



**Bishkek  
International  
School**

**VOICES**



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 22 / 2020-21

19<sup>th</sup> February 2021

### **STAFF APPRECIATION BREAKFAST - THANK YOU, PARENTS!**

The staff team at BIS want to wish our parents a huge thank you for all the incredible goodies that were shared for our annual staff appreciation breakfast. Though we missed seeing our parents' faces and sitting down together as a whole community, the wonderful efforts of the parent community were well appreciated - with the breakfast items lasting for lunch and snack too! To all those who contributed to the breakfast, thank you from our teachers, admin staff, facilities, security, cleaning and kitchen teams.

We would not be the school we are without the parent support and collaboration that we have, and we truly appreciate all the help that parents have given over the past twelve months. From supporting in remote learning to sharing feedback when we returned to physical school to volunteering for off-campus events, we are always grateful for our spirit of working together.

Finally, a big thanks to Nirika Koirala, Chair of PAMC, who has been representing the parent community and visiting the site on behalf of parents to liaise with the Management Board, share parent feedback and continue to plan for how parents can get involved in community events despite the current restrictions.

**Krishna Gandhi, Director of Studies and PYP Coordinator**



## CPR, BROC AND KTI AWARDS

A huge well done to our following award winners:

- **CPR** (Caring, Principled, Reflective): **Soren** (P2), **Ayn** (P4L), **Linda** (DP2)
- **KTI** (Knowledgeable, Thinker, Inquirer): **Asher** (P3), **Baiana** (IGCSE 1)
- **BROC** (Balanced, Risk-Taker, Open-Minded, Communicator): **Aisha** (P2), **Anna** (P3), and all of **MYP2!**

## PRIMARY 2 ARE TAKING ACTION

This week P2 took action and made signs to improve the accessibility and safety of our school. The idea to add signs around the school came about when the class went on a scavenger hunt and noticed that we were in need of more men's and women's bathroom signs, elevator signs, and recycling signs.



To get the project approved, the class presented their ideas to Ms Mirzat, Head of Administration, and got permission to hang the signs around the school. On Tuesday, the class visited the makerspace and used the laser cutter to design and create the new signs to be added around school.

**Ms. Shelby, Primary 2 Homeroom Teacher**



## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Alan from Primary 3S participated in republican open swimming competition that took place in Issyk-Kul on February 12-14. He swam 3 distances – 50 m breaststroke, 50 m back crib, 50 m crawl stroke and won bronze medal.

**Congratulations and well done, Alan!**



## PRIMARY 3 EXPLORE TRANSPORTATION

Over the first weeks in February, children have been making connections with how transportation relates to landform.



Some children explored this concept by trying to build a transportation system reflective of a valley, others of a plain. One group chose to make a road with a bridge using blocks and a marble run, the other used magnetic tiles to make a bullet train for their plain landform. These groups applied their understanding of how fuel affects our environment, so they wanted to build low-impact transportation systems.

Some children in P3 explored the concept of change in transportation through time for one week straight! Learners took on the role of “teacher” by studying in small expert groups the history and current innovations in transportation. After several days of learning their preferred topic, they went into different groups to learn, question, listen, and present with other experts. This took five school days full of critical thinking, applying learning in new ways, and making connections to why we make our transportation choices. Through this activity, children showed an increased sense of ownership over their learning, and began to see their independent inquiry and classmates as an important resource for their learning as well.

Many primary 3 children realized we didn't actually know for certain what most people use for transportation in Bishkek, so they learned how to use a bar graph and collect this data at BIS through their very own survey. They were all risk-takers, thinkers, and communicators when gathering this information and organizing it well!

**Ms. Moni, Primary 3M Homeroom Teacher**

Sasha inquiring with groupmates about speed and force using online resources.

Can, Jess, and Ailin sharing peer questions that were difficult to answer.



