Bishkek International School

VOICES

Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 12 / 2026-27 13th November 2026

BIS U15 BOYS AT THE CAFA FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT IN ALMATY

From November 4-8, the BIS U15 Boys Football Team participated in the international CAFA football tournament hosted by TSIS in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Our boys played five matches, winning two and losing three, and finished in 7th place from ten international schools around Central Asia. The tournament was a great opportunity for our players to gain experience, improve their skills and enjoy playing football against other schools.

Congratulations to all our players for their effort, teamwork and positive attitude throughout the tournament!

A big thank you to Coach Stella for preparing and training the team, to Ms. Anna for coaching the team during the tournament, and to Ms. Gulbara for her support throughout the trip.

Zeljko Jovetic, Athletics Director







GRADE 1 BLUE'S SUPERMARKET ADVENTURE



As part of our UOI, Grade 1 Blue students visited a local supermarket to explore the different roles and services that help people in our community. Each student had a budget of 250 soms and a shopping list. They enjoyed finding the items, counting their money, and making responsible choices. They also learned about the different services that support us when shopping and our responsibilities when using shared services.

















Back in the classroom, everyone had a special job to help prepare a tasty treat! Some children washed the fruit, others peeled or chopped it, and together we made colorful fruit skewers and delicious chocolate-covered strawberries.

It was a lovely opportunity to see how working together helps us meet our needs and makes everyday experiences even more enjoyable!

Ms. Begimai and Ms. Datkayim

ARMS OF LOVE

As part of our unit, **'How We Organize Ourselves'**, Grade 2 invited one of the founders of **Arms of Love** to speak to our students about how the organization supports orphans, young mothers, and families in Bishkek.

We would like to support this wonderful organization by donating some of the proceeds from our Market Day on Tuesday.

The money will either be used to buy food, books, and toys for the families and children who are supported.



GRADE 2 LEARNS ABOUT THE POWER OF HELPING OTHERS

HERE WERE SOME OF THE QUESTIONS WE HAD FOR MS. NATASHA:

If someone left the support house and needed help again, can they return?
Yes, they are welcome to come back for some help.

How much is the budget for one person to stay there per month? (Minimum)
10,000 som

Until when can the young mother and the baby stay?
Until the baby is 1 year old and the mother has to find a job. The baby will go to Kindergarten.

Where does the money come from to build the houses and support the families?
Donations and churches and people who want to help.

How many houses are in Bishkek?
3



Why did this work start?
20 years ago Ms. Natasha and her friend saw many children who lived in the streets and in the basements of buildings and fell very moved and decided to try and do something to help.

How many kids do you have?
3 and two of them are adopted. Their nationalities are; 1 Russian, one from Tatar, and one Kyrgyz. They are a true international family who love each other.

If anyone is interested in this organization, please take a look at their work here:

https://armsoflovekg.com/

Grade 2 Team

GRADE 3 EXPLORE PUBLIC SPACES IN BISHKEK

























As part of our unit on public spaces, Grade 3 went on a walking tour around central Bishkek. We explored different public spaces and discussed how they benefit the community and how accessible they are.

Then, we enjoyed lunch and some outdoor playtime at Victory Park, running around and climbing trees.

