



**Bishkek
International
School**

VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 1 / 2021-22

27th August 2021

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

BIS is welcoming back students for the new school year, including some that hadn't been in person since March 2020.

Students were met by their homeroom, co-teachers and form teachers started the day getting to know their classmates and finding their way around their new classrooms.

Despite the challenge of adjusting to virus-related safety regulations, the first day of school is still a happy time for many students and their families. It was full of smiles, celebrations and encouraging words that brought a mix of happy emotions and feelings.



BACK TO SCHOOL!

The Kindergarten / Grade 0 students had a wonderful time this week making new friends and exploring their environment. We started our unit of inquiry (UOI) on "Who We Are" by learning all about what makes each of us special.

We all look forward to a fabulous school year.

The Kindergarten Team



GRADE 2 YELLOW'S SELF-PORTRAIT

Grade 2 yellow has been exploring Frida Khalo's self-portraits. Through this artist study, they have also learned how to use a new thinking routine "See Think Wonder" in order to appreciate a piece of artwork but also gain a deeper understanding of it by getting to higher-order thinking levels. We also explored ourselves by observing our own features and seeing ourselves as is---just like Frida--- using mirrors to get a closer look at our unique features.

Ms. Moni, Grade 2Y Homeroom Teacher



BIS Snapshot: First Day of School



CPR, BROC AND KTI AWARDS

A huge well done to our following award winners:

CPR (Caring, Principled, Reflective):

Vincent (Preschool 3), Whole Class Grade 5

BROC (Balanced, Risk-Taker, Open-Minded, Communicator):

Aidin (Preschool 2), Takahito (Grade 4 B), Nicole (Grade 8)

KTI (Knowledgeable, Thinker, Inquirer):

Aruna (Preschool 3), Albena (Grade 4 B)

REPORTING STUDENT LATE ARRIVALS OR ABSENCES



The new school year is well underway! While we love to see all of our students in school day in and day out, we understand that sometimes they have to take time off for different reasons. It's important that we are notified if your child is not in school or if they are arriving late and, with this in mind, we are happy to announce a new system for reporting absences/late arrivals in secondary school*.

From now on, if you need to report that your Grade 6-12 child is arriving late to school or will be absent, please use the email addresses below. This ensures that everyone who needs to know about and record the late arrival or absence is aware - and it saves you thinking about all of the people who might need to be told! This includes the programme coordinator, Dr Asel, form teacher and our reception team, ensuring that we can keep accurate records of attendance. The 'la' at the start of each address stands for 'late' and 'absent', which we hope also makes it much easier for everyone to remember!

MYP addresses should only be used by parents/guardians reporting an absence/late arrival, and not students. They are as follows:

Grade 6: lag6@bis.kg

Grade 7: lag7@bis.kg

Grade 8: lag8@bis.kg

IGCSE and DP students AND parents/guardians can use the relevant email addresses below. IGCSE & DP students who email about an absence/late arrival should also copy in their parents, so home and school are on the same page.

IGCSE:

Grade 9: lag9@bis.kg

Grade 10: lag10@bis.kg

DP:

Grade 11: ladp1@bis.kg

Grade 12: ladp2@bis.kg

**Primary and preschool families should continue to report absences as they currently do, reporting the absence to the reception team (info@bis.kg) or their homeroom teacher. We will notify you if this system changes for primary and preschool.*

Ms. Esther, Head of Studies

11TH ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY SHOW: "JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH" THE MUSICAL

Students (Grade 2-12) are encouraged to sign up to participate in our school's biggest event of the year! "James and the Giant Peach" is about an orphan who lives with his two cruel aunts befriends bugs who live inside a giant peach, and together they embark on a journey across the ocean on the peach. The musical is written by Pasek and Paul, the same team who wrote "La La Land" and "The Greatest Showman".

Students who want to participate can just sign up (without auditioning). Only students who want to be considered for a larger role need to audition. Auditions begin on Monday, September 6. Rehearsals take place during ECA time and begin on the week of September 13th.

The performance will be in the National Philharmonia Hall on Saturday, December 11th.

Visit our [WEBSITE](#) to learn how to sign up, audition, learn more about the show and characters, and listen to the songs!



BIS MUSIC ACADEMY

BIS is excited to launch our Music Academy program this semester. In the Music Academy, students (Grade 0-12) will have the opportunity to take private lessons after school on a variety of instruments. Signup information will be emailed to families next week. Click [HERE](#) to see more information.

