



**Bishkek
International
School**

VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 3 / 2019-20

September 6, 2019

WALKING IN THE TREES

Over summer we invested part of the 2019 Capital Fund Fee payments to transform the playground to expand student education, exploration and enjoyment. Joyful sounds now fill the air as students run through pirate ships and tree houses, hone their climbing and sliding skills, and practice musical expression.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: NO POVERTY

“You can bring about change! There’s a lot of things you can do - a very wide range!”

This Tuesday, the Primary Student Council attended their first meeting this school year. All Primary classes voted for two representatives who volunteered for this responsible Primary School role. This year, our Primary Student Council will focus on the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). Every month, the representatives will work on one of the chosen 10. September’s SDG is ‘No Poverty’. The representatives are looking forward to attending the next meeting and coming up with ideas on how BIS can contribute to solving this global problem.



Ms Elina, Primary 6S Co-Teacher

WATER, ENERGY AND FOOD NEXUS

"Energy, land management and water resources planning commonly take place in isolation, without adequate consideration of what the planned developments require or assume about other sectors, and of what implications – positive or negative – they have" (UNECE).

This week, in Geography, students learned about the complicated interplay of the water, energy, and food nexus - working collaboratively to make critical connections between three of society's most basic needs for existence. The idea of connecting these topics via a nexus stems from the understanding that our actions in one field have very real effects on the others. They are intrinsically tied to one another.



In order to pursue sustainable development in the context of an ever-expanding global population, we need to consider the impacts of our decisions. In the pictures, you can see students attempting to connect global issues with each other including a brief contemporary and historical context and a vision for the future via the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

This transect is especially important to consider in the context of the Kyrgyz Republic as it balances the exercise of its own riparian rights, using water for its own energy and food needs, while considering the needs of neighboring countries downstream.

"The inextricable linkages between these [water, energy, and food] critical domains require a suitably integrated approach to ensuring water and food security, and sustainable agriculture and energy production worldwide" (UN FAO).

Mr Andrew, Geography Teacher; DP CAS Coordinator

PRIMARY 4: WHO WE ARE

Primary 4's first Unit of Inquiry is 'Who We Are' with our title being 'Communities and Conflicts'. P4 completed outdoor team building challenges as a provocation for this unit. Both whole and small group physical activities were undertaken - some of which required non-verbal communication or other restrictions as an added challenge.

The students demonstrated communication and risk-taking traits as well as a class open-mindedness. They discussed and attempted multiple pathways to achieving their goals in each activity. Afterwards, the students reflected on the best methods for solving a problem or overcoming a challenge deciding that teamwork, listening to each other, cooperation, and trying lots of different methods were all essential.

Ms Katie, P4 Homeroom Teacher



NEW FACES: MR DARREN



If you had told 17 year old me, as I went off to university, that I would eventually be working as a teacher in Kyrgyzstan, I would have been interested but wouldn't have believed you. The experiences that I have had in-between have nonetheless brought me here and I am very happy that they have. I have now been in Bishkek on-and-off for about two months and I have been particularly struck by the welcoming environment here at BIS, and throughout the city more generally. Meeting the people that I have in the expat community gives me the feeling that this is a place that you find yourself staying for longer than expected which can only be a good thing. After exploring the city and some of Kyrgyzstan's renowned nature, I can understand why.

My route to teaching was not an immediate one. Graduating with a History degree in 2007, I found myself initially working in the banking sector in Edinburgh and Manchester. Spending enough time in that industry to realise that it wasn't for me, I then gave up my flat to travel around Europe, picking up jobs when I ran out of money. This experience cemented what I already knew; seeing new places and interaction with other peoples and cultures made me happy. I did go back to Scotland, to get a real job in the legal sector, but the desire to be somewhere else remained strong. I was also getting a bit tired of people telling me that I was going to end up as either a teacher or a social worker so decide to give the latter a go. A random email from a recruitment company offering the opportunity to teach English in Korea gave me the unlikely opportunity that I didn't know I was looking for. A speculative application led me to two years living and working in that wonderful country where I would also meet my partner who continues to challenge me to go further.

Leaving Korea, I returned to Scotland in 2013 to qualify as a registered teacher of History, and eventually received my MEd in 2016. I taught across the central belt of the country until moving to Shanghai. There, I worked as a 'Year Lead', moving to become 'Head of the History Department' and latterly 'Housemaster'. It was here that I was able to focus more clearly on my student welfare role and develop the capacities that I now bring to BIS this year. On the evidence of the first two weeks, I am feeling positive about the immediate future.

While my journey to Bishkek has taken different routes, some things stay the same. I love travel, and look forward to exploring the region further in the coming years. I also love food, and the wealth of culinary opportunities in this city alone will keep me occupied for a while. I am perhaps at my happiest, however, when walking my dog with my other half and just enjoying the air where we live. (Or when I am watching the famous Glasgow Celtic dictating a game of football - as they did against some other team from across the city this weekend!) If anyone is interested in setting up a Bishkek Celtic Supporter's Club, let me know!

