



**Bishkek
International
School**

VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 37/ 2019-20

22nd May 2020

24TH AUGUST – FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL 2020/21

We are fully committed to opening the physical school for all students on 24th August 2020, with as full a programme as possible, yet with strict hygiene controls in place to protect the health of each student. The Government has made clear that no physical school events are possible for the remainder of this academic year, and they informed us this week that kindergartens are not approved to open in early June. However, the Ministry of Health has published a new school sanitary regime to deal with COVID-19 concerns when schools reopen, which we expect to be at the start of the 2020/21 academic year.

Detailed plans are in development and will be shared with our community during summer but are likely to include:

- Full school days for all students, except Diploma students who will have more flexible attendance;
- No more than 10 students on a school bus, with staggered seating, face masks and hand sanitiser, and afternoon buses running at both 15:30 and 16:30;
- Temperature check on school entry, with entry only allowed for healthy students and staff;
- Face masks for all students and staff in school (except when eating) with the school providing washable 'Taigan' masks for everyone;
- Hand sanitizer stations in every classroom and in corridors at every doorway;
- All touched surfaces (handles, desks etc) to be sanitized at least once every 2 hours;
- Additional medical isolation room and two doctors in the school;
- Snacks and lunch to be provided in individual containers, with more staggered break times and eating in spaced locations;



- Primary curriculum amended to be fully Homeroom teaching in the morning and specialist lessons in the afternoon;
- Full PE and sports programme, but no close contact sports until we have more information on the associated risks;
- Multiple educational trips to the countryside outside Bishkek to enjoy space and freedom, with the same bus spacing rules as morning/afternoon school buses.
- Educational materials uploaded to ManageBac for each lesson, to allow students to work remotely if they are not able to be in school.
- Upgrade the provision of video conferencing and IT systems for teacher homes, and teacher training in remote learning, in case of further government-imposed lockdown during the year.

We are also expanding the space available for students by renting neighbouring property for a staffroom and Diploma student study rooms and building a covered roof garden for Diploma students on the e-centre which frees up other space for younger students.

We look forward to welcoming all students on 24th August and an exciting and rewarding 2020/21!

David Grant, Head of School

STATION #3 IS FULLY EQUIPPED! PLEASE DONATE TO SUPPORT OTHER STATIONS TOO

We would like to thank everyone who is helping and supporting the ambulance services. **Donations already received: \$3,640** equivalent (including USD + SOM + materials donations). **Spending already made: \$3,489** equivalent, including \$228 for PPE and cleaning materials and \$2,935 for hot food for ambulance staff from 28th April to 13th May.

As we informed last week, **the Ambulance Service has requested donation of electric stoves, microwaves and kettles so that they can prepare their own hot food in future.** We spent \$327 to get the Kitchen equipment for the station #3 which will be delivered today. We are still raising money to buy similar equipment for other ambulance stations.

Please donate what you can to support medical staff who are risking their lives to save ours.

For SOM donations the **Elsom e-wallet number is: 0706 200 200.** [Full instructions for Elsom are here.](#) For USD donations, transfer to the special BIS account for 'Medical Supplies'



Beneficiary name: PF "ESCA-Bishkek International School"	Correspondent bank:
Bank Name: Kyrgyz Investment and Credit Bank, 21, Erkindik blvd., Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic	Raiffeisen Bank International AG Am Stadtpark 9, 1030 Vienna, Austria
SWIFT: KICBKG22	SWIFT: RZBAATWW
USD Account Number: 1280010119383396	Account № of KICB: 070-55066534
	Description of Payment: COVID-19 Donation

If you have any questions or suggestions or wish to donate physical supplies instead of money, please email donate@bis.kg

Mirzat Osmonova, Head of Administration

THANK YOU DEPARTING TAIGAN TEACHERS!

Whilst the end of an academic year can have lots of highlights and celebrations, we also have to face the not-so-easy goodbyes. In such a transient community, we build relationships that can often feel more akin to family than to peers, colleagues or friends. When it is time for community members to start their new chapters, we support them with enthusiasm and encouragement, but we also know that they will be truly missed.

Our transition committee has been in communication and will be preparing ways to ensure our leaving students (as well as those remaining in Bishkek) get an opportunity to feel a sense of closure and say their goodbyes to class members.

