



**Bishkek
International
School**

VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 31/ 2019-20

10th April 2020

MESSAGE TO PARENTS FROM THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Dear Parents

I would like to share my thoughts during these difficult days for all of us. Today, many of you are at home with your children and grandchildren due to the quarantine. As a teacher, I see a positive side in this, because we have the opportunity to spend more time in the family circle.

Parents have the opportunity to bring up and educate their children, inspire them with confidence and provide support to them morally. Now, it is a great opportunity for parents to understand your child's imagination and aspirations, to learn about their friends and teachers and their goals for the future, to share your life experiences and to guide them on the right path in life.

Let us read books together with our children, enrich their spiritual world, play intellectual and cultural games with them that develop their mental abilities; give them parental care, kindness, love and inclusive care. Let us build a worthy generation for the development of our society, mature, educated youth, for the state of grace and mercy.

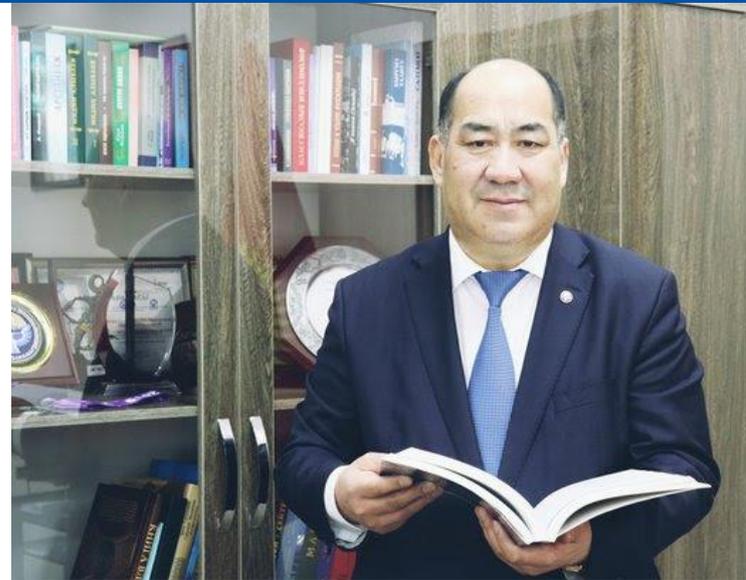
Parents are the most important individuals for every child and they are sacred for children. Children grow up and follow the example that is set by their parents. There is no better educator, spiritual guide and more reliable support for a child than their parents. Therefore, let us be beside our children, to participate in the acquisition of their knowledge, help them to prepare for classes and give them guidance.

Before, when you used to go to work early in the morning, and later come back home tired, you had little time to give to your children and to look into the hearts of each of your children and give them pleasant and unforgettable moments.

Please, properly plan the time of your children, create a favorable environment for them to learn in a timely manner, use the educational resources provided, hold online classes with teachers, and make sure that they follow personal hygiene rules for the safety of their lives. Our conscious awareness will help us patiently accumulate our innate spiritual values, will give moral support and we will quickly overcome the challenges of these days.

There is no greater wealth in the world than a human investment, please invest in our children! I urge you, dear parents, to make a joint contribution to the future of our country.

May happy blessed laughter always sound in your blessed homes.



Kanybek Isakov, Minister of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic

PREDICTIONS UPDATE

Today's prediction for when we will be back at physical school are:

- 5% chance of being open by 27th April (95% chance of being closed);
- 20% chance of being open by 1st June (80% chance of being closed);
- 90% chance of being open by 24th August (10% chance of being closed).

This prediction can change daily, dependant on the coronavirus situation in Kyrgyzstan, and worldwide, and the actions of government. We will reopen the physical school when the government allows schools to be open.

The prediction has changed, but not the guarantees:

- The school year will not be extended; we finish this school year on 18th June 2020;
- Until we reopen, we continue to provide remote learning, and will constantly improve how this works;
- Most planned events, which happen during physical school closure, will be held in the virtual world;
- If the school building does reopen this year, we will continue to provide remote learning for those students who are no longer in Bishkek;
- If we are still remote learning in August, we will continue to support the community in this way and will reorganise the school and school fees for everyone to make this work;
- We continue to plan for a new campus in future (though at a slower pace) as one day physical schools will replace remote learning for most students, as they enjoy being part of a physical learning community.

Keep on working towards your goals, and take pleasure in the simple things in life.

David Grant, Head of School





CONGRATULATIONS TO

THE CPR HEROES!



