



**Bishkek
International
School**

VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 12 / 2019-20

7th November 2019

IBDP 1 TRIP TO NARYN

Last week, IBDP 1 travelled to Naryn for a class bonding trip. We stayed there for three days and two nights. The most gruelling parts of the trip were the long and sometimes bumpy bus rides – the ride there was approximately 7 hours.

During the ride, we stopped at Kochkor for a felt show where we learnt about traditional Kyrgyz carpets called "shyrdacks" and were shown the production process. We then visited a souvenir shop where we got the opportunity to explore. We styled Kyrgyz "kalpak" hats with scarves, tried on big coats and were able to further indulge in Kyrgyz culture.

After the long ride to Naryn City, we took a walking tour guided by a local historian who told us about the unique history of Naryn. Two interesting parts of that walk were a visit to Victory Park, which had a monument with a real Soviet tank from WWII, and the Naryn River, which had a fun bridge originally built in the 19th century after the locals wrote a letter to the Russian Empire requesting protection from their neighbours to the south.

We returned to our cosy hostel and were fed with a really filling dinner. The rest of our first evening was spent together as a class, playing card games and enjoying each other's company.





The highlights of our trip were visiting Tash Rabat, a castle built 600 years ago, and the stone horse head in At-Bashi. After the two excursions we returned to Naryn City for a boorsok show. Boorsok are little fried bread bites – a beloved national food that can be eaten with anything. We made boorsok and ate it alongside tea, sour cream, blackcurrant jam, yellow butter, apricot kurut, and talkan balls. These

foods are very important to Kyrgyz culture and tradition and were all produced locally.

Even though all of these sites were very interesting, the best part of the trip was the time we got to spend together. A lot of laughter was shared between the class and I'm very thankful for the opportunity to become closer as a class. This trip allowed us to bond on levels that we never have before, with songs, laughter and even tears. I really love my classmates and look forward to two more amazing years, as each of my classmates brings something special that makes us like a family.



Linda, IBDP 1 Student



PRIMARY 2 VISIT TO OLOLO HOUSE

Last week, the Primary 2 classes went on educational visits to Ololo House (a coworking and art event space). The students had a fun time learning about different holidays from around the world. They were able to discuss holidays they already knew about while also learning about some they had never heard of before.

Afterwards, the students were creative and designed a wrapper for a chocolate bar. They found out that there is a



chocolate festival celebrated in Italy.

For the final event of the trip, the students learned about Japanese taiko drums. They even had an opportunity to play these gigantic drums! They had a fun time following the teacher and trying to copy the rhythms.

It was an interesting and exciting day for everyone involved.

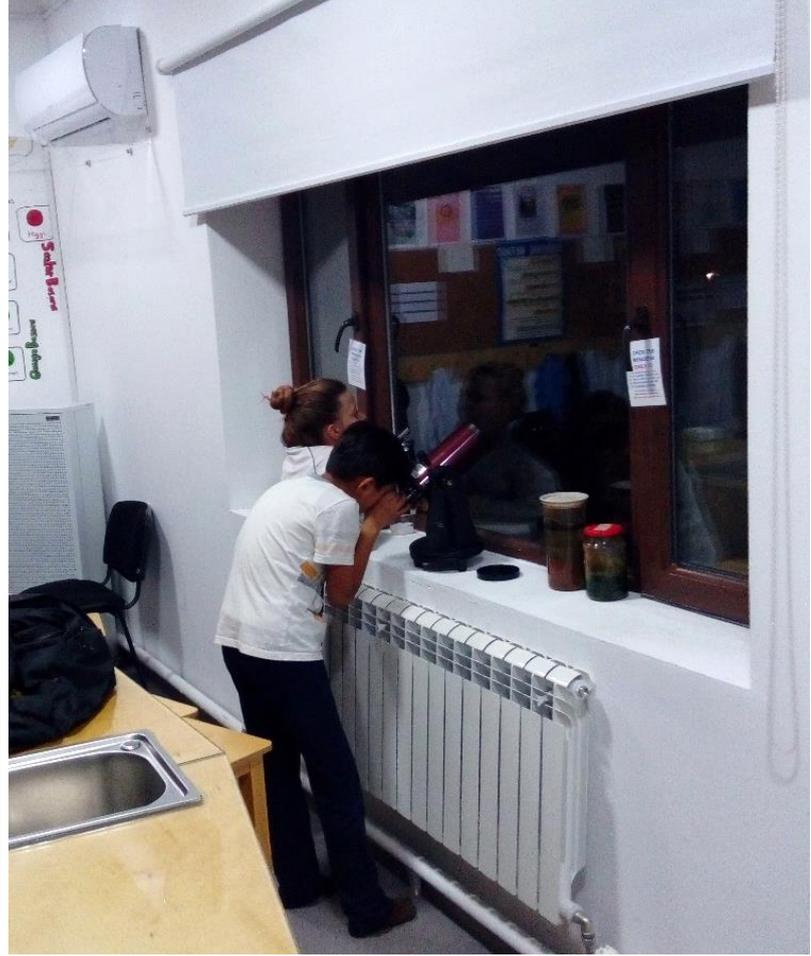
**Ms. Alicia, Primary 2A
Homeroom Teacher**



