



**Bishkek  
International  
School**

**VOICES**



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 24 / 2020-21

5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## 2021 STEM FAIR COMPETITION RESULTS

Last Friday, on 26<sup>th</sup> of February, BIS celebrated STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Fair. On Friday, many teachers and students were dressed up in costumes representing STEM in our lives. In the afternoon, the MYP students presented their projects to various judges and PYP students. The STEM fair developed our students' Learner Profiles and provided an opportunity for MYP students to showcase their inquiry skills and creative genius. Students also improved their public speaking skills by interacting with PYP students and judges.

MYP1 students created organized experiments and made eye-catching posters. Independent experimental and research design are what the MYP Sciences is all about!



MYP2 did a great job of seeking support from multiple teachers to move forward with the experimental processes. Most students took a hands-on approach to STEM Fair and carried out exciting experiments and model making.

MYP3 students worked on research/inquiry projects as they were well versed with MYP research design. The students came up with their own research questions, did background research on the topic, planned their experiments, conducted their experiments following all the safety rules in the lab and prepared a lab report and a poster.

This process of research design gave students an insight into the life of a scientist and developed their spirit of inquiry. The students worked hard and it was wonderful to see so many excellent projects and the judges had a hard time deciding the STEM fair winners.

The winners of the 2021 STEM fair are:

**MYP1A: Arseny Rogalskiy**

**MYP1G: Mirai Mirlan**

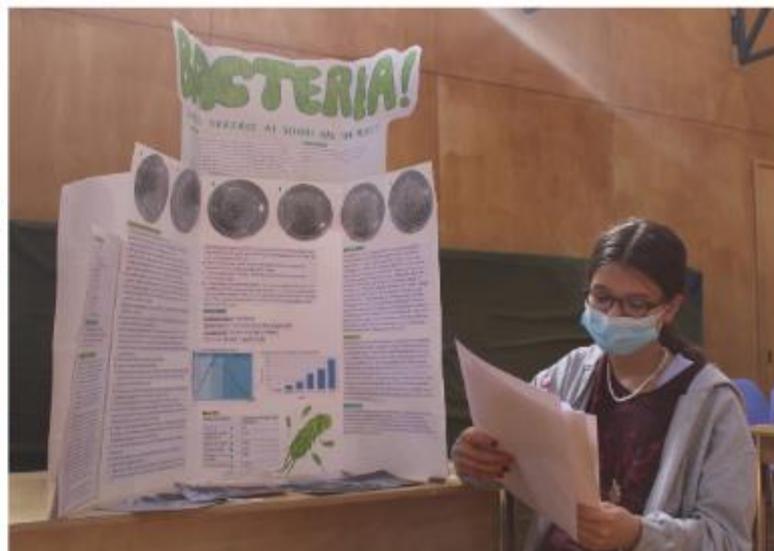
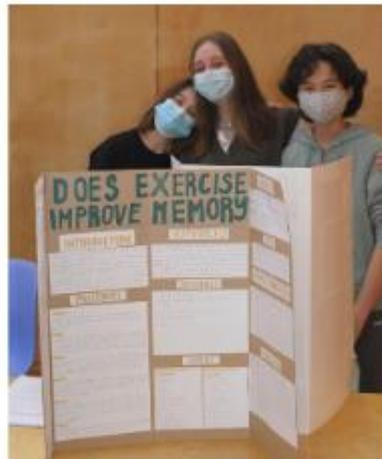
**MYP2: Ilona Pasiciniov**

**MYP3: Eva Aijan Grant**

We are proud of our MYP students for being inquirers, thinkers, communicators and risk takers! Well done!

From the Science Department, thank you to everyone that had a hand involved to make the STEM Fair a BIS success.

**Soumiya Srinivasan, Chemistry & Science Teacher**



## CPR, BROC AND KTI AWARDS



A huge well done to our following award winners:

### **CPR (Caring, Principled, Reflective):**

- Aisha (Primary 6)
- Veronika (Primary 6)
- Linda (DP2)
- All DP 2 Students

### **KTI (Knowledgeable, Thinker, Inquirer):**

- Diana (Preschool 1)
- Atlas (Primary 1)
- Albena (Primary 4)
- Aymir (MYP 3)
- Darika (IGCSE 1)
- All DP 2 Students

### **BROC (Balanced, Risk-Taker, Open-Minded, Communicator):**

- Misha (Preschool 2)
- Mila (P1)
- Malika (DP1)
- All DP 2 Students

## GALAXY GO GETTERS



## KANAT CHOKOEV REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February, we joined Kanat's family in Son-Kol Grand restaurant, Bishkek, to remember the wonderful life of Kanat Chokoev, and to grieve his passing.

