

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,

Happy Holidays! We made it to our "Winter" Break after an unforgettable first four months of the 2017-2018 school year. I am extraordinarily proud of the accomplishments of our remarkable students and teachers up to now. While we are all excited to enjoy a well-deserved holiday with our families and friends, I am also very excited for our return in January, because this school year's learning and fun have just begun!

Enjoy this holiday issue of the *BAIS Buzz*, featuring fantastic photos from our Christmas Party, important announcements and updates about the *Aristocats* musical, an illuminating article about this week's Pastoral Care Retreat for middle & high school students, and an exciting update about our new [website](#) which has just launched!

Wishing you and all your loved ones a wonderful holiday.

Caleb Steindam, Director



Believe, Achieve, Inspire, Succeed

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Upcoming Events

Mon, Jan 8, 2018

School resumes

Mon, Jan 8, 3:15-4:15pm

Aristocats practices begin

Fri, Jan 12, 11:45am-12:15pm

Celebration of Learning "Class Share" in Library

Fri, Jan 12

Board Meeting in BAIS Library

Fri, Jan 19, 11:45am-12:15pm

Grades 2-5 *Celebration of Learning* in Library

Wed, Jan 24

12:00 early dismissal
(Teacher PD in afternoon)

Fri, Jan 26, 6:30-8:30pm

Movie Night: *Aristocats*!

Fri, March 2

Aristocats performance at Eburnjan Theatre

Thu, March 15

T2 Portfolio Conferences

Fri, March 16

No School; End of Trimester

Thu, March 30

12:00 dismissal (Spring Break begins)

Fri, March 30

Spring Break begins

New BAIS Website



BAIS has a new [website](http://baigambia.org)! Our new web address is baigambia.org. Our previous web addresses, baes.gm and bais.gm, will now redirect to our new domain which is hosted in the US and therefore able to load more quickly. The beautiful design of the new site was created by our Grade 2-5 teachers, Ms. Stacy and Mr. James! We are immensely grateful to Ms. Stacy and Mr. James for their wonderful work on the website, and also to our Math & IT teacher/IT coordinator, Ms. Amal, for her devoted work designing and maintaining our original website. The updating of our new website will be a team effort between the IT coordinator, the director and administrative team, and the teachers.

We are very excited about the new website as it offers us the opportunity to reintroduce BAIS to the world (including prospective families who may be relocating to The Gambia), and will also provide information and resources for BAIS families. You will still be able to [download BAIS Buzz newsletters](#) on the website, and you can find the most recent hot lunch menu under the "[News & Events](#)" tab. The [calendar](#) feature, where you can check on upcoming events, will also be a useful resource for BAIS families. This calendar is an embedded [Google Calendar](#), which is available to the public and which you can access directly and add to your own calendar if you already use Google Calendars. The [Google Calendar of BAIS Events](#) can be accessed directly through this link: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar?cid=YjU4aTd2cG1tbXlZnJpZXViOTBiZnJvNHNAZ3JvdXAuY2FsZW5kYXluZ29vZ2xlLmNvbQ>

I hope you will take some time to explore our new website and share it with your friends. Feel free to share any feedback, comments, or questions, with Caleb at BAISDirector@gmail.com.

Musical Production: *Disney's Aristocats Kids*

Everybody wants to be a cat! (Well, some want to be geese, dogs, or humans.) *Disney's Aristocats Kids* is an ensemble production full of action, humor, and unforgettable songs and dance routines, with great roles for all our students in Grades 1 and up. Here are the parts and actors. For each part, the lead actor is listed first, followed up the understudy who will learn the role and be prepared to play it if the lead actor cannot be there. (All actors who are an understudy also have another role.) If you notice a couple names you don't recognize, those are new BAIS students who will join us in January!

