



**Bishkek
International
School**

VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 11 / 2024-25

8th November 2024

MYP STUDENTS DIVE INTO INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING



At the beginning of the month, our MYP students participated in an exciting interdisciplinary unit (IDU) week, stepping outside the traditional timetable to engage in collaborative learning across various subjects.

In **Grade 6**, students explored the theme of **Personal and Cultural Expression** by combining Maths, Design, Visual Arts, English, and Host Country Studies to create traditional Kyrgyz garments. They not only designed and constructed their pieces but also developed artist statements to accompany their work, culminating in an exhibition at Asia Mall.

For **Grade 7**, the focus was on **Globalization and Sustainability**. Students researched traditional storytelling and translated these narratives into accessible formats for our community through a podcast. This project involved a blend of English Language and Literature, Host Country Studies, and Individuals and Societies, allowing students to connect deeply with cultural heritage while enhancing their communication skills.

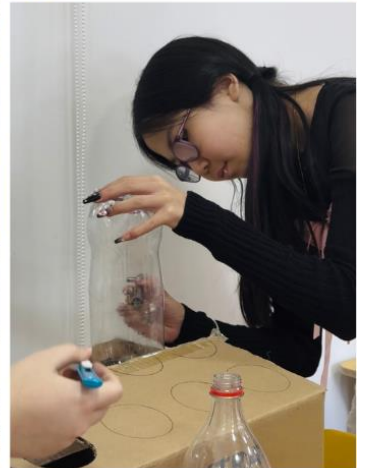
In **Grade 8**, the theme of **Technological Innovation** drove students to research, pilot, and pitch ideas for hydroponic systems aimed at improving our school's food production. This project required collaboration between Design, Maths, Sciences, and Individuals and Societies, showcasing students' ability to integrate multiple disciplines to address real-world challenges.

Overall, IDU week was a fantastic opportunity for learners to work together, think critically, and apply their knowledge in meaningful ways, preparing them for future challenges.

Ms. Nadine, MYP Coordinator



BIS Snapshot: MYP IDU Week



LEMONADE STAND FUNDRAISER



Grade 3 Yellow decided to host a Lemonade Stand for charity, as part of their unit, How We Organize Ourselves. They meticulously planned and prepared for the whole event, and were successful in raising \$300.

Though the floors and tables were quite sticky by the end of the day, it was worth it to make the lemonade from scratch. It turns out that squeezing 60 lemons is hard work!

Ms. Genevieve, Grade 3 Yellow Homeroom Teacher



NEW FACES AT BIS: MR. HASHEM

My name is Hashem, and I am thrilled to be part of the wonderful BIS community. Originally from Egypt, I came to Kyrgyzstan in 2017, thinking I'd stay just a few months before returning home. But I quickly fell in love with Kyrgyzstan—its people, its stunning nature, and the warm community. Now, my son Elias is in Grade 1 at BIS, where he loves to greet everyone and play with his classmates while learning.

During my time in Kyrgyzstan, I've had the privilege of teaching Mathematics, Physics, and ICT to IGCSE and A-level students, and now I'm also teaching in the IB DP. I take every opportunity to pursue new courses and expand my knowledge, always aiming to enhance my teaching to benefit my students. I strive to make topics understandable for everyone, and I don't leave the class until I'm confident that my students have fully grasped the material.

In my work, I focus on staying organized and using the latest IT and technology tools to enrich the learning experience. I'm passionate about helping my students and colleagues, and I enjoy smiling and bringing a smile to everyone's face, creating a positive and happy atmosphere. I truly believe teaching is the greatest profession, and I look forward to making meaningful contributions to our school.

In my free time, I love to explore new ideas and learn online. I'm excited for another year of growth and connection with this wonderful community!



Ms. Hashem, Math & Physics Teacher

LEARNING THE ART OF SIMPLICITY

The sphere has perfect symmetry and harmony. We are sculpting an animal based on this sphere. It is truly elegant, and the students have learned less is more!

--Ms Didi"



MENTAL HEALTH DAY AT BIS - NOVEMBER 13TH: A DAY FOR WELL-BEING

On **November 13th**, we will have *Mental Health Day* at our school—an important opportunity to focus on mental well-being and build awareness about the value of self-care. As part of our ongoing commitment to student health, this special day will be dedicated to fostering awareness, reducing stigma, and promoting healthy habits that support mental and emotional health.