As we come to the end of another busy week of remote learning, it's time once again to recognise those students who have been caring, reflective and principled in their studies at home.

In the PYP, Adilet (P6S) has worked hard to complete all of his work, and has also taken time to reflect and ask for help from his teachers to get even better. Special mention should go to Nil Mira (P1) who has gone out of her way to help others, while also completing all of her own work to a high standard and even extension tasks too!



Caring



Learners are...
Principled

Lots of students in the MYP have embodied the CPR attributes this week. Frithjof (MYP3) has been in regular communication with his teachers to make sure he is making progress; Delilah (MYP2) has completed her task before the deadline and has even helped out her classmates who have had technical issues; Yasmeen (MYP2) has been making a real effort in her Spanish lessons, and this is really starting to pay off, and Daiana (MYP2) has evidenced her care for her studies by being responsible and diligent all week.

Credit should go to Bogdan (IGCSE1) this week for taking a more caring approach to his studies by making sure his tasks are completed and submitted to a good standard. Finally, in the DP, both Erkaim and Aliya M (DP1) have been reflective and principled, attending class and completing work on time and in communication with teachers.



Reflective

So a lot to celebrate this week, let's see if we can acknowledge even more CPR heroes this time next week!

Mr. Darren, Head of Student Welfare

PYP HIGHLIGHT!

This week, one highlight was having most of our teachers together again in a programme meeting! Here you can see 5 of the 23 teachers who participated!

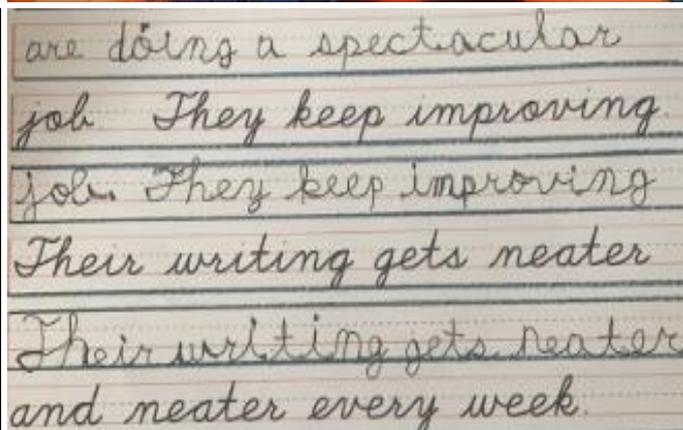
We took part in a remote learning scavenger hunt where teachers had to try and find something purple, a piece of fruit and a conductor of heat in under a minute each!

We weren't just doing this to have fun! The activity allowed us to reflect on our own daily calls, and how we can ensure students aren't always sedentary in the video-sessions!



A Fruit!

Picture highlights from our week!



Galaxy Go Getters are continuing as usual and it has been clear to see just how much effort our students have been putting into their activities. Huge congratulations to the following achievers for going above and beyond in their learning and in showcasing their Learning Profile!

Primary 2A: Ruslan, great job being a communicator this week and trying out a new way to share what you learned!

Primary 2S: Can for being an inquirer. Not only does he complete all of his classwork, but he also puts in the extra effort and independently investigates ideas and topics he finds interesting. **Arya** for being reflective. She reflected on her experience of learning riddles and took the next step to find her own riddles and challenge her teachers to solve them too! Well done to both of you!

Primary 3: Evelina for being principled and on task. **Temirlan** for being a risk taker and speaking more English!

Primary 4: Reyhan, for being knowledgeable as she aced her 5's verbal multiplication quiz! Well done, Reyhan, we are so proud of you!

Primary 5: Arisha and **Dasha** for being super open-minded through this process of online learning. They are risk-takers as they have been navigating new and different tasks with great enthusiasm.

Primary 6S: Arsen for being very reflective about using thick questions, key concepts and recording his sources

while researching a topic.

A huge congratulations to the above students! You will be able to pick up your certificate on our return to school!

#TAIGANSATHOME GRID CHALLENGES

This week, I am challenging you to become risk-takers in your own homes. The three tasks below are all fun ways of trying something new without the help of technology! Our Laser Maze challenge has started with Ms Emima, Carys (P5) and Robbie (P3) already giving it a go! If you make a maze and would like to share your results in assembly, email your photos and videos to kgandhi@bis.kg. Our song and bowling activities are also great ways for students and families to get creative together this weekend!

