



**Bishkek
International
School**

VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 8 / 2020-21

16th October 2020

UNITED NATIONS DAY AT BIS

On Friday, 16th October BIS celebrated UN Day with students from Preschool to MYP1 and teachers. Students came to school in their national costumes and participated in a number of UN-inspired activities before attending a special UN Day parade. At the parade, students had a chance to demonstrate their different national costumes around the world. UN day is always an exciting day full of fun activities, celebrating diversity and culture, and learning about the different United Nations countries.



LEARNING LANDSCAPES THAT INSPIRE

Almost a year ago, though what seems like a lifetime ago, the Management Board (consisting of David Grant, Mirzat Osmonova, Jacques Prinsloo and Krisha Gandhi) were able to attend the annual IB Global Conference in Abu Dhabi. Following on from the trip, we shared main takeaways, ideas and strategies that we shared with leaders, facilitators and peers at the event that we believed could help make BIS an even more inspiring and engaging place to be.

One session that stood out to all four members of the team was led by an architect named Rosan Bosch who promotes the need to transform physical learning 'spaces' into meaningful and significant 'experiences' by designing schools that allow individuals to unfold their curiosity, creativity and imagination. It would be easy to save this idea until we have the capacity to invest in our new school campus though BIS rarely

takes the easy route. As well as transforming our roof terrace for DP students and teachers and creating an external campus to support our Covid-19 Protocol, smaller design updates continue to be made around school with curiosity, creativity and imagination in mind.

Our Primary Library is a great example of this. Though limited in space and unable to extend the



floorplans, we have been able to build an exciting new loft within the library. This has become a mini-hideaway for students where they can dive into their books, which often share tales of adventure, whilst experiencing a sense of excitement themselves.

We often have the opportunity to thank our students, teachers and parents for continuous collaboration in ensuring school improvements but I'd like to extend a special thanks to our facilities team at BIS who always go above and beyond in helping us turn our sometimes-crazy ideas into reality!



Krisha Gandhi, Director of Studies

DIVERSITY DAYS

Cultural diversity is an integral part of International Baccalaureate (IB) Programmes and BIS as an individual school community. Our commitment to internationalism is celebrated and advanced in a variety of ways including building multilingualism and cultural awareness, broadening perspectives, listening and collaborating,



problem solving and working for positive change. For different age groups and different subjects, the implementation and look of this will vary.

In Preschool and Primary, we invite children and families to inquire into local and global connects within their transdisciplinary learning. When understanding sculptures, for example, students may learn about the building

of yurts here in Kyrgyzstan, the bamboo scaffolding used in Hong Kong or the use of plastic bottles for housing in societies looking to tackle housing shortages and plastic pollution.

Outside of the curriculum, Preschool and Primary Students also have Diversity Days where we take some time to explicitly reflect on celebrating our differences. We use fun and interactive provocations to support our young learners' visual understanding of diversity. Last Friday, we celebrated odd socks day - an opportunity for children to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes each person unique! This led into an assembly in which students listened to the book *Anti-Racist Baby* by Award-winning author, Ibram X. Kendi. Our students were excited to have a special guest, High School Biology Teacher Ms Pam, read the book out loud. Ms Pam shared the fun and informational picture book and talked students through the nine-step guide to being anti-racist. Our young students engaged with the pictures and ideas.

If you have a book suggestion for celebrating and advancing internationalism at BIS, we'd love to hear from you. We are always looking to develop our library resources in this area and would be excited to arrange even more guest readers for our young students!

Shelby Pohndorff, PYP Homeroom Teacher and Krisha Gandhi, PYP Coordinator, Director of Studies

NEW FACES AT BIS: MISS ADELE

Salamatsyzby, Hello, Zdravstvuyte, Bonjour, and Hola, BIS Community!

