

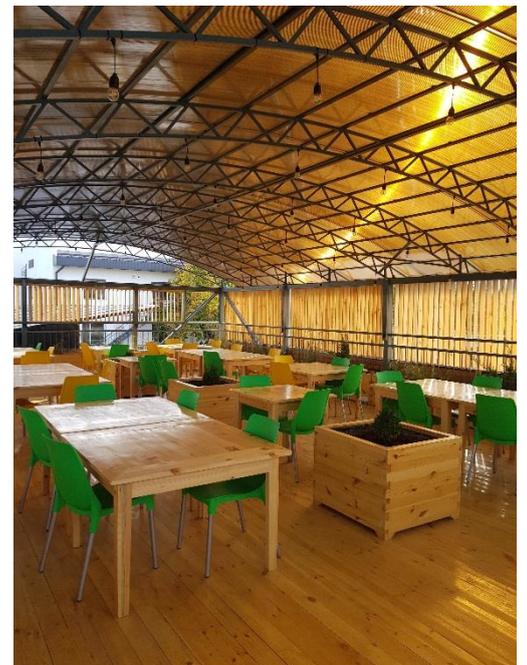
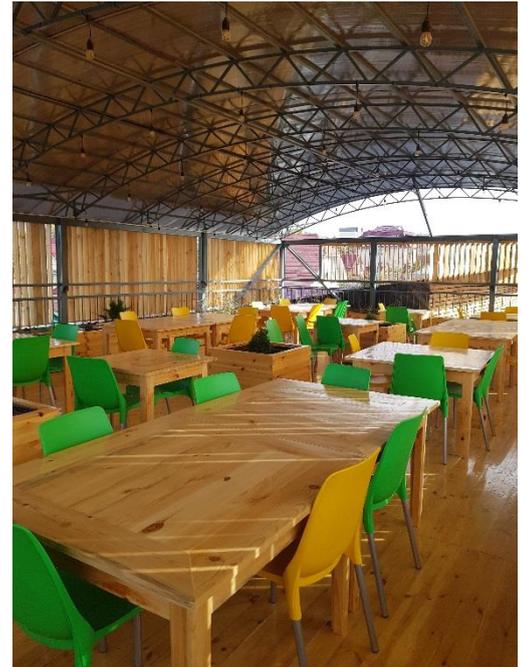


FREEDOM, UNCERTAINTY AND REMOTE LEARNING SUPPORT

On Tuesday we were finally able to open for all grades up to local Grade 6 (our MYP1) and I have never seen students so happy to be at school! By the end of the week, around 70% of all students in these grades were in school, with others still abroad due to travel restrictions, or sheltering at home in Bishkek due to COVID-19 or security concerns.

We expect all grades to be open for in-school learning from Monday 26th October, after the autumn break, although nothing is certain in life until it happens. For example, on Monday 5th October, government orders about Grades 2-6, started the morning as being open from Tuesday, then by lunchtime, all being closed, then by evening, all being open, then by early morning on Tuesday, all being closed. At BIS we always take the approach that we are open if we are not very clearly closed by government (as happened in September) or children's safety is at risk by being open. Since neither is true now, we are open and plan to open higher grades at the end of October. Part of the uncertainty is due to changes in government at the moment, with many scenarios still possible. I assure you that we are watching the situation very closely and will adjust school operations as required to ensure student safety.

No matter what happens with school being physically open, we will provide remote learning support for students in all grades this year, since some students are not able to get back to Bishkek or are sheltering at home. In the same way that we are always trying to improve our in-school education, we are also trying to improve our remote learning provision, and we welcome your feedback and suggestions. For preschool and primary grades, remote learning can never provide the same overall educational experience as in-school learning, so it is not a long-term solution to education for younger children. For middle and high school, remote learning can work, especially for academic learning, however children have different needs for support and different ability to work independently, so no single model fits all students. We are very grateful to all parents who have committed to supporting their children through this difficult remote learning period.



