



**Bishkek  
International  
School**

# VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 38 / 2020-21

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

The high-flying Class of 2021 graduated on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June with a full graduation ceremony at school followed by a reception. The twenty graduating students were welcomed onstage by MCs Amina and Alex, heard opening remarks by the Chair of the Governing Board, Fred Huston, took part in applauding the successes of students who completed their IGCSE programme in Grade 10, and those completing the Kyrgyz State Certificate of Education in Grade 11, listened patiently to wise advice and good humour from Valedictorian, Er kaiym Saparaliev, Commencement Speaker, UNDP Resident Representative, Louise Chamberlain, Graduation Speaker, Business Ombudsman, Robin Ord-Smith, then accepted their High School Diploma awards and heard warm closing remarks from Makiko Inaba, Diploma Coordinator. The ceremony was a wonderful celebration of our students and their achievements, and a testament to the dedication and inspiration of our teachers who have worked with these students over many years.

**David Grant, Head of School**



## CLASS OF 2021 DISTINCTION AWARDS

The 2021 Awards for Global Citizen Distinction, Service Distinction, Leadership Distinction, and Valedictorian were presented at the High School Graduation Ceremony. The awards panel considered nominations from many members of staff, and decisions were very difficult as we have so many exceptional students.

The **Global Citizen Distinction**, for a student prepared to tackle both global and local issues through a commitment to social justice; tolerance and diversity; communication skills; and knowledge of global contexts, was awarded to **Aliya Mars**. Aliya has grown tremendously during her time in



BIS, overcoming all challenges and is ready to take on the world. With fluency in four languages, she is an exceptional communicator who is very engaged in both local and global issues.

The **Service Distinction**, for commitment to service leading to positive development of the Kyrgyz Republic, Bishkek International School, and their fellow classmates, was awarded to **Linda Mars**. Linda is a catalyst for action, who makes things happen and always fights for what they believe in. She has always been extremely active in all her time at BIS, supporting or leading the Debate Tournament and Model United

Nations, and engaging with other schools in Bishkek to make joint events happen.

The **Leadership Distinction**, for a student who takes leadership roles throughout the school, helping members of the school community to achieve their academic, sporting, and creative potential, was awarded to **Aila Grant**. Aila constantly demonstrated leadership in her time in BIS, for example, in organising teams to lead UN Days at school, in leading the Varsity Girls Basketball Team, and being an ambassador for the school to show the best side of us at Anniversary Shows and other



events.

The **Valedictorian Distinction**, for the student who achieved the highest overall academic grade in the IB Diploma Programme years was awarded to **Erkaiym Saparalieva**, who just surpassed three other high-grade students by achieving 3.94 GPA. Erkaiym has impressed us all, not just in academics, but also in her leadership and service. She is an outstanding valedictorian.



**Makiko Inaba, Diploma Programme Coordinator**

## PRIMARY SCHOOL GRADUATION

This Wednesday 16th June, students, parents and staff came together to celebrate the achievements and accomplishments of P6 as they finished their last day EVER in primary school, and prepared to join MYP.

We started the event with speeches from Fanny and Asylai on behalf of P6 students, Nasima (mother of Kais) and Arina (mother of Fatriya) on behalf of P6 parents, and Ms. Rebecca and Ms. Elvira. Our students then made it over to the flying fox where they travelled into MYP - holding their hats tightly as they flew! Mr. Tim, our marvelous MYP Coordinator, greeted students at the end of their ride to welcome them into their new programme by moving their tassel from right to left. The event ended with final remarks by next year's Director of Studies, Esther Johnson, and a slice of Graduation Cake!

Thanks to everyone who came along to the ceremony, and contributed to our tasty reception feast. To those who couldn't join us in person, you can view some pictures from the event below.

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



## PRESCHOOL GRADUATION

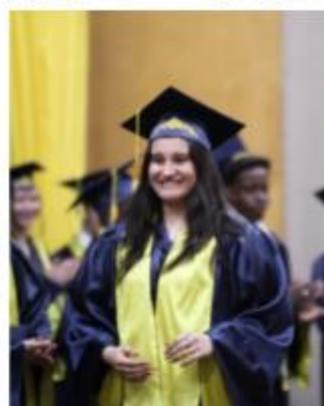
Our Preschool 3 students graduated on June 15th with graduation caps, songs and speeches on-stage in the big hall.

