



**Bishkek
International
School**

VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 34 / 2020-21

21st May 2021

WE ARE WRITERS!

The P1 has been busy writing books this month. We have written books on animals (including unicorns and dinosaurs), superheroes, and pirates! All year the P1 has been working on phonics, forming letters, and learning to spell simple words. Their journey as writers has just begun and we celebrate their wonderful illustrations, creative stories, and their use of correct and inventive spelling.

This week we enjoyed reading our stories to each other and displaying them on our classroom bookshelf. Maybe someday one of our classmates will become a published author!

The P1 Friends and their teachers are so proud of their hard work and newfound skills.

Ms. Kathleen, Primary 1 Homeroom Teacher



CPR, BROC AND KTI AWARDS

A huge well done to our following award winners:

CPR (Caring, Principled, Reflective):

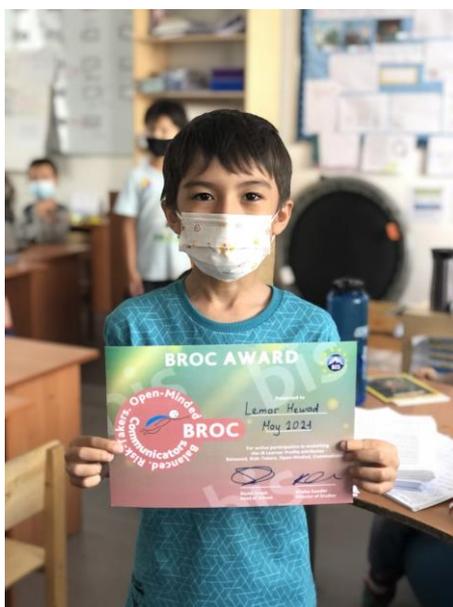
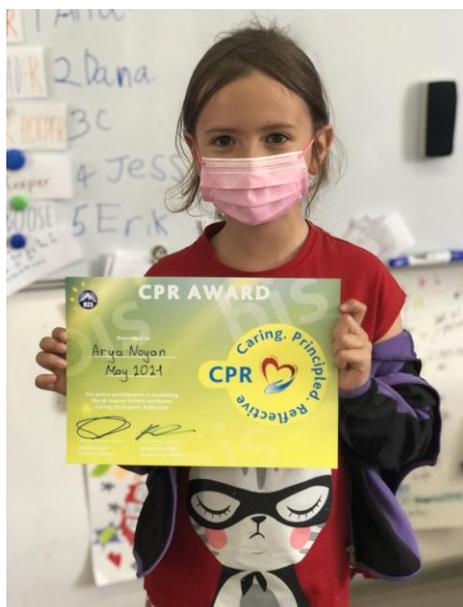
Elon (P1), Arya (P3M), Lemar (P3S), Zhanel (P4J), Paul (DP2)

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

Nuraiym (MYP3)

KTI (Knowledgeable, Thinker, Inquirer):

Keito (P5), Aliya Kazieva (IGCSE1)



GALAXY GO GETTERS



MYP COMMUNITY PROJECTS

On Tuesday May 18th, MYP3 students presented their Community Project that they had been working on for many months. Some students taught children with special needs how to make bracelets. Others designed kits to pick up trash, highlighted sexism or collected donations for rural schools. And there was much more too! Well done to all of our students, supervisors. Thank you to everyone in the community who took part too!

Donation Drive

For our community project, we (Anel and Aglaia MYP3) decided to organize a donation drive within our school community. We aimed to collect clothing, shoes, long-lasting food, toys, and hygiene products to then donate it to the Kyrgyz Red Crescent. Thanks to the help of the BIS community, we collected a substantial amount of donations, all of which went to a great cause. Thank you all! All the donations went to the material support of people in need (poor people, homeless, financially struggling, etc.) This was an amazing experience from which we both learned so much. We developed our ATL skills (Thinking, Social, Communication, Self-Management, and Research), expanded our understanding of social work, a creative approach to work and a responsible attitude to things. We had a few issues (mostly communication), namely misunderstandings during planning and when sending out emails. However, in the end, we came through with new experiences and knowledge.