Students will participate in a variety of activities aimed at reducing stress and learning practical ways to manage mental health from **13:00 till 15:05** in **T3&T4 rooms**.

The goal of Mental Health Day is to encourage everyone—students and staff alike—to prioritise their well-being.

We invite all students and staff to take a moment to reflect on their mental health and consider ways to incorporate healthy habits into their daily routine. Remember, it's okay to not be okay, and taking care of your mental health is just as important as any other aspect of well-being.

We look forward to seeing you all on November 13th for a day of reflection, learning, and support. Your mental health matters!

Location: **T3 and T4**

Time: **13:00 - 13:35** - HS + MYP

Period 8 (13:35-14:25) - Lower PYP (**G0 13:35- 13:50** | **G1 13:50-14:05** | **G2 14:05-14:20**)

Period 9 (14:30 - 15:05) - Upper PYP (**G3 14:20- 14:35** | **G4 14:35-14:50** | **G5 14:50-15:05**)

School Counseling Team



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR BIS STAFF



This week, all of our DP, MYP, and PYP teaching staff participated in in-depth two-day professional development IB workshops focused on enhancing Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills across all levels. The workshops covered the practical application of ATL skills in the classroom and strategies for self-assessment to support personalized learning. Meanwhile, our administrative team engaged in a workshop centered on well-being in the school community, exploring ways to foster a supportive school environment and address students' and staff social-emotional needs effectively.

This professional development experience has equipped our team with valuable tools and insights, strengthening our commitment to holistic student development.



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 November 11-15 is **Menu C**. 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](#)

- 23 November, Saturday: BIS Annual Debate Tournament
- 27 November, Wednesday: PYP Student-Led Conferences
- 30 November, Saturday: Future Careers Day (**new date**)
- 14 December, Saturday: BIS Anniversary Show – Official School Day
- 20 December, Friday: Last Day of First Semester / Ded Moroz
- 23 December – 10 January: Winter Break

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 ; Imeloliu@bis.kg
Preschool 2	Nuraida Asanbaeva & Zharkyn Oskonbaeva	nasanbaeva@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	Peiyong 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](https://facebook.com/biskgz)



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



[Parents Association - facebook.com/bis.parents.127](https://facebook.com/bis.parents.127)



PRESCHOOL 1

It's been a short and chilly week, and with the rainy days settling in, it's easy to catch a cold. Let's remember to stay warm, enjoy some hot tea or water, and take extra care of ourselves. Cozy moments and good health are just what we need to make the most of the season!

We hope to see all our wonderful students back next Monday in good health and high spirits!

Ms. Guldana, Preschool 1 Homeroom Teacher



PRESCHOOL 2

This week in Preschool 2, we had a short but wonderful week! We continued our exploration of communities and focused on the vehicles that help community helpers, such as police cars, ambulances, and fire trucks.

Our little ones had so much fun turning big recycled boxes into community helpers' vehicles, painting them in blue, white, and red. After that, they pretended to be community helpers riding in these vehicles, imagining themselves as police officers, doctors, and firefighters!

In Art, we worked on a construction worker's truck. The children painted using their fingerprints and then added their favorite colors to complete the trucks. It was a very creative activity!

In math, we focused on the number 6. Last week, we glued 6 different kinds of vehicles on the number 6, and this week, we practiced recognizing and working with the number even more.

Overall, it was a fun and productive week for our little friends! We look forward to more learning and fun next week.

Ms. Nuraida, Preschool 2 Homeroom Teacher



PRESCHOOL 3

This week may have been short, but it was packed with fun and learning! We continued our unit on "Where Food Comes From," and it was wonderful to see our little ones remember that our main food sources are plants and animals. They showed such enthusiasm in exploring and sharing where different foods come from!

In Math, now that our little friends can count smoothly from 0 to 10 and associate numbers with quantities, we introduced the exciting concept of addition. Through hands-on activities, they practiced simple additions that helped strengthen their understanding of combining quantities—what an achievement!

For Language and Phonics, we focused on the letter "N." We practiced its sound, shape, and words that begin with "N." To reinforce this, we had a creative activity where each child made a "nest" using paper and decorated it with "grass" and colorful "eggs" made from playdough. This hands-on experience helped them connect the letter "N" with real-world objects, and they had a fantastic time decorating their nests.

It's been a fun, engaging, and productive week, and we can't wait for what's in store next week!

Ms. Bivo, Preschool 3 Homeroom Teacher