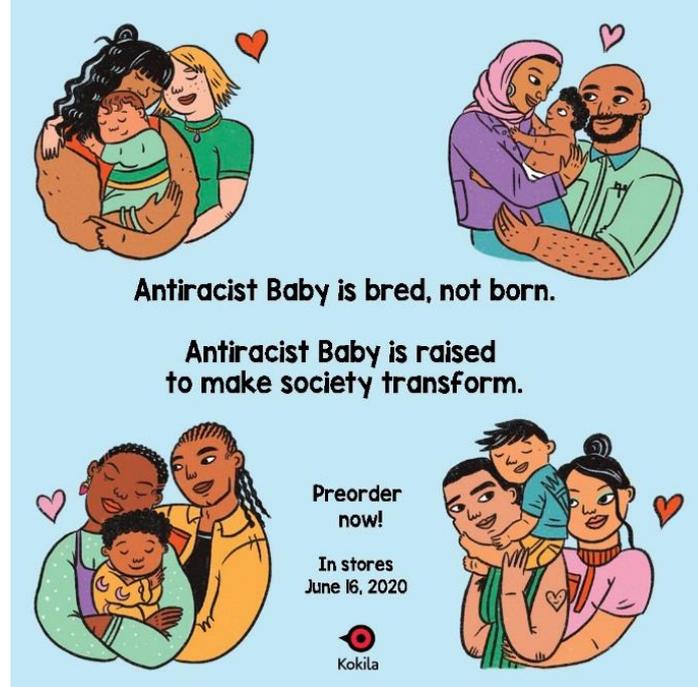
I am so grateful and happy to join BIS this year as a Spanish, French and Russian teacher. I am from Belgium, was born in Kyrgyzstan and grew up in Uzbekistan. I was lucky to live in all these beautiful countries and experience their different cultures and traditions. This gave me the opportunity to learn and appreciate some of the diverse and beautiful languages of the world. Here is a little about me:

I have a 4 year old daughter named Amelia.

I am very passionate about sports. I have played tennis for 9 years and I started to play football at the age of 9. I am currently coaching football as my ECA to my P6 students. I also like singing, dancing and cooking! I used to perform traditional Caucasian and Uzbek dances during the Diversity Week in the American University of Central Asia.

It is a privilege to be working with such a great team and bright young minds at BIS. I look forward to learning from you all and taking an active role in the advancement of this great school's pupils in the everyday life of this amazing establishment.

Ms. Adele, Spanish, French and Russian Language Acquisition Teacher



THE CPR HEROES!



Well done to everyone for making it to the end of what to me seems to have been a very quick term! There have been highs, lows and everything-in-betweens, but there is still just enough time to celebrate our caring, principled and reflective students...

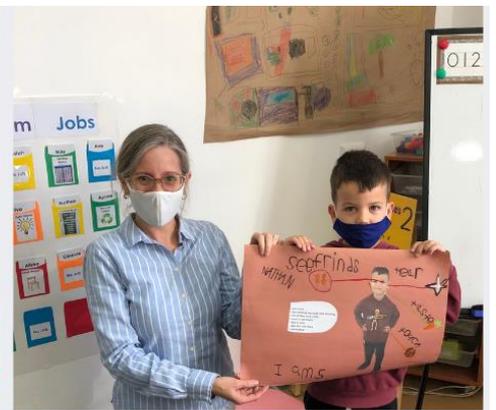
In the early years, **Steven** has been a caring friend by sharing his toys and **Tiana** has been trying her very best in class. In Primary, **Kani** has been showing kindness to other students in class while also pushing herself to figure things out on her own. **Jiwoo** has also shown her kindness and care towards new members of her class, showing real patience and understanding to help them adjust.

In the MYP, **Betty** has worked hard to overcome some obstacles in her learning by reflecting on the process and changing her approach. In IGCSE, **Bruno** has been especially principled in Spanish by attending every class and turning all work in on time. **Aidan** has been similarly consistent in her principled approach to her studies, while **Jacob** has completed some excellent work and participated well in class since joining midway through the term.

Finally, in the DP **Islam** has worked hard to stay organized since joining the school this year, always making sure he keeps his teachers informed and always taking responsibility for his actions. **Tanya** has also shown a real effort in her studies despite being in a different time zone.

Well done to these and all of the students we have celebrated this term. It has been a challenging one, and although I'm sure there will be more to come, we can overcome them with the right attitude! I wish everyone a safe, restful and happy break. See you on the other side!

Mr. Darren, Head of Student Welfare



This week in Kindergarten we celebrated a birthday and welcomed a new friend to our classroom. We shared our "All About Me" posters and celebrated the end of our UOI "Who We Are".



