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BAIS BUZZ

Mission Statement

The Banjul American International School is an accredited international school providing a meaningful, rigorous American curriculum in a global context. In partnership with the local and international community, we empower students to become enthusiastic, creative, lifelong learners who value integrity, cultural diversity, and global responsibility.

Message from the Director

Dear BAIS Families,

Believe it or not, this past Monday marked the midway point of the 2017-18 BAIS school year, so we have officially entered the second half of the year! As busy as it's been, it feels like the year has been flying by so far.

This brief but important issue of the *Buzz* contains a reminder about the Scholastic Book Sale and updates about tomorrow's middle and high school field trip to MRC for the *International Day of Women and Girls in Science*, an upcoming professional development institute through AISA that will be attended by four BAIS teachers, and the 2018 *BAIS Olympics* competition. And, of course, we have updates about *Disney's The Aristocats Kids* musical performance.

Please read page 2 carefully and make note of the information it contains, as there are important new updates about the schedule of practices and performances leading up to the final musical performance on March 2. We are counting on the support of parents and caretakers in these coming weeks for assisting with transportation and being flexible by dropping off or picking up your children from the theatre instead of the school on a couple of occasions.

Thanks for all your support in making learning opportunities like *The Aristocats* possible for our children.

Caleb Steindam, Director

Upcoming Events

Fri, Feb 9, 11:45am-12:15pm

Celebration of Learning: *Grade 1*

Fri, Feb 16, 11:45am-12:15pm

Celebration of Learning:
Class Share

Mon, Feb 19

Gambian Independence holiday
– No School

Fri, Feb 24, 2:30pm

Board Meeting in Library

Feb 24-25

AISA Blended Learning Institute in Dakar (Ms. Cassie, Ms. Elin, Mr. James, and Ms. Stacy to attend)

Feb 26 - Mar 2

Musical Performance Week: See page 2 for week's schedule

Sat, Mar 24, 9:00am

BAIS Olympics inter-school competition at MRC



Musical Practice, Rehearsal, and Performance Schedules

Please read this page carefully for important new information about our plans for practices, rehearsals, and the final performances of *Aristocats Kids* and the opening acts.

Next week:

Monday, February 12th, and Thursday, February 15th, will be the final days of the current after-school activities session, with Grades 1-3 practicing for *The Aristocats* on Monday and Grades 4-9 practicing on Thursday. After-school activities always end at 4:15pm.

Feb 20-23:

All students will stay after-school Tuesday, February 20th, and Thursday, February 22nd, until 4:15pm, for *Aristocats* practice for Grades 1-9 and Kindergarten performance practice with Ms. Elin and Mr. Valentine.

Final Week:

Mon, Feb 26: We will have after-school practice until 4:15 for all students K-9.

Tue, Feb 27: We will have a full rehearsal practice at Eburnjan Theatre in the morning. On this day, **all students should be dropped off at Eburnjan Theatre in the morning instead of at BAIS.** We will leave Eburnjan for BAIS after finishing the rehearsal, around 10:00am. We will be soliciting parents' help in providing transport from Eburnjan to BAIS. (If possible, we would like Pre-K and Kindergarten students to leave for BAIS earlier, as soon as their part of the rehearsal is completed.) After returning to BAIS we will finish the regular school day at 3:15pm.

Wed, Feb 28: We will begin the school day at BAIS as usual, and will need assistance with transport to get all students to Eburnjan by 10:00am. **We will have our dress rehearsal at 10:30am at Eburnjan Theatre on Wednesday, February 28th.** This will be a full performance, enacted all the way through just like the final performance, in front of a full audience from other invited schools. Parents and caretakers are welcome to attend the dress rehearsal as well. After the dress rehearsal we will have a brief reflection, then **all students should be picked up directly from Eburnjan Theatre for home at 12:00pm.** (This has already been scheduled as an early dismissal day for staff PD.)

Thu, Mar 1: We will hold our final after-school musical practice at the school for all students K-9, finishing at 4:15pm.

Fri, Mar 2: We will have a normal Friday school schedule with all students picked up at 12:15pm. Families will receive individual instructions about what time their children should arrive to Eburnjan for the final performance. Guests are invited to arrive at **6:00 for seating.** Two BAIS 3rd graders will perform music in the background during seating time. The **performance will begin promptly at 6:30pm** with introductory remarks by the US Ambassador followed by opening acts by Pre-K and Kindergarten, then the feature performance of *Disney's The Aristocats Kids*. There will be food and drinks available for purchase at the theatre. BAIS families and invited guests are welcome to stay and mingle after the performance.