David Grant, Head of School

PRIMARY 6 TRIP TO ALA-ARCHA

"I liked the trip to Ala-Archa, it was fun. We hiked, we talked and we did math and UOI. We played games and ran around. When we came I couldn't believe my eyes, it was so AMAZING. I wished we could have stayed longer. We found ice up there, ICE!"



"When Ms Rebecca told us we were going to go I was not that excited, but after that I always will be."

Matilda, Primary 6 Student

"It was a nice day outside, birds were singing, flowers were blooming. On this day, we went on a trip to Ala-Archa, finally, we found our class offline."



"When we were hiking, I was talking with my friends and they told me so many fun stories about Ala-Archa. We laughed about those fun stories. I wish I could go back there; everyone should at least go once I mean, it was beautiful!"

"The long way to Ala-Archa was totally worth it. The golden sun was nice. With the fresh air, you don't want to get the mask on. The clean river - as transparent as glass. We went hiking up the mountain."

"We found a spot to get started with the class. We did math ... we played a cool game. Later we did Unit of Inquiry, we 'built' a human body system."

"Then lunch and break and a lot of different stuff. Then we found the river, I could not stop looking at it. Finally, we went back to the bus."

Abai, Primary 6 Student



RETURN OF THE TAIGANS!

As everyone knows, BIS opened for students in all grades up to MYP1 on Tuesday. Regardless, as I sat in my assigned form classroom on Tuesday morning, I honestly didn't expect anyone to show up. There were obviously still parental concerns regarding the ongoing pandemic and it didn't help that the first night of election-related demonstrations had taken place the night before, leaving the city in a state of chaos and uncertainty. So, I was both shocked and pleased to see nearly half of my form class flow in. It was surreal to see students I had only ever interacted with over Zoom or Google Hangouts in real-life, their personalities and comments unimpeded by electronic communication for the first time.

As of Thursday, my entire form class has returned to BIS. Due to the nature of recent events, there's been a lot of uncertainty, nervousness, and confusion. However, I'm happy to say that nearly all students are coping well in what is really a return to normalcy and effectively their first week of the new school year. Particularly as a teacher, I'm already noticing the difference in myself and students. It's an order of magnitude more fulfilling to work with real-life students than with disembodied voices on a laptop. And I think we can all agree that at the age at which the MYP1 students are at, there's no replacement for the interpersonal interaction of a physical classroom.

On that note, I'd like to thank parents for placing their trust in BIS and allowing their students to return to physical classes in lieu of these uncertain times. I wish everyone good luck in the rest of the school year and am crossing my fingers in the hope that we can bring all remote learners physically back to BIS as soon as possible.

Mr. Amith, MYP1 Form Teacher

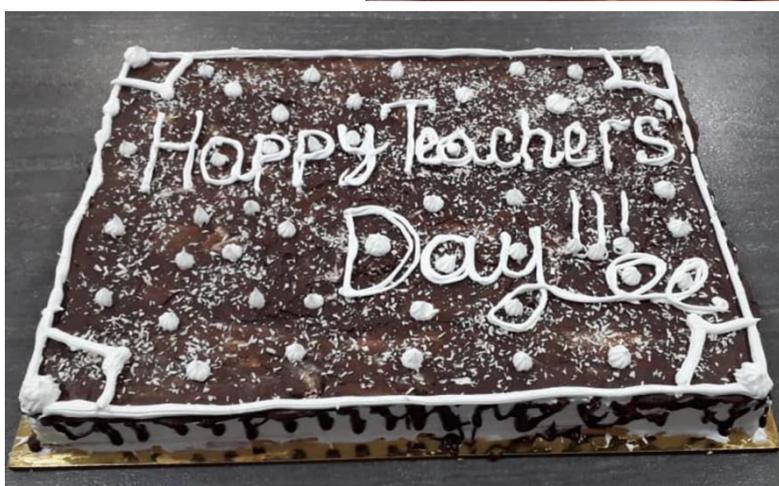


THANK YOU TAIGAN TEACHERS!