At the remembrance service, the BIS community had the chance to meet Kanat's family and his close relatives. Both family members and BIS community members recounted their heartfelt memories of Kanat and mourned with the wider family. We heard many stories of Kanat's genuine kindness, without a thought for his own wellbeing. Kanat has been a valuable member of the community for all of us, and his loss is irreparable.

Many members of the school community donated funds for Kanat's family to help them through this very difficult time. By the time of the remembrance service, \$9,800 had been donated directly to BIS and this was given to Kanat's wife to support the family. This is in addition to the 'material help' provided directly by BIS to support the family over the next year.

Kanat's impact was so broad, and his loss so keenly felt, that many alumni of the school and families who have left the country also wanted to contribute. Seeing this desire to help from afar, Katja Aegerter, who is now in Macedonia, launched a GoFundMe campaign to collect donations from alumni families. This initiative raised an additional \$2,580, and this has also now been given to Kanat's wife. This extraordinary level of support from the wider BIS community, including from people who have never been to Kyrgyzstan, is a testament to the positive impact that Kanat had on all of us, and our concern for his family.

We are extremely grateful for the kindness and generosity of everyone who took part in the fundraising campaign to support Mr. Kanat's family during this difficult time. If you would still like to provide financial

support, please contact our Accounts Department and they will ensure that any donation is given directly to Kanat's family.

In addition to providing financial support to the family, at the remembrance we also presented the family with all of the cards, and [condolences](#) from community members, including many [cards](#) from children in the school and [a poem](#) by BIS alumni.

Although Kanat is no longer with us, he will never be forgotten. Kanat's son, Erbol, is now working with us as a security guard, so please welcome him when you see him. We also plan to plant a tree with Kanat's plaque at the front of the school to remember Kanat and his welcoming smile, and we will have the annual 'Kanat Chokoev Award' for a student who models genuine care for others and brightens the lives of all those around them, in the way that Kanat always did when he was alive.



**Mirzat Osmonova, Head of Administration, & Nazira Tursalieva, Alumni Officer**

## PYPX UPDATE!

This week, our P6 parents joined Ms Rebecca and Ms Elvira to hear more about the aims, process and potential impact of the P6 Exhibition! Our list of teacher and parent mentors is increasing and we are excited for students to start exploring their options! Over the next few weeks, the P6 team will be welcoming community members to the classroom and online to hear examples of community action and passion projects. If you would like to share your own experiences of action with our P6 students, please reach out to Ms Rebecca ([rpeters@bis.kg](mailto:rpeters@bis.kg)).

Ms Krisha Gandhi, PYP Coordinator and Director of Studies

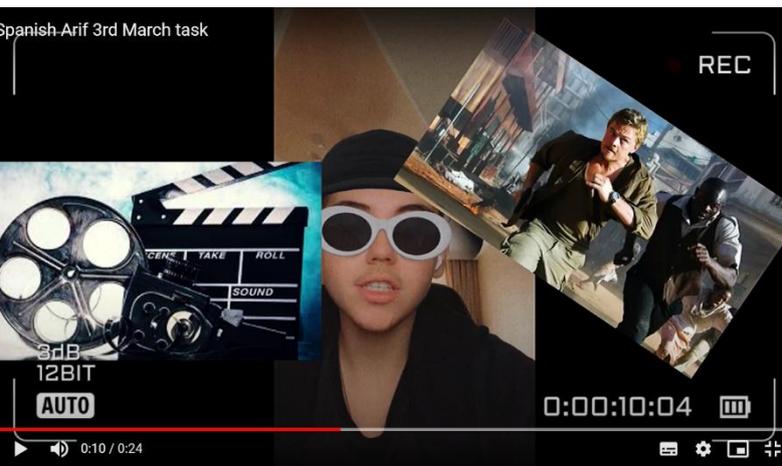
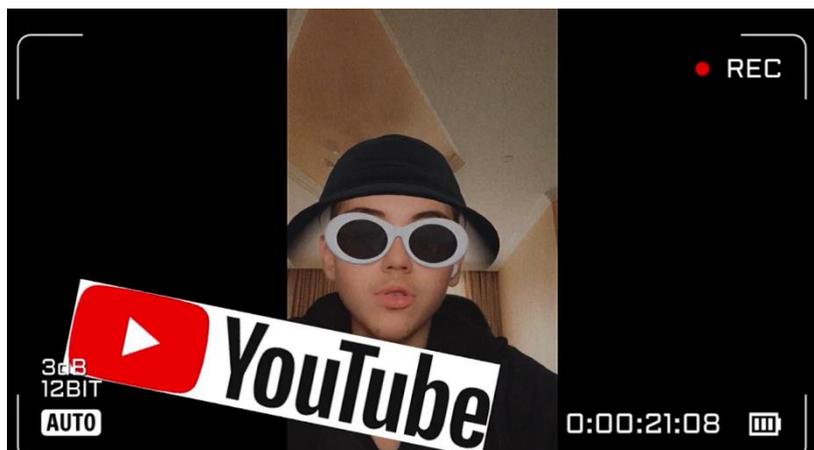