Mr. David, Drama and Music Teacher



UPCOMING EVENTS

- 31st August, Tuesday: Independence Day – public holiday
- 11th September, Saturday: All Parents Meeting – Parents Association
- 18th September, Saturday: Asia Day Festival
- 24th September, Friday: Upper Primary & Middle & High School Sports Day
- 13th October, Wednesday: Individual Parent-Teacher Meetings
- 15th October, Friday: UN Day at BIS

LUNCH MENU

The lunch menu for August 30th – September 3rd is **Menu B**.

Our school menu is available [here](#). 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 2021/22 are given below:

Form Class	Homeroom/Form Teacher	Email
Preschool 1	Tinatin Oskonbaeva	toskombaeva@bis.kg
Preschool 2	Begimai Keneshbekova	bkeneshbekova@bis.kg
Preschool 3	Carmen Prinsloo (Head of Preschool)	cprinsloo@bis.kg
Grade 0 B/Y	Altynai Isabekova / Kathleen Lewis-Workman	aisabekova@bis.kg ; kewis-workman@bis.kg
Grade 1 B/Y	Michaela Kilbride / Gillian Mcguigan	mkilbride@bis.kg ; gmcguigan@bis.kg
Grade 2 B/Y	Oksana Chichilova / Monica Gustafson	ochichilova@bis.kg ; mgustafson@bis.kg
Grade 3 B/Y	Angelina Banda / James Long	abanda@bis.kg ; jlong@bis.kg
Grade 4 B/Y	Shelley King / Rona Butler	shking@bis.kg ; rbutler@bis.kg
Grade 5 B/Y	Rebecca Peters	rpeters@bis.kg
Grade 6	David Lien	dlien@bis.kg
Grade 7 B/Y	Grant Chamberlain / Pamela Reed	gchamberlain@bis.kg ; preed@bis.kg
Grade 8	Laura Kircough	lkircough@bis.kg
Grade 9	Taylor Weidman	tweidman@bis.kg
Grade 10 B/Y	Alisher Arstanbek / Artika Singh	aarstanbek@bis.kg ; asingh@bis.kg
Grade 11 B/Y	Nina Weidman / Andrew Wheeler	nweidman@bis.kg ; awheeler@bis.kg
Grade 12	Claire Berger / Faez Kanji	cberger@bis.kg ; fkanji@bis.kg

To contact Management Board members:

- David Grant, Head of School dgrant@bis.kg
- Esther Johnson, Director of Studies ejohnson@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



PRESCHOOL 1

The first week was successful. We tried to help the children get used to the new environment in our large family and the adaptation went well. While there were certainly some minor difficulties, we all overcame them together. We had a music lesson and sang "Hello, how are you?" and "What is your name?".

Next week we will start to have our "circle time" when we sing morning and weather songs and we will make every effort to make our children cozy and comfortable at school so we can have a good experience and favorable conditions.

Ms. Tina, Preschool 1 Homeroom Teacher



PRESCHOOL 2

The first week of the school flew by very fast and was full of fun for our Preschool 2 friends. For some friends, the first week was a great time to see all other friends; for others, it was new and exciting. During this week, we were talking about coming back to school, discussed daily routines and made our classroom Essential Agreement. Together, we also learned “The Good Morning Train” song, which helped us to learn each friend’s name and our different feelings. We also attended PE, Dance and Art classes and enjoyed learning new exercises, dance movements and drawing our self-portraits. The most exciting time was exploring outside playgrounds and our new classroom which has a big reading corner with slide; friends enjoyed it a lot and Yuvaan commented it as “The best slide in the whole world”. Next week, we will start our first unit of inquiry “Who we are”.

Ms. Begimai, Preschool 2 Homeroom Teacher



PRESCHOOL 3

What an amazing first week for our preschool 3 friends. We had a fun time meeting our Friends and new teachers Ms. Carmen and Ms. Eva.

We also explored our new class with fun paintings and a beautiful new loft with a big slide. The friends enjoyed having their first music, art and PE lessons for this year, and it was lots of fun. We can't wait to see what adventures we will have next week.

Coming up next in preschool 3 we will start to look at our first unit of inquiry which will be about Friendship. We will also be looking at basic shapes and colors.

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

