



**Bishkek
International
School**

VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 23 / 2019-20

14th February 2020

TERRIFIC TAIGANS!

A huge well done to our coaches and organizers for leading the BISA Basketball Tournament this year! Our Taigans walked away with a JVB first place cup as well the Sportsmanship Award for VG! The past few days saw lots of exciting moments, nerve-wracking moments and, most importantly, a great community spirit. Thanks for everyone's support of our Basketball Teams - be it in cheering them on from the sidelines, encouraging them in the corridors, providing food and drink, and to our teachers for excusing players from classes for the games.

Results are available by the following [link](#)



NEW FACES: MS. KATHLEEN

Hello BIS Community! My name is Kathleen and I currently teach PYP English Language Acquisition (ELA). The students have been most welcoming and I have genuinely enjoyed getting to know them. I joined BIS in November 2019 after relocating from Tokyo Japan in October where, for the past 6 years, I taught Kindergarten at the American School in Japan.

I am originally from Washington DC and have two daughters in college in the USA. My eldest daughter will graduate in May 2020 and is heading to London for graduate school. In my spare time, I like to walk my dog, read books, watch movies, and try new restaurants. My husband and I have enjoyed many lovely meals in Bishkek and hikes with our dog in and around the city. In the months to come, I am looking forward to exploring more regions of Kyrgyzstan and getting out to do more things in Bishkek.

Teaching young children is a rewarding experience and I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the BIS faculty. Thank you for sharing your children with me. I look forward to getting to know everyone better.



Ms. Kathleen Lewis-Workman, ELA Teacher

TURKISH AND JAPANESE EMBASSIES CONTRIBUTE TO P6 LEARNING

In our Unit 3 Inquiry, we are learning about how different types of governments work. We reached out to the embassy community in Kyrgyzstan to give us a “real-life” source to answer our many questions. Last week, we met with both the Turkish and Japanese Ambassadors and staff. Please read on to learn more about our experiences.

Welcome to Turkey

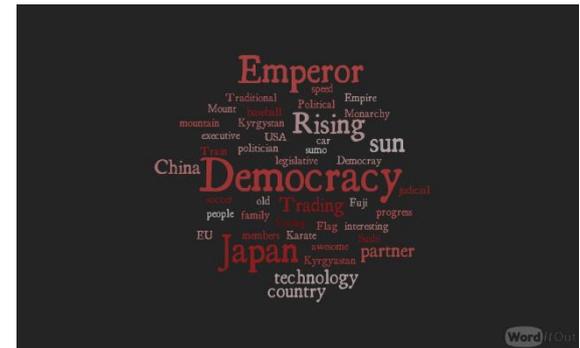
On Monday 3rd February, both P6 classes went to the Turkish embassy to learn more about our unit: governments. When we arrived at the embassy, we were greeted by kind people who said, "Welcome to Turkey!" We learned that while at the Turkish embassy, we are in Turkey, because the land that the embassy is built on belongs to Turkey. The Turkish Embassy was the first embassy in Kyrgyzstan and all their license plates begin with 01.

The Deputy Chief of Mission took us on a tour of the building and answered our many questions. We saw the Consular Section where visas and other documents are given. We then met with Ambassador Firat in his office. He told us how the embassy works to increase the mutually beneficial relationship between Turkey and Kyrgyzstan. We also enjoyed seeing Leo, the Alabai watch dog. The embassy was a great place to go to learn about how different governments work together. We thank Ambassador Firat, Deputy Chief of Mission Noyan and other members of the Turkish Embassy for their hospitality and patience in answering all our questions. The cupcakes were delicious too!

Melek and Ms. Shannon

The Japanese Ambassador visits P6

On Thursday 6th February, Ambassador Mr. Maeda Shigeki visited the combined P6 classes at BIS. He gave us a presentation about the culture and government of Japan. Many students were excited to see that Totoro, Anime and Sushi come from Japan. He also provided us with an informative poster showing the structure of the Japanese government. We were interested to learn that Japan has an Emperor and a democracy. Please see above for a word cloud showing what the students learned from his visit. We thank Ambassador Maeda Shigeki and his staff for taking time from their busy schedules to visit our class and answer our many questions.



Ms. Shannon, P6S Homeroom teacher

BIS Snapshot: Learn. Grow. Succeed



LITERACY LETTER TO PARENTS

literacy: the quality or state of being literate

literate: able to read and write

Dear Parents,

For this second literacy letter, I want to focus on the importance of letting our children choose what they read.

