



**Bishkek
International
School**

VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 9 / 2020-21

30th October 2020

THE SHOW MUST GO ON

BIS (as ESCA) was formed in April 2010, just after the revolution; did not lose hope during the June 2010 crisis, when the country was on the verge of collapse; was established by Charter in December 2010; and opened in September 2011 with 20 students, despite no funding and only extensive and expensive loans. In the last 10 years there have been many seemingly impossible hurdles - when it would have been easy to back down. Instead we pushed forward to establish this school to serve the community. We never took the easy route because we fight to provide the best international education in a happy environment for children in Bishkek. We have never been, and never will be, a fainthearted school.



If you wondered why we stayed open every day during the October 2020 revolution, or why we open now for all students who can come to school, while effectively managing the COVID-19 risks, our history provides the answers. We do not give up, we do not back down. We respond rapidly to changing circumstances to keep providing excellent education while managing risks to protect student and staff safety.

As we move into the winter season, the risks of COVID-19 transmission increase as we are often inside and windows are closed, especially when the air quality is poor. At this stage we have no plans to close the school at any time over winter. However, we will constantly review both the COVID-19 situation and air quality. If we need to take action during winter to reduce the number of students physically in the school, we are still likely to keep lower grades in school because they cannot easily learn remotely, and also High School students who have exams in 2021. Although some students are still out of the country, or are committed to remote learning to reduce their COVID-19 risk, 85% of students are currently in school. So far, we have not had any COVID-19 cases. Our [COVID-19 Protocol](#), section 16, explains what will happen when we have to have a case.

One temporary casualty of COVID-19 controls is the **10th Anniversary Show**, which will be the 'The Lion King'. This is currently in your calendars in December at the National Philharmonic Hall. The show and location stay the same but the **new date is Saturday 17th April**, which will be an official school day. I hope to welcome everyone to the show!

David Grant, Head of School



UNITED NATIONS DAY AT BIS

This year United Nation's selected "peace" as the main theme for UN Day. Students attending physical school from Preschool to MYP1 were able to enjoy a fun day filled with many activities such as peace card making, listening to stories, collecting stamps in UN passports, participating in treasure hunts and many more activities. Online students from Primary 1 to MYP3 were also able to participate in the event by taking part in the online challenge kahoots, creating peace pigeons, playing "Free-rice", and watching the UN Day parade online through zoom. Throughout the whole day we were able to see many beautiful national costumes from different countries.

I am very happy to say that this year high school students took full initiative on leading UN Day. They succeeded in making it an educational and interesting day for the younger students. I would like to thank all of the people who made this day happen, and I hope that it will keep improving each year!

Aila Grant, DP2 Student





THE CPR HEROES!



It has certainly been a busy week after the October break with students gearing up for the Fall Festival and the return to physical school for many. Whether continuing with remote learning or returning to the campus for classes, it's great to see that students haven't forgotten to be caring, principled and reflective in the whirlwind of activity!

In early years and primary, **Kaizen** has been really caring for his new friend in Pre-school 1. In P3, **Sasha** reflected on the current situation in Bishkek and decided to sell some of his toys to raise money for the Red Crescent, a very caring gesture. Finally, **Fanny** in P6 has shown a principled attitude towards her classwork and created an excellent presentation on the nervous system, well done!

In the MYP, **Nestan** has worked hard to overcome challenges she has faced and has gone above and beyond to go out of her way to help others. In the IGCSE, **Aliya E** has worked hard to catch up on any work she has missed and has sought feedback from her teachers, and in the DP **Iman** and **Medina** have both shown a high degree of reflection in class, making valid contributions and connecting their studies to contemporary events.

School will look different on Friday for the Fall Festival Dance, and next week as we have more bodies on campus. If anything, all this does is give our students more opportunities to show their proficiency in CPR, which I'm sure will be reflected in next week's instalment of CPR heroes!

Mr. Darren, Head of Student Welfare

A CPR HEROE – SASHA FROM P3S

In July, Sasha (P3S) was very apprehensive about what was going on in Kyrgyzstan due to Covid 19. Thus, he thought to start fundraising. He sold some of his toys downstairs in the courtyard where he lives to help hospitals buying new equipment and people in need.

Last week, he was finally accompanied to the Red Crescent so that he could achieve his objective.

Below there are a few screenshots of the social media posts by the Kyrgyz Red Crescent.

We are very proud of Sasha being caring, principled and reflective.



