



**Bishkek  
International  
School**

# VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 14 / 2024-25

29<sup>th</sup> November 2024

## BIS ANNUAL DEBATE TOURNAMENT

On November 23rd, BIS high school students proudly organized the Annual Debate Tournament, bringing together talented students from schools across the city. The event showcased rigorous intellectual engagement as participants debated a variety of thought-provoking topics, demonstrating critical thinking, eloquence, and teamwork.

This year's tournament not only celebrated academic excellence but also fostered connections among students from diverse backgrounds. Congratulations to all the participants for their impressive performances and to the winning teams for their outstanding achievements.



## TAIGANS ON TOP: SUCCESS AT THE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT!

On Saturday, November 23, our U15 and U19 girls' teams proudly represented our school at the district basketball competition. The U15 team secured third place, while the U19 team fought hard and achieved an impressive second place, showcasing their teamwork and determination!

Special thanks to Sabina Kulmanbetova for her care and for providing warm meals for our athletes. Parents like her are the pride of our school community!

Let's go, Taigans! Onward to new victories!

Ms. Anna, PE Teacher



## Dream Think Art Competition Winners



## Dream Think Storytelling Winners





## Original patterning inspired by Central Asia



Patterns are everywhere in nature and in human made designs. From leopards' spots or stripes on a bee's body, to chequered clothes or tiles on buildings, they are seen around us. It was the latter of these that inspired Grade 0 Blue to make its own unique pattern while using their knowledge of 2D shapes. Hexagons, squares, triangles and even the rhombus, all became part of an original flower pattern based upon the architecture of buildings in Central Asia.



The children had already developed a sense of routine due to the pattern of the day and studied the seasonal cycle. They noticed how elements repeated in a logical way around the school, such as the tiles on the ground outside the doors of the main building. The students had created their own patterns in maths, using 2D and 3D shapes, verbally describing them. Their creativity culminated in making a communal pattern that was hung around the classroom.

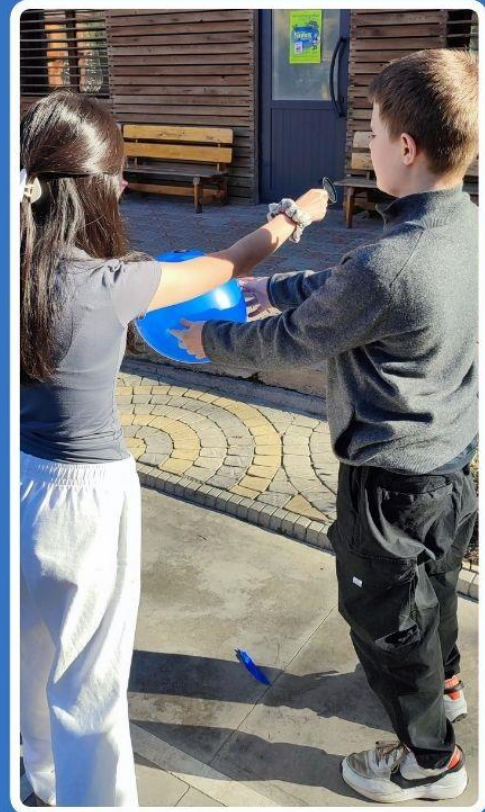
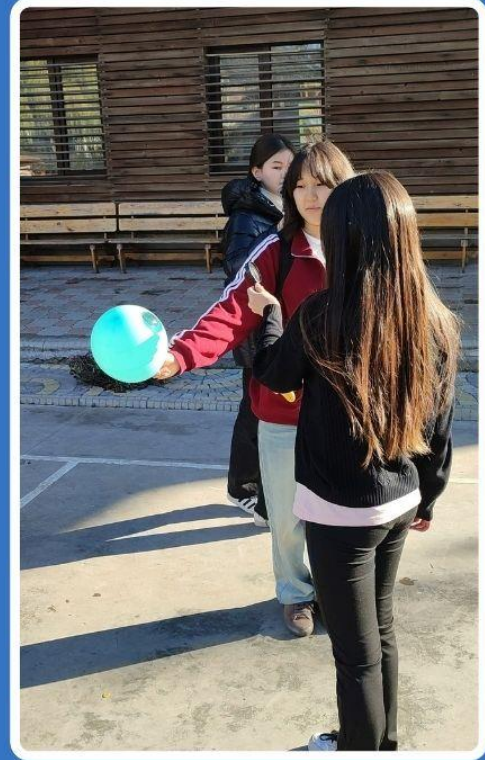