Grade 3 Team

CREATIVE THINKING AND WRITING

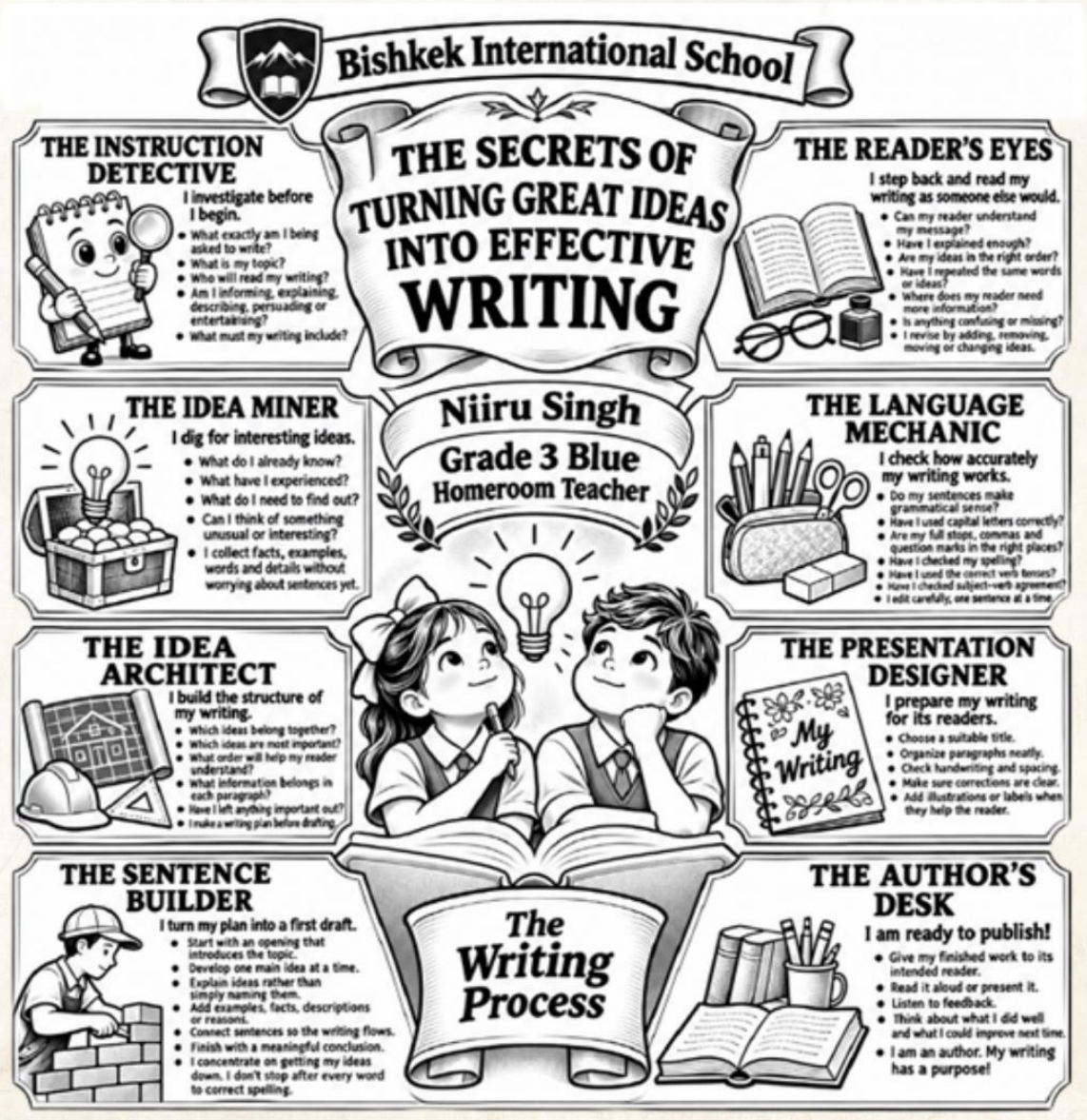
As we all know, we recently celebrated *"My Intended Profession in the Future"* at our school, and it was a great pleasure listening to our students share their dreams and aspirations. As they spoke about the professions they hoped to pursue, I decided to use their responses to create a writing anchor chart. I also shared that this is what creative thinking can look like. Of course they were puzzled. They were wondering about the connection of professions with the creation of the writing process. They sat there, waiting for the mystery to unfold.

Using their ideas, I began giving stages of effective writing using different professions. Based on responses, we figured that an Instruction Detective investigates the task, an Idea Miner searches for interesting thoughts, an Idea Architect organises those thoughts, and a Sentence Builder brings them together, while other professions take responsibility for reviewing, refining and presenting the finished work.

What emerged was a visual representation of the writing process, helping students understand that effective writing involves much more than putting words into sentences. The appreciation from Ms. Aigerim and my students was particularly encouraging, and I was even more pleased to use their curiosity and an ordinary classroom conversation to open doors to a different understanding of writing. This anchor chart was co-created by teachers and students.

I have always believed that any skill is best understood when children have an opportunity to see it happening rather than simply being told. From my perspective, it's important that we model the very skills we encourage our students to develop. In this case, a discussion about professions became flowing points to develop writing. We learned that our learning experiences can lead to unexpected discoveries, and that simple conversations can become meaningful lessons. In my opinion, this is powerful. Isn't it?

