



**Bishkek
International
School**

VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 9 / 2024-25

18th October 2024

CAFA CROSS COUNTRY 2024

BIS athletes recently participated in CAXC 2024, gaining valuable experiences and demonstrating remarkable resilience.

For our U15 boys and girls teams, most of whom are only 11 and 12 years old, the future looks bright. Competing in a higher age division, they gave a promising performance.



The U19 girls team showed outstanding teamwork during their races. Every runner understood the importance of each position, and despite battling fatigue and pain, they pushed through to finish strong. Their resilience is commendable, and they gained invaluable experience from this challenging race, securing **third place in the team rankings**.

The U19 boys team also delivered a solid performance. Despite missing one of our key runners due to illness on Saturday, the team fought hard and showed commendable effort.

In addition to individual efforts, **both our mixed U15 and U19 relay teams** secured impressive **3rd place** finishes in the relay races, adding to our overall success at the event. Well done to all the runners for their teamwork and determination!

Throughout the events, our students learned that cross-country isn't just about endurance—it's about mental strength. Running through rain, mud, and tough terrain with few spectators along the course taught them the value of inner motivation. These experiences are shaping them into true athletes.

Mr. Zeljko, Athletics Director



A huge thank you goes out to our coach, Mr. François, for his exceptional leadership of the BIS team. His efforts, particularly during the closing ceremony, set a new standard for future CAFA events. I have often been the one receiving congratulations, but the reality is different. I owe a huge debt of gratitude to Anna, Diana, Jerid, Ermek A, Ermek T, Burmakan, Aziza, Nargiza, Mirzat, and all the others who played a role in making this tournament a success. We've never had so many volunteers as we did this year. The students' contributions were also remarkable. This was truly a team effort from BIS.

Mr. Zeljko, Athletics Director



BIS Snapshot: CAFA Cross Country 2024





Chocolate swirl bread skilfully crafted by our aspiring bakers



The children in Grade 0 have been learning how we are part of different communities, and who makes up these communities. We've role-played different jobs, but on this occasion we 'real' played the process of baking a sweet treat, and what was involved in making a product as a baker.

Students combined rolling, stirring, sprinkling, kneading, measuring, practical life skills and our current Unit of Inquiry, "How we organize ourselves," into a sweet and delicious chocolate braided delight. The children collaborated and patiently created their own layered chocolate bread with a soft crumbly cake texture.

The students had previously made braided bread back in September, and already knew the reason why dough raised by itself, 'magically.' They flattened the dough before a cocoa infused filling was spread on top. The children combined ingredients such as a bit of vanilla, butter, condensed milk and heaps of cocoa to make the filling of the bread. They then rolled the dough, before it was cut and braided. This created layers. Soon enough, the students' dough was sent to the oven to be baked and the chocolatey smell flowed out in all directions. The children once again were able to take part in a life skill that helped with fine motor skills and coordination, and which stimulated the senses.



GRADE 3

Adventure



CEESA UNIVERSITY AND CAREER EXPO 2024



"It was pretty neat!"
~Tokio

"Trip was very interesting, I learned more about applying to university. During the trip we had a lot of fun. Some universities are interested, for example: University of Toronto, OntarioTech University, because they are located in Canada."
~Mansur

"This trip was totally amazing! I am extremely grateful that I got this priceless experience. We met with over 50 universities all over the world. All of these universities were inviting us to join their community in very different ways. I made new friends, and of course tried really pleasant Turkish food. We had a lot of fun and got new knowledge and experience."
~Veronica

"I had an incredible experience during my entire trip to Turkey. It was very interesting to visit an international school in Turkey, I also met many students and teachers. I liked that you could go to the sessions you chose yourself, and listen to valuable information from people with a lot of experience. On the last day we also went and did different challenges, which allowed us to walk around the city and learn more about the country itself."
~Azil

"The trip was very useful and informative, I got to talk and ask questions to all sorts of universities. And it even made me consider different regions of the world in which I could pursue my higher education. Overall I feel more prepared due to going on it."
~Miko

