



**Bishkek  
International  
School**



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 17/ 2018-19

4<sup>th</sup> January 2019

HAPPY NEW YEAR! We hope you have had a relaxing and rejuvenating winter break and we look forward to seeing our enthusiastic and energised students on Monday, ready to enjoy Semester 2!

## WELCOME TO 2019 AT BIS

We have many unique events this Semester, starting with verification visits for the IB Middle Years Programme on 21-22 January and IB Primary Years Programme on 28-29 January. Provided everything goes well, we will soon be fully accredited for all IB Programmes, in addition to the existing accreditations for IB Diploma, Cambridge Assessment International Accreditation, New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and the Government of Kyrgyz Republic Ministry of Education.

In between the IB verification visits we have Winter Sports Day in the mountains on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January for all students from Primary 3 and up. For various other events during the Semester, see the updated [BIS Calendar](#) on the website and always check the list of events at the end of Voices.

Our first Semester from August to December covered 40% of the school year. End of Semester reports will be sent home with students on 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> January and Parent-Teacher meetings are on 16<sup>th</sup> January. The sign-up link will be sent out by email and will also be in the next Voices.

We look forward to seeing all of our students back at BIS on Monday!

## AIR QUALITY IN BISHKEK AND AT SCHOOL

Air quality in Bishkek has been a major concern for a long time and we have installed two PurpleAir sensors to help guide our policy. Go to [PurpleAir.com/map](http://PurpleAir.com/map) and find Bishkek. In the bottom left of your screen, click for inside or outside sensors and click on each sensor to show data charts. You will see that air quality is bad and sometimes off the charts and worse than Delhi.



One sensor is outside in the playground. This responds to changing air pollution in Bishkek. Coal burning (in the power station and houses) and vehicle emissions are the major pollution sources. Weather conditions – wind and temperature – determine how much stays in Bishkek and how much leaves to pollute the rest of the world. Cold air with no wind, keeps pollution in Bishkek, but a gentle breeze from the east with very cold air makes things worse, as Tets (power station) pollution lands in the city. Tets seems to be responsible for the very bad pollution periods and it does not help that 2017 investment in Tets greatly increased capacity to burn dirty coal to meet rapidly increasing winter electric power and heating demands in the city. At BIS we are trying to reduce demand on the power station by using gas central heating, additional insulation, only LED lighting, and minimal air conditioning in summer. However, everyone needs to do the same, or we need to find a new source of power, or we have to move out of Bishkek. Breathing dirty air is killing us!



The other sensor at BIS is inside, in the library. The main pollution source is outside air coming in (windows open or the door open when people enter and leave) but we can also clean the air with air filters. The downside of using air filter machines, and any electric power, is that more dirty coal is used in the power station, making air pollution worse for everyone! Despite this, we use filters during the school term to protect children in school. We are very thankful to those parents who donated filter machines over the last year. To build on this initiative we are working hard to reduce outside air inflow to rooms during the winter. We also plan to have air filter equipment in all classrooms in February.



Our [new outside air policy](#) will be tested and revised as required in the next two months.

If you would like to analyze the [sensor data, download here](#), and see an [evaluation of PurpleAir sensors here](#). We will install more PurpleAir sensors in coming months to better compare with other data and to help us decide where to build a new larger campus where the air is cleaner!

## STUDENT AWARDS

At the Anniversary Show in December we awarded some of our outstanding students for their great performance during the first Semester. We have three distinct award categories: Academic Awards, School Prizes and Special Prizes, with separate awards for Primary, Middle and High School. The awards committee had a very difficult time choosing between many excellent students but eventually made their choices.

Academic Awards are for excellent academic achievement and were awarded to:

- **Rayan Ababakirov** (P1) as he learns very quickly and recreates lessons in his own time;
- **Astoria Stimmler** (MYP2) as she studies very seriously and always wants to learn more than the curriculum;
- **Mackenzie Scheer** (DP2) as she has maintained the highest academic standards since the start of Diploma Programme.



School Prizes are for constant commitment to personal development or service and were awarded to:

- **Adilet Murza-Abdullaev** (P6) as has made amazing progress in English language skills since joining the school;
- **Said Malik Fazlitdinov** (MYP2) as he often volunteers his free time to help others in the school;
- **Rylee McMillan** (DP1) as her determination and hard work lead to great success.

Special Prizes are awarded this semester to students who have been great role models as 'Global Citizens' or in 'Service' to the school community, and were awarded to:



- **Melek Erman** (P5N) as she shows great drive and commitment, combined with creativity in publishing her own books;
- **Mete Kobanbay** (MYP1) as he makes every class better and brings out the best in others;
- **Amina Tursalieva** (IGCSE1) as she shows great service to the school and is exceptionally good at working with others.

## WIZARD OF OZ – VIDEO LINK

See [here for a video download of the 'Wizard of Oz'](#) performed by BIS students at the National Philharmonic Hall on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2018.



