



**Bishkek
International
School**

VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 8 / 2025-26

10th October 2025

GRADE 0 BLUE AND YELLOW'S ATA TURK FIELD TRIP

Grade 0 Blue and Yellow students enjoyed a fun and educational field trip to Atatürk Park. They explored the beautiful park, observed nature, and spent quality time playing and learning together. It was a wonderful day of discovery and friendship!

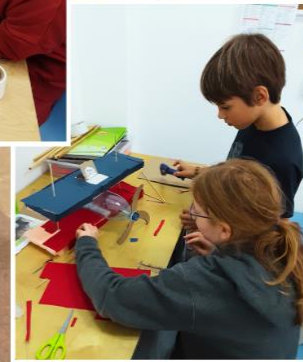


THIS WEEK IN EPIC



Grade 3 students are gearing up for the EPIC museum event on November 14th. This first STEM project asks students to build or make something of their choice out of recycled materials. Some are building models while others are creating art. To go further in EPIC, students must first become accustomed to self-directed, hands-on learning. They are learning important lessons about what they like, how to pursue what they like in a practical way, and how to manage both time and team resources. Not an easy task for anyone, young or old. Stay tuned for our event announcement!

Ms. Genevieve, EPIC Coordinator



GRADE 7 DRAMA CLASS

In this week's Drama class, Grade 7 students engaged in a creative exploration of the narrative arc using an improvisation prompt connected to the unit on Improvisation, under the global context of Personal and Cultural Expression and the key concept of Creativity. Working in groups, students discussed how their stories would unfold — identifying the exposition, rising action, climax, and resolution. They then developed a scene outline and began their first blocking, experimenting with stage movement and expressive choices to bring their improvised ideas to life. The photos captured show students collaborating enthusiastically as they planned how their scenes would look on stage.

Mr. Geoffrey, Drama Teacher



We Create Stories



Grade 1 Yellow learners explored how to make *predictions* about stories by looking for *clues* and identifying important *story elements* such as characters, settings, and events. They made wonderful connections to our Unit of Inquiry about *families* and used their imagination to create their own stories.

Each story was unique and creative — from families traveling around the world to those discovering a lost cat! It was amazing to see how students used their understanding of family relationships and adventures to bring their stories to life.

Later, our young authors proudly shared their stories by reading them to preschool and lower primary classes. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to inspire younger learners and celebrate their creativity and confidence.

Ms. Begimai, Grade 1 Yellow Homeroom Teacher



LEARNING THROUGH ADVENTURE: HOW WE ORGANIZE OURSELVES



To kick off our new unit “How We Organize Ourselves,” PYP ELA students took part in an exciting camping-themed provocation. One group worked together to set up a real tent, exploring how people organize and collaborate as a team. Others read a book inside the tent without lights, practiced new vocabulary, and played a game called “I’m going on a trip, and I’m taking...” to think about what items we need when we go camping. Together, we discussed what to do in different situations, how to stay safe, and how people plan and prepare in real life.



We are now ready to dive into our new unit and are excited about our upcoming educational trip to Karagachevaya Roshka next week, where students will get to experience real-life camping!

Ms. Aisedep, Mr. Leo and Ms. Elvira, ELA Teachers





Carry Your Creativity

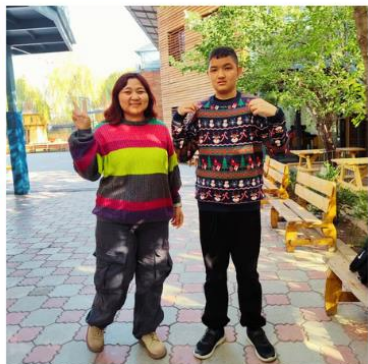
In Art Studio ECA, we went beyond paper and canvas – we made a bag!

The bag became a canvas for self-expression. Through this project, students learned that they are creators, not just consumers. It boosted their confidence in their own creative power. They discovered how capable they are of making their surroundings as beautiful and meaningful as possible.

Ms. Didi



BIS Snapshot: Sweater Weather Day



CPR, BROC AND KTI AWARDS

A huge well done to our award winners:

CPR (Caring, Principled, Reflective):

Tamerlan (Preschool 1), **Daria** (Grade 3), **Aruuke** (Grade 3), **Nika** (Grade 3), **Aisha** (Grade 3), **Blakeslee** (Grade 3), **Nurmyrza** (Grade 3), **Tabiiat** (Grade 4), **Emilia** (Grade 4), **Aerin** (Grade 4), **Maiya** (Grade 5), **Tigran** (Grade 7), **Samat** (Grade 8)

KTI (Knowledgeable, Thinker, Inquirer):

Alec (Grade 3), **Rustam** (Grade 3), **Altai** (Grade 4), **Adel** (Grade 4), **Adam** (Grade 4), **Reid** (Grade 8)

