



**Bishkek
International
School**

VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 40 / 2022-23

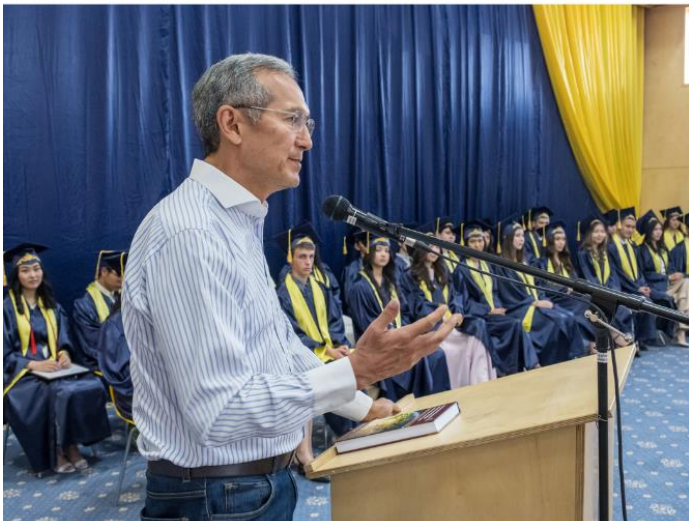
16th June 2023

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION 2023

The outstanding 'Class of 2023' graduated school on Friday 9th June with an inspiring ceremony at BIS. Graduating students were welcomed onstage by MCs Elshat and Alan, took in opening remarks by the Chair of the Governing Board, Fred Huston, then applauded the success of students completing their IGCSE programme in Grade 10, and the Kyrgyz State Certificate of Education in Grade 11.

We all enjoyed the wisdom and guidance of Valedictorian, Medina Talasbaeva, Commencement Speaker, one of the BBC's top 100 influential women in the world, Ainura Sagynbaeva, and Graduation Speaker, Djoomart Otorbaev, ex Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic. The Class of 2023 accepted their High School Diploma awards before hearing closing remarks by Jacques Prinsloo, High School Principal. Graduates left the stage to applause before going outside to complete the celebrations.

The Class of 2023 made the most of their time in the DP, with a wealth of experience in sports and creative events, as well as academics. Their success is a testament to their own abilities, their commitment to success, and to the inspiration of teachers who have worked with these students over many years.



CLASS OF 2023 DISTINCTION AWARDS

The 2023 Awards for Leadership, Service, Global Citizen, and Valedictorian were presented at the High School Graduation. The awards panel considered many nominations from many members of staff, and decisions were difficult as we have so many exceptional students.

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 **Zhibek Kubatova**. Zhibek was the President of Interact in her first year in the DP. She also co-founded 'Act for Community' in BIS, where students volunteer to help others, raising funds to support those in need, organising charity sports and other tournaments, and much more. She always treats everyone with great respect, has exceptional communication and organisational skills, and engaged many High School Students in Kyrgyz dance performances. Her capacity to achieve transformational change at such a young age is outstanding.



The **Service Distinction** for commitment to service, leading to positive development of their fellow classmates, the school, and the Kyrgyz Republic, was awarded to **Mariam Akmatova**. Mariam has always been committed to serving; often putting others needs before their own. She consistently advocated on behalf of other students in difficult situations, and achieving good outcomes for them. Mariam was fully committed to service, regardless of CAS; running events for the Student Council such as Debate Tournament, Prom and Bake Sales, and being engaged in many activities, supporting others, when no one expected her to be there.

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 **Elina Sultanbekova**. Elina has shown great resilience in overcoming numerous challenges, and holds herself to very high standards, as seen in her overall performance. She is very disciplined and determined to succeed; applying her learning to help both local and global communities. She has been fully involved in the Technovation Girls Challenge, and represented the Kyrgyz Republic at the TechGirls finals in the US, to empower and support young women. She is a coordinator in the AUCA Debate Club, and has also been very effective in organising events at BIS.



