

October 11, 2024

2024-25, Issue 8

Inside this Issue

BAIS Buzz

Message from the Director

Dear BAIS Families,

It's hard for me to believe that this is already the 8th edition of The Buzz! At the end of this month, the first quarter will end, and report cards will go home on November 6.

When I visited BAIS in March, I had the opportunity to meet with each teacher and teaching assistant individually, just to begin to get to know each other. While visiting with Ms. Halima, the subject of Model United Nations came up. I was touched to hear her talk about her experience with MUN and how it had impacted her life, and I shared my desire to make those opportunities available to our students. Please read her comments in The Buzz about MUN.

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. It's never too early to start thinking about universities! Please see Ms. Angie's notes in the Buzz.

The corrected lunch menu is again 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.**

Have a wonderful weekend!

Robert Harper, Director

Model United Nations (p. 2)
School Board Update (p. 3)
PTO Update (p. 3)
Musical info (p. 4)
College Counseling Corner (p. 5)
Saturday Football (p. 5)
Writing Diagnostics (p. 6)
Staff Spotlight (p. 7)
Lunch Menu (p. 8)
Photos (p. 9-10)

Upcoming Events**Fri. Oct. 18.**

Celebration of Learning, 11:40-12:00

Sat., Oct. 19

Saturday football

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.

Wed., Nov. 6.

Report cards go home

Model United Nations

Mr. Robert first approached me with the idea of starting a Model UN program during his initial visit, and we decided this year was the perfect time to bring it to life. In collaboration with Mr. Will, a colleague and friend from who has experience working at the United Nations, I'm excited to announce the launch of our Model UN After-School Activity, titled Mastering Diplomacy.

Reflecting on my own experience participating in NHSMUN, where I was honored to win an award, I can say that it was a transformative opportunity that opened my eyes to global issues, diplomacy, and the importance of international cooperation. It sharpened my public speaking, negotiation, and critical thinking skills, while fostering an appreciation for diverse perspectives and the complexity of world affairs. More than that, it sparked in me a passion for diplomacy and international relations that continues to this day. It's a true pleasure to now offer this experience on a much smaller scale to our students, and I hope it inspires in them the same curiosity and passion for the world that it did for me. Through Mastering Diplomacy, I believe they will gain valuable skills in collaboration, problem-solving, and global awareness, which are essential in today's interconnected world. I'm excited to see where this journey will take them!

Overview of the ASA:

- **Week 1:** We kicked off with an introduction to Model UN, discussing its format and the art of diplomacy.
- **Week 2:** Students participated in an icebreaker where they represented different countries. They have to research their assigned countries.
- **Week 3:** We'll work on drafting position papers, and explore major global issues through discussions and group research presentations.
- **Week 4:** will Focus on enhancing debate and public speaking skills, students engaged in mini-debates and will receive constructive feedback.
- **Week 5:** Students will learn negotiation tactics and draft resolutions through role-playing scenarios.
- **Week 6:** we will hopefully conduct a mock Model UN conference, allowing students to experience the simulation first-hand.
- **Week 7:** The final week will emphasize leadership and teamwork in a "Model UN Awards" ceremony to celebrate their achievements. Hopefully we can have a few guests from the UN office to join and speak to the students to continue their quest of diplomacy.

I'm looking forward to the upcoming sessions where we'll dive deeper into country research, global issues, and the skills needed for effective diplomacy. My hope is that by the end of this course, students will have a solid foundation in Model UN practices, improved public speaking and negotiation skills, and a deeper understanding of global issues, all of which will prepare them for future competitions.

Halimatu Jawara

Mission Statement

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School Board Update

The next School Board meeting is Monday, October 28. As mentioned previously, The Board will be visiting the Brusubi land site next weekend for further inspection and evaluation. Thank you again to our Board members who gladly give of their time for the benefit of BAIS!

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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Musical Update from Mr. Emmanuel

BIG ANNOUNCEMENT

The musical for the 2024/2025 school year has been decided!



Please mark your calendars for two important events:

1. On November 12th and 14th at lunch -- **Final Auditions/Permanent roles**
2. On **Friday February 21st** - the Big Show **BAIS Musical 2025!**
The venue will be communicated in due course.

Notes:

All students K-G8 will be part of the Musical.

- 1) We have learned 6 out of 14 songs that are needed for the musical.
- 2) We have assigned tentative roles to students in the play so far; the final roles will be decided after the open auditions.
- 3) We have sent a link in the whatsapp platforms for parents to sign up for the auditions.

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College Counseling Corner

College Night

Are you interested in learning about the international college application process? Do you want to know how to set your child up for success for college applications? The BAIS College Night is here to answer your questions. Join us at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, October 29th for an information session and question-and-answer session about colleges. During this event, I'll be sharing information about what the college application process looks like today for colleges around the world and will be available to discuss how to prepare for college. It's never too early to start thinking about college, so parents of children of any age are welcome! I'm looking forward to seeing you there! Please RSVP to me at aepifano@baisgambia.org.

