



**Bishkek
International
School**

VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 19 / 2019-20

17th January 2020

FOLLOWING THE COMPASS

Primary 4 has begun their third unit, The Art of Exploration, Discovery, and Desolation. This week, their inquiries have included learning about mapping and navigation skills. Here you can see them partnering up to practice giving and following directions outside using a compass.



NEW FACES: MS. NAZIRA

Hello Friends! I am so glad to join the BIS community as a new face, however, I might not be a new face for most of you since I have served as a Vice-Chair in PAMC along with Ann-Marie and Evie for 1,5 years and I have met most of the BIS families and the staff before. It is a great pleasure for me to serve the school as an Alumni Officer and bring all our graduates together. Since I love communicating mostly with children and young people, it is a great privilege for me to build a strong community among our Alumni whom we had a great pleasure to have for the last two years and more



to come in the future. It is going to be a network of all the BIS graduates who will be able to get together for the Alumni reunions; who can contribute to the school by sharing their experiences; by assisting newbies in their first steps into their after school lives; and hopefully, in the future (fingers crossed), grant many young brilliant students the opportunity to be their followers in having access to the education in BIS. Having studied Sociology, I believe that the skills I have learned will be of tremendous help to me in my new endeavor.

I have four kids, three of them are current students in BIS on all levels, and one is a BIS graduate, who is also on my list of BIS Alumni. It is my passion to be the #BestMom I can be for my kids. For me, my passion is not a person, a place or a thing. It is what motivates me, what energizes me. So, being the #BestMom for my kids is my motivating purpose, and to be honest, it is not an easy thing to be or to do. So, I am still learning.

Before joining BIS community, I and my Family have lived abroad for 15 years: 5,5 years in Bratislava, Slovakia; 7,5 years in New York, USA; and 2 years in Istanbul, Turkey. Our ex-pat life was related to my husband's job in the United Nations, however, after his many years of UN life, we decided to come back Home. We were asked hundreds of times why we decided to return to Kyrgyzstan, while there are so many people are desperate to leave this country. I will tell you that I and my husband are utterly happy to be back. It takes a long time, a deep understanding of cultures, and accumulated life experience to value certain things in one's life and to start living consciously. And we always had this feeling that we need our land/country and our people/families/friends/community, and they need us to grow together. We love exploring our country and within almost 3 years now, we are still learning many stunning things about this land. So, yes, I am definitely happy to be back. There is so much in life to explore, to enjoy, to accept, to let go and to be grateful for. I had a great journey of my life turning into a "third-culture human" (I like to call it that way) as a 'Third-Culture Kid' since I took the best of all in becoming a good person, and the process is still taking place and will continue my whole life.

I love to travel and I have 'a thing' in my bucket list - to pin all the places on the globe where I have been and where I have a dream to travel to. I like to hike and explore new paths in the mountains and valleys around Bishkek with my husband and my hiking buddies. Apart from all the above, I love to cook, I love to read, and I like to clean the space I am in. My biggest dream is someday to write a book or a booklet on my and my husband's parenting experience just to share with people. I still have time before it happens, since I have kids who are still young and need some time to grow to become the best of them, and only then I can probably write a "bestseller" about our parenting experience in life.

As for now, I need to compose my first initial letter to our Alumni and believe that they have BIS kept safely and warmly in their hearts, in their memories and to bring them together for the future of our #BESTBIS (I love this hashtag! My dear Friend Ann-Marie introduced it and I am going to always use it.)

Ms. Nazira, Alumni Officer

ALUMNI OFFICER APPOINTED

We are delighted to welcome Nazira Tursalieva as our first ever Alumni Officer. Nazira brings a wealth of experience of international schools and cultures and the ability to interact easily with both our local and international families. With one child who has already graduated from BIS she is also very aware of the transition process beyond school life and she knows many of our recent graduates. Nazira's role is very part time as she builds the alumni community of the school from graduating students and families who have left the school to move abroad. To help her in developing this community, you may email Nazira directly: ntursalieva@bis.kg

David Grant, Head of School

DP2 MOCK EXAMS

Monday 20th - Tuesday 28th January

With less than four months to go before the actual IB paper examinations, we are organizing DP Mock Exams for DP2 students*. We will follow the official procedure as much as we can by using formal instructions, documentations and regulations. It is the first year that the IB introduces Listening exams for Language Acquisition subjects. All DP2 classes will be canceled during this period and students are given a choice to stay at home or to study at school when they do not have exams.