Anel and Aglaia, MYP3 Students

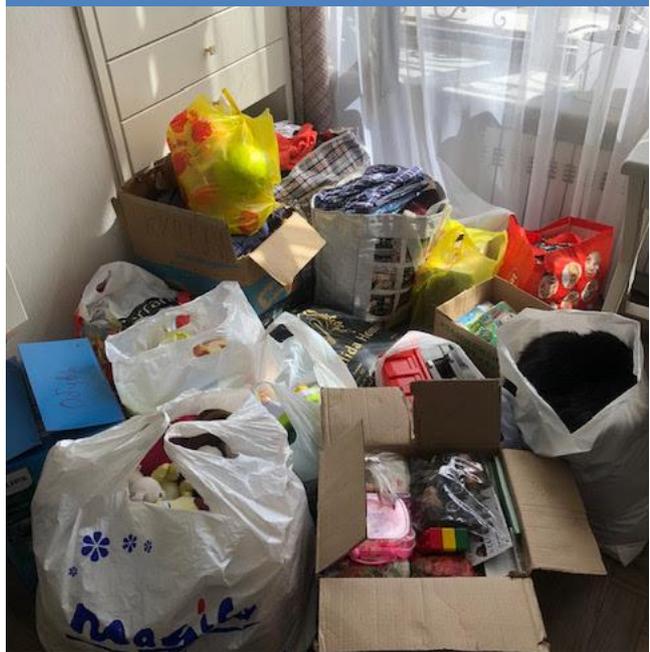
Basketball ECA

This year for my community project I decided to make a basketball ECA for the Primary 6 students. In total around 15 students attended every Friday in the third term. I chose to do this ECA because I like basketball. I believe that if you want something to turn out successful you should be interested in



Us at the Kyrgyz Red Crescent

All the donations that we have received

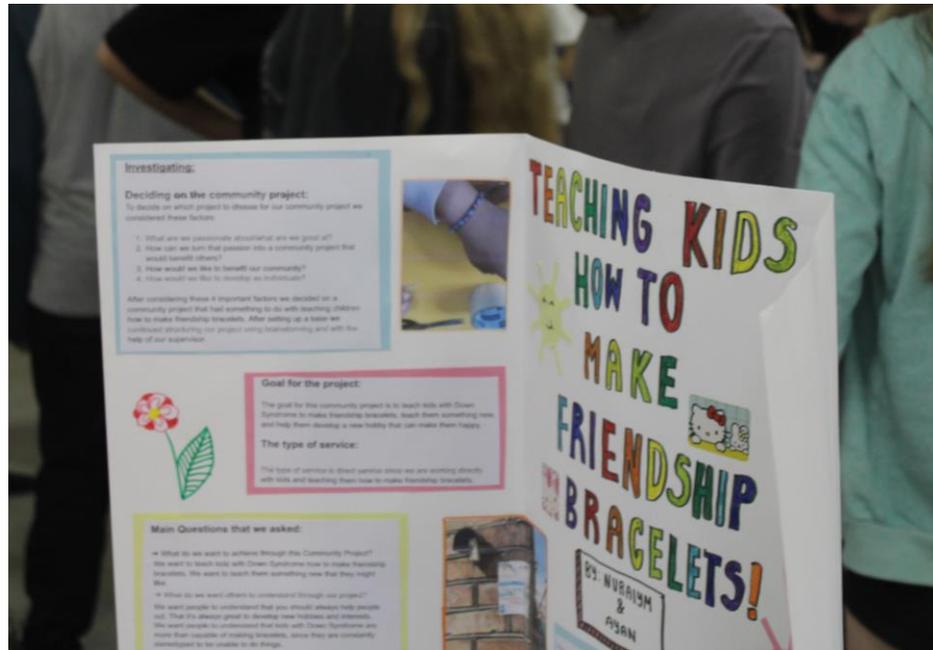


what you are doing. During this one term I wanted students to improve their basketball skills to get ready for JV basketball. Unfortunately, I missed the last 2 lesson due to schedule conflict, but this did not change the fact that they learned so much and improved a lot. I saw them use the new rules they learned outside at lunch, and calling each other out when rules weren't followed. I am super happy with the results!