The students discussed and expressed their own understanding of cycles and repeated designs. The children's study of patterns has helped them to recognise change and make predictions based upon observations. They have used reasoning and problem solving skills, while being truly immersed and engaged in multiple overlapping and interlinking activities.

**Mr. Paul, Grade 0 Blue Homeroom Teacher**



# GRADE 8 STUDENTS CONDUCT BALLOON AND MATCHSTICK ROCKET EXPERIMENTS



The Grade 8 students conducted a balloon experiment and a matchstick rocket activity to understand energy transformation.

The balloon experiment demonstrated heat conductivity in balloons of different colors by focusing sunlight on them using magnifying glasses.

In matchstick rockets, the sulfur on the matchstick head is rolled into the aluminum foil to form the rocket. The nose of the rocket, where the sulfur is located, is heated to ignite the fuel and propel the rocket forward.

# BIS Snapshot: Future Careers Day



## OUR STUDENTS SHOWCASE THEIR FRENCH EXCELLENCE!

Grade 7 student Mimi applied her French language skills in a creative and artistic way in a presentation about her friends' hobbies. Check out Mimi's fantastic work through [this link](#).



## Flower Arranging Art



*Flower arranging art has become popular. It is the best way to cultivate aesthetics and foster a passion for a positive lifestyle.*

*--Ms Didi*

## NEW FACES AT BIS: MR. ALEXANDER



Hello everyone, I send you a warm hug!

My name is **Alexander Vargas**, this semester I joined this great community of Bishkek international School as a teacher of mathematics for MYP, although I also provide support in advanced classes for PYP and the participation of students in mathematical Olympiads.

I am originally from a small and beautiful colonial coastal city called **Cartagena de Indias**, in the north of Colombia (South America), this city like all of the Amazon region is extremely green, full of jungles, swamps, rivers, mangroves and many animals. That's why I learned since my childhood the importance of protecting biodiversity and respect for nature. My favorite activity is to go into the jungle, walk along the beaches and enjoy the fresh air.



I studied chemical engineering and then I specialized in teaching differential and integral calculus, thanks to this I was able to make multiple collaborations for scientific journals, the most recent was a few months ago and is about new sources of energy production from renewable resources, you can read it in this [link](#).

In my free time I enjoy drawing, video games, watching anime and a good coffee, it's always a good time for a coffee. My work and my studies have allowed me to travel to different countries like Germany, Venezuela, Costa Rica and now Kyrgyzstan. I am very happy with the time I have been living in Bishkek, I have met very nice and funny people here and hope to learn some Russian soon. Большое спасибо.



**Mr. Alexander, MYP Math Teacher**

## TICKETS FOR SHREK JR., ANNIVERSARY SHOW, SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER

Our 'Shrek JR.' Anniversary Show is on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December at the Philharmonia. Tickets cost 800 som (main hall) or 600 som (balcony). All ticket income is donated to the Act for Community who will support the "Shkola bolshih vozmojnostei", an educational centre that focuses on empowering children from orphanages, those without parental support, disabled children, and orphanage graduates, so please join us in supporting this wonderful charity. **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December is an official school day for BIS and seats are provided free of charge for all students and staff. There is no need to purchase tickets for BIS students.**

**For parents and guests, please buy [tickets online here](#)** using Visa, Mastercard, Elsom App, MBank App, 24pay, Quickpay, Megapay payment stations **OR pay our cashier at school who will purchase tickets on your behalf.** If you do not buy tickets in advance, you may be able to purchase tickets on the day (14<sup>th</sup> December) at the theatre if seats are still available. Tickets purchased on the day will cost 1,000 som (for the main hall or balcony).

