



**Bishkek
International
School**

VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 4 / 2016-17

17 September 2016

PARENT WALKTHROUGHS AND PMAC MEETING

Thank you to all parents who attended parent walkthroughs and the first PMAC meeting of the year. Parents were able to walk around the new building, meet their child's new teachers, and get a sense of the learning environment here at ESCA-BIS. Following the walkthroughs, the 1st PMAC meeting of the year took place in the assembly hall. Quite a lot was covered, including remarks from acting-chair of the PMAC, Nasima Karim, Library Fundraising and updates from Victoria Whall, International Baccalaureate information from Marta Bobiatynska and William Polan, as well as a governance and financial overview of ESCA-BIS given by David Grant. Following the meeting, parents were given the opportunity to view the new third floor construction and later enjoy refreshments in the new cafeteria. If you were unable to attend and are interested in hearing more, please feel free to contact us.



PYP: STUDENTS TAKE THE LEAD

The IB Primary Years Program encourages students to identify and choose the areas of learning they wish to explore. This is inquiry-based learning at its core, and it is the driving force behind the PYP.

“When students feel they have a voice and the freedom to make supported choices in their learning, they will be engaged. It is impossible for them not to be,” PYP Coordinator Donnah Ciempka (Coatesville Primary School in Australia.)

By nature, the PYP fosters an inquiring mind and empowers students to become agents of their own learning. To aid this, teachers at BIS create, support and encourage a climate for student ownership. Playing the role of facilitator requires teachers to plan for and encourage student questions, provide relevant and challenging curriculum, and formulate assessments that capture authentic learning and knowledge.

The PYP defines student ownership as engaging students as active partners in their own learning, which gives them the skills and the space to make choices, show leadership and take action. Enabling student agency creates

autonomous and self-organized learners. Students recognize that it is possible to make a difference in their own lives and society and they feel empowered to make choices that may lead to action. As their independence grows, students work with their peers and teachers to initiate and lead their own learning. Student ownership is recognized in many different ways, from students selecting which books to read, to choosing what to investigate, or how they wish to present their understandings. Where and how students work – whether it be in a quiet setting, individually, in pairs, with a teacher, indoors or outdoors – are also key ways students can have input.



BIS finds that summative tasks for units of inquiry are great ways to explore ownership. Solving problems and answering questions demonstrates how students are taking ownership of their learning and ideas. And, with any goal-setting process, students need to identify what will be used as a measure of their success to keep them motivated. BIS teachers use a variety of pre- and post-assessments such as self, peer and teacher assessment, which allow students to evaluate their success or identify how to reach them. Students are empowered to see their strengths and their areas of improvement rather than relying on the teacher to identify them.

Have questions? Want to discuss the PYP further? Please Join us for Bishkek International School’s “PYP Café” this upcoming Wednesday.

William Polan, Deputy Head of

Education

PYP Café

Date and Time: September 21, 8:15 a.m.

Location: Cafeteria

Coffee and refreshments will be provided

SWIMMING AT ESCA-BIS

The swimming ECA is off to a great start with beginner classes Tuesday through Thursday and an advanced class on Friday. During class, students are taught swimming strokes and play swimming games to get comfort in the water and practice skills. The biggest priority this term is teaching safety in and around the water. This week, younger students have already learned how to be safe at the pool facility, worked on how enter and exit the pool safely, and have had fun in the shallow area so that students are comfortable in the water before moving on to the deeper area. On Thursday and Friday, older students explored the deeper areas of the pool and started to practice freestyle. I love to teach kids to be safe and happy in the water, so I'm really excited for this Term!



to

Madeline Cohen, Swimming Coach, EAL Teacher

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

I am delighted to return to ESCA-BIS this academic year as the Inclusive Education Coordinator. My role will involve providing support to school staff to enable them to meet the learning needs of the students who may have additional needs. This will involve conducting assessments, providing advice and training to staff, setting individualised targets for students and working with individual students as needed. I will also be available to meet with parents or guardians to discuss any concerns regarding communication skills, learning or emotional well being. Please contact me on lbowler@bis.kg if you wish to arrange a meeting.



In addition to this I hope to use my expertise as a Speech and Language Therapist to support the communication development of all students within the school. Good communication skills underpin all learning and it's widely recognised that the environment that a child or young person is in can make a big difference to their communication skills and development. Therefore, our aim is for ESCA-BIS to be a communication friendly setting. To do this I will be conducting classroom audits throughout this term to ensure that the environment and teaching methods used are optimal for language and communication development. We will keep you updated with our progress."

Leanne Bowler, Inclusive Education Coordinator

ESCA-BIS OPEN DAY

This 24th of September, ESCA-BIS will host its annual ESCA-BIS Open Day. This is an event that is open to the whole community and promotes bringing in families and guests to see and learn about ESCA-BIS. It is a half day of activities, new-school tours, and informational sessions. To incentivize inviting new members of the community, a pizza party will be given to the class with the most recorded guests in attendance. Please see the schedule and flyer below.



Family and Friends Open Day

Join us for fun activities for children and a chance for parents to meet new teachers, see new facilities and find out more about the IB

Everyone is welcome. Please bring all of your family and friends!

Saturday 24 September, 10.00 – 13.00 at BIS

PROGRAMME

10.00 – 13.00 Open Day: Bouncy Castle, Games, Crafts, etc.

