



VOICES

ESCA-BIS Newsletter for Parents and Friends | www.esca.kg



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29 May 2016

PYP WORKSHOP

On 28 May the second 'PYP: Introduction for Parents' workshop was held. The second workshop allowed parents, who had missed the first one, to still obtain valuable information and understanding for next year's programme. Erin McRaith, Head of Education, and William Polan, Primary Years Programme (PYP) coordinator, collaborated in delivering a workshop that gave an overview of the PYP as well as explaining some of its components, including transdisciplinary education and inquiry-based learning. Parents participated in a variety of activities that allowed them to see first hand the approaches to teaching and learning that ESCA-BIS will implement next year. There were lively and positive discussions as parents asked questions and became more familiar with the programme. We are very excited to bring the International Baccalaureate PYP to our school and we deeply appreciate all the parental involvement and support.

William Polan, PYP Coordinator, Primary 2 Form Teacher



TRANSITION MEETING

Thank you to everyone who attended ESCA-Bishkek International School's first Transition Resource Team workshop held for parents on 26 May, led by Liz Dugdell our Child and Youth Development Consultant along with Leanne Bowler our Instructional Resource Teacher. As the ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus said, "The only constant is change," this being true, how do we help our students, children, and ourselves manage the changes and transitions that are inherent to an international school? In this first of what we hope will be many workshops and opportunities for our school community to provide transition education, attendees discussed the plan, purpose, and structure of ESCA-BIS's newly formed Transition Resource Team along with the education and help it hopes to provide for students, staff, and their families to manage change. Additionally, discussions around identifying one's own experiences of change and transition, the many different types of transition in context of international schooling (whether staying or going), questions of cultural identity, challenges and benefits of change, the importance of establishing remembering and saying goodbye opportunities, as well as the normal responses to change and what to do if you think the response is outside a normal response, were a part of this workshop. All feedback on this workshop is welcome as we know with this new endeavour we have an opportunity to make a difference and provide a way for our school to respond effectively to the changes and transitions that are a part of everyone's lives.

Erin McRaith, Head of Education, Primary 1 Form Teacher

FELTING ECA

In Felting ECA students have been working on adorable wool playscapes (also called play mats). This unique Waldorf technique, where children can create their magical small world, is giving them an opportunity to use their imagination and to engage with handmade toys.



Wool, which we use in this ECA, is 100% natural, originally from Kyrgyzstan, so students are also learning to use local materials in a sustainable way.

Lidia Chmielewska, Art Teacher

MESSAGE FROM THE PAMC

The Parents Association is holding its annual Garage Sale on Saturday 4 June. It's always a fun and interesting morning, please do come along and pick up a bargain! If you'd like to register a table to sell your unwanted goods please email: parentsassociation@esca.kg

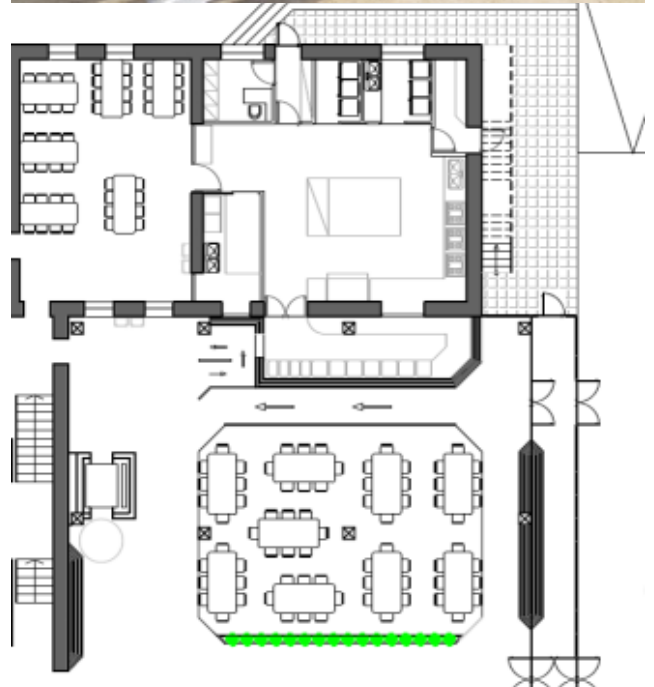
We will also be holding a stall to sell food and drinks; volunteers to help and donations of food to sell will be most welcome!

BUILDINGS UPDATE

The main metal frame construction for the courtyard area is moving fast in the DSKA construction yard. The metal frame to go on top of the existing building will be completed in June, in time for construction to start on-site on 25th June.

With such a project it can be difficult to envisage everything that will change with this construction along with being patient about what will happen when. For example, we must wait until the second term to use the third floor and to see the final external finish with wood facing. However, the full structure will be built and enclosed this summer and we will have immediate use of the new first floor and second floor in the courtyard area.

Changes on the first floor include reworking all of the internal area of the kitchen to serve two dining areas. One dining area will be the existing dining room which will be used for preschool and lower primary. The new dining area will be café-style with self-service for upper primary and secondary school, as indicated in this plan. The café area is a shared space with the main entrance area which will be designed to absorb sound using plants and wall hangings but we will also review how this works in practice and we



have the option to add a glass wall between the two areas if required.

The second floor in the courtyard provides two large rooms of 80 square metres each, with both opening out onto a balcony over the entrance porch. In the second term, one of these rooms will be the main school library, including computers for accessing on-line library resources. The other room will be our main ICT resource centre, which will be fully equipped for both student use and for teaching. However, in the first term (until the 3rd floor is completed) these two large rooms are likely to be subdivided to provide 4 smaller classrooms of 40 sq



metres each, as we need the additional classroom space until the 3rd floor is open. This means that our existing ICT rooms and libraries will continue as they are for the first term.

