



**Bishkek
International
School**

VoICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 8 / 2026-27

9th October 2026

GRADE 4 DISCOVERS THE HISTORY OF BURANA

Grade 4 students travelled to the historic Burana Tower, where they explored one of Kyrgyzstan's most important cultural landmarks. They learned about the ancient city of Balasagun and discovered how the site connects to the history of the Silk Road.

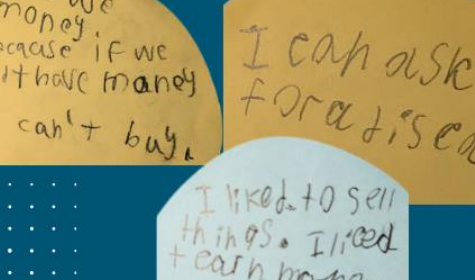
The trip was a great opportunity to take learning outside the classroom. Students explored the archaeological site, observed the ancient structures and enjoyed spending time together while connecting their classroom learning with Kyrgyzstan's rich history.



BIS Snapshot: Dress Up Like a Teacher



Grade 2 Blue students played the market game, taking on both roles: seller and buyer. Before the game, students planned the activity by discussing which products to sell and set the price, while the second group prepared banknotes to use during the game. Students tried to get discounts, counted change, and became confused when they ran out of money but still wanted to buy things. Many questions arose during the game: “I do not have enough money. What can I do?”, “I wanted to buy toys, but there were no toys left in the shop,” and “I want a bigger discount!”



We use money.
Because if we don't have money we can't buy.

I can ask for a discount.

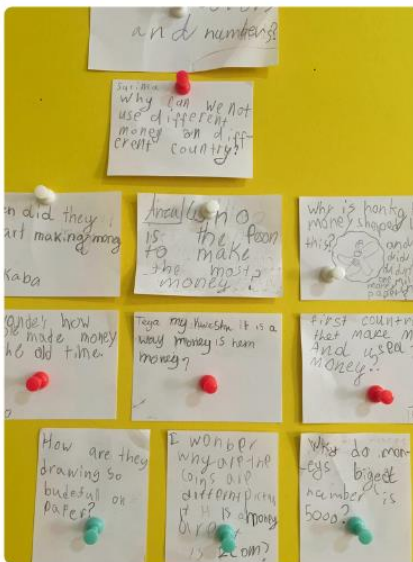
I liked to sell things. I liked to earn money.



We also looked at what other teams observed and compared our own answers. Did we have the same observations? What did we miss and someone else picked up on?

Students then had an opportunity to create their own high-level thinking questions which we will dig into over the next few weeks. How many countries' currencies do you recognize?

Grade 2 Team





GRADE 5 BLUE SHARES LEARNING ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

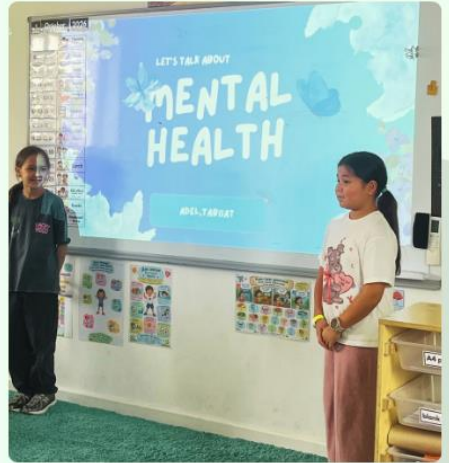


As part of their *Who We Are* unit, G5B learners have been exploring mental health and the ways it influences how we think, feel, and connect with others. To demonstrate their learning, they planned and delivered short, interactive lessons for students in G0, G2, G3, and G4.

Through 5-15 minute presentations, games, and activities, our learners shared practical strategies for supporting mental well-being. Activities included a Blooket quiz about stress, exploring calming strategies, acting out scenes about emotions, and physical exercises to promote a healthy lifestyle.

It was a wonderful opportunity for G5B to take ownership of their learning, build their communication skills, and help younger learners discover ways to care for their mental and physical well-being.

