of interesting ways. Perhaps, this will also help us express ourselves well in the other languages we speak and learn too. Our Spanish IGCSE have been making amazing strides in their learning – they can already write a paragraph using what they've looked at this week with some of the main verbs in Spanish (to be = ser/estar and to have = tener). I'm sure our IGCSE students will continue with great enthusiasm as they move through the semester. In DP1 Spanish ab initio we converted popular lifehacks into Spanish Hacks during our first lesson, to find quick and easy ways we could figure out new vocabulary in Spanish. We hope this will stand us in good stead as we move on with the course and progress with our Spanish skills quickly. Next week, we'll be telling you about some of our other Language Acquisition groups!

Ms Esther, Language Acquisition Teacher

BIS Snapshot: First Week of School



Program Highlights

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: PYP

Wow, what a wonderful first week for our Primary Years Programme. Whilst there are so many highlights that come to mind, two stand out. Firstly, it has been an absolute joy to see and hear our students' excitement surrounding the new playground features. From being pirates of their very own ship to feeling the leaves of the tall trees trickle through their fingers as they run across the high up trails, it's clear to see that our new additions are going down well. Secondly, it's been great to see our students back for another year and have new members join our student community. What put a smile on my face was having former students rejoin the school. In such a transient community, we often have to say farewell to students moving onto new cities and countries - not knowing if or when we will meet again. Having several students return to Kyrgyzstan and BIS has been such a wonderful surprise to the year and I'd like to wish those students and families a very warm welcome back!

Ms Krisha, Director of Studies, PYP Coordinator

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: MYP

It's been a busy but exciting week in the Middle Years Programme. We welcomed 20 students into MYP 1, as well as 10 new students into MYP 2 and 3, bringing our total MYP cohort to 57. Our teachers have been busy working on this year's exciting curriculum and will be shortly launching a new online system for parents and students to see what we are learning at the moment. More information soon!

Mr Tim, MYP Coordinator

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: IGCSE

This week we welcomed our new IGCSE 1 and IGCSE 2 students in our classes with many new faces in old classrooms. The main highlight has been everyone's excitement for the new challenges and subjects in IGCSE 1 while I look forward to the growth of our nine new IGCSE 2 students. I am confident that all our students have the qualities to invest, inspire and succeed in IGCSE.

Mr Jacques Prinsloo, Assistant Head of School, IGCSE Coordinator

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: IB DIPLOMA

This week, DP students had a busy time in lessons and in ECA time. For Monday ECA they met our alumnus from 2018, Daniil Kim, who excellently conquered the IB. On Tuesday, ECA time was filled with CAS introduction for DP1 and 2019 exam results analysis for DP2. On Thursday we had a presentation from Bard College and introduction to Unifrog software for effective university application.

Ms Makiko, DP Coordinator

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Welcome back! This week, our Inclusive Education department has enjoyed getting to know our new students at BIS while welcoming back our returning students. This year, our department grows tremendously in experience and expertise! We are excited that Inclusive Education at BIS now includes academic support, counseling, occupational therapy, and speech therapy. Please give a warm welcome to our licensed school counselor, Ms. Ali, our academic support staff, Ms. Aijan and Ms. Erkinai, and our Occupational Therapist, Ms. Shannon. We are looking forward to a wonderful year together.



Ms Hollis, Inclusive Education Coordinator

ECAs

Extra-curricular activities get underway from Tuesday. Every day from 3:30 – 4:30 students will be taking part in activities ranging from rock climbing, chess, story writing and cross country, to cooking, debating, yoga and coding. A huge thanks to Ms Bojana and Ms Munara for their hard work in organizing the ECA programme for the term ahead. It looks to be a very exciting and active term! If you haven't signed up yet, you can do it now, following [this link](#) - using one of your emails shared with BIS. The deadline for online sign-up is Saturday, August, 31. The deadline for ECA payment is September, 13. The price for the paid ECAs on the web-site is for the whole first term (September, 3 - October, 18). Payments are made to the cashier in the school's administration office. If you have any questions regarding the sign-up process, or suggestions for future ECAs, please contact to Ms Bojana at baskovic@bis.kg

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Monday 2nd September, Independence Day (No School)**
- Saturday 7th September, All Parents Meeting (PAMC) – all parents invited
- Saturday 21st September, Asia Day – Open Day – everyone invited
- Friday 27th September, Middle & High School Sports Day – Spartak Stadium
- Friday 4th October – Saturday 6th October, Cross Country, CAFA Tournament, Tashkent
- Wednesday 16th October, Parent Teacher Meetings
- Friday 18th October, UN Day at BIS
- **Monday 21st – Friday 25th October – Autumn/Fall break (No School)**

More information about all of these events will be sent to you later, or see <http://www.bis.kg>

LUNCH MENU

The lunch menu for September 3rd– 6th is [Menu B](#). Form Teachers and our Chef are responsible for adjusting this menu to avoid any foods your child cannot eat, according to the information provided to us by you.



PRESCHOOL 1

We were delighted to start our adventure of having fun and learning a lot of new knowledge with our Preschool 1 friends! The first week in Preschool 1 was all about getting to know each other and getting used to coming to school. All our friends have done an excellent job of staying in the classroom without parents and adjusting to the classroom routine. Likewise, Preschool 1 friends were very happy to explore the classroom, learn new friends' names through singing the "Hello, hello, what's your name?" song, attending dance and PE classes upstairs for the first time and experiencing water fun days on Monday and Tuesday where we watered all the plants in the playground. We were so creative decorating compact discs for our playground trees and building our own school from different pieces of paper. Here we had to think about how we would make the windows and doors. Next week, we'll continue to be learning about friends.



Ms Begimai, Preschool 1 Form Teacher



PRESCHOOL 2

The first week of the school flew by very fast and was full of new experiences. For some of us, school is a cosy place where we can catch up with old friends; for others, it is new and exciting. In these first few days, days we were taking about coming back to school, discussed day routines and repeated our classroom essential agreements. Some of the activities helped us get to know each other better. We sang "name" and "how are you feeling today" songs in the morning circle which helped students learn the names of newcomers and the group also shared their feelings. However, our favorite time of the day was outside playtime. The children were amazed by the new things on the yard such as jungle gym, climbing wall and various swings. We are all excited for when our time comes to go out and enjoy playing there. Next week, we will start with our first unit of inquiry "Who We Are".



Ms. Oksana, Preschool 2 Form Teacher



PRESCHOOL 3

The first week of preschool 3 has come and gone in a blink of an eye. We are really happy that all our preschool friends have settled in and are enjoying themselves in their new classroom. Next week, we will start recapping some of the things we learned last year but also set up new essentials agreements and continue learning and developing our new classroom routine. We will also start to look at our first unit of inquiry for this year in which students will be exploring friendship.

Ms Carmen, Preschool 3 Form Teacher