MYP1 STARGAZING

Last Thursday, MYP 1 stayed at school overnight to stargaze for our science class as part of our unit on astronomy.

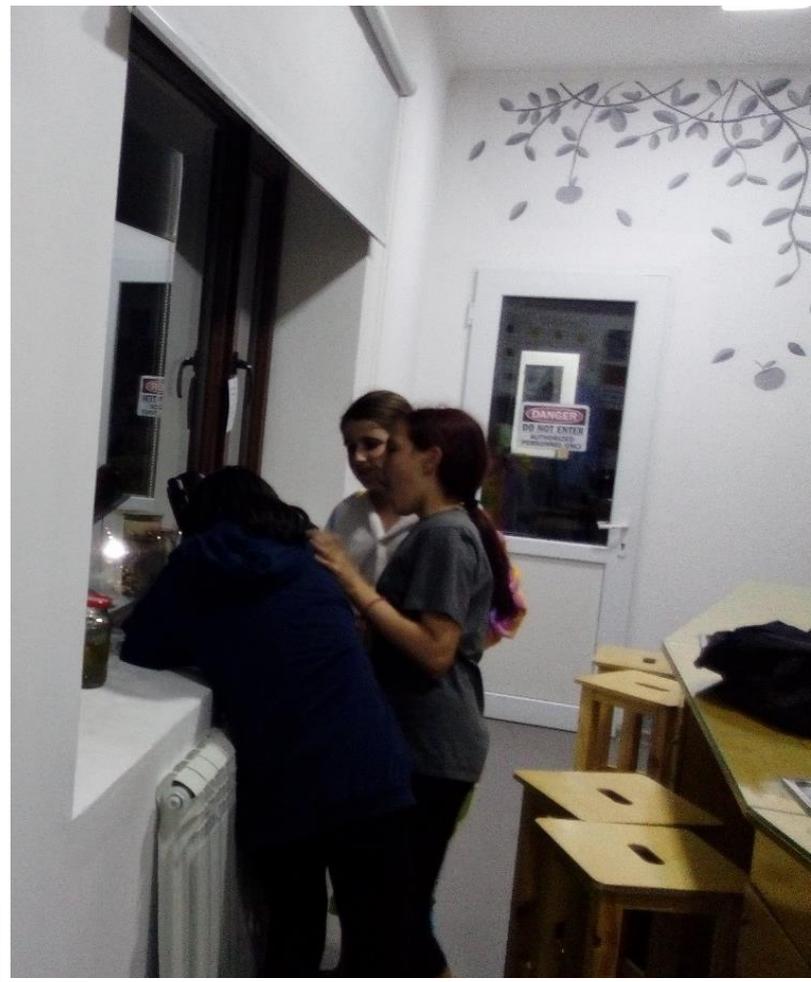
First we did our homework and then played some games waiting for everyone to come back from the Halloween party. Once everyone was back, we learned the basics of the telescope. Then we went outside to look at the stars through a telescope. We could observe some stars, but it was difficult to focus on them individually. That was because if the telescope moved just a millimetre, you would lose the star.



