



**Bishkek  
International  
School**

**VOICES**



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 3 / 2020-21

11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

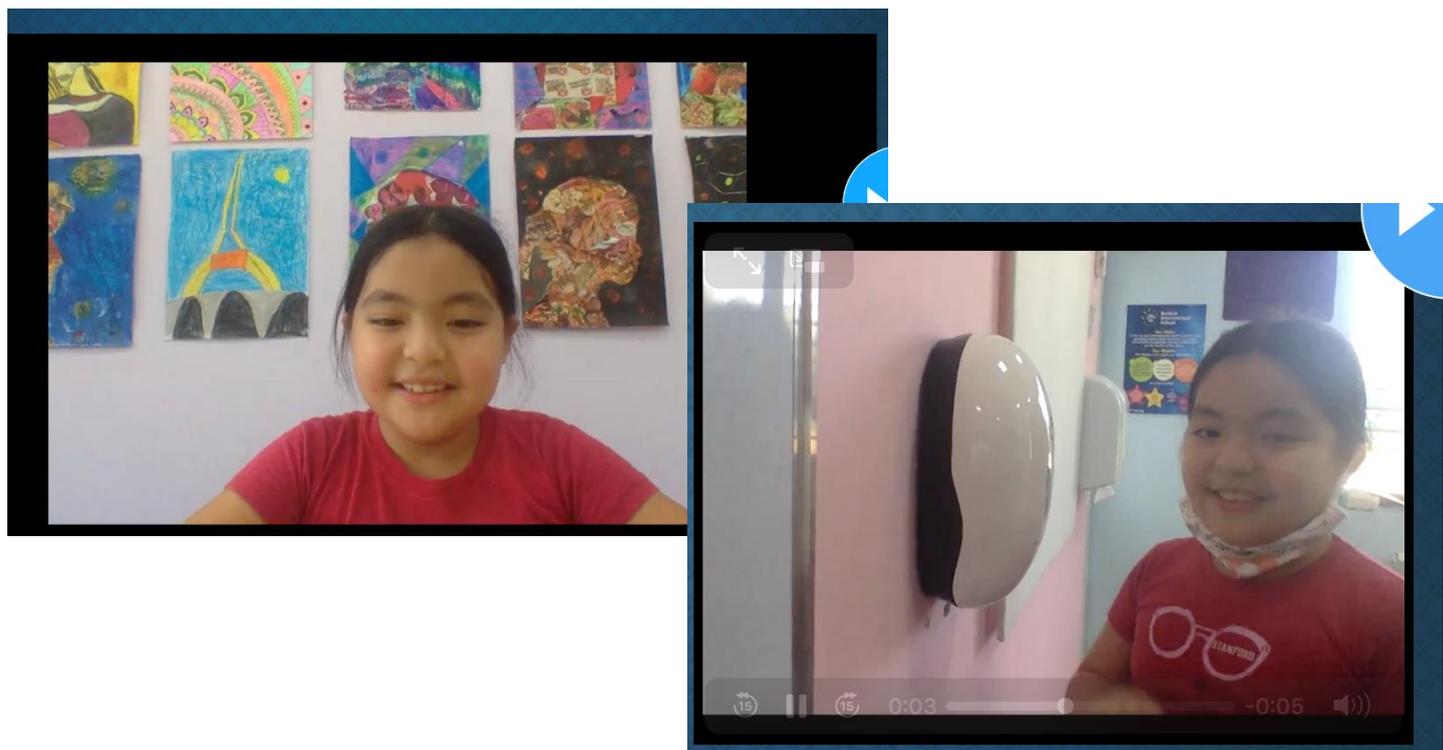
## GRADE 1 STUDENTS AT SCHOOL

Grade 1 students and teachers are so happy to be at school!