Adoring parents and many BIS staff joined the audience to applaud this milestone in moving from the safe secure environment of the Preschool, into the Primary School with wide open spaces in the playground, treehouses to explore, much bigger students to negotiate around and some more time in formal learning - though still with much play and happiness.

The children performed wonderfully on stage for their graduation, showing how ready they are for the adventure ahead. A big thank you to Ms. Carmen, Ms. Gulsana and Ms. Melanie for their boundless energy and passion for supporting and guiding our Preschool 3 students in all aspects of their development.



# ***BIS Snapshot: Class of 2021!***



## INFLUENTIAL WOMEN IN HISTORY

P5 students were learning about gender equality in their last unit of inquiry, *Sharing the Planet*. We explored the book, *Little Dreamers: Visionary Women Around the World* by Vashti Harrison, that contains short biographies about female inventors, scientists, artists, designers, educators, writers, and so on. After looking through the book, P5 students chose a biography of the person whom they were most interested in. Since we have been learning about poetry, writing a bio-poem was the perfect way to share information from the book.

Ms. Rona, Primary 5 Homeroom Teacher

by Emil

Source: Harrison, Vashti  
"Little Dreamers: Visionary Women Around the World" New York 2018

Artemisia Gentileschi

Artemisia  
she is accurate And skilled  
She loved Painting  
She Paniting a stong woman from My  
She is a Italian paniter  
Do you like this paniter?  
Genieschi

Emil

Source: Harrison, Vashti  
"Little Dreamers: Visionary Women Around the World" New York 2018

Zaha Hadid

Zaha By: Lev Levantsuk

Who was tasteful, smart, and imaginative  
Who loved design, arts, and decorative  
Who experienced criticism  
Who started her own architecture firm and won many awards  
Who wanted to make elegant and avant-gard buildings  
Hadid

Lev

Edith Head

Edith  
Creative, brave, beautiful  
Who loved art, acting, and designing  
Who was brave and became a designer without any experience  
Who wanted to live a glamorous life and she eventually did  
Who was born in 1897 and died in 1981  
Who was from the American Southwest and lived in Los Angeles  
Head

Sources: Harrison, Vashti "Little Dreamers: Visionary Women Around the World" New York 2018

By: Bilim Orinda Toichobeev

Bilim

Frida Kahlo

Frida  
Who was a thinker, risk taker and balanced.  
Who loved to paint, Mexico and national dress.  
Wife of Diego Rivera.  
Who was born in 1907  
Who accomplished becoming a painter.  
Who fell excited to paint.  
Kahlo

Asadbek

Eiko Ishikawa

Eiko  
Open-minded, talented, creative, and smart  
Who loved graphic design, making party design, and go against the grain  
Who wanted to be like dad, design her own career.  
She experienced happiness, gratefulness, and excitement  
Born in Japan  
Ishikawa

Source: Harrison, Vashti "Little Dreamers: Visionary Women Around the World" New York 2018

Amira

BY: YORALI BAWES

Katherine Dunham

Katherine  
Who was creative, knowledgeable and energetic  
Who was from united states of America.  
Who was born 1909.  
Who was accomplished to become dancer and writer.  
Who felt happy to dance.  
Who was on a cover of magazine.  
Dunham

Source: Harrison, Vashti "Little Dreamers: Visionary Women Around the World" New York 2018

Yorali

Frida  
Strong, brave, and beautiful  
wife of Diego Rivera  
who liked to paint and loved her husband  
who felt pain and sadness  
who feared the struggles of her people  
who simply reflected all the realities she experienced and felt  
Born in Mexico  
Kahlo



Iman

Fatima  
Daughter of a wealthy merchant.  
Thinker, kind, caring, and remarkable.  
She lived thousands of years ago.  
Who envisioned a place to worship and study.  
Who was interested in architecture and  
even saw the construction of a whole building.  
Who wanted to make the largest mosque in North Africa.  
Born in Al-Qadiriyya and lived  
in Fes.



Azlan



Primary 5 had an interesting trip to the Botanical Gardens and Greenhouse.



We saw many kinds of plants and trees from around the world.



## **MYP1 AND MYP2 FIELD TRIP TO SUPARA INTERACTIVE MUSEUM**

Last week, MYP1 and MYP2 students had a trip as part of Host Country Studies to Supara Ethno-Complex. They visited the fantastic Supara Interactive Museum that opened earlier this year. With a friendly guide, they learnt about the traditional Kyrgyz way of life, ground their own flour and played traditional games. Students also enjoyed a boorsok-making masterclass with the chefs from Supara. The boorsok came out in all shapes and sizes but it was all delicious, especially with a cup of tea from a samovar or a glass of Maksim or Chalap!

