



**Bishkek
International
School**

VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 2 / 2025-26

29th August 2025

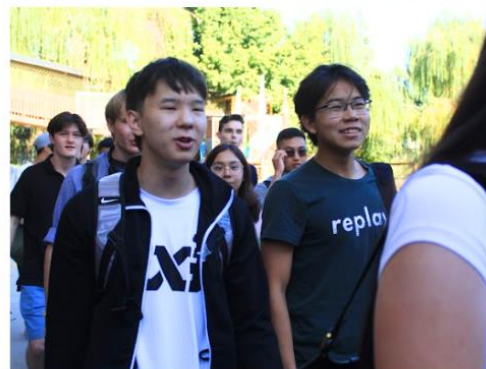
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

The new school year at BIS kicked off with smiles, laughter, and joyful excitement. Students dove into their classrooms, reconnecting with friends and meeting new teachers, while exploring fresh opportunities for learning and growth.

We're excited for the adventures ahead and can't wait to see all the achievements, discoveries, and memories this year will bring!



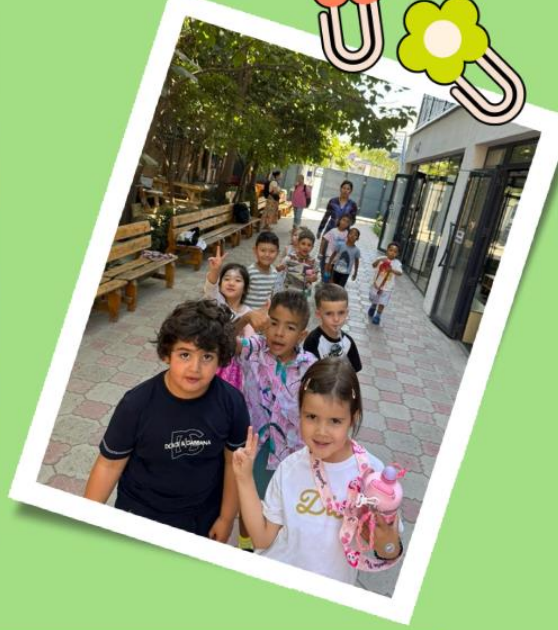
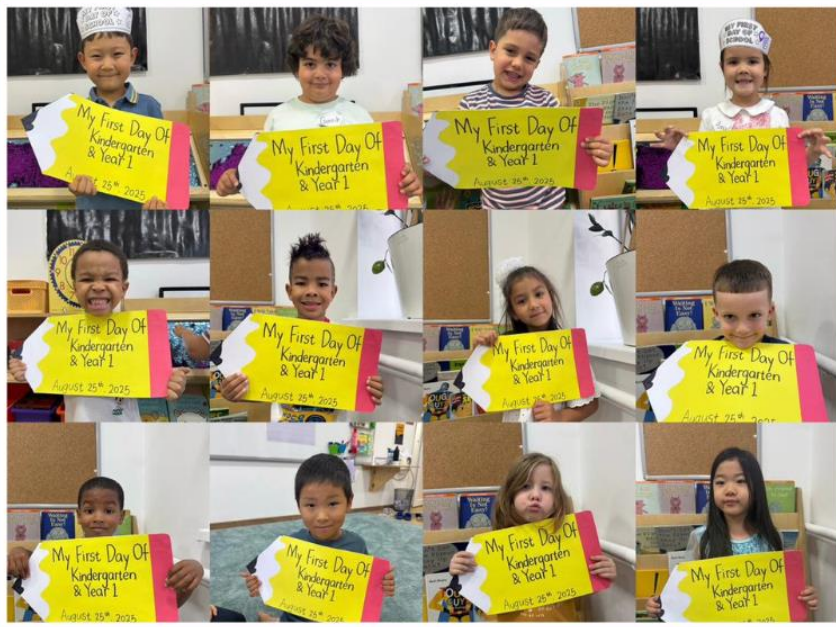
BIS Snapshot: Welcome Back to School



BIS Snapshot: First Day of School



GRADE 0'S FIRST WEEK OF FUN!



Our Grade 0 students kicked off their very first week of school with smiles, curiosity, and lots of new adventures!