In the unique year of 2020, BIS teachers – like many others around the world - have shown, adaptability, creativity and resilience. Throughout the year, many of our community members have been located around the world, working in new environments, across different time zones and facing a multitude of technical challenges. Despite the surreal changes to the world of education, our teachers have collectively found solutions to provide students with ongoing opportunities to develop skills, deepen understanding and widen knowledge. A huge thank from our whole BIS community to our Taigan Teachers for all that they do to support our students!

Many thanks to our PAMC for providing sweet treats and our kitchen team for baking a wonderful cake to help celebrate International Teachers' Day.

Krishna Gandhi, Director of Studies



P4 AND P5 STUDENTS ARE HAPPY TO BE AT SCHOOL

We had a fantastic time welcoming some of the P4 students in to school this week!

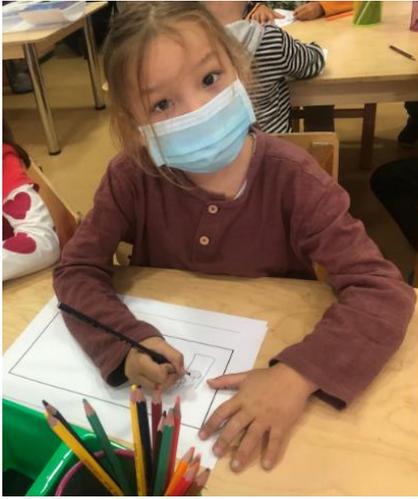


We were able to continue some of the topics which they had previously learnt about online, but the children also made 'Camera Snapshots'. They enjoyed sharing their likes and hobbies in a colourful and imaginative way.

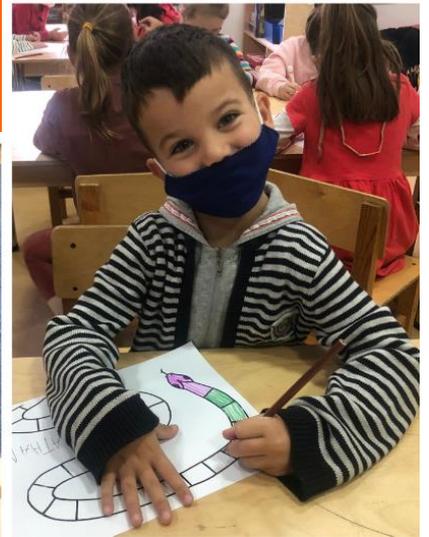
Our Primary 5 students are happy to meet their friends!



We are all looking forward to continuing to build our P4 community.



Our Primary 1 Students have continued being open-minded thinkers and inquirers this week!



P2 IS LEARNING ABOUT ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS

During our UOI time, the students made plasticine models of a living room. The class also painted a picture of a kitchen and bathroom.



This week the class also explored how duck feathers are waterproof.



P3 IS LEARNING ABOUT RELATIONSHIP



We are learning about relationship and how to distinguish between needs, the environment and building as children approach their unit project-assessment. We are also learning about how to survey others to generate research that informs the decisions and plans they will make for their project. We practiced going to our school community to survey what they see as the school's needs and wants. It was incredible to see the high level of concentration and applying their knowledge of summarizing as well as clarifying with those questioned if they were giving a desire or an actual need.



Galaxy go getter this week!

CPR this week – Altai (P3)



CONGRATULATIONS TO

THE CPR HEROES!



It's great to be able to welcome so many of our students back on to campus! This week has involved a lot of readjustment, whether it's to physically being in school or to differences in online learning, but once again our students continue to be caring, principled and reflective in their actions.

In the Early Years, **Belek** has been brave when it comes to nap time – Ms Begimai and Ms Carmen are very proud. **Adam** has been positive in all of his classes and **Abbas** has been very caring towards his friends. **Steven** has also cared for his classmates by sharing toys and helping others when doing activities.