College and Career Panel

Would you like to share your college experiences or career trajectory with students? Do you know any current or recent college students who would like to inspire BAIS high schoolers? To support our high school students, we are looking to host our first college and career panel. The date and time will be announced at a later date. We also hope to have speakers come to class and discuss their careers with students.

If you would like to be part of this exciting opportunity, or if you know anyone who you think would be a good fit, please email myself--the college counselor--at aepifano@baisgambia.org
Thank y'all so much in advance for your help and support!

Ms. Angie

Saturday Football Update

Saturday Football Club continues and is back on the big field tomorrow. 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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More about the Writing Diagnostics

We are pleased to share that our students, from Kindergarten through Middle School, have successfully completed their writing diagnostic assessments for the beginning of the year. This important assessment asks students to write two different types of pieces: an expository piece and a narrative piece. We will repeat the assessment at the end of the year to measure their growth and progress in writing.

The purpose of this diagnostic assessment is twofold. First, it helps us track each student's development as a writer throughout the year. Second, it gives teachers invaluable insight into specific areas where students may need additional support, whether in generating ideas, organizing their thoughts, or refining their sentence structure. This information allows us to tailor our instruction to better meet the needs of each individual learner, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to improve and succeed.

We assess the students' writing using the **6+1 Writing Traits Rubric**, which evaluates key components such as voice, punctuation, sentence structure, presentation, ideas, and the overall flow of the writing. By focusing on these elements, we can offer meaningful feedback to help students develop as confident and effective writers.

This test is important for our school because strong writing skills are foundational not just in English Language Arts, but across all subjects. Being able to clearly communicate ideas, structure thoughts, and present information coherently is a critical life skill. The writing diagnostic also aligns with our school's commitment to academic excellence and growth, helping us ensure that each child is continually advancing in their ability to express themselves both creatively and analytically.

We look forward to seeing the tremendous growth our students will make this year, and we are excited to partner with you in supporting them on their writing journey!

Halimatu Jawara

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Staff Spotlight

Kiran Moro



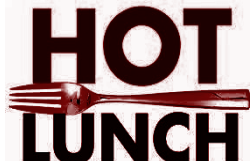
My name is Kiran Moro, and I come from India. I have been teaching for over a decade, focusing on elementary education. My teaching journey has taken me to several countries, including Tanzania, Rwanda, Mumbai, Kyrgyzstan, and The Gambia. I have also visited and lived in Zambia and Doha.

For the past two years, I taught a combined Grade 2 and 3 class at Banjul American International School, and this year, I am teaching Grade 3 exclusively.

I live with my husband and our 20-year-old daughter, along with our two Maltese dogs. Outside the classroom, I enjoy spending time in gardening, art, and drawing, singing and teaching zumba dance.

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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	• <i>Tick to order</i> Vegetarian Curry, Rice & fruit 🍷	• <i>Tick to order</i> Fish fingers, baked vegetables, cream/cheese & fruit	• <i>Tick to order</i> Chicken and grilled pepper Fajitas & cake	• <i>Tick to order</i> Fried noodles, beef, vegetables & fruit
Oct 07 - 10	• <i>Tick to order</i> Creamy Spaghetti, w/ basil olive oil, & fruit 🍷	• <i>Tick to order</i> Grilled fish with rice & butter-lime sauce & fruit	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ Faculty PD Noon Dismissal ☺ ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆	• <i>Tick to order</i> Chicken Tagine with Couscous & fruit
Oct 14 - 17	• <i>Tick to order</i> Beef burgers, fries & fruit	• <i>Tick to order</i> Spaghetti, tomato sauce, cheese & fruit 🍷	• <i>Tick to order</i> Fish Benachin, vegetables, bissap sauce & fruit	• <i>Tick to order</i> Creamy mushroom chicken pasta & fruit
Oct 21 - 25	• <i>Tick to order</i> Fried noodles, beef, vegetables & fruit	• <i>Tick to order</i> Vegetable Lasagna & fruit 🍷	• <i>Tick to order</i> Fish fingers, baked vegetables, cream/cheese & fruit	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ NO SCHOOL ☺ ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
Oct 28 - 31	• <i>Tick to order</i> Creamy fish & mushroom tagliateli pasta & fruit	• <i>Tick to order</i> Beef Benachin, vegetables & fruit	• <i>Tick to order</i> Grilled chicken, baked vegetables, salad, & fruit	• <i>Tick to order</i> Margarita Pizza Mixed Salad & Ice Cream 🍷

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KG Learning



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Grade 3 Learning



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