Красный Полумесяц Кыргызстана Follow
3 hrs •

Знакомьтесь - это Саша. Когда вся страна боролась с июльской волной коронавируса, Саша решил, что ему тоже нужно действовать и стал продавать собствен... See more

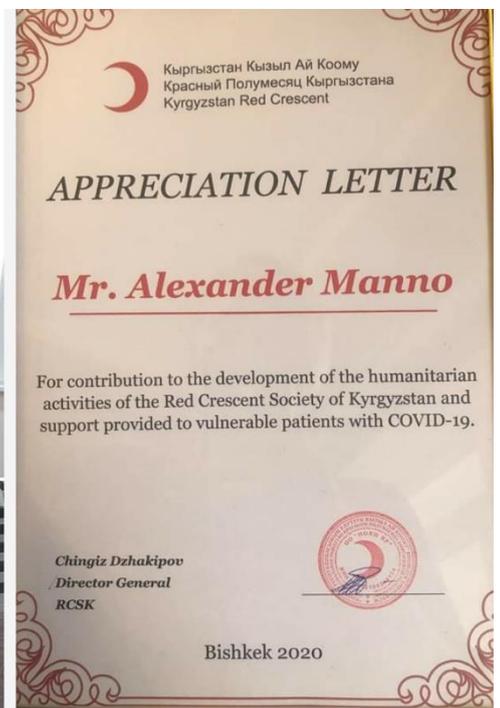


Liked by **francescolabis** and **167 others**

redcrescent.kg Meet Sasha. When the whole country fought the July wave of coronavirus, Sasha decided that he also needed to act and began to sell his own toys and collect money. He really wants to help people affected by COVID. And today the boy handed over the money to us so we can continue to help. And Sasha is only 7 years old. It's so great when parents help children look at the world through kindness and compassion.

View all 5 comments

francescolabis the panormita gene always comes out!!



P1-P3 REMOTE LEARNERS

Before fall break, the P1-P3 remote learners did an excellent job preparing their summative assessment projects and showcasing all they had learned during the first unit of the school year. Keep up the great work, P1-P3 remote learners!

Seonwoo, P3

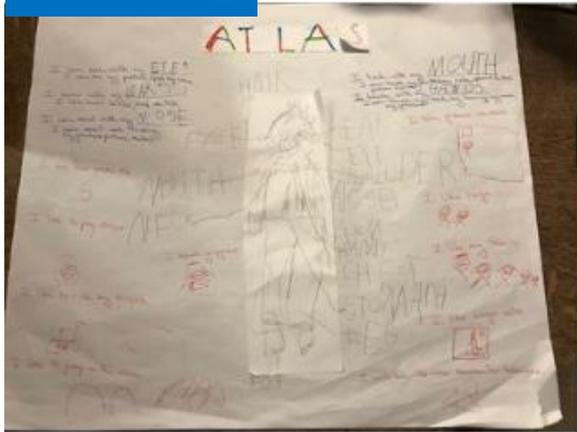


Jiwoo, P2



Alex, P3

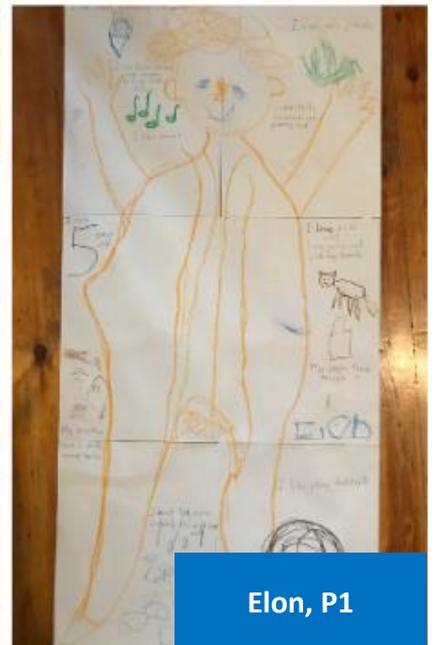
Atlas, P1



Soren, P2



Elon, P1



Cora, P3



Selim, P3



Theo, P3



Jasper, P2



BIS Snapshot: Fall Festival







MYP WRITES FOR THE SCHOOL WEBSITE... IN SPANISH!

This term, in MYP Spanish, we have been learning about online school vs. in-person school for our unit '¿En casa o en línea?' ('Online or at home?'). We learned words that could help us in online learning especially vocabulary related to computers and Zoom. Since it's not just about online learning, we also studied different subjects and rooms in the school building. In Spanish A for a fun project, Ms. Esther asked each student to write descriptions in Spanish of three school buildings or rooms to put on the BIS website. I wrote a short description of the playground, cafeteria, and the big hall, using different vocabulary and grammar we had learned together, as well as finding out some new things myself. After we were done writing our descriptions, Ms. Esther took us on a virtual trip around the building and, for each part of the school we passed, the person who had written the description had to read out what they had said written about it! It was very fun, and you can see our work on the school website by following [this link](#) and looking at the bottom of the page.