As well as students and parents leaving, we also have a number of staff members who will be embarking on their new chapters. Some have been with us for a year, others more, but what all these staff members have in common is their commitment to education, their passion for our students, and their huge contributions in supporting our school to constantly keep improving.

Please join us in wishing the following staff members happiness, success and exciting developments as they continue in their new roles and locations:

Caitlyn Clark	Alexander McQuillan
Spencer Coloma	Anastasia Saparalieva
Hilary Harveycutter	Artika Singh
Grace Lim	Stephanie Jackson
Jason Lorenowicz	Shannon Coppock
Hollis Magee	Elena Kharchenko
Ethan Narimatsu	Chingiz Djumaliev

A huge thank you to all the above teachers for their hard work, effort and unique spirits during their time at BIS. These teachers will be letting their students know of their departures, though if you would like to connect with any of our departing teachers, please feel free to do so via their school email addresses.

Krishna Gandhi; Director of Studies

WELCOME TO THE 2020/21 TEACHING TEAMS

As well as saying goodbyes, we are delighted that most staff will stay with us and we are also pleased to introduce our new teachers, joining us in August. Together, the 2020/21 team has a very diverse skill set and an abundance of experience. We are excited to introduce you to our teaching teams for 2020/2021:

[Preschool Team](#)

[Specialist Teaching Team](#)

[Primary School Team](#)

[Learning Diversity and Inclusion Team](#)

Middle/High Form Teachers are members of the Specialist Teaching Team and will soon be announced. All Preschool and Primary Homeroom Teachers and Middle/High Form Teachers will have video sessions with their incoming class on June 4th. Where a year group has two homeroom or form classes, the planned allocation of students will be decided and shared in the coming weeks. Until then, please get to know the teaching teams as a whole via the linked profiles.

We are excited to see all that our community will achieve together in the 2020/2021 school year!

BIS Management Board: David Grant, Head of School; Krishna Gandhi, Director of Studies; Jacques Prinsloo, Assistant Head of School; Mirzat Osmonova, Head of Administration

CONGRATULATIONS TO

THE CPR HEROES!



There are lots of different types of heroes in the world. Some are considered heroes for the dangerous jobs they do, others are considered heroes due to their sporting or artistic talent, and still others are heroes due to the difference they make in the world. It is important to remember that small actions can be heroic in terms of the impact they can have, and this has certainly been true of the following BIS students this week:

EARLY YEARS

Abbas in PS1 has been really active this week, joining live calls and putting lots of effort into his work. In PS2, **David** has shown courage and determination in facing new challenges and **Ajibek** has been a caring friend who has made a real effort to cheer everybody up! Last but not least, in PS3 **Philipp** and **Ava** have both been trying really hard to do their best and **Cathrin** and **Cedrick** have continued to work well as a supportive team. Your teachers are all very proud of you!

MYP

In MYP2, **Churek** has consistently and persistently completed her work and supported her classmates when needed. **Aymir** is managing to do some great work in his subjects while also helping his sister to complete her work, and **Alibek** has done some outstanding work in Spanish! Finally, in MYP3, **Darika** has been principled in her attendance for class and has gone the extra mile by completing challenging extension tasks. Each of you has made your teachers very happy!

PYP2-6

Ilias (P2) has worked really hard, participated well and has made a real effort to stay caring and positive. **Bilim** (P4) has also shown a real interest in her French studies, looking up new words to extend his learning. Well done both of you!

IGCSE

In IGCSE1, **Mariam** has shown real determination this week by completing and submitting all of her tasks, often before they are due. Staying in IG1, **Lamia** has quietly but consistently applied herself and seems to be making the most out of remote learning. I am also pleased to say that **Riyan** (IGCSE2) has made a massive improvement in History and is submitting work of real quality. Keep up the good work!