### What's the purpose of PYPX?

- Student voice, choice and ownership
- Responsibility for own learning
- Inquire and explore issues that matter to them
- Collaboration
- Action
- Celebrate!

## IGCSE1 SPANISH TALK ABOUT FILM AND TV

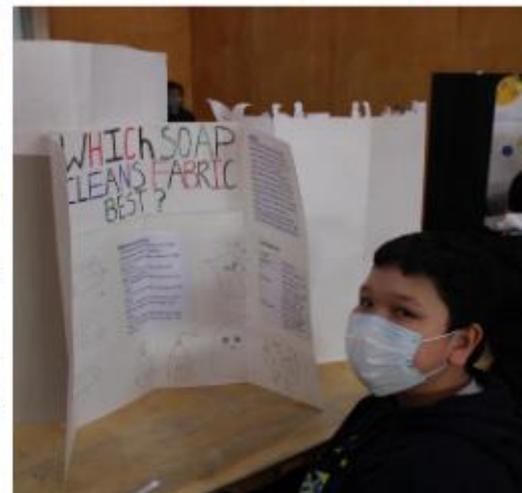
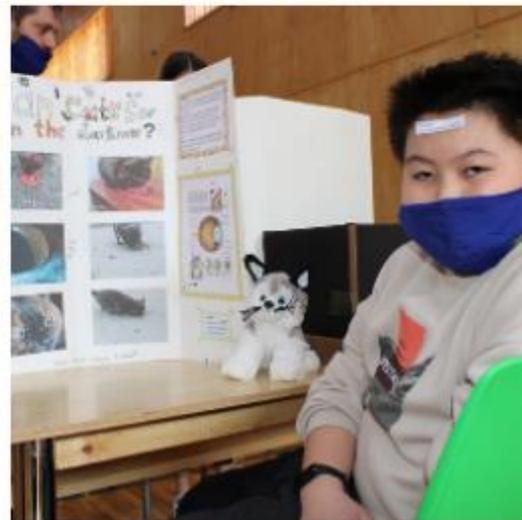
In IGCSE1's current Spanish unit, we are learning about how to describe our likes and dislikes of different types of film and television. We have read articles, listened to people talking about their preferences and written our own ideas, recycling words and phrases we have picked up along the way. This week, our remote learners had to audio record themselves speaking about their preferences, and Henry recorded a fantastic and detailed description of his preferences - well done Henry! One student in the group, Arif Tasher, went above and beyond by creating an excellent video. He filmed himself



speaking (wearing a very cool special effects hat and sunglasses) and expressing his ideas in Spanish. By adding a few pictures and special effects, Arif made his task engaging and fun for him to make, and for me to watch. It is great to see students taking initiative like this, and bringing another interest or skill (producing videos) to their school studies - this is just the type of interdisciplinary learning we love at BIS!

Ms. Esther Johnson, Spanish Teacher

# BIS Snapshot: STEM Fair



## CREATIVE WRITING IN P5

Over the past month, Apolline has been working on a story in order to develop her writing skills and practice the skill of up-levelling. Up-levelling is when we use higher-level detail in our writing so a reader feels more connection to the work. Apolline will be sharing her story in Voices in three segments over the next three weeks. We hope you enjoy it!



### THE ADVENTURES OF ARMOURY THE SOURCER

Written by Apolline Colburn (P5)

Armoury sat on a bench near the dock, gazing at the sun rising over the sea. She was going to meet the King and Queen of the kingdom, Enchantment. Her sorcerer brothers Zonk and Atsy were also coming. Merlin, the king wizard, had called her a week before.

