

BAIS BUZZ

Mission Statement

The Banjul American International School is an accredited international school providing a meaningful, rigorous American curriculum in a global context. In partnership with local and international communities, we empower students to become enthusiastic, creative, lifelong learners who value integrity, cultural diversity, and global responsibility.

Message from the Director

Dear BAIS Families,

A lot has happened in the couple of weeks since the last *BAIS Buzz* came out! Among other notable events we had a phenomenal Halloween party and an extraordinary Authors' Tea celebration, both of which are featured in this newsletter.

I had a meaningful and inspiring experience at the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)'s Global Education Initiative meeting in Rome. Thank you for all the interest you have shown in this work. During the meeting, we evaluated the implementation of the Teacher Formation Program (TFP) that I worked on before coming to BAIS, planned a "training of trainers" system for expanding the TFP, created a framework for providing in-service professional development for teachers in JRS schools who have been through the TFP, and evaluated a plan for incorporating early childhood education more widely in JRS projects. I'm grateful for the support of the BAIS community in encouraging me to stay connected to this work which remains very important to me.

The BAIS Board of Directors held our annual Board Retreat this past weekend, which left me feeling enthusiastic about the opportunities ahead for our school, and grateful as always to be part of this community.

Caleb Steindam, Director

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Upcoming Events

Fri, Nov 10, 11:45am-12:15pm

Celebration of Learning:
Middle/High School Science

Mon, Nov 13, 3:15-4:15pm

Final After-School Activities

Wed, Nov 15, 12:00-2:30pm

Middle-High School Field Trip to
Alliance Française

Fri, Nov 17, 11:45am-12:15pm

Celebration of Learning: "Class
Share"

Sat, Nov 18, 8:00am-1:00pm

French School Sports Day (MRC)

Wed, Nov 22, 4:30pm

Board Meeting (BAIS Library)

Thur, Nov 23, 12:00pm

Early dismissal (Thanksgiving)

Fri, Nov 24

No School (Thanksgiving)

Thur, Nov 30

Portfolio Conferences (no
regular class)

Fri, Dec 1

No School (*Prophet's Birthday*)

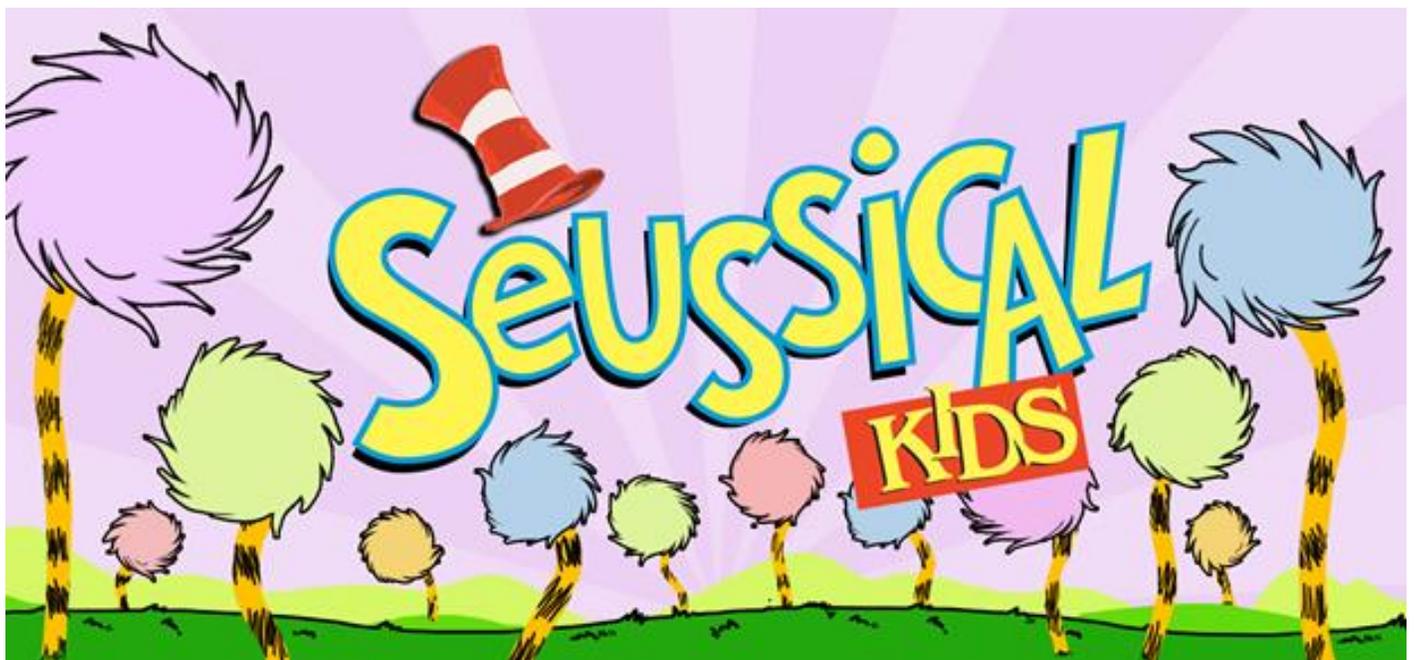
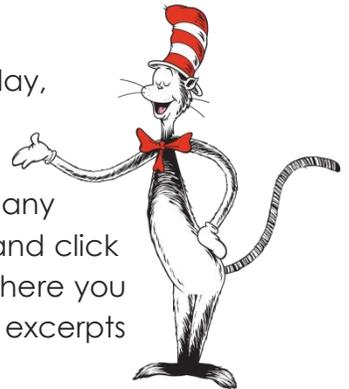
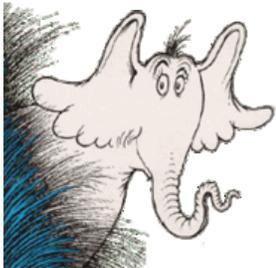


Seussical Kids Musical!

