



WHY CAN'T WE SEE THE STARS DURING THE DAY?

In P3, this week, we loved playing to explore the science of light through the constellations. Students were introduced to the idea of constellations, many already coming with some knowledge of the stories and figures behind them. When exploring and looking at Sagittarius, Alan C explained *"It's a bow and arrow! Archer!"*

Through guided play and exploration, children inquired into the concepts of how light works on Earth using flashlights and holes in cups to make their own constellation!

Ms. Moni, Primary 3M homeroom Teacher



LIVING OUR MISSION AND VISION THROUGH PYP ASSEMBLIES

Public speaking is something that can induce nerves in even the most confident of adults, and yet here at BIS we have students asking on a daily basis whether they can host an assembly to a wider group of in-school and remote learning peers.

Our Covid-Protocol means our assembly sizes have a reduced number of participants and physical audience. This, however, hasn't stopped our primary school students who have now eagerly created a waiting list of assembly presenters, and spend 1-2 weeks prior to their turn writing scripts, coming up with creative ideas and building unique content.

This week, P3M's Ali, Arya and Cora took to the stage to share information on the history of Thanksgiving and how our school now celebrates Friendsgiving on an annual basis. All 7-8 years of age, the three students spent their playtimes and lunchtimes creating a Google Slides presentation, working on their voice projection and delivery, and designing a school Friendsgiving in-school postal delivery service which they shared details about in their talk.



Whilst our student-led assemblies encourage students to develop confidence in *how* they express themselves, we are also aiming to teach our young student body that *what* they have to say is important. Valuing their words, voice and ideas, and showing our students an audience who is actively listening to them, has contributed to a very special sense of agency and self-efficacy at BIS and, I believe, will ultimately lead to our globally-minded students becoming global-minded leaders of the future.

Krishna Gandhi, Director of Studies and PYP Coordinator

CONGRATULATIONS TO



THE CPR HEROES!



It has been great to welcome so many students back to school this week and to witness the continued efforts and successes of our online learners. Teachers have been working hard to make sure that all learners feel supported and valued, but have still found the time to recognise and report the caring, principled and reflective behaviour that our students have exhibited!

In Preschool, **Yuvaan** has been principled by participating in all activities and creating some wonderful artworks, and **Adam** has been responsible in caring for himself by making sure he takes actions to stay healthy.

In Primary School, **Altana** has been really helpful and caring by clearing up all of the lovely new equipment that was left on the playground after outside play. **Selim** has been very principled by being respectful, participative and positive in all of his online lessons this week, and **Akniya** has also been very open-minded since joining the school and has not been afraid to try new things. **Amanda** has also reflected on her learning in math and has been using her spare time to do extra work to help her with multiplication.

In the MYP, **Miko** has been a consistently helpful presence since joining the school, and **Ayan** has been recognised for being active, attentive and reflective in class. **Darika** in IGCSE1 has also actively participated in class and reflected on her learning, and a big thank you goes out to **Izel, Alina** and **Geert** for making their new classmates feel so welcome in their first few days.

Last but not least, in DP1 both **Islam** and **Malika** have been organised, active and communicative with both their peers and teachers, and **Daniel** (DP2) is starting to see the benefits of his consistent effort in Chemistry.

It is always a pleasure to sit down and write about the good things that our students are doing, and I hope that this recognition encourages similar actions in the future. While next week is shorter due to the Monday holiday, I am confident that I'll have plenty to write about in next week's *Voices*!

Mr. Darren, Head of Student Welfare

NEW GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

In our annual elections for the Governing Board, Fred Huston (Chair of the GB) was re-elected by BIS Staff for another 3-year term, and Hugh Salmon (Vice Chair of GB) was re-elected by the Advisory Council. From the Parents Association, Adrian Marti completed his 3-year term and did not stand again as he will be leaving Bishkek in summer 2021, and Ann-Marie Nguyen stepped down from the Board. We are extremely grateful to both Adrian Marti and Ann-Marie Nguyen for their excellent service to the school during their time on the GB. In the Parents Association election, Stephanie Powers and Peter Ormel were elected to serve for 2 years and 3 years respectively.

