



**Bishkek  
International  
School**

# VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 10 / 2025-26

24<sup>th</sup> October 2025

## IB AND NEASC ACCREDITATION VISIT AT BIS

From October 19 to 22, BIS welcomed a team of experienced educators for the IB and NEASC accreditation review. During their visit, the team engaged with staff, students, and parents to gain a comprehensive understanding of our school community and educational practices. They observed classes, participated in discussions, and evaluated the school's programs and overall effectiveness. In their concluding meeting, the team presented a brief report summarizing their observations, highlighting the school's strengths, and identifying areas for further development.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the visiting team and to our entire BIS community for their warm welcome, active participation, and support throughout this important milestone in our ongoing commitment to excellence in teaching and learning.



## AISB FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

BIS football players participated in the AISB Football Tournament with teams across multiple age groups. Our students demonstrated teamwork, sportsmanship, and skill on the field. The teams achieved impressive results: Under 12 Boys took 3rd place, Under 15 Boys 4th place, Under 19 Boys 7th place, and Under 19 Girls 4th place.

We are extremely proud of all our players for their effort, perseverance, and commitment throughout the tournament. Congratulations to everyone!



## CELEBRATING INCLUSION AT BIS – A STUDENT'S INSPIRING PRESENTATION



At Bishkek International School, we believe that *every student is unique* and that inclusion is not just a value—it's a daily practice we live by.

This week, one of our Grade 7 students gave a heartfelt presentation to his classmates to share more about his learning and social differences and how his peers can best communicate with and support him. His courage, openness, and self-advocacy inspired everyone in the room and led to the interest in Neurodiversity.

Moments like this remind us that inclusion is about understanding, empathy, and celebrating diversity. We are proud of our students for fostering an environment where everyone benefits, learns together, and supports one another.

At BIS, we continue to foster and celebrate inclusion because we believe that when every voice is heard and valued, our entire community grows strong.

**Ms. Kyzjibek, LDIC Coordinator**



# BIS Snapshot: AISB Football Tournament

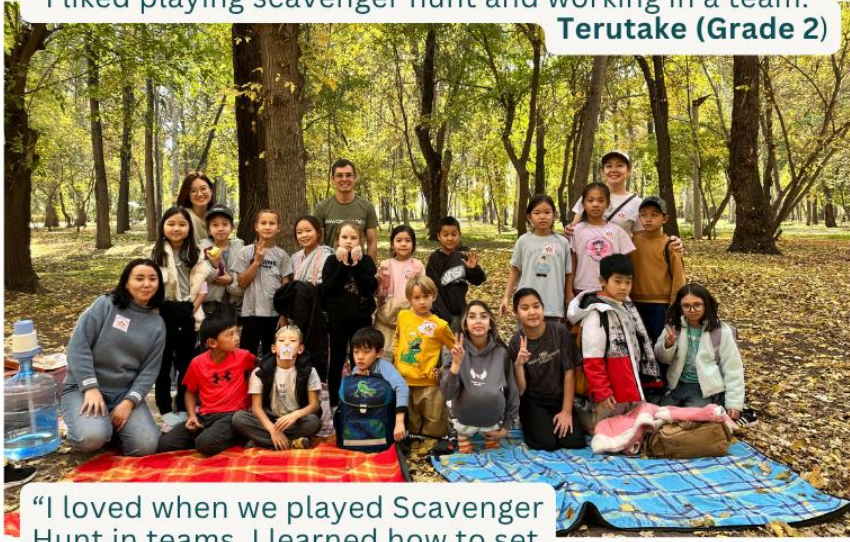


# Grade 2-5 Students Enjoy Teamwork and Outdoor Fun on Karagach Park Field Trip

Last Friday, our Grade 2 - Grade 5 ELA students went on a field trip to Karagach Park. Each group worked together to set up their tent, took part in fun camping activities, and enjoyed their time inside the tents. During the scavenger hunt game, they worked in groups to find different items, showing great teamwork and cooperation. Throughout the day, students helped one another and learned how much easier and more fun things can be when you work as a team. At the end, everyone helped pack up the tents and clean up. It was such a fun and active day outdoors.

ELA Team

"I liked playing scavenger hunt and working in a team."  
**Terutake (Grade 2)**



"We learned how to camp and how to put up the tent."  
**Diana, Maya (Grade 3)**



"I loved when we played Scavenger Hunt in teams. I learned how to set up and pack up the tent."

**Aziza (Grade 4)**



"I learned that we need four people to set up the tent because there are four sticks."