DP

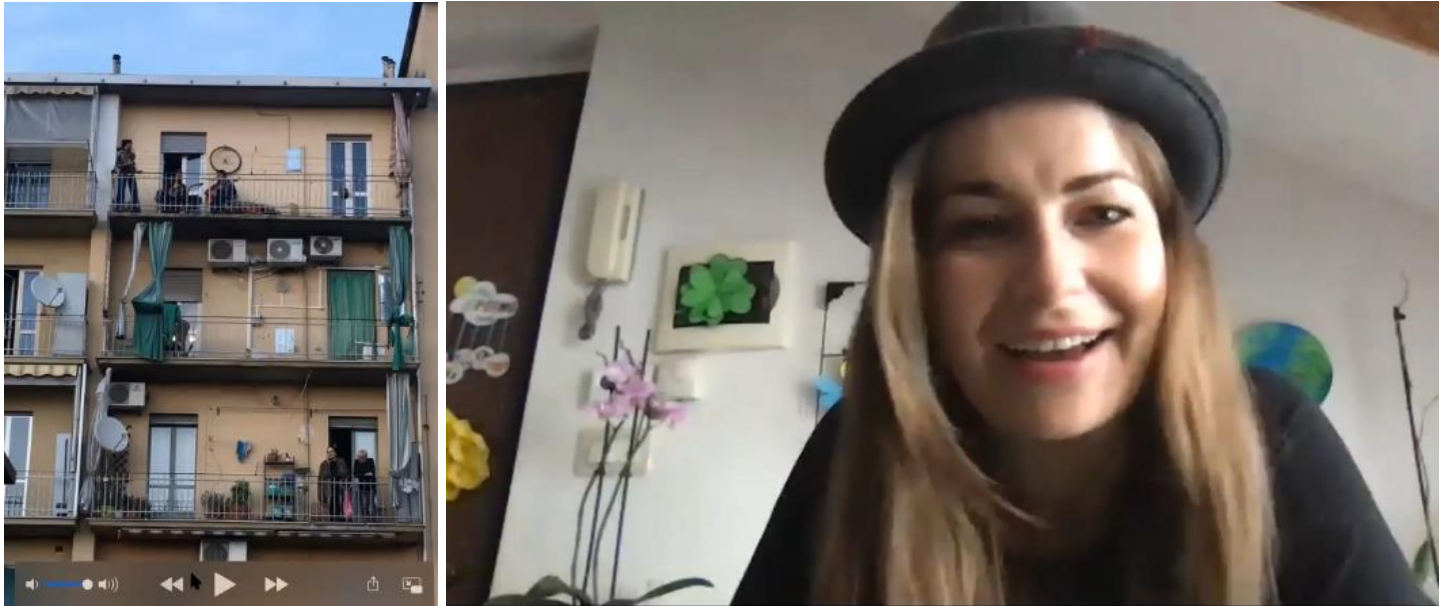
Both **Kamila** and **Atakhan** (DP1) have been doing excellent work in their language studies, and Atakhan has also made time to support his younger sibling at home. Well done for everything you are doing!

Someone called David Bowie once said 'we can be heroes', and I believe that this is true of every student at BIS. I hope that you can take inspiration from these students, and I look forward to seeing more names and hearing about more caring, principled and reflective actions next week. Keep it up!

Mr. Darren, Head of Student Welfare

TAIGANS @ HOME!