## CALLING ALL COMMUNICATORS!

At BIS, all students from Preschool to DP work toward developing ten IB Learner Profile Traits. One of these is the trait of being a communicator. Being communicators means developing the ability to express ourselves confidently and creatively, in more than one language, and in many ways. Our students build their communication skills by collaborating effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups, and developing presentation skills. In the Primary School, our students often use assemblies to practice communication skills in the physical setting. This week, Ailin Turdieva modeled great communication skills by volunteering to host our Primary Assembly via NearPod. We are really proud of how far Ailin's English language levels and confidence in speaking multiple languages has come along! Great job, Ailin.



Despite assemblies being remote, all students are welcome to present something they are passionate about or believe is important to share during these times. Students can reach out to their coordinators, homeroom teachers or form teachers if they would like to take up this opportunity.

**Krishna Gandhi, Director of Studies**

## FULL SCHOOL NOT OPENING SOON

Our Preschool and up to local Grade 1 level are enjoying the freedom of being at school and all have rapidly adapted to the new reality of wearing masks and keeping social distance when eating. We are ready to open the school for all grades and have the [COVID-19 Protocol](#) in place to keep everyone safe. Unfortunately, the [Prime Minister's office has written to us](#) again to say that the government decree of 14<sup>th</sup> August forbids any school from opening above Grade 1. The Ministry of Education and Science have also told us directly that they will remove our school license if we open higher grades. As parliamentary elections take place in October, we no longer expect any change in the government position until sometime after elections.

We hear rumours that some private schools are open. These rumours may or may not be true. Our own position is that we are a legal and law-abiding school, which does not pay bribes to government officials. BIS paid 27 million SOM in official government taxes and social fund payments in 2019, which is more than all other international schools in the country combined. If you have any questions about opening schools, please address them to government.

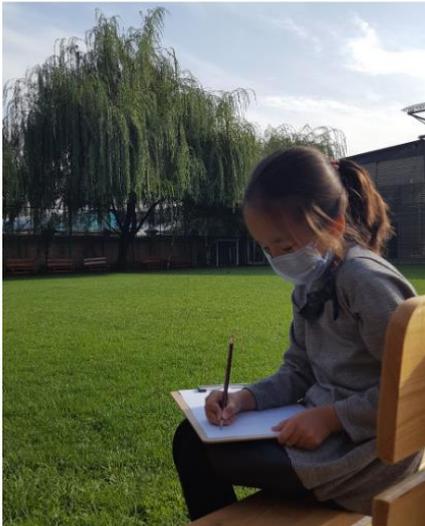
**David Grant, Head of School.**



This week Grade 1 Advanced had math class outside on the field



and were studying the design of the playground



while other students worked on making patterns in Art with Ms. Anna, and loved playing Time to Climb with Ms. Tina on Nearpod! Then they reviewed the names of different fruits in Kyrgyz language,

and worked on recognizing numbers in different forms in their math lessons.



This week our friends in Kindergarten celebrated a birthday in class, explored shadows, investigated Magna Tiles and learned more letter sounds.



## COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS SURVEY – MAY 2020

The 2020 school survey report is now [available to view here online](#).

Perceptions of the school have improved in all areas over the last year, though it is difficult to tell if this is a case of *'absence makes the heart grow fonder'*, since we were in lockdown during the survey in May 2020, or perhaps we really have improved. Only time will tell us the answer.

When looking at the comments, please be aware that these are individual views which often do not represent the majority, and most students and parents who completed the survey did not provide comments.

