



**Bishkek
International
School**

VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 32 / 2020-21

7th May 2021

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

BIS offers scholarships for high school students who aspire to excellent international education but are unable to afford our school fees. These opportunities are advertised widely every spring and we always receive many applications from around the country. Applicants must do well in Math and English exams, be convincing in their motivation letter and in interviews, as well as demonstrating financial need for the scholarship.

In 2020/21 we have 27 scholarship students, with fee discounts ranging from 50% to 90%. Ten of our current scholars will graduate next month with the Class of 2021.

This year we received 64 applications by the deadline of April 30th, with exams and first interviews on May 1st. Those who pass this first challenge will move forward to present their motivation letter and financial status, before second round interviews at the end of May.

Nurizat Nadir Kyzy, Admissions Officer



NEW ACADEMIC YEAR – NEW FACES

Every summer sees change in some key positions at BIS, as staff members reach the end of their contracts and decide to move on to a new location. This summer we are losing Krisha Gandhi after four amazing years in BIS, starting as Primary 1 Homeroom Teacher, then PYP Coordinator & Head of Language Acquisition, then Director of Studies & PYP Coordinator. Ms Krisha is exceptional and will be greatly missed. This combined role has grown over the years, to the extent that it is time to appoint one person as the overall Director of Studies, without additional responsibilities.



Following an open recruitment process, the Governing Board approved the appointment of **Esther Johnson** as **Director of Studies** from July 2021. Esther joined BIS in summer 2019 as Head of Language Acquisition and Spanish Language Teacher and she has impressed everyone with her professionalism and positive approach. We welcome Ms Esther to her new role in leading the academic programmes of the school.

Some other key appointments following internal recruitment are:

Alicia Grinsteiner will be **PYP Coordinator & ELA Coordinator for PYP**. Alicia joined BIS in summer 2019 as Primary 2 Homeroom Teacher, and has been Lead Remote Learning Teacher for Primary students this academic year. In being able to focus on the PYP Coordinator role, while continuing as English Language Acquisition Coordinator for PYP, we look forward to continued growth in our Primary Years Programme.



Laura Kircough will be **Head of Student Welfare & Community Engagement**. Laura joined BIS in summer 2020 as Primary 4L Homeroom Teacher and her experience and understanding of the wider context of the school and community make her ideal for this role.

She takes over 'Head of Student Welfare' from Darren Simpson, who established this role in the school, and will be driving a culture of Community Engagement at BIS.



All other appointments for the 2021/22 academic year will be announced in Voices over the next month.

David Grant, Head of School

EDUCATION FOCUS AMID COVID-19 CONTROLS

BIS recognises that most students learn more at school than they do online, hence we strive to provide in-school learning for all students throughout this academic year, while enforcing compliance with our [COVID-19 Protocol](#) to minimise the risks of transmission at school.

Until the last week of April, we were successful in only needing to quarantine students and staff who were exposed to possible infection outside school, with no year groups quarantined. In the last 10 days this changed, with Primary 3 quarantined from Wednesday 28th April and the whole school quarantined from May 1st to May 16th. By good fortune, with the already planned May holidays, most students only miss school on 6th & 7th May, and have 4 days of remote learning in the week of 10th May, so we are in a much better position than most international schools around the world.

Despite this relative success, **we are determined to open again on 17th May and stay open until the end of year BBQ on 17th June.** To help achieve this goal we have strengthened the [COVID-19 Protocol](#) to state:

- Anyone who comes to school with a temperature of 37.3°C or higher, or with a cough, or with any possible flu like symptoms, will be sent home, or placed in isolation until they are collected and taken home.
- Anyone sent home from school due to high temperature or possible COVID-19 symptoms, will not be allowed to return to school for 14 days, or until after symptoms have disappeared and they have a negative PCR test result taken within 72 hours of return to school.
- Anyone who is absent from school for 4 or more consecutive school days for any reason, will not be allowed to return to school without a medical 'spravka' to state that they are healthy. The school doctor may also require a negative PCR test result taken in the 72 hours prior to return to school, in case of possible COVID-19 symptoms during school absence.