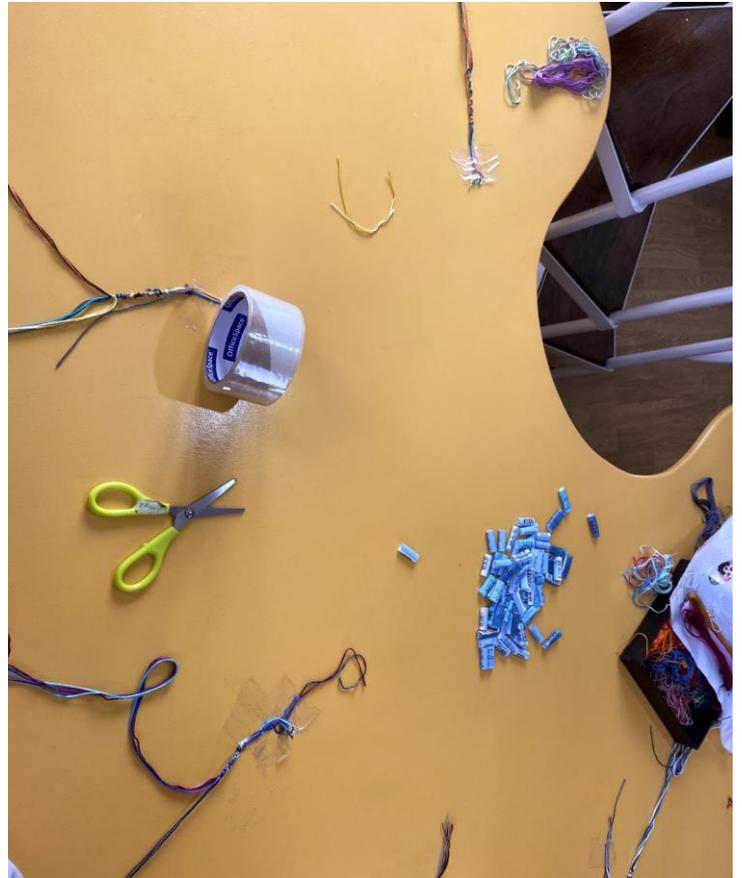
Mete, MYP3 Student

Friendship bracelets

For our community project, we decided to teach kids with Down syndrome how to make friendship bracelets. The goal for our project was to teach kids something new that they would enjoy doing and help them develop a new hobby. We had several meetings with our supervisor, Ms Krisha, and started our action by collecting money for our project expenses. We asked the BIS community to support us and successfully sold 15 bracelets. With the money we received, we bought all needed materials for the kids and started visiting the school during the spring break. We taught kids for four days and on our last visit day, we brought them gifts and interviewed their teacher. We also got [a feedback video from the school post on Instagram](#).



Although we faced some challenges, we quickly found solutions and enjoyed the whole process. The kids were lovely, they were very kind and heart-working. It was great to work with them. We could see how they were always excited about our visits and liked making bracelets. We successfully made new friends and finished our project. Most importantly, our project had a big goal and purpose, we wanted to raise awareness about Down syndrome, as there still are a lot of criticism and injustice towards people with disabilities in Kyrgyzstan. We sincerely believe that our project definitely met all our goals. We strongly encourage people to be kind and help others around us. Please look forward to our next projects, we have some very interesting ideas!



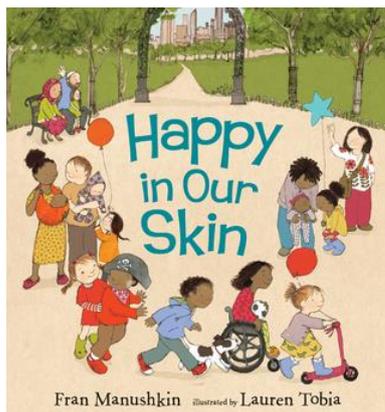
CELEBRATING DIVERSITY THROUGH READING BOOKS!

Read along with our Learning Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator, Ms. Kathryn, on this episode of Read Out Loud at BIS! She is reading a book called “HAPPY IN OUR SKIN” written by Fran Manushkin and illustrated by Lauren Tobia.

HAPPY IN OUR SKIN is a celebration of all the many different types of skin everyone has. We get to learn about the beautiful differences that make us all the same.

Simple, rhyming text uses our skin to describe how people grow, how we share similar experiences, and celebrates our differences.

Perfect book to teach kids about diversity. Enjoy!



BIS NEW FACES FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL 2021/2022

As you will have been reading over the past few editions of Voices, we are really looking forward to welcoming new members of our teaching team over the summer. There are still some ongoing decisions to be made, including student placements, co-teachers and our Preschool homeroom teaching team, however, our Middle and High School teaching team for the 2021/2022 academic year is now confirmed. Below you can get to know some of the new faces you'll be meeting in August.

Ms Nina will be joining the English Department.