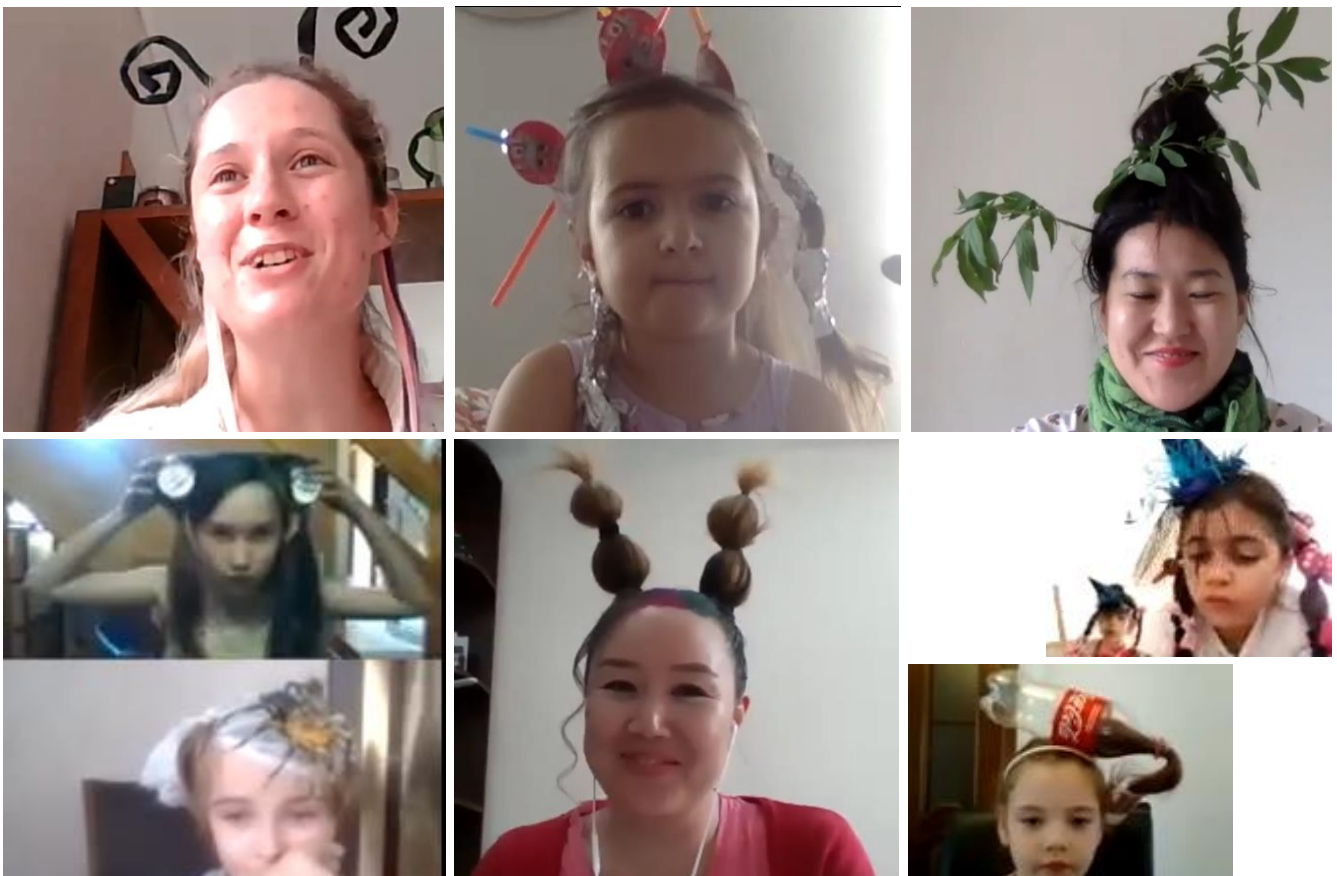
'Once a Taigan, always a Taigan,' is something we often say to our students who are getting ready to move onto their next school or chapter. The same goes for our teaching community. It was therefore a privilege to be joined by Magdalena Matysow - a previous BIS Primary 3 Homeroom Teacher and our Champion Winning Volleyball Coach!



Ms Magdalena showed current BIS students how she has tried to have fun during school closures. She recommended students stay active with 'Just Dance' videos. She also let us know about her Grade 5 students who like to take a break from work by playing fun trivia quizzes!

A true example of the Learner Profile, Ms Magdalena is as caring and communicative as ever and has even made friends during quarantine by talking to her neighbors from their balconies!

As you can see, Ms Magdalena wore a hat to our school assembly, and she wasn't the only one to adorn some headwear! Students and teachers came with some very funky hairstyles in a bid to gain more house points! Check out some fantastic examples!



Following our crazy hair competition and taking into account our new points for Ms Sunny's Six-Word Memoir Competition, the house points now stand at:

UPDATED HOUSE POINTS:



Phoenixes

8618



PIRANHAS

9567



SNOW LEOPARDS

7902

If you would like a new challenge and an opportunity to add 10 more points to your house, check out this week's Taigans@Home activity below:

Create Your Own Natural Paint Brushes

Materials: sticks, leaves, flowers, string or elastic bands, paint, paper

- ★ Find some items in nature to create your own paint brushes
- ★ Use your new paint brushes to create a new piece of artwork
- ★ Share your creation with others or create lots of pieces and create your own art exhibition



Primary 1 Show and Tell

Approximately one month ago, Primary 1 parent feedback suggested that parents and students would appreciate more speaking opportunities in daily class calls. Since then, Primary 1 students have participated in multiple 'Show and Tell' opportunities where students have been able to discuss home items that mean a lot to them. My highlight was this Tuesday when Eva Sofia introduced the class to her cat and dog, whilst Aisha introduced us to Popcorn - her hamster! Since I can remember, our students have always wanted to bring their pets to school and, due to Health and Safety regulations, we have never been able to say yes! In this very unfortunate time, it was lovely to see our P1 smiles as they finally got to meet each other's nearest and dearest animal friends!