DIY (Do It Yourself) Laser Maze

Materials: crepe paper (streamers), tape

- ★ Plan out how you would make your own laser maze in your house
- ★ When you have a good plan, use a roll of crepe paper and create your own laser maze down a hallway in your home
- ★ Challenge yourself and your family members to go through it without touching the lasers



Make up Your Own Song

Materials: a piece of wordless music, something to record yourself

- ★ Find a piece of music that you love (without words)
- ★ Or make your own piece of music
- ★ Make up your own song to fit the music
- ★ Optional: Be a risk-taker and perform it for your class or a family member



Indoor Bowling

Materials: 6 plastic bottles, a ball

- ★ Create your own bowling alley and position your bottles
- ★ Choose your distance and see how many bottles you can knock down
- ★ Optional: Give each bottle a different number of points and challenge a family member or friend to a game of indoor bowling



Ms Krishna and the PYP Team!

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD IN THE MYP LEARN FROM HOME?

At the end of our third week of remote learning, most MYP students are gradually adapting to this new way of studying. But what can parents be doing to help their children get the most out of learning from home?

What does remote learning look like in the MYP?

Students have activities on ManageBac for every lesson in their normal timetable. At the end of each lesson, students must complete an “exit ticket”. An “exit ticket” is a short task that lets the teacher check the students’ work. This is how attendance is calculated. Weekly video calls give additional support to students and are also a great chance to see friends, ask questions and get more input from teachers.



How do I see my child’s timetable?

As a parent, you can see the full timetable of lessons and video calls on the ManageBac calendar.

- **Log in to ManageBac** at bishkek.managebac.com. Email Mr Tim at tjohnson@bis.kg if you need help with logging in or setting up an account.
- **Click on the Calendar icon.** You will see all of your child’s lessons and video calls here.
- **Click on individual lessons.** You will see what your child is learning and what their exit ticket is. Remember that all exit tickets are due 24 hours from the time of the lesson.

How do I see my child’s progress?

Teachers provide feedback on all exit tickets on ManageBac. This might be a short comment, a question for your child or a score on a quiz. Sometimes teachers might refer to another document where they have left feedback. You can see feedback for tasks through the ‘Academics’ section of ManageBac.

Any other questions?

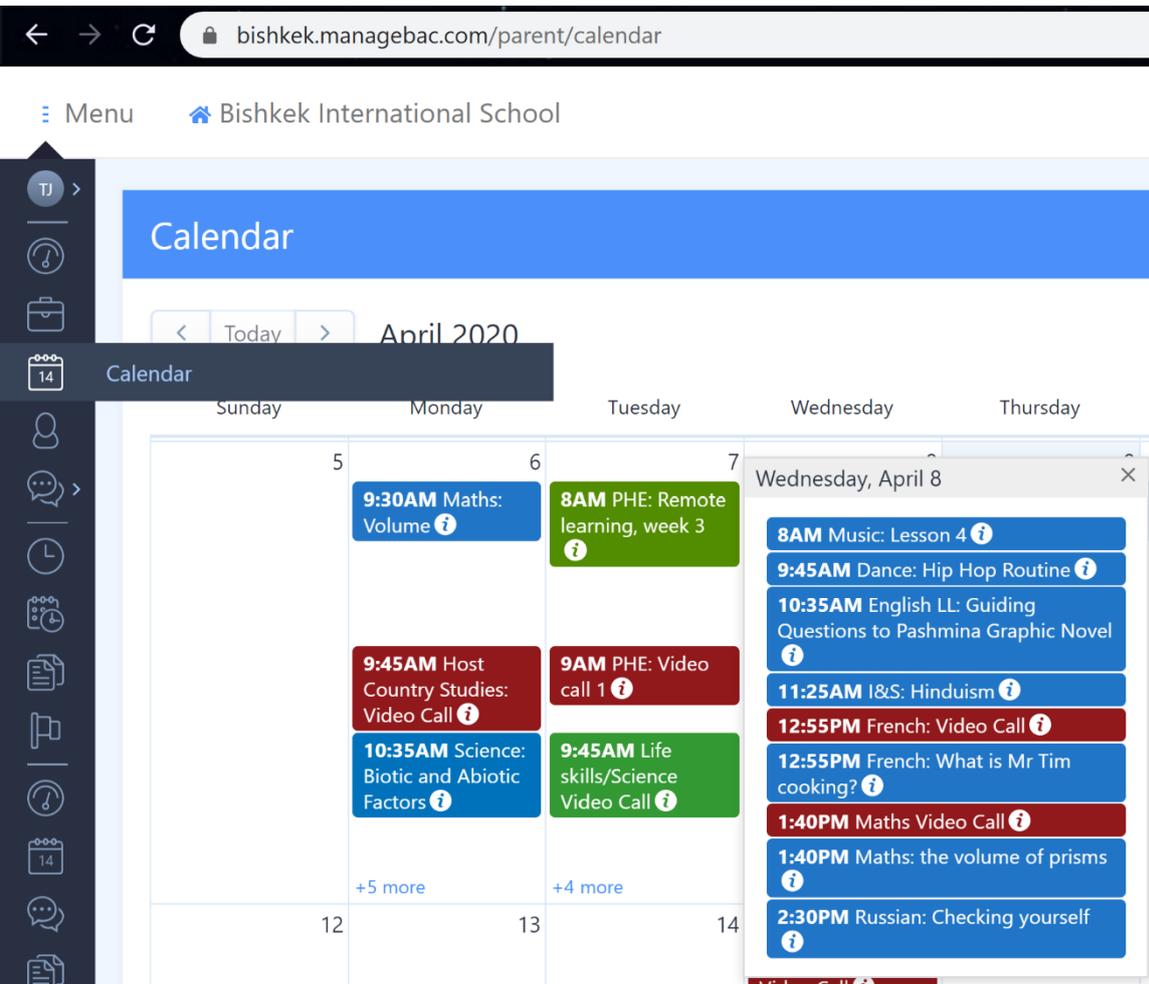
If you have any questions about remote learning in the MYP, you can email MYP Coordinator Tim Johnson at

