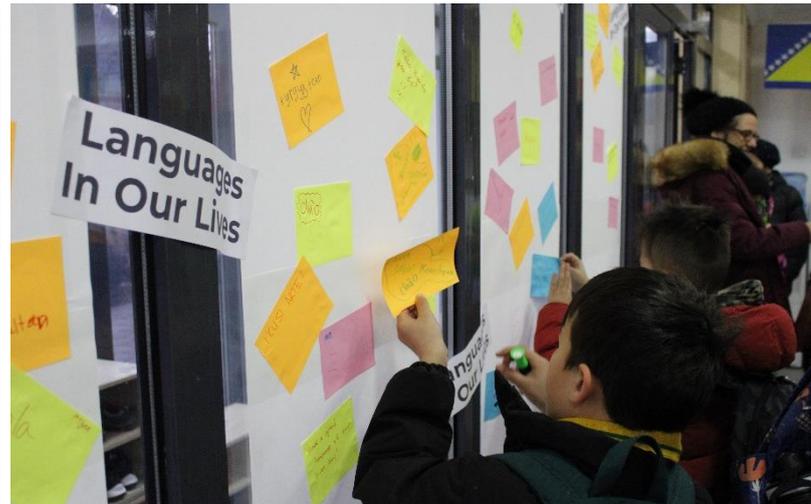




## **BIS CELEBRATES THE 'LANGUAGES IN OUR LIVES'**

Last Friday, the whole joined together to recognise and celebrate the linguistic diversity at BIS. As you may know, we decided to change the name of this annual event from 'Mother Tongue Day' to 'Languages in Our Lives', so that we could acknowledge all of the languages spoken or important to our community.

Students and staff came dressed in an outfit that represented a language or culture, and won house points. It was great to see many traditional outfits or symbolic t-shirts, showing the number of cultures we represent here at BIS. The day also kicked off with staff and students contributing to a languages wall in the café, with people writing greetings, favourite words and sayings in so many languages we couldn't keep up! This was a great way to gather and curate lots of our languages, and it was wonderful to have so many people getting involved. The language wall has now been moved to the second and third floors in the main school building – have a look when you are next walking by.



Throughout the morning, all of pre-school and PYP took part in a languages hunt! Their task was to find the 33 flags hidden high and low around the school building, and to match these to flags in their languages passport. There was an amazing buzz in the corridors as students rushed to find the next flag, or helped their friends track down the languages. Our pre-school friends especially did an amazing job, making it all the way up to the third floor!





Later, pre-school and primary students enjoyed some mini-languages lessons which were lots of fun! Whether they learned how to write their names in Korean, say the longest word in the Welsh language or sing a song in Afrikaans, students all left with a little bit more knowledge of two new languages. It was especially fantastic to welcome visitors Ripul Sharma (who runs some of our cooking ECAs) and Ms Nadine and Ms Veronika (some of our PYP parents) who taught some lessons as part of the languages carousel. At the same time, MYP students enjoyed a languages mix-up where, instead of going to their usual Friday afternoon

languages lessons, they were visited by two different teachers who taught them lessons in two different languages. Be it Portuguese, Spanish, French, Mandarin, Russian, Kyrgyz ... all students learned something new and their minds were open to new language-learning possibilities!

In our secondary assembly, we heard poetry recitals in Russian, Kyrgyz and Turkish by our MYP students. We then headed back to our form rooms to watch a special video compiled by Mr Tim of almost 40 languages spoken at the school – from pre-school to DP, admin staff to security ... many members of our school community spoke to us in a language important to them. Our primary students also enjoyed watching the video in their assembly.



We all had a wonderful day exploring different languages, celebrating together and enjoying learning about languages that are important to other people across the school! Of course, we are surrounded by different languages each and every day at BIS, but what a special thing it is to devote a day to recognising and enjoying the linguistic diversity of where we study and work together. We can't wait until 2021 for the next 'Languages in Our Lives' day!

