



**Bishkek
International
School**

VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 17 / 2017-18

Jan. 26, 2017

THE KING IS DEAD, LONG LIVE THE KING

Change in leadership is a normal process for international schools as staff often move abroad after 2 or 3 years. At BIS, our collegiate approach to senior management means that our leadership team is designed for smooth transition from one regime to another and this is seen in our constant growth and improvement over the last 6 years, despite changes. As well as a collegiate approach, with a Management Board, continuity is also provided by promoting from within the school to maintain school culture and traditions.

At the end of this academic year we will be saying goodbye to William Polan after three years with us, as he moves with his partner to Kampala, Uganda. William is Director of Studies and PYP Coordinator until the end of the 2017/18 academic year and he provides exceptional leadership in these roles, based on his previous experience at BIS as Primary 2 Homeroom Teacher and Deputy Head of Education.

Following an open recruitment process, the Governing Board has approved the following appointments from July 1st 2018:

- Frances Garsed will be Director of Studies and MYP Coordinator, moving from her current role as MYP Coordinator and Head of Languages.
- Krisha Gandhi will be PYP Coordinator and Head of Languages, moving from her current role as Primary 1 Homeroom Teacher

Both Frances and Krisha have proven their educational approach and leadership ability in their current roles and they are widely respected by other staff. We are sure that they have the right skills to succeed at the next level. To ensure a smooth transition, Frances Garsed also joins the Management Board this week, and I will continue as Head of School and Chair of the Management Board for next year.



David Grant, Head of School

SERVICE AND ACTION

Erdem, MYP3 student, completed his Service and Action project by fundraising for charity. He collected 12560 KGS in total, which he used to buy stationery for the 113 children who live in the orphanage in Voenno-Antonovka. More than 1000 notebooks (4 boxes) and a box of other stationery items were delivered on Saturday, January 20th. Delivery was organized by young volunteers, who also brought donations from others.



IBDP 1 RUSSIAN AB-INITIO

In their current unit, DP1 Russian *ab-initio* students are learning about food, drink and shopping. Having spent a couple of weeks learning food vocabulary, it was time to put their knowledge into practice. Of course, the best way to learn about Russian food is by eating it, so the students took part in a tasting lesson, with a menu that included kvas, olivye salad and pancakes with caviar.

After trying each item, Noor and Sergelen filled in a table to describe the ingredients, colour and taste of the food, as well as to give their opinion. They had very different views about which foods they preferred! They then learnt how to form and use comparative forms of adjectives in Russian so that they could make

comparisons between the foods they tried.

Finally, they consolidated all their knowledge to write a description and comparison of what they ate and drank. Sergelen wrote: *'Всё было*

очень вкусно, но я предпочитал блинчики с икрой. Они были вкуснее, чем другие блюда', and Noor said 'Я ненавижу икру, я предпочитаю блины со сгущёнкой. Салат оливье очень вкусный. Он сделан из моркови, картофеля, гороха, яиц и майонеза.'

Next, we will start talking about recipes and food preparation – soon the students will know how to prepare their favourite Russian dishes themselves!



Frances Garsed, MYP Coordinator, Head of Languages

FRENCH IMMERSION!

On Monday, Mr. Pierre brought us to the new French restaurant La Maison, so called for the fact that it was an ordinary house that got converted into a restaurant. Our aim was to have an authentic French meal, while speaking and learning vocabulary related to our unit. By leaving school we would be able to feel like we were really in France!



It was a little hard to find, but we saw it pretty soon. As we walked through the gate, we saw that it was a very pleasant place with a large beautiful yard. The interior was even more impressive. It had been set-up to be like a real restaurant and the atmosphere was very nice and convivial. The owner, Philippe, told us that his restaurant 'La Maison' travels from country to country, having previously served his food on a handful of other countries. As well as being the owner, he acted as the waiter. We did not have a menu, instead he suggested a few different options and we chose the ones we liked. He had a collection of really old books (like a French manuscript from 1778) The first course was an egg, cheese and mushroom pie that tasted superb. Next was a tasty burger in which the meat was wrapped in bacon, served with homemade French fries and, for our classmate who is vegetarian, a mushroom and cheese dish. We also got fresh bread with butter that was exceptionally good. Finally, for dessert, we had ice cream and syrup on a wafer. Philippe was very nice. He explained a lot of things, let us handle 300-year old books, and also let us explore the restaurant. At the end, we all got

to take home a CD with French music on it. Overall, it was a fantastic experience. Not to mention, we spent the meal speaking French and learning vocabulary related to cuisine and restaurants, délicieux!