GRADE 2 YELLOW STUDENTS EMBARK ON THEIR FIRST OUTDOOR ADVENTURE EXPLORING KYRGYZ GAMES!



NEW FACES AT BIS: MR. JOSEPH

My name is Joseph Casillas, and I am excited to be joining BIS as the Head of English. In addition to leading the department, I will be teaching DP English A: Language and Literature for Grades 11 and 12. Over the past decade, I have taught English Language and Literature in China and Taiwan with a focus on both the International Baccalaureate (IB) and Common Core programs.

I hold a B.S. in Business Administration, an M.Ed. in Advanced English Studies, and CELTA certification, along with graduate studies in instructional design. I care deeply about curriculum design, student engagement, and helping learners see how language and literature connect to their own lives and the wider world.



Outside of school, I enjoy literature, music, and cinema, all of which inspire both my teaching and my personal life. Photography has also been an important part of my journey, as I once managed a commercial photo studio in New York City. I have traveled extensively and am currently working on a project that brings together a collection of my photographs and travel essays. I am equally passionate about fitness and wellbeing, and I continue to set new challenges for myself in training and personal growth.

I look forward to getting to know the BIS community and working together to build a strong, creative, and inspiring English program.

Mr. Joseph, Head of English

STAFF PROFILES

Get to know our dedicated staff better by visiting the Staff Team section on [our school website](#). Each profile highlights the unique talents, qualifications, and experiences of our staff.

- [Specialist Explorer & Guide Team](#)
- [PYP Homeroom Team](#)
- [Middle and High School Form Teachers](#)
- [Academic Division Leaders](#)
- [Learning Diversity and Inclusion Counseling Team](#)
- [Administration Team](#)
- [Management Board](#)

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION AND SAFETY PRACTICE PROCEDURES

In case we need to contact you during any emergency, we must have your up-to-date contact information, so please complete this [Emergency Contact Survey](#). In the event of an emergency, students will normally be kept at school until they are picked up by you or another adult you have identified and is listed in your emergency contact information.

Also, in accordance with our [Health and Safety Policy](#), we hold practices every term for Fire, Earthquake and Armed Intruder. Every semester we also have an Evacuation Practice. The 'Armed Intruder' practice is played as a 'Hide & Seek' game, to hide from the 'Wolf'. This game is played so that younger students learn to stay quiet without being scared. The exact day and time of practices is not announced in advance, as they happen without warning. This email to you is just so that you are aware that **practices** will happen and you may discuss them with your child if you wish to do so. Preschool and Primary Homeroom teachers also go over the practice requirements with their class once a term, so that students are not afraid when a practice is announced.

For **Fire Practice**, the fire alarm will sound, as it would in a real fire. We exit the building in an orderly fashion as quickly as possible and go to the outside assembly area.

For **Earthquake Practice**, the 'earthquake' is announced via the PA system. We follow the earthquake procedure to 'Drop, Cover, Hold', then count to 60 after the end of shaking. We evacuate only after counting to 60 and checking that exit routes are clear.

The **Hide & Seek – Wolf practice** is announced via the PA system, as "Practice, Practice, Hide & Seek, Wolves Are Coming". Students and staff lock down where they are and hide. Pizza for snack is the reward for all classes who do not have any students caught.

The **Evacuation Practice** is announced via the PA system and starts with an emergency music with further instructions about evacuation.

The PA system is only used for lesson bells and emergency situations or practices during the school day. This means that if anyone is speaking on the PA system during the day, we listen carefully and respond appropriately.

Thank you for your support to ensure the safety and well-being of all children. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.



Mirzat Osmonova, Head of Administration

AUDITIONS FOR THE 2025 BIS ANNIVERSARY SHOW

Set sail for an unforgettable adventure! Sing, act, dance – and become a pirate legend!

They're pirates. They're hungry.
They're searching for treasure (and maybe some curry).

Based on the hilarious hit musical **Pirates of the Curry Bean**, this show is full of action, humor, music, and a lot of fun. We need singers who can act, actors who can sing, actors who can act, and even pirates who can dance! Some roles are open casting, but all roles require energy, commitment, and a great sense of adventure.