tjohnson@bis.kg to ask a question or arrange a video call. Most subject teachers are also available during ‘open office’ hours from 15.30-16.30 Bishkek time each day.

You are also welcome to join us at our MYP Parent Coordinator Meeting via a Zoom video call on Wednesday 15 April at 16.30. Russian translation will be available too.

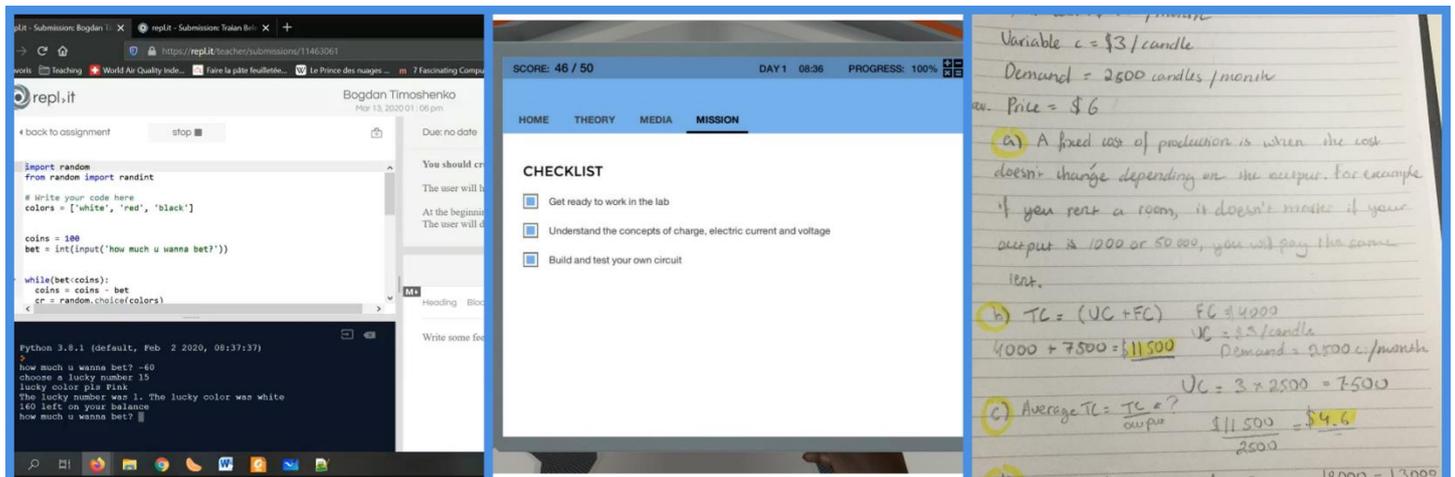
Thanks for all you are doing as parents to support your child’s education during this time!

