



## THE AIR WE BREATHE

Autumn is coming which means air quality is falling. In the evenings, while air temperatures fall, the power station and houses burn coal. As the days get colder, daytime air quality will also be a problem.

At BIS, we have an [air quality sensor outside in the playground with real time data](#). One of our PurpleAir sensors is also near the US Embassy - to compare with the official [AQI data from the Embassy sensor](#). Outside air quality (PM2.5 AQI) is displayed on the main door of the school and Reception, and updated at 9:00, 12:00, and 15:00 to guide staff, students, and parents about outdoor exercise following the BIS [AQI policy for outside play](#).

Inside school, we aim to keep AQI below 50. We have air filters on all air intake systems, we manage window and door open times, and we have air purifiers all around. Air purifiers are used during the school day when outside AQI is over 50. You can [check online for the real time AQI in the library](#) by clicking on 'inside sensors' in the bottom left of the screen. Other rooms are checked by staff using a mobile air quality sensor. Some air purifiers were donated by parents but most were purchased with Capital Fund Fee payments in spring 2019. We are very grateful to all parents who contributed to help make the air safe for all children at BIS!



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**Mirzat Osmonova, Head of Administration**



## DELIVERING HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION AT BIS: OUR NEW STANDARDS

On Saturday 7th September, BIS opened its doors to our parent community for a chance to hear more about developments, plans and progress for this academic.

One key area discussed was our was change in standards - a decision made to ensure BIS is supporting students to reach their full academic potential.

Whilst we are still proud to be following the PYP and MYP approaches, the content of learning and our monitoring of student progress will now be in line with the following standards:



- Singapore Math
- UK National Curriculum (English)
- Next Generation Science Standards



Department  
for Education



Our English Language Acquisition team will also inform their instruction through the Bell Foundation English as an Additional Language Assessment Framework.

Our Pedagogical Leadership Team, alongside many teachers, spent over six months reviewing different standards and curricula from around the world and we are truly proud of the international spectrum of standards we now incorporate. Each were specifically chosen as we believe they will best prepare our students in the core subject areas.

If you weren't able to join our Saturday event earlier this month and would like to know more, please find the presented slides [here](#).

**Krishna Gandhi, Director of Studies, PYP Coordinator**

## GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

The BIS Governing Board (GB) met on Monday evening for the first of five meetings this academic year. Discussion and decisions covered a full-page agenda for the 3-hour meeting, with topics of discussion including: progress on action plans; approval of policies and handbooks; the IB Diploma Self-Study prior to IB review in November 2020; results for IB Diploma and IGCSE exams; standards in place for Math, English and Science in primary and middle school; the Governing Board election process; revised approvals for School Development Fund spending; new campus development; reports of GB committees and the Management Board report. Future GB meetings were fixed for November 4<sup>th</sup>, January 20<sup>th</sup>, March 16<sup>th</sup>, May 18<sup>th</sup>.



**Symbat Berdimamatova, Secretary to the Governing Board**

## MANAGEBAC: OUR NEW PLATFORM TO ENHANCE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

ManageBac is the leading planning, assessment and reporting platform for the IB continuum and the trusted choice of 4 in 5 IB Diploma students and over 2,900 leading IB world schools. At BIS, we have started using ManageBac to help centralize our resources to help improve the quality of learning from Preschool 1 to DP 2. More information about useful features will be shared with the BIS community in due time and we welcome all parents to join our up and coming information sessions (see below) to learn more about the platform and how it is changing the way BIS students are learning.



**ManageBac**

## **INTRODUCING COFFEE WITH COORDINATORS (CwC)**

This year, BIS will introduce Coffee with Coordinators - monthly opportunities for parents to meet coordinators to learn more about the programmes we offer. A chance to have a coffee and a chat with the coordinator leading your child's programme, we hope to cover different topics relevant to the time of year. We will be offering these events over two consecutive days in order to allow for the delivery and discussion of information in both English and Russian.

**BISHKEK INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL PRESENTS**

# **COFFEE WITH COORDINATORS**

**FOCUS: AN INTRODUCTION TO  
MANAGEBAC  
(DELIVERED IN ENGLISH)**



**DATE: MONDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 2019**

**VENUE: BIS CAFE**

**TIME: 08:00-08:45**

**Come and join us to see how we will use this new platform to share classroom learning and developments with you at home.**

## ECO-BUILDING CLUB ECA

The Primary Eco-Building Club ECA has been having a lot of fun using recycled/reused materials from home and school to build and create interesting projects. The students can work alone or in pairs or groups and build whatever they dream up. Toys, robots, instruments, and practical things like pencil holders and storage containers have all been constructed. Students and teachers who are not associated with this club have been kind enough to donate materials from their homes and classrooms as well, which has been, and will continue to be, very helpful. It is great seeing what could have been thrown out as trash being used in a fun, creative and productive way!