After everybody got a chance to look at the stars, we played team-building games which were really fun.

We would like to thank Mr. Alisher and Ms. Artika for organizing this activity for us.

Lea Marti and Mabrukah Hamid, MYP 1 Students



NEW FACES: MS. ALICIA

Hello everyone! If you haven't had the chance to meet me yet, my name is Ms. Alicia. I am working with a wonderful group of students in Primary 2A. This is both my first year at BIS as well as my first year in Central Asia, and so far, I am really enjoying both. If you had told me 10 years ago that I would be a primary teacher here in Bishkek, I probably wouldn't have believed you. At that time, I was studying music with a focus in jazz studies and music technology at a small-town American university. It wasn't until the senior year of my undergraduate studies that I decided to give teaching a try at the recommendation of one of my professors. After completing my Bachelor's degree, I moved to South Korea to teach English as a Foreign Language. It was a life changing experience for me! I ended up loving my work as a teacher so much that I began studying to acquire my US teaching license and eventually a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction.

I taught in South Korea for seven years in a variety of educational settings, although I primarily worked as a preschool and EFL teacher. During my time there, I was lucky enough to travel extensively and make many wonderful friends along the way. I also met my husband in South Korea and adopted a cat. Last year, we decided it was time to go somewhere new. I'm very grateful that I was able to come here, because living and working here in Bishkek has been such an enriching experience so far. I've even adopted another cat since arriving! Working with my students though has been one of the most rewarding parts. It is always amazing to watch them grow in their learning and develop excitement for new topics they're studying. I hope I can inspire them as much as they inspire me every day.

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Ms. Alicia, Primary 2A Homeroom Teacher

WHAT IS THE MYP COMMUNITY PROJECT?

The Community Project is an important requirement of the third year of the IB Middle Years Programme across the globe. It challenges students to participate in a sustained, self-directed project to serve the needs of those around them, under the guidance of a project supervisor. Through it, our students will develop skills in research, creativity, organisation, teamwork, communication, responsibility and reflection.

MYP3 students will be working on their Community Projects in pairs or groups of three over the next five months. Throughout the process, students will keep a process journal documenting the actions, challenges and reflective opportunities they have encountered. The process will culminate in a Community Project Presentation Evening in front of parents, peers, teachers and other members of the school community.

Ms. Hilary Harvey Cutter is our Community Project Coordinator this year and we are delighted to announce an informational session next Thursday. We look forward to welcoming all MYP3 parents to this meeting, and in due course, sharing updates in Voices about what our MYP3 students have been doing for the community.

Mr. Tim, MYP Coordinator

MYP3 COMMUNITY PROJECT INFORMATIONAL SESSION

Thursday November 14th, 5-6pm

All MYP3 parents are invited to learn more about the compulsory Community Project and how they can support their students in this part of their MYP journey.

When? Thursday, November 14th, 5-6pm

Where? BIS Cafeteria. Snacks provided!

Contact? Ms Hilary at hharveycutter@bis.kg. No sign-up necessary.

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

The BIS Governing Board (GB) held its second meeting of the year on Monday, 4th November.

The meeting was preceded by an orientation session for new GB members who were elected in October. Discussion and decisions at the GB meeting covered a full agenda for the 3-hour meeting, with topics of discussion including: charter revision; development of a new website; ManageBac implementation; initial



planning for school fees for 2020/21; funding for educational visits and school representative trips; reports of the Management Board and GB committees; and approval for the release of the New Campus Concept brochure which sets out BIS's vision for the development of a new campus.

The Board also held elections for a new Chair and Vice Chair of the GB, with Fred Huston and Hugh Salmon elected as Chair and Vice Chair respectively. We would like to thank Hugh Salmon for his commitment

and the great job he has accomplished in his two-year term as Chair of the Governing Board.

The next GB meeting will take place on 20th January 2020.