Students of MYP French A



UK HIGHER EDUCATION

Guest speaker, Sam Jones, from INTO Global University Partnership, visited BIS on Tuesday and explained the UK and US university education systems to some of our High School students, as well as sharing tips for successful University admissions to Russell Group Universities in the UK. The Russell Group is an association of twenty-four public research universities in the United Kingdom. Students were able to inquire and deepen their understanding of the application process, enrollment requirements, and program options available in both the US and the UK.

More information about INTO Global University Partnership can be found here: www.intoglobal.com



CALENDAR 2018/19

Monday August 27th is the first day of school for the 2018/19 academic year, with the earlier start matched by an earlier last day of school on Thursday 20th June. The full calendar for next year is here in English: http://esca.kg/Files/BIS_2018-2019_Calendar-ENG.pdf and Russian: http://esca.kg/Files/BIS_2018-2019_Calendar-RUS.pdf

The earlier start to the year is to provide for a better balance of two semesters and four terms and an earlier finish in June to better align with other schools in Bishkek. When looking at the calendar please note that some of the events may change dates during the year but the overall plan for vacations will remain the same.

THE WEEK AHEAD

School activities and events planned for next week's include:

- Jan. 27- GBar Mother Daughter Braiding Workshop- [Sign-up here!](#)
- Jan. 31-Feb 2- Ski Club Trip to Shymbulak Ski Resort, Almaty, Kazakhstan
- Feb. 1- Junior Varsity Boys Taigan Basketball Team @ BIS vs Cambridge (15:30)
- Feb. 2- Varsity Girls Taigan Basketball @ BIS vs Hope Academy (16:30)
- Feb. 2- Varsity Boys Taigan Basketball @ BIS vs QSI (17:30)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Wednesday 7th February: Amended Winter Sports Day Date**
- Wednesday 14th February: Student Council Valentine's Day
- Thursday 22nd February: Science Fair
- Friday 23rd February: Homeland Defenders Day: No School

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

LUNCH MENU

The lunch menu for Jan. 19- Feb. 2 is Menu B here: [Menu](#)

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 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.



PRESCHOOL 1

This week Preschool 1 loved learning about the world of dinosaurs. We discussed that there were various types of dinosaurs; some of them were hungry hunters, some were peaceful plant eaters, some could fly, some could swim, and some had horns and spikes. We learned that they inhabited our planet millions of years ago, however, all of them died out. Thus, we can only see them on movies or look at dinosaur skeletons at museums around the world. We used the dinosaur theme as an opportunity to talk about and explore counting, colors and measuring.



PRESCHOOL 2

Being healthy and taking care of ourselves is one of our priorities in Preschool 2! We are learning how to brush our teeth and why it is very important. We read the book "how the body works" and have learnt that liquid from chewing food sticks to teeth. You can't see it, but it will feel sticky. Then if the stickiness stays, it makes holes in teeth. Germs in the air make the holes deeper. When they reach the sensitive part inside your teeth, they hurt. We learned the song "This is the way we brush our teeth...!" Now we are practicing how to brush teeth and how to use dental floss on a Lego model.



PRESCHOOL 3

Our preschool 3 friends enjoyed a fun but cold week due to the weather. We did not enjoy a lot of outside play time but we did enjoy playing and learning in the class. This week, we learned about the letter 'o' sound and we learned that the letter 'o' is for octopus, ocean, ostrich and our friend, Olivia. We also sorted the letter 'o' into groups of capital letters and lowercase letters. This week, our preschool friends also looked at number order and we practiced number orders by doing fun activities in class. Next week, we will learn about the letter 'u'. We will continue working on number order and we will work on dot to dot pattern creating.

