



**Bishkek  
International  
School**

# VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 7 / 2022-23

30<sup>th</sup> September 2022

## DP2 TRIP TO TAMGA, ISSYK KUL SOUTH SHORE

On the 19th of September, BIS' DP2 Students took off on the long awaited Issyk Kul class trip! Packing their bags with the most essential items... or maybe not so essential, we sang songs and played various games on the way to the Issyk Kul region. After leaving Bishkek at around 10 am, it took us around 4 hours to get to our yurt camp through all the dust and Kyrgyz roads.

The first day consisted of us unpacking and looking around the territory which we called "home" for the next 2 days. Unpacking and settling down in our yurts didn't take long and after some waiting, we headed off to the beach! At least that's what we thought... A rocky beach with breathtaking scenery welcomed us where we played music, some of us had a great swim in the lake, and spent the time of our lives with the people we share



hardships with. All of us captured each and every moment so we could look back later in the year when IB and reality strikes us in the face. Nothing could be better than ending the day with a bonfire and your peers surrounding you. Singing songs, reminiscing, looking after the fire was what made the first night at Tamga so special for every single DP2 Student.



Our first morning at Tamga started with a welcoming breakfast from the hosts and our plan for the day. Driving to the Barskoon valley where some of us hiked up to the very top, and some of us stayed next to the 2nd waterfall creating a self-made-natural photo booth. The hike exhausted everyone and we headed back to the yurt camp after a lunch break. Bonding together as a group is one of the most important things about BIS class trips. Spending time near the lake and enjoying a freezing swim brought everyone together and built amazing memories to look back on. Putting an end to our 2nd day with another bonfire manifested energy in everyone. Singing and dancing around the campfire is definitely one of the biggest highlights for everyone.



Sadly, all good things come to an end. Just like this memorable trip we went on. The trip's last day was as full of emotions and good memories as the other 2 days. Eating our last breakfast, packing our stuff and taking off to "Fairytale" canyon was another cherry on top for our class. A mini slippery hike with pictures and panicky students made it on the highlight list. Lastly, getting on the buses and heading back to Bishkek was the last thing we thought we could make memories of. We thought. A lunch stop at Barskoon left a memory in me where we all gathered around the table like a big family and had the deepest conversations at a local stolovaya.

I would like to thank everyone who was on the trip and shared these amazing moments with me. It was a pleasure to have Ms.Valeria and Mr.Tom as our temporary "parents" and making the trip even more fun with giving us the opportunity of being able to do the activities we did. In all of my years at BIS and all of the class trips I went on, my last year DP2 trip is no doubt one of the best class trips I've had in my life. I love all my friends who made this trip possible and I hope we get to continue to be the amazing and cheerful DP2 class that we are. More memories to come!

**Aidan, Grade 12 Student**

## CPR, BROC AND KTI AWARDS

A huge well done to our award winners:

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

**Zahra** (Grade 1B)

**Maximilian** (Grade 1B)

**Anika** (Grade 1Y)

**Zhan** (Grade 3B)

## **NEW FACES AT BIS: MS MARIA**

“So, how did you get here?” This is a very common question when I meet people here in BIS. There are not many (if any) Panamanians in Bishkek or in Kyrgyzstan, so the question does not surprise me. I was welcomed into this heartwarming learning community six weeks ago, making me feel at home. It is interesting to see how our international school communities are similar in many ways around the world. We can always find a little bit of “home” in the smiles and caring gestures of the wonderful people around us. The values of global citizenship of our BIS community are perceived from the moment you enter the gates. This is one big reason why I am here.

I have worked in international schools with IB Curriculum for the past 7 years in my home country, Panama. I have been a teacher for the last 15 years. I realized how much I love teaching when I was a Psychology student, having a job in a school as a single subject teacher back in 2007. I changed my career path to Primary Education, fascinated with how learning works in the brain, the support I could give children while being their teacher, and the impact teachers had on students’ lives. Like many of us in this profession, I am an idealist that thinks that teachers can make the world a better place. If you ask me, there’s nothing I’d rather do than be in a classroom.