BROC (Balanced, Risk-Taker, Open-Minded, Communicator):

Cullen (Grade 3), **Aziza** (Grade 4), **Ella** (Grade 7)

RESILIENT (The path may be difficult, but I will succeed):

Zihan (Grade 3), **Hyunjun** (Grade 3), **Diana** (Grade 3), **Safiia** (Grade 4), **Leila** (Grade 5), **Eldar** (Grade 5)

NEW FACES AT BIS: MS. CLAUDETTE

Hi, I'm Claudette, and I'm the new Grade 3Y teacher. I'm from Cebu, Philippines. I've lived and worked in the UK and Uzbekistan, and I'm excited to now be part of the BIS community in Kyrgyzstan. I have a bachelor's degree in Special Education and a TEFL qualification. After volunteering in the UK, I began teaching at an IB school in the Philippines and later taught at another IB school in Uzbekistan. This is my seventh year of teaching.

I love teaching and working with kids. It can be exhausting sometimes, but never boring. My Grade 3 Yellow class is amazing! They bring so much energy and curiosity into the room. They're also kind and full of surprises. Every day is a little different, which makes teaching fun and keeps me on my toes in the best way. I think it's cool to learn something new every day, and we do that in Grade 3Y. Some days I learn a cool new Pokémon name, and other days I learn a completely new way of seeing the world. I'm pursuing a double master's in International and Special Education. I love learning about the brain. Right now, I'm finishing a study on how sleep affects our thinking while reading book five of a sixteen-book multiverse. Most evenings, I'm deep in the trenches of academia (and trying not to have a mental b).

When I'm not working or studying, I like to Walter Mitty and follow my curiosity. I go on small side quests like finding the best baklajan salad or finishing LOTR and SW Lego. I keep a long life list as a way to always have something to look forward to (it makes life a little more exciting). I also enjoy long hikes. Walking helps me think and it's fun to collect badges on Strava. At the core of it all, my family and faith are my main sources of identity and the constants in my life. I've been lucky to grow up with supportive parents and siblings who continue to choose us through every stage of life. I'm able to love my life because of them.



Ms. Claudette, Grade 3 Yellow Homeroom Teacher

CELEBRATING OUR ELDERS WITH LOVE AND GRATITUDE



BIS hosted a special lunch at the BIS Café on Saturday, 27 September, to celebrate the International Day of Older Persons. We welcomed 50 elderly guests from nearby neighbourhoods for a day filled with warm smiles, laughter, and heartfelt conversations. Guests enjoyed delicious food, thoughtful gifts, and, above all, the joy of being appreciated and remembered. The event was made possible thanks to the enthusiasm of our student volunteers – Evelyn, Emilie, Nicolle, Aisha, Suzan, Linara, Yasmina, Nestan, and Kezhen, who helped serve lunch, distribute presents and create a welcoming, joyful atmosphere.



BIS Community Projects Team

PARENT ELECTION TO THE GOVERNING BOARD



Nazira Tursalieva



JJ Gurga

We warmly congratulate Nazira Tursalieva and JJ Gurga who have been elected by parents to join the BIS Governing Board. We look forward to the fresh ideas, dedication, and valuable perspectives they will bring as members of the Governing Board, helping to guide our school toward continued growth, innovation, and success.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all parents who participated in this election, ensuring that the process was fair, transparent, and meaningful. Your engagement truly strengthens our community and demonstrates the spirit of collaboration that makes our school so special.

Alina Seitalieva, Governance & Events Officer

BIS PARENTS ASSOCIATION ELECTION RESULTS

We are pleased to announce the results of the Parents Association election held from September 23-30, 2025. Congratulations to **Seetha Malik Kotadia**, elected President, and **Ainura Emilbekova**, elected Vice-President! The President serves a 2-year term and may be re-elected once.

We are also delighted to welcome the seven newly elected PAMC members: Dana Graham, Andrea Wilson, Katariina Lensu, Manisha Sabuwala, Albina Yamada, Aikanysh Akhmatova, Aigul Mamatkulova.

The full PAMC now includes Seetha Malik Kotadia (President), Ainura Emilbekova (Vice-President), Meerim Askarova, Alya Solovieva, Arkady Rogalsky, and the seven members listed above.

Thank you to all candidates for contributing their time and energy to strengthen the BIS community!



Seetha Malik Kotadia



Ainura Emilbekova

Taalaiagul Zhunusova, Community Liaison Officer

CENTRAL ASIA CROSS COUNTRY – FRI/SAT 10TH/11TH OCTOBER – KARAGACH PARK!

BIS is hosting the Central Asia Federation of Athletics (CAFA) **Cross Country Tournament**. The X-Country Taigans will be competing against local international schools, as well as teams from Almaty, Astana, Dushanbe, and Tashkent. Our school will be represented by 29 students, led by coaches Mr. Francois, Ms. Lane, Mr. Alexander and Ms. Beldine.