In PYP, **Altai** has been exceptionally reflective, using feedback to improve and also to show gratitude for the good deeds of others. **Carys** has been especially caring towards her new classmate. **Ellie** has been equally caring for her classmates in P4, helping others to understand instructions in a thoughtful way, and **Lucie** has also been helpful and caring this week.

LOTS of CPR in MYP this week! **Arseny** has shown a great attitude, caring about his studies by actively participating in class. **Ojaswee (Oju)** has faced some technical challenges while learning remotely, but consistently reaches out to her teachers to make sure that they have received all of her completed tasks. **Daiana** has been responsive and attentive to the feedback she has received this week, and Lea has been asking questions to reflect on her work, allowing her to take risks and try new ways of doing things!

We had multiple nominations in IGCSE for **Seung Min** who has himself overcome technical difficulties to actively participate in online lessons despite his microphone not working! Clearly someone who loves computer-based challenges, he has also been working hard to prepare for the Central Asian Programming Olympiad.

Finally in the DP, **Eldar** has been recognised for his principled and consistent desire to improve his work. He doesn't make excuses and instead takes ownership and works hard to get better. I'm happy he is seeing the results of his efforts!

This has been a remarkable week in every sense. Some of our community have been caring, principled and reflective outside of our school community in relation to events in the city. Please remember to stay safe wherever you are, and keep being CPR.

Mr. Darren, Head of Student Welfare

PAWS INFORMATION EVENING

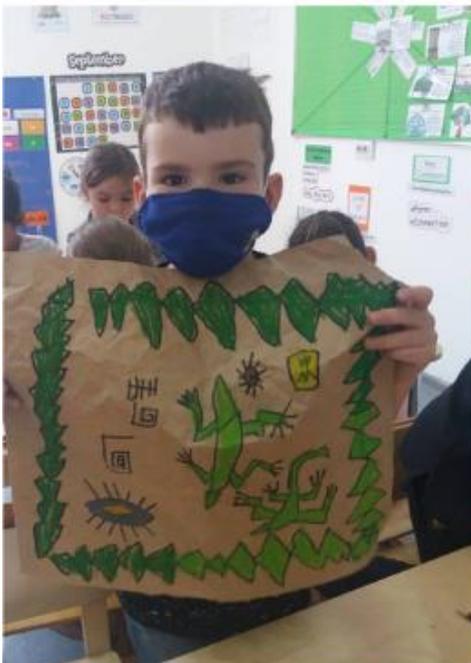
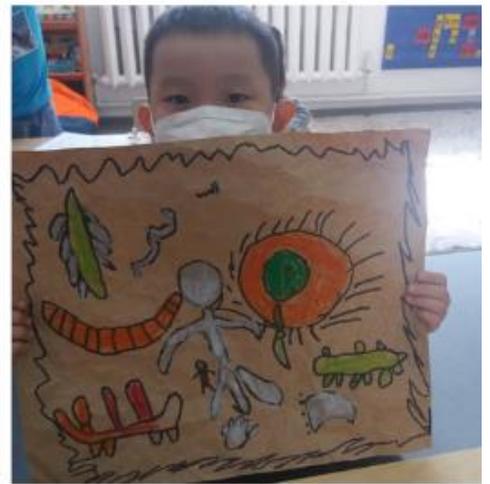


Last Wednesday, Ms Allynai, Ms Krisha and Mr Darren held an information evening via Zoom on the new PAWS programme. This video recording for this session can be accessed [here](#).

If you have any questions regarding the programme, please email Ms Krisha or Mr Darren directly.

Mr. Darren, Head of Student Welfare

BIS Snapshot: Art Time



THE POWER OF FEEDBACK

This week especially, we need good news while experiencing the political unrest in addition to the pandemic, don't we?

I wonder how many of you know that BIS teachers in each programme meet every week not only to discuss various issues but also collaboratively plan our teaching in practice.

One of the main focuses of this week's DP meeting was how best to provide our students feedback to improve their learning.

Here, I would like to ask you readers, what the most memorable, impactful and inspiring feedback you received from your teacher was.