This is my first time working abroad, after welcoming so many colleagues and families into my country as a local teacher. I always wondered how it felt to be on the other side, so I was a risk-taker and decided to try it myself.



Coming from a country with lavish tropical rainforests, one of the reasons why Kyrgyzstan seemed perfect for my family was its beautiful mountains and nature. My husband, Luis, and my two sons, Massimo and Matteo, love the outdoors.

My husband is from Uruguay, where cooking outdoors is a tradition. We enjoy camping and “asados” or South American grill. We cannot wait to try the traditional cooking techniques of the Kyrgyz people and learn more about this wonderful country.

**Ms Maria, Grade 1Y Homeroom Teacher**



## GRADE 9 FIELD TRIP TO CHON KEMIN

This form trip the grade 9 class travelled to Jekshen guesthouse in Chon Kemin. The class learned a lot about ourselves in the course of this trip. Such as how stress can weigh a person down, to demonstrate the negative feelings weighing us down we carried rocks up a hill for 3 hours. Some people's 'stress' was too much and they had to struggle harder than many but in the end we all made it.

"I threw my rock away." - a student.

"I could feel my limbs disintegrate" - another student.

"We somehow survived and thrived." - Nicole.

We did multiple activities such as 'stalk the lantern', horse riding and masterchef. All these activities were difficult but also fun and exciting. During 'stalk the lantern' we ran in a field at night and tried to run to the lantern while not being caught, we all had a lot of fun, a few laughs and good memories. Horse riding was amazing; we all had a good time riding the horses and talking amongst ourselves, one student said "It hurts so much, but it was so fun, 10/10 would recommend to a friend" (Lana).



But on a serious note during this trip we all had our challenges and our successes. We all really bonded during this journey. And learned more about ourselves. The challenges we faced brought us closer to ourselves and others. But the real achievement wasn't winning stalk the lantern or masterchef, it wasn't even climbing the hill, no, it was the friends and the bonds we made on this trip. Thank you for this experience, to our form teachers, Ms Helene and Ms Tulay, and to Mr Luke :)

**Nicole, Miko, Mabrukah, Grade 9 Students**

<b>Emblem and War Cry Trophy:</b> Moldobai, Diana, Bayar, Beatrice and Irem	<b>Master Chef Trophy:</b> Moldobai, Adilet, Marat and Nurislam	<b>Personal Growth Trophy:</b> Mabrukah
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## IT'S TIME FOR ART



Grade 3 students learn about Australian Aboriginal art.



## KEEP OUR BODY HEALTHY



Students in G2B are working on their projects to wrap up our unit of inquiry topic "who we are". Students are working in small groups or pairs to research an organ or body part and explain what choices we can make to keep that body part healthy. Here they are collecting research which they will soon use to make their own posters or informational booklets.



## INTERNATIONAL ROCKET MODELING COMPETITION IN BAIKONUR

On September 17-23, the International Rocket Modeling Competition among youth took place in Baikonur (Kazakhstan). Students from Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan participated in this event. BIS student Alisher Nazarmukhamedov represented Kyrgyzstan and took 23rd place out of about 200 participants. It was a great opportunity for participants to demonstrate their skills in rocket modeling.



The most challenging thing was to adjust to the new rules of the competition which we hadn't been informed about. But it was a rewarding experience for me and I did my best to solve the problem without panic.

Before the competition we had a chance to take a tour of Baikonur city. We visited the Museum of Baikonur Cosmodrome History. The museum's exhibits tell the story of space exploration as well as the region history. It has a lot of interesting items such as samples of rockets and actual parts of them, Soyuz capsule, capsules for animals, and the first computers of Baikonur.

The upper cone of the side block (1st stage) of the Soyuz launch vehicle at the Baikonur International Space School.