“I want you to go to Enchantment Kingdom to meet the King and the Queen,” said Merlin. “They want 100 broomsticks and we want some diamond broomstick polish. So, we will trade.”

“But I can’t,” Armoury replied with an ounce of worry.

“Please!” Merlin begged. “The future of Broomstick Kingdom is counting on you.”

And what could Armoury say to that ...

## LETTER FOR LION KING

My official role in this year's Anniversary Show is Musical Director. I consider myself extremely fortunate - to be part of a daily process of making wonderful music with fun and professional colleagues and a cast of energetic, motivated and dedicated students. My main focus is to guide our cast through the numerous Lion King songs. Many of these songs were new to me when we began, which I feel has made my experience through this learning process even more enjoyable. After living as a musician in a number of African countries for a little under 10 years, a large piece of my heart belongs to music from the continent. When you experience our 10th Anniversary Show on April 17th, I am sure you will also fall in love with it. Lion King has a large variety of songs, with rhythmically rich percussion, gritty warmth of the marimbas and xylophones, and of course the memorable melodies found in the songs, including Shadowland, He Lives in You and Circle of Life.

We are now around halfway through our preparations - students have grown musically and we are starting to hear a combination of beautiful solo work by some of the students and increasingly well-blended vocal ensembles. BIS students have shown their dedication to not only learning the music, but learning to sing it really well. The students have been working hard. There are practices every afternoon for 1-2 hours and some cast members are practicing up to 4 times a week, as well as in lunch time rehearsals.

We have formed the BIS African Drum Ensemble, which comprises talented High School students and a handful of almost-as-talented BIS teachers. This group will be playing combinations of djembe drums, congas, percussion and xylophones and will have a major role in a number of the performances.

In addition to the Lion King production, the Pre-Show Concert is to be expanded this year and will include African-influenced performances by all classes from Pre School 1 up to MYP3. Parents will receive more information about this soon.

I would like to also note that we are very fortunate to have Mr. David as our Director for Lion King this year - he has the rare gift of being able to combine his own vision for Lion King, with an open and flexible attitude, encouraging all teachers involved to bring their own strengths and ideas to the production.

I continue to find the Lion King experience to be highly rewarding and am looking forward to what is sure to be a memorable performance on April 17. I hope to see you all there!

**Mr. Grant Chamberlain, Head of Performing Arts and Music Teacher**

## CHECK OUT EPISODE #4 OF THE LION KING EXPERIENCE DOCUMENTARY



# “The Lion King” Design Contest!

To be featured on our advertisement posters

We are hosting a design contest for “The Lion King” Anniversary Show.

Each design submission will receive 10 house points!

The winning designs will receive 100 house points and be featured on our advertisement posters.

ALL submissions will be displayed in the lobby of Philharmonia before the show.

This contest is open to ALL Students!

Due date: Monday, March 15th

- Email to Mr. David at [DLien@bis.kg](mailto:DLien@bis.kg)
- Or drop it off on the table in The Small Hall

Suggestions:

- No words or titles needed.
- Digital art is preferred, but we will also accept physical art.
- Keep it minimalist and simple.
- Try to avoid realism (realistic drawings)
- Be Creative! Draw what you think best represents “The Lion King”.

