



**Bishkek
International
School**

VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 33 / 2020-21

14th May 2021

LEARNING RELIGIONS IN MYP 1

MYP1 students can be seen here presenting about different religions that they were learning about.

After studying the five major religions of the world, students have been able to apply the knowledge and concepts learned about Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam to lesser-known religions and teach them to the class.



CPR, BROC AND KTI AWARDS

A huge well done to our following award winners:

CPR (Caring, Principled, Reflective):

Yuvaan (PS1), Sebastian (DP1)

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

P1 Remote Learners, Anel (MYP3)

KTI (Knowledgeable, Thinker, Inquirer):

Umai (P3), Baiana (IGCSE1)

BIS PRIMARY SCHOOL HOMEROOM TEACHING TEAM 2021/2022

Over the past four years, it has been an absolute pleasure to work with our incredible Primary School homeroom teaching teams. These teachers provide energy, innovation, creativity and compassion on a daily basis, and truly set the tone for the learning environments that our young students experience.

This summer, we will be saying goodbye to our wonderful homeroom teachers, Ms Shelby - who has led P2, Ski Club and Girls Football with passion. We will also be saying goodbye to Ms Shannon, a face many of our community are familiar with following Ms Shannon's role as a parent, a teacher in Primary 2, 3 and 6 as well as our school's Occupational Therapist. We wish both teachers all the best in their next chapters.

With these changes, as well as last week's leadership announcements, the Management Board have been spending the past months recruiting teachers to join our new homeroom team. We are really excited for Ms Alicia, next year's PYP Coordinator, to lead this team to new heights.

Please note that from the 2021/2022 academic year, BIS will be using the American/Kyrgyzstan grading system to name the year grades, though this does not mean any change to the curriculum or approach. In 2020/21 we have single class groups in Kindergarten and in Grade 5, with two class groups in Grades 1, 2, 3 and 4, hence we have two Homeroom teachers in these grades. We will be updating our students, parents and the wider community about decisions regarding student placements and co-teaching positions before the end of the school year.

Kindergarten Homeroom Teacher: Ms Kathleen

Ms Kathleen has a Master's Degree from the American University in Washington D.C. and holds a teaching license for Pre-Kindergarten through 3rd grade. She has worked with young children for over 12 years, including teaching Kindergarten for 6 years at the American School in Japan. Ms Kathleen loves teaching young children and is an experienced classroom and English Language Acquisition (ELA) teacher. Ms Kathleen has already brought bundles of fun, energy and reading knowledge to the Kindergarten classroom and we can't wait until next year has in store for this group.



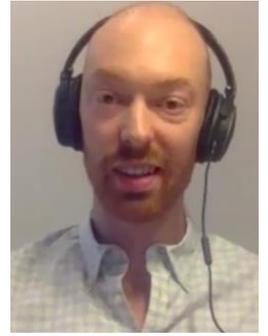
Grade 1 Homeroom Teachers: Ms Gill and Mr Andy

Ms Gill has a Postgraduate certificate of Education and Masters Degree in Education from the UK. She has 27 years experience of teaching children in the UK who came from all over the world, Russia, Uzbekistan and is now excited to be teaching in Kyrgyzstan. She believes in teaching children to be independent and resilient learners, who know that making mistakes is how we grow and learn. When not teaching, she loves making things,



visiting museums and galleries and photographing old buildings.

Mr Andy is an energetic primary school teacher who truly epitomizes the power of reflection. As well as training to be a Primary Teacher at Leeds Trinity University, Mr Andy brings with him 10 years of experience working with students who study English as a Second or Additional Language. Having lived in the UK, America and China, Mr Andy is excited for his next chapter in Kyrgyzstan where he looks forward to applying IB PYP approaches. When not in the classroom, we are excited to see Mr Andy on the football pitch and contributing to the culture and love of sports that has been created by our Taigan Teams and Coaches!



Grade 2 Homeroom Teachers: Ms Moni and Ms Oksana

Ms Moni earned her state teaching qualification and a Master of Education specializing in the globalization of education before she graduated Loyola University New Orleans with a double major in Psychology and Modern Languages and Cultures. She has taught primarily elementary age children in international schools and language schools in the USA, Argentina, South Korea, Myanmar and China. Most recently, Ms Moni has cultivated a joyful inquiry process at BIS, has taught pottery in ECA, and has led our Primary Council with kindness and a globally-minded approach.



Ms Oksana studied the theory and practice of intercultural communication at the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University and has a bachelor honours degree in Linguistics as well as having studied 'Language Learning and Development in Early Childhood' with the British Council. Ms Oksana is a trained PYP teacher with four years experience of IB approaches. Ms Oksana has been working toward her UK teacher qualification, QTS, over the past 18 months and has proven to the school as well as qualification mentors and observers that she is more than capable of leading homeroom teaching at Primary School level. We are excited to see all that our students achieve under Ms Oksana's guidance.



