



**Bishkek
International
School**

VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 24 / 2019-20

21st February 2020

TAIGANS IN SAMARKAND!

This Tuesday 18th February, our Taigans in Tashkent travelled across the Uzbek terrain using both trains and buses to explore the historical city of Samarkand. Our students were able to explore several outdoor museums, enjoy lunch at a beautiful restaurant and continued to develop their infamous Taigan team spirit.



NEW FACES: MS. ERKEAIYM

Hello BIS community! My name is Erkeaiym but at school I'm Miss Erica. I graduated from the International University of Central Asia in Tokmok. I came to this wonderful community last fall; it has and continues to be a wonderful experience with such an international community of children. I am a Chinese language teacher and really love my job - especially when I see the results of my work. Before I came here, I worked in the Center of Language and Culture where I taught Chinese for local students and Russian for the Chinese students. I have worked in an orphanage in Tokmok city and in different regions of Kyrgyzstan. Together with students from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Beijing University, I have enjoyed sharing my knowledge with children who will benefit from it. During my time in Hong Kong, I also worked with children experiencing neo-natal abstinence syndrome where I supported children in their search and hope for better future. The experience I am getting here is undoubtedly different to my past experiences though I am convinced that no matter where you teach, be it in Africa or Asia or elsewhere, it is a pleasure to work with children – after all, kids are kids!



THANK YOU TO ALL PARENTS

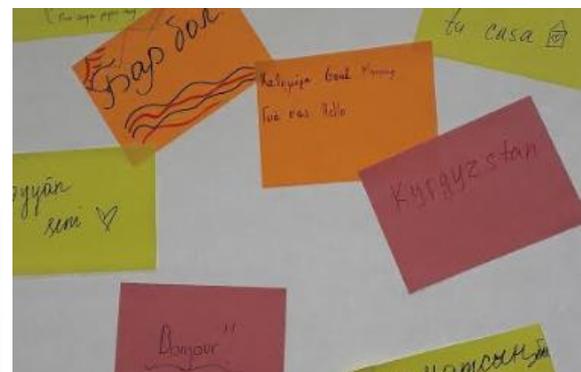
A huge thank you to all parents for the Staff Appreciation Breakfast last Friday 14th February.

Our cafeteria had never seen so many cakes, sweets, treats and delights all in one go! Our staff were able to enjoy the great food and drinks on offer as well as receive a beautiful rose. Staff heard messages of thanks and support from MYP 1's Mabrukah Hamid and members of our PAMC. Many thanks for all the donations as well as time and effort spent on creating such a wonderful morning.



LANGUAGES IN OUR LIVES

Today our students, teachers and the wider community have been celebrating Mother Tongue Language Day. Here at BIS, to help us all recognise and celebrate the huge number of languages spoken across our school community, we celebrated the day with an updated name of 'Languages in Our Lives'! We hope this alternative name acknowledged that lots of us have several languages in our lives, and these could be languages we consider a 'mother tongue', languages we speak fluently for another reason or languages which hold a special place in our hearts because of many different things! You will hear more about the day in our next edition of Voices though here are a few sneak peek pictures from the day; we invited all students to come to school in an outfit that represents a language or country which is close to their heart!



BIS Snapshot: Valentine's Day



LITERACY LETTER TO PARENTS

literacy: the quality or state of being literate

literate: able to read and write

Dear Parents,

As we give our children the freedom to read books of their choosing for fun, it is also important that we help them choose books that are a good fit for their current reading abilities. When children try to read books with too many unfamiliar or difficult words, they aren't actually reading, their comprehension declines, and most likely they will become frustrated and not enjoy the book (there are exceptions, of course).

So encourage your children to find books that "fit just right" — what are often called "just right books." And the best way to gauge this is by using "the five finger rule" that some of our teachers have already introduced to your children.

How It Works

Guide your child to do the following:

1. Choose a book that you think you will enjoy.
2. Read the second page.
3. Hold up a finger for each word you do not know or that is difficult to read.
4. If there are five or more words you did not know, you should choose an easier book.
5. Still think it may not be too difficult? Use the five-finger rule on two more pages.

(Adapted from <https://www.readingrockets.org/article/selecting-books-your-child-finding-just-right-books>)

Some questions to help guide children:

Read two or three pages and ask yourself these questions:

1. Will it be an easy, fun book to read?
2. Do I understand what I am reading?
3. Do I know almost every word?
4. When I read it aloud, can I read it smoothly?
5. Do I think the topic will interest me?

If most of your answers were "yes," this will be an easy book to read independently.

Will this book be too hard for me?

1. Are there five or more words on a page that I don't know, or am unsure of?
2. Is this book confusing and hard to understand by myself?
3. When I read it aloud, does it sound choppy and slow?

If most of your answers were "yes," this book is too hard. You should wait awhile before you read this book.

Give the book another try later, or ask an adult to read the book to you.