Not only do mock exams help teachers to see students' overall performance and predict their final results, they also give students opportunities to experience what the actual exams will be like in terms of duration, tiredness or even the nerves that they might feel. DP2 students have already submitted about half of the required work that they have been restlessly working on whilst also keeping themselves busy with university applications. In a month or so, they will be done with almost all of these tasks, and it will be time to focus on preparing for the May exams.

Though not far away at all, we still have enough time to be fully prepared. Let us all (parents, colleagues and younger students) support and encourage DP2 students together. We look forward to seeing their proud faces at graduation in June after this final six months their very best.

*The Mock Exam schedule can be found on the bulletin board in the cafeteria. DP2 students have access to a digital version which has the latest information.

Ms. Makiko, DP coordinator

WRITING CENTER IS NOW OPEN!

The Writing Center is pleased to announce that we are now open again to take students for writing conferences.

You can now go to calendly.com/biswriting to see available conference times at the Writing Center. For now, only conferences with a teacher during the ECA hour are available. By the beginning of February, the Writing Center plans to be fully functioning with peer tutors available throughout most days and also during the ECA hour.

The list of teachers and the days they are offering writing conferences is on the English Department board at the top of the stairs on the third floor of the main building. [You can schedule a conference with a teacher using this link.](#)

If you have any questions you can email writing@bis.kg or sstimmler@bis.kg.



BIS Snapshot: Learn. Grow. Succeed



BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS



BIS V. HOPE ACADEMY FRIENDLY MATCHES

JANUARY 17, 2020

Start at 4.30 pm

BIS Big hall

BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

BISHKEK

FEBRUARY 5-8, 2020

CAFA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

TASHKENT

FEBRUARY 17-23, 2020

On Friday 17th January, our Junior Varsity Boy's (JVB) team will play against their peers from Hope Academy. The match will start at 4.30 pm and will be played in our Big Hall.

Not long after, in early February, BIS and QSI will be joining up to organize a **basketball championship for international schools based in Bishkek**. This competition will be held from **5th February to 8th February** with 38 matches due to be played over four days! With 15 teams in 4 different categories having confirmed their participation, the competition tension is rising, and we are all eager to enjoy time on the court - or watching the action!

From **17th February to 23rd February**, students have the opportunity to travel to Tashkent to compete in the **Central Asian Federation of Athletics (CAFA) Basketball Tournament**.

The actual tournament is 20th to 22nd February, but as there is no direct flight to Tashkent on Tuesday or Wednesday and no easy connecting flight on Wednesday, our plans are to fly direct to Tashkent on the evening of Monday 17th February and return to Bishkek on the morning of Sunday 23rd February.

The organizers have been extremely understanding, supportive and accommodating; instead of playing six matches in two days we are scheduled to play the same number in four. This is far better and safer for our students too!

This trip is open to basketball players for:

- Junior Varsity Girls (11-14 years old);
- Varsity Girls (15-19 years old);
- Junior Varsity Boys (11-14 years old);
- Varsity Boys (15-19 years old).

If you have any questions about basketball at BIS or the tournaments, please contact Mr. Zeljko Jovetic (ziovetic@bis.kg)



COOKING CLUB ECA

The Tuesday Cooking Club ECA was preparing Tutti Frutti banana bread. Starting from knowing the ingredients to making it and then tasting it was an experience of knowing, doing, experiencing, participating, discovering and enjoying for the members. Cooking is not just cooking and eating in the club, it is an educational process of all these aspects for the kids. They love it and feel exhilarated by engaging in all these aspects of the experience.

RECIPE

Ingredients

Bananas	3 (mashed)
Butter	1/2 cup
Eggs	2
Brown sugar	1/2 cup
White sugar	1/2 cup
Baking soda	1 teaspoon
Salt	1/4 teaspoon
Flour	1 1/2 cups
Vanilla extract	1 teaspoon
Tutti Frutti	1 cup

In a large mixing bowl mash bananas then add butter, sugar, eggs, baking soda, vanilla extract, salt and flour mix well.

Now add Tutti Frutti and bake it in a 350 F preheated oven for 45 to 50 minutes.

Enjoy!



Ms. Annie Khan, BIS parent

LET'S PLAY FOOTBALL!