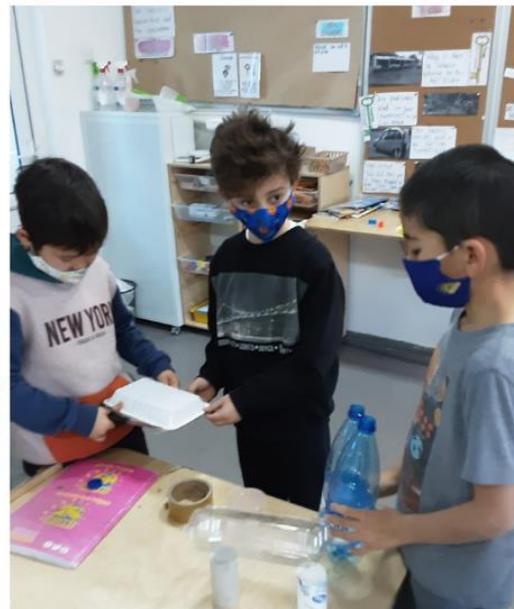
*"Do you use a petrol or electric car?" – Dana*



*"What kind of transport do you use the most?" – Ange*



*"What transport do you use, taxi?" – Ruslan*



*"It's a Hong Kong boat that uses solar panels and stores extra electricity for nighttime in its generator" – Altai, Can, and Aimar*

*"A boat to get around South Africa's peninsula" – Erik and Alex*

*"An electric bus that uses solar panels for Bishkek" – Asher and Ruslan*

*"A boat for Issyk Kul" – Dana and Ange*

*"We need a station that has a place to wait or sleep for our hyperloop" – Ali and Ayla*

*"We have a MagLev. We need more magnets" – Arya, Mia, and Avi*



## STUDENTS CREATE THEIR FAVORITE PLAYGROUND

In line with Transdisciplinary Learning, P2 have been inquiring into Pavlov and private spaces. Primary 2 students reflected on how a playground should look. During discussions, students decided that a playground should meet the following requirements:

1. The most important thing – it must be safe
2. It must be clean
3. There must be drinking water and a toilet
4. There must be a lot of new and interesting facilities for playing games.
5. Must be equipped for children with disabilities.



Students found that before building a playground you have to make a workplan. After planning time, we proceeded to the implementation of 3D layouts. The students tried very their absolute best during the assignment. Here you can see what incredible projects our talented students have created. Notice the abundance of trees and plants on the site, as every year more and more people are worried about the problem of air pollution!

**Ms. Anna, Art & Host Country Studies Teacher**



# *BIS Snapshot: Languages in Our Lives*



TOTAL HOUSE POINTS SCORE:



Phoenixes

7184



PIRANHAS

9068

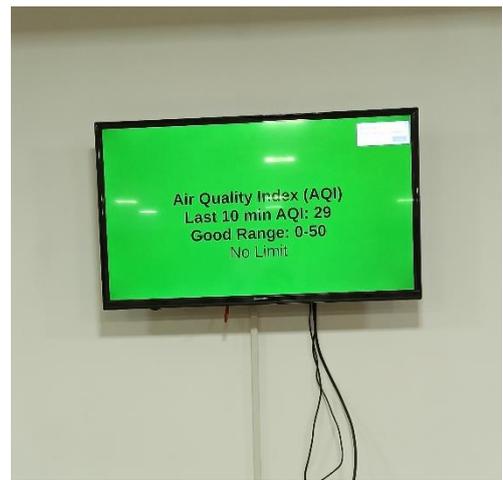


SNOW LEOPARDS

9265



This week we have had the best air quality of the year so far. Students from Preschool to DP had a chance to play outside and enjoy the warm weather, bright sunshine and the fresh air.



## SOCIAL SATURDAY MORNING WITH DP1 PARENTS

It is hard to believe that we have already been living under 'new-normal' for almost a year. Since we welcomed new students in the Diploma Programme back in August 2020, the DP1 parents have never had a chance to visit BIS or meet together.

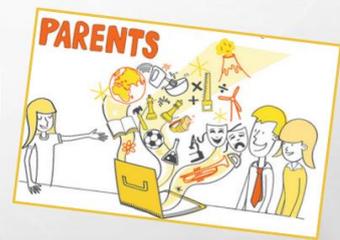
In the 'old-normal' time, which we now miss so much, we used to have school events with many guests around, informative and/or social evenings with parents physically in the school building.