**All students in Preschool will be backstage at the start of the show, and will leave the stage into the audience after their performance. Parents of preschool children need to collect them from the front of the stage after their performance, so should buy tickets at school through cashier Burmakan who will purchase the tickets on your behalf near the front which are easy to access.** Grade 0-4 students who are performing in the pre-show concert, but not in the Shrek JR. musical, will be seated in the theatre in rows 1-8 on the right-hand side of the stage. Grade 4-5 students who are performing in the pre-show concert, but not in the Shrek JR. will be seated in the theatre in rows 14-16 and Grade 6-7 on the balcony.

We look forward to seeing everyone from the BIS community on 14<sup>th</sup> December, to enjoy performances from all grades from Preschool 1 to Grade 7 in the first half of the show, following by a wonderful performance of the musical 'Shrek JR.' by our very talented students after the intermission.

**Mirzat Osmonova, Head of Administration, Deputy Head of School**



Bishkek  
International  
School

# Anniversary show

14th of December, 2024

KEEP OUT!

DREAMWORKS  
THEATRICALS

# SHREK

THE MUSICAL JR.



16:00 - 18:30

Kyrgyz National Philharmonic Hall

Buy tickets on [ticket.kg](http://ticket.kg) or at school external reception



## BIS CHESS TOURNAMENT

Hello BIS Community!

We are excited to announce that our school will be hosting the 4th BIS Chess Tournament!

**Who can participate:** Primary, Middle, and High School students

**When:** December 5, 17:00–19:30

**Where:** E-Center Terrace

**Type of Chess:** Blitz Chess

This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase your skills and earn points for your house!

### Points Breakdown:

- 1st Place: 100 points
- 2nd Place: 70 points
- 3rd Place: 50 points
- Participation: 10 points

### Important:

This tournament is not for beginners. Participants should know the basic rules of chess and have some experience playing the game.

Sign up via e-mail: [jnamazbekova@bis.kg](mailto:jnamazbekova@bis.kg)

Ms. Janyl, Chess Tournament Organizer

# BIS CHESS Tournament

5th December 17:00–19:30

E-center Terrace

Experience needed, sign up via email:

[jnamazbekova@bis.kg](mailto:jnamazbekova@bis.kg)

\*There will be  
1st place 100

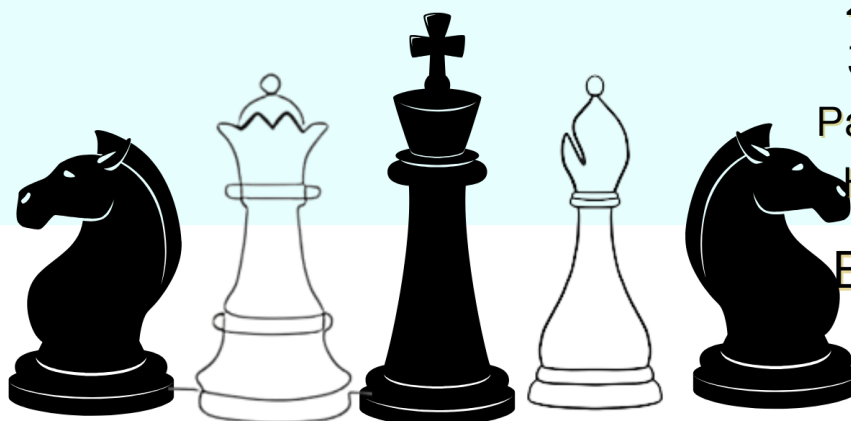
2nd place 70

3rd place 50

Participation 10

House points

Blitz Chess

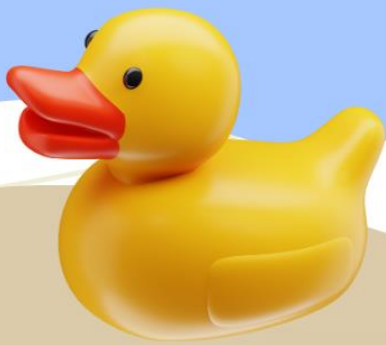


# 4th week of Taigan Culture

December 2-6

## Duck Hunting

- Around the school grounds
- Find ducks and earn 5 points for each one you locate!