"The trip was awesome, I learned a lot and had a great time. I enjoyed every second and I hope that this experience will help me in the future. We were constantly looked after so there were no problems and the trip went without any problems."
~Eldar

"I think the trip to Turkey was very fun. It was a good chance to look at colleges I might want to apply to in the future. It was also a good opportunity to make new friends and get to know old ones. Overall, I would definitely recommend going on the Turkey Trip if you're a new or returning student."
~Madeline



"Overall the trip was a great experience. I got to meet students from other schools and get closer to the ones from BIS. I think that it was the highlight of the trip for me. Seeing what options there were for different universities and getting to educate myself on opportunities I wasn't aware of before was neat, but a thing I didn't like was that there weren't many universities that specialised in what I was looking for."
~Aisha

"This trip was amazing. During this trip, I learned a lot about different universities. I learned the ways of admission and got to know the people who were coming out. I sincerely wish you all to fly on this amazing trip next year and you will learn something new."
~Erbol

Clay Sculpture Making ECA



The teapot is such an elegantly ingenious work of invention. It ties different cultures together. Throughout the process of sculpting teapot, students consider balance, spout design, and handle placement to ensure that their creation is both beautiful and practical, combining art and engineering.

-Ms. Didi



MENTAL ARITHMETIC CLUB



In our Mental Arithmetic Club, lessons are divided into two stages. First, students work on solving 20-50 written examples during class. Then, they move on to solving 5-10 problems mentally, sharpening their quick thinking and calculation skills.

This week, Alec impressed us all by solving an incredible 92 written examples and correctly solving 15 mental problems! He achieved the top score of 8 points.

Congratulations to Alec!

Ms. Meerim, Mental Arithmetic ECA Teacher



NEW FACES AT BIS: MR. FRANCOIS

I'm Francois Ruan Spies, a dynamic 26-year-old from South Africa, and I strive to be a beacon of inspiration for young minds. I began my teaching career at a bustling school with 2,000 students, where I quickly made a lasting impact. In 2024, I joined BIS, bringing my passion for education and connection to a new community. Before this, I played rugby at a professional level until an injury during my studies shifted my focus.



I'm happily married to Ms. Lane Spies, and together we are avid travelers and outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy fishing and cooking. With three beloved dogs waiting for us back in South Africa, I live by the belief that "Every interaction is a chance to uplift someone and create lasting memories. In the end, it's how we make others feel that truly defines our legacy." As I plan to pursue an honors degree in the coming year, I continue to uplift others, believing that every experience is an opportunity for growth and joy.



Mr. Francois, Design Technology & Computer Science Teacher

CPR, BROC AND KTI AWARDS

A huge well done to our award winners:

CPR (Caring, Principled, Reflective):

Asiya (Grade 7), Camila (Grade 8)

THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION ELECTION TO THE GOVERNING BOARD

This week, the Parents Association completed its election process, and we are excited to announce the results. The election was marked by active participation from parents, highlighting their continued commitment to shaping the school community. All votes were counted and checked. Based on the results, Mars Orozov has the highest number of votes and is therefore elected for a 3-year term.

Please join us in congratulating Mars on his election to the Governing Board and also in thanking everyone who took an active participation in the election process. Our thanks go to Nikita Ryjih for his dedicated service on the Governing Board over the past year and to the parents who cast their votes.