"NUESTRO COLEGIO... ¡EN ESPAÑOL!" – MYP Students describe the school in Spanish

[Nuestro colegio... ¡en español! -Explore our Campus](#)



Aglaiia, MYP3 Student

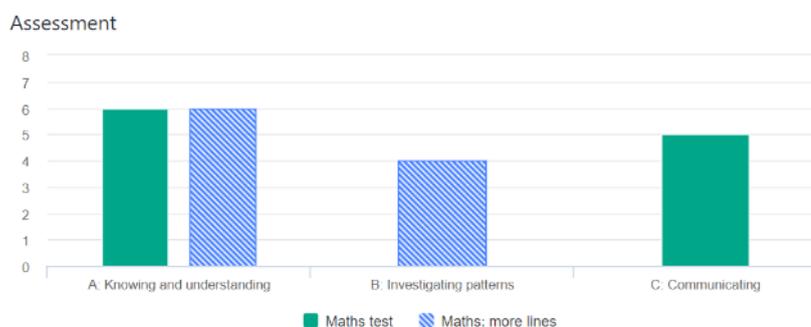
MANAGEBAC FOR MYP PARENTS – 2 USEFUL TIPS

How do I see my MYP child's academic progress on ManageBac?

1. Click on 'Academics' on the panel on the left. If you have several children at the school, make sure you select the relevant child on the ManageBac homepage.

2. Select a class (e.g. Maths).

3. Scroll down. Information about individual tasks is found in the 'Completed Tasks' section. Achievement levels from 0 to 8 and written comments are provided for all summative assessments. The solid bars on the bar chart show summative achievement levels 0-8. These contribute towards end-of-semester grades. Striped bars indicate scores on formative assessments. Some teachers also give feedback formative assessments in class or via other platforms.



Completed Tasks

OCT 27 Maths: more lines Formative Tuesday at 11:25 AM

Show task details & teacher comments

A: 6 8 B: 4 8

OCT 26 Maths: new unit begins! Formative Monday at 8:00 AM

Show task details & teacher comments

N/A

How do I check my MYP child's attendance and/or participation in remote learning.

1. Click on 'Attendance' on the side panel.

2. Choose the week you want to check attendance for (see image).

Attendance

Class	Mon, Oct 12	Tue, Oct 13	Wed, Oct 14	Thu, Oct 15	Fri, Oct 16
Homeroom	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT
IB MYP Spanish Language Acquisition B Phases 1, 2 (MYP 1)	P6: PRESENT		P6: PRESENT		P6: PRESENT
IB MYP Form Class MYP 1A (MYP 1)					P8: PRESENT
IB MYP Host Country Studies MYP 1A (MYP 1)		P7: PRESENT			
IB MYP Individuals & Societies MYP1A (MYP 1)	P4: PRESENT P5: PRESENT		P5: PRESENT	P3: PRESENT	
IB MYP MYP1G Mathematics (MYP 1)	P1: ABSENT P2: ABSENT		P5: PRESENT		P3: ABSENT P4: ABSENT
IB MYP Design MYP 1A (MYP 1)		P7: ABSENT			P2: OTHER

3. We are currently using 3 codes for MYP attendance. P = Present in a lesson in school. A = Absent from school and did not (yet) complete the remote learning task for this lesson. O = Other, meaning that the student completed an independent task at home for this lesson. Please note that teachers may not update remote learning attendance until at least 24 hours after the lesson. During this time, remote learners' attendance may look like 'absent', until teachers confirm that the student has done work to a satisfactory standard.

Mr. Tim, MYP Coordinator

ADMIN STAFF UPDATES – GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK!

BIS is sad to inform you that we are losing two great Admin staff: Symbat Berdimamatova, our Policies and Records Administrator and IGCSE Exam Officer and Aigerim Tilekeeva, our Logistics and Procurement Officer, are leaving BIS as they have both won scholarships to take their Master's Degree at La Sapienza University in Rome.

We express our sincere gratitude to Symbat and Aigerim for their excellent work for the last 3 and 4 years respectively. A huge thank you to both of you for your dedication and for being the best ambassadors for our school and community.

We wish them best of luck in their future development paths. BIS will miss both of you and will wait for you to come back.



Mirzat Osmonova, Head of Administration

Friday 13th
November

Types of Stripes Day!



Wear stripes on
Friday 13th November
to show BIS'
unity AND diversity

And earn 10
house points!



Scan the QR code to find out more:



Language competition

for language lovers in P5 to DP2!