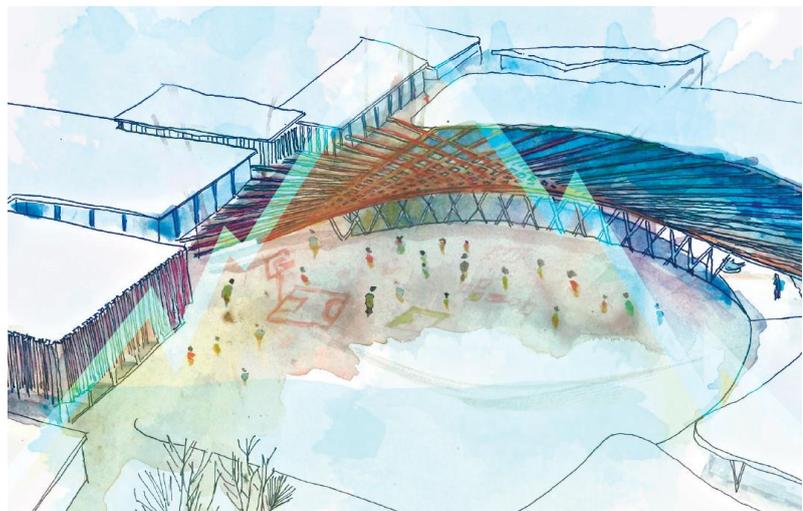
Symbat Berdimamatova, Secretary to the Governing Board

NEW CAMPUS CONCEPT

As a community we are working together to make BIS the best international school in Central Asia. We have come a long way in our first eight years of this journey but we have not yet reached our goal and further development is constrained by the space we have available. Following strategic review in 2018, we are in the process of identifying alternative campus options. Several locations are available for development but all need funding support to turn them into real projects. To help engage the wider community of philanthropists, new parents, business and government in this vision, the [New Campus Concept brochure](#) helps to paint the picture of our joint future.

Please share these links with anyone who may be interested and please email me dgrant@bis.kg if you would like a printed copy of this brochure in [English](#) or [Russian](#).

David Grant, Head of School



**NEW
CAMPUS
CONCEPT**



**Bishkek
International
School**

BISTORY COMPETITION



National History Day is coming up, which provides a great opportunity for our community to engage with the past in a meaningful way. With this in mind, we will be running the first BISTory competition over the coming fortnight. All members of our community are invited to participate, from PYP to DP and from parents to staff!

What do you have to do?

- Select a historical image of something that you feel is significant;
- Write a reflection on your image (250 words or less) to say why it is significant;
- Submit to form teachers for 10 house points, and potentially an award!

Things to remember:

- Images have to be historical;
- You need to have a short written reflection (this can be done in first language);
- Your images must be single images with no words on it (e.g. memes);
- Your image must not be offensive!

The closing date for the competition is **MONDAY 18 NOVEMBER**.

If you have any questions, ask Mr. Darren for more details!

TAIGAN FOOTBALLERS HEAD TO ALMATY

On Wednesday we sent four soccer teams off to Almaty for the Central Asia Football Classic which is being played this weekend. With a total of forty players for Girls Junior Varsity, Girls Varsity, Boys Junior Varsity and Boys Varsity, this is the first time we have entered teams into all four levels of the tournament.

We wish all players and soccer coaches safe travel, happy times, good learning experiences and success!



BIS Snapshot: Dream House Project



LIKE TO PLAY BASKETBALL?



At BIS, we are starting a regular school community basketball night. We will meet every **Tuesday evening from 5 until 7** in the big hall/gym.

There will be pick-up games for any adults in the BIS family.

Contact Mr. Grant to find out more - gchamberlain@bis.kg

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Friday, 8th November: Day of History and Commemoration of Ancestors, no school
- Thursday, 14th November, 5-6pm: MYP3 Community Project Informational Session
- Saturday, 16th November: BIS Annual Debate Tournament
- Wednesday, 23rd November: Friendsgiving Dinner – Parents Association
- Friday, 29th November: Spelling Bee, QSI School Bishkek
- Saturday, 7th December: BIS 9th Anniversary Show
- Friday, 13th December: Last Day of First Semester / Ded Moroz
- 16th December - 6th January: Winter break

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 11th-15th November 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 Preschool 1 friends continued learning about food and the importance of eating healthy products.

