



**Bishkek
International
School**

VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 1 / 2020-21

28th August 2020

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!

BIS is delighted to be open five months after lockdown. Students, who decided to take part in face-to-face school, were welcomed by teachers with precautions in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Thank you parents, students and teachers for your flexibility as we adapt to the new guidelines.



BACK TO SCHOOL

Primary 1 students are excited to start the school year, meet their teachers and, of course, their friends again!



WELCOME BACK PRIMARY 2!



P2 has had an exciting first week of school. All the students were so happy to see their friends after a long time apart. The students also welcomed a few new students into the class by being open-minded and caring friends.

This week, the class readjusted to being back at school by practicing their classroom routines. The students had a wonderful time exploring the different parts of their new classroom as well as revisiting familiar places around the school.

Ms. Shelby, P2 Homeroom teacher

OPENING – NOT OPENING – WAITING FOR GOVERNMENT

Thank you for being with us for the first week of school. I know that those children at school in Preschool and Primary 1 and 2 have had a wonderful week. I am also sure that it has not been so easy for those in remote learning. Thank you for making remote learning work, despite the difficulties.

Sadly, the bad news is that there is no news from government about BIS being able to open any higher grades next week. Therefore, we have to assume that all of next week will operate like this week, with Preschool and Primary 1 & 2 at school, and all other classes only in remote learning.

We continue to advocate with Government, and there is some hope that we will have positive news about opening higher grades early next week. If this happens, we will open all classes, that are approved to open, as soon as practically possible.

At BIS, we are completely ready to open NOW, with COVID-19 controls in place. The only constraint is the government decision, which does not appear to fully take account of children's education, health and wellbeing. We know that COVID-19 cases in Bishkek are falling, which is not surprising since over 35% of our staff who were in Bishkek since March (but not at school because of lockdown) already have COVID-19 antibodies. This indicates that many people in Bishkek already have some immunity. It is also clear that the risk of transmission is much lower in summer when we have all windows open and fresh air is circulating. This makes the government suggestion to stay closed now and open in winter is very difficult to understand. At BIS, we are not 100% certain that we can stay open throughout winter if COVID-19 transmission is still a major concern, since windows are often closed in winter due to poor outside air quality. This makes it doubly important to open now!

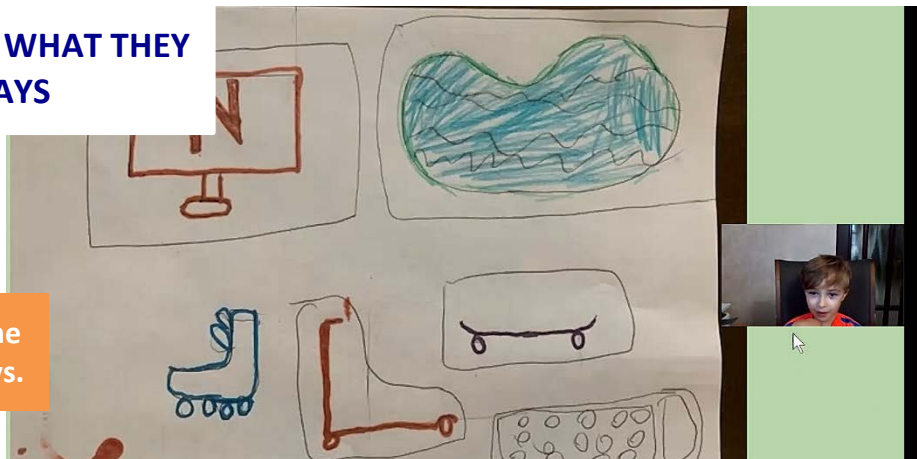
The Government has threatened to remove our education licenses if we open higher grades without their explicit approval, so we are unable to open until they approve. If you have any direct way to advocate with Government to fully open the school, please do what you can to help.

David Grant, Head of School



PRIMARY 5 STUDENTS SHARED WHAT THEY DID OVER THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Yorali drew a picture of what he did during the summer holidays.



Kanykei baked cookies this summer in Issyk Kul.

Apolline showing us a photo of her playing in her treehouse.