Stephanie is the mother of two primary age children enrolled at BIS, and is a registered nurse who works part-time at the US Embassy in Bishkek. She hopes that her experience as a nurse and as a parent provides her with insight and understanding that is useful in this current pandemic climate as well as under normal circumstances. She has been an active member of the International Women's Group in Warsaw, Poland, Riga, Latvia and here in Bishkek where she has served on several committees and boards as well as within the US embassies at each post. She believes that her contributions to the school community and decisions on the behalf of the GB will allow BIS to be the best place possible for children to grow and learn.

Peter Ormel has two children in High School at BIS and is Country Director for ACTED in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. His past experience includes: being Economic Development Advisor for the Danish Government in Bolivia; Education Coordinator for the Dutch Government in Bolivia; President of the Dutch school in La Paz,

Bolivia; and Treasurer of the Dutch school on Santa Cruz, Bolivia. He believes that his experience will enable him to contribute to the strategic development and realization of long-term goals of BIS.

Congratulations to our newly-elected members! We believe that you will serve in the best interests of the school and parents.

Nuriza Begalieva, Governance Support Officer

NEW FACES AT BIS: MR KEVIN

Do you think that $0.9999... = 1$?

I doubt that if in high school a teacher had asked me where I would choose to live 15 years later Kyrgyzstan would have topped the list. In my youthful naïveté, I probably knew nothing of the Stans - other than being convinced that Turkmenistan's capital Ashgabat was the same city as "Agrabat" - the fictional city of Aladdin.

Life is harder to predict than any election. |

As a boy I was always asked what I wanted to do, and never had the answer. Perhaps the mystery was the appeal. I didn't plan to become a teacher. Somewhere along the line, I realised it suited me well, so I pursued it all the way here.

In one sentence, I'm a French-born Irish teacher of Maths who loves horse riding, puzzles and German. There's no rhyme or reason to it. Everyone is unique, with their strengths and their flaws. I could speak of my past here, but what for? Whether you are 15 or 55, only the present and future matter. (Although Terry Pratchett's Discworld makes a good point: since we can only see the past, and not the future, perhaps we are facing backwards as we move through time!)



Before BIS, I worked in Ulaanbaatar, where it reaches -40 degrees (Celsius AND Fahrenheit!) every February. In comparison, Bishkek is an oven. It is no surprise that my favourite spot in Kyrgyzstan is Соңкөл – what feels like a miniature Mongolia.

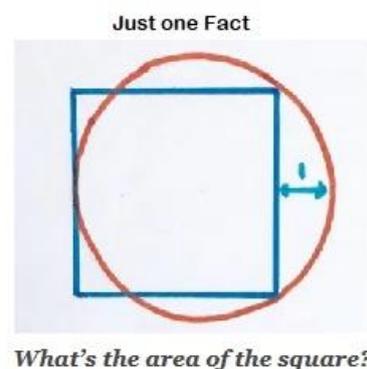
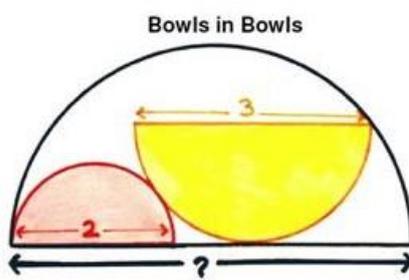
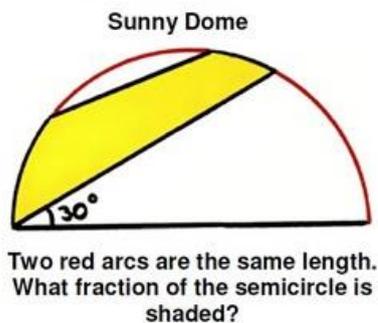
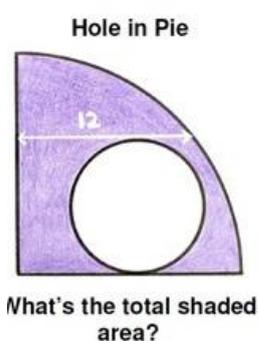
BIS is a great school in many ways but, above all, I am awed by the resolve of many of our pupils to speak English when it is not the language spoken at home. As someone who grew up in a bilingual family, I duly recognise the challenge.