Mr. Tim Johnson, MYP Coordinator



IGCSE CONTINUE IMPROVING REMOTE LEARNING

Week 3 of remote learning was pleasantly interrupted with some snow on Thursday but our learning continued well in IGCSE. Due to the cancellation of the IGCSE 2 exams this year, our IGCSE 2 students have been preparing to start project based learning for each of their subjects. These projects will help determine their final grade for the semester and their official grade from Cambridge. More details about the project approach, process and grading is available from jprinsloo@bis.kg. In IGCSE 1, our students have been continuing their normal lessons and they have been doing well at home. Please keep an eye out for announcements regarding possible changes in the approach we follow for IGCSE 1 to ensure a better work balance, enriched learning and extended physical activity.



The collage consists of three images:

- Left:** A screenshot of the Replit code editor showing Python code for a coin game. The code includes a loop that asks the user for a bet and a color, and then simulates a coin flip.
- Middle:** A screenshot of a Replit mission checklist for a physics lab. The checklist includes items like 'Get ready to work in the lab', 'Understand the concepts of charge, electric current and voltage', and 'Build and test your own circuit'.
- Right:** Handwritten notes on a piece of paper. The notes discuss the cost of production for candles. It includes variables like $c = \$3/\text{candle}$, $\text{Demand} = 2500 \text{ candles/month}$, and $\text{Price} = \$6$. It also shows calculations for total cost (TC) and average total cost (ATC) based on output.

day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
29	30	31	1	2	3
	8AM Montag: 30.03. Christina <i>i</i> 12:45PM Conditional Statement <i>i</i> 1:35PM English - Mercersm <i>i</i> +3 more	8AM textbook exercise — Lesson 4. <i>i</i> 9:45AM Dienstag, 31.03 - Traian/Geert <i>i</i> 10:35AM Business Studies - 31 March Period 3 <i>i</i> +6 more	12:05AM Русский язык <i>i</i> 8AM Mittwoch, 01.04 Christina <i>i</i> 8AM Mittwoch: 01.04 Geert/Traian <i>i</i> +6 more	9:45AM Physics: Magnetic Induction <i>i</i> 11:25AM English - Religion <i>i</i> 12PM English First Language: April 2 <i>i</i> +4 more	8AM Friday, 3. April <i>i</i> 9:45AM 03.04 - Deutsch: Christina <i>i</i> 9:45AM 03.04 - Deutsch: Traian/Geert <i>i</i> +7 more
5	6	7	Wednesday, April 8		9
	8AM Christina: Deutsch, 06.04 <i>i</i> 9:45AM Check Digit <i>i</i> 10:35AM Creating a Faceless Portrait <i>i</i> +8 more	9:45AM 07.04, Deutsch <i>i</i> 9:45AM 07.04, Deutsch/Christina <i>i</i> 9:45AM Combining Tenses <i>i</i> +9 more	8AM Combining Tenses Part 2 <i>i</i> 8AM Deutsch: 08.04 <i>i</i> 8AM Deutsch: 08.04 - Christina <i>i</i> 8AM Mandarin listening part <i>i</i> 9:45AM Geography Google Meet - 9:45 Wednesday <i>i</i>		9:30AM April 8 - Exit Ticket <i>i</i> 9:30AM IGCSE 1, int. math <i>i</i> 9:45AM live call <i>i</i> +5 more
12	13	14	16	17	
		12:10PM Hitler and the churches - poster task <i>i</i> 1PM ELA, April 8, Attitudes to language <i>i</i> 3:25PM ELA, April 15, IGCSE-1 <i>i</i>		12:10PM Letter writing activity <i>i</i>	

Mr. Jacques, Assistant Head of School, IGCSE Coordinator

DP PROGRAM UPDATES

The workload of DP1 students has been a hot topic among DP team. While there is a limit on what we, as teachers, can do with the IB official requirements, our discussion continues to seek for the best way for our students to achieve their full potential without feeling overwhelmed. Summative assessments for DP2 students are on the way and, instead of having IB paper examinations causing lots of nerves and stress, our teachers are coming up with tasks that will allow students to have more choice in their own whilst staying within the framework.

Ms. Makiko, DP Coordinator

P2 SPANISH MIX UP THE SEASONS!

Connecting with P2's UOI about history, this week our Spanish class have been practising the months of the year and the seasons - to help them think about periods of time. First, we practised writing the months of the year, and each student wrote in Spanish their favourite month of the year and one they least like too! We also discovered that, like the days of the week in Spanish, the months of the year don't have capital letters. We found it interesting that the months of the year in Spanish are almost all very similar to English, Russian and some other languages the group knows too: febrero is February, noviembre is November... but there is one odd one out and it is Alan T's favourite month of the year – enero, which means January!