## LEARNER PROFILE OF THE MONTH

As we transition to a new year and a new semester, we continue with our focus on IB Learner Profile traits. This month we will be exploring and celebrating the attribute of being *open-minded*. The IB describes open-minded students as those who 'understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from the experience.'

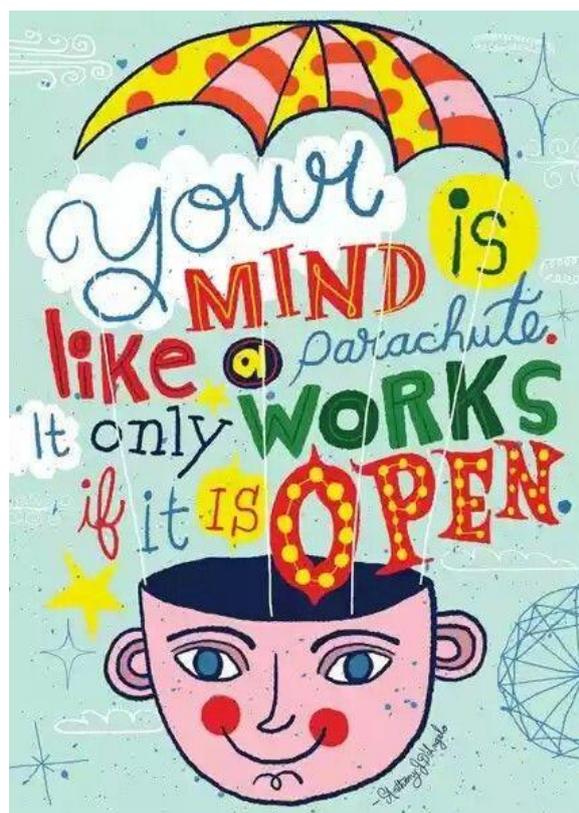
Showing willingness to acknowledge a broad range of opinions and consciously find what you stand for is a key step in our learning journey and our development as global citizens. In fact, there has never been a greater need for students to question, explore and understand why people do things differently. This month we will be encouraging our students to focus on demonstrating an open-minded attitude to their classmates' ideas, to their classroom inquiry, to the existence of more than one answer and to learning new things. In our diverse community, in which people from different cultures and experiences come together, we have plenty of opportunity to showcase our open-mindedness.

**Frances Garsed, Director of Studies**

## OLYMPIAD SUCCESS

Last month IGCSE 2 student, Linda Orozova, competed in the Bilimkana English Olympiad. After several rounds of competition, she won an impressive 2<sup>nd</sup> place in her age group. Congratulations on a fantastic achievement, Linda! Below she recounts her experience:

"I participated in the Bilimkana Language Olympiad. I took part in the intermediate English section. There were three rounds. I passed an online multiple-choice test, advancing to the second round. The



second round consisted of a multiple-choice exam that was to be taken at Bilimkana Bishkek. I scored 97% and automatically advanced to the third and final stage. It was held in AUCA-Bilimkana, cooperating together with Bilimkana-Jalal Abad. The students had to come in at 9 am and sit through the last multiple-choice exam. After taking the exam, we were told to stay in AUCA in case there were children with the same scores. Coincidentally, a boy from Chyngyz Aitmatov School and I had the same scores, so we took a listening and speaking exam that was going to decide our placement. I was pleased with my performance and pretty confident that I beat him. When the Prize Ceremony came around, everyone waited patiently. This was a grand ceremony and whoever got a prize would be acknowledged in all of Kyrgyzstan. I got 2nd Place. I was disappointed because I was aiming for 1<sup>st</sup>, but this means I have set myself a target for next year.”



Linda Orozova, IGCSE2 Student

## WOODWORK ECA & COMPOST BINS

Last term we opened the first ever woodwork ECA at BIS, in the new technical workshop behind the E-Centre. Five Middle School students made bird boxes, bird feeders, step stools and some ‘musical’ instruments in their weekly ECA and in the final month they created Compost Bins beside the E-Centre, which the school will use for kitchen and garden waste from January to be recycled into garden areas later. Woodwork ECA continues next term but with limited space in the workshop, demand for places exceeds availability. Perhaps we will run this ECA twice a week for different groups in the final term from April to June.



## TIMETABLE – NO CHANGES

The second semester timetable starts with the same plan as the last semester ended and the first week of school is a normal week of school.

## ECAS START MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

All ECAs start on Monday. The link to sign up or check which ones you are signed up for is [eca.bis.kg](http://eca.bis.kg)

Use the email address you shared with BIS to login.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January: Start of second semester
- Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January: Parent-teacher meetings
- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January: Winter ski/sledge/snowboard day
- Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January – 3<sup>rd</sup> February: Astana Model United Nations Conference
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February: Student Council Valentine's Day
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February: International Mother Language Day
- Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February: Science Fair
- Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February – 3<sup>rd</sup> March: CABC Astana Basketball Tournament

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 January 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> is Menu B: [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 any 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](mailto:info@bis.kg) and our Reception will forward your email to the right person.