**Ms. Esther, Head of Languages**



## TASHKENT BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

This week, our students returned from spending seven days in Uzbekistan.

After classes on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February, we headed to the airport and arrived in Tashkent in the evening. On Tuesday we went to the historical city of Samarkand. Whilst the weather was not as we had hoped, we did have an opportunity to experience the rarely seen snow in Samarkand. This also made us the only visitors to the open museums in the city!

On Wednesday, we began our tournament – unfortunately losing our games to the hosting school, TIS.

On Thursday and Friday, all four of our selections played 3 to 4 games. The most successful BIS team were the JVBs who were considered one of the favorites by the last day. Our JVG team were the youngest in the entire tournament. The average age of our team was 12.1 years in the tournament whereas other JVG teams averaged two years older. I think this team has a great journey ahead as the vast majority will be playing in the same age group for another 3 years.

Our VB and VG teams were most upset by the big court. In their prior experience playing basketball in our Hall, which we call big, our players experienced the game where the court has no place to play without the ball. However, in the new tournament environment, playing on a more spacy court now required a different strategy and style of play. Our boys ended up competing with 6 players while our girls played with 7. Anyone who has played basketball knows how difficult it is to play almost without substitutions – and so we are immensely proud of our students' drive and achievement. Among the VG team we had girls that were under 15 years of age, and none of our players were from our oldest grade - DP2. Whilst these circumstances impacted our coming days, they did not dampen our spirits!

On Friday, our players participated in a 3 point shooting contest. BIS was represented by Mete, Asiia, Erkayim and Sean. Mete and Asiia won these contests – with Mete having the best result at the tournament.

The trip was a great experience and as both a coach and Athletics Director, I'm glad we've all seen that we can improve. Everyone who attends the tournament plays basketball so it's not enough just to get on the court. We all need to sweat a little more, work harder and truly respect the basketball elements!



Our school's most positive takeaway was the behavior of our students – simply extraordinary. I'm subjective of course but our teams won 2 out of the 4 sportsmanship awards. The players and coaches should feel very proud of this achievement. I look forward to supporting the school to nurture this caring, respectful approach across our school - in every place, from break times to classrooms to fieldtrips.

**Zeljko Jovetic, Athletics Director and PE Teacher**

## MOTHER TONGUE DAY – LANGUAGES IN OUR LIVES

Primary 3 playing an international “hello” game and languages hunt



## PRIMARY 3 DISCOVERING ANIMALS AT THE FARM

P3 went on a field Trip to the Ostrich Farm last week. It was so exciting! We got to see 28 different animals! It was fascinating to watch the ostriches eat. They have such long necks that are very flexible. We enjoyed feeding the hedgehogs, guinea pigs, rabbits, gerbils and birds. The peacocks and turkeys showed us their beautiful plumage. We were amazed and in awe of these wonderful animals.

Ms. Jamie, P3 Homeroom Teacher



## NEW FACES: MS. GULSANA

Hello, friends! In November, I had the pleasure of becoming co-teacher to P2A. Before I came to BIS community, I graduated from the International University of Central Asia in Tokmok with a degree in International Relations. I also volunteered at the international youth-run, non-governmental and not-for-profit organization AIESEC and Red Crescent. Always interested in the international community, I have also enjoyed internships at schools in Poland and the Czech Republic.

During my first 3 months working in this wonderful school, I have gained invaluable experiences of cooperation with international and local colleagues, students and parents.

**Ms. Gulsana, Primary 2 Co-Teacher**



## YEARBOOK PHOTO SHOOTING – 3-5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

Please note that we have our Yearbook 2019-2020 photo shootings scheduled on March 3-5<sup>th</sup> next week. Individual sessions are on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. These will take place in T4 from 08:30 until 16:30.

Class pictures will be taken on March 5<sup>th</sup> with the schedule for the final day of photos due to be sent later next week.

Please make sure your children come prepared and dressed in line with our school expectations.