Alley Cats:

Thomas O'Malley: Batiste; Jason

Scat Cat: Raya; Madeleine

Mad Cat: Julia; Mona

Hep Cat: Amat; Kaden

Slick Cat: Modou; Bemnet

Wacky Cat: Mouza; Nefechi

Other Alley Cats: Jason, Ahmad, Adham, Paul, Kaden, Mona, Reem, Madeleine, Nayan, Roisin, Bemnet, Jessie, Jimmy, JJ

Aristocats:

Duchess: Amarachi; Julia

Marie: Sisy; Roisin

Toulouse: Audrey; Nayan

Berlioz: Fernanda; Ahmad

Humans:

Madame: Madeleine; Mouza

Edgar: Vital; Amat

Geese:

Amelia: Kelechi; Reem

Abigail: Aina; Reem

Mouse:

Roquefort: Joelle; Adham

Dogs:

General Napoleon: Raef; Simon

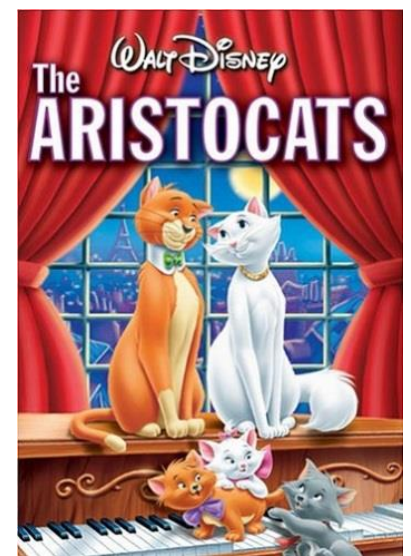
Private Lafayette: Ibrahim; Amadou

Vichy: Amadou; Paul

Soisse: Simon; Paul

The actors all received their *Aristocats* scripts at Celebration of Learning on Friday. Please encourage your children to practice their parts during the holidays. And remember all students need bring their scripts to school when we resume on January 8th. **We will have after-school practices until 4:15 on Mondays and Thursdays beginning January 8th.** Students in 1st grade and up should plan to stay after school until 4:15 every Monday and Thursday from January 8th through March 1st. (The final performance will be Friday, March 2, at Ebunjan Theatre). There will also be other after-school activities in addition to *Aristocats* practice beginning the third week of school; you'll receive information about those activities when we return in January.

One final announcement in *Aristocats*-related news: There will be a BAIS Movie Night on the evening of Friday, January 26, in which the feature presentation will be the original Disney movie *The Aristocats*!



Pastoral Care Retreat for Middle & High School



Students collaborated on a painting using symbols they designed from an earlier activity



Communication and teamwork! Students walked one meter with their feet touching. It sounds easy, but was a fun challenge.

On Thursday afternoon the middle and high school students came together for an afternoon “retreat” on the BAIS campus. The main aim was to wrap up our first unit on social and emotional learning (and have fun while doing it!). Using *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens* written by Sean Covey throughout the unit, students grappled with big ideas and skills like identifying their sphere of control, making sound goals, prioritizing, listening, synergizing/working together, reflecting, and taking care of themselves.

The retreat began with two short and fun activities, which helped students get in the right mindset to discuss deeper and more personal issues that were addressed throughout the unit. Both were intended to demonstrate the importance of teamwork and communication in achieving goals. Afterwards, students responded to statements using a four-corners activity, moving around a space to show the level of their agreement or disagreement. They shared their attitudes and feelings towards statements like “One of our essential agreements is to ‘Never give up, no matter the size of the mountain’. There is no mountain that can stand in my way.” After hearing the group’s thoughts and working with this group all year, I’m not surprised how resilient and determined everyone is! The next activity was to synthesize the learning from the unit with their own personal history and construct a table of contents as well as a title for their autobiography. There were so many unique interpretations and applications of the concepts and how they fit into the students’ lives. Ms. Leah then joined the group to lead a collaborative art activity which built on the ideas the students generated. First designing symbols individually, the students then painted them collectively on a large canvas. Colorful, creative, and meaningful, the canvas will serve as a visual reminder of the past 3+ months of Pastoral Care and the growth our middle and high school students have achieved!

Many thanks to the Pastoral Care team: Ms. Amal, Mr. Badjie, Ms. Leah, and Ms. Stephanie! It’s been an incredible year.

- Mr. Scott, Pastoral Care Coordinator

BAIS Christmas Party Photos

The BAIS Christmas Party was a huge success, thanks to the amazing efforts of our parents, teachers, and students. Huge thanks to all of you! Enjoy these photos to relive the fun.