**Artur (Grade 2)**



"We ate dodo pizza, played games, and were in the tent. The next time I would like to cook marshmallows carefully."

**Hael (Grade 3)**



"It was fun because we were camping and playing interactive games like scavenger hunt and 'Hi Ha Ho'. The nature was colorful with leaves from the trees. We enjoyed eating pizza and hamburgers. We want more field trips."

**Aman, Zijin, Zihan, Raina, Aisha (Grade 3)**



## Grade 1 Yellow Visits ArtLab Studio

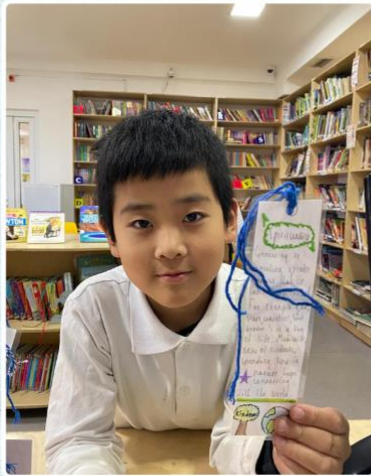


On Monday, Grade 1 Yellow learners visited ArtLab Studio, where they created beautiful artworks featuring cats, dogs, and foxes. We also learned about the people who guided us, helped us mix colors, and taught us how to use the professional brushes as part of our learning topic about people's roles and responsibilities in the community.

**Ms. Begimai, Grade 1 Yellow Homeroom Teacher**



# Grade 5 Action on Mental Health



As part of their *Who We Are* unit summative assessment, Grade 5 students took meaningful action to promote awareness about mental health and well-being. They explored how maintaining both mental and physical health is essential to living a balanced and fulfilling life.

To share their learning with the school community, the students created beautifully designed bookmarks filled with practical tips and reminders on how to take care of one's mind and body. Each bookmark reflects the students' creativity, compassion, and understanding of the importance of self-care.

You can find these thoughtful bookmarks in the Primary Library—pick one up while they last and take a moment to reflect on the simple ways we can all support our own well-being every day.



## HELLOS AND GOODBYES – A NOTE FROM THE BIS TRANSITION TEAM

As we reach the end of our first half term, the BIS Transition Team would like to take a moment to reflect on all the new beginnings and farewells that are part of life in our international community.

Meeting new friends and saying goodbye to old ones is a normal and meaningful part of international school life. The transience of our community brings with it the wonderful diversity we celebrate at BIS, but we also recognise that change can be emotional and sometimes challenging for both students and families.

At BIS, we are committed to supporting the safe passage of every student, helping them to settle in smoothly when they arrive and to say healthy goodbyes when it's time to move on.

We recently gathered feedback from new students and families about their transition experiences. We are very pleased to share that the feedback was generally very positive, with most students reporting that they have settled well and feel part of the BIS community. The comments and suggestions we received are incredibly valuable and will help us continue to improve our transition processes. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the surveys, your input truly makes a difference.

If you have any ongoing concerns about your child's transition or adjustment, please don't hesitate to reach out, we are here to support you and your family every step of the way.

### Supporting Your Child Through Change

Transitions are a normal part of globally mobile family life, and helping children navigate these changes builds their resilience and supports their mental wellbeing. Our counsellor share some practical tips for supporting children through times of change:

- **Teach Your Child to Embrace Uncertainty**

**Change naturally brings uncertainty, which can feel uncomfortable for children. Talk openly about any worries or mixed feelings they may have. Let them know it's normal to feel unsettled, but that emotions don't have to dictate their actions, they can still approach new experiences with curiosity and courage.**

- **Talk to Teachers About Your Concerns**

Teachers see firsthand how moves can affect children and can provide valuable support. Keep an open line of communication with your child's teacher about how your child is settling in. Teachers can offer reassurance, observations, and sometimes specific classroom strategies or resources.

- **Communicate Openly With Your Child**

**Ask your child how they are feeling and listen without judgement. If they need space, that's okay, but remind them they can always talk to you. Spending quality time together outside of school helps build trust and strengthens communication.**

As we move into the next half of the first semester, we encourage families to celebrate how much their children have already grown and adjusted and to continue supporting them through the ongoing changes that come with international school life.

For more information on how you can support your child through changes and transitions visit our [transitions page](#) on our website for a list of useful resources

Warm regards,

The BIS Transition Team

## UN DAY 2025 – CELEBRATE OUR DIVERSITY!

Hello BIS community.


As you may already know **UN DAY** is now moved to **November 5th 2025**.