Therefore, you can imagine how thrilled Ms Valeria, the University and Career Counselor, and I were to finally invite DP1 parents last Saturday to BIS! The opportunity was precious because not only did we get to meet the parents, but also the parents got to meet one another! While some parents could already be experts of raising teenagers with rich experience, some might be experiencing it for the first time ever, and with the challenging IB curriculum on top too! Especially under the pandemic, while we have been isolating ourselves from each other, I believe it is a relief to know that there are others who are in a similar situation.

We enjoyed a game to win the IB Learner Profile, a social chat, a school tour and Ms Valeria's informative talk, followed by academic Q&As.

I cannot wait for the good 'old-normal' days to come back. Everyone has been enduring these times so well and doing a good job. Please praise yourself and let us keep in touch!

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!



**Ms. Makiko, DP Coordinator**



## WINTER BALL

The grandiose winter ball has taken place on Saturday 13th Feb. This event was a great opportunity for students to take a relieving break after all of the stressful mock exams as well as just to have fun and hang out with friends. The music, dances and food made the ball fun and entertaining! All attendants spent a great night together and had a memorable time.

Mariam, IGCSE 2 Student



## PAMC 'SCIENCE FAIR' FUNDRAISER ON FRIDAY THE 26TH!

Sale of hot dogs and other goodies will start from 15:00 onwards. A kind request to parents, please ensure your kids have enough money to purchase and enjoy the goodies!

Nirika Koirala, Chair of BIS PAMC

**PAMC FAMOUS HOT DOG SALE**

*Friday 26th February*

**HOT DOG AND JUICE: 250 COM**

**HOT DOG ONLY: 150 COM**

**HOMEMADE COOKIES: 50 COM**

**REST OF THE GOODS: 150 COM**

*Vegetarian Option Available*

## MOVIE NIGHT FOR PRIMARY 1 - PRIMARY 6 STUDENTS

Dear BIS Community,

The Debate Tournament Team is pleased to inform you about PYP Movie Night, organized as a Fundraiser for the Annual BIS Debate Tournament! P1 through P6 are invited to attend! The event will be held on Friday 26th February from 15:45 until 18:00, with a cost of 400 som for a ticket. The cost will include pizza, fruits & juice. Children will be enjoying the animated movie "Lorax!" Students will be provided with permission slips and so will parents via email where more information is provided. Money can be brought anytime from Wednesday 24th until Friday 26th! If money for your child's place at Movie Night has already been sent in, don't worry, it is safe and will go toward the event! There are limited places so get your tickets as soon as possible!

If you have any questions or concerns, please email [jscott@bis.kg](mailto:jscott@bis.kg), [lindao@esca.kg](mailto:lindao@esca.kg) or [medinat@esca.kg](mailto:medinat@esca.kg).

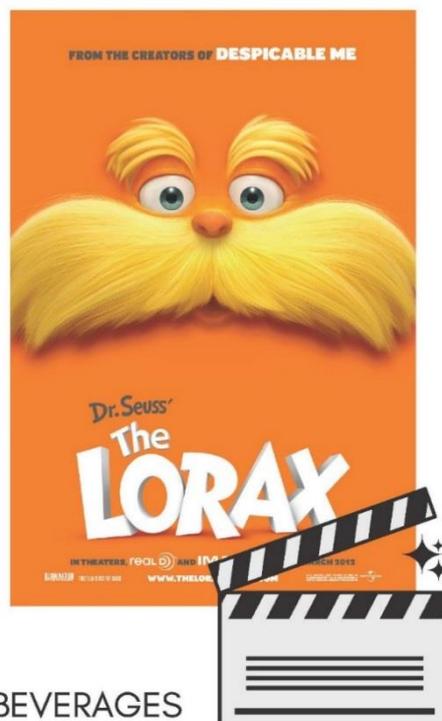
# PRIMARY MOVIE NIGHT

BISHKEK INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL

**FEBRUARY 26, 2021**

**15:45 - 18:00**

**TICKETS: 400 SOM**



THE COST INCLUDES: PIZZA, SNACKS AND BEVERAGES



BIS DEBATE  
TOURNAMENT  
FUNDRAISING  
EVENT

EMAIL: [MEDINAT@BIS.KG](mailto:medinat@bis.kg)

Science. Technology. Engineering. Math.