The **Valedictorian Distinction**, for the student who achieved the highest overall academic grade in the IB Diploma Programme years was awarded to **Medina Talasbaeva**, who achieved an almost perfect 3.99 GPA. Medina has been academically outstanding throughout her time in the school and we are sure she will go on to great things.

BIS Snapshot: Class of 2023



Grade 5 Graduation



Message from Ms Gill, Primary School Principal

I congratulate all of our Primary School graduates! All of us have worked hard at school. All of us have had fun at school. And now, all of us are getting ready to move up to Middle School.

To do our best in Middle School and beyond takes leadership. We all need to be leaders, with clear goals, strong communication skills, and a positive attitude. To be a leader we need to know exactly where we are and where we are going. We need to say to ourselves: what is it we really want to get out of Middle School? And then we need to work toward that goal.

Some of us might want to get good grades. Some of us might want to make new friends. Some of us might want to make the school a better place for everyone. Whatever that goal is, we first need to name it and then make a plan. Albert Einstein once said, "If you want to live a happy life, tie it to a goal." I believe that setting goals will not only make us happy, like Einstein said, but it will also make us better leaders.

To be a leader also takes strong communication skills. We have to be able to communicate well with so many people. Just think of all the different audiences we have to talk to! We have to be able to communicate with our families for later bedtimes and more freedom. We have to communicate with teachers when the material is too hard or too easy for us. We have to communicate with the Principal about ways to make the school even better. Not to mention all the ways we have to communicate well with each other: talking, texting, writing notes.

Last, but certainly not least, to be leaders in Middle School we must have a positive attitude. We have to believe that we can achieve our goals. We have to believe that the world can be a better place.

There are many ways to succeed in life. One way to succeed is to become a leader. Leaders don't have to be the most outgoing or the most intelligent. You can "lead by example," as they say. To be a strong leader, you have to have a vision. You have to be able to share that vision. And you have to be able to share it in a positive way.

Congratulations again to all the graduating fifth-graders, and I hope you have a great summer!

Message from Ms. Laura, Middle School Principal

Dear Grade 5 students,

I can't help but feel a growing sense of excitement, knowing that you will very soon be part of the Middle School here at BIS!

I remember standing in front of you a few short weeks ago as I answered your questions, all about what life would be like in Grade 6. What is the timetable like? What are summatives? Are the teachers strict? What time is lunch??

I was taking it very seriously, trying to reassure you, when it suddenly hit me! This wonderful group of talented students, many of whom I have been lucky enough to teach, are now coming to Middle School! Fantastic!

I get to see you all the time, see how you are progressing, help you discover new subjects, new talents and passions, new skills, and new ways of learning more about the world around you.

I understand that many of you were feeling nervous at that stage, and that's totally normal! It was my hope that I could help change that nervousness into excitement. Are you there yet?

Remember, feeling nervous about something new is completely normal, but you can feel many things at the same time. I hope that you also feel a sense of anticipation, excitement, curiosity, confidence, and readiness to leap into the next instalment of your unique, wonderful learning journey.

Myself and your teachers and Form Teachers will be there every step of the way, to help you find your way, guide you down the path that's right for you, encourage you when you need it, reflect on things which may go wrong, and celebrate your successes.

Grade 5, congratulations once again on your incredible Primary school journey, and welcome to Middle School!

BIS Snapshot: Grade 5 Graduation



Grade 8 Graduation



Dear graduating class of Grade 8, esteemed faculty and proud parents,

Middle School has been a whirlwind of adventures, growth, and laughter. From the first day of sixth grade, when you nervously embarked on your new learning journey, to the final moments of eighth grade, when you are confident masters of your domain, you have undergone an incredible transformation.

During your time here, you've discovered the power of friendship. From the unforgettable lunchtime shenanigans to the chaotic school projects, you've formed bonds that will last a lifetime.

I hope you cherish the inside jokes, the moments of camaraderie, and the shared experiences that have brought us closer together. It reminds me of a quote from a movie: 'I never had any friends later on like the ones I had when I was 14. Really, does anyone?'