**Ms. Morgan, Grade 5 Blue Homeroom
Teacher**



THIS WEEK IN EPIC: GETTING OUR HANDS DIRTY IN GRADE 5

Our tough and tenacious EPIC Grade 5 students tackled the soil this week. In theory, building gardening rows is very easy- draw a few lines on a piece of paper and there's your plan. In practice, soil distribution is time-consuming, messy, and tiring. In several hours we managed to complete three rows. For Grade 5 students, it is important to understand the gap between theory and reality. Success in business and project management needs proper estimations of time and abilities.



CONQUERING MENTAL MULTIPLICATION IN GRADE 4

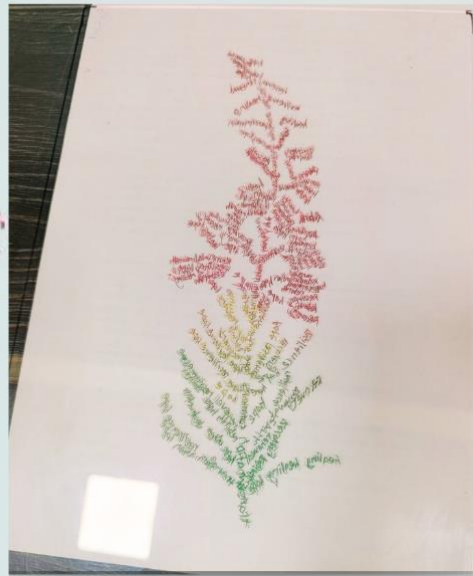
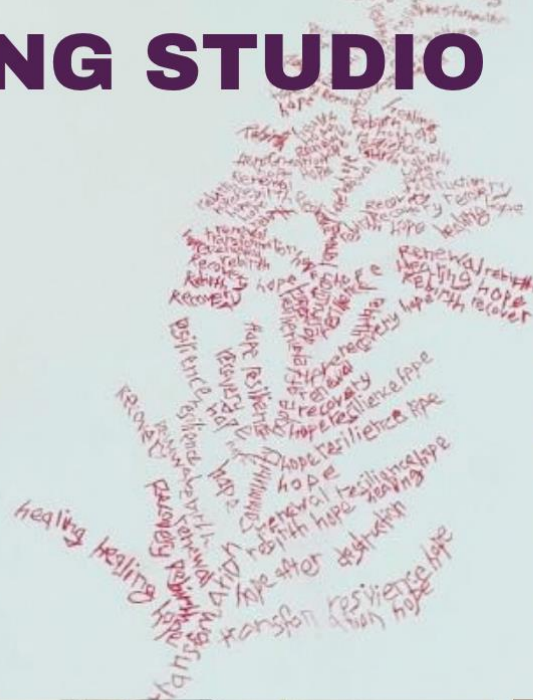


Grade 4 EPIC students have met and defeated 1 digit by 3 digit mental multiplication this week. The key is to keep all the calculations organized in your head before adding.

A huge accomplishment for our young students. Well done Aruna, Adil, Alima, and Emir!

Ms. Genevieve, EPIC Coordinator

PRINTMAKING STUDIO IN ACTION



DP ART STUDIO



QUIZ BOWL ECA IS COMING TO BIS!

Ever wonder about all that completely random stuff you know?

Well now you can put it to good use.

Quiz Bowl is a trivia competition where teams take on rounds of questions in categories ranging from geography, superheroes, movies, sports, animals and culture. It's a popular school activity in the US, with regional and state competitions and even national championships—one of the biggest tournaments last year brought together more than 300 teams! Now BIS students can get in on the fun of trivia!

And just to get you thinking...

- What is the name of Harry Potter's owl?
- Which country has more pyramids than Egypt?
- How many hearts does an octopus have?
- Which country has won the most FIFA World Cups?



You might already be a Quiz Bowl player and not even know it!

*Trivia Bowl ECA will be offered Wednesdays Term 2 for Grades 8–12 and requires a minimum of 10 students to make it happen.

STITCH BY STITCH: A NEW ECA AT BIS

Bravo! Alima in Grade 7 is finishing her first cross-stitch project—a super cute dog (or it will be soon!)

In Cross-Stitch ECA, students learn embroidering from a pattern while relaxing and listening to K-pop music :-). This is the first time a counted-cross-stitch has been offered at BIS. Kyrgyzstan has a long cultural history of embroidery.

