

November 1, 2024

2024-25, Issue 11

# BAIS BUZZ

## Message from the Director

Dear BAIS Families,

Please remember that report cards will be e-mailed to parents on Tuesday, November 5, and Parent-Teacher Conferences will be Thursday, November 7. MAP test results will also be emailed with report cards.

The PTO has been hard at work getting ready for our annual Halloween party **tomorrow November 2, at 6:00 PM.** Please see the signup sheet and plan to join in. A big thank you to the PTO for organizing this event! And another big thank you to the US Marines for organizing the haunted house!

Book Month kicked off today! Ms. Sainab has set an ambitious goal of 1,000 hours of outside reading! I know we can accomplish that goal, and we will have a special celebration to reward the whole school if we do!

Our new building which houses our music room and our learning support center is now complete. **A big thank you to the Peace Corps for donating much needed furniture!**

The November menu is in this edition.

Have a wonderful weekend! I hope to see everyone tomorrow!

Robert Harper, Director

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## Upcoming Events

### November...Book Month

**Sat., Nov. 2.**  
 Halloween Party, 6:00.

**Mon., Nov. 4.**  
 School Board Meeting, 6:00

**Tues., Nov. 5.**  
 Report cards go home

**Thurs., Nov. 7.**  
 Parent-Teacher Conferences

**Fri., Nov. 8.**  
 Celebration of Learning, 11:40



## Report Cards/ Parent Teacher Conferences

Please remember that on Tuesday, November 5, report cards for the first quarter will go home. MAP test results will go home with the report cards. On Thursday, November 7, we will have Parent-Teacher conferences during the school day. **A Google form is being shared for parents to use to schedule their conferences.** There are no classes on that day; instead, students will accompany their parents to the conference. If neither parent is unable to attend because of work or other reasons, please contact your child's teacher to schedule at another time. Please sign up for a time slot if you have not already done so. Parent-Teacher conferences are an important part of the education process for each student.

## Saturday Football Update

Tomorrow is an SAT test date at BAIS, but we still will have Saturday football. Just as with last time we had SAT, football will be on the smaller field only. Remember that our students may now bring friends from other schools. We especially would like to see more older players come and join us. Remember that we will cancel if we have bad weather. If you do not receive a message that we are canceling, we will proceed as scheduled.

Schedule: -

Grades 1 to 4: 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

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

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

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## PTO Update/ Halloween

Halloween is upon us! It isn't too late to volunteer! Our highly anticipated Halloween Party will take place tomorrow, **November 2nd, from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM**. Get ready for a night of spooky fun, creative costumes, and plenty of tasty treats!

Signup: [BAIS Halloween Party 2024 - Volunteer NOW](#)

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

## Book Month at BAIS!

Today officially kicks off Book Month here at BAIS! The entire month will be filled with fun activities to promote reading, culminating in a special event to reward students if they meet their goals. A separate email attachment is going out with The Buzz...please be sure to read it! Please reach out to our librarian, Ms.Sainab, or your child's teacher if you have any questions.

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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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## Staff Spotlight

### Ms. Halima



I'm Halimatu Jawara, an elementary teacher who is deeply passionate about education and the students I have the privilege to teach each day. Teaching at the Banjul American International School (BAIS) has been a remarkable journey of growth and connection. Now in my second year here, I taught 1st grade last year and moved with my class to 2nd grade this year. Watching my students learn and grow every day is truly a gift—they are the lights of my world. My experience as a student teacher at BAIS was transformational, thanks in large part to my mentor, Ms. Sanyang, whose guidance shaped my teaching approach and taught me the importance of patience, encouragement, and celebrating each student's milestones.

My path to teaching started in a different direction. I grew up in The Gambia until high school, then moved to the United States to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Political Science with a focus on International Relations, and minors in International Business and Arabic. I initially aspired to work in law or global governance to address social inequalities affecting children, particularly in West Africa. But with time, I realized that true societal progress begins with empowering the next generation through education.

While earning my Master's at Drexel University, I worked as both a nanny and a Graduate and Research Assistant, and I also served as a teaching assistant in the Philadelphia public school system. These experiences built my skills in classroom management, research, and direct student engagement, ultimately inspiring me to focus fully on teaching. After earning my Master's of Science in Teaching, Learning, and Curriculum: Teacher Certification (PreK-4) in 2023 (minoring in International Education), I returned to The Gambia to begin my teaching career at BAIS, a place that fills me with inspiration and gratitude every day. In addition to teaching, I have been a UNICEF consultant, assisted with communications and program development, served as a legal assistant for a human rights lawyer with CAIR, and managed a political campaign. These roles broadened my understanding of education policy and advocacy, solidifying my commitment to increasing educational opportunities in underserved communities. Outside of teaching, I love writing, reading, music, art, cooking, and taking long walks along the beach, where I find time to recharge and reflect. Looking ahead, I aspire to pursue a Ph.D. in Early Childhood and Special Education or Child Psychology, focusing my research on underserved areas, particularly in The Gambia—as less than 1 percent of the global output of scholarly articles came from Africa. I also hope to establish a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness and support for early childhood education. For me, education is not just a profession—it's a calling, one that I pursue wholeheartedly.

