Bishkek International School

VOICES

Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 9 / 2026-27 16th October 2026

CAFA CROSS COUNTRY 2026

Bishkek International School successfully hosted the CAFA Cross Country 2026 on 9-10 October, bringing together 125 runners from seven schools and four countries for two days of competition.

This year's event brought a major change - a completely new course. The new route offered a mix of forest trails, open paths, bridges and technical sections, giving the runners a challenging but exciting cross-country experience.

The weather was on our side throughout both days, providing excellent conditions for racing. Athletes competed in the U15 and U19 categories, with individual and team races as well as the exciting 4 × 1000 m relay.

Another important addition this year was a new electronic tracking and timing system, which allowed us to follow the athletes and produce accurate race results throughout the competition.

Hosting an international event of this size requires a huge team effort. BIS staff, student volunteers, course marshals, medical staff, technical teams and many others worked together to make sure the event ran safely and successfully.

Most importantly, the two days were filled with great competition, sportsmanship and support between schools. We were delighted to welcome so many athletes, coaches and Athletic Directors to Bishkek and to see the new course come alive with 125 runners. Congratulations to all athletes and teams, and a huge thank you to everyone who helped make CAFA Cross Country 2026 a success!

Check out the X-Country results and video here.

Zeljko Jovetic, Athletics Director







Central Asia









Cross Country







BIS Snapshot: Run Like a Taigan













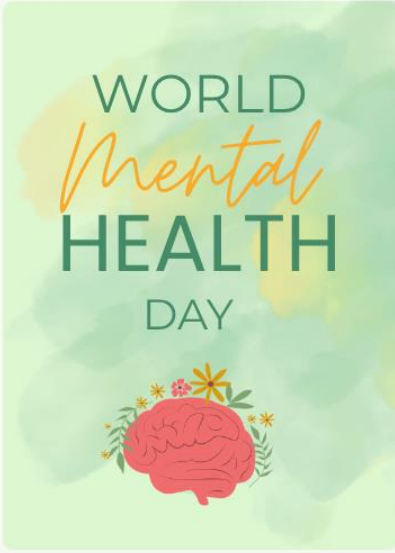
















On October 14, 2026, BIS celebrated Mental Health Awareness Day with an important message. We encouraged our students to think about their mental well-being, slow down, take a deep breath, and remember that asking for support is a sign of strength.

During lunchtime, we set up multiple stations where our community could participate in different activities. These activities included yoga to move our bodies, music and mindful coloring to calm our minds, free writing and anxiety releasing to express our emotions and sensory stations to ground into our senses. Through these stations we showed different ways of managing stress, and gave students and staff an opportunity to relax and take care of their mental well-being. Everyone came together, participated, and connected to one another, taking a break from busy schedules to relax, recharge, and return to studying with a calmer and more positive mindset.

Special thanks to the counselling team for organising this event, and to all the staff and G9 and G10 volunteers for helping to supervise and run this event!

Aiana Kazieva and Ernest Medisov,
Grade 9 Students











BIS Snapshot: Celebrating Mental Health Day


















Grade 1 Yellow enjoyed a creative educational trip to ArtLab Studio, where students explored their artistic skills by drawing adorable capybaras. It was a fun opportunity for students to learn, create, and express themselves through art.













PYP STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT ROAD SAFETY





On Thursday, PYP students took part in a Road Safety Training session led by local traffic police officers. Students learned about safe road crossing, some gestures the traffic police use at crossroads, and how to use scooters, bikes, and rollerblades safely. The officers also highlighted the importance of wearing helmets and protective pads. Students asked lots and lots of questions about road safety and police work. As a special highlight, some classes got to explore a police car from the inside!















Thank you to our local traffic police officers for helping our students become safer and more responsible road users.

