



**Bishkek  
International  
School**

**VOICES**



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 36/ 2019-20

15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

**COVID-19 WE NEED YOUR HELP, PLEASE DONATE**

We would like to thank everyone who is helping and supporting the ambulance services. **Donations already received: \$3,313** equivalent (including USD+SOM+ materials donations). **Spending already made: \$3,164** equivalent, including \$228 for PPE and cleaning materials and \$2,935 for hot food for ambulance staff. We provided hot food to ambulance stations # 1, 2, 3, 4 on 9<sup>th</sup> May, and from 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> May only for station #3 where Dr. Asel works. The Main Emergency Centre Director Dr. Iskender Shayahmetov sends his deep appreciation to the BIS Community (photo).



As we plan ahead, the Ambulance Service has requested donation of electric stoves, microwaves and kettles so that they can prepare their own hot food in future. Please donate what you can to support medical staff who are risking their lives to save ours.

For SOM donations the Elsom e-wallet number is: 0706 200 200. [Full instructions for Elsom are here.](#) For USD donations, transfer to the special BIS account for 'Medical Supplies'

Beneficiary name: PF "ESCA-Bishkek International School"	Correspondent bank: Raiffeisen Bank International AG
Bank Name: Kyrgyz Investment and Credit Bank, 21, Erkindik blvd., Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic	Am Stadtpark 9, 1030 Vienna, Austria
SWIFT: KICBKG22	SWIFT: RZBAATWW
USD Account Number: 1280010119383396	Account № of KICB: 070-55066534
	Description of Payment: COVID-19 Donation

If you have any questions or suggestions or wish to donate physical supplies instead of money, please email [donate@bis.kg](mailto:donate@bis.kg)

**Mirzat Osmonova, Head of Administration**



## IS THIS THE END? YEAR REVIEWS AND CELEBRATIONS

The Government has cancelled all end of year graduations and school celebrations due to COVID-19, which means that events can only be held virtually this year. To succeed with this unprecedented challenge, many members of our staff team alongside parent and student representatives have been meeting to discuss how we can send our students off for their summer break, or their next adventure, with a creative celebration of all they have experienced and achieved. Events currently planned for June are given below. More events may be added in future, and details for each event will be shared in due course:

- **June 4th - Meet your new Teachers** - Students will be introduced to their new homeroom and form teachers for 2020/21 via video link or a pre-recorded video.
- **June 5th - BIS Talent Show** - The school and the PAMC will hold our very first remote talent show! Students were introduced to the talent show in assemblies today and more instructions can be found in this edition of Voices!
- **June 10th - 12th - Student Reports** - Digital student reports will be shared with students and parents.
- **June 11th - Class of 2020 Graduation Dinner** - A celebration of student life with live Zoom dinner and pre-recorded videos.
- **June 12th - High School Graduation** - A live Zoom graduation with awards, speeches, diploma presentations and recognition for all graduating students in gowns and with awards.
- **June 15th - 17th - Parent Teacher Meetings** - Zoom meetings to discuss student reports and areas to focus on before the next academic year.
- **June 17th - Preschool and Primary Graduations** - Also coming to the end of an era are our Preschool 3 and Primary 6 students. Virtual graduation celebrations will take place for these students.
- **June 18th - Final calls with homeroom and form teachers** - a chance to say goodbye for the summer.
- **June 18th - End of year BBQ** - including live performances, school awards and our annual fireworks display!

Apart from virtual events, many members of the community also have to collect belongings from school and return school books and materials to school before the end of June. **A booking system to visit school to collect and return items will be available for June 8th - 18th**, with a limit on the number of people at one time and strict hygiene and social distance requirements.