P3M Has been synthesizing their understanding for our unit of "How the World Works" by designing a space for the new school so that it meets our community's needs. They have been researching for weeks, learned how to provide peer-feedback to develop their sense of ownership over their own learning and identity of being knowledgeable, and used their skills as communicators to clearly present and explain their design concept. Well done to our young designers and architects!"

In P3M's own words:

"If we have a lake we can swim in the heat and ice skate in the cold!" - Kolya



"We can use the space in the hallway to put up our great projects!" - Ali



"We're going to have the best school!" - Altai

"Yeah, and [the best] cafeteria!" - Erik in response to Altai

"It's going to be so good! We need bikes and a path for them." - Can

"I chose a swimming pool because children love swimming. I built this children's playhouse to make them happy!"

"We chose helmets for the playground so we can be safe when the Earth quakes." - Ali and Arya

"I want a big space!" - Dana

"We chose a playground because we need to play" - Kolya and David



P3S made presentations of their projects.



BIS Snapshot: Art Class



MYP1G had an outside art class this week, making positive and negative body shapes, line drawings with wool and chopsticks, and making geometric shapes with recycled tins.



MUSIC CLASSES FROM PRESCHOOL TO DP



Preschool students continue to enjoy singing songs and playing short rhythmic patterns using instruments and body percussion.

P3-P4 – HOW THE WORLD WORKS – VIBRATIONS AND SOUND UNIT



In music class, P2 students continue to work on Kodaly Method rhythmic activities, vocal activities using Solfa and singing songs. They are a cheerful and funny class!



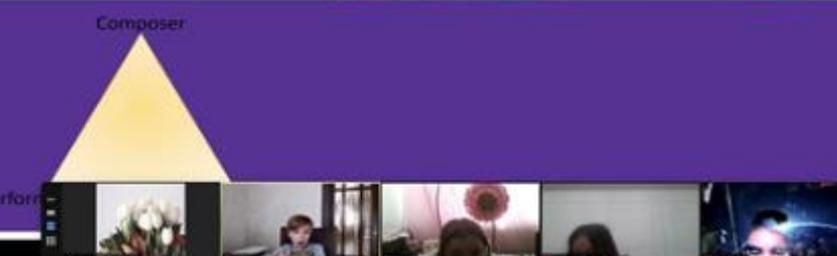
P4 and P6 started to study musical instruments. And of course, the first is the violin - the Queen of the orchestra.

P3 and P4 have been exploring the science of sound - how different instruments create sound and change pitch in different ways.

- **Composer**
- **Performer**
- **Listener**



Students sing and warm up their voices with special vocal exercises.



This week we discussed who makes music and how listeners and performers have specific functions in performances.



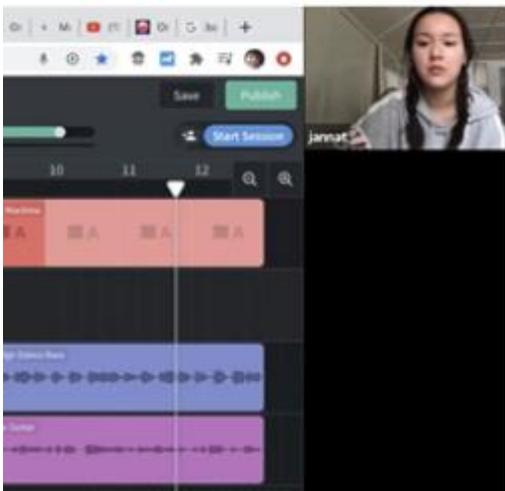
PI BAE PA BO PU

MYP1G MUSIC - STOMP UNIT

MYP1G's first music unit is STOMP - exploring the use of everyday items for rhythmic music. Students have been using different forms of notation, musical terminology when analysing performances, building rhythmic performance skills and creating their own rhythmic patterns. It's not always easy but together we are finding ways to grow musically during this remote learning period!



MYP 2 and 3 have been learning about different world rhythms. We are currently learning about Rock and Blues. Last week students wrote some "Blues" lyrics. One student went above and beyond, and recorded themselves performing their Blues songs.