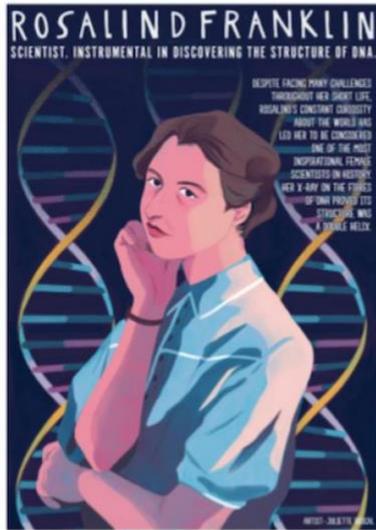


# Preschool and Primary

## CELEBRATE

### INTERNATIONAL WOMENS

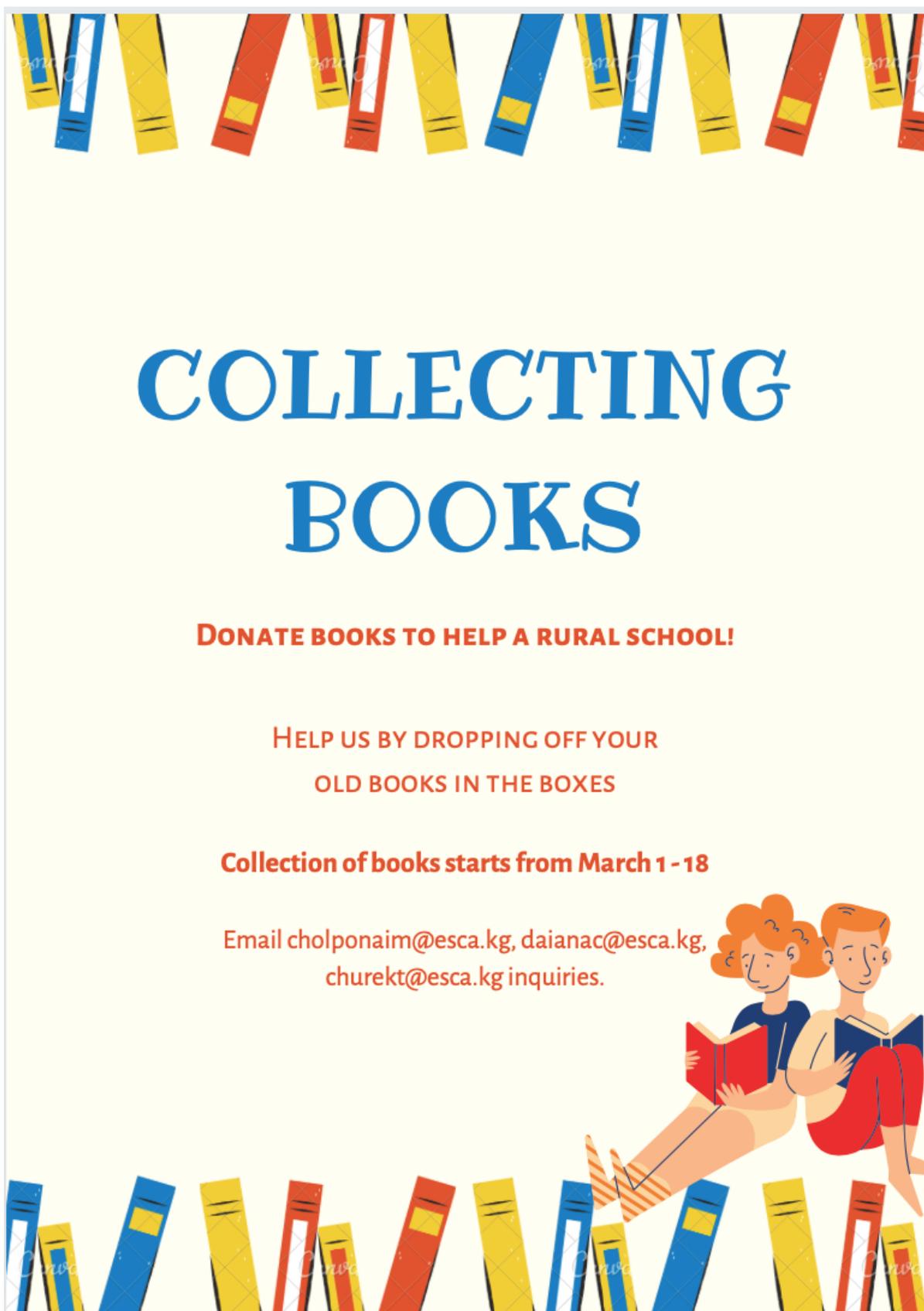
#### DAY!



Sharing Role Models  
Reflecting on Democracy  
Women in STEM assembly!

## **DONATE BOOKS TO HELP A RURAL SCHOOL**

As most of you know, all MYP 3 students are encouraged to participate in a community project of their choice. Our group (Daiana, Churek and Cholponai) decided to donate books to a rural school outside of the city, but we need your help! The school doesn't have enough reading material to provide for all the students, making it difficult for them to learn. Please help by donating your old or not needed books. All genres and English, Russian, or Kyrgyz books are welcome! Drop them off in the boxes located in the Secondary Library or at the entrance of the administration building (outside the main building). When dropping them off, make sure to fill out the table on the paper near the box. This way we can see who donated the most books, and give 50 points to the house the donator belongs to. 2nd and 3rd places are also included; 2nd place will earn 35 points and 3rd will earn 20 points. The boxes will be up until the 18th of March. We hope you can help!



