

# 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 the local and international community, we empower students to become enthusiastic, creative, lifelong learners who value integrity, cultural diversity, and global responsibility.

## Message from the Director

Dear BAIS Families,

October is an active and exciting month for BAIS. We are celebrating the joys of reading through daily Book Month activities and encouraging kindness and generosity through our character education program. The PTO is preparing Picture Day (just two weeks away) and collaborating with Student Council to plan our Halloween Party. This is also an important month of professional growth for our staff, as three BAIS teachers will travel to attend AISA-sponsored professional learning events this month. Enjoy reading about these and other important BAIS events in the pages that follow.

I also want to inform you of an important event coming up for me this month. I will be in Rome October 24th to 29th to participate in a meeting with the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) for their Global Education Initiative. I worked for JRS as project director for this initiative before coming to BAIS. My job was to design a teacher formation program that is now used to train teachers in refugee camps throughout the world. I am now a member of the JRS Advisory Group, and my participation has been requested for this meeting which will include an evaluation of the program I designed. I am honored to have this opportunity to contribute to the education of some of the world's most vulnerable children.

Thank you as always for your support.

Caleb Steindam, Director



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## Upcoming Events

### Wed, Oct 11

12:00 dismissal (Staff PD)

### Fri, Oct 13, 11:45am-12:15pm

Celebration of Learning  
("Class Share")

### Oct 19

Narrative Writing Assessment  
(Round 1) for Grades 1-9

### Oct 20

Dress As a Book Character Day

### Mon, Oct 23

Picture Day

### Fri, Oct 27, 5:30-8:30pm

Halloween Party

### Mon, Oct 30

No School (long weekend)

### Fri, Nov 3, 11:15am-12:15pm

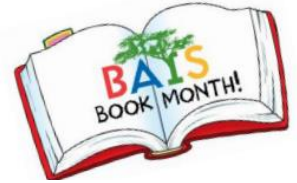
Authors' Tea



## Book Month

Book Month is off to a superb start! We have been enjoying daily Drop Everything and Read (D.E.A.R.) times and READ-INS during lunch time, and we're looking forward to some special guests who will be coming to read to our students during library classes. All students have received a Book Month Reading Log to help them keep track of the time they are spending reading independently or with family members outside of school. Students in every grade have a weekly reading goal (see below) that they're encouraged to meet or exceed:

<u>PreK - Grade 1:</u>	140 minutes	(20 minutes per day)
<u>Grades 2 through 5:</u>	210 minutes	(30 minutes per day)
<u>Middle &amp; High School:</u>	315 minutes	(45 minutes per day)



Students will receive small prizes in library class for meeting their weekly goals. Minutes will also go towards achieving our school-wide goal of reading 1,000 hours during the month of October!

If you could be any book character for a day, who would it be? You will have your chance on **October 20**, which is "**Dress as Your Favorite Book Character Day**" at BAIS!

And mark your calendars for "**Authors' Tea**," which will be **Friday, November 3rd**, from 11:15am to 12:15pm. This will be our culminating celebration of reading and writing where BAIS authors in every grade will share their published work!

Thank you for your support in making this a wonderful Book Month at BAIS! Feel free to contact Ms. Leah Woldman at [msleahwoldman@gmail.com](mailto:msleahwoldman@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

## Pre-K Field Trip to Bee Cause

This coming Friday, October 13th, the pre-K class will go on a field trip to the Bee Cause bee farm in Lamin. This field trip will be the culminating event of the Pre-K's first science unit of the school year, which has focused on the study of insects. Students will be able to see a model of a locally made beehive along with the clothes and tools beekeepers use when extracting the honeycombs from the hives. Most importantly, students will be able to watch bees working in an active beehive from afar.

Bee Cause is a working bee farm that harvests honey made from bees found locally. It is a non-profit organization that encourages and trains Gambian farmers and people who live in villages to make their own beehives and harvest honey from them. They have approximately 60 working beehives on their compound, which they harvest three times per year.



We are very excited for this field trip. Be sure to ask a Pre-K student to tell you about it!

## Halloween Party

The BAIS Halloween Party will be held on Friday, October 27, from 5:30 to 8:30pm. The PTO will sell food and drinks, and Student Council is collaborating with the Marines to create a haunted house. For older students who are feeling brave there will be a scarier section of the haunted house designed to make visitors jump. The rest of the haunted house will be milder and appropriate for some of the younger students. There will also be games and other Halloween-themed activities. More information about the Halloween Party is coming soon!



## Picture Day

Picture Day will be held during school on Monday, October 23rd. Sandra is leading the organization of this event for the PTO with the photographer Claire. Student photographs will be used in the yearbook that comes out at the end of the year, and you will also have the option of purchasing photos in a variety of formats. We will send you information about purchase options and prices in the coming week. A portion of the purchase prices will benefit the PTO, which is raising funds to buy e-readers for our school library this year!

SAY CHEESE!



We are proud to belong to the Association of International Schools of Africa (AISA) and grateful for AISA's support of BAIS. AISA has provided a grant to cover much of the cost of my attendance of the School Heads Retreat and Solo Heads Workshop in Dakar a few weeks ago.

This Friday Mr. Scott Hemsey will travel to Nairobi for the *AISA All Educators Conference*, for which AISA is providing a scholarship covering the cost of all conference fees. The BAIS team is excited to learn from the ideas and understandings Mr. Scott will gain at the conference, including sessions with Tara Barton on service learning.

Ms. Amal Abou-Alfa and Ms. Stephanie Budd will attend the AISA professional learning institute *Making the Most of MAP* in Dakar October 28-29, which will help them learn how to apply MAP assessment data to inform instruction to meet students' individual learning needs. We also look forward to sending BAIS teachers to AISA's *Transforming Classrooms Through Blended Learning* institute in February, including Ms. Cassie Banna who has received a scholarship for this institute.



## Character Education Values: *Kindness & Generosity*

Our Character Education Values for the month of October are **kindness** and **generosity**. We define kindness as *being gentle and helpful to others*, and generosity as *giving and sharing what you have for the good of others*. We are discussing and practicing these values through activities for all grade levels at BAIS, and we ask that you discuss and encourage these values with your children at home as well.



## Healthy Eating and Sleep

Children's diets and sleep habits have a major influence on their academic success as well as their overall health and social-emotional wellness. Please remember to provide your children with a healthy snack for morning break every day, and with a healthy, substantial lunch if they are not eating the hot lunch. As stated in our Parent-Student Handbook, please remember that **children should not bring carbonated soft drinks, candy/sweets or chocolate for snacks**.



It is important for children to have a consistent, appropriate bedtime. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, children between the ages of 6 and 12 require 9 to 12 hours of sleep, and younger children require even more. When a student has not slept well, it has a noticeable effect on their energy level, their behavior, and their academic performance. Please support your children's health, happiness, and success by providing consistent routines for getting them comfortably in bed at a good time. Feel free to reach out to Caleb or your child's classroom teacher if you have questions or would like more advice about bedtimes or sleep routines.