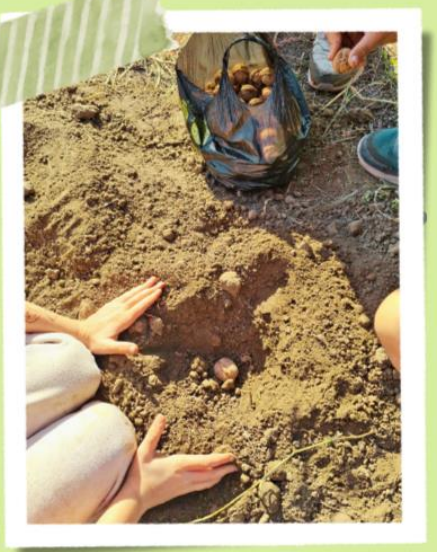
Ms. Elina, Primary School Principal

THIS WEEK IN EPIC: DISCOVERING THE BLACK WALNUT











This week has seen the discovery of the black walnut tree in EPIC. It is a tree none of us knew existed until we came across a carpet of apple-sized fruits on the ground at the botanical gardens. Our curiosity was peaked! Grades 4 and 5 smashed open the fruits to find small walnuts. There followed a rowdy game of bowling, then more smashing. The question was, why are these nuts so well protected? They guard a highly nutritious nut inside. The students also found out about plant wars- the black walnut emits a chemical that stops other trees and plants from growing nearby. Later in the week, Grade 2 did a fully professional black walnut dissection. Great fun for all!

Ms. Genevieve, EPIC Coordinator









A CELEBRATION OF KINDNESS, RESPECT AND COMMUNITY

On October 10, **Act for Community**, a student-led public association, hosted a special Seniors' Day, welcoming 60 senior citizens from the surrounding neighborhood and the BIS community.

Led by ACTCOM presidents **Alan Medisov and Kanykei Orozalieva**, the event brought generations together through warm hospitality, music, and meaningful connections. Guests enjoyed a late lunch, live performances by our talented students, and thoughtful gifts prepared with care.













A special thank you to our student performers: **Marua Kapysheva** (piano), **Alessandro Corrado and Elena Corrado** (drums), and **Daria Selezneva and Veronica Kirsanova** (guitar and vocals).

We are also grateful to our dedicated student volunteers – **Chyngyz, Ernest, Ayana, Rayan, Sultan Zhakypov, and Nestan** – whose kindness and enthusiasm helped create a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Thank you to the **BIS Management Board** for supporting this meaningful initiative and to every student who contributed their time and effort. The smiles and warm feedback from our guests made the celebration truly special, and we look forward to welcoming them again!

Jyldyz Sarieva, Community Projects Officer

VOLLEYBALL IN GRADES 4 AND 5







This term, students in Grades 4 and 5 learned the basics of volleyball and improved their ball-handling skills. They put their skills to the test in class competitions, and the winners received their prizes. Well done to everyone!

Ms. Diana, PE Teacher



FOOTBALL JUGGLING MINI TOURNAMENT

Thank you to everyone who joined our Football Juggling Mini Tournament this Monday! It was great to see students, teachers, and admin staff taking part together.
We had 37 participants: 19 girls and 18 boys, and the top score was 287 juggles!
Here are our winners!









GIRLS

1st place: Ms Gulsara

2nd place: Jia (G11)

3rd place: Marua (G6)

BOYS

1st place: Nursultan (G8)

2nd place: Rasulbek (G10)

3rd place: Nursultan (G7)









Congratulations to all our winners, and a big thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this event fun! It was a great way to celebrate the end of the football season together.

Ms. Anna and Ms. Diana, PE Teachers

PREPARATIONS FOR THE MUSICAL ANNIE JR CONTINUE

Preparations for the musical Annie JR are continuing. We've made some changes to the cast. Our students have been working hard on rehearsals all this term. Many students have already learned their parts, lyrics, and choreography. And now we have gradually begun to combine individual scenes and dances to create one complete performance. A lot of important work is also happening behind the scenes. The costume team has purchased beautiful fabrics and has started sewing costumes for the orphans. The props team is busy preparing stage items and is also using the school's 3D printer to create some decorative pieces.











After the autumn break, we have many rehearsals ahead of us. We will gradually move from practising individual scenes to full run-throughs of the show. We wish you all a wonderful autumn vacation.
Here rehearsal schedule

Ms. Munara, Head of Performing Arts

ANNIE JR. ART COMPETITION

The Art Department is excited to announce an art competition for all students in celebration of the upcoming *Annie Jr.* anniversary show.