We are still looking for people interested in participating in the parade, this year with a new twist of sharing something special, unique or interesting about your country of origin.



**Activities for the day**

- Speech from United Nations representative
- Take part in a collaborative artwork by placing your fingerprints to fill in a snow leopard. Available for all BIS members!
- Get your national flag painted by our team



**5<sup>th</sup> November**

# UN DAY AT BIS

**Participate in the UN parade and represent your country along with other nations**

**Dress up in your country's national costume and get 10 house points**



If this interests you then please fill out [this form](#).

This is a great opportunity for you all to show off our countries and our diverse origins to the whole school community!

We hope you have a great break and that we will see you all at UN DAY!!!

And we also hope that we will see you all in your countries' national dress!!!

Student Council

## FRIDAY NOVEMBER 7TH – FALL FESTIVAL – NOT HALLOWEEN – COSTUME GUIDELINES

We are excited to celebrate our Fall Festival on Friday, 7 November 2025, as a wonderful time for students and staff to enjoy seasonal activities, celebrate harvest, express creativity through costumes, and have fun together as a community. Please be aware that this is not 'Halloween', but 'Fall Festival'.

To ensure that all costumes are appropriate, respectful and inclusive, please take note that the following types of costumes are not allowed:

- Military or SWAT uniforms (including any toy weapons or guns)
- Serial killers or any "murderer" characters
- Victims of abuse or violence (with fake bruises, blood, or signs of trauma)
- Religious figures

We kindly ask all parents and students to help us maintain a positive and welcoming environment for everyone by following these guidelines.

We look forward to seeing everyone in their creative and fun costumes at the Fall Festival on November 7<sup>th</sup>.



**FALL FESTIVAL**

**EXCITING ACTIVITIES FOR PRESCHOOL & PYP  
MOVIE NIGHT FOR MYP**

**07 NOVEMBER**

**DRESS UP PARTICIPANTS WILL EARN 10 HOUSE POINTS**

**FROM 07:45 AM ON GOING**

**30 HOUSE POINTS for the most Unique Costumes**



## AI ASSISTANT FOR BIS POLICIES & HANDBOOKS

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

[BIS Policies and Handbooks](#)  
[Student Handbook](#)