# STEM FAIR

TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING  
DEMONSTRATIONS IN PRESCHOOL

STEM DRESS-UP HOUSE POINTS IN PYP

MATH TALKS BY DP IN PYP

SCIENCE COMPETITION IN MYP

COMPUTER SCIENCE PROJECTS IN IGCSE



FEBRUARY 24 -  
MARCH 5

Bishkek International School

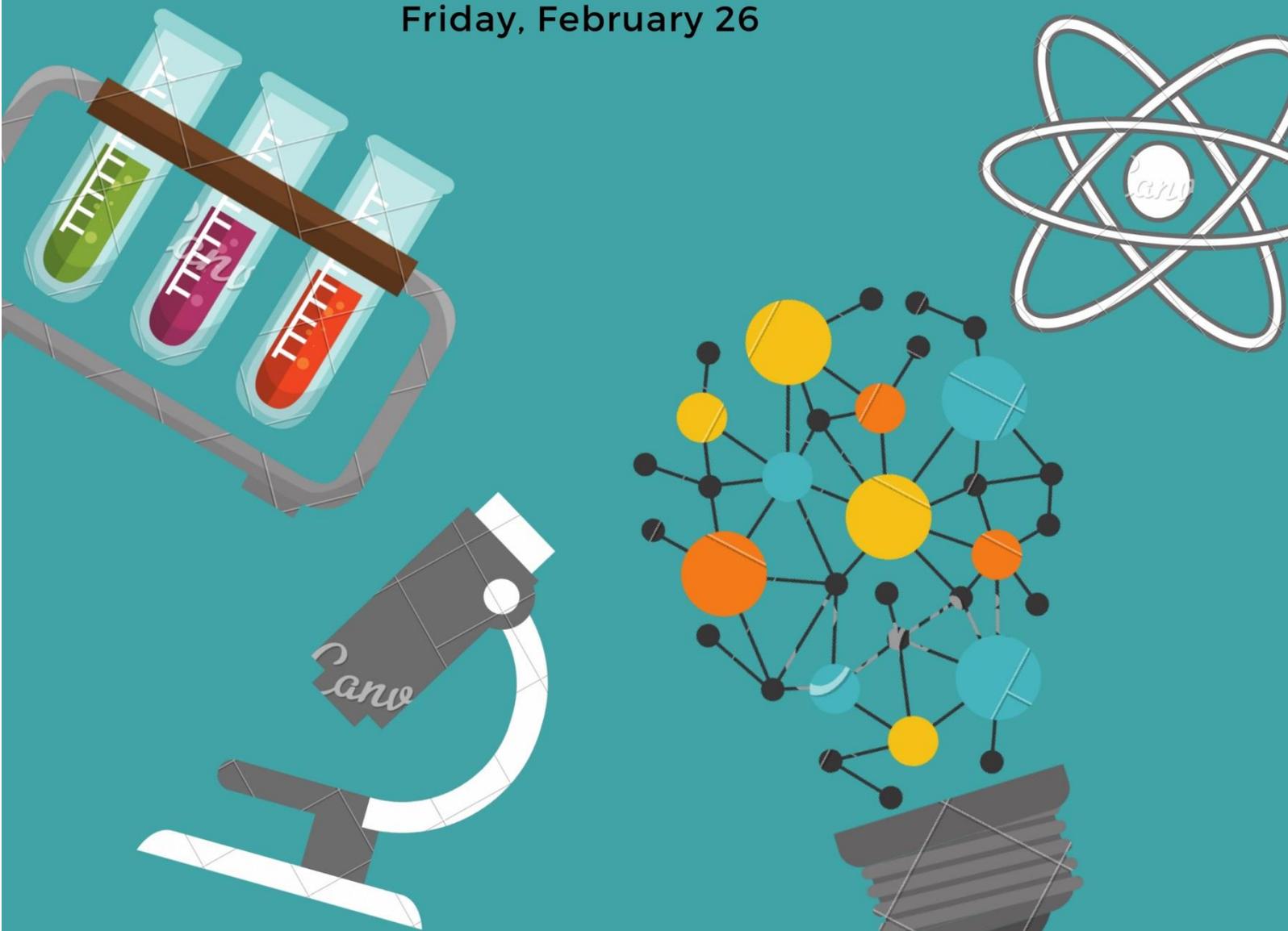
# STEM FAIR

Next week we will be celebrating Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