## Make Mr. Toon Laugh

- Test your creativity and humor!
- Mr. Toon will track your success and award points.



## Cozy Pyjamas Day (December 6)

- Wear your coziest pyjamas to school and earn points for your House.



## Rubik's Cube Challenge

- Time: Lunchtime
- Location: Cafeteria



## Puzzle Game

- Location: Primary Library
- Open to: Preschool to Grade 5

## 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](mailto:mcorbett@bis.kg)

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

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

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

## LUNCH MENU

The lunch menu for December 2-6 is **Menu B**. 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](#)

- 30 November, Saturday: Future Careers Day (**new date**)
- 14 December, Saturday: BIS Anniversary Show – Official School Day
- 17 December, Tuesday: PYP Student-Led Conferences (**new date**)
- 20 December, Friday: Last Day of First Semester / Ded Moroz
- 23 December – 10 January: Winter Break
- 5 January, Sunday: BIS Alumni Reunion Dinner
- 7 January, Tuesday: Orthodox Christmas
- 13 January: First Day of Second Semester
- 23 January, Thursday: Parent-Teacher Meetings
- 31 January, Friday: Secondary Winter Sports Day

## 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](mailto: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	<a href="mailto:info@bis.kg">info@bis.kg</a> ; 0312 214 406, 0770 214 406
School Bus enquiries	Burmakan Birnazarova	<a href="mailto:bus@bis.kg">bus@bis.kg</a>
ECA (extra-curricular activities) enquiries	Bojana Askovic / Nazira Almasbekova	<a href="mailto:eca@bis.kg">eca@bis.kg</a>
ManageBac & SchoolsBuddy Admin	Esentur Dildebekov	<a href="mailto:edildebekov@bis.kg">edildebekov@bis.kg</a>
Admissions Officers	Gulsara Sheraly kyzy / Begimai Urmanbetova	<a href="mailto:admissions@bis.kg">admissions@bis.kg</a> ; 0706 200 200
Registrar	Nurbek Chagataev	<a href="mailto:nchagataev@bis.kg">nchagataev@bis.kg</a>
Doctor	Asel Turusbaeva	<a href="mailto:doctor@bis.kg">doctor@bis.kg</a>