Ms Krisha, PYP Coordinator

Galaxy Go Getters

All of our Primary Students have been working tremendously hard this week! The below students have been awarded Galaxy Go Getters for going above and beyond in their learner profile development!

Primary 1: Tenir for submitting all required video assignments this unit.

Primary 2A: During our daily calls, **Linus** has done a great job of being principled by speaking positively, encouraging others, and always striving to do his best. **Lemar** has done a great job of being a risk-taker as he tackles new topics in our daily calls and eagerly volunteers answers.

Primary 2S: **Dana** for being a thinker. She has been working hard at home to improve her reading. All her practice has paid off, and she is doing a fantastic job with reading.

Primary 3: **Evelina** and **Artur** for being principled and getting their work in on time.

Primary 4: Yuri for being principled and an inquirer. Her positivity and work ethic are praiseworthy.

Primary 5: Jamal for learning how to become more reflective. He figured out ways to manage his time and assignments more effectively over the past few weeks. **Kyra** for being knowledgeable. In her spare time Kyra created a slideshow presentation on her own about the Ukraine to share with her classmates.

Primary 6A: Aaron, for sharing not just one but five entries in our memoir activity!

Primary 6S: Jiangzhake, this week I was so proud of you when you offered to help some classmates with an assignment on a private chat. It was a great demonstration of your initiative and your caring personality.

The PYP Team

LET'S START PLANET PROTECTION WITH US!



A week ago, Preschool 2 students were talking about the ways people affect the planet and what we can do to reduce this harmful impact on all the living things, including humans, plants and animals. To get the idea of what pollution is, we looked deeper into its types: air pollution, land pollution and water pollution. It is not a secret that the main reason for planet pollution is people. People throw trash, drain liquids into rivers and oceans, burn garbage and old tree leaves. I was surprised how much empathy the children had when we were looking through pictures with the animals suffering from pollution. Among the pictures were turtles and seals with plastic rings on their necks, turtles eating by mistake plastic bags, deers and bears having their heads stuck into big plastic bottles, and people who now experience respiratory and skin problems because of

polluted air. Our friends were super worried about both animals and people, and this led us to thinking about the things we can do to help the planet, to make it cleaner, to make animals happier and people healthier. There were different ways we discussed, including: recycling, reusing and reducing. The simplest for us was reusing home trash items. This can significantly decline the amount of garbage thrown by people all around the world. Preschool 2 also had so many reuse ideas and they brought



them to life! Below you can see these amazing home trash reuse ideas which you can try to make at your home as well!

1. David created a robot helmet out of a big plastic bottle and a robot costume out of cardboard.
2. Ajibek created a fish out of a plastic bottle.
3. Emil made a ninja mask or scarecrow out of old pants.
4. Muskul made a plastic cup for pencils out of a plastic bottle.
5. Adam used a glass honey jar to keep plasticine.
6. Aysha uses an old toothbrush to clean different surfaces or boots.
7. Stasya made 2 beautiful dresses for her dolls out of old pajamas.
8. Miss Aisedep used a plastic mayonnaise container to plant aloe vera.
9. Miss Oksana uses glass juice bottles to keep grains.



Ms. Oksana, Preschool 2 Form Teacher

'KEEP IT UP' CHALLENGE

A new House Points Challenge is here - take part in a 'Keep it up' Challenge!

Take a video of yourself doing keep ups with a football, or using a tennis racket and ball, or table tennis paddle, or spinning a basketball or anything like that. We encourage you to be more active and show your skills.

You can participate in one of 5 different categories:

1. [Soccer ball juggling](#)
2. [Spinning basketball ball](#)
3. [Juggling 2 balls with two hands](#)
4. [Floating ping pong ball](#) (for this activity you need ping pong ball and flexible drinking straw)

5. 'Freestyle' category - for other 'keep it up' videos that don't fit elsewhere

The winner in each category is whoever keeps the ball up for the longest amount of time!

House points: **25 house points** for sending a video

100 points for the winner in each category

Send your video (as an attached document with your name and class) to Ms. Bojana at baskovic@bis.kg by **Thursday, May 28th**.