BANJUL AMERICAN
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

*cordially invites you
to our performance of*

Disney
THE
AristoCats
KIDS

plus very special opening acts

at the EBUNJAN THEATRE

Kanifing South
Banjul, The Gambia

March 2nd, 2018

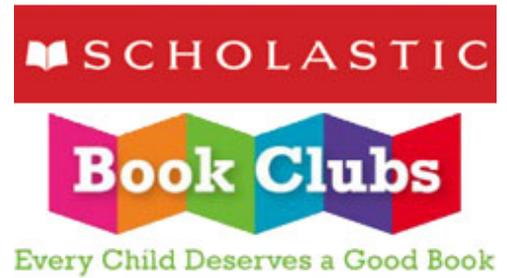
Seating: 6:00pm Curtains: 6:30pm

Contact Caleb Steindam at
BAISDirector@gmail.com for further information

Scholastic Book Club Orders

Time is running out for ordering books and supporting the BAIS Library through the February Scholastic Book Club Sale. We're extending the deadline just one additional day, to Friday, February 9th. Go to <http://world-schools.scholastic.co.uk/banjul-american-embassy-1> to browse the latest books and order online directly with your credit card. (There is a greater selection of books—especially for older students—on the website than the catalogs we sent home.) For every \$1 you spend on this month's Book Club, our school will earn 20¢ in Scholastic Rewards. Thanks to your orders in the October Scholastic Book Sale, we were able to purchase two brand new sets of *Horrible Histories* and *Horribly Famous* books for the BAIS library!

Feel free to contact Leah (msleahwoldman@gmail.com) or Caleb (BAISDirector@gmail.com) if you have any questions about making your book orders through Scholastic.



BAIS Olympics

We're getting very excited for the second annual *BAIS Olympics*, which will be held on Saturday, March 24th, in the Fajara Campus of MRC Unit The Gambia. This will be a friendly competition in Olympics-style athletic events between the students of BAIS and other schools including Fandema and École Française. The event will be held in the morning, with refreshments for sale by the BAIS PTO. Anna Roca is taking the lead on organizing the athletic competitions. A more detailed schedule will be provided closer to that time. BAIS students, it's not too early to start training!



Here are some photos to bring back the great memories of last year's BAIS Olympics:



International Day of Girls and Women in Science at MRC

The BAIS middle and high school students are looking forward to participating in the **International Day of Women and Girls in Science** along with several other invited schools from across the Greater Banjul Area, at the MRC Unit The Gambia tomorrow (Thursday, February 8th) from 8:30am to 12:30pm. The theme is “**Opening Doors – Closing the Gender Gap.**”

To provide some context, here is what the MRC states in their invitation to this event:

Women have a long legacy of significant contributions to science. However, the proportion of male to female leadership in the field remains heavily skewed towards men. Looking into sub-Saharan Africa, the percentage of women among global health researchers is the lowest. Efforts should be made to close this gender gap and to open the doors for women leaders in global health research.

The challenges and difficulties to become a female researcher start at the career choice. Women are less likely than men to enter universities that focus on research. By hosting this event, we aim to educate youth about the significant accomplishments of female leaders in global health in Sub Saharan Africa and to illustrate the career opportunities that are available for girls and women in science.

The morning will include a tour of the MRC campus and laboratories along with posters, presentations, and remarks from female scientists and other professionals contributing to the MRC’s important medical research. Be sure to ask a middle or high school student to tell you about it!



AISA Professional Development Institute on Blended Learning

Ms. Cassie, Ms. Elin, Mr. James, and Ms. Stacy will travel to Dakar the weekend of February 24th-25th to participate AISA’s [Transforming Classrooms Through Blended Learning](#) professional learning institute. Congratulations to Ms. Cassie for receiving an AISA scholarship for this program!

The aim of the institute is to share strategies to transform student learning through the skillful and appropriate use of technology in the classrooms to supplement other learning modalities. Here are the key learning outcomes for the institute, according to the AISA website:

- Develop an understanding of what blended learning is and how this approach can improve your students’ learning.
- Develop a blended learning approach to a unit or lesson
- Take away transferable skills that can be used to develop Blended Learning further upon return to school.

We are thrilled that our teachers will have this opportunity and can’t wait for them to come back and share their learning with us!

