

October 4, 2024 2024-25, Issue 7

## Inside this Issue

# BAIS Buzz

## Message from the Director

Dear BAIS Families,

The first quarter is flying by! There are lots of updates and news items in this week's Buzz.

An updated lunch menu is included this week. October 23 was inadvertently left off the original. **Please remember to send money for October 23 if you want lunch that day, since it was not included on the original menu.**

Because the SAT will be administered in the library tomorrow morning, **Saturday football tomorrow will be on the small field only.**

On Tuesday evening, October 29, we will host College Night, an informational session for high school parents and students as they begin the process of selecting and applying to universities. Look for more information in next week's Buzz.

The School Board met on Monday evening. An update is inside the Buzz. Thank you again to our Board members who volunteer their time!

Finally, as you are arriving to school, especially in the mornings, and as you turn back onto Atlantic Road after leaving the back gate, please remember to exercise caution and stop before pulling out, as we have several students and parents who arrive on foot or by bicycle.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Robert Harper, Director

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## Upcoming Events

### Sat., Oct. 5

Saturday football

### Fri. Oct. 11.

Celebration of Learning, 11:40-12:10

### Thurs. & Fri., Oct. 24 & 25

BAIS Holiday...No School

### Mon., Oct. 28.

School Board Meeting, 6:00.

### Tues., Oct. 29.

College Night, 6:00.

### Fri., Nov. 1.

Halloween Party, 6:00.

## School Board Update

Our next School Board meet last Monday, September 30. A highlight of the discussion was the current status of the Brusubi land situation. The Board will be visiting the site this month for further inspection and evaluation. Between their committee meetings and regular Board meetings, the Board members generally meet two times a month, besides often volunteering their time for other projects. I am so thankful that we have parents who are willing to serve in this capacity. The next regular meeting will be October 28.

## PTO Update

Mark your calendars! Our highly anticipated Halloween Party will take place on **November 1st, from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM**. Get ready for a night of spooky fun, creative costumes, and plenty of tasty treats!

We need your help to make this event extra special! If you're interested in volunteering, please reach out to **Mary Jobe** via WhatsApp at **+1 401-573-6199**, or message **Jeremy Ogusky** at **+1 248-219-8779**. There are still lots of opportunities to get involved, and we'd love to have you on board!

They'll send you the sign-up sheet and keep you updated on all the planning details.

Let's make this Halloween party unforgettable!

Mary Jobe

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## College Counseling Corner

We are excited to announce that **Fatmatta M'Bai** will be this year's nominee for the Margaret Sanders International Scholarship! This prestigious scholarship is awarded annually by the AISA and recognizes one outstanding student from an AISA member school. The scholarship provides financial support for the winner to study at an accredited university in the U.S. The Margaret Sanders International Scholarship is awarded to a student who "demonstrates character strengths such as persistence and motivation, resourcefulness, and appreciation of other cultures and points of view." Further, the scholarship is intended for students who are committed to the well-being of others and who are dedicated to serving their community.

We are so excited to nominate Fatmatta for this award! Her commitment to mentoring younger students at BAIS, her stellar academic record, and her drive to pursue a career in STEM make her a superb candidate. We are thrilled to have her represent BAIS and look forward to supporting her in every step of her application. Congratulations Fatmatta!

Ms. Angie

## Service Learning Update

Service-Learning is off to a great start this year! The 3rd grade to Middle School group has been learning about the importance of service and giving back to others. We have talked about the UN Sustainable Development Goals and how every community member can be involved in making positive change. The students have decided to focus on climate change and pollution in the Gambia for their project. They are currently planning the project they would like to work on, so stay tuned for more exciting updates!

The high school group have decided to also incorporate pollution into their project. They will be reaching out to our partner school in Bakau to determine what project would be most useful for them. The high school group has already demonstrated excellent leadership skills and inspiring initiative. We look forward to seeing how the project will develop over the coming months.

Ms. Angie and Ms. 'Makuena  
Service Learning Coordinators

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## Student Council Elections



The results are in and Student Council is in full swing! We are excited to announce this year's representatives:

Grades 4-5: Yolanie Hocheimy and Ella Joof

Middle School: David John and Marlow Murray

High School: Fatoumata Sillah, Teju James-Akinsulure, and Omar Njie

After winning the popular vote for the high school, Fatoumata will serve as this year's Student Council president. It was wonderful watching democracy in action and seeing the school-wide engagement in the election. We want to give a big thank you to every student who ran for being integral parts of the democratic

process. We're looking forward to seeing the Student Council grow and develop over the course of the year.

