



**Bishkek
International
School**

VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 20 / 2019-20

24th January 2020

ANNIVERSARY SHOW VIDEO

Anniversary Show video is now available! Enjoy these wonderful moments all over again!

[Link to video](#)



GOVERNING BOARD MEETING



The BIS Governing Board (GB) met on Monday evening to review the current progress and make plans for the future. During the meeting, Board members discussed strategies for new campus development; approved revisions to the Academic Honesty and Assessment Policy; and approved the calendar, fee sheet and early payment discounts for 2020/21. The letter with available discounts will go out to parents at the end of this month.

The next meeting of the GB will take place on March 16th, 2020.

**Symbat Berdimamatova, Secretary to
the Governing Board**

NEW PAMC TEAM

As outgoing Chair of the PAMC, I am very proud to announce the new PAMC Executive for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year - Chair Nirika Koirala, Vice-Chair Annie Khan, and Secretary Evelyn Aracena! We are pleased that you are stepping up to bring the best of your ideas, passions and energies to making the school a #BetterBIS! (Yes, you can retire my hashtag!) I know you will be able to call on all of our generous BIS families to support the efforts of the PAMC in its work going forward - to welcoming new families, to advocating for parent issues, and to creating events and fundraising to strengthen the fabric of our incredible community! And at the heart of everything, to making BIS a better school for all students, staff and families! All the best and congratulations on your new roles!

I invite you to read the professional and personal backgrounds of our new PAMC Executive! All the best on behalf of the whole team, Ann-Marie.

NIRIKA KOIRALA, CHAIR: It's my honor to Chair PAMC and I would like to thank you all for your trust and confidence in me. I am here together with my husband Shameer (GIZ) and our two kids Oju (MYP1) and Yuvaan (who's a bit too young for school) since mid-2019. As an expatriate family, we've been living in different countries over the past 11 years. I have a Master's in Business Administration and prior to my expatriate life I worked for Commercial Banks as well Development Co-operations in Nepal. In recent years, I've supported IB programs as both a primary teacher for Pre-School till Grade 5, as well as a volunteer in parents' associations, organizing swim meets, varsity events and managing the school merchandise store. I have seen the equation in this case from both spectrums - as a parent as well as a teacher. I am excited to bring in my experiences and actively contribute to the further development of BIS. I am a big believer in dialogue and will emphasize extensively in continuously improving communication between students, parents, teachers and the school. I look forward to getting to know the PAMC and the school better, and I am quite thrilled to be working together with Ann-Marie, Annie, Evelyn, other PAMC team members, and the Management Board.



ANNIE KHAN, VICE-CHAIR: My name is Qurrat.ul.ain Khan (Annie). I'm here with my husband Hamid Ali Khan. I am a mother of two and both are studying in BIS. I have a Master's in English Literature. In the past, I taught in a number of schools in Pakistan. I am an entrepreneur in my own style - a self-taught chef with a passion for cooking Pakistani cuisine and a social worker. During my association with the BIS for the past three years, I have contributed to the BIS Parents' Association Management Committee (PMAC) and community in various ways. I am happy to now be the vice president of the PMAC, and am committed to contributing substantially to the mission of the school and the committee.

EVELYN ARACENA, SECRETARY: My name is Evelyn Aracena. I am from Bolivia, South America. I am married to Peter Ormel who is from the Netherlands. We have 2 children who attend BIS (Fernanda Ormel Aracena DP1 and Geert Ormel Aracena IGCSE 1). We arrived in Bishkek 6 months ago, and it is the first time we have lived in Central Asia. Previously we lived in Holland, Bolivia, Sri Lanka, and Mongolia. I feel very honored to be part of the new PAMC executive, and look forward to continuing the work of the outgoing executive. I look forward to working with all of you in favor of the school and our children.

BIS Snapshot: Learn. Grow. Succeed



WINTER SPORTS DAY – 31ST JANUARY

Next Friday, January 31st, is Winter Sports Day at BIS! This is not a competitive sports day, but just a fun time for enjoying the outdoors and the snow.

Preschool, Primary 1, Primary 2A, and Primary 2S will stay at school. At BIS, there will be additional times outside with winter games as well as indoor winter activities organized by the Winter Sports Day team. Please make sure all students are well dressed for playing outside on Friday January 31st, and if you have a sled you could lend to the school for one day, please do so.

Primary 3 to High School will go Chunkurchak for a day of skiing/snowboarding or sledding.

Please look out for more information about Winter Sports Day coming home with your students. Permission slips are to be returned to the Cashier or Accountant in the Office by **17:30 on Tuesday, January 28th**.