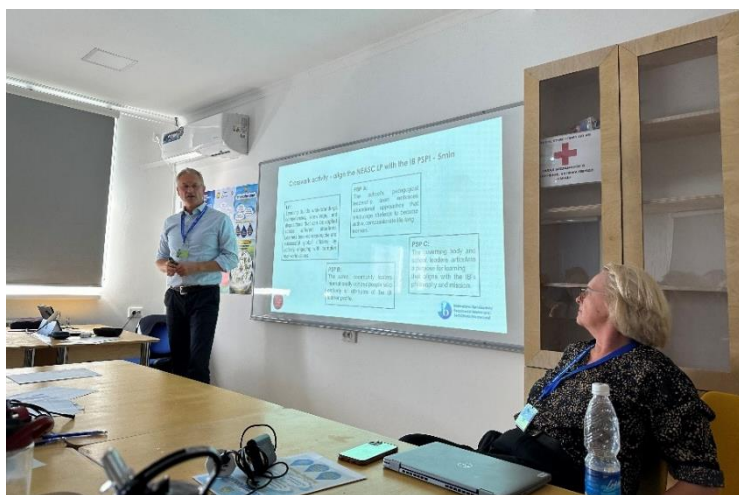
PAMC Team



COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROTOCOL (CLP) FOR IB & NEASC ACCREDITATION

As part of our ongoing commitment to excellence we are in the CLP review process for our International Baccalaureate (IB) Programmes (PYP, MYP, DP) and overall school accreditation with New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). The Preparatory Visit took place from 1-4 October, with a team comprising Andreas Koini, Head of School, Antwerp International School; Anja Cwidak, Linguistic Research & Development Specialist, Inter-Community School, Zurich; and David Markus, Upper School Principal, Zurich International School. During the visit, the team engaged in learning observations and structured conversations with students, staff, parents, and the Governing Board. Their report will be available later this year and will be shared with the whole school community.

Over the next 8 months we will review all of our operations with the whole school community and report to both IB and NEASC on our strengths,



weaknesses, and plans to improve. We encourage all members of our community to get involved. **If you are interested in joining a working group, please email Ms Bojana baskovic@bis.kg to participate. The CLP Peer Evaluation Visit is scheduled for October 26-29, 2025, after we submit our review reports in April and July 2025.**