Grade 3 Homeroom Teachers: Mr James and Ms Angelina

Mr James graduated from the University of Wisconsin Platteville (B.A. in English) and received his teaching license from the Teach-Now School of Education. He has taught internationally since 2013 first teaching in South Korea as an English teacher. He then moved to Myanmar where he taught as a Grade 3 teacher and finally China as a Grade 2 teacher before joining BIS in August 2020. In his time at BIS, James has been guiding students to develop the skills they need to not only understand but thrive in the world around them. Mr James has also been building additional training opportunities for our wider team in his role as Professional Development Coordinator.



Ms Angelina graduated from Rhodes University with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences. She completed her Postgraduate Certificate in Education and went on to complete another Postgraduate diploma in Media Management all at Rhodes University. A true life-long learner, Ms Angelina continues to enjoy her studying today through additional inquiry into Early education practices at The University of South Africa. Ms Angelina is coming to BIS having already experienced the PYP approach in Beijing, China. As well as an eager eye for innovative curriculums, Ms Angelina brings with her a love of music, books and healthy living.



Grade 4 Homeroom Teachers: Ms Rona and Ms Shelley

Ms Rona graduated from the University of California with a degree in Political Science, then later trained as a teacher. She has worked in South Korea as both an English language teacher and for 10 years as a teacher trainer for the Seoul Metropolitan Education Training Institute. During that time, she completed her Post Graduate Diploma at the University of Birmingham. After leaving South Korea, Ms Rona taught in a research center for autism at Youngstown State University, Ohio. Ms. Rona joined BIS in August 2018 as Grade 4 Homeroom Teacher and has brought consistent energy, kindness and academic rigor to this role.



Ms Shelley has a Postgraduate Certificate in Education as well as a Master's Degree in Social Science from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. She has taught in South Korea, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and is excited to be joining BIS. Her experience has enabled her to value inclusivity and diversity. Ms Shelley is passionate about empowering children with knowledge, skills, opportunities, and motivation to become lifelong learners. In her spare time, she enjoys reading novels and watching documentaries.



Grade 5 Homeroom Teacher: Ms Rebecca

Ms Rebecca has a Post Graduate Certificate of Education from the UK. She has 12 years' experience teaching primary students in the UK, Mexico, Montenegro and Spain, and is excited to be starting this next chapter of her career at BIS. She believes that teaching children to read is one of the biggest gifts we can give them and that it's never too early to start teaching independence. Ms Rebecca has recently led the PYPX at BIS where she supported students to take action to help create a more peaceful world. When she's not teaching, you'll find her taking long hikes with her two dogs or relaxing on a comfortable chair with a good book.



All other appointments for the 2021/22 academic year will continue to be announced in Voices over the next month.

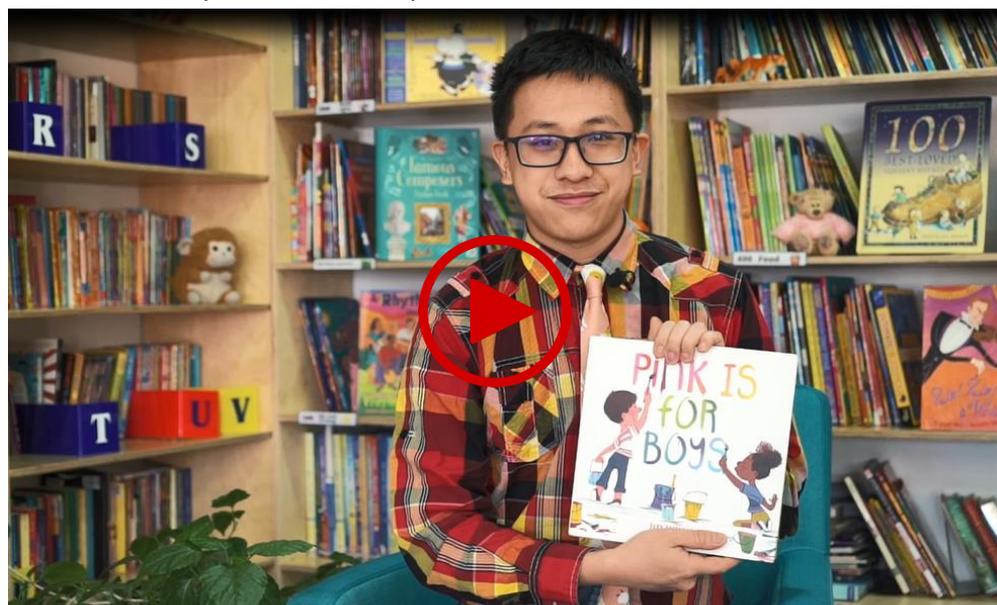
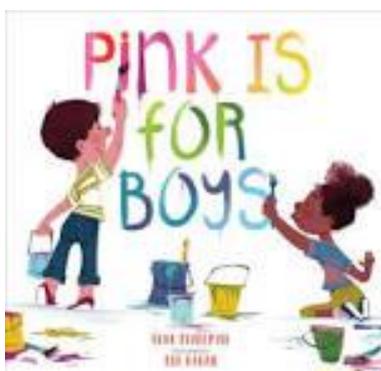
Krishna Gandhi, PYP Coordinator and Director of Studies

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY THROUGH READING BOOKS!