**Ms. Katie, P4 Homeroom Teacher**



## P6'S DISCOVERIES WITH TIFO



On Monday, the 17th of September, we had guests from TIFO (Terragraphics International Foundation) come over to our school to teach us about environmental contaminants and how people are harming nature by mining uranium, mercury and other radioactive and dangerous ores.

We also learned that these substances can cause diseases and health problems. They told us interesting facts and even showed us their video about a project in Nigeria where they dug up bad soil which was harmed by ores that could harm the earth. We had a lot of fun and even found what could harm our environment on BIS on the playground.

**Melek, P6S Student**

## NEW FACES: MS ESTHER



I arrived in Bishkek just over a month ago with my husband, Mr Tim, to take up the role of Head of Language Acquisition and Spanish teacher here at BIS. We are really enjoying getting to know the city and the special community at our school – thank you to everyone who is making us feel so welcome!

An important thing to know about me is that I really love languages. I began learning languages when I was 11, starting with Spanish and French. I loved the way another language helps you to express yourself in a new way and how they help us to be so creative! Here at BIS, I teach Spanish, but I also have lots of opportunity to speak French and Russian as well.

I have spent the last decade of my life indulging in my love for language learning and teaching. I learnt Russian and Spanish at university, and I lived in Moscow for a year during part of my university course. While I was in Russia, I took the opportunity to travel extensively across the country and I even travelled the trans-Siberian railway - an incredible experience.

Since graduating university, I have been developing my career in language education, first teaching English Language Acquisition at a school in the UK, then working for a UK government project which aimed to encourage young people to study languages. Following this, I chose to get into the classroom, completing my teacher training in Yorkshire, where I taught Spanish and French in a large secondary school. Coming to BIS has been amazing – it is a very special place where children and adults from different nationalities gel together and communicate in many different languages, and where we hope everyone feels at home and finds their place.



For me, it is my love of languages and different cultures which has led me to be here. I hope that I can help our students discover that love too, and that it will lead them through some fantastic open doors as they grow up into young adults.

**Ms. Esther, Language Acquisition Teacher**

## INQUIRING INTO SCIENCE

During IGCSE 1's sciences class, we have been learning about motion. The topic got us interested in determining the acceleration of free fall hands-on. Last week, we inquired and shared our ideas about how we could go about this and our teacher agreed to arrange a practical investigation for determining the rate of free fall.

The next class, with the materials we needed to perform the experiment in hand, we began. The method of doing this experiment included each group dropping an object from a certain height and measuring the time until the object reached the ground. We decided to drop the objects from the schools balcony (which has the height of 4.3m). We completed 5 trials for the experiment to have accurate data. After gathering the information we needed, we headed back to class to calculate the average time and the speed of the object. My group was working with a ping pong ball while other groups were working with tennis balls, soft balls etc. After calculating the average time and the average speed, we needed to calculate its acceleration.

I would say that this experiment was successful and gave helped us gain a good understanding of our topic.

Aidan Niyazova, IGCSE1 Student



## IGCSE 2 HISTORY: LEADERSHIP OF THE USSR THROUGH THE YEARS

Students in IGCSE2 History have been studying the colorful cast of characters that made up the leadership of the USSR through the years. Keeping track of all their unique policies, decisions, and personalities can be a bit challenging at times. In order to showcase all of this in a memorable way, we made phony Instagram accounts for them! While they may be silly, I'm sure our students will remember the key information they put into these. Who says history is boring?!



Mr. Spencer, IGCSE History Teacher, DP Extended Essay Coordinator

## JOIN THE CHAIN #PLASTICFREEME #CLEANBISHKEK

We are drowning in plastic. Millions of bags and bottles are produced and thrown out every year. If we don't change, we will not survive. Single use plastic bags and bottles need to be banned and we also need to clean up the mess we have already made. Please join me in collecting plastic bottles for recycling while out running, jogging or walking around Bishkek. You could start with 5 bottles and add more for recycling every week. Take a photo or video as you throw them into the giant recycling bottles around town.

Post your video or photos on social media with #plasticfreeme #cleanbishkek and tag 5 friends to continue the chain!

Aila Grant, DP1 Student



## IT'S HOUSES STARTING TIME!



Phoenixes



PIRANHAS



SNOW LEOPARDS

various competitions will be organized to include as many students as possible. These competitions contribute to house points.

Each student is encouraged to take part in (or even to organize) various events, competitions, tournaments throughout the year in order to collect points!

We're excited to see which house will be crowned champions this year!

## WEAR ASIA COSTUMES FOR ASIA DAY!

This is a great opportunity for the first House Point challenge!