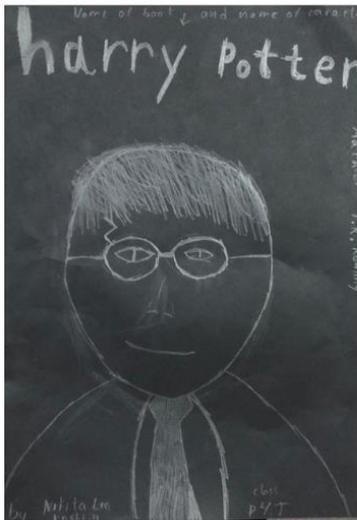
## STUDENTS CAN EARN 10 HOUSE POINTS DRESSING UP FOR STEM

We encourage all students to dress up in a costume for the event. You can dress up as a STEM person, atom, plant, computer, calculator, airplane - use your imagination.

Friday, February 26



## “MY FAVORITE BOOK CHARACTER” DRAWING COMPETITION



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February: Extra Holiday
- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February: Homeland Defender's Day
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February: STEM Fair Day
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March: International Women's Day
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March: Nooruz Celebration at BIS
- Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March: Nooruz Public Holiday
- 22-26 March: Spring Break

### LUNCH MENU

Please find the updated links for the school menus – [Preschool & Primary School](#), [Middle & High School](#), [Vegetarian menu for Middle & High School](#).

The lunch menu for February 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 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.



## PRESCHOOL 1

Preschool 1 students finished learning about jungle animals this week. We discussed the types of animals, their features and the basic needs of jungles creatures. We talked about all jungle animals needing food and water to grow and be strong. We discovered that some jungle animals like tigers, hippos and lions eat meat where other species like zebras, giraffes, and elephants are herbivores and enjoy grasses, leaves and fruits. Together, we played a scavenger hunting game where our adventure game took us to our locker room and where we found different jungle animals. Our little friends were excited of the game and they were happy to find many animals. Some of the exclamations included “Look!”, “I found a lion!”, “Giraffe!”. We also learned to work as a team and made a big crocodile with sharp teeth and snappy mouth. Towards the end of the week, our friends were busy creating own rainforests with a large number of plants, rocks, and animal’s shelters. For art, we made an elephant out of cardboard and a toucan with feathers.



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



## PRESCHOOL 2

This week, Preschool 2 group started talking about the food that comes from the ocean. There are many sea products in the markets - seaweed, fish, crabs, shrimps - which are caught in seas and oceans by big vessels and distributed to shops and markets. At the beginning of the week, we created a deep blue ocean on the wall. The children helped to stick sea animals and sea plants on it. We talked about the sea food some people like to eat and those products we can find in the local shops.

Watching educational videos, we found out that the biggest sea creature is blue whale and the smallest is plankton. The friends liked the ocean theme and were happy to play with sea animals in the sensory play area that was filled with colored rice.

To remember sea animals better we traced different sea creatures on a big paper and even created funny names for them, completed math activities with sea creatures, learned a Kyrgyz song about a happy fish and made a huge ocean with the creatures we drew by ourselves.

For literacy lessons, we learned letter A and discovered that sound \a\ is the initial sound of such words as apple, alligator, airplane and anchor.

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



### PRESCHOOL 3

As the weather is changing, our Preschool 3 friends have been enjoying doing a lot more spring related activities inside and outside of class. We were also looking at some really interesting ways of telling stories this week. We really enjoyed shadow stories - this is when people use shadow puppets to tell stories.

This week, we even tried to make our own shadow puppets to tell the story of the Three Little Pigs. Finally, we learned about the letter 'q' this week and to help us learn the letter we made a crafty paper quilt blanket and we also made our very own yummy quesadilla.

Next week, we will continue to look at how the weather is changing and also try to make our own book about spring. We will also learn about the letter 'r'.

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