THE HOUSE SYSTEM



Phoenixes



PIRANHAS



SNOW LEOPARDS

The House System exists to promote healthy competition based on inclusion and teamwork. BIS has three Houses for students from Primary, Middle and High school, representing 'land', 'water', and 'air'. These Houses were formed at the start of the 2014/15 academic year. Houses were named as 'Snow Leopards', 'Piranhas', and 'Phoenix'. Various events, challenges and competitions contribute to house points. Points are accumulated throughout the year to produce an overall winning House.

Students, who are already a member of one of these Houses, stay in the House until they leave BIS, or may move between Houses only by agreement between the student and Assistant Head of School if this is necessary to rebalance the houses. New Students are assigned to one of

the Houses in the first week of Term 1, with assignment elected to ensure that all year groups have a good balance of students in each House and to ensure a good overall balance between Houses.

If you want to find out in which House you are in go to the [link](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Friday 28th August: Meet the Teachers
- **Monday 31st August: Independence Day – public holiday**
- Saturday 5th September: All Parents Meeting – Parents Association
- Saturday 19th September: Asia Day Festival

LUNCH MENU

The lunch menu for September 1st – 4th is [Menu B](#). 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.

KEEP IN TOUCH

If you have anything you want to discuss or suggestions for the school, please contact your child's Homeroom or Form Teacher and they will either answer directly or pass the message on to the right person. Messages can be sent in English or Russian, or in your own language. If you do not know the correct email address for the person you want to write to, please write to info@bis.kg and our Reception will forward your email to the right person.

Form Teachers for 2020/21 are given below:

Form Class	Homeroom/Form Teacher	Email
Preschool 1	Begimai Keneshbekova	bkeneshbekova@bis.kg
Preschool 2	Oksana Rusanova	orusanova@bis.kg
Preschool 3	Carmen Prinsloo (Head of Preschool)	cprinsloo@bis.kg
Primary 1	Kathleen Lewis-Workman	klewis-workman@bis.kg
Primary 2	Shelby Pohndorff	Spohndorff@bis.kg
Primary 3	Shannon Coppock	scoppock@bis.kg
Primary 4	Laura Kircough	lkircough@bis.kg
Primary 5	Rona Butler	rbutler@bis.kg
Primary 6	Rebecca Peters	rpeters@bis.kg
MYP 1A	Amith Ravindar	aravindar@bis.kg
MYP 1G	Grant Chamberlain	gchamberlain@bis.kg
MYP 2	David Lien	dlien@bis.kg
MYP 3	Grace Park	gpark@bis.kg
IGCSE 1	Zeljko Jovetic	zjovetic@bis.kg
IGCSE 2	Darren Simpson	dsimpson@bis.kg
DP 1	Andrew Wheeler, Aikanysh Turdubaeva	awheeler@bis.kg , aturdubaeva@bis.kg
DP 2	Thierry Taberna, Esther Johnson	ttaberna@bis.kg , ejohnson@bis.kg

To contact Management Board members:

- David Grant, Head of School dgrant@bis.kg
- Krisha Gandhi, Director of Studies, PYP Coordinator, Spanish Teacher kgandhi@bis.kg
- Mirzat Osmonova, Head of Administration mosmonova@bis.kg
- Jacques Prinsloo, Assistant Head of School, IGCSE Coordinator, Math, Economics and Business Teacher jprinsloo@bis.kg



**Bishkek
International
School**

Preschool Discoveries

Preschool Newsletter No: 1 / 2020-21

28th August 2020

WELCOME BACK EVERYONE!

We were so excited to welcome all our old and new preschool friends back to school. While some of us joined online and others were at BIS, we all were extremely happy to see each other again. No matter where you are, you are part of the preschool family.

I am especially proud of all the preschool friends that have shown compassion and care for all their preschool friends and teachers by keeping safe while at school. We have all made a lot of new friendships this week as we get to know each other and get ready for an exciting school year ahead.

Special thanks to our preschool parents that have been tremendous in your flexibility and open communication to help us provide a safe environment for all. We look forward to having your children in our classrooms for the upcoming school year and helping them develop the foundations of an exciting future.

Ms. Carmen, Head of Preschool