Bojana Askovic, Accreditation Coordinator



Fall Fest / Halloween

EXCITING ACTIVITIES FOR PRESCHOOL AND PYP

DISCO PARTY FOR MYP STUDENTS

31
OCT

*PARTICIPANTS
WILL EARN
10 HOUSE POINTS*

*FROM
7:45 AM*

30 HOUSE POINTS FOR THE MOST UNIQUE COSTUMES



**Bishkek
International
School**

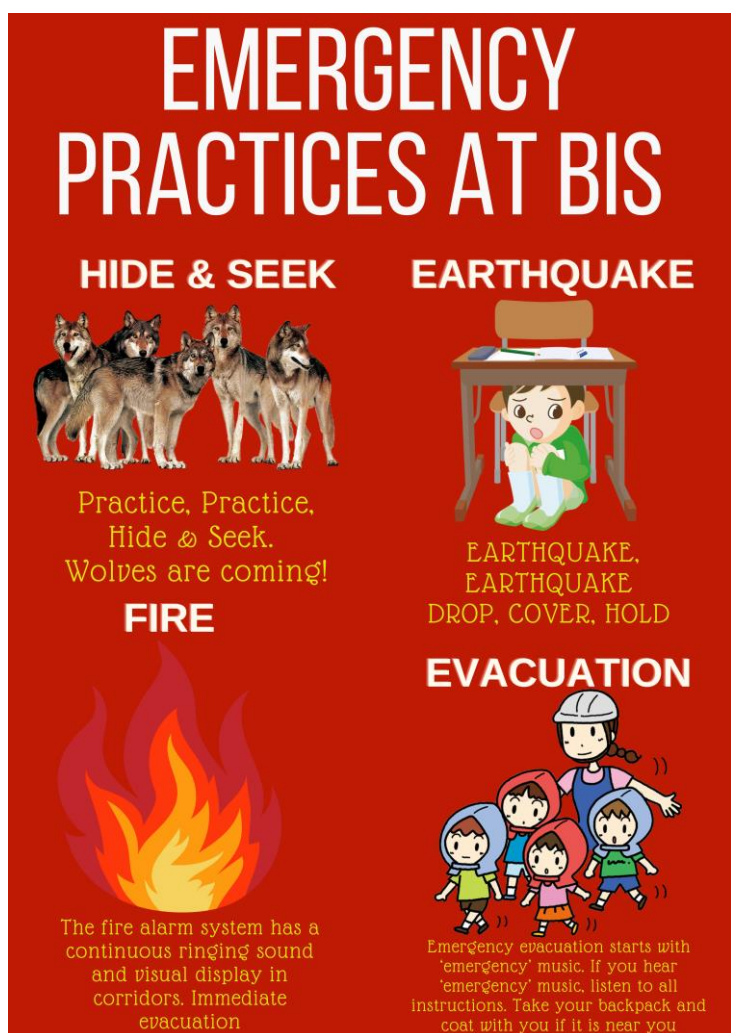
EMERGENCY PRACTICES AT BIS

In accordance with our [Health and Safety Policy](#), we hold practices for **Fire, Earthquake** and **Armed Intruder** every term and for **Evacuation Practice** every semester. This week we held a Wolf Hide & Seek game (armed intruder practice) on Monday and an evacuation practice on Thursday. All students and staff who hid and stayed quiet during the wolf hide & seek game had pizza for snack as a reward.

For evacuation practice, we coordinated with the US, UK, and Japanese Embassies and with the EU Delegation and German Fund FES so that their students can be collected by their central transport support in case of a real emergency.


If you work for a different organisation which would like to send vehicles to collect all children in a real emergency, please email Mirzat Osmonova via mosmonova@bis.kg to set up a similar process for your organisation employee's children.

Mirzat Osmonova, Head of Administration, Deputy Head of School




EMERGENCY PRACTICES AT BIS

HIDE & SEEK




Practice, Practice,
Hide & Seek.
Wolves are coming!

FIRE




The fire alarm system has a continuous ringing sound and visual display in corridors. Immediate evacuation

EARTHQUAKE



EARTHQUAKE,
EARTHQUAKE
DROP, COVER, HOLD

EVACUATION



Emergency evacuation starts with 'emergency' music. If you hear 'emergency' music, listen to all instructions. Take your backpack and coat with you if it is near you



OUR CURRICULUM

The curriculum for each level of the school are available online for you to review. Please check the curriculum and let us know if you have any questions.

[Preschool to G5 PYP Curriculum 24/25](#) – any questions, email Maria Corbett, PYP Coordinator, mcorbett@bis.kg

[Grade 6-8 MYP Curriculum 24/25](#) – any questions, email Nadine Lemoine, MYP Coordinator, nlemoine@bis.kg

[Grade 9-10 IGCSE Curriculum 24/25](#) – any questions, email Makiko Inaba, IGCSE Coordinator, minaba@bi.kg

[Grade 11-12 DP Curriculum 24/25](#) – any questions, email Makiko Inaba, DP Coordinator, minaba@bis.kg

LUNCH MENU

The lunch menu for October 28th – November 1st is **Menu A**.

You can view the [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.

UPCOMING EVENTS – 2024/25 Calendar is [here](#)

- 21-25 October: Autumn/Fall Break
- 28 October – 1 November: MYP Interdisciplinary Unit
- 31 October, Thursday: Fall Festival
- 7-8 November, Thursday-Friday: Days of History & Memory of Ancestors
- 16 November, Saturday: Future Careers Day & Friendsgiving Dinner
- 23 November, Saturday: BIS Annual Debate Tournament
- 27 November, Wednesday: PYP Student-Led Conferences

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. Homeroom and Form Teachers for 2024/25 are given below:

| Position | Name | Contact |
|--|--|---|
| BIS Reception | Albina / Meerim / Medina | info@bis.kg ; 0312 214 406, 0770 214 406 |
| School Bus enquiries | Burmakan Birnazarova | bus@bis.kg |
| ECA (extra-curricular activities) enquiries | Bojana Askovic / Nazira Almasbekova | eca@bis.kg |
| ManageBac & SchoolsBuddy Admin | Esentur Dildebekov | edildebekov@bis.kg |
| Admissions Officers | Gulsara Sheraly kyzy / Begimai Urmanbetova | admissions@bis.kg ; 0706 200 200 |
| Registrar | Nurbek Chagataev | nchagataev@bis.kg |
| Doctor | Asel Turusbaeva | doctor@bis.kg |
| Head of School | David Grant | dgrant@bis.kg |
| Head of Administration | Mirzat Osmonova | mosmonova@bis.kg |
| High School Assistant Principal | Nurbek Chagataev | nchagataev@bis.kg |
| Middle School Assistant Principal | Gulbara Akunova | gakunova@bis.kg |
| Primary School Assistant Principal | Elina Ignatova | eignatova@bis.kg |
| IGCSE & DP Coordinator | Makiko Inaba | minaba@bis.kg |
| MYP Coordinator | Nadine Lemoine | nlemoine@bis.kg |
| PYP Coordinator | Maria Corbett | mcorbett@bis.kg |
| National Curriculum Coordinator | Chynara Abdyaeva | cabdyaeva@bis.kg |
| Learning Diversity, Inclusion and Counselling (LDIC) Coordinator | Kyzjibek Tekenova | ktekenova@bis.kg |
| Chair of the Governing Board (GB) | Fred Huston | gbchair@bis.kg |
| Governing Board Secretary | Alina Seitalieva | gbsec@bis.kg |
| Parents Association President | JJ Gurga | papres@bis.kg ; pamc@bis.kg |
| Parents Association Secretary | Alina Seitalieva | pasec@bis.kg |

Homeroom/Form Classes

| | | |
|----------------|---|---|
| Preschool 1 | Guldana Muratalieva & Laura Meliou | gmuratalieva@bis.kg ; lmeloliu@bis.kg |
| Preschool 2 | Nuraida Asanbaeva & Zharkyn Oskonbaeva | lasanbaeva@bis.kg ; joskonbaeva@bis.kg |
| Preschool 3 | Bivo Chongo & Kulkayir Junusheva & Kudrat Niyazov & Nurzat Osmonova | bchongo@bis.kg ; kjunusheva@bis.kg ; kniiiazov@bis.kg ; nosmonova@bis.kg |
| Grade 0 Blue | Paul Fahidi & Nargiza Zhusupova | pfahidi@bis.kg ; nzhusupova@bis.kg |
| Grade 0 Yellow | Peiying Lin & Karina Bolotkanova | plin@bis.kg ; kbolotkanova@bis.kg |
| Grade 1 Blue | Nelia Mwanza & Begaiym Djumaeva | nmwanza@bis.kg ; bdjumaeva@bis.kg |
| Grade 1 Yellow | Begimai Keneshbekova & Rabiia Erkulova | bkeneshbekova@bis.kg ; rerkulova@bis.kg |
| Grade 2 Blue | Morgan Chadderton & Kanykei Tursunalieva | mchadderton@bis.kg ; ktursunalieva@bis.kg |
| Grade 2 Yellow | Oksana Chichilova & Aike Uralieva | ochichilova@bis.kg ; auralieva@bis.kg |
| Grade 3 Blue | Michaela Saber & Deniz Karybaeva | msaber@bis.kg ; dkarybaeva@bis.kg |
| Grade 3 Yellow | Genevieve Maser & Tilekbek Niazaliev | gmaser@bis.kg ; tniiiazaliev@bis.kg |
| Grade 4 Blue | Daniel Bilog & Gulmira Sabyrbekova | sking@bis.kg ; mtashtanova@bis.kg |
| Grade 4 Yellow | Ana Marie Alcala & Aizirek Dzhakypbekova | aalcala@bis.kg ; adzhakypbekova@bis.kg |
| Grade 5 Blue | Rona Butler & Zharkynai Iiebaeva | rbutler@bis.kg ; zhilebaeva@bis.kg |
| Grade 5 Yellow | Natalie Small & Sezim Tologonova | nsmall@bis.kg ; stologonova@bis.kg |
| Grade 6 | Marc Navo Garreta & Janyl Namazbekova | mgarreta@bis.kg ; jnamazbekova@bis.kg |
| Grade 7 | Francois Spies & Nurzhamal Alymova | fspies@bis.kg ; nalymova@bis.kg |
| Grade 8 | Steve Wagenseller & Ann Smirnova | swagenseller@bis.kg ; asmirnova@bis.kg |
| Grade 9 | Lane Spies & Stephen Labanowich | lspies@bis.kg ; slabanowich@bis.kg |
| Grade 10 | Aigul Sakieva & Aleksander Sheyerman | asakieva@bis.kg ; asheyerman@bis.kg |
| Grade 11 | Jan Scott & Nazira Abakirova | jscott@bis.kg ; nabakirova@bis.kg |
| Grade 12 | Andrew Wheeler & Claire Berger | awheeler@bis.kg ; cberger@bis.kg |