November 4th - 11th 2020 (Online)

Do you...

love languages?

want to get better at a language you are learning?

want to try learning some new languages?

want to compete with students from across the world?

want to earn points for your house?

If you answered **'yes', 'oui', 'sí', 'ja', 'да'** to any of these questions, **then this competition is for you!**

Join Education Perfect, an online language-learning platform, answer grammar and vocabulary questions about lots of different languages (or choose just one!) and earn points for your house!

To sign up or find out more, email **Ms Esther:**
ejohnson@bis.kg

by 12 noon on Monday 2nd November!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

We are happy to announce that our Book Club is up and running!

Go to <https://eu-schools.scholastic.co.uk/bishkekinternationalschool/digital-book-club> to browse the latest books and order online.

The deadline for orders is **November 9th, 2020**.

The books will be delivered to BIS directly from the UK (at the end of November or beginning of December).

EVERY ORDER EARNS FREE BOOKS FOR OUR SCHOOL LIBRARY!

Please note that in order to reduce paper usage, instead of print catalogs we provide flyers for the Book Club. We gave a flyer to each student in Pre-school and Primary school, as well as to MYP1 and MYP2 classes.

The virtual catalogue is available by the following links:

[For primary students](#)

[For kids 11+](#)

If you are interested in placing an order, there are two easy ways to do so:

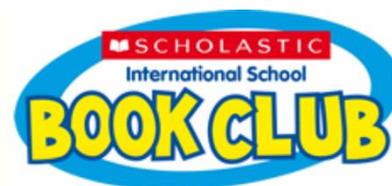
1. Order & Pay online (with your credit card):

<http://eu-schools.scholastic.co.uk/bishkekinternationalschool>

2. Submit the order form and money to our cashier, Burmakan.

Should you have any questions about book ordering, please feel free to ask - library@bis.kg

We hope that you enjoy browsing through the catalogue and will find something interesting for your child!



DON'T FORGET!
Orders are due:
November 9

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 7-8-9 November – Public Holidays
- Saturday 21st November – Friendsgiving Dinner (PAMC)
- Saturday 28th November – BIS Annual Debate Tournament

LUNCH MENU

The lunch menu for November 2nd - 6th 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.

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

Preschool 1 Friends had an exciting week learning about healthy eating habits. We discovered that some products we should use in everyday life - healthy food. We also learnt that there are some foods that we can eat only sometimes. In Preschool 1, we called them, "Sometimes food". We learned to name fruits and vegetables and the importance of eating healthy food. Together, we sorted all foods that are in our class, made our healthy food plate by choosing our favorite fruits and vegetables. Another exciting activity was making a fruit skewer – yum! It took time for our young friends to clean, cut and stick all the fruits on the skewers. Other news this week was welcoming our new friend, Amalia, who just joined our class. This week we also had such a big event - the celebration of Fall Festival. We loved being dress up in spooky and fun characters, and participating in festive games such as making spiders, pumpkin painting and cookie decorating.

Ms Begimai, Preschool 1 Homeroom Teacher



PRESCHOOL 2

This week, we started a new Unit of Inquiry within the theme “How We Express Ourselves”. This term is going to be devoted to the ways and activities through which people express their feelings, emotions, ideas, their spirit and character. Starting our discussion from the way people choose to dress, we looked at the pictures where people were in different clothes such as pajamas, classic costumes, beautiful dresses, comfortable hoodies and carnival costumes of supermen, princesses, monsters and mermaids. We discussed how clothes can reflect our emotions and beliefs. In discussions, the children told us about their favourite kinds of clothes, the colors they like to have on their clothes and some of them showed these clothes items during our “Show and Tell” activity. It appeared that most of us like to wear jeans as they are comfortable and stylish, and prefer to wear jumpers and hoodies with dinosaurs and other animals as the children want to be these animals! Many people like to wear beautiful dresses with different colors and often with flower – perhaps to make us feel happy. For our math lesson, we talked about the concepts of “Big and Small” and completed a sorting activity with small and big objects. The brightest day for us was Friday as it was the day of spooky costumes and fun activities! We painted pumpkins, made ghosts out of cotton balls and paper and got some Trick or Treat candies from Superman to eat at home!

Ms. Oksana, Preschool 2 Homeroom Teacher



PRESCHOOL 3

After a restful term break our preschool friends had a busy week at school. We started our unit of inquiry about houses by making a fun, haunted Halloween house that also helped us learn our letter of the week, letter 'h'. Our friends also enjoyed the fall festival on Friday and had fun doing all the different activities: painting a pumpkin, pinning the head on the skeleton, and decorating cookies!

Next week we will continue learning about houses. We will also work on number recognition from 1 to 20, and the letter 'i'.

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