We are thrilled to announce that BAIS has obtained the rights to perform *Seussical Kids* as our musical production for the 2017-2018 school year under the direction of Mrs. Vanessa Sanyang, with Ms. Leah Woldman as Artistic Director and Mr. Daniel Twum as music director. *Seussical Kids* is adapted from the very popular *Seussical the Musical* by Broadway Junior, which was also our source for *Disney's The Jungle Book Kids* last year and *Annie Jr.* the previous year. *Seussical* features a lively assortment of characters from various Dr. Seuss stories including the Cat in the Hat, Horton the Elephant, Yertle the Turtle, Gertrude McFuzz, and many more!

We are planning to hold our final performance at the Eburnjan Theatre on Friday, March 2nd (Dr. Seuss's birthday!). We will hold auditions for *Seussical* roles in December and will announce the casting choices before we break for the holiday. Students can check out all of the roles and begin practicing for them any

time. Just go to <https://www.mtishows.com/seussical-kids> and click on "Audition Central" on the right side of the page. From there you can pick any character to view the audition materials of excerpts from the script and songs with sheet music.



After-School Activities

We have had a spectacular selection of after-school activities this term including swimming, chess, pottery, track & field, wood carving, cross-stitch, and sand painting. **The final day for this term of after-school activities is Monday, November 13th.** This Thursday (November 9th) is the final Thursday activities, and we're doing an additional Monday (13th) to make up for the holiday last week.

Our next after-school activities will begin in January and will include practices for the *Seussical Kids* musical production as well as a variety of other activities.



French Field Trip to Alliance Française

On Wednesday, November 15th, the middle and high school students will go on a field trip-lunch to Alliance Française as the culminating event of their current unit focused on interactions in a restaurant. With its francophone staff, Alliance provides a unique opportunity for our students to use common French expressions in a restaurant setting. These will include discussing food choice, placing an order, making a query, and asking for and paying the bill. The students will also have a guided tour of Alliance's modernized multimedia library / resource center.

Follow these links for more information about Alliance Française, its restaurant and library:

<http://www.afbanjul.org/The-Alliance-bar-and-restaurant>

<http://www.afbanjul.org/Plan-de-Modernisation-2017>



Board of Directors' Message

The BAIS Board of Directors met for the annual Board Retreat on Saturday, November 4th. The purpose of the Retreat is to give the Board an opportunity to set priorities for the school year and establish a shared vision for BAIS's future. The Board will strive to keep the BAIS Association informed of major decisions and initiatives as we move forward with them.

This message is intended to help all members of the BAIS Association understand the role of the Board and the proper lines of communication to follow if an issue arises in our school community.

Role of the Board

The responsibilities of the Board of Directors include setting school policies; hiring and evaluating the School Director; setting the tuition and fees; and overseeing finances, including working with the Director to set the annual budget and approving any major financial actions or decisions. The Board of Directors also sets the long-term goals, priorities, and vision for the school, while the School Director is responsible for the managing the school and seeking to implement the Board's vision.

Protocol for Bringing Issues to the Board

The Board of Directors may also act as arbiter when conflicts or grievances arise within the school community. It is important that the appropriate protocol be followed in these situations. If someone has an issue with another member of the school community, they should first seek to address the conflict directly with that individual. If the situation cannot be resolved directly, they should next bring the issue to the School Director. If the issue is still not resolved, or if the Director is implicated in the situation, then the issue should be brought formally to the Board of Directors. It is important to understand that the Board as a whole holds the authority, not individual Board members. It is not appropriate to bring a grievance or complaint privately to an individual Board member and expect that Board member to address the issue on their own. Grievances or requests should be directed to the Board in writing. These can be delivered to the Director (BAISDirector@gmail.com), the Chairperson (Joan Vives Tomas, jvivesomas@mrc.gm), or any other Board member, and will be addressed when the Board meets. If an urgent issue arises, the Board may call an emergency meeting. General Board meetings are open to all members of the BAIS Association (parents/guardians and teachers); executive sessions, which are closed to the public, are called for issues that are sensitive, confidential, or relate to individuals rather than the school as a whole.

Our next Board meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 22nd**, at **4:30pm** in the **BAIS library**.

Child Protection

BAIS has a comprehensive Child Protection Policy in place that aims to ensure that all members of our community help to keep our children safe from abuse and neglect. You may view the full Child Protection Policy upon request. The Child Protection Committee is also preparing a pamphlet with essential information about child protection that will soon go home to all families.

An important aspect of our Child Protection Policy is providing lessons to all BAIS students on personal safety, which will be taught at all age levels, addressing issues such as identifying safe and unsafe touch and avoiding unsafe situations. More information will be sent home soon.

Authors' Tea

We had a wonderful time at Authors' Tea last Friday, November 3rd, as student authors of all ages shared books they had created during Book Month.

Thank you Ms. Leah for all your work helping students make their books, putting on Authors' Tea, and coordinating all the other amazing BAIS Book Month activities!

Thank you Siam and Raya for making and donating the delicious cupcakes for the whole school to enjoy during Authors' Tea!

Thank you Mr. Scott for all your help with the books and popcorn-making!

And thanks to all BAIS teachers and families for all you've been doing to support our students' writing and reading!



Halloween Party

The BAIS Halloween Party was an enormous success!

A huge thank you and congratulations to Ms. Stacy for the incredible organization of this unforgettable event, to all members of the Student Council, to the Marines who helped with the haunted house, to Mr. James, Ms. Cassie, Ms. Leah, and all the other teachers who provided essential assistance for the party, and to Mr. Scott for the great photos!