Ms. Hollis, Inclusive Education Coordinator

CALENDARS FOR 2020/21 AND UPDATED 2019/20

The calendar for academic year 2020/21 is now available [here](#).

We also have an updated calendar for [2019/20](#), including making Monday 24 February a school holiday for 'Homeland Defenders Day' which falls on Sunday 23 February.

SCHOOL YEAR 2020/2021																																																														
■ School Vacation ■ Public Holiday in KR – School Closed ■ Teacher In-Service Day ■ Sports Events ■ Events ■ Meetings or Exams																																																														
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SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

We are happy to announce that our January Book Club is up and running!

Please note that in order to reduce paper usage, we no longer have paper leaflets for the Book Club. Instead, please feel free to browse the virtual catalogue using the following links:

[For primary students](#)

[For kids 11+](#)

If you are interested in placing an order, there are two easy ways to do so:

1. Order & Pay [online](#) (with your credit card)
2. Submit the [order form](#) and money to our cashier, Aigul.

EVERY ORDER OVER £10 EARNS FREE BOOKS FOR OUR SCHOOL LIBRARY!

All orders will be delivered to our School in February.

Should you have any questions about book ordering please feel free to ask - library@bis.kg

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Friday, 31st January: Winter Sports Day
- Saturday, 8th February: Teacher In-Service Training
- Friday, 14th February: Valentine's Day organized by students
- Friday, 21st February: Mother Tongue Day
- Thursday, 23rd February: Homeland Defender's Day
- Wednesday, 26th February: Science Fair

More information about all these events will be sent to you later, or see <http://www.bis.kg>

LUNCH MENU

The lunch menu for January 27th – 31st is [Menu A](#).

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.

KEEP IN TOUCH

If you have anything you want to discuss or any suggestions for the school, please contact your 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.



**New year,
new books!**

**Browse our
virtual catalogue**



You can shop all the latest and greatest children's books, carefully chosen to encourage reading for pleasure, quickly and easily online.

**ORDERS ARE DUE:
8th February, 2020**



PRESCHOOL 1

This week, Preschool 1 friends had an exciting week continuing to learn about farm animals. At the beginning of the week, we talked about the farmer who takes care of animals by giving them food and cleaning them. In order to understand it better, we pretended to be farmers and gave food to our farm animals and washed them. While giving them food, we found out that all animals on the farm do not eat the same food. To understand it better, we participated in a sorting activity where all the animals were divided into three groups: animals that eat hay and green grass, animals that eat all types of grains and animals that eat dry food. Another thing that we discussed were animals' houses. Now our friends know that animals like cows, sheep and horses live in under shelter considered stables and pens, dogs can live in kennels and chickens live in a coop. For art, we made a paper plate bunny and a goat too! Next week, we will start to talk about jungle animals.

Ms. Begimai, Preschool 1 Form Teacher



PRESCHOOL 2

Another week with the wonderful Preschool 2 group has passed and we have enjoyed discussing the unit, 'How We Express Ourselves'. Every morning, we completed the 'How am I feeling today?' chart. We have noticed that with our class's growth of knowledge and increased understanding in the central idea, the classes contributions to the chart have increased. Now the chart contains such feelings as sleepy, happy, confused, proud, feeling loved and excited! The children tried to explain and justify why they feel a certain way:

"I am proud of being happy today morning."

"I am scared of darkness,"

"I am proud of myself because I have shared my toys with sister."

To learn about how people manage their emotions and according to the situation, we played a game where children were taking emotions and trying to imitate them. After displaying their emotions, the children answered the question "What can make you feel this way?"

As we continued to work on remembering feelings, we organized a scavenger hunt game where the faces with the emotions were hidden in the locker room. We tried to find all of them! In our math lesson, we reviewed number-object correspondence and then our Preschool 2 friends filled a number chart using faces with emotions!

Finally, an exciting moment of the week was the introduction to our first letter ... the letter S! We have learned this letter by singing the Jolly Phonics 'S' song and having fun with an S-inspired craft activity.



Ms. Oksana, Preschool 2 Form Teacher



PRESCHOOL 3

This week, learning about houses turned into an amazing adventure!

We looked at some really old houses this week, and we also looked at castles. We are even making a fantasy castle out of paper in the art class!

This week, we also learned about the letter 'g' and we learned that the letter 'g' is for guitar, gorilla and ghost!

We also had a lot of fun tracing the letter 'g'. Next week we will look at more houses in human history and we will learn about the letter 'o'.

Ms. Carmen, Preschool 3 Form Teacher