The country is famous for its beautiful *туш кийиз*, traditional embroidered wall hangings decorated with colorful patterns and motifs, using traditional embroidery techniques.

Ms. Bagdonas, History Teacher



CREATIVE WORKSHOP ECA



CPR, BROC AND KTI AWARDS

CPR (CARING, PRINCIPLED, REFLECTIVE):

Aibek, Alexander, Nixon (Grade 3)

Alima, Nika (Grade 4)

Adam, Zahra (Grade 5)

Temirlan (Grade 9), Sora (Grade 10), Gerard (Grade 11)

KTI (KNOWLEDGEABLE, THINKERS, INQUIRERS):

Kirill, Martha, Musa, Nazar (Grade 3)

Alec, Hael, Sara (Grade 4)

Jude, Larysa, Safiia (Grade 5)

Marsel (Grade 7), Emilie (Grade 10)

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

Akmal (Grade 3)

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

Junyao (Grade 3), Timur (Grade 4), Ajibek (Grade 5)

Lia (Grade 10), Askar, Sardar (Grade 12)



NEW FACES AT BIS: MS. MARIA

Hi everyone! I'm Ms. Maria, and I was born and raised in sunny South Africa!

Being an adventurer at heart, I often find myself in situations where I speed over sandy dunes on a rusty old four-wheeler, get lost in cities I've never been to (Bishkek, true story!), and find myself living in yet another exciting foreign country.

Exploration and open-mindedness have their perks! I get to experience the kindness of strangers in unfamiliar places, like the time I shared a song with a group of young Vietnamese people who put a ukulele in my hands and encouraged me to sing along to a song whose words I didn't know or understand. All this happened in a place I had come to visit to see a dragon spewing fire (a pretty cool feature of one of the bridges in Da Nang!).

Adventure and excitement are also key ingredients in being an effective—and obviously beloved!—teacher. These qualities are woven into my approach to

teaching and learning, bringing fast-paced, real-life, thought-provoking experiences into the classroom. I love those moments when students make connections I could never have dreamed of and truly take ownership of their learning.

I love being here in Bishkek, and I'm incredibly grateful for all the people who have been kind, helpful, and supportive; offered words of encouragement; given me a city tour; stood in a line for and with me, or simply shared a laugh when I needed it. Here's to a fruitful, exploratory, and delightful year together with students, teachers, families, and friends!

Ms. Maria, Grade 2 Yellow Homeroom Teacher



Indian Cooking Class at BIS



A big thank you to Ms. Seetha and Ms. Manisha for organising such a wonderful Indian cooking morning! It was lovely to see our BIS community come together to learn, cook, chat and enjoy a delicious Indian meal. Thank you for sharing your time, knowledge and love for Indian cuisine with our parents, staff and children! And a special thank you to our BIS Cafeteria staff for supporting the event and letting us use the kitchen.



CAFA CROSS COUNTRY TOMORROW, SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER AT KARAGACH PARK

Tomorrow on Saturday morning, 7 international schools from across Central Asia are competing in 3000m, 4000m, and 5000m races, plus a 4x1000m relay.

Everyone is very welcome to come to support the runners, and enjoy time out in the fresh air at Karagach Park.

The car park location and race track have changed from last year, and are now at the northern end of the park. To find the car park and meeting point, use [Google Maps](#) OR [2GIS link](#). You go further down Elebesova Street than last year, and turn right on Pereulok Doroshnyy at [181 Elebesova](#).



WORLD *Mental* HEALTH DAY

Exciting activities
throughout the day!



ON WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER, 14

Show your support for mental health
awareness by wearing something GREEN
and earn 10 house points!

UN DAY

16TH OF OCTOBER

**BIS PARADE AT 14:25
ON THE BASKETBALL COURT**



Fun activities
during the day
Led by the
UN Day
Organising
Team. Stay
tuned



Join the parade
with you parents
in traditional
costume to earn
double house
points

Treat yourself to a brand new book



EVERY ORDER EARNS FREE BOOKS FOR OUR SCHOOL LIBRARY

SHOP AT:

<https://eu-shop.scholastic.co.uk/schools/bishkekinternationalschool>

The books will be delivered to BIS directly from the UK in November.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at library@bis.kg.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR FOSTERING A LOVE FOR READING IN OUR STUDENTS.