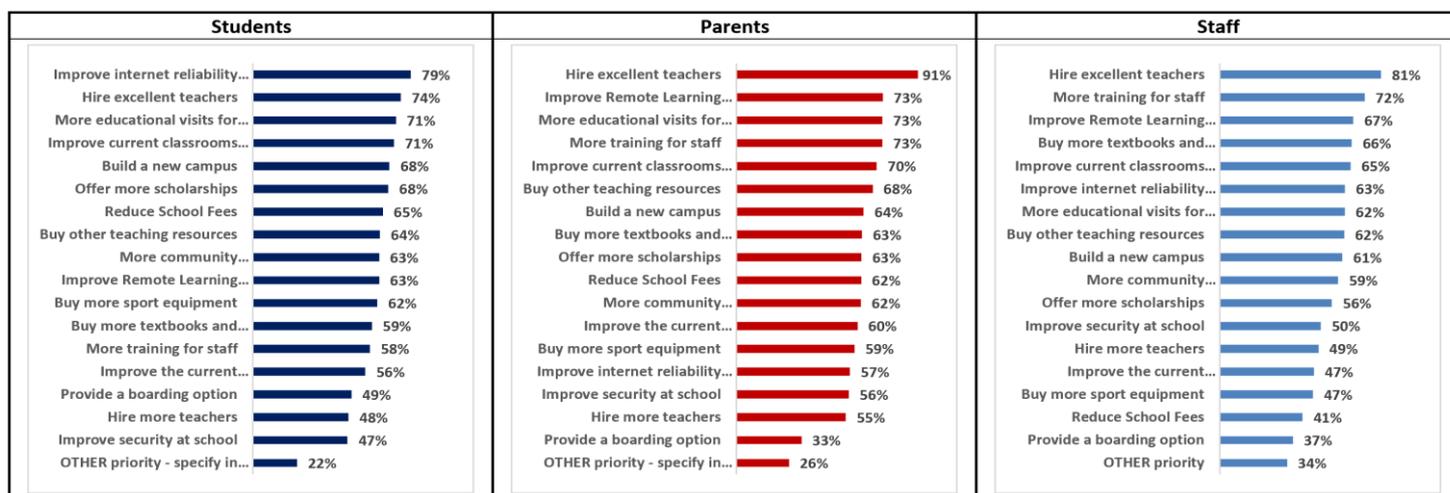


We have addressed most of the areas of concern over the summer, especially in relation to remote learning support, but we always look to continue to achieve our vision of being the best international school in Central Asia providing inspirational education in a happy environment for globally minded students who are the leaders of the future.

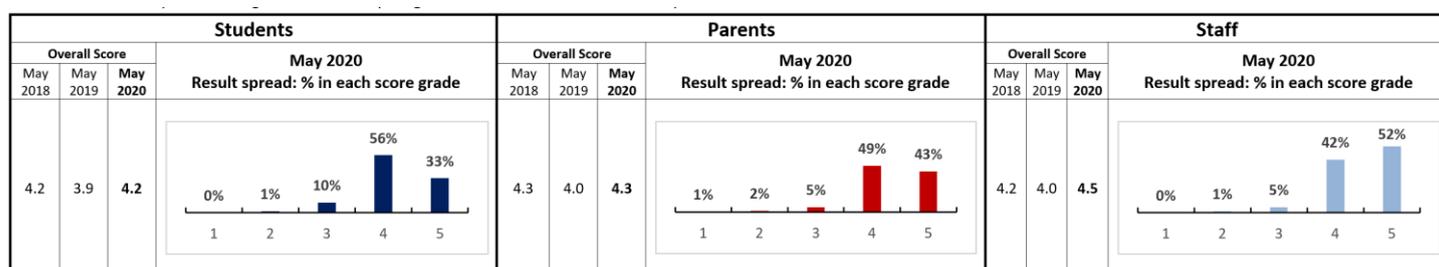
We thank you for choosing Bishkek International School for this academic year and we look forward to working with all community members make BIS even better in future.

### Top Priorities to be the 'best international school in Central Asia'

Respondents were asked to score different options for investment in the school as 'Top', 'Middle', 'Low' or 'Not' a priority. If everyone scored 'Top Priority', the result below is 100%, if 'Middle Priority' 66%, 'Low Priority' 33% and 'Not a Priority' zero % to better fulfil our overall Vision.