KEEP IT UP CHALLENGE

House Points

25 points for sending a video
100 points for the winners

Your videos should be sent to baskovic@bis.kg by **Thursday, May 28th**

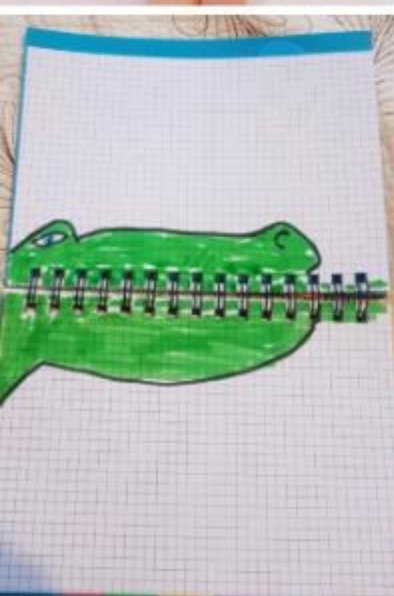
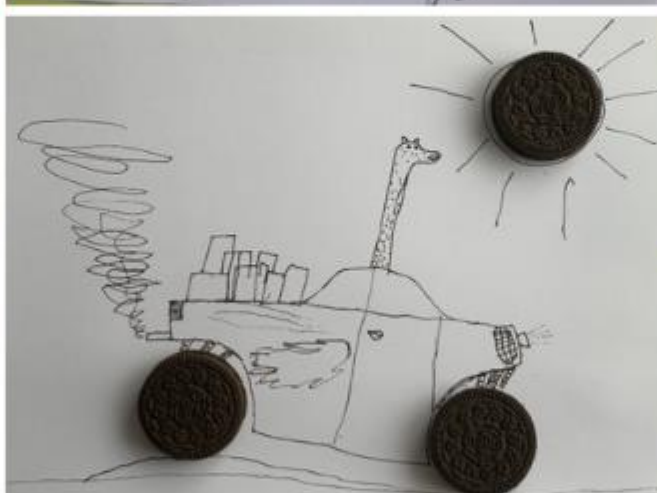
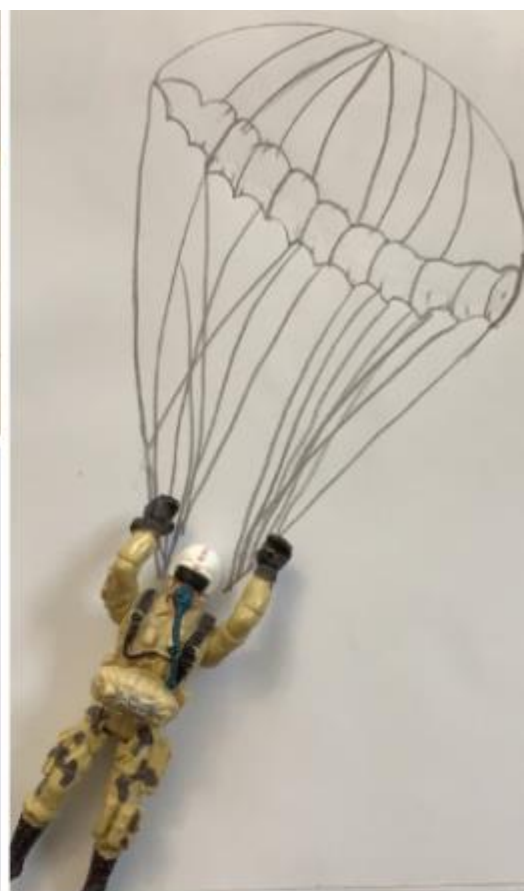
SOCCKER BALL JUGGLING

SPINNING BASKETBALL BALL

JUGGLING 2 BALLS

FLOATING PING PONG BALL

BIS Snapshot: Taigans at Home



SIX-WORD MEMOIR CHALLENGE

Now I Know How Dogs Feel.
Eat. Study. Repeat. Eat. Sneeze... Hospital.
Delilah, MYP2

Day one: ate all the snacks.
Yaroslava, MYP2

23.59 hours of screentime, 1-minute sleep.
Churek, MYP2

Online is worser than physically learning.
Kais, P5

Why do I race through work?
Nathaniel, MYP2

Exhaustingly slow. Hope it will go!
Sariah, P6S

Friends left. Plants grew. Tears. Smiles.
Ms. Krishna

Policemen are always outside, annoying...
Mum is grumpy, dad is tired.
At school we had a treehouse.
Uncle toms hut's a perfect book.
Less food in house, save food!
I hope less cans plastic, waste.
Too many problems from the CORONAVIRUS.
Aaron, P6A