10.00 – 11.30 Soccer and Basketball games, Computer games and science experiments

11.00 / 12.00 School Tours

11.30 – 12.00 Presentation about IB: in the School Hall

12.00 – 13.00 Tasty refreshments provided by the BIS kitchen

12.00 – 13.00 Fresco Ice Cream available to buy

**Pizza
Party**

Bring your own picnic to eat on the lawn!

Class Competition



24th September 2016

Invite your friends* to the Open Day and win a pizza party for your class!

Each person you bring to the Open Day earns one point for your class. This is a competition between classes, so work with your classmates to get the most people for your class. Three prizes are available – so three form classes will win. To make it fairer, the number of points earned by the class will be divided by the number of students in the class – so each class has a fair chance!

**Pssst... they don't have to be your friends. Even your parents or relatives or enemies count! They just have to not be enrolled in our school right now – and come to the Open Day*

EXTRA CURRICULA ACTIVITIES - ECAs

To view the Student list, please [click here](#). All ECAs are scheduled from 15.30 until 16.30, except those with a specific time given. If you have any questions regarding ECAs, please let me know. Thank you for your support and feedback.

Aida Irsaliev, ECA Coordinator

REFERRAL BONUS FOR BIS PARENTS

BIS offers a referral bonus of \$300 per child enrolled following recommendation by a BIS parent. The family enrolling should give the name of the recommending parents their enrolment form. When awarded, the referral bonus can be used in one of the following ways:

- Deduct from the next invoice from BIS OR
- Award to the family enrolling as discount OR
- Donate it to charity, including to BIS or to Kelechek Education Endowment Fund

LUNCH MENUS

The lunch menu for 19-23 September is here: [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.

SCHOOL BUS AND CHILD PICK UP

Two buses are operating regularly twice a day. One connects the school with central Bishkek and the other to south-east Bishkek. More buses may be added later, depending on demand. Each bus starts the route at 7.00 am with pick-up points along the route, to arrive at school by 7.45 or 8.00. In the afternoon, buses leave the school at 16.40 to arrive at their final destination before 18.00. If you have any questions about bus service please contact Mirzat Osmonova via mosmonova@bis.kg.

Also, please always notify your Form teacher or school reception if you would like to pick up your child earlier before the end of school day, or if he is not coming to school for any reason.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, 21st September- PYP Café

Saturday, 24th September – Open Day – Invite your friends to see the school!

Wednesday, 19th October- Parent Teacher Meetings

Friday, 21st October- United Nations Day

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

KEEP IN TOUCH

If you have anything you want to discuss or 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. Emails of all Form Teachers were provided in the previous Voices.

This week we are providing email addresses for specialist teachers, in case you need to write to them.

Specialist Subject	Teacher Name	Email
Senior Teacher of World Literature, English & History	Lance Tillman	ltillman@bis.kg
International Baccalaureate Service Learning and CAS Coordinator	Marta Bobiatyńska	mbobiatynska@esca.kg
Head of Science & Mathematics Teacher of Science and Biology	Brian Totman	btotman@bis.kg
Science Laboratory Assistant	Kunduuz Chomonova	kchomonova@bis.kg
Mathematics, TOK and English	Toon Cavens	tcavens@bis.kg
Mathematics & Economics	Azamat Kasymov	akasymov@bis.kg
Mathematics & Science	Alisher Arstanbek	aarstanbek@bis.kg
Computer Science, Design & ICT	Thierry Taberna	ttaberna@bis.kg
Head of English, Teacher of English	Darren McQuay	dmcquay@bis.kg
Coordinator and Teacher of English as an Additional Language	William Polan	wpolan@bis.kg
Teacher of English as an Additional Language & Drama & Swimming coach	Madeline Cohen	mcohen@bis.kg
Teacher of English as an Additional Language	Victoria Whall	vwhall@bis.kg
History, Geography and Global Perspectives	Jason Lorenowicz	jlorenowicz@bis.kg
IB PYP Teacher – Librarian, and Kyrgyz National Curriculum Coordinator	Nurjan Sharshenaliyeva	nsharshenaliyeva@bis.kg
Teacher Assistant and Library Support	Elena Kharchenko	ekharchenko@bis.kg
East Asia Languages Teacher	Makiko Inaba	minaba@bis.kg
French Language Teacher	Pierre Grau	pgrau@bis.kg
French and Russian Language Teacher	Lailo Youssoup-Akhounova	lyoussoup@bis.kg
Russian Language Teacher	Indira Bekkoenova	ibekkoenova@bis.kg
Russian Language Teacher	Nazgul Kakelova	nkakelova@bis.kg
Kyrgyz Language Teacher	Tynarkul Ryskulova	tryskulova@bis.kg
Kyrgyz Language Teacher	Mira Suiunova	msuiunova@bis.kg
Art and Design Teacher	Lidia Chmielewska	lchmielewska@bis.kg
Art and Design Teacher	Anna Balduk	abalduk@bis.kg
Music Teacher	Madina Tashtamova	mtashtamova@bis.kg

Specialist Subject	Teacher Name	Email
Music Teacher	Anara Baisalova	abaisalova@bis.kg
Dance Teacher	Aidai Kadyralieva	akadyralieva@bis.kg
PE, Sport and Health Education	Lilia Toktarova	ltoktarova@bis.kg
PE and Sports Teacher	Seweryn Pędziński	spedziński@bis.kg
Inclusive Education Coordinator	Leanne Bowler	lbowler@bis.kg