If the Government approves kindergartens to be open in June, we will review if this is feasible for our Preschool for the last 2 weeks of school, though this is very unlikely at this stage. No matter if we are able to physically open school in June or August or September, we are currently working out how we can reopen school while ensuring everyone's health and safety in this new environment. Whatever happens, the 2020/21 school year will start as planned on 24th August. **Links to all teacher profiles for 2020/21 will be shared in Voices next week - May 22nd.**



**David Grant, Head of School; Krisha Gandhi, Director of Studies**



CONGRATULATIONS TO

# THE CPR HEROES!



We are now in the home stretch of the school year, but I am pleased to see that there has been no let-up from our students in the caring, principled and reflective department. Read on to see who our CPR heroes are this week...

## EARLY YEARS

In P1, **Sino** has continued to show perseverance and positivity throughout this entire learning process, and **Toichuke** has done some amazing work this week, including describing wild animals in Spanish!

## IGCSE

**Aidan** (IGCSE1) has continued to complete her work to a good standard and submits often ahead of time, and **Traian** (also IGCSE1) has continued to be principled and reflective in his approach, producing consistently excellent work.

## MYP

I am happy to say that **Chris** (MYP1) has been nominated this week, and I really want to quote the teacher who nominated him: 'E-learning has revealed Chris' CPR traits. Chris is doing his work to the best of his ability and reaches out his teachers for help on an individual basis'. Well done Chris!

## PYP2-6

**Erik** (P2) has participated consistently and gone above and beyond in his work. **Mateo** (P3) has also adopted a reflective and principled attitude towards his studies and is making great progress as a result.

In P4, **Youri** has been producing some excellent work in Russian, and **Caitlynn** has completed all of her assignments while staying positive and participating fully in video classes.

**Emily** (P5) has kept up the good work in music by creating a rhythm piece with a glass, and **Sariah** (P6) has been both reflective and articulate in her Spanish studies.

## DP

Recognition should go to **Daniel** and **Irakli** (both DP1) this week for being very proactive with the submission of their History assignments. I've been impressed with the quality of work produced, and I know that Irakli was available to help a student who was unable to connect to the video call through technical issues. Well done, boys!

Good to see some new names among the CPR heroes this week. The end of term is increasingly in sight, but I am glad to see that our students are still striving to be the best they can be. More next week!

**Mr. Darren, Head of Student Welfare**

## TAIGANS @ HOME!

'Once a Taigan, always a Taigan,' is something we often say to our students who are getting ready to move onto their next school or chapter. The same goes for our teaching community. It was therefore a privilege to be joined by two Taigan Teachers, Ms Meghan and Mr Nathan, in our assembly last Friday. Ms Meghan and Mr Nathan moved to Almaty, Kazakhstan last July and joined our assembly to share their experiences of remote learning, and to answer some of our students' questions too! We learnt about the snacks Ms Meghan and Mr Nathan munch on throughout their remote teaching days, the places in their homes they work to stay focused, and the routines they have put in place to stay productive!



This week we will also have a specialist guest with Ms Magdalena joining our assembly from Italy!

## Taigans @ Home Challenges!

Last week, with our baby face competition, our House Points started to shift and currently the scoreboard stands at:

### UPDATED HOUSE POINTS:



**Phoenixes**

**8423**



**PIRANHAS**

**9272**



**SNOW LEOPARDS**

**7547**

Every week, PYP students have a chance to earn points by participating in a creative challenge, and sending pictures, videos or other evidence to us! This week's challenge draws on the PYP concept of 'perspective'.

### Shadow Art Challenge

**Materials:** paper, pencil, toys or objects

- ★ Pick a time of day when the sun is up and line up some of your toys or objects on a paper so you can see their shadow
- ★ Trace the shadow of your toys or objects - add colour if you like
- ★ Ask a family member to guess what objects you drew



## Galaxy Go Getters!

All of our Primary Students have been working tremendously hard this week! The below students have been awarded Galaxy Go Getters for going above and beyond in their learner profile development!