4am arise. Appraise students. Raise kids.
Ms. Sunny

BIS'S GOT TALENT

Click [here](#) to watch our promotion video for this fun and lively virtual event! There are more details below too:

BISHKEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL'S

GOT TALENT



**A Virtual Celebration of our
students' talents!**

Date: June 5th 2020

**SEND YOUR AUDITION VIDEOS TO
MR GRANT BY MAY 24 2020!**

**ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE THE
OPPORTUNITY FOR VIRTUAL PRACTICES!**



Audition Guidelines

WHO CAN JOIN?

Any student or teacher who can sing, rap, play instruments, make people laugh etc.

We'd love to be able to show your talents live though if your talent would be better shared through a pre-recorded video, please do still enter by sending Mr Grant a video!

WHEN AND WHERE?

We will be showcasing our students talents online through pre-recorded videos and live performances.

Date: 05/06/2020

PYP Performances: 13:30

Secondary Performances: 14:30

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL MR GRANT:

GCHAMBERLAIN@BIS.KG



PRESCHOOL 1

This week Preschool 1 friends have inquired about recycling. Our friends became aware that we can make some new things out of used items and we called it recycling. On Monday, we sorted all used things into plastic, paper and compost by putting them into 3 different recycling bins. Another day, we participated in a happy earth and sad earth activity, and talked about how recycling is very important work to save and protect our home planet. Together, we discussed

that littering and not recycling makes the earth sad. Our friends decided to recycle a lot of things at home. We made a bird feeder out of juice/milk cartons, binoculars out of cardboard paper tubes to look outside from our windows, and astonishing buildings such as bridges, towers and roads out of recycling things. We also had fun playing with our new toys that we made from old used things. What creativity!

Ms. Begimai, Preschool 1 Form Teacher

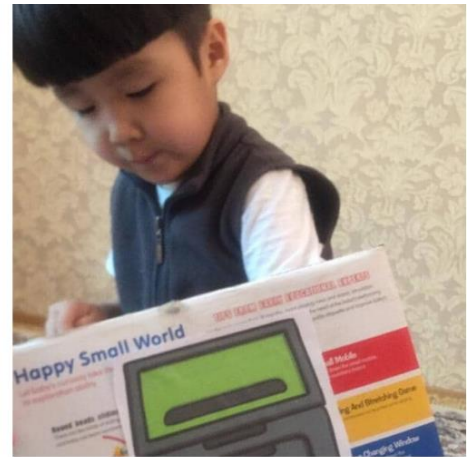


PRESCHOOL 2

This week, Preschool 2 friends were discussing how people all around the world share space on our planet. It appeared that many years ago groups of people settled on auspicious territories on different continents and built houses to save themselves from wind, rain, snow and wild animals. This is how cities and towns started to appear. We also discovered that there are different kinds of houses: huts, castles, block buildings, yurts, log houses, igloos, houses built on trees and above water. Looking at the picture of houses together with friends we tried to answer the question "But why do so many types of houses exist?". Some friends said that people use their imagination; that is why all the houses are different. It can be an answer, why not? But we also learnt of about building

materials common to a location and territory, and about the importance of weather conditions. In warm countries, people don't need houses with thick walls and in cold countries the house should have thick walls to keep the warmth inside. During our live call, we drew our houses - short and tall, private houses and block buildings, with many windows and balconies. The friends were excited to show their pictures and tell about the place where they live with their family. At the end of the week, Miss Aisedep made a lesson where friends played games and revised farm animals in Kyrgyz. For our literacy, we learnt about the letter G and completed a number of tasks to remember how to write the letter and learn the words that start with the letter G, such as giraffe, green, gnome and ghost.

Ms. Oksana, Preschool 2 Form Teacher



PRESCHOOL 3

This week our Preschool 3 friends talked a lot about when we move to Primary 1. We also practiced our preschool graduation songs and had a fun show and

tell time where we showed everyone some of the artwork we created. Finally, we continued to learn about addition and the beginning letters of words.

Ms. Carmen, Preschool 3 Form Teacher, Head of Preschool