Asia Day is our first opportunity to collect House points while enjoying a fun day with plenty of activities, delicious food and our truly international atmosphere. It is always nice to spend time outside classrooms and, if you decide to take part in Asia Day and dress in Asian traditional clothing, your House will be rewarded with following points:

- **Attendance (2 points)** - Each student that attends will be checked at the gate by Ms. Burmakan and 2 points will be awarded to their house.
- **Traditional clothes (10 points)** - Each student who is dressed in Asian traditional clothing will be awarded 10 points (by Ms. Aikanysh upon arrival).

**You are welcome to join and collect House points!**



*You are invited!*  
*Asia Day Festival*



Travel around Asia with BIS Asia Day Festival celebrations where you can encounter Asian food, performances, music, arts and much more!

**DATE: 21 SEPTEMBER**

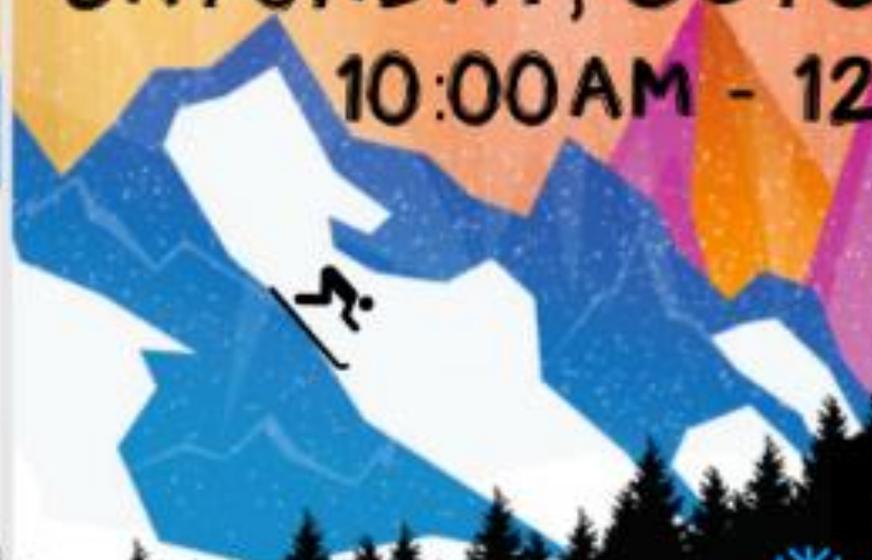
**TIME: 10:00-13:00**

**PLACE: BIS, 67A, BRONIROVANNAYA ST.**

BIS Ski Club invites you on ....

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2019**

**10:00AM - 12:00PM**



**WINTER**

**SELL YOUR GEAR!  
BUY USED GEAR!**

**GEAR**



**SALE**

**Who: EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

**What: A used Winter Sports equipment SALE! Skiing, sledding, hockey, clothing, technical gear, kids and adults!**

**When: October 5, 2019, 10AM- 12PM**

**Where: BIS Cafe**

**Questions? Email us [HMAGEE@BIS.KG](mailto:HMAGEE@BIS.KG)**

**SELLERS:**

Ready to clear out that old gear from your closet? Email [HMAGEE@BIS.KG](mailto:HMAGEE@BIS.KG) to reserve a table to sell your gear! *Table reservations are 500 som. Reserve by Oct 3.*

**ENTRANCE FEE:**

50 som (per adult)  
*All proceeds go to BIS Ski Club.*

# BIS Snapshot: ECAs



## BIS 2019-2020 SPORTS SCHEDULE

We are glad to share with you that the timetable of our sports activities is starting to fill up. Our school calendar highlights key sports events (the most of which remain unchanged) throughout the year.

Please note that our first term focus sports are Football (competitive) and Cross Country (non-competitive).

### Football Practice

The school has rented sports pitches nearby our grounds for practice purposes. Every Tuesday, boys of both age brackets (Junior Varsity and Varsity) will train on these pitches during the ECA time (15:30-16:30). Our football coaches are Mr Jacques and Mr Darren. Every Wednesday and Friday ECA time (15:30-16:30) the pitches are reserved for our girls. The coach is Ms Shelby. JV and Varsity teams train together during this time.

### Football - Friendly matches

<b>BIS vs. Hope Academy</b>		
Boys 24.9.2019	Tuesday 16:30-17:30 Varsity	Tuesday 16:30-17:30 JV
Girls 25.9.2019	Wednesday 16:30-17:30 Varsity	Wednesday 16:30-17:30 JV

### Basketball, Cross country, Volleyball - practice times

#### Basketball - Big Hall

Boys (coach Mr Zeljko)	Monday 16:30-17:30 Varsity	Friday 15:30-16:30 JV
Girls (coach Ms Anna)	Tuesday 15:30-16:30 (JV & V)	Friday 16:30-17:30 (JV & V)

#### Cross Country - Out of Campus

MYP 2, 3, IGCSE-DP	Monday 15:30-16:30	Coaches Mr Alex & Ms Hollis
Primary 4, 5, 6, MYP 1	Friday 15:30-16:30	Coaches Mr Alex & Ms Hollis

#### Volleyball - Big Hall

Girls MYP/IGCSSE/DP	Monday 15:30-16:30	Coach Ms Jamie
Boys MYP/IGCSSE/DP	Wednesday 15:30-16:30	Coach Ms Jamie

Our school is member of **BISA** (Bishkek International Schools' Athletic Association). BISA will hold four official tournaments as well as friendly matches for international schools in the city to practice and compete with each other.