Auditions: Fill in [the Google form](#) to help us plan our auditions.

Deadline for submitting the form:

Friday, September 5.

Auditions will be held: Monday, September 8 to Friday, September 12.

Where: Small Hall at 15:30



<p>Major singing and acting roles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Captain Redbeard: fearless pirate leader • Admiral Horatio Hornhonker: pompous and proud • Pearl: strong-willed and adventurous • Jack: mischievous and bold • Deadeye Dinghy: sneaky and sly 	<p>Secondary singing and acting roles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pirate Crew: a rowdy bunch with attitude • The Curry Bean Innkeepers: friendly but funny • Treasure Island Animals: wild and playful • Fisherfolk: full of local color
<p>Additional named roles who sing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Hornhonker • Scurvy Sam • Pirate Chorus (crew, townsfolk, islanders) 	<p>Non-singing but definitely acting roles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messengers • Extra Pirates and Villagers

CELEBRATE ASIA AT BIS ASIA DAY FESTIVAL – SATURDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER, 10:00-13:00

The BIS Asia Day Festival is on Saturday 20th September, 10:00 am to 13:00, as a celebration event for the wider community. If you are interested in creating a display table or activities to celebrate the special features of any Asian country or culture, please complete this form, so that we can add your country or culture to the postcards for stamp collections as children move around the event.



**We warmly invite you
for a colorful journey across Asia! Celebrate with delicious
food, exciting performances, music, and endless fun at
the Asia Day Festival!**

Date: Saturday, September 20th

Time: 10:00 - 13:00

**Bishkek International School
67 A Bronirovannaya str.**

AI ASSISTANT FOR BIS POLICIES & HANDBOOKS

[BIS Policies and Handbooks](#)

[Student Handbook](#)

[Parents & Guardians Handbook](#)

[AI Assistant for BIS Policies & Handbooks](#)

LUNCH MENU

The lunch menu for September 1st – 5th 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 – 2025/26 Calendar is [here](#)

- 1-13 September: Grades 6-12 Overnight Trips & MYP Experiential Week
- 20th September, Saturday: Asia Day Festival
- 25th September - 3rd October: PYP 'Bring your Parents to School' days
- 30th September, Tuesday: Sports Day in Spartak Stadium: Grade 4-12

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 2025/26 are given below:

Position	Name	Contact
BIS Reception	Albina / Meerim / Madina	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 Administration	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 Principal	Nurbek Chagataev	nchagataev@bis.kg
Middle School Principal	Gulbara Akunova	gakunova@bis.kg
Primary School Principal	Elina Ignatova	eignatova@bis.kg
High School Academic Director, 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 Abdyraeva	cabdyraeva@bis.kg
Learning Diversity, Inclusion and Counselling (LDIC) Coordinator	Kyzjibek Tekenova	ktekenova@bis.kg
EPIC Coordinator	Genevieve Maser	gmaser@bis.kg