### UPCOMING EVENTS – 2025/26 Calendar is [here](#)

- 23-31 October: Autumn/Fall Break
- 5<sup>th</sup> November, Wednesday: UN Day at BIS
- 7 November, Friday: Fall Festival
- 7-8 November: Days of History & Memory of Ancestors
- 12 November, Wednesday: Mental Health Awareness Day
- 15 November, Saturday: Future Careers Day & Friendsgiving Dinner
- 22 November, Saturday: BIS Annual Debate Tournament
- 13<sup>th</sup> December, Saturday: BIS Anniversary Show – Official School Day
- 16<sup>th</sup> December, Tuesday: 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](mailto: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	<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 Administration	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 Principal	Nurbek Chagataev	<a href="mailto:nchagataev@bis.kg">nchagataev@bis.kg</a>
Middle School Principal	Gulbara Akunova	<a href="mailto:gakunova@bis.kg">gakunova@bis.kg</a>
Primary School Principal	Elina Ignatova	<a href="mailto:eignatova@bis.kg">eignatova@bis.kg</a>
High School Academic Director, 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 Abdyraeva	<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>
EPIC Coordinator	Genevieve Maser	<a href="mailto:gmaser@bis.kg">gmaser@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	PAMC President	<a href="mailto:papres@bis.kg">papres@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:pamc@bis.kg">pamc@bis.kg</a>
Parents Association Secretary	Secretary	<a href="mailto:pasec@bis.kg">pasec@bis.kg</a>
Homeroom/Form Classes		
Preschool 1	Laura Meliou, Ayana Akmatova & Saltanat Mamanova	<a href="mailto:lmeliou@bis.kg">lmeliou@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:aakmatova@bis.kg">aakmatova@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:smamanova@bis.kg">smamanova@bis.kg</a>
Preschool 2	Nuraida Asanbaeva & Zharkyn Oskonbaeva	<a href="mailto:nasanbaeva@bis.kg">nasanbaeva@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:joskonbaeva@bis.kg">joskonbaeva@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	Altnai Isabekova & Kanykei Tursunalieva	<a href="mailto:aisabekova@bis.kg">aisabekova@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:ktursunalieva@bis.kg">ktursunalieva@bis.kg</a>
Grade 0 Yellow	Peiyang Lin & Begaiym Djumaeva	<a href="mailto:plin@bis.kg">plin@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:bdjumaeva@bis.kg">bdjumaeva@bis.kg</a>
Grade 1 Blue	Nelia Mwanza & Nargiza Zhusupova	<a href="mailto:nmwanza@bis.kg">nmwanza@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:nzhusupova@bis.kg">nzhusupova@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 & Datkayim Uralieva	<a href="mailto:mchadderton@bis.kg">mchadderton@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:duralieva@bis.kg">duralieva@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 & Tilekbek Niazaliev	<a href="mailto:msaber@bis.kg">msaber@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:tniazaliev@bis.kg">tniazaliev@bis.kg</a>
Grade 3 Yellow	Claudette Colinares & Altnai Kalieva	<a href="mailto:ccolinares@bis.kg">ccolinares@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:alkalieva@bis.kg">alkalieva@bis.kg</a>
Grade 4 Blue	Daniel Bilog & Eliza Saidalieva	<a href="mailto:dbilog@bis.kg">dbilog@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:esaidalieva@bis.kg">esaidalieva@bis.kg</a>
Grade 4 Yellow	Ana Marie Alcalá & 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 Ibebaeva	<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	Matthew Vandewaal Valkanov & Aigul Sakieva	<a href="mailto:mvalkanov@bis.kg">mvalkanov@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:asakieva@bis.kg">asakieva@bis.kg</a>
Grade 8	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 9	Maria Rojas & Alexander Vargas Mira & Nargiza Kydykova	<a href="mailto:mrojas@bis.kg">mrojas@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:avargas@bis.kg">avargas@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:nkydykova@bis.kg">nkydykova@bis.kg</a>
Grade 10	Yana Karpenko & Ahmed Hashem & Stephen Labanowich	<a href="mailto:yakarpenko@bis.kg">yakarpenko@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:ahashem@bis.kg">ahashem@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:slabanowich@bis.kg">slabanowich@bis.kg</a>
Grade 11	Nazira Abakirova & Megan Bagdonas	<a href="mailto:nabakirova@bis.kg">nabakirova@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:mbagdonas@bis.kg">mbagdonas@bis.kg</a>
Grade 12	Lane Spies & Kevin Snow	<a href="mailto:lspies@bis.kg">lspies@bis.kg</a> ; <a href="mailto:ksnow@bis.kg">ksnow@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 \(Рус\)](#)

## FIND US ON THE WEB



BIS website - [www.bis.kg](http://www.bis.kg)

**BAILANYSH NEWS**

Connecting the BIS Community

[www.bailanysh.com](http://www.bailanysh.com)



BIS Instagram - [@bis.kg](https://www.instagram.com/bis.kg)



BIS Alumni Association - [@bis\\_alumni](https://www.instagram.com/bis_alumni)



BIS Facebook - [facebook.com/biskgz](https://www.facebook.com/biskgz)



Act for Community - [@actcom.bis](https://www.instagram.com/actcom.bis)



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



## PRESCHOOL 1

Even though it was a short week, the children in Preschool 1 were very active and enjoyed learning through play.

**Music and Movement:** We sang “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes” every day. The children loved moving their bodies and naming different body parts.

**Math Play:** During math time, we matched and repeated colors using spikes — orange, blue, orange. This helped the children notice and create simple patterns.

**Gross Motor Play:** We built a fun obstacle course where the children hopped, walked, and crawled. They practiced following steps and moving their bodies in different ways.

**Next Week’s Focus:** Next week, we will keep exploring movement and patterns through art, counting games, and sensory play.

We wish all families a warm and happy autumn break!

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



## PRESCHOOL 2

This week was short but full of fun in Preschool 2! We learned about vehicles that community helpers use. The children matched police cars, ambulances, and fire trucks with the helpers who drive them.

We also painted big boxes to make our own police cars and fire trucks and had so much fun playing with them afterward!

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

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



### PRESCHOOL 3

This week in Preschool 3 was short but filled with fun and learning! We revisited our unit on *“Food comes from different sources”* by exploring the two main sources of food — plants and animals. Our young learners enjoyed brainstorming and identifying foods that come from each source. The highlight of the week was our class *Farm Shop* role play, where children had fun buying and selling food products just like in a real market! In math, we practiced counting

and matching quantities using shopping lists. During phonics, we revised the sounds *s, a, t, p, i,* and *n,* connecting each sound to foods beginning with those letters.

As we head into the fall holidays, we wish everyone safe travels, happy rest, and look forward to seeing all our smiling faces soon!

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