**Mr Darren, Head of Individuals & Societies Department;
History Teacher; IGCSE1 Form Teacher**

LINGUASCOPE: THE WORLD'S #1 INTERACTIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING PLATFORM



We are delighted to let students and parents know that the school now has a subscription to the fantastic online language learning website, 'Linguascope'. This website is a brilliant way for our students to learn and practise the language they are learning in school, and includes games, quizzes and activities that they can access independently. It supports most of the languages we teach here at BIS as well as some extra ones. So, if you would like to find out about a new language as well, you can!

Please encourage your children to use the website to continue their language-learning at home – it works well on desktop computers, laptops and tablets. Parents can feel free to log on and explore – maybe you will learn something new as well!

URL: <https://linguscope.com>

Username: **bishkek**

Password: **hamburger**



Program Highlights

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: PYP

This week has flown by - particularly with having Monday off to celebrate Kyrgyz Independence Day. However, I do have one clear highlight of the week! On Tuesday afternoon, several Primary students came running up to me in the playground screaming, "Ms Krisha, we are in, we are in!" It took a second for the penny to drop but their sheer joy and infectious positivity stemmed from the Anniversary Show! The students skipped away discussing who had lines and who had songs. Later that day, I taught a secondary school Spanish class where one of our older students also beamed with joy after finding out she would be singing a song in the show. It's great to feel the show's hype already starting to simmer!

Ms Krisha, Director of Studies, PYP Coordinator

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: MYP

Now that our MYP students have settled into their new classes and ECAs have begun, the new school year is well and truly underway. One big upgrade for our middle school programme this year is the introduction of ManageBac, a special platform which allows students to track their learning online. Every MYP student should now have received information about how to sign up via their school email address. When they log in, students can see their classes and a summary of what they are studying in each subject group. ManageBac also helps students track key deadlines. In the MYP, every unit contains a summative assessment to judge students' progress towards published IB MYP criteria. Assessments take many different forms - presentations, projects, quizzes, reflections, essays or more. Teachers design these to give students the best chance to demonstrate what they have learned. With ManageBac, students will be able to view all the information they need for every summative assessment in one place: the task, the key dates and how it will be assessed. We believe the new system will make it easier than ever for students to take charge of their own learning and for teachers to track students' progress. We'll continue to share information about ManageBac, but for the time being, why not check with your MYP student(s) that they have logged in successfully?

Mr Tim, MYP Coordinator

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: IGCSE

As our second week began, the IGCSE students have become used to their new classes and schedules after selecting their subjects. It is also important to remember that ECAs are now in full swing and that IGCSE students are free to be outside on the basketball court if not in an ECA. This week, students will also be introduced to the community project component of our BIS program to help promote a meaningful and positive long term impact in our community. More information will be shared here in next week's newsletter.

**Mr Jacques Prinsloo, Assistant Head of School, IGCSE
Coordinator**

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: IB DIPLOMA

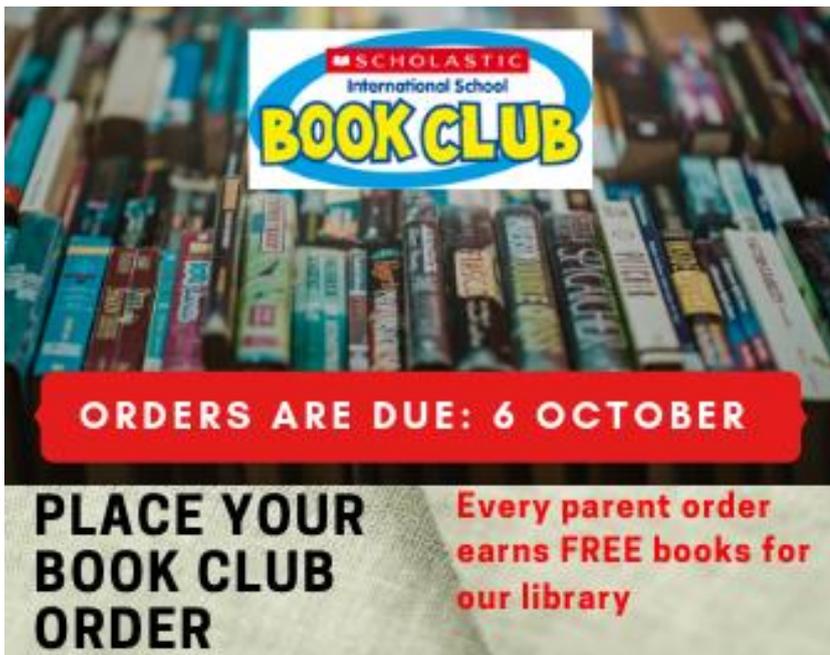
As we were first accredited for the IB Diploma in 2015 and the International Baccalaureate Organization reviews the programme every five years, we are in the self-study phase of review for the 2019/20 academic year. The review visit will take place in November 2020 and will hopefully renew our accredited status to 2025. In the programme itself, our DP2 students have all submitted their Extended Essays and are working on Internal Assessments, while the DP1 class now has 26 students, most of whom have made final subject choice selections and are working hard towards excelling with the Diploma.