**Saikal Maatkerimova, Host Country Studies Teacher**



## **MYP3 VISIT TO SMILE CENTER**

On Monday MYP3 had a visit to the Smile center to explore sports activities and practice their athletic skills. Students enjoyed free jumping on a trampoline, riding a bungee, "swimming" in a foam cubes pool, and Cholponai even tried a climbing wall.

We had lots of fun and it was a great way to end the year!

**Ms. Adelia, Math Teacher**



## MYP1 IS MAKING SOLAR OVENS

Today in MYP1G, the students got to use their solar ovens. They have been building and working on them for the past week in preparation for the last day of school. Mr. Alisher and I spent some time with both MYP classes throughout the process, and thankfully we got to see these through to the end!

Kudos to the students of MYP1G who did a fantastic job of construction and telling the curious primary kids some of the scientific basis for why their solar ovens would work on a cloudy day.

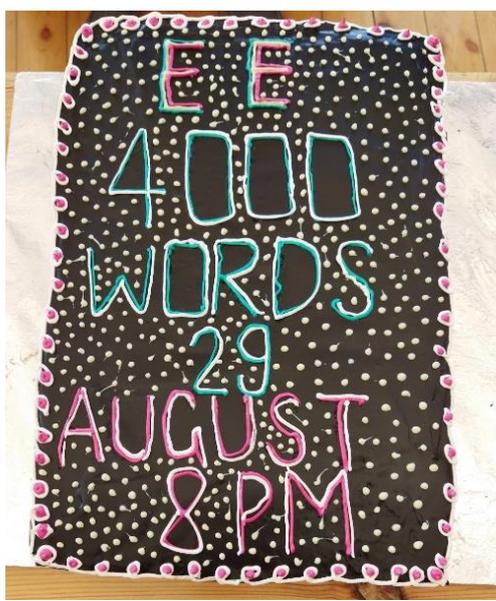
**Ms. Pamela, Biology Teacher**



## EXTENDED ESSAY: ON THE ROAD TO SUCCESS!

We celebrated the end of the Research Methods course with a cake last Thursday. To achieve the full IB Diploma, each student must submit a 4000-word academic essay in a subject and topic of their choice: the Extended Essay (EE). Students gained general skills through Research Methods and are guided by a supervisor in their subject through the process. Students are now expected to complete a full draft by the end of the summer. So, what better way to remember the deadline by writing it on a giant chocolate cake?! Thank you for a wonderful year, DP1, and good luck!

**Mr. Tim, Extended Essay Coordinator**



## CONTINUED TEACHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are delighted to announce our Preschool, Middle School and High School homeroom and form teachers for 2021-22. Please click on the links below to read more about these teams.

[Click here](#) to read more about our Preschool Homeroom Teachers.

[Click here](#) to read more about our Middle and High School Form Teachers.

Our Primary Team has one notable change with Michaela Kilbride, on the right, joining the Grade 1 team in place of Andy Johnson. Michaela has taught in Canada, Cuba, Philippines and Norway, and is excited to get to know her new class. For winter sports enthusiasts, you may see Michaela on the slopes as she comes with years of Snowboarding experience and enthusiasm.

As we continue into the summer, we will continue to be recruiting new BIS staff members. This includes for homeroom teaching, co-teaching, specialist and admin roles. Returning and new staff members look forward to welcoming the school community back to campus in August!



**Krishna Gandhi, Director of Studies**

## MYP3 GRADUATION PARTY

MYP3 students and parents had a farewell party with fellow classmates on Sunday. It was held at Hyatt and the kids and parents had a great fun day.



## PRESCHOOL AND PRIMARY SCHOOL WATER SPORTS DAY

This year we had a Preschool and Primary Water Sports Day on our school pitch aka The Taigan Arena! . We were the weather wouldn't be warm enough, but luck follows the brave and risk-takers, and we had perfectly hot day for making a splash!

The games were created by MYP students in their last few PHE theory lessons. They were given the task to include all Preschool and Primary students, to make the games safe and simple, to use water in every task and to create a competitive house spirit!

