



**Bishkek  
International  
School**

**VOICES**



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 10 / 2019-20

25<sup>th</sup> October 2019

## UN DAY AT BIS

This year, the first term ended with United Nations Day on the 18th of October.

PYP and MYP students received presentations and took part in activities organized by UN representatives, youth ambassadors, volunteers and high school students! They gained insightful, first-hand information into the works of the organization.

After a challenging treasure hunt, Preschool found their "treasure" by revising the alphabet and grasping key UN terminology.

Dr. Ojielo, the UN resident coordinator of the Kyrgyz Republic, gave an inspiring speech about finding one's purpose in life and answered proceeding questions from students.

The day ended with a colourful parade from Primary school, representing and celebrating countries around the world.

It is our hope that the day has left every BIS student better acquainted with the true meaning of Sustainable Development Goals and, as a result, eager and determined to contribute to their realization in many years to come.

**Aliya Kerezbekova, Aila Grant and Dastan Ryskulov**



## UN DAY: ARTISTIC ACTIVISM

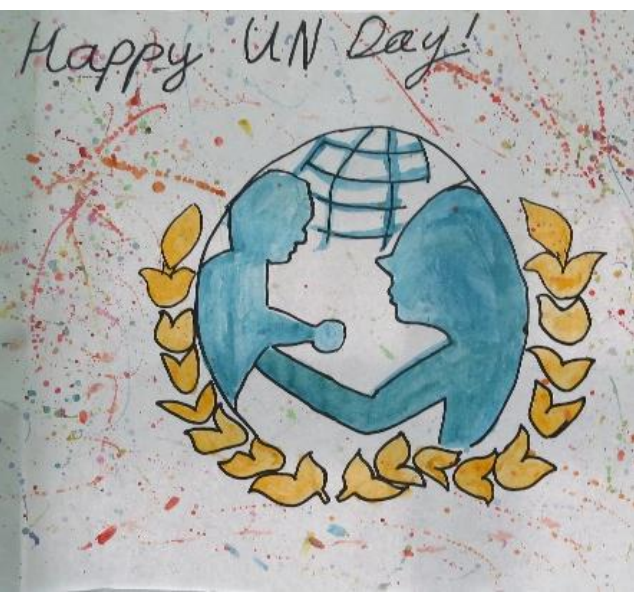


This year, our UN Day was organized by a team of 3 passionate DP students. The day demonstrated these students' determination to share and celebrate the work of the United Nations, and to collaborate with the entire student community in doing so. Fostering a sense of empowerment, our students learnt not only about the history of, and need for, the UN but discovered what the UN is doing presently to build a better world, and how it plans to continue this well into the

future.

Whilst the day was filled with informative presentations and fun activities, one of my highlights was walking into school on Friday morning and seeing the café and staircase walls filled with artwork by our PYP students.

These colourful and collaborative pieces, which touch on themes of peace and action as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals are a powerful example of how artwork can construct a narrative. Our students' work tells us the story of how they see their planet, its triumphs and its challenges.



Making the viewer think and feel at the same time, these students created posters which illuminate their generation's perspective on the world around them and serve as a piece of activism that challenges us to spark change.

**Krishna Gandhi, Director of Studies**

## ODD SOCKS DAY

On Thursday 17th October, BIS students were encouraged to wear a pair of odd socks to celebrate individuality and allow them to express themselves by showing how unique everyone is.



When discussing the power of Odd Socks Day, P6S's Linus explained, "Everyday people can be different in different ways and we should respect that. When we find it hard, we will think about how easy it was on Odd Socks Day and this should help us to be more respectful and open-minded".



BIS will be continuing to celebrate each other's differences throughout the year with more fun and visual campaigns to continue guiding our discussions and reflections.

**Krishna Gandhi and Carmen Prinsloo**

## BIS MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Model United Nations has become more than a hobby for us. First, we progressed from performing as delegates to becoming co-chairs, and finally, chairs.

Then we came up with the idea of holding MUN at our school; we had all the resources, we just needed to put in a little effort. This was the first Model United Nations in the history of Kyrgyzstan, where the number of English committees exceeded that of the Russian ones; where we had committees such as UN Women, ECOSOC, UNHR (was



held in Russian) and UNESCO. In each committee, strong relationships were established between delegates and their chairs leading to the development of outstanding resolution papers. Many delegates often took unconventional approaches to complicated issues raised in each committee.

The event would not have taken place without our sponsors: the United Nations in the Kyrgyz Republic and Adriano Coffee.

The UN House has actively contributed to the development of the conference throughout the process which we really appreciated, and Dr. Ozonnia Ojielo, the UN Resident Coordinator Kyrgyz Republic kindly agreed to officially announce the opening ceremony of BIS MUN 2019.

We hope that BIS MUN will become an annual tradition in our school and will advance to an even higher level with the help of our students!