Theme: *Annie Jr.*

Submission deadline: Monday, November 2, 2026

Where to submit:

- Primary: Ms. Anna
- Preschool: Ms. Aizhan
- Middle Years: Mr. Meder or Ms. Anjela

Artwork requirements:

- **A3-sized paper** (available in the Art Room if needed)
- Use dark, solid colours suitable for printing on cups

Prizes & Display:

- Three winning artworks **will be printed on commemorative cups.**
- **All entries will be displayed at the** Philharmonic Hall on November 28, 2026.
- **Winners will receive a commemorative cup, and** all participants will receive a certificate.

Judging: Relevance to the theme, originality, creativity, and craftsmanship.

We encourage all students to take part and share their creative interpretations of *Annie Jr.*!

HALLOWEEN STORY COMPETITION – SUBMISSIONS OPEN!

The BIS Writing Centre is pleased to announce that submissions are already open for our first competition of the year. Students from grade 3 to grade 12 are welcome to enter, as well as staff.



PRIZES:

Category 1: Flash Fiction (1 - 500 words)

1st place: 1500 som

2nd place: 1000 som

3rd place: 500 som

Category 2: Short Story (501 - 1000 words)

1st place: 1500 som

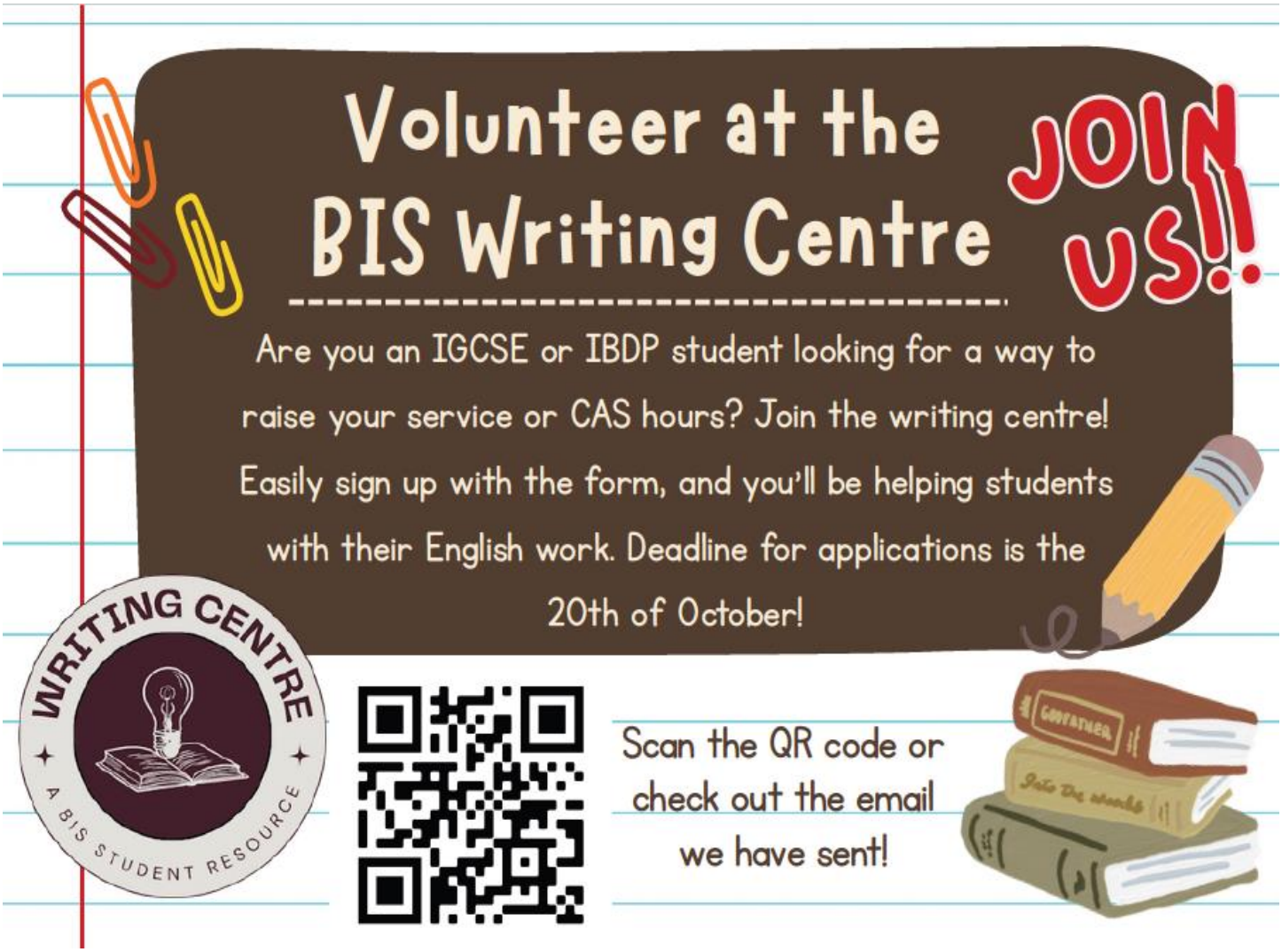
2nd place: 1000 som

3rd place: 500 som

In addition, **all stories submitted will earn 10 house points** for their house.

Submit your story to writing@bis.kg by **midnight** on **Sunday, October 25th**. Make sure to include your name, grade, and house.

* Please note that entries created using generative AI will not be eligible for prizes.



NEW FACES AT BIS: MS. CHRISTINE



It is a pleasure to introduce myself to the BIS community. My name is Christine Faith Therese Ricardo, and I am delighted to be joining Bishkek International School as a Grade 4 teacher.

Teaching has taken me on a wonderful journey across Asia, the United States, and Europe, where I have had the privilege of working in diverse schools and learning communities. Along the way, I have had the joy of meeting children and families from many different cultures and backgrounds. These experiences have shaped me not only as an educator, but also as a person, reminding me that wherever we come from, children share a beautiful sense of curiosity, wonder, and a desire to feel that they belong.

My background includes Elementary Education, Special Education, IB/PYP, and Cambridge IGCSE. I believe that a happy child is a child who feels known, valued, and supported. In my classroom, I hope to create a warm and welcoming environment where students feel comfortable being themselves, sharing their ideas, asking questions, making mistakes, and celebrating their successes—both big and small. I also believe that learning extends far beyond the classroom. Travel has always been a special part of my life, and I love discovering new places, cultures, traditions, and cuisines. Every journey has given me a new perspective and a story to bring home. I hope to share that same sense of curiosity and adventure with my students and encourage them to see the world with open minds and open hearts.



