



# VOICES

ESCA Newsletter for ESCA Parents and Friends | [www.esca.kg](http://www.esca.kg)



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## WELCOME BACK

On behalf of the staff of the European School of Central Asia I am delighted to welcome you to the 2015-2016 school year! We are looking forward to a year of productive partnership with you to ensure that your children achieve their highest potential. At ESCA we will continue to work to combine the joy of learning with attention and commitment to rigor, an approach we know makes ESCA a unique place where children can thrive, build confidence, and develop a natural ability to reflect on the international environment around them.

In preparation for the start of the school year the dedicated educators of ESCA are hard at work preparing their classrooms and programs of study, along with participating in a variety of professional development trainings. Professional development that will continue to be embedded in the educational philosophy and self-reflective culture driving our commitment to maintaining high professional standards

Good education matters! Over the summer, while spending time with my large, education obsessed family, I was able to continue to indulge my inner educational geek by reading a number of compelling books on education and engaging in lively discussions on the art and craft of teaching. All re-invigorating my commitment to educating the whole student, and helping ESCA be a school where rigor matters, and mastering difficult academic content is important.

What can you expect to hear from your new Head of Education? One of the aspects that I respect about ESCA is its focus on school culture that is summarized in the school's vision statement:

***“To be the best international school in Central Asia providing inspirational education in a happy environment to globally minded students who are the leaders of the future.”***

For me, this summarizes so much of what I will be working towards with our community. I will be both encouraging and expecting students to strive for being their best selves. I am also strongly interested in habits of learning. Skills such as preparedness, a growth mindset, persistence, and self-awareness are crucial in unlocking your ability to become a capable, motivated contributor to your community.

For new students/families to ESCA, our warmest welcome. In a way we are starting a new adventure together. Like you, I am a little nervous and excited as I get settled into a new role at ESCA. For returning students and families, welcome back as we look to your leadership and experience to help ensure a safe, welcoming, and positive learning experience for all.

Finally, we know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education. As partners, we share the responsibility for student success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities. We ask that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring that he or she:

- 1) Attends school daily and arrives on time, ready for the day's learning experience
- 2) Completes all homework assignments given by teachers
- 3) Reads daily to develop a love for reading and to improve literacy skills
- 4) Shares school experiences with you so that you are aware of his/her school life
- 5) Informs you if he/she needs additional support in any area or subject
- 6) Knows that you expect him/her to succeed in school and give their best effort

*Erin McRaith, Head of Education*

## **MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNING BOARD**

Welcome to another great school year at ESCA! The Governing Board wishes all staff, students and families a successful new term. We trust everyone will enjoy the improved facilities and welcome all members of our school community.

This summer we are saying farewell to our GB member Remy Duiven who is leaving the Swiss Embassy and Bishkek with his family. We thank Remy for his solid contributions to ESCA and best of luck to the whole family in Indonesia. A replacement for Remy will be elected in the autumn by the Founders.

The Governing Board consists of 9 members and oversees the governance and sets strategic direction of the school. 3 members are elected by the Parents Association, 3 members by the Advisory Council and 3 members by the Founders. We will keep you updated on changes in the Governing Board. Please find more information on GB at <http://esca.kg/about-esca/governance/governing-board/>



## NEW ACADEMIC YEAR, NEW FACILITIES

Every year at ESCA we invest in the school facilities and this summer has seen the biggest developments so far, with \$230,000 invested in new buildings, textbooks, ICT equipment and classroom furniture in the last 3 months.

The building work gives us 230 additional square metres of teaching space in seven new classrooms; a 50% increase in classroom space from last year. This has been achieved without really reducing the large outdoor play and sports area, which is unique for international schools in Bishkek.

Other visible improvements are:

- a new science laboratory;
- new primary and secondary libraries;
- an expanded ICT room;
- heated floors in Preschool;
- painting throughout the school;
- outdoor seating and sun/rain protected areas for play; and
- a high fence around the sports field

Some things of course cannot be seen, like the new ventilation system with motors on the roof and underground electric supply and water supply and sewage system. Also now buried deep in the courtyard are the foundations for the next phase of building in summer 2016 which will add another 1,000 square metres of classroom, dining and indoor sports facilities as part of our program of constant improvement.

## TEACHING TEAM

The ESCA Teaching Team has grown throughout the summer. We now have 32 full time teachers and 10 part time teachers.