My tip: your mind is a weapon, so keep it sharp with puzzles and challenges, and it will cut through the obstacles life throws at you. Specialise in what you are good at, and persevere - life is a rich pageant, and you are needed somewhere.

There's still so much to discover, in the world and in the mind. I make sure to savour the little things such as good health, time with friends and family, and to ignore nostalgia - it only robs us of new experiences. Thank you for this opportunity, BIS.

PS: yes, $0.999... = 1$. If you are not convinced, think about the value of $1/3$. Then, consider $3/3$.

Mr. Kevin, Math, Economics and DP Theory of Knowledge Teacher





This week in P1 we explored standard and non-standard units of measurement. We read "The King's Foot" and measured all sorts of things in our class room! We played with pattern blocks and learned 3 new letter sounds! We also decided to turn our Drama Center into a Restaurant. Its so fun to be in P1!



LEARNING ABOUT VOICE

In Primary School, each homeroom had a chance to reflect on the qualities that made a worthy student council representative. Each class democratically decided on how to decide for their representative: who to vote for, how many votes were fair, and how to conduct the presentation of candidates. Some classes, like P5, even made posters and campaigned for themselves!

In P3, children listed the representative as being aligned with our IB Learner Profile Traits stating the qualities of a student council member needing to be a risk-taker, responsible, helpful, principled, and respectful.



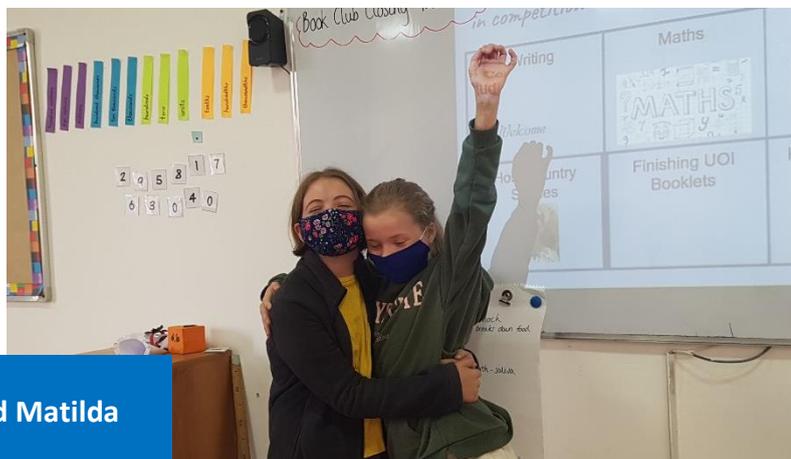
P3M Candidates giving speeches

It was a tense time this morning in P6 as the class voted for their class representative. After the first round of voting, the six original candidates were whittled down to just two. Dasha and Matilda both then had another opportunity to persuade the class why they were the best choice before the final vote. Dasha and Matilda congratulated each other, supported each other and wished each other well, and I believe both would have been an excellent choice. It was an incredibly close contest but, in the end, Dasha won the vote. Well done to everyone who put themselves in the running, and especially well done to Dasha!

Ms Moni, P3 Teacher



Dasha and Matilda



In P1, we asked for volunteers after discussing what the student council is and the attributes of a student council representative. For 3 days we continued to discuss and reflect on the attributes of a good student council representative - some students decided they did not want to do it, while others changed their minds and decided to volunteer. Finally, on Thursday we created a ballot and held a "secret vote". We decided the student with the most votes should be our representative.