Preschool students will be able to bring their toy to the photo sessions.

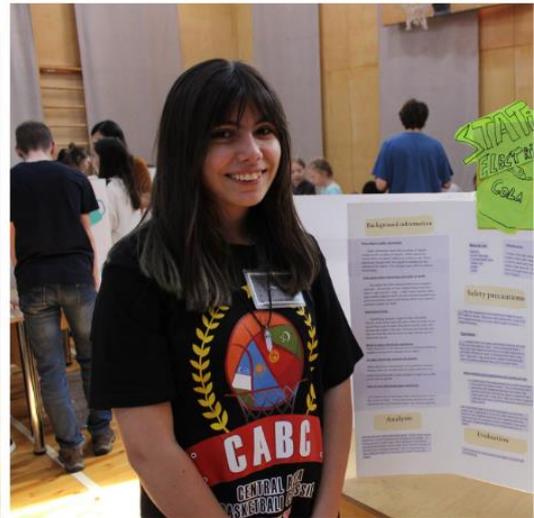
If you have any questions please contact Ms Aigerim at [atilekeeva@bis.kg](mailto:atilekeeva@bis.kg)



March 3 - Tuesday	March 4 - Wednesday
Primary 1	Primary 6S
Primary 6A	Preschool 3
Preschool 1	Preschool 2
DP 2	Primary 3
P2A	Primary 5
P2S	MYP 3
MYP 1	DP 1
MYP 2	Primary 4
IGCSE 1	
IGCSE 2	



# BIS Snapshot: Science Fair



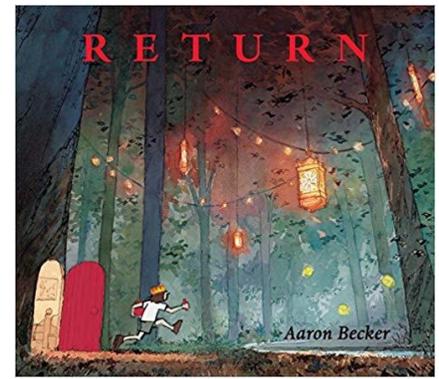
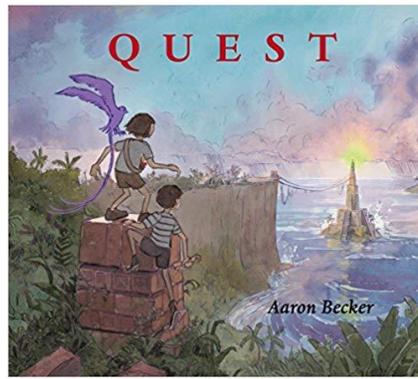
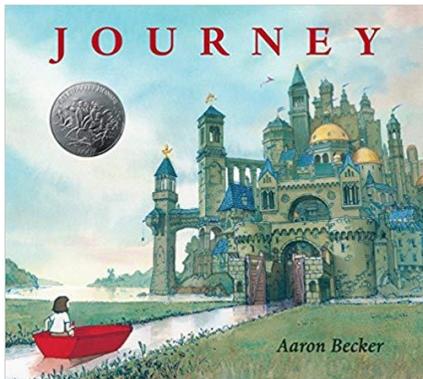
## LITERACY LETTER TO PARENTS

*literacy: the quality or state of being literate*

*literate: able to read and write*

Dear Parents,

This week I want to share with you the joy of “reading” wordless picture books with your children. Our own library has several high-quality wordless picture books, such as *Journey*, *Quest*, and *Return* by Aaron Becker.



I love reading these books with my children, although the process of “reading” them is very different than when reading a traditional picture book. That process can happen in a lot of different ways: sometimes we spend a lot of time just looking at the images. I ask my children, “What do you see? What do you notice? What is happening in this picture?” Their answers mean they are thinking about the story being communicated through the images. Other times I will narrate the story as we read, coming up with my own words and dialogue. Other times, I let my children narrate the story, encouraging them to be dramatic and to think beyond the plot and events in the story to imagine the feelings, motivations, and personalities of the characters. Regardless, it’s a wonderful experience, especially when the books are so fantastically illustrated and created like Aaron Becker’s books.