**Meerim and Zhasmin, DP2 Students and MUN organizers**



# BIS Snapshot: UN DAY



## BIS ADVISORY COUNCIL – A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

BIS held the 21st meeting of the Advisory Council on 18th October, chaired by Eduard Auer, Ambassador, Head of the EU Delegation to Kyrgyzstan. David Grant (Head of School) and Hugh Salmon (Chair of the Governing Board) provided an update on school development and plans for a new campus before the main topic of the meeting 'Bishkek Air Quality and Student Health' was discussed. Presentations were given by representatives from SECO/Helvetas, AUCA, and the Environmental Health Department of the Bishkek Mayor's office. This was followed by a lively discussion of action to be taken by different parties to improve air quality for all school students.



**Mirzat Osmonova, Secretary of the Advisory Council**



## TURNING THE AIR GREEN

The air quality policy at BIS limits outside activity following United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines and monitoring via a PurpleAir sensor in the playground. To help automate the system, I have created an Air Pollution Monitoring System that automatically collects data from the playground PurpleAir sensor and displays the last 10 minutes average Air Quality Index (AQI) on a TV screen in the café. This screen automatically changes colour between AQI ranges and provides the current outside activity limits for this AQI. Information is displayed all day long in the cafe for any student or staff member and is constantly updated. In addition to the air purifiers in every room and the every air intake system which keeps AQI inside the school below 50, this adds another improvement in our approach to air quality.

**Mr. Thierry Taberna, Head of Computer Science**

**Last 10 min AQI: 20**  
**Good Range: 0-50**  
No Limit

**Last 10 min AQI: 165**  
**Unhealthy Range: 150-200**  
Sensitive groups should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.

Others should limit prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion. Increase rest periods & substitute players.

**Last 10 min AQI: 70**  
**Moderate Range: 50-100**  
No Limit.

**Last 10 min AQI: 220**  
**Very Unhealthy Range: 200-300**  
Sensitive groups should not be outside.  
For others, restrict outdoor activities to light or moderate exercise.

**Last 10 min AQI: 120**  
**Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups Range: 100-150**  
Sensitive groups should limit prolonged or heavy exertion.

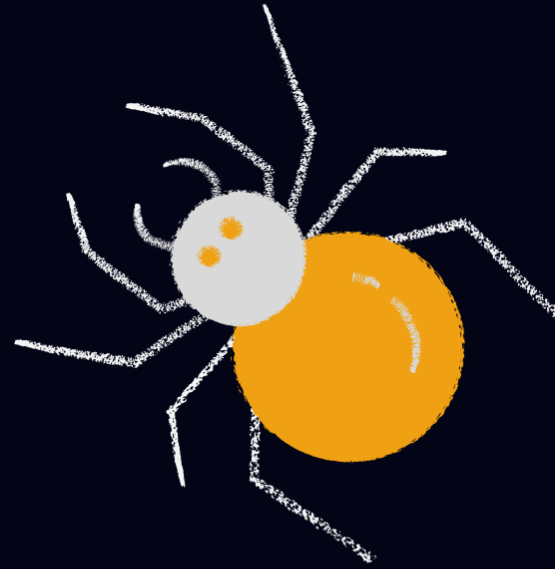
Increase rest periods and substitute players to lower breathing rates.

**Last 10 min AQI: 320**  
**Hazardous Range: 300-500**  
Avoid all physical activity outside.

Sensitive groups should stay inside and keep activity levels low.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 31ST 2019

**TRICK  
OR  
TREAT**



BISHKEK INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL

**GETS  
SPOOKY!**

DRESS UP IN A HALLOWEEN  
COSTUME TO RECIEVE  
HOUSE POINTS!

FUN PRESCHOOL AND PRIMARY SCHOOL  
ACTIVITIES!

## PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS!

As the GB elections have come to an end, we are pleased to announce that the following members have joined the BIS Governing Board:

- Ann-Marie Nguyen - elected by the Parents Association to serve a three-year term until October 2022
- Sanjar Tursaliev – elected by the Parents Association to serve a two-year term until October 2021
- Nazgul Asangojoeva-Baekova – elected by Staff to serve a three-year term until October 2022
- Aicholpon Alieva – elected by Staff to serve a two-year term until October 2021
- Daniar Amanaliev – re-elected by the Advisory Council to serve a final three-year term until October 2022

We would like to thank the outgoing GB members: Cory Johnston, Fatima Abdrasulova, Sunny Stimmler, and Nurbek Sabirov; who all contributed significantly to the development of school.

New and re-elected members join existing GB members: Hugh Salmon, Keneshbek Sainazarov, Adrian Marti, and Fred Huston to make the full Governing Board of 9 members which is responsible for strategy, policy and financial sustainability of the school.

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October: Autumn/Fall break (No School)**
- Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October: Fall Festival/Halloween
- Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November: Teacher In-Service Day
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November: Central Asia Soccer Classic (Football Tournament), Almaty
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November: History Day – Public Holiday
- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November: BIS Annual Debate Tournament
- Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November: Friendsgiving Dinner – Parents Association

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 October 28<sup>th</sup> – November 1<sup>st</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.