They created 4 different games and the students were divided into 3 groups (P1 and 2; P3 and 4; P5 and 6). The games were a combination of speed, agility, precision and dexterity. Many thanks to our MYP2 students who were demonstrators and referees at this event. Thank you Irem, Sienna, Mabrukah and Nurislam for showing the primary students a fun and water-filled time.

After 12 relays, the Phoenixes came in first place with 26 points; Piranhas were in second with 25 points, and the Snow Leopards came in the third with 21 points!

Congratulations to all participants; we wish you an unforgettable summer holiday.

**Mr Zeljko, Athletics Director**





The 2021/22 Yearbook is available [here](#) in PDF for anyone to view and download.

For parents who completed the school survey before June 7th, a free printed copy (per family) is available from the BIS external reception.

A limited number of printed copies are also available for 2,000 som each at BIS.

Please email [finance@bis.kg](mailto:finance@bis.kg) in advance to reserve your copy.



## ALL AMERICAS BBQ

BIS held our All Americas BBQ on Thursday to celebrate a very successful year together with all parents, students and friends! The evening started with some blues played by Grant Chamberlain, Head of Performing Arts, and his friend Robert from Australia. Following on, we enjoyed bluegrass music performed by David Lien, Sunny Stimmler and Grant Chamberlain - a lively and joyful performance! The evening continued with semester awards, the Cuban Band 'Fandango', a Carnival show, delicious burgers, tacos, hot dogs, ice cream and drinks! And, of course, the evening ended with our amazing annual fireworks. Everyone enjoyed this fantastic party and celebratory end to the school year!



Mirzat Osmonova, Head of Administration



## SCHOOL AWARD CEREMONY

On Thursday 17th June, BIS celebrated the achievements of our award winners during the All-Americas BBQ.

BIS has five categories of School Awards, with nominations made by all staff members and an awards panel who have the tough job of selecting the final award winners. Semester Awards are given for:

- Academic awards for significant, sustained effort and achievement in academic work.
- Leadership awards for students who take leadership roles throughout the school, helping members of the school community achieve their academic, sporting, and creative potential.
- Service awards for students whose commitment to service contributed to the positive development of their fellow classmates, Bishkek International School and the Kyrgyz Republic.
- Global Citizen awards recognize students prepared to tackle both global and local issues through a commitment to social justice; tolerance and diversity; good communications skills; and knowledge of global contexts.
- School Community awards for either, exceptional contribution to the development and representation of the school community, or for exceptional personal development through outstanding commitment and learning.

Awards were presented as follows:

### ACADEMIC AWARDS

- Preschool: **Ayla Sakebaeva**
- Primary School: **Nathan Ryjih**
- Middle School: **Anel Mukambekova**
- High School: **Kamilya Kerezbekova**

### LEADERSHIP AWARDS

- Preschool: **Aruna Ababakirova**
- Primary School: **Avila Shavurov**
- Middle School: **Ayan Alymova**
- High School: **Amina Tursalieva**

### SERVICE AWARDS

- Preschool: **Adam Ibraimov**
- Primary School: **Matilda Lamberti Fossati**
- Middle School: **Cholponai Malabaeva**



- High School: **Geert Johan Ormel Aracena**

### GLOBAL CITIZEN AWARDS

- Preschool: **Azhibek Otorbaev**
- Primary School: **Alexander Manno**
- Middle School: **Eva Aijan Grant**
- High School: **Karina Kolesnichenko**

### COMMUNITY AWARDS

- Primary School: **Arina Selezneva**
- Middle School: **Chris Emmanuel Inagbe**
- High School: **Alexia Anikina**

### KANAT CHOKOEV ANNUAL AWARD

The inaugural Kanat Chokoev Annual Award was presented to **Yaroslava Federova** as she 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.

**David Grant, Head of School**



# BIS Snapshot: All Americas BBQ



## HOUSE WINNERS 2020/21

Our final two house events, Fun-Run & Cross Country and Preschool and PYP Water Sports Day, are over! After counting points from all the challenges and competitions this year, we are happy to announce our Winning House for the 2020/21 academic year.

### TOTAL HOUSE POINTS SCORE:



Phoenixes

21631



PIRANHAS

23474



SNOW LEOPARDS

22912

The winning team is Piranhas!



Our students and teachers have participated in 35 house events and collected more than 67 000 house points in total! The most popular events were: Sports Day, Fall Festival, #Lotofsocks Day, Anniversary Show, #LightUpBlue Day and Valentine's Day! P6 Piranhas team were the most successful of all the groups - winning 3,551 points for their House!