Graduating class of Grade 8, as we bid farewell to Middle School, I hope you carry with you the lessons you've learned, the friendships you've forged, and the laughter that has accompanied you on this incredible journey. Approach the future with optimism, curiosity, and an unyielding spirit to make a difference in the world.

Congratulations!

Ms. Laura, Middle School Principal

Dear Grade 8 parents and guardians, teachers, and most importantly - students,

What a wonderful three years it has been watching you build towards this day.

As your Language and Literature teacher in Grade 6, I was able to see your curiosities, your eagerness to learn, your occasional frustrations to change, your development of your strengths, and, although rarely, your shoes left in the classroom after you yourselves had left.

But what I saw most of all was your innate ability to navigate the changes that Middle School brings, and the way that all of you in some shape or form overcame adversity and shone in your own individual ways.

As your English Language Acquisition coordinator in Grade 7, I saw many of you hone and improve your English skills. I am sure some of you when joining the Middle Years Programme in BIS found our English-speaking environment challenging, and sometimes intimidating.

But over the course of these years, it has been wonderful to see you navigate your school life with increasing ease and confidence, in school performances and plays, in group projects and form trips, in science fairs and as we all can see now, with all of you sitting here in front of us today.

And onto Grade 8. The final year. Many of you have begun to think about the future. And while today is a day to celebrate your achievements and reflect on your growth over the past three years at Bishkek International School, it is important to never act without the future in mind.

As your IGCSE Coordinator next year in Grade 9, I wish to personally thank all of you for the impact big and small you have made to this school, in the way that you have matured with us and with each other, and to sincerely welcome you to high school.

Whether leaving Bishkek International School or staying here, I am confident that all of you will be able to apply the tenacity and determination you have shown here onto whatever you wish to accomplish.

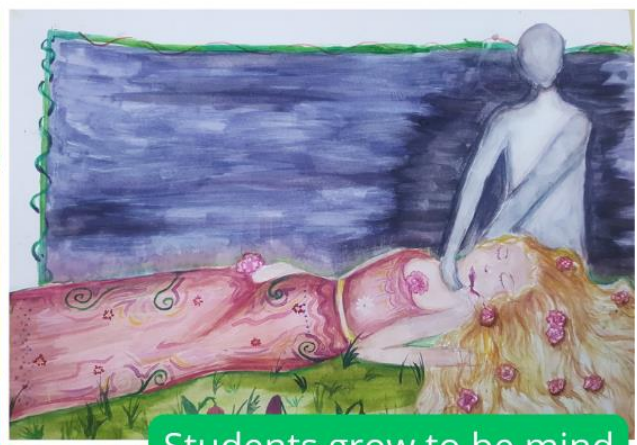
Congratulations Grade 8!

Mr. Tom IGCSE Coordinator

BIS Snapshot: Grade 8 Graduation



Save Our Planet



BIS MYP students are participating International Art Competitions, the 12th ocean awareness contest! We became heroes to save our planet!

Students grow to be mind blowing creative! And our voice going to be heard from the whole world!

Ms Didi, Art Teacher



BIS COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS SURVEY RESULTS 2022/2023

Dear BIS community,

We thank you all for participating in the school annual community survey for 2022/23. The survey report is now available to view [here online](#). Please note that the report is in English only.

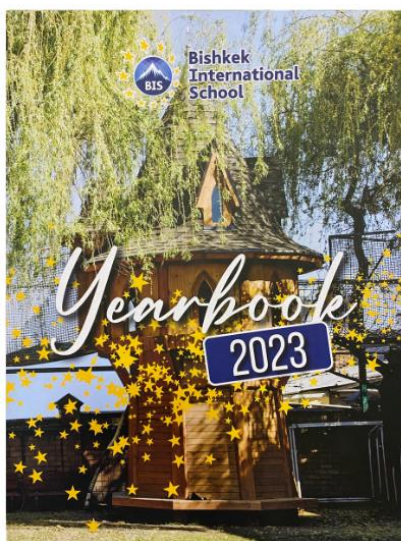
All parents/guardians of students in school and all students in Grades 4 to 12 were invited to complete the online survey between May 2-18, 2023. Compared to last year, the number of respondents increased from 348 to 368 people. The survey was completed by 109 students (44% of 247 possible respondents), 156 parents and guardians (29% of 546 possible respondents) and 98 staff (58% of 168 possible respondents).