**Primary 1:** **Jasper** and **Toichuke** for both improving their work quality!

**Primary 2A:** This week our Galaxy Go Getter goes to our **entire class** for doing such fantastic jobs with their summative assessments! I have been so impressed by everyone's projects and the efforts you all made. You each did an awesome job demonstrating the knowledge you gained from this unit!

**Primary 2S:** **Amanda** for being a risk taker and communicator. She has recently started to participate more in our live daily calls, she works hard to go above and beyond by completing many of the optional extension activities.

**Primary 3:** This week, we have many Galaxy Go Getters. They are **Robbie, Zephyrus, Aman, Nikita, Henri, Aleksandr** and **Ayn**. They have been so principled getting work turned in and such risk takers learning new ways to use Zoom. Some come to our meetings from outer space and even disappear for a while!

**Primary 4:** **Kani** for perfect attendance in video calls, a consistently positive attitude, and for being knowledgeable, offering great input during lessons.

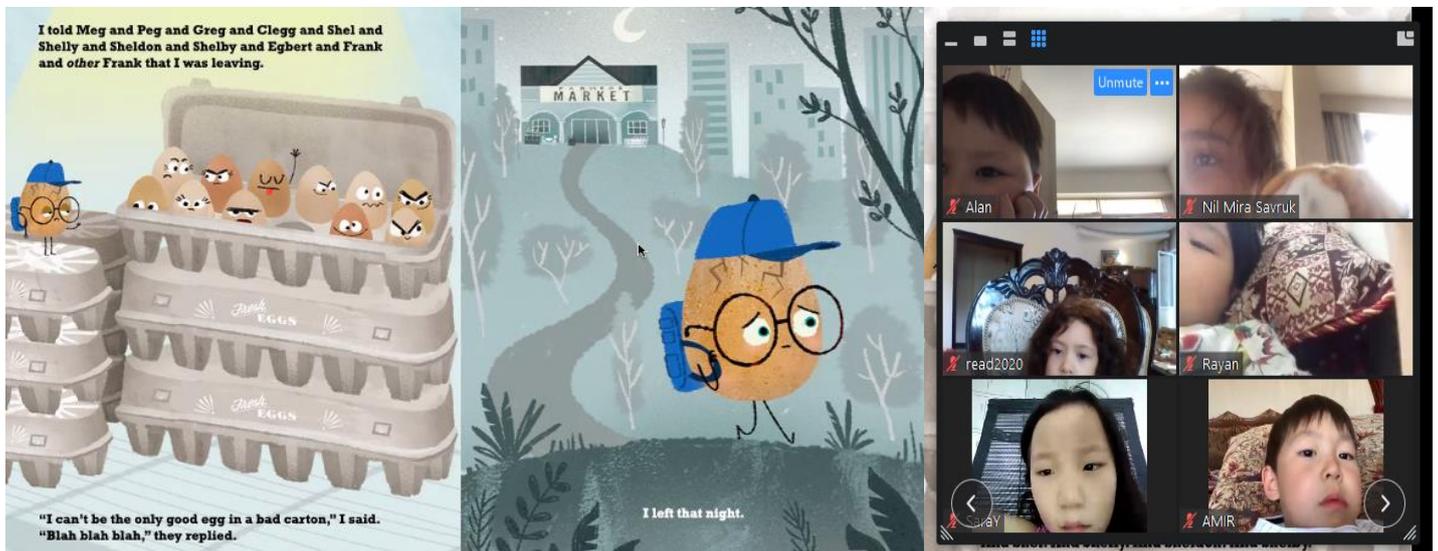
**Primary 5:** **Nursultan** for being a great communicator. He was able to express his thoughts and feelings effectively to teachers to get the help that he needed. A good communicator is also a good listener. Nursultan listens well to the ideas and perspective of others.

**Primary 6A:** **Zeynep** for staying committed to her languages during remote learning! You are a fantastic communicator, Zeynep! Keep it up!

**Primary 6S:** **Eva** for taking time to do an excellent job on her Poetry Portfolio! She demonstrated so much excitement in learning, writing and creating poetry! Great job Eva!