#### BISA Events

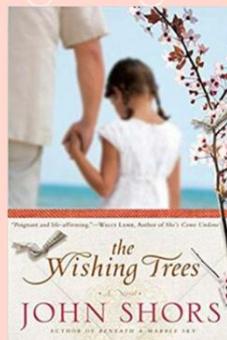
Football	October, 9-12 <sup>th</sup>
Basketball	February, 5-8 <sup>th</sup>
Fun Run	April, 18 <sup>th</sup>
Volleyball	April, 27-30 <sup>th</sup>

We are also member of **CAFA** (Central Asia Federation of Athletics). CAFA organise international tournaments across the region.

#### CAFA Events

Football	November, 6- 10 <sup>th</sup> , <b>Almaty</b>
Basketball	February, 20-22 <sup>nd</sup> , <b>Tashkent</b>
Volleyball	April, 23-25 <sup>th</sup> , <b>Nur-Sultan</b>
Track & Field	May, 16-17 <sup>th</sup> , <b>Almaty</b>

## STUDENT CHECKOUTS AT THE LIBRARY



The Wishing Trees by John Shors  
(2010)

*It is a wonderful tale of  
healing and love.*

Aruuke

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB



Our Scholastic Book Club is up and running! It is open to allow you to order English language reading books, delivered from the UK to Bishkek International School. Orders can be placed online going to <http://eu-schools.scholastic.co.uk/bishkekinternationalschool> or by leaflets that should be filled out and submitted to Burmakan, school cashier. Scholastic book catalogues are available in the library and school reception.

Should you have any questions about book ordering, please feel free to ask - [library@bis.kg](mailto:library@bis.kg)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September, Asia Day – Open Day – everyone invited**
- Middle & High School Sports Day – Date and Venue change TBC
- Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October, Winter Gear Sale, BIS Café
- Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October, Parent Teacher Meetings
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October, UN Day at BIS
- **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> 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

It was a great week full of fun for our children. This week, in Preschool 1, we continued learning about “Me and my family” where we explored what we do together with our family members and how we learn and grow with the care of our families and parents. We discovered more about the family relationship through the “Mama and Me” book which illustrated how baby animals learn and grow with the care of mommies. Together, we made a necklace with colored pasta and practiced our cutting skills while doing family activities artwork. We also had fun creating a playhouse out of cardboard boxes and painting it with different paints. The playhouse that was created by our friends has a large front window and a door. Children loved the house so much that they could not stop playing in it. On Friday, we had our first Show and Tell time and our friends shared their family photos and introduced their family members. After, we will hang them up on our Family Tree. Next week, we will start to talk about our face and body.



**Ms. Begimai, Preschool 1 Form Teacher**



## PRESCHOOL 2

This week, our Preschool 2 group discussed the food we eat every day. It appeared that not all kinds of food are healthy; some can even make our bodies weak and sick. Together, we divided all food products including fruits, vegetables, junk food, water, juice and fizzy drinks into two groups: healthy and unhealthy. It was great to see that many of our students already knew the negative impacts of eating too much cake or candy and commented on it being bad for the stomach. Our friends also spoke of how bananas and apples could make our bodies happy! As we continued to explore fruits and vegetables, we created an art project making apple, potato, tomato, pear and cucumber stamps - so much fun!

As we continued to develop our understanding of why good eating habits are important, and crucial from our early years, we worked on making healthy sandwiches using different types of bread, cucumbers, carrots, tomatoes, peppers and cheese. Students showed their ever-growing independence as they made their own sandwiches and picked their own ingredients!

**Ms. Oksana, Preschool 2 Form Teacher**



## PRESCHOOL 3

Preschool 3 had a fantastic week of learning at school. We've also been busy excitedly practicing for Asia Day! We learned about the letter 'a' and made wonderful apple paintings. Our big letter 'a' was made with our finger prints. We continued to learn what it means to be a friend and made a giant friendship flower. We also learned about the concepts of same and different by matching pictures. Next week, we will continue to learn about friends and will start our inquiry into the letter 't'.

**Ms. Carmen, Head of Preschool, Preschool 3 Form Teacher**