Nina is an experienced journalist, editor, and educator who spent a decade writing books and articles throughout Asia before turning to teaching. She holds a Bachelor's degree in English Literature from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Master's in Journalism from Syracuse University. She has taught high school in Tbilisi and Bangkok and enjoys using her knowledge of media to inspire students of English language and literature.



Ms Rabia will be joining the English Department

Rabia graduated from Portland State University with a degree in Russian language and literature and liberal studies. After spending a year as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Vladivostok, Russia, she then went on to earn her Masters in English Education from Teachers College at Columbia University. Prior to joining the BIS team, Ms. Rabia spent most of her career teaching in New York City public schools where she focused on project- and inquiry-based learning. In her spare time, Ms. Rabia enjoys traveling, studying yoga, playing with her cat, Begemot, and, of course, reading.



Mr Taylor will be joining the Individuals and Societies Department.

Prior to teaching, Taylor worked as a photojournalist, producing stories on topics ranging from environmental issues and political upheaval to natural disasters and indigenous rights for outlets including National Geographic, BBC, The Wall Street Journal, and many others.

As a teacher, he works to create an engaging and authentic Individuals and Societies classroom by applying this real-world, interdisciplinary background. Taylor has previously taught in Bangkok, Thailand and was a Fulbright Fellow in Nepal. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia (BA Economics) and Syracuse University (MA Photography).



Ms Artika will be joining the Science Department.

Artika hails from Australia and may be a familiar face to some as she was part of the BIS 2019-2020 Science Team! Artika has been working in schools for the past 17 years teaching Biology, Chemistry, and Theory of Knowledge. She has also worked as a Science Laboratory Technician. During her many years of experience, Artika has taught in the Fiji Islands, Australia, China, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Ethiopia. Being an IB educator, she focuses on strategies to encourage critical thinking in students.



Mr Luke will be joining the Math and ELA Departments.

Luke was born and raised in Alaska. He graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks with a Bachelor's Degree in Russian Studies and a Bachelor's Degree in Foreign Languages. He has two certifications in teaching English as a foreign language. He has been living and teaching in Bishkek since 2019. In addition to teaching, Luke has a passion for language acquisition.



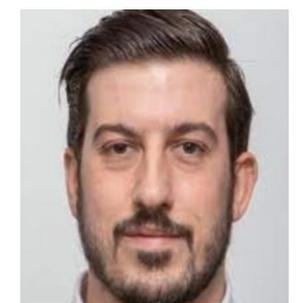
Mr Alisher will be joining the Math Department.

Alisher has been teaching in Nur-Sultan for the past 5 years following his Undergraduate Studies at Nazarbayev University. Not only a keen mathematician, Alisher has also supported High School and University students in their development of physics and chemistry understanding. Alisher is excited to support our Middle and High School students and to continue developing high standards and enjoyment of mathematics.



Mr Daniel will be joining the Languages Department.

Daniel is a creative teacher who aims to support students academically and holistically too. Though Daniel has taught a variety of subjects including being a PE teacher in China, Daniel obtained his Masters in teaching Middle and High School Languages in 2019. Following teaching experiences in Finland, Spain and China, Daniel will be joining us in Bishkek and will be contributing to the ever-growing Spanish team. Students who don't get to know Mr Daniel through language learning may even get to know him as a Sports Coach too!



MAY 2021 IB DP EXAMS AND ONLINE INSPECTION COMPLETED!

