

September 6, 2024 2024-25, Issue 3

BAIS Buzz

Message from the Director

Dear BAIS Families,

Week 2 has been an awesome week here at BAIS! Students have settled into their classes, and learning is off to a great start. As I walk around campus and visit classrooms, I see happy and eager students, and energetic and caring teachers. I continue to be impressed by the professionalism and creativity of all of our staff and the energy they put into teaching your children every day.

Please notice important dates coming up. Our first round of after school activities will begin on Thursday, September 19. A schedule of the different activities will go home next week. Also, please remember that next Wednesday, September 11, is our first half-day professional development day. Students will be dismissed at 12:00 so that our staff can engage in professional development. This first session will focus on our new learning support program and how we can best meet the needs of students.

I again want to express my personal thanks to all of you who continue to welcome me to the school community. BAIS is truly a wonderful school family, and The Gambia is a beautiful and fascinating country. I feel very blessed to be here.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Robert Harper, Director

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Upcoming Events

Wed., Sept. 11

Faculty Professional Development...12:00 dismissal

Thurs., Sept. 12

PTO Info Meeting...5:00
Parent Open House, 6:00-7:00

Fri, Sep 13,

11:45am-12:15pm

Celebration of Learning. All parents invited to attend!

Mon., Sept. 16

Prophet's Birthday Holiday

Thurs., Sept. 19

After School Activities Begin

Tues. & Thurs., Sept. 24 & 26

Writing Diagnostic Tests

Fri. Sept. 30

MAP Testing begins



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Parent Open House

Our Parent Open House will be next Thursday, September 12, here at BAIS. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to come and visit their children's classroom and to get to know the teachers. Teachers will be able to share plans for the year. Our specialists will also be here so that parents can get to know them as well. We also have new teachers who have joined us this year, and I'm sure you will make them feel as welcome as you have made me feel. This evening is just designed for you to get to know the teachers, not to discuss your children's progress. For that, we will also have Parent-Teacher conferences later this year, and of course parents can come and visit with teachers after school anytime. Since the purpose of this event is for the parents to get to know the teachers, it is best that this be a parent only event.

Health Update

Here at BAIS we are fortunate to have parents and other contacts who work with the U.S. Embassy, the MRC, and other agencies who can keep us abreast of health issues in Banjul and The Gambia which could affect our students. At this time, there are no major health issues for us to be concerned about; however, we always want to be proactive and have contingency plans in place in case they become necessary. Next week I will be meeting with some of those individuals who have assisted us in the past to get an update on current conditions here. As always, we teach our students about good hygiene and healthy habits, and I know that parents emphasize those at home. As always, if students are feeling unwell, and especially if they have a fever or any other symptom of an illness which could be spread, they should remain at home.

Celebration of Learning

Our first Celebration of Learning will be next Friday at 11:30 and end promptly at 12:10. Students should be picked up not later than 12:15. The Celebration of Learning has been an important part of the culture here at BAIS, and we will continue it this year. I know that I am looking forward to seeing my first CoL here! If you have the opportunity, please plan to join us!

PTO News

On Thursday, September 12, we would like to invite all parents and teachers interested in being involved in the PTO to meet at 5:00 in the library. This will be before our Open House which will start at 6:00. The purpose of this meeting is to see the level of interest and to begin to organize for the coming year. We would like all parents and teachers who are interested to join us. If you have any questions, or if you are interested in being involved in the PTO but are unable to attend next Thursday, please send me an email at director@baisgambia.org, or just stop in and visit with me at school.

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Community Service Corner

Hello BAIS families! We hope everyone has had a great first week! As the Service Learning Coordinators, we are excited to let you know about our plans for the upcoming school year. This year we will be following the service learning themes sponsored by the Association of International Schools in Africa (AISA). Building from AISA's service learning mission we will be focusing on community engagement that uses "knowledge and skills in relation to local and global issues to create positive, purposeful change." We will be focusing on storytelling through our service learning activities and ensuring that all activities are meaningful and student-led.

This trimester, service learning will be an After School Activity available to students Grades 3 and up. As a reminder, high school students must complete service learning as a graduation component and we recommend that this is completed in Grades 9 or 10. More details about the requirement will follow. We look forward to supporting students of all ages who are passionate about making change.