Here are some of the answers from our DP teachers to that question:



"You can color an elephant pink." My Art teacher taught me what a creative mind was while I was always trying to draw things just as they looked."

"It's okay to make mistakes." (Particularly helpful for me learning languages). We don't need to be perfect to succeed.

My university humanities professor often read student writing (anonymously) to the class. After reading mine one day, she closed her eyes and said "Brilliant!" Felt so good!

Strange but "You can't do this!" from my History teacher! Old school approach, but he saw me messing about and knew I wasn't doing as well as I should be and he said something that motivated me to prove him wrong!

A teacher refused my work because my handwriting was too small and he said "I don't work in the stamp industry". Does that count as inspiring? At least I still remember it.

My teacher was throwing a blackboard eraser (with the handle made of wood) at students when they weren't paying attention. That's pretty clear feedback!

I hope these pieces of feedback to DP teachers from their past teachers have brought a smile to your face and that everyone has a peaceful weekend!

Ms. Makiko, DP coordinator

"Buy a good pair of shoes if you like running." I never liked PE and was just trying to exercise but it gave me an idea that I might be able to be someone who enjoys sports.

A JOURNEY OF OUR LIFE

So far this term, in English A, we have been looking into the theme of refugees and the different journeys that people take in their lives. We have read "The Best We Could Do", a graphic memoir by Thi Bui. This memoir tells the story of how Thi's family lived in and later left Vietnam in search of a safer future. The story also follows the notion of Thi trying to find out more about her origin.

In addition to this graphic memoir, we watched a film series called "A Journey From Syria". This series followed a man, called Aboud, as he traveled from Syria seeking asylum in Europe for his family.

For our summative assessment, each of my classmates, including myself, dramatized a journey from our life. It could have been a story of migration or of finding friendship. Not all of us might have gone through the stress of seeking refuge. Some of us were on a journey of making friends, of finding ourselves, or of finding home.

This project really brought to light the idea that, no matter how small, everything that happens in our lives is part of a great big journey.

Amina, DP1 Student

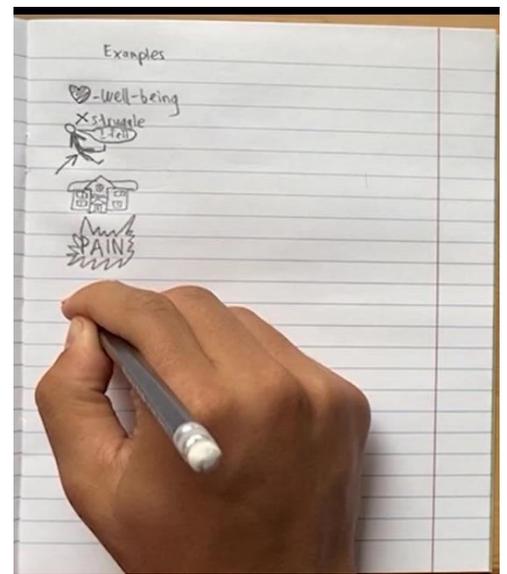
A lost journey home
Can be a danger zone.
Between the street lights,
Between drunk sot fights,
Between the empty roads,
Like scary television episodes.

Dark tension was building up.
You hope that it is all a dream
But you still can't wake up,
So you can only scream...

Nowhere to go, nowhere to hide,
Can't see any sign for me to guide.
As I yell, I only hear echo's reply...
I had a fear of moving forward, like from
somewhere
I'm going to get slaughtered.
I despair, give up and swear.

Progress forwards was made
My sanity starts to fade.
Now my eyes are open wide.
To see my home at last or was it a lie?

Alex Bazba, DP1 Student



I am a TCK



○

UN Day

Preschool to MYP1

Do not forget to come in
your National Clothes!

A day where students learn
about the UN through fun
activities and games!



16 OCTOBER 2020

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ODD SOCKS DAY



BIS students and teachers wore their odd socks this Friday to celebrate diversity, individuality and all of our difference! BIS students were proud to express how unique everyone is!