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## November 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 : 13 lunches (Total cost: Small = D2,600 OR Large = D3,250)

**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

November 2024	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Nov 4 - 7	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Crispy Chicken, baked vegetables, salad, & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Grilled fish with rice, butter-lime sauce & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Spaghetti bolognaise & fruit	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ NO SCHOOL ☺ Parent-Teacher Conferences ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
Nov 11 - 14	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Vegetable kolhapuri (mixed vegetables in a thick, spiced gravy) & fruit 🇻	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Fish pasta with cherry tomatoes & fruit	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ Faculty PD Noon Dismissal ☺ ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Chicken fried rice with vegetables & fruit
Nov 18 - 21	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Creamy pasta with beef & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Margarita Pizza & fruit 🇻	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Fish fingers, baked vegetables, cream/cheese & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Chicken Biryani with rice & fruit
Nov 25 - 28	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Fried noodles, beef, vegetables & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Spaghetti, tomato sauce, cheese & fruit 🇻	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Fish Benachin, vegetables, bissap sauce & fruit	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ Thanksgiving Noon Dismissal ☺ ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Please contact Ms. Leah for any Hot Lunch inquiries and allergy information (7744477).

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**Happy Halloween!**

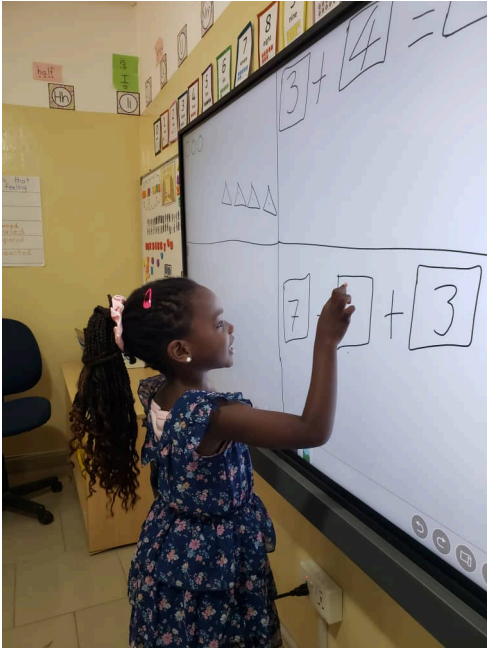


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## K-1 Happenings



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## Our First Mystery Reader Mr. James



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# **NOVEMBER IS BOOK MONTH AT BAIS!**

As always, the purpose of Book Month is to support students in every grade in becoming active, enthusiastic readers by encouraging and highlighting reading for pleasure, both at home and in school. We organize a variety of special events and programs throughout the month to celebrate books and promote reading and writing.

Below are details about our many Book Month activities. Most of these events and programs just need **faculty support, encouragement, and participation**, while some may require **parent support or family involvement**. Please read through the information to learn how you can help make this year's Book Month a success!

By working together as a school community, we can inspire students to discover the joy of reading and create lasting memories through fun and engaging activities.

## **HOW CAN PARENTS HELP?**

- Review the below information so you know what's coming as part of Book Month.
- Support your children by asking about the book cover design they will present for **The Illustrator' Tea on Friday, November 29th (see details below)**;
- Encourage participation (and read yourself!) to pump up your kids for Book Month programs. Share in the excitement by talking about the books you're reading or revisiting some of your favorite childhood reads to inspire and motivate them.
- Offer incentives to encourage the participation of your middle school and high school-aged children. Set up fun challenges that can encourage them to get involved in reading.
- Volunteer to be a mystery reader, a guest reader, or to suggest possible classroom connections or recommendations you have to make this year's Book Month a success.