Beyond the joy of the experience, there are cognitive and academic advantages to giving children opportunities to engage with wordless picture books, some of them listed in the following:

- [Scholastic Parents](#): How Wordless Picture Books Help Kids Read
- [Scholastic Parents](#): Reading without Words: The Why and How of Wordless Books
- [Common Sense Media](#): How Wordless Books Can Help your Kid Learn to Read
- [Reading Rockets](#): Sharing Wordless Picture Books
- [Children’s Library Lady](#): 7 Reasons Why Wordless Picture Books Are So Powerful

Take some time to find the wordless picture books at the BIS library and enjoy the experience of sharing them with your children. I promise you’ll enjoy it.

**Sunny Stimmler, Head of English Department**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> March: International Women's Day
- **Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> March: No School**
- Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March – Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> March: Taigan Ski Club International Trip
- Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> March: Nooruz Celebration at BIS
- Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> March: Nooruz Public Holiday
- Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March – Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March: Spring Break
- Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> April – Art Exhibition and Poetry Evening
- Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> April – All Parents Meeting – Parents Association
- End of April: IBDP and IGCSE Exam Sessions start

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

## LUNCH MENU

The lunch menu for March 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:info@bis.kg) and our Reception will forward your email to the right person.



## **PRESCHOOL 1**

This week, Preschool 1 focused on learning about animals that live in a very cold places. Now we know that freezing cold places are homes for many animals such as polar bears, penguins, seals, walruses, moose, snowy owls and more. Together we decorated our learning wall transforming it into a home for artic animals by using cotton around the sea. For art and crafts, we made paper roll penguins, walruses and big polar bears. To consolidate our knowledge of animals that are staying warm in polar areas, we experimented with science! We froze many ice cubes in the freezer, then we put the frozen ice cubes into a bowl full of water. We tried to put our hands in the bowl though we could not stay for longer than 2 seconds! Following this, we put a zip lock bag with different insulator materials (such as cotton balls, packing peanuts and butter) in another zipper lock bags in which we our hand. We then tried to put our zip lock covered hand into the icy water and noticed that our hands were able to stay for longer. This helped us come to the conclusion that some marine animals have fat under their skin which helps them to stay warm in polar climates.

**Ms. Begimai, Preschool 1 Form Teacher**



## PRESCHOOL 2

This week, our Preschool 2 group started to talk about the way people express their feelings and emotions through favourite activities – which we learnt can be called hobbies. A hobby is the activity we do during our leisure time just for fun. Discussing the things our friends like, we distinguished hobbies such as reading, singing, playing cars and with dolls, drawing, playdough, cooking, football, running and dancing. What a wonderful array of things we enjoy! We devoted every day to one hobby and trying to get a feel for each activity as a whole group. On Wednesday, our friends pretended to be singers, taking a microphone and singing several songs for the whole class. The next day, Preschool 2 were reading fans - each friend had a chance to take a favourite book and read it in front of the class sharing an interesting story. On the last day of the week, we enjoyed dancing and listening to our favourite songs. We tried so many ways of expressing ourselves! Next week, we look forward to trying new hobbies! For our literacy lessons this week, we learned the letter P. We sang a letter song and made the big letter P and played with pizza shapes. For our math lessons, we revised numbers and looked more carefully at the number 3!



Ms. Oksana, Preschool 2 Form Teacher



## PRESCHOOL 3

What an amazing week! Our preschool 3 friends had so much fun experiencing the world of science during our annual Science Fair. We learnt lots this week including more about the letter "b". We learned that the letter b is for banana – and we even made yummy banana bread! Next week, we will be having just as much fun as we will learn about the letter 'j'. We will also work on our writing and counting backwards!

**Ms. Carmen, Preschool 3 Form Teacher**