According to the results of the overall list of top priorities for the BIS community, in the upcoming academic year, BIS should prioritise several key areas (see chart [here](#)), including hiring excellent teachers, more training for staff, building the new campuses, improving classrooms and facilities and more educational visits for students.

We thank you for choosing to be part of the Bishkek International School community and we look forward to working together to improve our school.

Nuriza Begalieva, Governance Support Officer

2022/23 BIS YEARBOOK DOWNLOAD



The 2022/23 Yearbook PDF is available online [here](#).

For those who ordered in advance, a **hardback printed copy is available from the school office and can be collected on any working day from 9:00 to 17:00**. We also have a limited number to buy for 3,000 som, for those who forgot to order earlier.

SCHOOL'S OUT FOR THE SUMMER!

After a busy and exciting final week, which culminated in our memorable All Americas Barbecue we wish BIS students, families and staff a wonderful summer break!

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 from 9:00 am to 17:00.

If you need to contact the school for anything, please email info@bis.kg or call 0312 214 406.

UPCOMING EVENTS – 2023/24 Calendar is [here](#)

- **21st August, Monday: First Day of School**
- 25th August, Friday: Meet the Teachers
- **31st August, Thursday: Independence Day - Public Holiday**

WHATSAPP & TELEGRAM

Most school communication is sent by email or in Voices. We also have Telegram and WhatsApp broadcast channels to repeat general email messages. The same info is on WhatsApp and Telegram, and on both English and Russian channels. If you do not check emails, join the channel that is easiest for you to follow.



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www.bailanysh.com

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BIS Alumni Association - [@bis_alumni](#)



BIS Facebook - facebook.com/biskgz



Act for Community - [@actcom.bis](#)



Parents Association - facebook.com/bis.parents.127



PRESCHOOL 1

We have reached the end of this academic year with lots of wonderful memories. Our Preschool 1 friends had a lot of fun activities this week.

At the beginning of the week, we had an outdoor activity where our little friends had fun washing all the toy animals with bubbles! They also had a lot of fun catching bubbles. On Tuesday, we had a special field trip to the “SMagic” Tommi Mall to celebrate the end

of the academic year. Our friends were excited and had lots of fun playing there.

Toward the end of the week, we made a tasty and healthy fruit salad.

We want to thank all the parents for all their support and cooperation and we wish everyone a happy and safe summer holiday!

Ms. Nuraida, Preschool 1 Homeroom Teacher



PRESCHOOL 2

With a super Summer on the way our Preschool 2 friends had so many exciting activities and events in our last week. We revised many things from what we learned before. Preschool 2 friends were very excited to go on a field trip. On Wednesday we visited the pottery towards the end of the school year. Our

friends were very creative and we made good memories.

Lastly, we would like to give our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to all parents for your continuous support in all our activities and programs. Thank you!

Ms. Dinara, Preschool 2 Homeroom Teacher



PRESCHOOL 3

Time flies so fast when you're having fun. This was the most memorable and best week for our Preschool 3 friends though we've had lots of other exciting times throughout the school year.

Our Preschool 3 friends had a beautiful and colourful ceremony this week. They have so eagerly waited for this day and were very prepared for it. To put the cherry on top of the icing, our friends visited Hyde Park and had a graceful moment riding on horses and ponies and feeding rabbits and lamas.

Our preschool 3 friends have come to the end of their Preschool adventure and are looking forward to new adventures in the next level of the curriculum.

This school year has seen our friends grow physically, socially, emotionally and mentally. They have developed strong friendships and have become confident communicators who are able to express themselves without being shy. It has been a wonderful journey that is beautiful memories that we will forever treasure.

Enjoy your summer vacation, have lots of fun, be kind and caring and above all have loads of laughter.

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



BIS Snapshot: Preschool 3 Graduation