Head of School	David Grant	<a href="mailto:dgrant@bis.kg">dgrant@bis.kg</a>
Head of Administration	Mirzat Osmonova	<a href="mailto:mosmonova@bis.kg">mosmonova@bis.kg</a>
High School Assistant Principal	Nurbek Chagataev	<a href="mailto:nchagataev@bis.kg">nchagataev@bis.kg</a>
Middle School Assistant Principal	Gulbara Akunova	<a href="mailto:gakunova@bis.kg">gakunova@bis.kg</a>
Primary School Assistant Principal	Elina Ignatova	<a href="mailto:eignatova@bis.kg">eignatova@bis.kg</a>
IGCSE & DP Coordinator	Makiko Inaba	<a href="mailto:minaba@bis.kg">minaba@bis.kg</a>
MYP Coordinator	Nadine Lemoine	<a href="mailto:nlemoine@bis.kg">nlemoine@bis.kg</a>
PYP Coordinator	Maria Corbett	<a href="mailto:mcorbett@bis.kg">mcorbett@bis.kg</a>
National Curriculum Coordinator	Chynara Abdyaeva	<a href="mailto:cabdyraeva@bis.kg">cabdyraeva@bis.kg</a>
Learning Diversity, Inclusion and Counselling (LDIC) Coordinator	Kyzjibek Tekenova	<a href="mailto:ktekenova@bis.kg">ktekenova@bis.kg</a>
Chair of the Governing Board (GB)	Fred Huston	<a href="mailto:gbchair@bis.kg">gbchair@bis.kg</a>
Governing Board Secretary	Alina Seitalieva	<a href="mailto:gbsec@bis.kg">gbsec@bis.kg</a>
Parents Association President	JJ Gurga	<a href="mailto:papres@bis.kg">papres@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:pamc@bis.kg">pamc@bis.kg</a>
Parents Association Secretary	Alina Seitalieva	<a href="mailto:pasec@bis.kg">pasec@bis.kg</a>
<b>Homeroom/Form Classes</b>		
Preschool 1	Guldana Muratalieva & Laura Meliou	<a href="mailto:gmuratalieva@bis.kg">gmuratalieva@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:lmeloliu@bis.kg">lmeloliu@bis.kg</a>
Preschool 2	Nuraida Asanbaeva & Zharkyn Oskonbaeva & Kudrat Niyazov	<a href="mailto:nasanbaeva@bis.kg">nasanbaeva@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:joskonbaeva@bis.kg">joskonbaeva@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:kniiiazov@bis.kg">kniiiazov@bis.kg</a>
Preschool 3	Bivo Chongo & Kulkayir Junusheva & Nurzat Osmonova	<a href="mailto:bchongo@bis.kg">bchongo@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:kjunusheva@bis.kg">kjunusheva@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:nosmonova@bis.kg">nosmonova@bis.kg</a>
Grade 0 Blue	Paul Fahidi & Nargiza Zhusupova	<a href="mailto:pfahidi@bis.kg">pfahidi@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:nzhusupova@bis.kg">nzhusupova@bis.kg</a>
Grade 0 Yellow	Peiyong Lin & Karina Bolotkanova	<a href="mailto:plin@bis.kg">plin@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:kbolotkanova@bis.kg">kbolotkanova@bis.kg</a>
Grade 1 Blue	Nelia Mwanza & Begaiym Djumaeva	<a href="mailto:nmwanza@bis.kg">nmwanza@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:bdjumaeva@bis.kg">bdjumaeva@bis.kg</a>
Grade 1 Yellow	Begimai Keneshbekova & Rabiia Erkulova	<a href="mailto:bkeneshbekova@bis.kg">bkeneshbekova@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:rerkulova@bis.kg">rerkulova@bis.kg</a>
Grade 2 Blue	Morgan Chadderton & Kanykei Tursunalieva	<a href="mailto:mchadderton@bis.kg">mchadderton@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:ktursunalieva@bis.kg">ktursunalieva@bis.kg</a>
Grade 2 Yellow	Oksana Chichilova & Aike Uralieva	<a href="mailto:ochichilova@bis.kg">ochichilova@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:auralieva@bis.kg">auralieva@bis.kg</a>
Grade 3 Blue	Michaela Saber & Deniz Karybaeva	<a href="mailto:msaber@bis.kg">msaber@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:dkarybaeva@bis.kg">dkarybaeva@bis.kg</a>
Grade 3 Yellow	Genevieve Maser & Tilekbek Niazaliev	<a href="mailto:gmaser@bis.kg">gmaser@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:tniiiazaliev@bis.kg">tniiiazaliev@bis.kg</a>
Grade 4 Blue	Daniel Bilog & Gulmira Sabyrbekova	<a href="mailto:sking@bis.kg">sking@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:mtashtanova@bis.kg">mtashtanova@bis.kg</a>
Grade 4 Yellow	Ana Marie Alcala & Aizirek Dzhakypbekova	<a href="mailto:aalcala@bis.kg">aalcala@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:adzhakypbekova@bis.kg">adzhakypbekova@bis.kg</a>
Grade 5 Blue	Rona Butler & Zharkynai Ilebaeva	<a href="mailto:rbutler@bis.kg">rbutler@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:zhilebaeva@bis.kg">zhilebaeva@bis.kg</a>
Grade 5 Yellow	Natalie Small & Sezim Tologonova	<a href="mailto:nsmall@bis.kg">nsmall@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:stologonova@bis.kg">stologonova@bis.kg</a>
Grade 6	Marc Navo Garreta & Janyl Namazbekova	<a href="mailto:mgarreta@bis.kg">mgarreta@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:jnamazbekova@bis.kg">jnamazbekova@bis.kg</a>
Grade 7	Francois Spies & Nurzhamal Alymova	<a href="mailto:fspies@bis.kg">fspies@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:nalymova@bis.kg">nalymova@bis.kg</a>
Grade 8	Steve Wagenseller & Ann Smirnova	<a href="mailto:swagenseller@bis.kg">swagenseller@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:asmirnova@bis.kg">asmirnova@bis.kg</a>
Grade 9	Lane Spies & Stephen Labanowich	<a href="mailto:lspies@bis.kg">lspies@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:slabanowich@bis.kg">slabanowich@bis.kg</a>
Grade 10	Aigul Sakieva & Aleksander Sheyerman	<a href="mailto:asakieva@bis.kg">asakieva@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:asheyerman@bis.kg">asheyerman@bis.kg</a>
Grade 11	Jan Scott & Nazira Abakirova	<a href="mailto:jscott@bis.kg">jscott@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:nabakirova@bis.kg">nabakirova@bis.kg</a>
Grade 12	Andrew Wheeler & Claire Berger	<a href="mailto:awheeler@bis.kg">awheeler@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:cberger@bis.kg">cberger@bis.kg</a>