Ms. Niiru, Grade 3 Blue Homeroom Teacher



THIS WEEK IN EPIC





This week we are featuring our intrepid grade 5 students who ventured into the murky world of mental multiplication. Fear not! It is only murky until you have solid strategies for organizing your brain. The same grids and columns in written math can very easily be visualized while calculating. Here they are completing some very difficult questions in record time.







Grade 1 has seen new growth on old potatoes. What would it take to have more sustainable agriculture? Students are growing new vegetables from old scraps in anticipation of Science Fair in February. By then, they will be ready with copious notes, observations and graphs to show.

Ms. Genevieve, EPIC Coordinator

























CREATIVE ART ECA





















Sweater Weather














Sweater Weather






CPR, BROC AND KTI AWARDS

CPR (CARING, PRINCIPLED, REFLECTIVE):

Guoran, Kirill, Lincoln, Yekta (Grade 3)

Alexandra, Hyunjun, Sara, Umar (Grade 4)

All Grade 4 Blue

Ariet (Grade 5)

Marua (Grade 6)

KTI (KNOWLEDGEABLE, THINKERS, INQUIRERS):

Elias, Iman, Madiyar, Teo Tenir (Grade 3)

Rustam (Grade 4)

Valentina (Grade 5)

BROC (BALANCED, RISK-TAKERS, OPEN-MINDED, COMMUNICATORS):

Junyao, Nixon (Grade 3)

Raiana (Grade 4)

Aziza, Gilliana, Sabina (Grade 5)

Dariy (Grade 6)

RESILIENT (THE PATH MAY BE DIFFICULT, BUT I WILL SUCCEED):

Aalym, Alexander, Irfan, Nursultan (Grade 3)

Maya (Grade 4)

Josiah (Grade 6)



BIS GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

On Wednesday November 11th, the Governing Board (GB) held their second meeting of the year. The GB welcomed two new members, Andrea Wilson and Eric Leverone, who were elected by the Parents Association and Advisory Council respectively, and congratulated Fred Huston and Daniar Amanaliev on their re-election to the GB by BIS staff and the Advisory Council respectively.

The first item on the agenda was presentations by the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the High School and Middle School Student Councils, who shared their perspectives on the school and made good proposals to improve the learning experience for everyone. Proposals were discussed by the GB, who tasked the Management Board to follow up on the proposals.







Fred Huston and Nikita Ryjih stood down as GB Chair and Vice-Chair respectively and the GB elected Nikita Ryjih as Chair and JJ Gurga as Vice Chair of the GB. Information about all GB members in on the school website.

The GB also approved updates to some school policies, plans for the new campus, strategic priorities and the ongoing work of its committees. Discussions focused on supporting the continued growth of BIS and strengthening the school community. BIS extends sincere gratitude to Fred Huston for his many years of dedicated service as Chair of the Governing Board and his extremely valuable contribution to the development of the school.

Alina Seitalieva, Governance and Events Officer

DINOSAUR DAY – FEEDBACK SURVEY

Our second Dinosaur Day of the year was a nice break from technology for many of us, and great fun for some students, while still a stressful experience for those whose happiness in life is very tech dependent. The full feedback survey report is here, including changes from the Dinosaur Day in September. 46% of respondents said that this Dino Day was better than the one in September, 45% said it was the same, and 9% thought it was worse. The good news is that the level of positive responses improved for High School Students, and the bad news is that it fell for Middle School Students and all teaching groups. We will review how to incorporate the excellent ideas from DP students and this survey to improve future Dinosaur Days, without changing the fundamental rule of no screens all day for everyone at school.

David Grant, Head of School

TICKETS FOR THE ANNIVERSARY SHOW – ANNIE JR – SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

The BIS Anniversary Show, featuring the musical Annie JR, will be on Saturday, 28 November, at the Kyrgyz National Drama Theatre, from 16:00 to 18:30. Tickets are only available from the BIS external reception, by emailing ticket@bis.kg with your preferred row and seat number(s) according to this seating plan which shows available seats.

Reservations are confirmed following your donation of at least 1,000 KGS per ticket to 'Act for Community', the BIS student volunteer organisation, which will use donations to support one of the rural boarding schools for orphans in Naryn. The QR code for donations is below.