We have also conducted a review of all cases of illness and absence in April, and identified those cases where the strengthened protocol would mean children being sent home for longer periods and/or PCR test requirements, and identified a very small number of cases where children were returned to school by parents, despite not recovering from previously identified illness.

Given our commitment to in-school learning whenever possible, we ask for your support in strict compliance with the protocol for the last month of school.

David Grant, Head of School

EXAMS AT BIS

The exam season is underway at BIS for both the IGCSE 2 and IBDP 2 classes. These externally moderated exams are the culmination of two years of dedicated learning, studying, and mastery with internationally recognized certifications as the final product. We wish all the exam students the best in their preparations and exam experiences, while we also thank the parents and teachers for their continued support during the two year journeys.

"The dictionary is the only place that success comes before work. Work is the key to success, and hard work can help you accomplish anything."

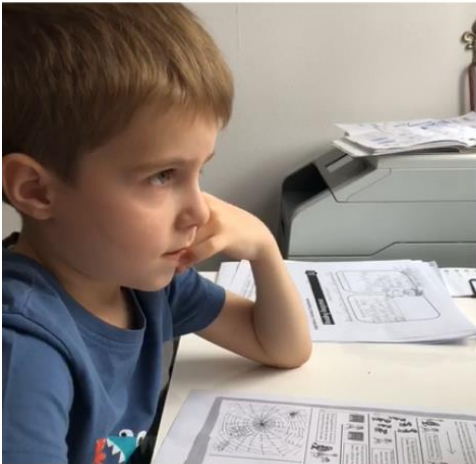
– Vince Lombardi, American football coach.

Jacques Prinsloo, Assistant Head of School, IGCSE Coordinator





WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING ALL OUR STUDENTS ONLINE NEXT WEEK!



HOUSE POINTS REVIEW:

The Anniversary Show points:



Phoenixes **8435**



Piranhas **8425**



Snow Leopards **7885**

The Book Character points:



Snow Leopards **150**



Phoenixes **120**



Piranhas **120**

TOTAL HOUSE POINTS SCORE:



Phoenixes

17276



PIRANHAS

19144



SNOW LEOPARDS

18682

House point events planned to the end of the year:

* BIS Got Talent

* Cross Country Tournament

* PYP Sports Day

* Crazy Hair Day

UPDATED SCHOOL CALENDAR 2020-2021

| May 2021 | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| M | Tu | W | Th | F | Sat | Sun |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

3-4 May: Public Holiday for 1st and 9th May
 5 May: Constitution Day – public holiday
 9 May: Victory Day – public holiday
 13 May: Orozo Ait – public holiday
 18 May - MYP 3 Community Project
 29 May: BIS Got Talent and Art Exhibition
 4 June: All Parents Meeting – Parents Association
 5 June: Parents Association Garage Sale

| June 2021 | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| M | Tu | W | Th | F | Sat | Sun |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |

5 June: High School Prom
 10 June - MYP 3 Graduation
 11 June: High School Graduation Ceremony
 14 June: Primary School Water Sports Day
 15 June: Preschool 3 Graduations
 16 June: Primary 6 Graduations
 17 June: Parent-Teacher Meetings
 17 June: All Americas Barbecue
 18 June: Teacher In-Service Day

| July 2021 | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| M | Tu | W | Th | F | Sat | Sun |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

July: Vacation
 21 July: Kurman Ait – public holiday
 First day of school 2021/22: Monday August 23rd



BIS 2020-2021 Calendar



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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Link to the updated calendar](#)

- Sunday 9th May: Victory Day – Public holiday
- Thursday 13th May: Orozo Ait – Public holiday
- **Tuesday, 18th May: MYP 3 Community Project**
- Saturday 29th May: BIS Got Talent, and Art Exhibition
- Friday, 4th June: All Parents Meeting – Parents Association
- Saturday 5th June: High School Prom
- **Saturday 5th June: Parents Association Garage Sale**
- Thursday 10th 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