Ms. Angie and Mr. Will  
Student Council Coordinators

## Health Update

Many of our students, especially in elementary, continue to occasionally have minor symptoms such as sore throats, bad coughs, stomach aches, and so on. Please continue to be diligent to emphasize to children to wash their hands regularly and to never drink out of the same glass or container. As always, children who have a fever should stay home. If a child here at school has a fever, their parents will be called to come and collect them.

## Hearing and Vision Screening

Hearing and vision screening was completed by Opticalia on Tuesday for grades 4-12. Each child should have received a report to take home.

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## From the Chess Meetup in Fajara



Hello Chess Players!! We hope you have all had an amazing summer! It's time to restart our chess meetups! Come join us this **Saturday the 5th of October from 3 to 6.30pm** at Iceland Ice Cream Parlour!! Bring your friends and family and prepare for an afternoon of fun! We can't wait to see you all! The address is F887+JQ3, in Fajara.

## Saturday Football Update

Saturday Football Club continues tomorrow. **Because of the SAT exam in the library tomorrow, football will be on the small field only.** We will cancel if we have bad weather. If you do not receive a message that we are canceling, we will proceed as scheduled.

Training Schedule: -

Grades 1 to 4: 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Middle & High School (Grades 6 to 12): 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM

Grade 5 may choose either group, based on their size and skill level.

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## What is MAP?

**NWEA MAP (Measures of Academic Progress)** Tests are administered at BAIS twice a year, in the fall and the spring. NWEA MAP Growth is a standardized achievement test which measures what students know and informs what they're ready to learn next by using a computer adaptive test that adjusts to the ability and knowledge of the student. MAP data allows schools to differentiate and adjust instruction for individual students, groups of students, or entire classes based on results of the assessment. Your child's teacher can use the results of the NWEA MAP Growth assessments to better understand your child's individual needs and to help him/her progress in the assessed area. Because the assessment is a growth measure, it can track the growth of the student between testing events and over multiple years of testing.

Starting September 30th to October 11th, Kindergarten to Grade 12 students will be taking MAP Growth tests. These are not timed tests and students are given all the time they need to complete tests. Parents new to BAIS may know little about MAP so I am providing some information on what MAP is, why we use it, and how to read your child's results. That information is below in a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

### The Most Important Two Takeaways:

- MAP scores are **only one 'snapshot in time'** of your child's progress; they do not outweigh teacher observations or the semester report card but give additional external evidence and data about progress for the child, the family, the teacher and BAIS.
- Two scores are given – Growth and Achievement; **growth is the more important** since our goal is for all children to be improving their skills over time.

[MAP GROWTH FAQs](#)

[MAP Growth Fact Sheet](#)

*If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the BAIS MAP Coordinator, Amal Alfa or your child's teacher.*

*Amal Alfa  
MS-HS Math Teacher  
K-HS IT Teacher & IT/MAP Coordinator*

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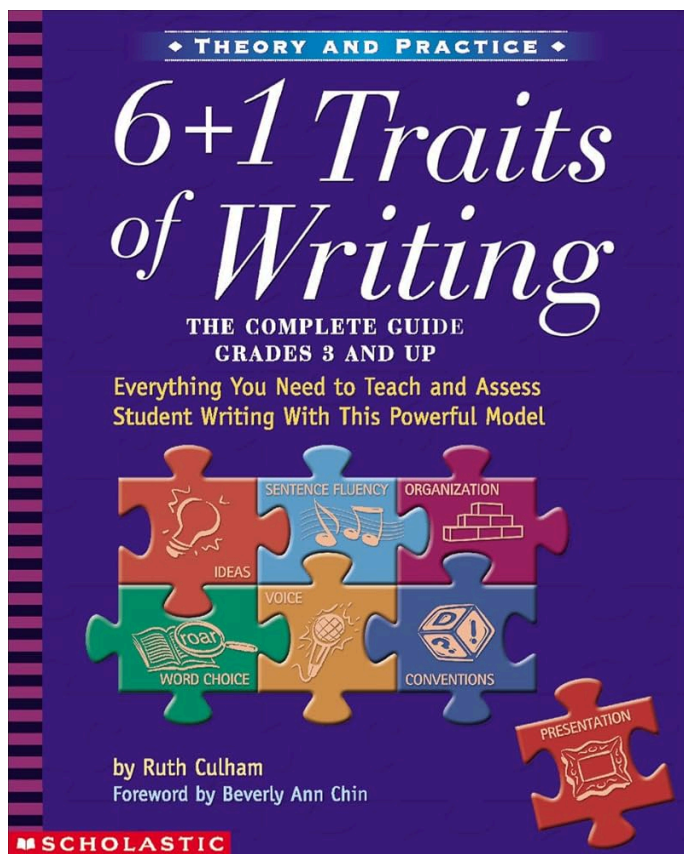
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## Writing Diagnostics