## 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 \(Рус\)](#)



## PRESCHOOL 1

We are so happy and proud of the progress our young learners have made. They show great enthusiasm and actively participate in all our activities and lessons.

One thing that particularly impresses us is the progress in their morning routine. The children enter the classroom in a good mood, independently begin their activity stations, and, when playtime ends, grab their cushions and gather for the morning circle.

Our children also have a great love for reading. During free time throughout the day, they explore books and often ask adults to read to them.

We are especially delighted by their sense of responsibility—how they work together to tidy the classroom, neatly place their belongings in their lockers, wash their hands independently, and use the bathroom with the teacher's assistance.

This progress is undoubtedly the result of the wonderful collaboration between parents and teachers. Thank you!

**Ms. Guldana, Preschool 1 Homeroom Teacher**



## PRESCHOOL 2

This week in Preschool 2, we had so much fun talking about feelings and how they show up when we play! The children learned that we can feel happy, sad, mad, surprised, or excited while playing with our friends. We talked about how our feelings can change the way we play, and we practiced taking turns and sharing our toys. Sometimes, when things don't go as we want, we might feel angry or frustrated. It's okay to feel that way, but we also learned how to calm down. The children practiced going to our calm-down corner, taking deep breaths, counting to ten, or reading a book when they need to feel better.

During circle time, we used our Feelings Chart, where the children picked a face that matched how they felt that day. In art, we made happy cats, using colors to show how we feel. In math, we played with shapes—circle, square, triangle, and rectangle—and had fun sorting them and coloring them to match our different feelings.

It was a wonderful week full of learning, playing, and growing together!

**Ms. Nuraida, Preschool 2 Homeroom Teacher**



## PRESCHOOL 3

"Blue, oh blue, the color of rain,  
A feeling of sadness, a little pain.  
But friends and loved ones bring back the cheer,  
Turning sad moments to ones we hold dear."

This week, we explored the color blue, representing the sad feeling from "The Color Monster". The children shared things that make them sad, such as losing a toy or missing a friend, and we talked about how talking to loved ones or playing at the playground can make us happy again. We added the blue color to our Mood Monster Wall and decorated it with raindrops and sea-themed items.

In Math, we practiced counting from 0-11, worked on

associating numbers with quantities, and used the number line in fun activities.

In Language/Phonics, we focused on the letter "g" sound and formation. We discovered words like "goat", "grapes", and "garden". The highlight of the week was our Giant Scavenger Hunt, where the children searched for hidden pictures of items starting with the letter "G." We also revisited previous sounds and blended letters to form words like "get" and "gap".

It was a week full of learning, creativity, and joyful moments!

**Ms. Bivo, Preschool 3 Homeroom Teacher**