An update on construction will be provided in *Voices* every week, however, if you have any specific questions, please email me dgrant@esca.kg

David Grant, Development Director

IB MYP INFORMATION MEETING FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

All parents and guardians are invited to attend IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) information meeting that will begin at 17:30 on Thursday, 2 June in the Hall. The meeting is to explain the academic rigour of the programme and to explain how the MYP will prepare students for success in the Secondary School. Please confirm if you can attend this informational evening at snogoibaeva@esca.kg

CHILD DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT SERVICES - PARENT DROP-IN

Child Development Support Services drop-in runs every Thursday from 15:00 to 16:00 and provides an opportunity for parents to come and chat to either Ms Leanne Bowler (Speech & Language Therapist) or Ms Liz Dugdell (Child & Youth Development Consultant) if you have any concerns or queries regarding your child's learning or development.

Child Development Support Services Department

SCHOLASTIC

May/June Scholastic Book Club has started to allow you to order English language reading books, which will be delivered from the UK to ESCA - Bishkek International School. The deadline for orders is 16 June 2016. The orders can be placed at <http://eu-schools.scholastic.co.uk/european-school-in-central-asia> or

paper forms can be filled out and submitted at the school office. The leaflets are available at the school reception.

STAFFING

Ms Asel from Primary 4 had to leave until the end of academic year, therefore, we are glad to welcome a new teacher's assistant, Ms Aijamal.

We have two new staff members at the reception, Ms Jyldyz and Ms Oksana who will work with Ms Aziza's help and support. Ms Jyldyz will work in the morning from 07:45 to 13:00 and Ms Oksana from 12:00 to 17:30.

Ms Jyldyz is graduating from the Kyrgyz National University this year and is happy to join ESCA-BIS team. Ms Oksana had internship as a teacher's assistant in our school in fall and now is coming back to join administration.

Oksana Nam, Head of Administration

ORGANIC FOOD DELIVERY

OA Kyrgyz Organic has the pleasure to deliver artisanal sourdough bread and granola bars for our children at ESCA-BIS. Many of you have asked us whether you could buy bread from us as well. Thanks to a partnership with ESCA-BIS, we can now provide bread (and other orders) at the reception every morning by 8:00.



**KYRGYZ ORGANIC
PRODUCTS**

Payment will be done once a week, on Friday morning from 7:45 to 8:45 to our staff, who can be found at the front of the school in our company's car.

If you are interested, please send us your order by mail at info@oa.kg. You can also check our website (oa.kg) for our products and price list as well as directions to our workshop.

Organic Team

KEEP IN TOUCH

If you have things you want to discuss or suggestions for the school, please contact the Class Representatives or the Head of Education, Ms Erin McRaith at emcraith@esca.kg. You can also meet during the office hours on Monday-Friday from 15:30-16:30 or you can set up an appointment.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 4 June: Parents Association Garage Sale

Tuesday 21 June: Parent-Teacher Meetings

Thursday 23 June: All Americas Barbecue/Graduation/Last Day of School

STAR ACHIEVERS: AWARDED ON 27 MAY

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|--|
| PRIMARY 1 | FANNY URSULA TRISTAN | For positive approach to learning For her delightful attitude in school For always improving |
| PRIMARY 2 | ERDIN | For always doing the right thing |
| PRIMARY 5 | OUMAI | For speaking courageously |
| PRIMARY 6 | BAKAI | For his persistent curiosity |
| SECONDARY 1/2 | JOE | For continuing to give strong effort in his classes |
| IGCSE 1/2 | AKIM | For supreme preparation for IGCSE exams |
| ICT | HAYATO ALIYA N. | For his creativity For being an inquirer and a knowledgeable student |



PRESCHOOL

Music is in the air in Preschool this week! What a fun topic with so many interesting ideas and activities. We have truly enjoyed exploring the world of music and it many forms.

In Preschool 1 we love music and many songs have been sung since the beginning of the year as the first avenue for learning English and language. But music is much more than just lyrics, music teaches us rhymes and rhythm is a basis for literacy, it also teaches us to listen and pay attention, and since we love it so much is the best way to have us engaged. For all these reasons this week we practiced known songs following the rhythm both with musical instruments and our body; who knew we could make music with our tummies, feet, hands or tongue? We also learned that we can read music, not with letters or numbers but with musical notes, and then we practiced the sound length by marching like giants or ants.

In Preschool 2 we talked about musical instruments and tried to guess the instrument that matches the sound. We also talked about different animals that make music and got to hear some really funny animals make strange sounds like the toadfish and humpback whales. We made music from all sorts of items this week. We made a guitar sound from a jar and rubber bands and maracas out of paper plates. We even made our own rain sticks! We used our hands to clap rhythms and painted outside to music! Finally, we listened to music from all around the world and then matched it to how it made us feel.

Preschool 3 started the week off finishing a big project from last week that we will share with parents on graduation. On Tuesday we started exploring different types of musical instruments and their distinct sounds. We also did a very fun project in pairs where the children



listened to different types of music and drew a picture together. We then asked them to share their pictures with the class and tell us their emotions while listening to the music. We also did a fun math activity with musical patterns, had a chance to play with tuning forks and listen their sounds and vibrations, made guitars and talked about stringed instruments, and on Thursday made musical glasses. The children had such a fun time making their own music playing the glasses. We also read a story to music and the children acted it out. They are so creative! On Friday we talked about different styles of music and what is used to make this music.

This week we started our transition to Primary 1. It has been lots of fun to see the children's excitement as they are going to visit Primary 1. Also, Ms Anna (art teacher) is looking for glass jars for the class to do an art project with her. The PS3 team is also looking for old plastic water bottles to make squids out of next week! THANK YOU!

Preschool Team