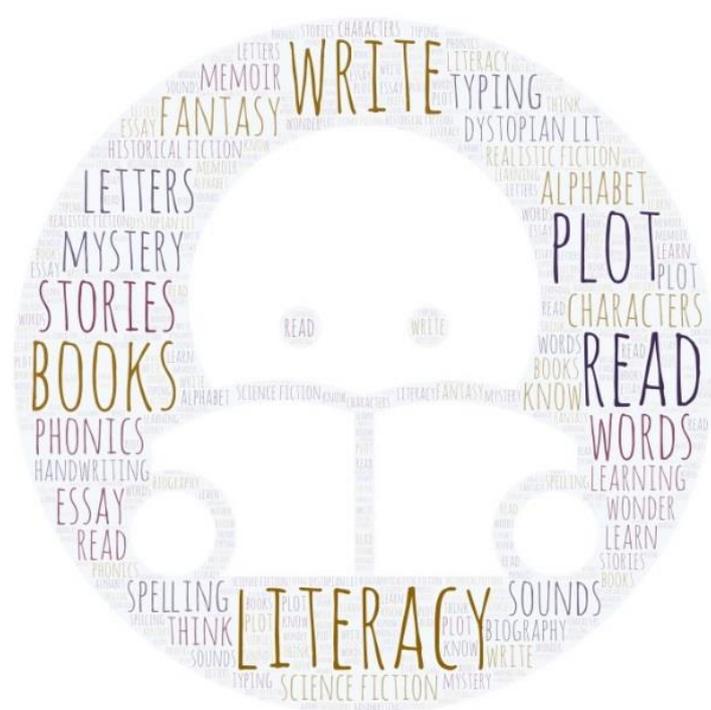
Research¹ shows that children who read a wide variety of material *for fun*:

- become better readers
- read more frequently
- perform better on reading assessments
- achieve higher learning outcomes
- experience increased empathy
- have improved relationships with others
- suffer less from symptoms of depression, and
- live with increased wellbeing

All these benefits (and probably more) come from *reading for pleasure*. So let your children read what they want to read. Resist the urge to choose books for them, even if what they choose seems “silly” or “simple” or “low quality.” Reading comics, graphic novels, magazines, news articles, picture books, and even online reading is all valuable reading. Reading is like any skill: to become better at it requires doing it more, and the more children enjoy reading, the more likely they are to read.

My favorite books as a child were the Nancy Drew mystery series and *The Little House on the Prairie* books. I have tried for years to encourage my girls to read them, but they are not interested. And why would they be? Why would they want to read about a pioneer girl on a prairie when they can read about a kid wizard (Harry Potter) and his friends at boarding school or the son of Poseidon in New York City (Percy Jackson) or two sisters and their brother who keep surviving unfortunate events (the Baudelaire children from *A Series of Unfortunate Events*) or a skilled archer who defeats the dictators of her dystopian world (Katniss Everdeen from *The Hunger Games*)? Some are calling our time the golden age of children’s and young adult book publishing, so let your children benefit from the abundance of good reading options out there. If and when they choose to read for fun, let them read what they want.

Ms. Sunny Stimmler, Head of English Department



¹ Vennin, Laura. “Why Is Reading for Pleasure Important?” *The Reading Agency*, 11 Feb 2020, <https://readingagency.org.uk/news/blog/why-is-reading-for-pleasure-important.html>.

OECD (2010), *PISA 2009 Results: Learning to Learn – Student Engagement, Strategies and Practices (Volume III)* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264083943-en>

Join in as BIS celebrates the...

Languages In Our Lives

Pre-school & PYP
language hunt
and mini
language lessons

Wear clothes that
represent a language
or culture that is
important to you to
win house points!

MYP
language
mix-up!

Language wall,
language
video and
poetry recitals

FRIDAY 21st FEBRUARY



BAKING CLUB ECA

On 10th February, our Baking club ECA made scones. We were aiming to demystify the concept of bread and help the students discover how different countries make bread.

While the ingredients were the same the students had worked with before, they were quick to grasp how different mixing techniques and baking time allows for a wide variety of products to be made from a limited number of ingredients.