**ORDERS ARE DUE
SUNDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2026**

JOIN US FOR SCHOOL LUNCHES

We're inviting parents to join us for lunch and see for themselves.

To try the school lunches, please complete [this form](#) to request lunch on your preferred date. After submitting the form, you'll receive an email confirmation with the details.

On your selected day, please arrive at 13:00 and proceed to the internal reception to pay 100 som for lunch. You can then enjoy your meal in the café.



Please take note of the following menu schedule:

- 12 October – 16 October **Menu D**
- 27 October – 30 October **Menu A**

Link to A, B, C, D Menu can be found [here](#).

We look forward to welcoming you to our lunch table and hearing your feedback!

LUNCH MENU

The lunch menu for October 12th – 16th 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](#)

- 9-10 October, Friday-Saturday: CAFA Cross Country – Karagach Roche
- 14th October, Wednesday: Mental Health Awareness Day
- 15th October, Thursday: Parent Teacher Meetings (PTMs)
- 16th October, Friday: UN Day at BIS
- 16-17 October, Friday-Saturday: AISB Football Tournament at UWIS
- 19-26 October: Autumn (Fall) Break
- 30th October, Friday: Fall Festival
- 4th November, Wednesday: Dinosaur Day – no screen 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 Kozlovskaja & Marc Garreta	akozlovskaja@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](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)



**Bishkek
International
School**

Preschool Discoveries

Preschool Newsletter No: 8 / 2026-27

9th October 2026

PRESCHOOL 1

As we come to the end of our unit, *Who We Are*, the children have continued exploring what it means to care for themselves, their belongings and the people around them.

We made colourful bead bracelets, with each child choosing their favourite colours, and created paper figures decorated with colourful dots. We joined the figures together to represent us holding hands, celebrating friendship and togetherness. The children also held hands, formed a circle and danced together, enjoying being part of our classroom community.

During PE, the children happily explored yoga, practising simple poses and developing their balance and body awareness.

Throughout this unit, we have encouraged the children to develop independence, take responsibility for their belongings and show kindness to others through everyday routines and playful experiences. We are proud of the little steps they are taking as they learn to care for themselves and the people around them.

Ms. Laura, Preschool 1 Homeroom Teacher



PRESCHOOL 2

This week, we wrapped up our first Unit of Inquiry, "Who We Are." We revisited our family photos and talked about the people in our families and how we take care of each other at home, such as feeding one another, reading books together, and spending time together.

We also welcomed two new friends, Bilge and Arianna, to our class! The children greeted them with smiles, waves, and a friendly "Hi!", putting into practice what we had been learning about making new friends.

During free play, we noticed the children sharing toys and taking turns with their friends, using phrases like "My turn, your turn" and "One for you, one for me." We also looked at different situations, such as helping a friend who had fallen or sharing a toy, and talked about how our actions can make others feel.

Over the past six weeks, the children have explored how family members and friends show they care through helping, sharing, and spending time together. It has been lovely to see these ideas becoming part of their everyday experiences in our classroom.

Ms. Nuraida, Preschool 2 Homeroom Teacher



PRESCHOOL 3

As we come to the end of our first Unit of Inquiry, **Who We Are**, with the central idea *“Healthy bodies and good relationships are important for our growth,”* we have been reflecting on everything we have learned and how far our little explorers have come.

It has been amazing to see how this unit has shaped our classroom environment. We now hear more magic words like “Please,” “Thank you,” and “I’m sorry,” alongside more sharing, taking turns, helping hands, and kindness. Cleaning up and lining up are also becoming easier, and we have noticed our little learners making healthier choices during snack time!

We wrapped up the unit by creating our **Essential Agreement Wall**, filled with the good choices we explored throughout the unit. Each child added a colourful handprint to show their commitment to being kind, caring for themselves and others, and practising healthy habits.

What a wonderful unit it has been! Our little explorers have learned so much while having lots of fun. We are proud of their progress and look forward to beginning our second unit next week!

Ms. Bivo, Preschool 3 Homeroom Teacher