### Overall Score for the School



Jacques Prinsloo, Assistant Head of School, IGCSE Coordinator

## TIME FOR PAWS?



Remote learning and all that comes with it provides seemingly endless opportunities to reflect and re-evaluate what learning is in the contemporary climate. Perhaps it would be worthwhile to refocus our attention on what we want our students to be. For me, the utmost priority of any school community should be to ensure that children are safe, healthy and happy.

We are living through a challenging time, with difficult decisions being made daily by families looking to best support the education and wellbeing of their children. While it may not be possible for children to make such decisions for themselves, it is important that they are aware of the context, the positives and negatives in order that they may understand such decisions while also having their voices heard.

Over the last year, a committee of staff from Pre-School to the Diploma Programme have been reviewing and redesigning our Life Skills curriculum. The objective was to ensure as far as possible that our students are better prepared to thrive and succeed both now and in their future lives. We want our students to excel academically, to think critically, to use information and to make decisions that lead to their continued health and happiness.

This process has involved consultation with health experts, the parent community, school leadership and teaching faculty. It has involved poring over multiple research-based publications and curriculum evaluation tools. It is a process which is still in progress, but we are now in a position to begin implementation this academic year.

The PAWS programme is a cohesive curriculum spanning PS1 to DP2. It touches upon issues including health, hygiene, relationships, media, technology and environment. A Zoom Q&A session will be later this month to provide further information about the process, content and approach of our Life Skills developments.

Look out for PAWS Parent Meeting details in our next edition of Voices.

**Darren Simpson, Head of Student Welfare, Head of Individuals and Societies**

## NEW FACES AT BIS: MR DAVID

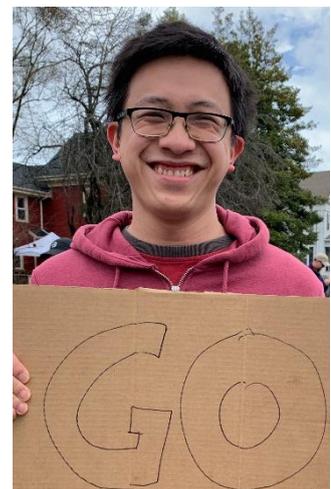
Greetings BIS Community! I am excited to join the BIS this year as the new Drama and Music teacher. I'm honored to call Bishkek my first home outside of the United States. I had previously taught Drama and Orchestra at a Public Middle School in the Boston area and Seattle area (where I'm originally from).

I have sought out travelling to Kyrgyzstan for the past 3 years, and I'm so grateful that I'm finally able to get here. I am in love with the mountains and variety of environments in this very hidden gem nestled in a unique part of the world.

Professionally, I have a Music Composition degree from The New England Conservatory of Music and a Masters in Theatre Education from Emerson College. Musically, I have written pieces and songs performed by a number of prestigious ensembles. As a multi-instrumentalist I enjoy playing all sorts of music in my free time. Theatrically, I have been involved in dozens of programs and productions as a director, music director, writer, performer, and more!

I strive to teach essential 21st century skills (compassion, collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity) through drama and music; arming students with attributes needed to become successful in the world. I'm excited to be organizing and directing the 10th Year BIS Anniversary Show this year, where we will be doing The Lion King!

**Mr. David, PYP, MYP, and IGCSE Music and Drama Teacher**



# ***BIS Snapshot: Sports & Games***



## ASIA DAY 2020 – ALL CHANGE

As we cannot hold any public events at school this month, the BIS Asia Day moves to Friday 18th September, in school time, and will only be attended by students up to Grade 1, who are physically in school.

To keep our Asia Day traditions going, we will have:

- All students encouraged to wear a costume from any Asian country;
- Asia Day postcards and stamp collection from different countries;
- A special Asian menu from the school kitchen;
- Caucasian Dance Group;
- Japanese Drums to wake up the neighbours!



All outside performers will be COVID-19 tested before they can enter the school grounds. For students and parents who cannot attend this event due to COVID-19 restrictions, we will record all performances for all members of our community to view later online.