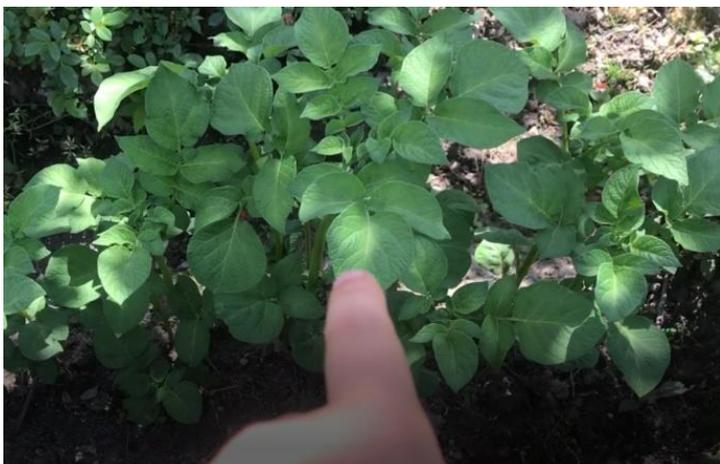
## Reading Buddies!

We've been running Virtual Reading Buddies for a month now and have heard some fantastic stories.



We've had teachers, high school students and even primary school students share some of their favourite books, and invite students to participate in discussion too! Whilst reading buddies is a way for students to practice their reading and encourage a joy of literature, it can also spark wider creativity too.

After reading *The Lorax*, Henri and Olivia shared their potato and seed planting experiences in Primary School assembly!



After Reading, 'Rudi and Clause Splash Into Art', Djamilia worked on a wonderful landscape painting!



This week, our reading buddies have heard the following stories:

- A Book for Bramble
- My Strong Mind
- Nonni's Moon
- The Dark
- The Good Egg and The Cool Bean



After reading The Good Egg (a story about self-care) P3's Ayn and Ms Stephanie were inspired with a new challenge for our Reading Buddies! This week, we are asking to see pictures of our very own PYP students self-caring just like The Good Egg! And, we are pleased to say the pictures are already coming in! Remember to send your reading-buddies-inspired pictures to [sjackson@bis.kg](mailto:sjackson@bis.kg) or [kgandhi@bis.kg](mailto:kgandhi@bis.kg) to receive 10 house points!

Finally, students, teachers and parents, if you would like to share a story in our Reading Buddies session, please get in touch with Ms Stephanie to secure a date!

**Ms Krisha and the PYP Team!**

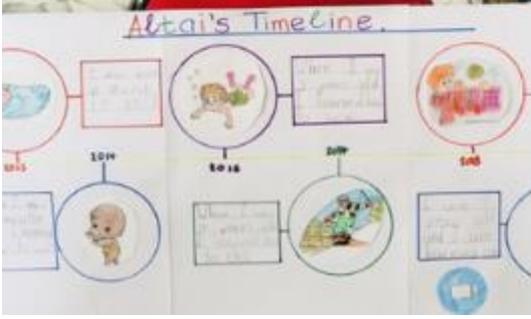
## TRANSDISCIPLINARY LEARNING IN P5!

P5 has been learning about decimals this week including inquiries into what decimals are and where we can see decimals in our daily life. Our students then linked art and math by creating their own designs using a hundredths grid and calculating the amount of each colour used. This helped P5 gain a visual understanding of decimals.



**Ms. Rona, Primary 5 Homeroom Teacher**

# BIS Snapshot: Taigans at Home



## **BIS'S GOT TALENT**

Click [here](#) to watch our promotion video for this fun and lively virtual event! There are more details below too:

# BISHKEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL'S **GOT TALENT**



**A Virtual Celebration of our  
students' talents!**

**Date: June 5th 2020**

**SEND YOUR AUDITION VIDEOS TO  
MR GRANT BY MAY 24 2020!**

**ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE THE  
OPPORTUNITY FOR VIRTUAL PRACTICES!**



# *Audition Guidelines*

## WHO CAN JOIN?

Any student or teacher who can sing, rap, play instruments, make people laugh etc.