Ms. Makuena and Ms. Angie

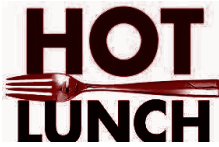
November Book Month/ Scholastic Book Order

Every year, we celebrate Book Month here at BAIS. This month culminates with an Author's Tea at the end of the month. Students are then rewarded with a Beach Day later in the year if they have met their reading goals. This year, Book Month will be November, with the Author's Tea scheduled for Friday, November 29. Ms. Sainab, our librarian, is away in the UK completing some final obligations with her previous school, but when she arrives at the first of October, she will be getting more information out to everyone. Book Month has become an important part of the BAIS culture, and we are looking forward to another successful month!

In preparation for Book Month, this week we sent home order forms for the Scholastic Book Club. If you want to purchase books, you can send your order to the school with the money, and we will make one order and have the books shipped to the school. Prices are listed in British Pounds; we will give you the exchange rate to use, and you will send the amount due in dalasi. More information will follow next week.

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August & September 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

Aug/Sept 2024	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Aug 27-30	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ Summer Break ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> <i>order</i> Fish in Batter, French Fries, Salad & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Chicken Croquette French Fries, Salad & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Beef Benachin, vegetables & fruit
Sept 02-05	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Beef Bourguignon Mashed Potatoes & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Margarita Pizza Mixed Salad & Ice Cream	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Crispy Chicken with Avocado & Tomato salad (& fruit)	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Potato, bell pepper and cheese wraps & fruit
Sept 09-12	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Chicken curry with rice Chocolate Cake	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Grilled Fish in creamy sauce Vegetables Mashed Potatoes (& fruit)	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ <i>Faculty PD Noon Dismissal</i> ☺ ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Spaghetti Bolognese (& fruit)
Sept 16-19	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ NO SCHOOL ☺ ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Fish Curry Couscous & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Fried Noodles w/ Beef, Vegetables (& fruit)	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Chicken Wrap, Plantain & fruit
Sept 23-26	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Fish Benachin Vegetables & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Grilled Chicken, French Fries, Salad & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Meatballs with mashed potatoes & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Margarita Pizza Mixed Salad & Ice Cream

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

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New Staff Spotlight

Mr. George Shyngle



I am excited to introduce myself as the new PE Teacher and After-School Activities Coordinator at BAIS! From the moment I stepped through the doors, the warm welcome from both staff and students made me feel right at home, and I'm eager to become a part of this wonderful community.

Over the past eight years, I've had the privilege of working as a PE teacher at an international school, where I've engaged with students across all age groups. My journey in education began as an early years teacher, and later, I transitioned into a teaching assistant role with older children. This diverse experience eventually led me to combine my love for sports with teaching, and I'm passionate about promoting physical fitness and health in young people.

As we kick off the new school year, I'm looking forward to developing our team sports programs and helping students build healthy, lifelong habits. I'm also excited to play a part in the many sports-related events and activities planned for the year ahead.

On a personal note, I'm married with two boys who share my enthusiasm for football. When I'm not

teaching, you'll often find me running—it's a hobby that keeps me energized and ready for the exciting challenges that lie ahead. I'm truly looking forward to an incredible year at BAIS and can't wait to meet you all!

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Ms. Angie Epifano



Hello y'all! I hope everyone has had a wonderful first week back at BAIS! It's been wonderful being welcomed into the BAIS family and getting to meet so many of y'all and I'm looking forward to meeting everyone over the coming year. It's been a joy seeing students begin making their own art and feel empowered as artists. In Pre-K and K/1 we have been experimenting with colors, while grades 2 and 3 are learning about patterns and repetition to make name grids. The older students are making their own abstract sketchbooks using early bookbinding methods inspired by Leonardo da Vinci.

Seeing the students grow as artists is a beautiful reminder of why art and creativity are central, transformative elements of education. From working as a photographer to finishing my PhD in African Art History, art has been central to my personal and professional life. In my work with the high school students, I strive to bring that same creativity to AP tutoring and college counseling to ensure that students are engaged and energized by their courses. I look forward to seeing the students grow and develop over the course of the year and to seeing the beautiful art that they all produce!

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