## **ONGOING PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE MONTH**

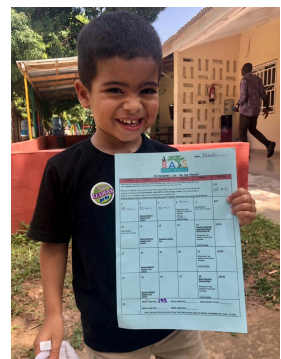
### **School-Wide Reading Challenge/Reading Logs**

Each grade level will be given a weekly goal of non-required reading minutes that will contribute to a school-wide reading goal:

#### **Weekly Goals (Individuals)**

- PK - Grade 1: 100 mins
  - (20 mins per day M-F, weekends count as extra minutes or makeup time)
- Grades 2 - 5: 150 mins
  - (30 mins per day M-F, weekends count as extra minutes or makeup time)
- Grades 6 & Up: 225 mins
  - (45 mins per day M-F, weekends count as extra minutes or makeup time.)

**School-Wide Goal = 1,000 hours!**



## Drop Everything & Read (D.E.A.R) Time

### **Surprise D.E.A.R. Time in November!**

Every day in November, we will surprise students with a **D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read)** time, announced over the intercom. Here's what to know:

- **When:** The reading time will be announced randomly each day—students won't know when it's coming, but teachers will!
- **What to do:** When the announcement is made, drop everything and read for 10 minutes.
- **Be prepared:** Independent readers should always have a book with them in every class. PK-G1 teachers should have books ready for spontaneous read-alouds.

**Let's embrace the fun of reading at any moment!**

### Mystery Readers

Once a week in November, elementary students gather for a quick read aloud in the library by a special guest "mystery reader" during morning circle from 8:00-8:15 am.

Students are given clues about the mystery reader and try to guess who it is before the big reveal. Past mystery readers have included MS/HS students, current/former faculty & staff, parents & community members, etc.

### Book Swap Friday, November 15th, 2024

As part of this year's Book Month, we would be having a book swap day on November 15th. Students are encouraged to bring in books they are willing to part with from home to swap with fellow classmates. This will be a brilliant way to give a much loved book a fresh lease on life in a cozy new home.

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### Surprise D.E.A.R. Time in November!

#### **Reading Logs for November**

Students will soon receive their very pink reading logs to track their independent reading. Here are the key points to remember for this:

- **What counts:** Only personal reading done by choice (not required reading, homework, D.E.A.R. time, or class assignments).
- **Bring logs to the library:** Please remind your children to bring their reading logs to every library class throughout November.
- **MS/HS students:** Reading logs will be collected every Friday morning.
- **School-wide display:** Students can add their favorite books to a display in the library.
- **Rewards:** Small prizes will be awarded for reaching weekly reading goals. If we meet our school-wide goal, we'll plan something special—last year, it was a trip to the beach!

Let's make November a month full of reading adventures!

## MS/HS Book/Audio Book Club

During lunch, participants have the opportunity to come together to select, read, listen to, and discuss a common book of their choice.



### Get Caught Reading/Listening (Social Media Campaign)

We encourage teachers, families, and students to send photos of readers/audiobook listeners in various locations to Mr. Harper, me, and/or Ms. Amal so they can be posted on Facebook/Twitter and in the BAIS Yearbook.



## SPECIAL EVENTS/IMPORTANT DATES

### Dress Like a Book Character Day : Friday, November 29th.

Encouraging students to come to school dressed as their favorite book character can be a fun and engaging way to celebrate reading! Get creative together by making costumes from things you already have at home. Old clothes, craft supplies, or even household items can easily transform into costume pieces. This can make dressing up fun and easy and an enjoyable process for students. By using their imagination, students can bring their favorite characters to life while celebrating the joy of books!

Costumes will be highlighted during the CoL Buddy Activity.



## Illustrators' Tea

**Friday, November 29th**

**# of Minutes Read To Be Announced in COL**

This year, students are encouraged to submit an original book cover design of their favorite book. These would be presented at the ILLUSTRATOR'S TEA, and the best designs will be displayed in the library.

To celebrate the end of this year's Book Month, we're thrilled to welcome a special guest who plays a key role in bringing the magic of books to life—an incredibly talented book illustrator! They'll share with us how they transform the author's words into captivating pictures, making the stories even more exciting and vivid. Through their artwork, they open up new worlds, spark our imaginations, and show us how creativity can enhance the storytelling experience.



## Edible Book Festival

As part of the Illustrator's Tea, students are invited to participate in the optional Edible Book Fe(a)st. The idea is to create something edible inspired by a book title, author, or character. This fun and creative activity allows everyone to bring their favorite stories to life in the form of food!

There will be a chance to view and photograph all the entries before they become the snacks served at the end of the Illustrator's Tea. While sweet treats are always fun, healthy and savory book-inspired snacks are strongly encouraged to balance the variety of options.

***Many thanks for your support!***

*Miss Sainab*