Alisher, Grade 12 Student



## ENGLISH ECA - COMMUNITY SERVICE

BIS high school students started teaching English at public school #74. They teach English to grades 6-9 to help them improve their English.



## ECO PROJECT



BIS middle and high school students are presenting in saving the environment at public school #74. The students care about the environment and share with their passion with other students.



## CENTRAL ASIA CROSS COUNTRY – FRI/SAT 7<sup>TH</sup>/ 8<sup>TH</sup> OCT - KARAGACH PARK!

BIS is hosting the Central Asia X-Country for 5 schools from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan in Karagach Park on Friday 7th and Saturday 8th October. Tashkent International School, Almaty International School, Tian Shan International School, QSI Bishkek, and BIS will all compete for the CAFA CAXC Trophies.

Everyone in the BIS Community is invited to come and support the runners on both Friday & Saturday 9:00 to 13:00. [Park here](#) and [walk to here](#).



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> October, Friday – Saturday: CAFA Cross Country Tournament, Bishkek
- 12<sup>th</sup> October, Wednesday: Parent Teacher Meetings
- 14<sup>th</sup> October, Friday: UN Day at BIS
- 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> October, Monday-Friday: Autumn/Fall break (No School)
- 28 Oct: Fall Festival/Halloween
- 7-8 Nov: Days of History & Memory of Ancestors
- 8 Nov: Holiday moved to 24th February
- 19 Nov: BIS Annual Debate Tournament
- 25 Nov: Friendsgiving Dinner – Parents Association

### LUNCH MENU

The lunch menu for October 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> is **Menu D**.

You can view both [Preschool Menu](#) and [Primary & Secondary school menu](#) on our school website. 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

The friends in Preschool 1 had a productive and educational week. We learned to distinguish colors and the circle shape. We took balls of different colors and sorted them, and then collected them in different containers. To develop their thinking skills, we came up with different types of sorting. The children took the balls and glued them with duct tape in a line according to the corresponding colors. After these lessons, we sang the song "Red, Red, What Color I See," in which our children had to show the colors on

their clothes and follow the actions. We also talked about friendship, how children should play together, how to be caring and kind, what kind words to use, and how to say the words "please" and "thank you." After that, children made hearts and fingerprints from salt dough and then dyed them. We sang the song "The more we get together". We read books like "Hands are not for hitting," "Be Kind," "Do you want to be my friend?" and "How do you care for a very sick bear?" to help children understand the concept of friendship.

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



## PRESCHOOL 2

Preschool 2 friends had an amazing week. This week we played a lot of action games to learn some vocabulary in English class and to count and identify numbers and shapes in Math class, which are also very helpful to increase their sense of belonging and now they feel more confident and open to follow instructions in a team or in pairs. Also this week we talked a lot about Emotions, we did some craft activities on it. Now with our little friends we are learning to show and say about what we feel and students are enjoying emotions chart to express their

feelings. We also continue to talk and learn about friends and friendship. We praise every successful sharing and play and try to do more of collaborative work.

We keep revising our S, A letters and learned letter T, we also learned meanings of our week's words Soft and Hard. Also our friends get excited to visit our library and spend time there.

Next week we will do some phonics activities as well and continue learning numbers and shapes.

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



### PRESCHOOL 3

This week our preschool 3 friends had an awesome week that was loaded with exciting lessons. In English, they looked at the phonic sound li, and they mentioned some of the things that begin with that sound such as ink, igloo and insect. To top it all, they made an inchworm and also practiced writing the letter li. In Math, they pasted pictures according to

their patterns and made beautiful rainbows during Art time.

Preschool 3 friends had a discussion on kindness and they mentioned ways of showing kindness, which they also practiced to their friends throughout the week.

Next week, we will look at number patterns in Math and the phonic sound "Pp" in English.

**Ms. Kathy, Preschool 3 Homeroom Teacher**