Chair of the Governing Board (GB)	Fred Huston	gbchair@bis.kg
Governing Board Secretary	Alina Seitalieva	gbsec@bis.kg
Parents Association President	PAMC President	papres@bis.kg ; pamc@bis.kg
Parents Association Secretary	Secretary	pasec@bis.kg
Homeroom/Form Classes		
Preschool 1	Laura Meliou, Ayana Akmatova & Saltanat Mamanova	lmeliou@bis.kg ; aakmatova@bis.kg ; smamanova@bis.kg
Preschool 2	Nuraida Asanbaeva & Zharkyn Oskonbaeva	nasanbaeva@bis.kg ; joskonbaeva@bis.kg
Preschool 3	Bivo Chongo & Kulkayir Junusheva & Nurzat Osmonova	bchongo@bis.kg ; kjunusheva@bis.kg ; nosmonova@bis.kg
Grade 0 Blue	Altynai Isabekova & Kanykei Tursunaliyeva	aisabekova@bis.kg ; ktursunaliyeva@bis.kg
Grade 0 Yellow	Peiyang Lin & Begaiym Djumaeva	plin@bis.kg ; bdjumaeva@bis.kg
Grade 1 Blue	Nelia Mwanza & Nargiza Zhusupova	nmwanza@bis.kg ; nzhusupova@bis.kg
Grade 1 Yellow	Begimai Keneshbekova & Rabiia Erkulova	bkeneshbekova@bis.kg ; rerkulova@bis.kg
Grade 2 Blue	Morgan Chadderton & Datkayim Uralieva	mchadderton@bis.kg ; duralieva@bis.kg
Grade 2 Yellow	Oksana Chichilova & Aike Uralieva	ochichilova@bis.kg ; auralieva@bis.kg
Grade 3 Blue	Michaela Saber & Tilekbek Niazaliev	msaber@bis.kg ; tniazaliev@bis.kg
Grade 3 Yellow	Claudette Colinares & Altynai Kalieva	ccolinares@bis.kg ; alkalieva@bis.kg
Grade 4 Blue	Daniel Bilog & Eliza Saidalieva	dbilog@bis.kg ; esaidalieva@bis.kg
Grade 4 Yellow	Ana Marie Alcalá & Aizirek Dzhakypbekova	aalcala@bis.kg ; adzhakypbekova@bis.kg
Grade 5 Blue	Rona Butler & Zharkynai Ilibaeva	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 ; inamazbekova@bis.kg
Grade 7	Matthew Vandewaal Valkanov & Aigul Sakieva	mvalkanov@bis.kg ; asakieva@bis.kg
Grade 8	Francois Spies & Nurzhamal Alymova	fspies@bis.kg ; nalymova@bis.kg
Grade 9	Maria Rojas & Sagida Satysheva	mrojas@bis.kg ; ssatysheva@bis.kg
Grade 10	Yana Karpenko & Ahmed Hashem & Stephen Labanowich	yakarpenko@bis.kg ; ahashem@bis.kg ; slabanowich@bis.kg
Grade 11	Nazira Abakirova & Megan Bagdonas	nabakirova@bis.kg ; mbagdonas@bis.kg
Grade 12	Lane Spies & Kevin Snow	lspies@bis.kg ; ksnow@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 in Preschool 1 was full of discovery, laughter, and new friendships. We learned how to work and play together through games and activities that helped us feel at home in our classroom.

The children came together to create our Essential Agreement—simple promises that make our days happy and safe: Looking eyes, Listening ears, Quiet mouth, Walking feet, Clean up, Share with a friend

We also explored who we are through art. With brushes and paints, each child chose their favorite colors to create a picture that was uniquely their own. The classroom is now filled with bright, beautiful artwork that shows the individuality of every child.

It was a joyful beginning, and we can't wait to see what the next week brings!

Ms. Laura, Preschool 1 Homeroom Teacher



PRESCHOOL 2

We are so happy to begin the new school year together in Preschool! Our first week in Preschool 2 was all about settling in: getting to know one another, exploring our classroom, and learning our daily routines.

This week's focus was "All About Me". We sang "Who Took the Cookies from the Cookie Jar?" to practise names. The children loved this song and laughed as they called out each other's names. We also matched our photos, created "This Is Me" portraits, played with Me Puzzles, and sorted colours. The children enjoyed sharing their favourite colours and listening to their friends' choices.

We started talking about our Essential Agreements: kind hands, listening ears, sharing toys, and helping each other. During the week, we practised circle time, handwashing, snack, and tidy-up routines to help the children feel safe and comfortable in their new environment.

It has been a wonderful beginning. We can already see children making connections and enjoying time with new friends. Next week, we will begin our first Unit of Inquiry: "Who We Are."

Ms. Nuraida, Preschool 2 Homeroom Teacher



PRESCHOOL 3

What a wonderful start to our new academic year! This week we joyfully welcomed both old and new friends into Preschool 3. The children were very excited to explore their new classroom, learn their routines, and enjoy lots of outdoor play together.

We had fun in **art, dance, P.E., and music**, giving the children chances to move, create, and express themselves. A special highlight was making our **classroom essential agreements**—the children

promised to follow our rules and proudly added their colorful handprints as a reminder.

We ended the week with a calm reflection, and it was amazing to hear so many positive thoughts from our young learners.

We're excited for more adventures next week!

Ms. Bivo, Preschool 3 Homeroom Teacher