DP1 Music students have been busy with the newly updated DP Music Program, which began in this form just this year. Our first unit is focused on the Area of Inquiry 4 - Music Technology in the Electronic and Digital Age. We have started exploring this topic wearing hats of researchers and experimenters, listening to examples from numerous genres and beginning the process of creating our own music using different DAWs including Bandlab, FL Studio and Ableton. I'm excited to see the progress already made and look forward to student compositions being presented at the end of this unit.

Mr. Grant Music teacher



UNE JOURNEE AFFREUSE – A TERRIBLE DAY

A Pre-Fall Festival spooky story, written and translated by Lea Marti.

Il y avait une fois une sorcière et un magicien qui vivaient dans une maison au milieu d'une forêt. Et je vais vous raconter cette histoire:

Ce matin, un enfant perdu frappe à leur porte, une sorcière ouvre la porte avec une baguette à la main. Il pense que c'est tellement bizarre qu'elle ait une baguette. La sorcière le fait entrer avec joie. La sorcière le frappe à la tête avec une marmite. Il se réveille dans une chambre sombre avec un balai à côté de lui. Il pense que s'il avait su, il n'aurait pas frappé à cette porte. Le gamin, effrayé par cela, crie avec toute sa voix. La porte s'ouvre et le magicien le force à boire une potion. Il lui dit que s'il ne la buvait pas, il le transformerait en grenouille. La potion fait dormir le gamin à nouveau. Quand il se réveille, il est attaché à une tombe dans un cimetière. Il y a des fantômes partout et le gamin est terrifié. Il espère que les fantômes sont seulement dans son imagination. Les fantômes lui disent qu'il ne doit pas faire de bruit sinon le dragon le brûlerait à mort. Le gamin cesse de lutter immédiatement. Les fantômes regardent derrière l'enfant et commencent à s'éloigner. Un ogre apparaît avec une hache dans ses mains. Le gamin recommence à se débattre mais l'ogre lui dit que ça ne sert à rien et que personne ne viendrait. Le gamin n'écoute pas et continue à se débattre. L'ogre en a assez et coupe le bras de l'enfant. L'enfant a une douleur atroce et cesse de lutter. Il pense alors qu'il est impossible qu'il en sorte vivant. L'ogre s'amuse bien et coupe les 5 doigts sur son autre main. La sorcière qu'il n'a pas remarqué, dit à l'ogre d'arrêter de torturer le pauvre gamin et d'aller aider Michael à prendre soin du dragon. L'ogre part et la sorcière le suit sans le regarder une seconde fois. Le gamin souffre mais sait que c'est sa dernière chance de s'échapper avant de mourir. Il réussit à retirer son bras restant de la corde et court vers la route. Il continue à suivre la route jusqu'à ce qu'il prenne à droite dans une rue effrayante. À la fin de la rue il y a un château. Il court au château et frappe à la porte. Un dragon ouvre la porte et une fois que le gamin voit que c'est un dragon il pense qu'il ne va pas sortir vivant. Le pauvre gamin a raison et le dragon le brûle.

There was once a witch and a magician who lived in a house in the middle of a forest. And now I'll tell you the story:

This morning, a lost child knocks on their door, a witch opens the door with a wand in her hand. He thinks it's so weird that she has a wand. The witch brings him in with joy. The witch strikes him in the head with a pot. He wakes up in a dark room with a broom next to him. He thinks that if he had known, he would not have knocked on that door. The boy, frightened by it, cried out with all his voice. The door opens and the magician forces him to drink a potion. He tells him that if he did not drink it, he would turn him into a frog. The potion makes the kid fall asleep again. When he wakes up, he is attached to a grave in a cemetery. There are ghosts everywhere and the kid is terrified. He hopes the ghosts are only in his imagination. The ghosts tell him that he must not make any noise or a dragon will burn him to death.