The students were all intrigued by the different texture the dough had compared to cookie dough which they had made 2 weeks ago. The dough shaping and final product also demonstrated to the students how chemicals (baking soda) react with heat to generate byproducts and volume. In the end, the most valuable lesson they learnt is that any bread is good if it's warm and eaten with butter and jam!

Recipe

Ingredients:

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| Flour | 3 cups |
| White Sugar | ½ cup |
| Baking Powder | 1.5 Tablespoons |
| Salt | ½ Teaspoon |
| Butter | ¾ Cup, (Cut into small cubes, frozen) |
| Eggs | 1 |
| Milk | 1 cup |

In a mixing bowl, combine the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt and whisk until incorporated.

Add the butter and rub till breadcrumb like texture forms.

Mix milk and eggs in a separate bowl, and combine with the dry mixture. Mix minimally till a dough forms.

Lay out dough on well-floured surface and cut into 8 pieces.

Bake at 200 degrees Celsius in the oven for 10 to 12 minutes, or until a golden crust forms.

Remove immediately on a wire rack to cool for 5 minutes, and serve warm with butter and jam.

Mr. Ripul Sharma, Baking Club Chef



CENTRAL ASIAN BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

TASHKENT

17/02/2020 - 23/02/2020

From 17th to 23rd February, BIS students will compete in the **Central Asian Federation of Athletics (CAFA) Basketball tournament in Tashkent.**

All four teams will represent the school on the trip. The list of all our basketball players, coaches and supervisors is available by the [link](#).

If you have any questions contact to Mr. Zeljko Jovetic zjovetic@bis.kg

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Friday, 21st February: Mother Tongue Day (Languages In Our Lives)
- Sunday, 23rd February: Homeland Defender's Day
- Monday, 24th February: No School
- Wednesday, 26th February: Science Fair
- Sunday, 8th March: International Women's Day
- Monday, 9th March: No School
- Wednesday, 11th March – Saturday, 14th March: Taigan Ski Club International Trip
- Friday, 20th March: Nooruz Celebration at BIS
- Saturday, 21st March: Nooruz Public Holiday
- Monday, 23rd March – Friday, 27th March: Spring Break

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

LUNCH MENU

The lunch menu for February 17th-21st 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.



PRESCHOOL 1

This week, Preschool 1 group has had an exciting week learning about ocean life. Now our friends can tell that the blue color on the map signifies oceans and that these are the homes of fishes, sharks, octopi, seahorses, jellyfish, dolphins, whales and more ocean creatures. We also know that the ocean is filled with lots of plants, which provide food, homes, and protection for ocean animals. To better understand ocean habitat we made our own ocean on the wall in the classroom and filled it with sea animals, boats and a diver. Together our Preschool 1 friends made a shark, jellyfish and a turtle. “Five little fishes” was our group’s favorite song where each friend pretended to be a fish who was teasing Mr. Shark. In the middle of the week we were fishing for colorful fish on our boats. Towards the end of the week, we read a story about a rainbow fish. We made a rainbow fish with different beads and silver scales and decorated our classroom. Next week we will continue talking about animals that live under the sea.

Ms. Begimai, Preschool 1 Form Teacher



PRESCHOOL 2

Preschool 2 group continued to learn about the ways people express their emotions. This week we used musical instruments to play the game "Guess how am I feeling?". The children liked the game and wanted to take several turns playing music for their friends. The week was super interesting as we had 4 guests coming to us to play the music that expressed their soul state at that moment. The guests explained to us that the sound is produced by vibrations and that the instruments are divided into string, bass and wind types. After playing the music, our guests gave us an opportunity to touch and "play" their musical instruments. That was an exciting moment - the children were inspired and shared what instruments they would like to play in the future. A big thank you to Mr. Jay for playing guitar, Ms. Sunny for playing violin, Ms. Saikal for playing komuz and Mr. Grant for playing the saxophone. Our children became confident in guessing the emotions and feelings that are shown in music. At the end of the week, we also celebrated Saint Valentine's Day and baked heart shaped cookies for our families to express our love and care!

Ms. Oksana, Preschool 2 Form Teacher



PRESCHOOL 3

Our adventure with shelters continued in Preschool 3. This week we looked at different materials we can use to build houses like bricks, mud, sticks, planks, and many more! We even created our own mud huts. Furthermore, we learned about the letter 'l'. We learned that the letter 'l' is for lion, long, leg and love.

We hope everybody had a wonderful Valentine's day.

Ms. Carmen, Preschool 3 Form Teacher