Ms Makiko, DP Coordinator

BIS Snapshot: fun after classes!



SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB



The new catalogues have arrived and we are very happy to announce that our Book Club is up and running!

The Scholastic International School Book Club is a fantastic way to get great value children's books from around the world and help schools to build their libraries with FREE BOOKS.

We'll give a catalogue to each student in Pre-school and Primary school. Extra catalogues are available in the library and at the school reception.

There's no obligation to order but if you would like to buy English-language books for your child there are two easy ways for you to order.

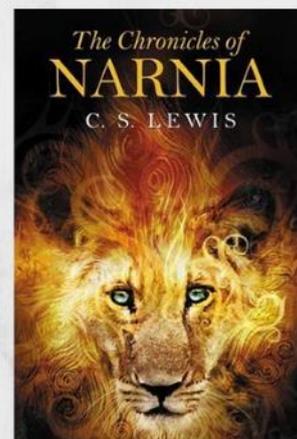
1. Order & Pay online (with your credit card) - <http://eu-schools.scholastic.co.uk/bishkekinternationalschool>
2. Submit the order form and money to our cashier, Burmakan.

For every £1 you spend on this month's Book Club, our school will earn 20p in Scholastic Rewards. All orders will be delivered to our School in November.

Should you have any questions about book ordering, please feel free to ask - library@bis.kg

We hope that you enjoy browsing through the catalogue and will find something interesting for your child!

STUDENT CHECKOUTS AT THE LIBRARY



The chronicles of Narnia.
By: Lewis, C.S., 2001.

"I like this book because of how imaginative and exciting it is."

Sam

SATURDAY MORNING FOOTBALL

Where:

El Clasico Football grounds - Jukeeva-Pudovkina Street/Geologicheskiy lane

Times:

10:00 – 11:00 (5-7 years)

11:00 – 12:00 (8-9 years)

12:00 – 13:00 (10-12 years)

Cost:

150 som each Saturday (Pay at grounds on arrival)

All skill levels welcome!!

**Starts on Saturday 14th of September
and continues every Saturday in term 1
No need to register.**



UPCOMING EVENTS

- 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)**
- 31 Oct: Fall Festival/Halloween

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 9th – 13th is [Menu A](#). 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

This week, we had a wonderful time learning about our friends and making a lot of crafts related to our theme. We enjoyed making a friendship tree where every friend in our classroom put his/her painted handprints in our trees as well as decorating our, 'I am a friend' crowns with our friends' pictures (giving us a chance to learn each friend's name). We also sang a song, 'Friends, friends 1,2,3' and learnt the number 1 through this song. We went on to make the number with the help of different materials. We read stories about friendship in order to develop our class understanding of friends and to increase our understanding of how to be a good friend and how to treat each other. The story, 'How do dinosaurs play with their friends?' helped us a lot. Following the story, we spent outside time touring the big field where we walked into the trails of the tree house and tried to swing in different swings. Next week, we will start to discuss our families and kindly ask parents to bring some family photos for our 'Show and Tell' time and for our Family Tree.



Ms Begimai, Preschool 1 Form Teacher



PRESCHOOL 2

This week, Preschool 2 started the unit “Who We Are” and began by discussing the human body - its parts, the body systems and major entire organs. On Monday, we talked about our faces. Looking in the mirror, children described their faces recounting eyes, ears, nose, lips, mouth and hair. After this, we named all the functions the face performs, for instance, our eyes help us see, our mouth helps us to share our ideas, our ears help us to hear all the sounds around and our nose helps us to recognise aromas. To learn the position of the face organs, we made numerous artworks and practices skills including cutting and pasting. Artworks also included face picture coloring and creating our own faces out of playdough. In the middle of the week, our group learned about three main body parts – the head, trunk and limbs. Each part of our body has a great importance - limbs help us to move and take objects, our head has organs helping us to perceive the world around and the trunk is the part where all our entire organs are. Our body parts look the same at first glance but Preschool 2 still recognised that we are all unique and special.

To confirm this fact scientifically, we made an experiment using our measuring skills: taking turns we traced our feet and then we measured it using rulers. The children discovered that almost all of us have the similar size feet (average 16,5cm) though we have small differences (of 1 or 2 centimetres).



Ms. Oksana, Preschool 2 Form Teacher



PRESCHOOL 3

Our Preschool 3 friends had an exciting second week! We started our first unit of inquiry on Friendship and we are now looking at how we make and keep friends. We are also recapping all the numbers up to 10. Next we will be exploring the number 11 and 12, we will also begin learning about letters. The first letter we will be learning about is the letter 's'.

Ms Carmen, Preschool 3 Form Teacher