P1 vote

BIS Snapshot: Outdoor Play



JOLLY PHONICS PROGRAM

Jolly Phonics is a comprehensive synthetic phonemic awareness program that BIS has adopted for P1 and P2. A synthetic phonics approach is one that emphasizes both the teaching of letter-sounds in isolation and how to blend them together to read and write a word. On Wednesday 11th November, our P1 and P2 team will be offering a presentation and Q&A session to explain components of the Jolly Phonics program and address how parents can collaborate with us to help support their children on this exciting journey. Not all the students will find it easy to learn and blend sounds and all children benefit from parent involvement and extra practice at home. All P1 and P2 parents are welcome to join us on Friday to hear more about the Jolly Phonics program and allow us to answer your questions. Any other parents or community members interested in hearing more about Jolly Phonics are also welcome to attend.

[Click here to attend!](#)

Ms. Kathleen, Ms. Shelby, and Ms. Altynai

P1 AND P2

PRESENT

Jolly Phonics

11/11/20
17:00
On Zoom

Tips to promote phonics development

Russian Translation Provided

TYPES OF STRIPES DAY

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:



FLOORBALL

Mr. Faez started presenting a new sport in our school, Floorball! Here you can see pictures with MYP 1G class. You can learn more about this sport and the benefits it brings from Mr. Faez. Feel free to ask him on the playground or via email!





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

There are only 6 days left to order from our Scholastic Book Club.

Just go to <http://eu-schools.scholastic.co.uk/bishkekinternationalschool> to browse the latest books and place your order.

Please place your order online by **November 12th, 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!

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

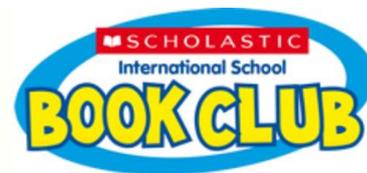
1. Order & Pay online (with your credit card):

<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 12



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 10th - 13th is [Menu A](#). 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

This week Preschool 1 students continued learning about food and the importance of eating healthy products. At the beginning of the week we made exciting activities such as making stamps out of fruits and vegetables, painting watermelons and playing the food matching game. Our friends would choose one fruit or vegetable and find the other matching product. During our morning circle times, we tried to divide foods into those that help us to grow and be strong and foods that we can eat rarely. We have also been choosing our favorite fruit or vegetable and singing the "Do You Like?" song. Now we know that some friends like the bananas most and other friends like the apples. In Math, we looked at squares and the number 3. The student started to count different objects and point out the different shapes we have been learning around the classroom. The most exciting experience of this week was making a healthy sandwich taught by our school chef. We enjoyed making a sandwich and liked all the ingredients.

Ms. Begimai, Preschool 1 Homeroom Teacher



PRESCHOOL 2

This Week, we have been talking about how people express themselves through professions. At the beginning of the week we looked through the pictures of people with different professions and discussed together what they do and why they decided to become policemen or doctors. All together, we decided that people should choose a profession they like to allow themselves to express their ideas, beliefs, desires through it. At the beginning of the week, we pretended to be firefighters, created special firefighter helmets and fought with fire that covered the small house's roof. It appeared that fire firefighters are very brave people who get pleasure from helping people in difficult situations. The next profession that we inquired into was builders. Many of our students that they would be builders, that they like to build high buildings with lots of stairs, windows and interesting roofs out of lego blocks. Putting our helmets on, we made small houses using cardboard bricks. We concluded that builders are the people who can turn design ideas into reality - providing people with accommodation, offices and entertainment places.

Ms. Oksana, Preschool 2 Homeroom Teacher



PRESCHOOL 3

This week our Preschool 3 friends had an interesting week filled with the letter 'i'. We practiced writing the letter 'i' and we looked at different words that start with the letter 'i'. We also discovered that we have a Preschool 1 friend who has a letter 'i' name: "Iman". We also had a lot of fun finishing our friendship bracelets and crafting an interesting hut inspired by aspects of the diverse continent of Africa. We also practiced our counting skills and our ability to place numbers in the correct sequence.

Next week we will continue to work on number sequencing and learning about houses. We will also be looking at the letter 'j'.

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