We'd love to be able to show your talents live though if your talent would be better shared through a pre-recorded video, please do still enter by sending Mr Grant a video!

## WHEN AND WHERE?

We will be showcasing our students talents online through pre-recorded videos and live performances.

Date: 05/06/2020

PYP Performances: 13:30

Secondary Performances: 14:30

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL MR GRANT:

**GCHAMBERLAIN@BIS.KG**

IBDP 1 CAS PROJECT

# DIVERSITY DAY FOR PUP STUDENTS

## ДЕНЬ РАЗНООБРАЗИЯ ДЛЯ СТУДЕНТОВ PUP

We are happy to introduce Diversity Day, which will take place on Friday, May 22 during the Assembly for Primary students!

Мы рады сообщить вам о проведении Дня Разнообразия для студентов начальной школы, который состоится в Пятницу, 22 Мая во время собрания!

*This event is organized to celebrate World Day for Cultural Diversity*

*Данное мероприятие посвящено Всемирному дню Культурного Разнообразия*

*Further details for parents will be provided later this week via e-mail.*



## P2 SPANISH – WHAT GAME DID THE MAYAS LIKE PLAYING, AND WHAT GAMES DO WE LIKE PLAYING?



Erik P2A

In P2's UOI about history, the Spanish group has gone back to the time of the Mayas, some people who lived a really long time ago in Mexico. We have found out lots of things about the Mayas, including what they ate, what they wore and where they lived... and we even found out that they used chocolate (cocoa beans!) as money!

Last week, we discovered that the Mayas played an interesting ball game called 'La Pelota' (which sometimes had different names). It made us think about how we spend our free time – what games do we like playing, and how can we describe them in Spanish?



Arya P2S

P2 did an amazing job of describing their games at home and giving their opinions about games they do and don't like. They used 'tengo' which means 'I have' and 'tiene' which means 'it has' to describe their games – did they have dice, cards, colours, numbers, or pictures... or a bit of everything?

Erik (P2A) showed me *UNO* and *Jenga*, and described the wooden blocks in *Jenga* very confidently; Arya (P2S) showed me her game, *Yam's* and Kolya (P2S) showed me *Mistakos* – I have never played these games and their Spanish descriptions made me really interested to try them! Sebastian from P2S explained about Snakes and Ladders, and David told me he has a chess set at home. We even had time to look at my favourite game, *UNO*, in our Spanish live call on Creative Friday last week and did a bit of magic (by accident!) when we played the disappearing card, which kept turning up in David's house because he had his *UNO* cards out!

P2's exploration of the Mayas has almost finished. This week we explored different parts of Mexico and other countries (like the coast, the mountains and the desert), and next week we are going to be looking at some of Ms Esther's holidays photos and decide which parts of different countries she went to! I am looking forward to finding out what interesting places you have visited!

**Ms. Esther, Spanish teacher**



Kolya P2S

## SIX-WORD MEMOIR CHALLENGE



Are you ready for a new House Points Challenge? You can get **25 points** if you take part in a Six-Word Memoir Challenge!

Write your own story about your life during the Coronavirus pandemic in **six words (no more, no less)**. Your story does not have to be a complete sentence, but try to avoid making a list of six unrelated words. Use powerful words, mainly nouns and verbs. The most important thing is to make it personal, be honest, and be yourself.

An example: *Finding beauty everywhere from virtual windows.*

Please find all details about the challenge [here](#).

Send your visual creation of your Six-Word Memoir (as an attached document with your name and class) to Ms. Bojana at [baskovic@bis.kg](mailto:baskovic@bis.kg) by Thursday, 21 May 2020.