**Bishkek International School**

*Asia Day Festival*

*Friday  
18 September  
13:30 - 14:30*

**Travel around Asia with BIS Asia Day Festival celebrations where you can encounter Asian food, performances, music, arts and much more!**

The poster features a large tree where the branches and leaves are composed of various colorful icons representing Asian culture, such as flowers, musical instruments, food, and traditional motifs. The background is a light blue sky with soft clouds. The BIS logo is in the top left corner.

## SUNRISE AND SUNSET PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

It's House competition time! Are you ready for our first big remote worldwide competition in this school year?

Each student, parent or staff member can submit up to 3 photos of sunrises or sunsets taken in September 2020. We invite parents to do it for fun, and students and teachers to get the house points battle started!

**House points:** 10 points for submitting a photo (up to 3 photos can be submitted)

50 points for winners

One winner per programme will be announced.

Photos should be submitted with the full name and class of the photographer and sent to [baskovic@bis.kg](mailto:baskovic@bis.kg).

Photos should be submitted no later than Wednesday 30th September.

**Let's go Phoenixes, Piranhas and Snow Leopards!**

**Bishkek International School presents**



**September 2020**  
**Sunrise and Sunset Photography Competition**

*Instructions and rules:*

- Each student, parent or staff member can submit up to 3 photos of sunrises or sunsets taken in September 2020
- Photos should be submitted with the full name and class of the photographer and sent to [baskovic@bis.kg](mailto:baskovic@bis.kg)
- Photos should be submitted no later than Wednesday 30th September!



## LUNCH MENU

The lunch menu for September 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</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.



## PRESCHOOL 1

This week, Preschool 1 friends had an exciting week. We started to talk about the “Me and My Family” theme. Our friends were so creative in making their own house with a family while pointing and naming each member. Another artwork that helped us to develop our imagination was the house built from sticks where every friend in our class showed an interesting perspective on architecture. In Math, we learnt the number 1 by making it out of dough. Later, once dry, we painted it with our favorite colors. Together, we sang the “Daddy finger, daddy finger, where are you?” song while pointing to each family member. This week, we also read the books “My Dad” and “I love my Mom”. Toward the end of the week our friends decorated a self-portrait by using colorful crayons and different objects to make their own clothes. Next week, we will be continuing to learn about family.

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



## PRESCHOOL 2

This week, the Preschool 2 group started a new unit “Who We Are”. We started with a human body - its parts, body systems and major entire organs. On Monday, we talked about our faces. Looking in the mirror, children were described their faces recounting eyes, ears, nose, lips, mouse, hair. After this, we named all the functions the face organs perform, for instance, our eyes help us see, our mouth helps us to share our ideas, our ears help us to hear all the sounds around and our nose helps us to recognize aromas. To learn the position of the face organs, we made numerous art works such as cut and paste, face picture coloring and creating our own faces out of playdough. In the middle of the week, our group learned about three main body parts - head, trunk and limbs. Each part of our body has a great importance - limbs help us to move and take objects, head has organs helping us to perceive the world around and the trunk is the part where all our entire organs are. Our body parts look the same from the first glance yet we are unique and special. To confirm this fact scientifically, we made an experiment using our measuring skills: taking turns we traced our feet and then we measured it using rulers. The children discovered that almost all of us have the same size feet.

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



### PRESCHOOL 3

The Preschool 3 friends had an amazing time this week. They learned about the letter "b". We learned that the letter "b" is for butterfly, bee, baby, bunny and bear. We also improved our pencil grip by practicing how to write the letter "b". The Preschool friends practiced their counting skills in Kyrgyz and English. We can now count all the way to number 10. The friends also discovered that we need to be kind towards our friends and they also looked at unkind behavior.

Next week, we will be taking an independent look at the alphabet and the letter "c". We will also be looking at shapes.

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