Later in the week, we looked at the four seasons in Spanish and it was time to get creative! Ms Esther got out her woolly hat, coat, sunglasses, umbrella and summer dress, and showed the students the seasons by what clothes we would need to wear.

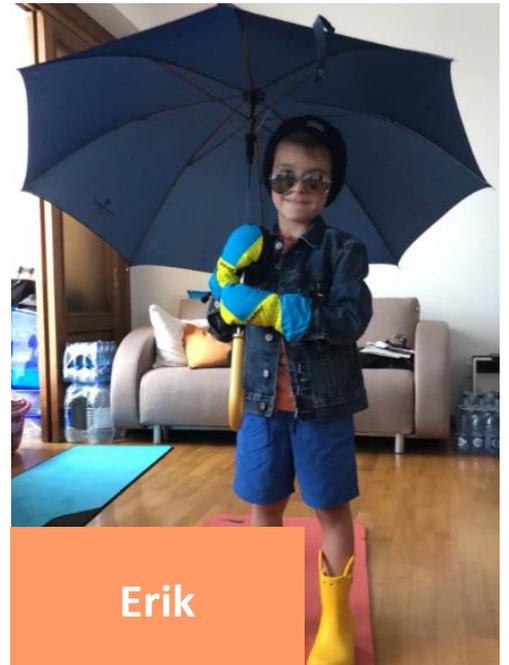
Once students had learned the four seasons' names (primavera, verano, otoño and invierno), they had the challenge of dressing up as two seasons at the same time. What a fantastic job they did! Almost all of the students got involved and here are some photos of Arya from P2S and Erik from P2A – which seasons do you think they are showing you?



Which seasons do you think they are showing you?



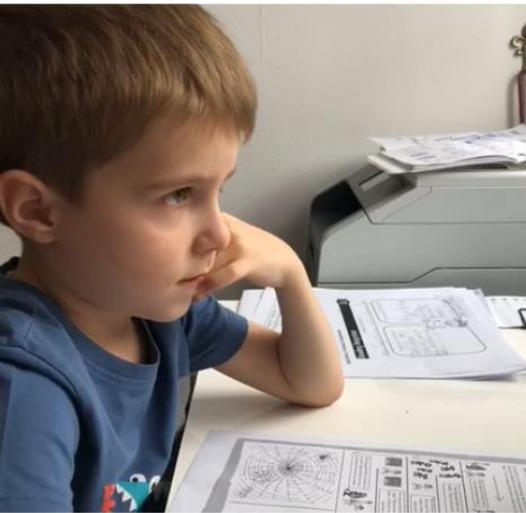
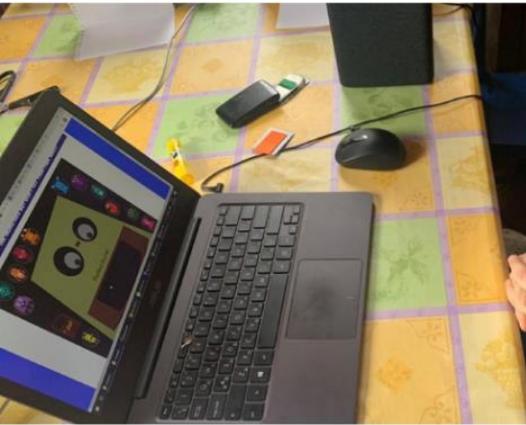
Arya



Erik

Ms. Esther, Head of Language Acquisition

BIS Snapshot: Little Learners



PARENT & COORDINATOR MEETINGS

Next week, BIS will introduce Parent & Coordinator online meetings - an opportunity for parents to meet together online with coordinators to discuss our remote learning process in more detail. This is a chance to ask questions to, and hear feedback from, the coordinator leading your child's programme. We hope to cover different topics based on the parent survey and feedback. All parents are invited to complete the short survey (5-10 minutes) which can be accessed [here](#).



APRIL 14TH - APRIL 17TH

BIS PARENT & COORDINATOR MEETINGS

An opportunity for questions and answers regarding the Remote Learning Process at BIS.