## MOVEMENT IN MAY

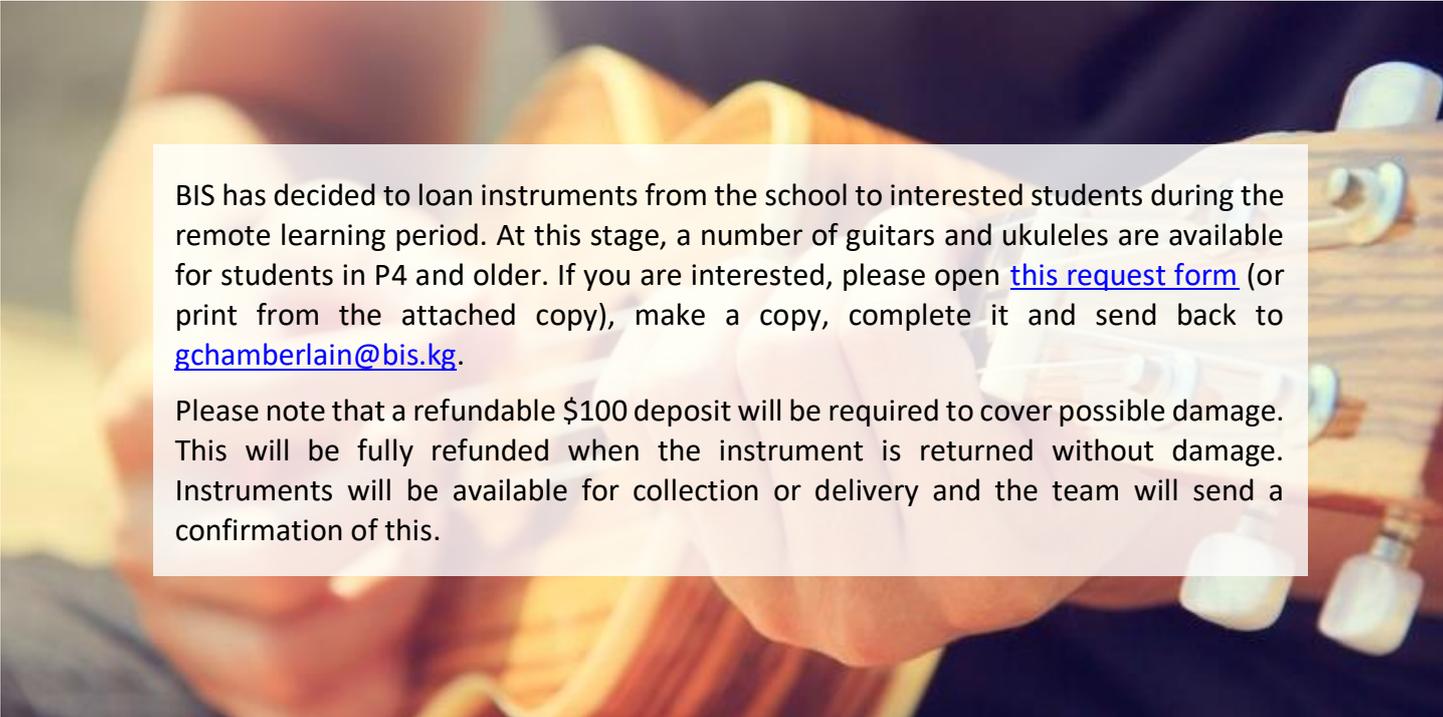


In response to Ms. Krisha and Mr. Faez's Mountain May Challenge, I've adapted their challenge to: Movement in May! This month, instead of climbing stairs, I've challenged myself to stay active by walking and running double the amount of kilometers that I walked and ran in April! This doesn't mean I have to go far from my home when walking or running. Sometimes, I just have to get creative with the movement. I was inspired by one individual in France who ran the length of a marathon on his small balcony! Send us photos of your Mountain May and Movement May projects and challenges.

Have fun!