At the beginning of the week we did exciting activities such as making stamps out of fruits and vegetables, making our own orange juice, and different kinds of arts and crafts. During our morning circle times we tried to divide foods into those that help us to grow and be strong and foods that we should only eat rarely. We have also been choosing our favourite fruit or vegetable and singing the "Do you like?" song.



In maths, we looked at squares and the number 4. The students started to count different objects and point out the different shapes we have been learning around the classroom.

The highlight of this week was our very first field trip on Thursday. All our small friends were excited to go to the supermarket by school bus and buy their favourite fruit.

Back at school we made our very own healthy fruit salad and enjoyed the process of preparing and, of course, eating it.

Ms. Begimai, Preschool 1 Form Teacher

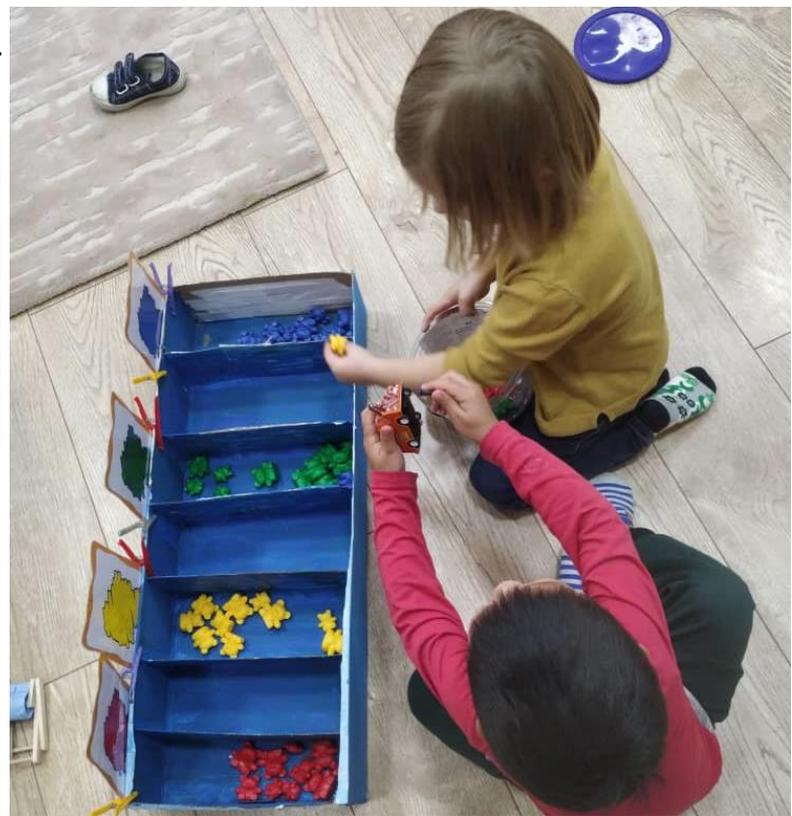


PRESCHOOL 2

This week Preschool 2 was discussing fruit and vegetables. Apart from the fact that fruit and vegetables are very yummy, they hide masses of vitamins which are good for the human body. We know that it's easy to go and buy them in the shop, but how do they grow? Dividing into several teams we created an apple life cycle diagram where the apple seed passes several stages from a small and weak shoots to a big blossoming tree. With time, almost every flower turns into an apple. But not all our favourite fruit and vegetables grow on trees. Potatoes, for instance, grow in the soil. To prove this, we've planted two potatoes and will observe all the changes happening to the pot.

Coming back to the benefits we get from eating fruits and vegetables, Preschool 1 and 2 organised a field trip to the shop to buy their favourite fruits to make a fruit salad. The most popular fruit were apples, bananas, oranges, grapes and kiwis. Each child had the chance to choose and buy the fruit they wanted to be in the salad.

Ms. Oksana, Preschool 2 Form Teacher



PRESCHOOL 3

Preschool 3 had a very busy week. We learned about the letter "k" and that the letter "k" is for key, keep and king.

We also started a new unit of inquiry about water and the creatures that live in water, as well as why humans need water.

Next week we will learn about the letter "e" and we will also look at grouping different things together.

Ms. Carmen, Preschool 3 Form Teacher