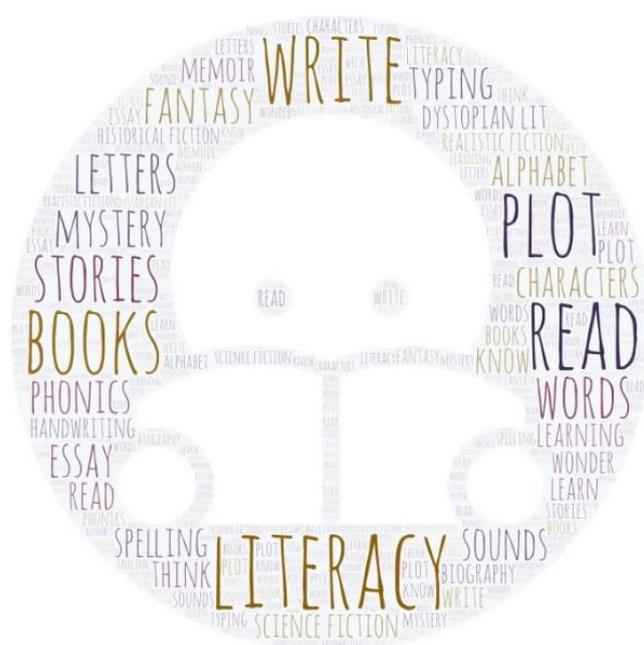
(<https://www.readingrockets.org/article/selecting-books-your-child-finding-just-right-books>)

When children read "just right books," they are more likely to enjoy the book and get practice reading at an appropriate level, which means they are becoming stronger readers and improving their reading skills, just like practicing drills on the basketball court or football pitch.

In some cases, children are genuinely motivated to work hard at reading a book that is too difficult for them. In my opinion, this is an excellent thing and shouldn't be discouraged, as long as the child doesn't get discouraged.

So the next time you share the joyous experience of helping your children choose books from the BIS library, engage them in a conversation about how they choose books and encourage them to find a "just right book."

Ms. Sunny Stimmler, Head of English Department



SCIENCE FAIR

Bishkek International School's annual Science Fair is open to the entire BIS community on Wednesday 26th February 2020 starting at 14:00. This event brings together our community to showcase intellectual exploration and diversity of scientific topics. Whilst some of our High School students will be visiting preschool and primary school to share their love of experiments, our MYP students will be presenting on a scientific area and question that interests them.

Some exciting topics to look forward to:

- How does the surface area of smoke bombs affect the way it burns?
- A reminder that our students are likely smarter than we are?
- How many habitable planets are there in the solar system using Drake's equation?
- What coal content purifies water the best?
- How does the coal content affect the purification of water?
- What is the minimum force required to make non-Newtonian liquid display solid properties?

The PAMC will be joining the Science Fair from 15:00 – 16:30 with their famous baked goods as well as hot dogs and refreshments!



DEFENDER'S DAY – NO SCHOOL MONDAY



Please remember that our recent changes to the 2019-2020 calendar mean that on **Monday 24th February 2020 the school will be closed. This is inline with** the public holiday for Homeland Defenders Day.

We look forward to seeing our students and families back at school on Tuesday 25th February 2020.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 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 24th-28th 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

Our Preschool 1 friends have had another wonderful week learning about ocean animals. We made a sorting activity - the task was to sort the jungle and ocean animals and put them either in the jungle or in the ocean. All our friends did an amazing job naming the animals and choosing the right habitat. To strengthen our knowledge about the ocean habitat, we made a starfish out of orange pasta, a paper plate turtle and made our favorite sea animals from cornstarch dough. Following this, we discussed different kinds of sea transportation and made a submarine that can dive deep in the ocean! The most exciting day for our friends this past week was when we visited a petting zoo. We were able to see real animals that live on the farm, in the jungle and in the ocean. We learned about their food and their houses. Our friends were happy to see animals that they have previously seen in books during story time. The children moved from one animal to another commenting on each and showing a big interest in everything they saw. We fed some of the species and learn to take care of them. Our educational visit to the petting zoo extended our knowledge of living things and encouraged us to think about who else we share the planet with.

Ms. Begimai, Preschool 1 Form Teacher



PRESCHOOL 2

This week, we continued to talk about the ways we express emotions. Together we created an emotions board that has 8 windows! Looking through the window, the child had to demonstrate the emotion on his or her face and give an example of a situation that could make you feel this way. For instance, if a child chooses a happy window, they need to smile and say what could make them feel happy, or if a child chooses a sad window, they need to make a sad face and tell the class what could make them feel sad.

In the middle of the week, we played a scavenger hunt game where we had to fill out a number chart finding the necessary number of pictures. We used the map made by the bad Lizard Wizard to find hidden musical instrument pictures. The Lizard was very smart by hiding pictures in the locker room, library, kitchen, preschool art room and small hall! After passing all the stations, our Preschool 2 friends finished their task excellently!

During our literacy lesson, we learnt the letter 'I' and discovered that the letter starts some very exciting words including ice-cream, igloo, iceberg and iguana. To remember the letter, we created a beautiful ice-cream craft!

Ms. Oksana, Preschool 2 Form Teacher



PRESCHOOL 3

This week in Preschool 3, we thoroughly enjoyed the new snow!

We also learned how to vote and, in doing so, we voted the igloo as our favorite shelter! We were able to build igloos with real snow and with blocks in the class.

We also enjoyed learning about the letter 'f' and we discovered that the letter 'f' is for Fitz, flamingo, five, finger, fly and fast. Next week we will learn about the letter 'b' and look to continue to explore the wonderful world of shelters.

We hope everyone will enjoy the long weekend and please do remember that we do not have school on Monday!

Ms. Carmen, Preschool 3 Form Teacher

