

October 23, 2024

2024-25, Issue 10

BAIS Buzz

Message from the Director

Dear BAIS Families,

With the short week, this will be an abbreviated Buzz. 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.

Thank you for your cooperation in picking up and dropping off at the back gate. If you didn't see that note in last week's Buzz, please remember that the front gate is only for students arriving on foot or by bicycle.

The PTO is hard at work getting ready for our annual Halloween party is right around the corner! **Please note the date change: Saturday, 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!

November also begins **Book Month**. I will resend the information from last week by email.

Also, please remember College Night on Tuesday evening, October 29, at 6:00 PM.

Wishing you all a safe and relaxing long weekend!

Robert Harper, Director

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Upcoming Events

Thurs. & Fri., Oct. 24 & 25
 BAIS Holiday...No School

Tues., Oct. 29.
 College Night, 6:00.

November...Book Month

Fri., Nov. 1.
 Celebration of Learning, 11:40

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



Report Cards/ Parent Teacher Conferences

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.

Important Safety Notice Pick up/drop off procedures

Thank you for remembering that, before and after school, the front gate is for students who arrive on foot or by bicycle only. Our walkers and bike riders appreciate your consideration and efforts to help keep them safe!

Saturday Football Update

Even though there is no school tomorrow and Friday, we still will have Saturday Football this week. 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 – 11:30 AM

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

Mission Statement

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PTO Update/ Halloween

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!

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!

November is 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!

Service Learning Field Trip to Bakau School

On Monday, October 28, the high school Service Learning ASA group will go in the morning to the Bakau School. This trip will help give high school students ideas about their community service project.

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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

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Middle School Art Beach Recycling Project



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High School Visits Weather Station at Banjul Airport



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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

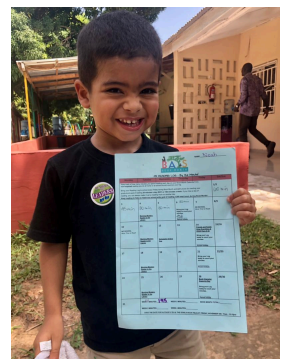
School-Wide Reading Challenge/Reading Logs

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.

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's 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