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.



[BIS news \(Eng\)](#) OR [BIS новости \(Рус\)](#)



[BIS news \(Eng\)](#) OR [BIS новости \(Рус\)](#)

FIND US ON THE WEB



BIS website - www.bis.kg

BAILANYSH NEWS

Connecting the BIS Community

www.bailanysh.com



BIS Instagram - [@bis.kg](#)



BIS Alumni Association - [@bis_alumni](#)



BIS Facebook - facebook.com/biskgz



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



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



PRESCHOOL 1

This week was especially good and productive, with many interesting events. Preschool 1 improved their daily routines and practiced new skills. We studied fruits and vegetables, their colors, tastes, smells, and shapes. We also practiced using the words "big" and "small." In addition, we learned how to peel a banana and cut it, as well as how to catch fish and small animals. We made fruit shashlyk with grapes, bananas, and tangerines.

We congratulate our friend Nala on her birthday. She turned three years old, and we celebrated together with all of Preschool 1 and 2 friends.

Also, today we celebrated UN Day and created a friendship poster with the 10th-grade students Ariella, Nestan, Saniia.

In closing, we wish everyone a happy autumn break, and we'll see you in a week!

Ms. Guldana, Preschool 1 Homeroom Teacher



PRESCHOOL 2

This week in Preschool 2, we discussed where community helpers work: hospitals, police stations, fire stations, schools, cafes, and construction sites. Our little friends sorted the community helpers to their correct places and focused on learning about police officers, dentists, vets, and construction workers. They explored what tools these helpers use and how they help people.

In math, we focused on the number 5 and the shape of the rectangle. To help them understand this better, our little friends painted the number 5 with their

favorite colors and glued five police cars. They also painted rectangle-shaped recycled boxes to represent different places in the community, like a red fire station, a blue police station, and others. Our little construction workers had fun painting a house using prints from rectangle-shaped sponges, which excited them!

After the autumn break, we will continue learning more about community helpers. We wish everyone a happy autumn holiday!

Ms. Nuraida, Preschool 2 Homeroom Teacher



PRESCHOOL 3

This week in preschool, we focused on learning about the "animal food source." The children explored where some of their favorite foods come from and had fun discovering that cows give us beef and milk, lambs provide chops, and chickens give us eggs and drumsticks. We also talked about how bees make honey, fish provide us with seafood, and goats give us meat and cheese. The kids enjoyed a hands-on activity where they sorted and matched different food items to their animal sources—it was both fun and educational!

In math, we continued building our number skills. Now that we can confidently count from 0-10, we focused on number recognition and formation. The children practiced counting and matching animals to the corresponding numbers, helping solidify their

understanding of both animals and numbers.

For Language and Phonics, we introduced the letter "I." We learned words starting with the "I" sound, such as ice cream, iguana, igloo, and ink. The kids loved crafting a giant letter "I" and decorating it with their favorite ice cream flavors. They also created a cute igloo craft by cutting out paper pieces and sticking them onto a snowy picture.

To wrap up the week, we checked on our little class garden, and everyone was thrilled to see tiny bean leaves sprouting! It was an exciting and productive week filled with lots of learning and fun. We're already looking forward to next term's adventures!

Ms. Bivo, Preschool 3 Homeroom Teacher