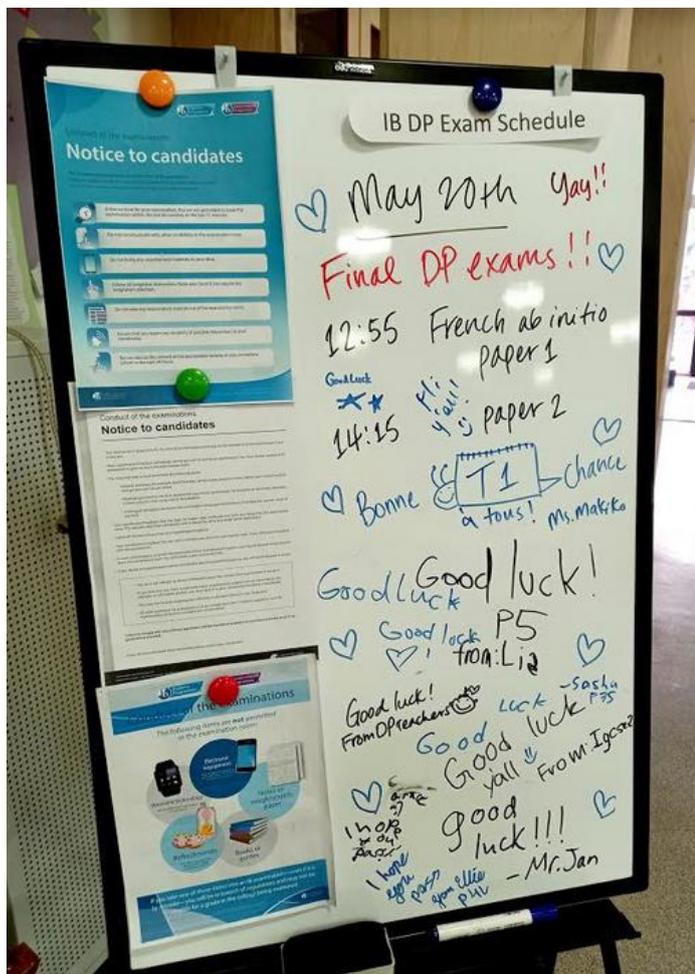
Congratulations to DP2 students. As of 20th May all students have completed the final assessments of the IB Diploma Programme.

For the May 2021 session some examination components have been removed or adjusted under the worldwide circumstances but the pressure of examinations has been as big as past years.

The sudden school closure as well as the unavailability of many experienced teachers due to COVID-19 during the examination period required urgent changes on the invigilation schedule. However, we were lucky it was not worse because we could take advantage of using the Big Hall without noise from other classes. In order to reduce risks of infection, we tried to use the biggest venue with the least number of invigilators as much as possible. I am proud to say that all examinations ended without any major problems.

We also had an unannounced inspection from the IB organization during the busiest time on the 10th May where four different English examinations were taking place in three different rooms with different starting and ending time. It happened online via WhatsApp call on my personal mobile phone! The inspector checked the examination environment and the secured storage, and asked tons of questions about how we conduct the examinations. After all, everything went well.

The last examinations on the 20th May were for those studying French and only three students got to see the notification board in the cafeteria but I would like to share these lovely messages written on the board by teachers and students, which were intended to deliver for all DP2 students! Well done DP2 students, we are very, very proud of you!



Ms. Makiko, DP Coordinator



NEW PROGRAMME ORIENTATION MEETINGS

As an IB World School, BIS is proud to offer the PYP, MYP and DP as well as our IGCSE programme. If your child is continuing to learn at BIS and will be transitioning to a new programme for the 2021/2022 academic year, you will soon have an opportunity to meet with your child's new coordinator.

These meetings will help parents understand and prepare for some of the key differences between current grade levels or programmes and their child's next chapter. Coordinators will share some key information about the programme before opening the floor to questions and answers.

For the PYP, Ms Carmen, Ms Alicia and Ms Kathleen will all be joining the session so parents of our current Preschool 3 group can get to know the new team supporting their children.

Whilst students are welcome to join the conversation, the BIS team will be offering other, more age-appropriate transition activities to help our students prepare for their up-and-coming year and the change in programme. This will include spending time with their new teachers.

Our meetings will take place on the following days and times:

Current Preschool 3 parents will be able to meet the Primary Team on Monday 24th May, 16:45 - 17:30

Current Primary 6 parents will be able to meet Mr Tim, our MYP Coordinator, on Tuesday 25th May, 16:45 - 17:30

Current MYP 3 parents will be able to meet Mr Jacques, our IGCSE Coordinator, on Wednesday 26th May, 16:45 - 17:30

Current IGCSE 2 parents will be able to meet Ms Makiko, our DP Coordinator, on Thursday 27th May, 16:45 - 17:30

All of our Coordinators look forward to seeing relevant parents at school or online for these meetings and to answering any questions you may have about this exciting time in your children's academic journeys. A link has been sent separately to Preschool 3, Primary 6, MYP3 and IGCSE2 parents separately.

Krishna Gandhi, PYP Coordinator and Director of Studies



Welcome to your family's new BIS chapter!