The kid stops fighting immediately. The ghosts look behind the child and begin to move away. An ogre appears with an ax in his hands. The kid starts fighting again, but the ogre tells him it's useless and no one will come. The child does not listen and continues to struggle. The ogre has enough and cuts off the child's arm. The child has excruciating pain and stops fighting. He then thinks that it is impossible for him to come out alive. The ogre enjoys himself well and cuts the 5 fingers on his other hand. The witch that he didn't notice told the ogre to stop torturing the poor kid and go help Michael take care of the dragon. The ogre leaves and the witch follows him without looking at him a second time. The kid suffers but knows this is his last chance to escape before he dies. He manages to remove his remaining arm from the rope and runs towards the road. He continues to follow the road until he takes a right into a scary street. At the end of the street, there is a castle. He runs to the castle and knocks on the door. A dragon opens the door and once the kid sees it's a dragon, he thinks that this time for sure he wouldn't make it out. The poor kid is right and the dragon burns him to death.

Lea, MYP 3 Student

BIS Halloween Dance 2020

HALLOWEEN MASK CONTEST

Prizes will be given to students who decorate their mask to match their Halloween costume!

October 30, 2020 | 5:00 PM

Big Hall





**BOOK TICKETS
ONLINE!**



HALLOWEEN DANCE 2020

**HAUNTED HOUSE,
PHOTO BOOTH,
GAMES AND PRIZES
& MORE**

**FRIDAY, OCT. 30
17:00 - 21:00
@BIG HALL
TICKETS - 300 SOM**

MONA LISA PAINTINGS BY MYP STUDENTS



The Mona Lisa paintings created by MYP students and hung in the new admin building, called the Mona Room.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Saturday 17th October: MUN at BIS
- 19th – 23rd October: Autumn/Fall Break
- Friday 30th October – Fall Festival
- 7-8-9 November – Public Holidays
- Saturday 21st November – Friendsgiving Dinner (PAMC)
- Saturday 28th November – BIS Annual Debate Tournament

KEEP IN TOUCH

If you have anything you want to discuss or 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 and our Reception will forward your email to the right person.



PRESCHOOL 1

This week, Preschool 1 children continued exploring about personal hygiene and body care. We focused on learning about the dental health and tried to form positive habits and skills towards oral care. Our friends investigated which food is good for our teeth and which is bad; now we know that eating too much sugar and sweets can cause tooth damage. We practiced teeth brushing with toothbrushes and children learned that our teeth can turn yellow and fall out if we do not care of them. In the middle of the week, we made our dental cavity and our friends liked to play with it by saying “My teeth”. In this last week of the first term, we also repeated our numbers and shapes during circle times by doing different activities. We are so proud of Preschool 1 friends who did an amazing job during this first term and have adjusted to their very first school routines. They have created beautiful artworks and have participated in so many lessons. Well done, Preschool 1!

Ms. Begimai, Preschool 1 Homeroom Teacher



PRESCHOOL 2

This was our last week of Term 1. We had a great 8 weeks of learning about different things and becoming close friends. The friends learned how to greet each other in the morning and ask "How are you today?". They learned how to share and now do it with great pleasure. We talked a lot about the class essential agreements such as listening ears, watching eyes, walking feet and cleaning after you play, and we can see the results in the children's attitude to others and in their general behavior. Great work, friends! This week we decided to talk about some topics we covered throughout the term and do lots of art works. Thus, at the beginning of the week we talked about dental health and what we need to avoid in eating to keep our teeth clean and healthy. Our friends helped us to separate food products into good and "sometimes" and stick them on happy and sad tooth pictures. We talked about us - our bodies, our families, our hobbies, our friends. To make the students' stories visual, we hung pictures of the things and actions our students like next to their photos on the wall. Several lessons were devoted to autumn art and we created beautiful autumn trees, painted leaves and used them as stamps, drew faces on the leaves using black markers, tried to cover leaves with colorful playdough to decorate them. This whole term has been great fun!

Ms. Oksana, Preschool 2 Homeroom Teacher



PRESCHOOL 3

The first term has come and gone in the blink of an eye. This week we had a lot of amazing meetings with parents and we want to say thank you to everybody for your support and care. We had a lot of fun and we learned about the letter 'g' and learned that the letter 'g' is for great, green, grapes and giant. We also made some fun fall art and had an amazing time in music and PE. Next week will be fall break and we hope everyone has a wonderful time and please stay safe. We are looking forward to seeing everyone back at school on 26 October.

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