Mr. Slava will be coaching football for students from P2 through P5 in the BIS big hall.

Time:

Sunday mornings

10:00 - 11:30

Cost:

4500 som per student for the season

Beginning on January 26th through March 22nd

The group will be limited to 12 students.

or those interested in having their child participate
please send a message to Adrienne Stone 0770-770-205



SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

We are happy to announce that our January Book Club is up and running!

Please note that in order to reduce paper usage, we no longer have paper leaflets for the Book Club. Instead, please feel free to browse the virtual catalogue using the following links:

[For primary students](#)

[For kids 11+](#)

If you are interested in placing an order, there are two easy ways to do so:

1. Order & Pay [online](#) (with your credit card)
2. Submit the [order form](#) and money to our cashier, Aigul.

EVERY ORDER OVER £10 EARNS FREE BOOKS FOR OUR SCHOOL LIBRARY!

All orders will be delivered to our School in February.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Friday, 31st January: Winter Sports Day
- Saturday, 8th February: Teacher In-Service Training
- Friday, 14th February: Valentine's Day organized by students
- Friday, 21st February: Mother Tongue Day
- Thursday, 23rd February: Homeland Defender's Day
- Wednesday, 26th February: Science Fair

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

LUNCH MENU

The lunch menu for January 20th – 24th 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.

KEEP IN TOUCH

If you have anything you want to discuss or any suggestions for the school, please contact your Form Teacher and they will either answer directly or pass the message on to the right person. Messages can be sent in English or Russian, or in your own language. If you do not know the correct email address for the person you want to write to, please write to info@bis.kg and our Reception will forward your email to the right person.



**New year,
new books!**

**Browse our
virtual catalogue**



You can shop all the latest and greatest children's books, carefully chosen to encourage reading for pleasure, quickly and easily online.

**ORDERS ARE DUE:
8th February, 2020**



PRESCHOOL 1

This week Preschool 1 friends started to talk about animals that live on the farm. Together we made a farm and put various animals there: a sheep, a cow, a horse, a pig, a duck, a bunny, a chicken and their babies. We discussed the farm life and the how farm animals help humans in many ways. Now the children can tell you that a cow gives us milk. To understand better how it works, we made a cow out of cardboard and milked the cow in our classroom with the help of plastic gloves filled with milk. In our morning lessons we sang our friends favorite "Old McDonald had a farm" song with puppets and made chicken with eggs and a cotton sheep. Our classroom activities this week touched a bit on many early learning areas including science, mathematics, fine motor skills and sensory play. Next week, we will continue to talk about farm animals.

Ms. Begimai, Preschool 1 Form Teacher



PRESCHOOL 2

That was our first week of a new term. We have started the third unit of inquiry “How we express ourselves”. The aim of the unit is to learn the ways we can express our feelings, thoughts, and ideas through the play. Every lesson we were sharing our emotions singing songs and filling the chart “How am I feeling today?”. It was interesting to notice that the children were choosing different emotions every day for the chart and tried to explain why they felt that emotion. The most popular morning feelings were “sleepy”, “happy”, “hungry” and “joyful”. One of the things we were reminding each other was the consequences of our actions and words that can hurt or upset friends if we are not accurate with it. We can see now that friends have become more careful and attentive to each other. The next day we looked at the pictures illustrating children playing in the garden, children eating ice cream, children arguing over toys, sleepy children and children eating their food. We asked friends how the people from pictures felt, many were giving the right answers like “They are happy”, “They are hungry”, “The child is sad because his friends doesn’t share toys”. At the end of the week the friends drew a picture of the things that made them feel happy. Some of the children drew their favourite toys and family members, others drew the food they like most of all. So, to be happy we need not so many things!

Ms. Oksana, Preschool 2 Form Teacher



PRESCHOOL 3

This was an exciting week in Preschool 3!

We started a new unit of inquiry where we are learning about shelters and why we need them. Our inquiries led us to creating fun 3D houses out of matches and plasticine.

We also learnt about a new letter this week - the letter 'd'. We had fun writing this letter and decorating pictures inspired by this letter too!

For next week we will learn about the letter 'g' and also look at what kind of houses we can find around the world!

Ms. Carmen, Preschool 3 Form Teacher



A big thank you to our Head of Visual Arts, Dr Anna, for spending her Winter Break creating plastic bag coil mats for Preschool 3!