# **COLLECTING BOOKS**

**DONATE BOOKS TO HELP A RURAL SCHOOL!**

**HELP US BY DROPPING OFF YOUR  
OLD BOOKS IN THE BOXES**

**Collection of books starts from March 1 - 18**

Email [cholponaim@esca.kg](mailto:cholponaim@esca.kg), [daianac@esca.kg](mailto:daianac@esca.kg),  
[churekt@esca.kg](mailto:churekt@esca.kg) inquiries.

## DONATION DRIVE

Within the community project MYP3 students (Anel and Aglaia) are starting a charity drive and are collecting various items to donate for people in need. All the donations will go to the Kyrgyz Red Crescent who will later deliver them to rural families in need.

Items such as stationery, toys, books, clothes, and dry food will be very helpful to those families! We really count on your generosity, as together we can make a change. All donations, no matter how small or big, will be greatly appreciated!

# DONATION DRIVE

**ALL DONATIONS WILL GO TO THE KYRGYZ  
RED CRESCENT**

Please bring stationery, clothes, toys, books  
and anything else that seems fit!



We can't help  
everyone, but  
everyone can help  
someone!

**FROM 05.03 .21  
TO 18.03.21**

ALL SCHOOL DAYS NEXT TO  
THE CAFETERIA CUBBIES.

**For more information  
ask Anel and Aglaia  
from MYP3**

## SKI CLUB TRIP



Earlier this week the Taigan Ski/Snowboard had an overnight trip to Karakol. Our Taigan Winter Sporters enjoyed 2 and half days of skiing and snow-boarding. They really loved exploring the different runs the ski base had to offer and hanging out with each other away from school too.

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



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March: International Women's Day – public holiday – no school
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March: Nooruz Celebration at BIS
- Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March: Nooruz Public Holiday
- 22-26 March: Spring Break
- Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April: BIS Annual Debate Tournament
- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April: April Revolution Day – public holiday
- Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April: BIS 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show – Official School Day
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April: Art Exhibition and Poetry Evening
- Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April: All Parents Meeting – Parents Association
- End of April: IBDP and IGCSE Exam Sessions start

## 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 March 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<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

This week, Preschool 1 friends have been learning about bird's life. We discussed that there are so many different types of the birds and figured out that some birds can fly and others are flightless. We also talked that many of the them live in their houses called nest. We tried to understand the importance of a safe place for birds to protect themselves from different weather conditions and a place to raise their babies. To build a better understanding of birds and see them in our playground, we made birdhouses out of milk cartons and put some seeds inside it. We hung them in our playground trees and were excited to see birds coming to their houses and nibbling the feeders. For art, we made beautiful handprints birds, paper plate nests with eggs and an owl out of celery stamps. Next, we will start to talk about insects.

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



## PRESCHOOL 2

Our Preschool 2 group started talking about the food wasting. We have found out that almost one third of all food is wasted and delivered from our homes to trash dumps. It appeared that in some countries there is not enough food for children to eat and they have only 1 meal a day. We asked children several questions: *“Do you throw food into trash at home when you don’t finish your food?”*, *“Do you always finish your food?”*, *“What do you do with the food you don’t finish on your plate?”*. We received different answers as some children said they threw food to trash when it was not good to be eaten, though others said that they shared the left-over food with cats and dogs. Others said that they always finished the food mom and dad gave them for lunch. In our discussion, we came to a conclusion that we need to follow several rules to reduce food wasting:

1. Finish the food that is on your plate.
2. Give left over to your cat or dog or keep it for the next eating time.
3. Don’t buy more food than you can eat.
4. Freeze the extra food for cooking later.

After class discussions our children started to think about how they eat food at school. Some of them said *“We should stop wasting food”*, *“Look I have finished my food, I am not wasting anymore”*, *“I can save my piece of bread for later”*.

Ms. Oksana, Preschool 2 Homeroom Teacher



## PRESCHOOL 3

What an amazing week our preschool 3 friends experienced. This week we started practicing for Nooruz. We also had a lot of fun creating our ABC books with Dr. Anna. This week we learned about the letter 's' and voted between a sandwich and a salad to help us remember the letter 's'. The salad won, so we made our own salads. It was fun to make the salad but it was even more fun to eat our salad. Our preschool friends also had a great time during their photoshoot as we took group as well as individual photos.

Next week, we will be creating simple graphs and we will learn about the letter 't'. We will also look at traditional and modern stories.

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