Tuesday 14th April - 16:30 Preschool, 17:00 Primary School

Wednesday 15th April - 16:30 MYP

Thursday 16th April - 16:30 IGCSE 1, 17:00 IGCSE 2

Friday 17th April - 16:30 DP1, 17:00 DP 2

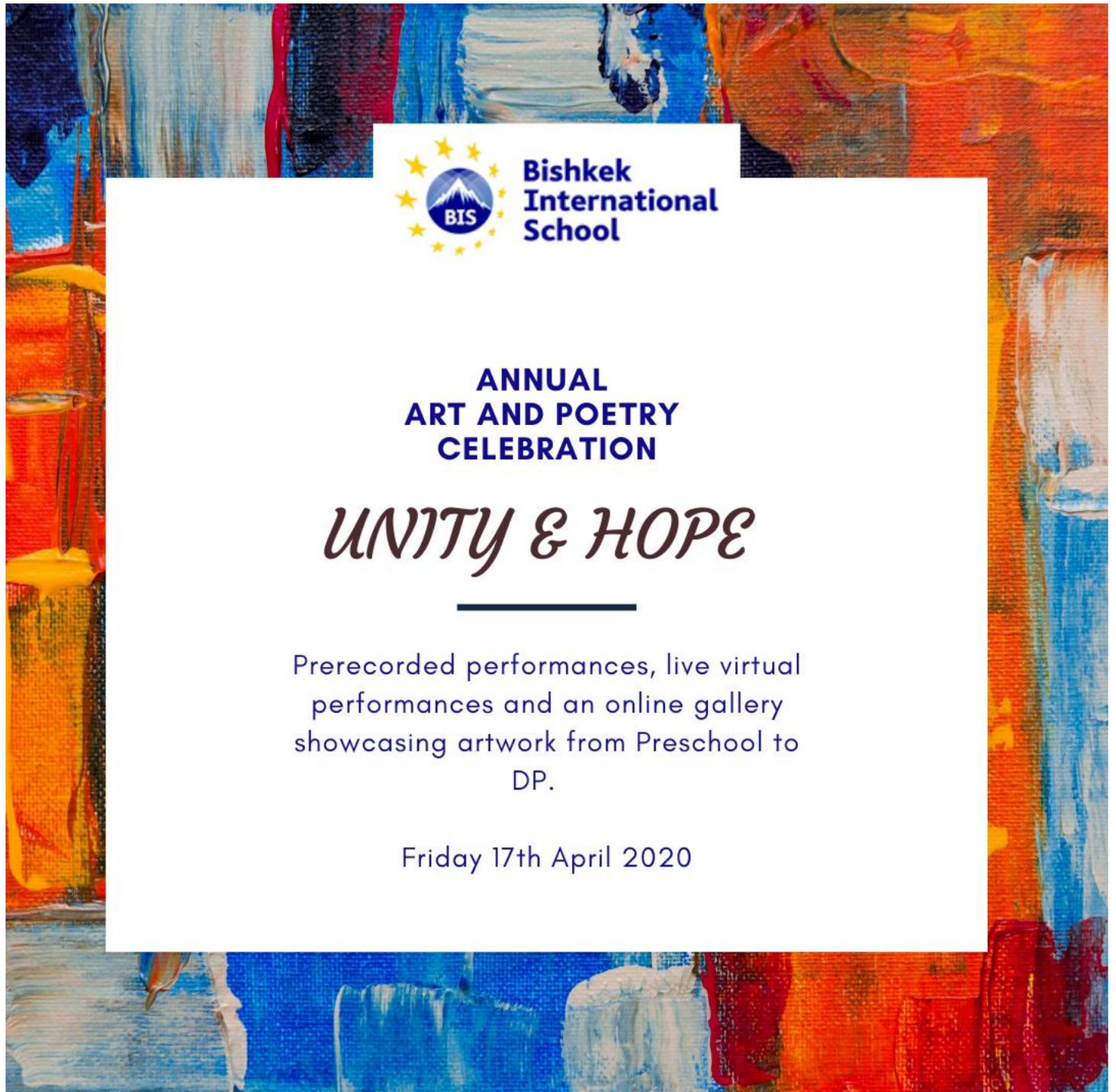
Zoom links will be sent by coordinators.

CALL FOR ART AND POETRY

The Art and Poetry teams are collaborating to ensure our first virtual event showcases the incredible talent of the young artists and poets in our school community. We have received a wonderful array of artwork from Primary to Secondary School focusing around the themes of Unity and Hope! Links to visit our virtual galleries will be shared with the community on Friday 17th April!

We are still looking for student, teacher, parent or wider community poets to share their poetry readings or own work with us too! If you are interested in contributing to this event, please send poetry submissions to artpoetry@bis.kg before **Monday 13th April**. Videos will be shared in our poetry assemblies, and written or typed poems will be shared in next week's edition of Voices!