Make sure you email ticket@bis.kg giving your preferred row and seat number(s) according to this seating plan at the same time as you make your donation. We will respond within 24 hours (working

days) confirming your seat selection and tickets ready for collection from BIS external reception. If you prefer to make your donation in cash, instead of using the QR code, you may donate in cash when you collect your tickets.

Please note that:

- All Preschool to Grade 8 students already have seats reserved, so you do not have to reserve any seats for them;
- Preschool parents who are only staying for the first half performances (including preschool) will be given tickets to sit with their children until the intermission - but must email ticket@bis.kg to confirm attendance and collect their ticket;
- Grade 9-12 students do not have to attend if they are not performing or backstage, but can reserve a free seat if they volunteer to help 'front of house' - they will be sent a separate sign-up form, so you do not have to reserve any seats for them.





LUNCH MENU

The lunch menu for November 16th – 20th 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 – 2026/27 Calendar is here

- 21st November, Saturday: BIS Annual Debate Tournament
- 28th November, Saturday: Anniversary Show in the Kyrgyz Drama Theatre
- 5th December, Saturday: Friendsgiving Dinner organised by PAMC
- 15th December, Tuesday: PYP Student led Conferences
- 18th December, Friday: Last Day of First Semester / Ded Moroz
- 21st December – 8th January: Winter break
- 5th January, Tuesday: Alumni Reunion Dinner
- 11th January, Monday: Staff In-Service PD at BIS
- 16th January, Saturday: AISB Table Tennis at UWIS
- 21st January, Thursday: Parent Teacher Meetings
- 23-24 January: AISB Basketball U15s
- 29th January, Friday: Middle/High Winter Sports Day
- 30-31 January, Saturday-Sunday: AISB Basketball U19s
- 5th February, Friday: Primary 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 and our Reception will forward your email to the right person. Homeroom and Form Teachers for 2026/27 are given below:

Position	Name	Contact
BIS Reception	Aidana / Gulaiym / Aimira	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
Community Liaison Officer	Madina Matieva	mmatieva@bis.kg
Community Projects Officer	Jyldyz Sarieva	jsarieva@bis.kg
Registrar	Nurbek Chagataev	nchagataev@bis.kg
Doctor	Asel Turusbaeva	doctor@bis.kg
Head of School	David Grant	dgrant@bis.kg
Head of Administration / Deputy Head of School	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
Middle School Academic Coordinator	Claire Berger	cberger@bis.kg
Primary School Academic Coordinator	Daniel Bilog	dbilog@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	Fred Huston	gbchair@bis.kg
Governing Board Secretary	Alina Seitalieva	gbsec@bis.kg
Parents Association President	Seetha Malik	papres@bis.kg; pamc@bis.kg
Parents Association Secretary	Secretary	pasec@bis.kg
Homeroom/Form Classes		
Preschool 1	Laura Meloliu, Zhamal Amanturova & Saltanat Mamanova	lmeloliu@bis.kg; zamanturova@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	Syeda Nayna Ahmed & Begaiym Djumaeva	snaynaahmed@bis.kg; bdjumaeva@bis.kg
Grade 1 Blue	Begimai Keneshbekova & Datkayim Uralieva	bkeneshbekova@bis.kg; duralieva@bis.kg
Grade 1 Yellow	Abegail Delos Reyes & Rabiia Erkulova	areyes@bis.kg; rerkulova@bis.kg
Grade 2 Blue	Oksana Chichilova & Aike Uralieva	ochichilova@bis.kg; auralieva@bis.kg
Grade 2 Yellow	Maria Van Eeden & Erkeaiym Karypbekova	mvaneeden@bis.kg; ekarypbekova@bis.kg
Grade 3 Blue	Niiru Singh & Aigerim Zhumabaeva	nsingh@bis.kg; azhumabayeva@bis.kg
Grade 3 Yellow	Claudette Colinares & Nargiza Zhusupova	ccolinares@bis.kg; nzhusupova@bis.kg
Grade 4 Blue	Rona Butler & Eliza Saidalieva	rbutler@bis.kg; esaidalieva@bis.kg
Grade 4 Yellow	Christine Fernandez & Aizirek Dzhakypbekova	cfernandez@bis.kg; adzhakypbekova@bis.kg
Grade 5 Blue	Morgan Chadderton & Zharkynai Ilebaeva	mchadderton@bis.kg; zhilebaeva@bis.kg
Grade 5 Yellow	Natalie Small & Sezim Tologonova	nsmall@bis.kg; stologonova@bis.kg
Grade 6	Anjela Kozlovskaia & Marc Garreta	akozlovskaia@bis.kg; mgarreta@bis.kg
Grade 7	Branka Kovacevic & Erkeayim Zhekshenalieva & Alexander Vargas	bkovacevic@bis.kg; avargas@bis.kg; zhekshenalieva@bis.kg
Grade 8	Matthew Vandewaal Valkanov & Nurzhamal Alymova	mvalkanov@bis.kg; nalymova@bis.kg
Grade 9	Maria Rojas & Sagida Satysheva & Francois Spies	mrojas@bis.kg; ssatysheva@bis.kg; fspies@bis.kg
Grade 10	Yana Karpenko & Ahmed Hashem	yakarpenko@bis.kg; ahashem@bis.kg
Grade 11	Toon Cavens & Nazira Abakirova	tcavens@bis.kg; nabakirova@bis.kg
Grade 12	Alexander Sheyerman & Lane Spies	asheyerman@bis.kg; lspies@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