Moving to Bishkek and joining the BIS community is an exciting new chapter for me. I am grateful for the warm welcome I have already received, and I look forward to discovering more of Kyrgyzstan, getting to know our wonderful families, and becoming part of the community beyond the classroom.

Most of all, I am excited to spend this year with our Grade 4 learners. I hope we can build a classroom community filled with kindness, laughter, friendship, curiosity, and a genuine love of learning. I look forward to getting to know each child, celebrating their individuality, and working together with families to make this a happy and meaningful year for everyone.

I am so happy to be here and look forward to sharing this wonderful journey with you and your children!

Ms. Christine, Grade 4 Yellow Homeroom Teacher

AI USE: PARENT OPT-OUT AND CANCELLATION FORMS

BIS recognises that families may have different preferences regarding the use of AI in learning. Parents who wish to formally opt their child out of AI use at BIS can complete the **AI Opt-Out Form** and return it to Reception. Students who opt out will not be given assignments requiring AI use or asked to use AI for homework and will be offered equivalent alternatives.



If a parent has previously opted their child out but would now like to **cancel that decision**, they can complete the **AI Opt-Out Cancellation Form** and return it to Reception. Once received, the student may use AI in learning in line with the BIS AI Policy.

One form should be completed **per child**. These decisions apply for the 2026/27 school year unless a new form is submitted.

NEPAL FLOOD RELIEF FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Thank you to all members of the BIS community who contributed to the Nepal flood relief fundraising effort. Through the Asia Day fundraising initiative and additional contributions from the BIS community, a total of 91,491 soms (approximately USD 1,046 / NPR 161,952) was raised.

The full amount was donated to the Nepal Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund on behalf of Bishkek International School families. The generous response demonstrated the BIS community's solidarity and support for those affected by the floods in Nepal.

Thank you for helping make this contribution possible.



All-Parents Meeting

Last week, BIS parents gathered for a relaxed and enjoyable evening at the school cafeteria. The event provided a wonderful opportunity for families to connect with one another and meet members of the Management Board. The evening also included a short PAMC presentation, followed by informal conversations, questions and discussions about the year ahead.
Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the evening so welcoming and special!