Ms. Krisha, Director of Studies



**Bishkek
International
School**

**ANNUAL
ART AND POETRY
CELEBRATION**

UNITY & HOPE

Prerecorded performances, live virtual performances and an online gallery showcasing artwork from Preschool to DP.

Friday 17th April 2020

THE SUBVERSIVES – HOW TO MAKE A BANANA CHEESECAKE!

For MYP 1's Life Skills Lesson we were creative and decided to learn a very important skill. Cooking! Our task was to ask our parents to teach us how to cook a dish. My mom has taught me how to make her famous banana cheesecake. The process was very simple, and it took about 50 minutes to make. Let me just go ahead and give you this simple recipe.

Ingredients:

- 3 eggs
- 3 tablespoons of sour cream
- 3 tablespoons of sugar
- 500 grams of cottage cheese
- 2 bananas
- A pack of vanilla sugar
- 3 tablespoons of semolina
- 10 grams of butter for the baking pan



I miss the cooking class ECA at school and I don't want to stop cooking and learning how to cook new dishes. This quarantine is not going to stop me from doing fun things such as cooking. I hope the quarantine will end soon and I will be back at school, enjoying lessons and ECAs.

Ilona, MYP1 Student



Recipe:

1. Take a bowl
2. Mix sour cream and semolina. Leave it for 5 min
3. Add: eggs, sugar and vanilla sugar. Mix it well.
4. Mix cottage cheese with one banana. Add it to the mix.
5. Cut in pieces the second banana and add it to the mix.
6. Butter the baking pan. Put the mix into it.
7. Cook in the oven for 40 min at 350 degrees F
8. Enjoy



RESOURCE OF THE WEEK – ‘TIME FOR KIDS’

I am pleased to share that Time are providing a free digital library for all grades for the rest of the school year. The digital editions allow children to flip through content in the same way they do with print editions. These editions are actively designed to engage kids.

For more information and to sign up for free access to *TIME for Kids'* new digital library click [here](#) or visit: <https://time.com/tfk-free> to sign up.



OUR BIS RESOURCES SHORTLIST

[Here](#) you can find our compilation of online resources that could support and supplement your child's learning during this time. We will be adding our top resources each week. If you have a suggestion that you think should be shared, please email fkanji@bis.kg



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.



PRESCHOOL 1

This week, Preschool 1 friends have talked about colors. We have noticed that all things around us are different in colors, and there are so many of them! At the beginning of the week, we had an activity called “I can eat a Rainbow” where our friends brought all kind of fruits and vegetables and discussed their colors during our live lesson. Afterwards, they traced their favorite fruits and veggies and colored them in with the correct colors. We made colorful play dough too! This was very fun and important for our fine motor skill development. In the middle of the week, our

Preschool 1 friends were excited to do colorful ice-painting that we prepared together. The most popular book of this week was “Pete the Cat, I Love My White Shoes”. Our friends joined in singing a song with Pete and we talked about our own shoe colours. Towards the end of the week, we made a scavenger hunt for different colored objects in our houses, sorted out all our toys by colors and made a beautiful jellyfish out of a paper plate, googly eyes, and some colorful paper tentacles!

Ms. Begimai, Preschool 1 Form Teacher



PRESCHOOL 2

Every morning we are so happy to see friends on our small screens. We ask each other questions about our houses and toys. We all definitely miss the time we spend together at school. This week, Preschool 2 was learning how we share our planet with sea animals. We played some memory games with the sea animals and created a beautiful and diverse ocean. One of the tasks for students was to watch a video and draw a dolphin. Our young artists created so many funny

dolphins! For the math lesson, friends learnt the number 6! Via video connection, we created a math chart with the numbers from 1 to 6 and drew shapes next to the numbers. Our friends were great at looking for the items at home to match with the numbers cards! They used pasta, their small toys, pencils, markers and vegetables. For our show and tell lesson, friends were showing and telling about pets and their toy animals!

Ms. Oksana, Preschool 2 Form Teacher



PRESCHOOL 3

Week 3 of remote learning was a lot of fun as we participated in a variety of activities from morning circle with Ms. Tina and Kyrgyz lessons with Ms. Aperi to story time and baking with Ms. Carmen!

Please note that at the end of this week our activity packs will be finished but it's not a problem.

The school will be delivering 3 more weeks of fun activity packs to your home! If you are not in Bishkek, please keep an eye out for an email containing all the activities that can be printed at home.

Ms. Carmen, Preschool 3 Form Teacher