ORIENTATION MEETINGS

will take place online at at school and online at 16:45 on the following dates:

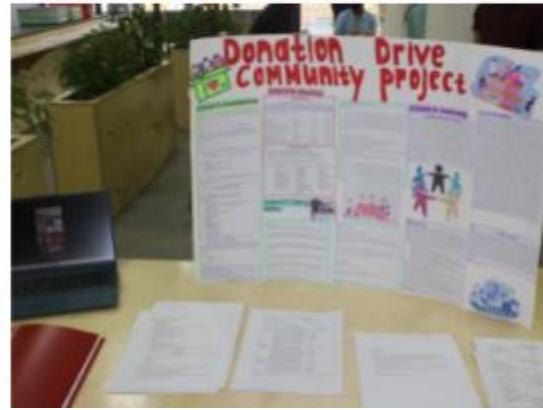
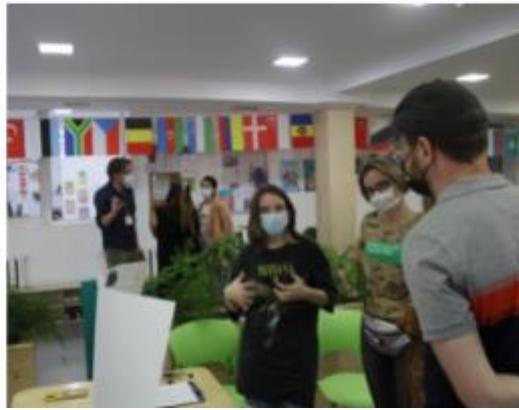
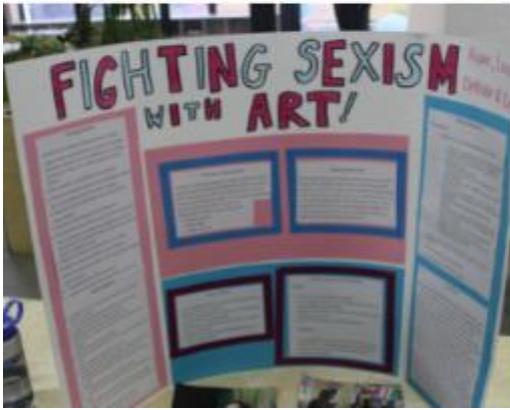
Meet the KG Team: 24/05/2021