The event will take place at **Karagach Park (Karagachevaya Roscha)**. This is the location of our [gathering point](#) in the park and this is the best [location to park your car](#), or arrive by taxi, to walk to our gathering point.

Everyone in the BIS Community is invited to come and support the runners on Saturday 9:00 to 13:00.



PARTICIPATION SCHOOLS:

BISHKEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (HOST)

OSI ALMATY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

SILK ROAD ACADEMY

HOPE ACADEMY OF BISHKEK

TIEN SHAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

TASHKENT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

 BISHKEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



AI ASSISTANT FOR BIS POLICIES & HANDBOOKS

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

[BIS Policies and Handbooks
Student Handbook](#)

LUNCH MENU

The lunch menu for October 13th – 17th is **Menu D**. 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](#)

- 10-11 October, Friday-Saturday: CAFA XC Bishkek
- 16th October, Thursday: Individual Parents-Teacher Meetings
- 17-18 October, Friday-Saturday: AISB Football
- 19-22 October: IB/NEASC CLP Peer Review Visit to BIS
- 23-31 October: Autumn/Fall Break
- 5th November, Wednesday: UN Day at BIS (new date)
- 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

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	lmeloliu@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 Tursunalieva	aisabekova@bis.kg ; ktursunalieva@bis.kg
Grade 0 Yellow	Peiying 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	bkeshbekova@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 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 ; 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 & Alexander Vargas Mira & Nargiza Kydykova	mrojas@bis.kg ; avargas@bis.kg ; nkydykova@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](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

This week, Preschool 1 began exploring our new unit, “**How We Organize Ourselves.**” We talked about our **daily school routine** — what we do when we arrive, play, have snacks, join circle time, go outside, and get ready to go home. The children enjoyed using **picture cards** to put the daily activities in order.

In **math**, we sorted **picture cards** of daily actions and started learning about **shapes — circle and triangle**. The children also used **brushes and paints** to color these shapes, exploring colors and form through art.

For art, we created a “My Day” collage. The children colored the background with crayons and pasted pictures of brushing their teeth in the morning — a fun way to connect personal routines to our theme.

In **music and movement**, we sang and acted out “**The Wheels on the Bus,**” enjoying its familiar rhythm and predictable verses.

A special highlight of the week was when the **Grade 1 students visited our class** to share stories they had **written themselves**. The preschoolers listened with great curiosity and excitement — it was a lovely way to connect with our older friends and celebrate storytelling. We also had lots of fun **assembling a new wooden railway together**, practicing teamwork and problem-solving as we built the tracks and watched the train go around.

It has been a wonderful first week getting to know our routines and learning how they help us organize our day!

Ms. Laura, Preschool 1 Homeroom Teacher



PRESCHOOL 2

This week, we started our new Unit of Inquiry “How We Organize Ourselves” with the central idea “Communities are made of different people and places.” Our little friends looked at pictures of community helpers such as doctors, teachers, firefighters, police officers, librarians, and chefs. We talked about questions like “Who helps us when we are sick?” and “Who keeps us safe?” The children matched helpers with their tools and enjoyed pretending to be firefighters and doctors in our dramatic play areas, the fire station and the hospital.

On Thursday, we visited the school medical office where Doctor Asel and Nurse Zhypara showed the tools they use to help students when they are sick or get hurt. Our little friends were very excited to listen to each other’s hearts using a stethoscope. We also

learned how important it is to wash our hands, eat healthy food, and sleep well to stay healthy.

In math, our friends practiced counting and learned that the last number we say tells “how many” there are. We also explored the circle shape and found many circle objects around us. In phonics, we practiced listening carefully and recognizing different sounds, especially those we might hear in a supermarket. In art with Ms. Aizhan, our little friends made firefighter crafts using paper and glue. They enjoyed creating firefighters with fire trucks and pretending to be helpers.

It was a wonderful week of exploring, learning, and having fun together!

Ms. Nuraida, Preschool 2 Homeroom Teacher



PRESCHOOL 3

This week in Preschool 3, we began our new unit, *"How We Organize Ourselves,"* with the central idea *"Food comes from different places and sources."*

Our young learners shared the foods they enjoy at home and created beautiful drawings of their favorite meals. We discussed where different foods come from—like the kitchen, the farm, the garden, the market, and the supermarket. It was wonderful to hear their thoughtful ideas!

In math, we practiced sorting and counting foods, and in phonics, we continued reviewing the sounds *s, a, t, p, i,* and *n.*

We also enjoyed outdoor play, library, music, dance, P.E., Kyrgyz, and art classes. A special highlight of the week was a visit from the Grade 1 students, who shared and read the stories they had written for us—it was amazing to listen to so many creative and inspiring stories!

We look forward to another exciting week ahead!

Ms. Bivo, Preschool 3 Homeroom Teacher