ERIN MCRAITH	Head of Education
HANA CHO	IBDP Coordinator, Head of English Department, IGCSE 1 Form Teacher
DANIEL COMAR	Secondary School/IGCSE Coordinator, Head of Math Department, IGCSE 2 Form Teacher
BRIAN TOTMAN	Head of Science Department, Secondary 3 Form Teacher
MAKIKO INABA	Head of Languages, Japanese & Mandarin Teacher

MARTA INGA BOBIATYŃSKA	Head of Social Sciences, IB MYP Coordinator, Teacher Training and Extended Essay Coordinator, Secondary 1&2 Form Teacher
LANCE TILLMAN	English & History Teacher
AZAMAT KASYMOV	Mathematics & Economics Teacher
KAROLINA PAWLOWSKA	ESL Coordinator
ESTELLA SNOWDEN	ESL Teacher
BAHORA SAITOVA	French Teacher, Exams Officer, CAS Coordinator, Student Council, ECA Coordinator
INDIRA BEKKOENOVA	Senior Russian Teacher
MIRA SUYUNOVA	Kyrgyz and Russian Teacher
LIDIA CHMIELEWSKA	Art Teacher/Secondary 1&2 Support Teacher
ANNA BALDUK	Art Teacher
LEANNE BOWLER	Instructional Resource Teacher
LILIIA TOKTAROVA	PE Teacher
ATTHAYA NAKHOON	PE Assistant Teacher
ANARA ABDULINA	Music Teacher
REINA AKMATOVA	Dance Teacher
RYAN DUNN	Primary 6 Form Teacher
NURGUL TOKTOGULOVA	Primary 6 Co-Teacher
BRITTANY ZART	Primary 5 Form Teacher
MARIA AKHMATBEKOVA	Primary 5 Co-Teacher
CILLA DOWSE	Primary School Coordinator / Primary 4 Form Teacher
ANTHONY DANIEL	Primary 3 Form Teacher
KUSHTAR MALABAEVA	Primary 3 Co-Teacher
WILLIAM POLAN	Primary 2 Form Teacher
NURJAN SHARSHENALIEVA	Primary 2 Co-Teacher
NOAH AGIUS	Primary 1 Form Teacher
ASEL ABDYBEKOVA	Primary 1 Co-Teacher
MEERIM MATURAIMOVA	IGCSE 1&2 Co-Teacher
BEGIMAY ABDYKAPAROVA	Secondary 3 Co-Teacher

REIKHAN NIAZBAKIEVA	Secondary 1&2 Co-Teacher
LIBBY GREEN	Preschool 3 Teacher
ERKEAYIM BEGALIEVA	Preschool 3 Co-Teacher
HIVASHINNI NAKHOON	Preschool 2 Teacher
TINATIN OSKOMBAEVA	Preschool 2 Co-Teacher
GULNAZ ABDYMANAP K.	Preschool 2 Co-Teacher
JULIANA GONZALEZ	Preschool 1 Teacher
GULZARA NIAZBAKIEVA	Preschool 1 Co-Teacher
KULKAIYR JUNUSHOVA	Preschool 1 Co-Teacher

## OPENING DAY 2015-16

We look forward to seeing all students arrive back on Tuesday 1st September between 7:45 and 8:15. We have an outside welcome at 8:15 and parents are invited to stay for this. The timetables are ready and will be given to the students on Tuesday to take home with them. ECAs will be from 15:30 - 16:30, pick up is at 16:30 with aftercare until 17:30.

<b>Tuesday</b>		
Arrival	7:45-8:00	Outside Play
Playtime	8:00-8:15	Outside Play
Welcome	8:15-8:30	Outside Welcome Assembly with Parents
1st Period	8:30-9:00	Form Period in Classrooms
2nd Period	9:00-9:45	Form Period in Classrooms
Break/Snack/Play	9:45-10:15	
3rd Period	10:15-11:00	Regular Classes
4th Period	11:00-11:45	Regular Classes
5th Period	11:45-12:30	Regular Classes
Lunch/Play	12:30-13:30	
6th Period	13:30-14:15	Regular Classes
7th Period	14:15-15:00	Regular Classes
Break/Snack/Play	15:00-15:30	

ECAs	15:30-16:30	ECAs
Pick Up	16:30-17:00	

Please note that the **following classes have P.E. and will need to bring their PE clothes and trainers:**

- Primary 1
- Primary 4
- Primary 5
- Secondary 1
- Secondary 2
- Secondary 3
- IGCSE 2 (for those students doing PE)

**Preschool students are requested to bring** (all items need to be labeled):

- Change of clothes
- Inside shoes (essential for Preschool)
- Water bottle
- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Towel
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Old shirt for art
- PE clothes
- And for those students, who will sleep, bring sheets and pyjamas.

**Reminder:** Please have your children at school by 8:30. Classes will start at 8:35.

**Primary and Secondary School students are requested to bring:**

- Backpacks
- Pencil boxes
- Coloured pencils (primary only)
- Water bottles
- Hats
- Inside shoes if desired (note that this year outside shoes may be worn inside IF they are 'clean' but outside shoes cannot be worn on any carpeted areas)

## **KITCHEN & MENU**

We are introducing new menu items this term. It includes tasty, healthy snacks and lunches in our cafeteria in accordance with ESCA Health and Safety Policy and local sanitary requirements.

There are two menus ([menu A and menu B](#)) for the whole term. In the end of each term the Food Survey will take place with participation of all students and staff members. Parents also will be invited for tasting our new menu. Based on the results, new menu will be designed keeping the most popular menu items and excluding less popular once.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday 1 September:** First Day of School

**Thursday 10 September:** Parent Meet & Greet

**Thursday 17 September:** Parents Association Meeting

**Saturday 19 September:** Open Day

**Wednesday 23 September:** Kurban Ait – no school