**Hollis Magee, Inclusive Education Coordinator**

## LOAN SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS



BIS has decided to loan instruments from the school to interested students during the remote learning period. At this stage, a number of guitars and ukuleles are available for students in P4 and older. If you are interested, please open [this request form](#) (or print from the attached copy), make a copy, complete it and send back to [gchamberlain@bis.kg](mailto:gchamberlain@bis.kg).

Please note that a refundable \$100 deposit will be required to cover possible damage. This will be fully refunded when the instrument is returned without damage. Instruments will be available for collection or delivery and the team will send a confirmation of this.

## KEEP IN TOUCH

If you have anything you want to discuss or any suggestions for the school, please contact your child's Homeroom or 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

During these two weeks, Preschool 1 friends have talked about space and planets. We have learned that there are eight planets in the solar system and our home planet is Earth. We have also discussed that all planets orbit around the sun. To build better understanding of it, we have made an activity where we used the sun picture and a playdough ball to represent a planet. Friends hold their plates to make the planet orbit the sun. We also became aware that the people who travel to the space to learn more about solar system are called astronauts. Our students pretended to be astronauts and travelled to space with their rockets. For art and crafts, we made a telescope out of cardboard paper roll, an astronaut puzzle and Earth out of blue and green pieces of papers. Next week, we will start to talk about recycling.

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

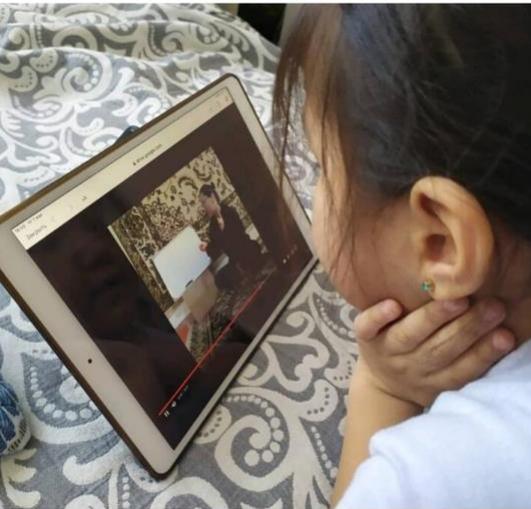


## PRESCHOOL 2

This week, Preschool 2 was inquiring into the ways people effect the planet and the things we are able to start doing to protect humans, plants and animals from harm's way. First of all, we discussed various kinds of pollution which are happening every day, such as land, water and air pollution. We found out some reasons for pollution including people who throw trash (on the ground, in parks and on the streets), burn leaves and garbage causing toxic air pollution which is harmful for all living things, and those who drain liquid wastes into rivers and oceans. These all impact animals, plants and people! We looked at the pictures where animals have suffered from the trash thrown by humans – including turtles that have eaten plastic

bags, seals who are stuck in fishing nets, and deer and bears having their heads stuck in plastic bottles. Our Preschool 2 friends were worried for the animals and said that people all around the world need to stop throwing trash and start recycling and reusing it! To better understand how to sort trash items depending on the nature of material, we completed a sorting task where students had 3 bins for paper, compost and plastic. In the middle of the week, we had a Kyrgyz lesson with Ms. Aisedep and learnt animal names in Kyrgyz. For story time, we read "Triana the Pirate" written by Lisa Bullard. This is a story about a girl who was hunting for trash on the seashore to protect animals from dying.

**Ms. Oksana, Preschool 2 Form Teacher**



### PRESCHOOL 3

Preschool 3 has been inquiring into stories! This week, we read 2 classic stories with our preschool friends. We listened to the story of "Goldilocks and the 3 bears" and the story of "Pinocchio". We also had fun retelling the stories and answering questions about

them too. Our class took part in lots of fun art activities and had a fantastic show and tell with crazy hair! Our Preschool 3 class also talked about moving to the Primary 1 class next year.

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