P5 SPANISH LEARNS THE ANCIENT ART OF... KUNG FU!

Our fantastic P5 Spanish have been working hard on their grammar in this unit, where we have been exploring tenses. Tenses are the parts of a language that tell us when something is happening, has happened or will happen - we use tenses all the time without realizing it, but learning them in a new language is a bit more difficult!

In Spanish, 'fui' means 'I went', 'fuiste' means 'you went' and 'fuimos' means 'we went'. We also learned how to say 'it was', which is a very similar word: 'fue'. We noticed that the Spanish word for 'I went' is 'Fui', which is very similar to the 'Fu' part of 'Kung Fu'.

With so many very similar words starting with 'f', things were starting to get a bit confusing, so to help us learn all the new words, we invented 'Kung Fui!'. With Ms Esther as the instructor, the students had to come up with moves and sentences to help them remember the words and what they meant. Ms Esther then called out one of the words, such as 'fuimos!' and the students had to show their 'Kung Fui' move, then tell us their Spanish sentence. In our pictures below, you can see the students' fantastic moves in their final rehearsed performance - you can see their confident Kung Fui moves, but what the photos don't show is just how confidently they were calling their sentences using a new tense in Spanish! Well done, Reyhan and Kani!

It has been great to welcome many of our P5 Language Acquisition students back to BIS over the last week - we can't wait to carry on working together!

Ms. Esther, Head of Language Acquisition; Spanish Language Teacher





The girl's soccer team has been learning how to head the soccer ball.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Wednesday 14th October: Individual Parent-Teacher Meetings
- Friday 16th October: UN Day at BIS
- Saturday 17th October: MUN at BIS
- 19th – 23rd October: Autumn/Fall Break

LUNCH MENU

The lunch menu for October 12th-16th 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 various discussions and participated in many activities on how to keep our hands and body clean. Personal hygiene and body care were the focus on this week. To understand the importance of washing hands and taking a bath, we took our toys outside to play with us and when we came back to the classroom, we observed their body with magnifying glasses. We found more germs on them and then practiced washing them properly with soap. To make the concept of germs more tangible, we conducted an experiment where children have got a large amount of glitters on their hands. When they touched different objects in the class, students saw how microbes spread and makes us sick. Also, we enjoyed singing, "This Is The Way We Wash Our Hands" song while pretending to keep our body clean and neat.

Ms. Begimai, Preschool 1 Homeroom Teacher



PRESCHOOL 2

Preschool 2 group has finished talking about family members. This week, friends concentrated on the summative assessment task where they needed to draw their body having just the pictures of their heads. The friends did amazing work trying not to miss any parts of the body - neck, arms, legs and abdomen. It was interesting to see that they had a discussion about the body sizes, they were saying "I am smaller than my brother. My dad is the biggest in the family". In the middle of the week we did some math activities where friends practiced their understanding of the number-quantity correspondence and talked about a new shape – the star. It appeared that the star was the most favourite shape for many students in our classroom. To make the learning more fun, the friends colored big paper stars into yellow and practiced counting star angles. For our Kyrgyz lesson, Ms. Aiperi arranged some games in the locker room where friends had to find hidden shapes and necessary colors. Active learning through games is always welcomed by our children.



Ms. Oksana, Preschool 2 Homeroom Teacher



PRESCHOOL 3

This week our preschool 3 friends learned about the letter "f". We learned that the letter "f" is for friends, fall, face, fingers and fun. We also made some beautiful friendship bracelets with the art teacher, Dr Anna, to celebrate our amazing friendships.

Then we made multiple paintings of our friends that we are displaying in the preschool locker room.

Furthermore, we practiced making music by using resonating bells and showed off our dance moves in the dance class. Next week, we will learn about the letter "g" and learn more about numbers 15 and 16!

Please remember that this will be our last week of school before the term break from 19-23 October and we will be back again from Monday 26th October.

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