Over the past weeks, we worked on Writing Diagnostics. Annually, BAIS has 2 writing diagnostics; one at the beginning of the academic year and the second one towards the end of the academic year. The writing diagnoses are on narrative and expository essays. Together, the faculty finds and agrees on prompts to use for students. At the end of the writing sessions, the faculty comes together to grade these essays using the BAIS 6+1 traits of writing rubric. The teachers at BAIS use the current diagnostic for formative assessment and gauge where the students are in terms of mechanics, ideas, content, organization, presentation, voice, word choice, and sentence fluency. Student's writing samples will be shared with parents at the next Teacher/Parent conferences.

Ms. 'Makuena

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## Staff Spotlight

### Mr. Will Hoverson



Hi I'm Mr. Will. I am an enthusiastic educator and passionate traveler with an unwavering love for the Chicago Bears. Currently in my second year at BAIS, I try to combine my love for history and teaching to inspire his students. I dedicate my free time to exploring and that journey that has taken me to over 100 countries, I try to bring a wealth of knowledge and diverse perspectives into the classroom.

My travels have not only enriched my understanding of global cultures but also motivates me to connect students with historically significant sites around the world. From the ancient ruins of Machu Picchu to the iconic landmarks of Europe, I share my experiences and firsthand presepcives, hoping to make history come alive for my students. I believe that understanding the past is essential to appreciating the present and shaping the future.

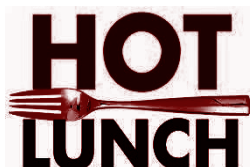
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October 2024

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT CONTACT Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS**

## 1. Choose Portion Size:

- Small - 200 Dalasi
- Large - 250 Dalasi

## 2. Choose how you will order:

- **Tick here to order all the lunches for this month.**  
Full Period : **17 lunches** (Total cost: **Small = D3,400 OR Large = D4,250**)
- **Tick here to order lunches by the day.**

## By the day:

1. Tick the days desired in the chart below
2. Multiply x D 200 (small) or D250 (large)
3. Write in here: **Total # lunches: \_\_\_\_\_ x Cost per portion \_\_\_\_\_ = D \_\_\_\_\_**

## 3. Get money and form to BAIS OFFICE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Sept 30 - Oct 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tick to order</b> Vegetarian Curry, Rice &amp; fruit 🍷</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tick to order</b> Fish fingers, baked vegetables, cream/cheese &amp; fruit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tick to order</b> Chicken and grilled pepper Fajitas &amp; cake</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tick to order</b> Fried noodles, beef, vegetables &amp; fruit</li> </ul>
Oct 07 - 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tick to order</b> Creamy Spaghetti, w/ basil olive oil, &amp; fruit 🍷</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tick to order</b> Grilled fish with rice &amp; butter-lime sauce &amp; fruit</li> </ul>	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ <b>Faculty PD</b> <b>Noon Dismissal</b> ☺ ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tick to order</b> Chicken Tagine with Coucous &amp; fruit</li> </ul>
Oct 14 - 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tick to order</b> Beef burgers, fries &amp; fruit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tick to order</b> Spaghetti, tomato sauce, cheese &amp; fruit 🍷</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tick to order</b> Fish Benachin, vegetables, bissap sauce &amp; fruit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tick to order</b> Creamy mushroom chicken pasta &amp; fruit</li> </ul>
Oct 21 - 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tick to order</b> Fried noodles, beef, vegetables &amp; fruit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tick to order</b> Vegetable Lasagna &amp; fruit 🍷</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Tick to order</b> Fish fingers, baked vegetables, cream/cheese & fruit	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ <b>NO SCHOOL</b> ☺ ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
Oct 28 - 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tick to order</b> Creamy fish &amp; mushroom tagliateli pasta &amp; fruit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tick to order</b> Beef Benachin, vegetables &amp; fruit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tick to order</b> Grilled chicken, baked vegetables, salad, &amp; fruit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tick to order</b> Margarita Pizza Mixed Salad &amp; Ice Cream 🍷</li> </ul>

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## New PK Students! 🎉



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## K-1 Happenings



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## A future Grandmaster!



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## Grade 2 learning in action!



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**Yes! Yes, she is!**



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## BAIS Artists



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