Meet our MYP Coordinator: 25/05/2021

Meet our IGCSE Coordinator: 26/05/2021

Meet our DP Coordinator: 27/05/2021

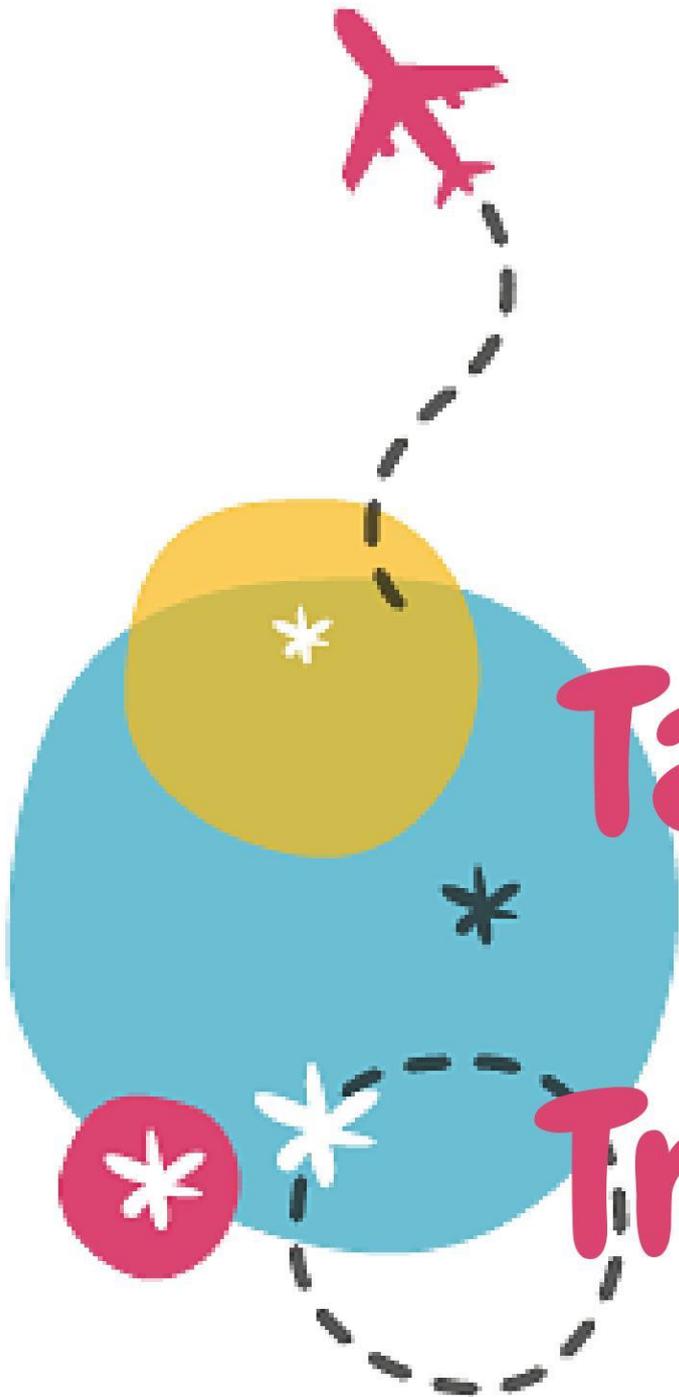
BIS Snapshot: MYP Community Project



**FOR ALL FAMILIES, BOTH
LEAVING OR SAYING
GOODBYE TO FRIENDS**

**JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL
PARENT COFFEE EVENING**

**WITH KIM ADAMS FROM
RESILIENT EXPATS**



Talk about Healthy Transitions

Next Friday May 28th • 17:00
Zoom link will be shared in email

BISHKEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

CRAZY HAIR DAY

COME TO SCHOOL NEXT
FRIDAY WITH A CRAZY
HAIR STYLE OR A CRAZY
WIG AND GET

10 HOUSE POINTS!



FRIDAY, MAY 28TH



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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GRADUATIONS: SAVE THE DATES!

This year, students in Preschool 3, Primary 6, MYP 3, IGCSE 2 and DP2 will be graduating. We are excited for students, parents and BIS staff to be celebrating these special milestones in-person this year. Invitations will be sent to families with more details though, for now, we request that parents with children in these year groups save the following dates:

- Wednesday 9th June: MYP3 Graduation
- Thursday 10th June: DP2 Reflection Dinner
- Friday 11th June: IGCSE 2 and DP2 Graduation
- Tuesday 15th June: Preschool 3 Graduation
- Wednesday 16th June: Primary 6 Graduation



We look forward to seeing our graduating students and their families together for these very special occasions.

Krishna Gandhi, PYP Coordinator and Director of Studies

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Link to the updated calendar](#)

- 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
- Wednesday 9th 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

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 May 25th – 29th 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 spent time learning about space and planets. We learned that there are eight planets in the solar system and our home planet is 'Earth'. We also discussed that all planets orbit around the sun. To build a better understanding of it, we have made an activity where we used the sun picture and a ball to represent a planet. Friends hold their plate to make the planet orbit the sun. We also became aware that the people who travel to space to learn more about the solar system are called astronauts. Together, we made a big rocket ship and our friends pretended to be astronauts and travelled to space. For art, we made a telescope out of cardboard paper roll, paper plate planets and earth art with shaving cream. Next week, we will talk about dinosaurs that lived on our planet a long time ago.

Ms. Begimai, Preschool 1 Homeroom Teacher



PRESCHOOL 2

This week, Preschool 2 children inquired into the life of plants. We discovered that plants have different parts like leaves, stems, roots, branches, flowers, fruits. In the lesson we looked at the plants we have in the classroom and tried to name their parts. The children told us that they had lots of the plants at home with big and small leaves, flowers, some grow in the garden and some grow in pots inside the house. From the books, we found out that all plants need sunlight, water and fertile soil to grow and develop. To check on their own experience, children planted beans in jars to observe the process of their growth. This is the part of the summative task where children need to draw growing beans at the 3 stages of the development and also draw the necessary elements all plants need to grow. The children were very engaged with this week's topic so they observed plants on the preschool playground looking for the leaves, flowers, branches and fruits.

Ms. Oksana, Preschool 2 Homeroom Teacher



PRESCHOOL 3

This week, our Preschool 3 friends had a very adventurous week. We went on a scavenger hunt in the preschool playground for our Kyrgyz lesson and we found a lot of lovely treasures.

We also looked at where rain comes from and how it rains in a science experiment. After the experiment, we played with our shaving foam clouds. We worked on our handwriting skills and continued to learn about addition. Finally, we had a chance to play with some frozen paint during our art class with Dr. Anna.

Next week, we will look at how we can clean water and we will start to practice for our Preschool 3 graduation.

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