Our House Trophy is ready for the winning team – Piranhas! Returning Piranhas will also be treated to a Pizza Party in the first week of the 2021/2022 school year to celebrate their success!

We look forward to new House challenges and events in the next school year!

Ms. Bojana, Houses Coordinator

## TAIGAN SUMMER CHALLENGE

This year, students have enjoyed a wealth of House opportunities - so much so a few P3 students came forward to suggest House activities that could take place during the summer! These challenges provide students with the option of staying involved in the competitive spirit, trying some new things and spending time thinking of others. The Taigan Summer Challenge is open throughout the vacation weeks. In order to gain House Points, which will go toward next year's score board, photo or video evidence can be sent to Ms Bojana (baskovic@bis.kg). Some activities can be done independently and others will need some parent or adult guidance, supervision and support.

A huge well done to Avila in P3 for thinking of the challenges, and Avila and Arya in P3 for presenting the idea to the Primary School community.

Krishna Gandhi, PYP Coordinator and Director of Studies

<b>Be kind to someone new 10hp!</b>	<b>Make homemade ice cream 20hp!</b>	<b>Pick up 30 pieces of trash 30hp!</b>
<b>Visit 4 parks for 40 hp!</b>		<b>Donate 1 hour of your time to a good cause 50hp!</b>
<b>Use a showbox to make something! 60hp!</b>	<b>Cook a meal for your family. 70hp!</b>	<b>Read your age in books 80hp!</b>



**Send your pictures to Ms Bojana to receive your House Points!**

## ENROLMENT AND FEE PAYMENT

The Enrolment Forecast for 2021/22 is currently 315 students, which is well ahead of the same time last year. If you are enrolled, please make sure that payments are made on time (before 30<sup>th</sup> June for most students) so that you do not lose your place in the school. If you are considering enrolment, please email [admissions@bis.kg](mailto:admissions@bis.kg) or phone/WhatsApp 0706 200 200 as soon as possible to see if places are available.

## SCHOOL'S OUT FOR THE SUMMER!

After a busy and exciting final week, rounded off with our first full community event since December 2019, the All Americas BBQ, we wish BIS students, families and teachers a wonderful summer break! To those who are leaving us, we wish you all the best on your next adventures and want to thank you for your contributions to the BIS community.

For students who are returning to BIS, **school starts again on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August at 07:45**. The 2021/22 school calendar [here](#).

Although students are away, the administration and facilities teams continue to work from Monday to Friday all summer, preparing for next year, and we are open for enrolment visits and fee payment. It is always best to check availability of staff in advance by emailing [info@bis.kg](mailto:info@bis.kg) or calling 0312 214 406.



## **PRESCHOOL 1**

The last week of our Preschool 1 journey came to an end and we were excited to join in many fun activities. On Monday, we joined Water Day and enjoyed Fishing Relay, Water Balloon Hot Potato and Hoops and Bean Bag games together with other Preschool friends.

On Tuesday, our friends visited the Preschool 2 classroom and learned about the new environment and discovered many different toys and resources.

Together, we discussed that we will be learning and playing in this big classroom after summer holidays. On Wednesday, we enjoyed looking at our pictures, remembering milestones that we made during this academic year and spending time outdoors. We want to thank all our amazing parents for their support and cooperation and we wish everyone a happy summer holiday!

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



## PRESCHOOL 2

That was an amazing year where we become one big family – with members who take care of each other and share endless love! Thank you, my friends, for letting us to be your teachers and the closest of friends. To those who will now leave our school, we wish that you meet only good people and develop your skills further! Take risks, explore and enjoy! Have a great summer vacation!

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



### PRESCHOOL 3

Every year the last day of school seems to arrive so quickly! No matter how rough the school year may have been, I always get so happy about how much my students have grown and changed since they first stepped foot in my classroom. I tried to put my feelings into words below for this last newsletter of this academic year.

Nine months ago, you walked into this place called "Preschool." Many of you were scared. Some of you cried and didn't want to stay. We held your hands while you said goodbye to your family and let you sit next to us on the carpet while you were sad. We read a story together and played a game to learn everyone's name.

Time has seemed to fly by and, while I am excited for summer holiday, I sometimes wish for time to slow down just a bit so we could spend a little more together. Yet, I know you are ready to go. Our time together is complete. But before you go, please remember that we believe in you and know you are capable of great things.

I will always be here for you.

Lots of love Ms. Carmen