Join us for today our next Read Aloud with Mr David Lien – our Music and Drama teacher, who is reading a book called *"Pink Is for Boys"* written by Robb Pearlman and illustrated by Eda Kaban.

Pink is for boys... and girls... and everyone! This timely and beautiful picture book rethinks and reframes the stereotypical blue/pink gender binary and empowers kids – and their grown-ups – to express themselves in every color of the rainbow.

Enjoy!



CHILDREN AND VIDEO GAMES

Growing up privileged enough to have at least one of almost each new generation of console, I have been an avid gamer since my mother bought me a super Nintendo back in the early 90's. It was in part originally purchased to help me to improve my fine motor skills and I loved to spend my free time playing with my friends. As an adult, I still enjoy playing video and board games with my friends and family, and as a teacher I feel that games can be a fantastic way to hook my students into a topic. However, through personal experience and research I want to also highlight the potential side effects of gaming for children as well.

Playing a game as a family can be a fun way of spending time together while teaching children how to collaborate and follow rules. Board games are especially great as you have to read and remember to follow the rules and parents can be excellent role models of how to be a good winner or loser when playing. Depending on the game children may also learn things like teamwork or even critical thinking if strategy is involved, all while spending quality time with family or friends.

Unfortunately, while playing games can be a fun and exciting way for children to learn and grow, if we don't guide them properly it can have a severe impact on their development. Oftentimes, parents who are not interested in video games will purchase games that are inappropriate for their children. These games will expose children to violence, vulgar language, and sexual imagery that children are not ready to experience. Children who play these games will often repeat the language they hear and can copy the violence they experience in a game. Their developing brains are unable to distinguish between what is acceptable in experience compared to their everyday lives. Depending on their actions, this can also lead to social isolation and lowered self-confidence due to other children not wanting to play so violently.

Finally, many video games, especially apps on phones or tablets, are specifically designed to be addictive with rewards for reaching certain achievements. From personal experience, I can share that in university I went to far too many classes exhausted from staying up late to finish a game. Children struggle even more to make the choice to put down their game and get adequate rest, which can lead them to being exhausted and irritable during school. In terms of long-term effects, many psychologists are concerned about how this type of rewards-based gaming will continue to expose children to addictive behaviors as they mature throughout their lives.

Despite the potential of negatively affecting a child's development I still believe that games are a great way to help children learn while having fun. As a parent, it's good to be aware of the possible negative effects that gaming can have on your child. There are some easy ways of offsetting these side effects such as checking the ESRB rating of the games your child plays. Every game has this rating, even apps. Set and enforce boundaries and when and where playing games is allowed while modeling this behaviour yourself. Finally, play games with your child so that you know what they are playing and can have quality family time together.

Playing games can have many positive benefits for children like:

- Teamwork
- Developing language
- Problem solving
- Being a good winner or loser
- Brain development



Pitfalls of gaming

Playing certain games can have negative effects on child development such as:



- Copying violence
- exhaustion
- negative language
- Social isolation

Suggestions at home

- Play the games with your child
- Check the age rating of games before they play them appropriate.
- Establish boundaries on when and where they play.

Source: <https://www.cnet.com/2013/08/22/parents-should-consider-the-good-and-bad-effects-of-video-games-on-children-when-buying-games-for-their-kids/>

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BIS'S GOT
**TALENT
ART &
POETRY!**

**SATURDAY
29TH MAY**

Help us celebrate talent, art, & poetry at BIS!

To participate, create a demo video of your talent, art, or poetry and send it to Mr. Grant at gchamberlain@bis.kg by **Friday 21 May**.

Students and staff are all welcome!

*****DETAILS ABOUT VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED CLOSER TO THE DATE**

Demo videos will be used to confirm a list of performers and may be used in place of live performances if the event is moved online.

BISHKEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

PAMC GARAGE SALE

CONTACT:

PARENTSASSOCIATION@ESCA.

KG

**TO BOOK YOUR TABLE FOR 500
COM EACH**

SATURDAY 05

JUNE

10:00-

12:00 NOON

BISHKEK,

BRONIROVANNAY

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UPCOMING EVENTS

[Link to the updated calendar](#)

- **Tuesday, 18th May: MYP 3 Community Project**
- Saturday 29th May: BIS Got Talent, Art and Poetry Exhibition
- Friday, 4th June: All Parents Meeting – Parents Association
- Saturday 5th June: High School Prom
- **Saturday 5th June: Parents Association Garage Sale**
- Thursday 10th June - MYP 3 Graduation
- Friday 11th June: High School Graduation Ceremony
- Monday 14th June: Preschool and Primary School Water Sports Day
- Tuesday 15th June: Preschool 3 Graduation
- Wednesday 16th June: Primary 6 Graduation
- Thursday 17th June: Parent-Teacher Meetings
- Thursday 17th June: All Americas Barbecue
- Friday 18th June: Teacher In-Service Day



This was our first week of remote learning for the Preschool friends. All our friends really enjoyed seeing each other online and in their own homes without masks. While we know that online learning is not nearly as fun as being in school, our teachers were very proud of the participation from our Preschool friends during the calls.

We look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday. We missed you!

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