A big thank you to our amazing parents for keeping everyone fuelled with popcorn during the CAFA Cross Country!









MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL WARMLY INVITES ALL MYP STUDENTS TO JOIN US FOR A FUN-FILLED FALL FESTIVAL PARTY!

Fall Festival party

FRIDAY 30 AT 17:00

OCT.

🎶 **MUSIC & DANCING**

🍂 **FALL SCAVENGER HUNT**

🪑 **MUSICAL CHAIRS & PRIZES**



BISHKEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



Annie JR.

28 NOVEMBER 2026

16:00 to 19:00

KYRGYZ NATIONAL DRAMA THEATRE

SCAN ME

All donations will go to the Act for Community Public Foundation, supporting one of the rural boarding schools in Naryn.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS





EVERY ORDER EARNS FREE BOOKS FOR OUR SCHOOL LIBRARY

SHOP AT:

ORDERS ARE DUE
SUNDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2026

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.

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:

- 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 27th – 30th is **Menu A**. 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

- 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
- 6th November, Friday: Future Careers Day
- 5-7 November, Thursday-Saturday: CAFA Football at Tien Shan – Almaty
- 7-8 November, Saturday-Sunday: Days of History & Memory of Ancestors
- 21st November, Saturday: BIS Annual Debate Tournament
- 28th November, Saturday: Anniversary Show in the Kyrgyz Drama Theatre

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: 9 / 2026-27 **16th October 2026**

PRESCHOOL 1

This week, we looked back at everything we have learned and enjoyed during our unit. We also welcomed autumn into our classroom!

With its beautiful yellow, orange and red colours, our classroom felt like a little autumn fair. Ms. Saltanat kindly brought in some of her harvest, including pumpkins, garlic, nuts and beets, which the children enjoyed exploring. We also went outside to collect colourful autumn leaves from around the school grounds.

There was plenty of fun and laughter, too! The children enjoyed throwing balls into a basket, trying different distances and finding their own ways to get the balls in. Nortas came up with a creative idea of his own and decided to use a pair of tongs to move the balls. We love seeing the children explore, experiment and come up with their own ideas!

It has been a lovely week filled with autumn colours, playful discoveries and happy moments together. Now it is time for our autumn break! We wish all our families a relaxing and enjoyable holiday and look forward to seeing everyone back at school soon.

Ms. Laura, Preschool 1 Homeroom Teacher











PRESCHOOL 2

This week in Preschool 2, we began our new Unit of Inquiry, "How We Organize Ourselves." The central idea is: "People in a school have jobs to help us learn and stay safe."

We started with a question: "Who helps us at school?" The children looked at photos of school helpers, found faces they knew, and told us who they thought each person was.

Then we played "Whose Tool Is This?" The children matched a whisk with a cook, a broom with a cleaner, a walkie-talkie with security, and a drill with our maintenance worker. We talked about what each person does and how their job helps us. The children also noticed that different people can have the same job.

We ended the week with UN Day. The children came in national costumes and joined the parade, and it was fun to see all the cultures of our school together.

This was a first look at our new unit, and we will continue after the break.

Ms. Nuraida, Preschool 2 Homeroom Teacher













PRESCHOOL 3

What an eventful and fun week we have had in Preschool 3! With fall break just around the corner, we embraced the autumn spirit by exploring the fall weather and collecting colorful leaves around the school. We brought our treasures back to class and used them to create our very own colourful Preschool 3 autumn tree!

We also celebrated **Mental Health Awareness at BIS**, wearing something green to show our support. Our **UN Day celebration** was another highlight! It was wonderful to see the diversity of our school community through beautiful traditional costumes and exciting cultural activities from around the world.

The celebrations continued as we wished **Almanbet and Nala a very happy birthday!** We enjoyed delicious cake, gifts, and decorating special birthday cards to show our classmates how much we love and appreciate them.

From autumn adventures to cultural celebrations and birthday treats, this week was truly special!

We wish all our families a joyful, peaceful, and well-deserved fall break. Enjoy the rest, and we look forward to seeing everyone next term!

Ms. Bivo, Preschool 3 Homeroom Teacher