Bishkek International School

Preschool Discoveries

Preschool Newsletter No: 12 / 2026-27 **13th November 2026**

PRESCHOOL 1

We had another lovely week in Preschool 1! We continued talking about our daily schedule and the routines we follow every day. The children practised recognising what comes next in familiar activities and talked about why it is important to wash our hands with soap.

To make handwashing more interesting, we tried a little experiment using water, pepper and soap. The children were amazed to see the pepper move away when we touched the water with a soapy finger! It was a fun way to explore how soap helps keep our hands clean.

A big thank you to Mr. Daniel for coming to read for us! The children really enjoyed the story The Monster Pet and had a lovely time listening together.

We also got creative during art time as we prepared for Sweater Day this Friday. The children decorated their own sweaters using crayons, glitter, colourful pom-poms and even feathers. Every sweater turned out special and unique!

It was a busy week filled with stories, experiments, creativity and lots of little discoveries!

Ms. Laura, Preschool 1 Homeroom Teacher













PRESCHOOL 2

This week in Preschool 2, we continued our Unit of Inquiry, “How We Organize Ourselves,” and asked: “How does a chef help us at school?”

On Wednesday, our school chef came to visit. The children were happy to meet him, put on chef hats, and cooked pizza together with him. They enjoyed the delicious pizza they made themselves.

In our Dramatic Play corner, we opened a pizza restaurant. The children took turns being the chef and the customer. They cut the pizza and served their friends.

We also began Phonics with environmental sounds. Black Cat, who is very good at listening, took us on a sound walk. We stopped, stayed quiet, and listened with our cat ears, then talked about which sounds were loud and which were quiet.

At the Math table, the children matched each helper to their tools and counted the tools, touching each one once. In Art with Ms. Aizhan, the children made pizzas from clay, and in Music with Ms. Aziza, they sang “Hey Mama Mia, I Want to Make a Pizza.”

On Friday, Mr. Daniel, the Primary School Academic Coordinator, came to read us a story. We talked about how he helps the teachers and children in our school.

It was a busy and tasty week, and the children enjoyed cooking and playing together.

Ms. Nuraida, Preschool 2 Homeroom Teacher














PRESCHOOL 3

What a fantastic week we had in Preschool 3!

This week, we explored the roles of community helpers and how they support our neighbourhood. We shared ideas about familiar helpers such as doctors, nurses, police officers, teachers and firefighters, while discovering new ones like shopkeepers, cleaners, chefs and pharmacists.

The children enjoyed matching community helper cut-outs to the correct places in our classroom neighbourhood. We also matched helpers to their tools, uniforms and vehicles. In Art, we created beautiful firefighter posters to display in our classroom. During Show and Tell, everyone chose a favourite helper and explained how they help us.

In Phonics, we focused on the /i/ sound and practised building CVC words such as *pin, sip* and *tip*. In Math, we explored tall and short, long and short, and introduced heavy and light.

We also enjoyed celebrating Sweater Day!

What a wonderful week! We look forward to more adventures next week!

Ms. Bivo, Preschool 3 Homeroom Teacher













