

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 local and international communities, we empower students to become enthusiastic, creative, lifelong learners who value integrity, cultural diversity, and global responsibility.

Message from the Director

Dear BAIS Community,

The final two months of the 2018-2019 school year will be a busy and exciting time for BAIS students. We are eagerly anticipating many events in the month of May including STEM Fair; the Middle School's overnight trip to Marakissa; the Primary School's boating trip in Tanji; the BAIS Community Yard Sale, which we are organizing in collaboration with the US Embassy; and Movie Night, which will be right after the Annual General Meeting. And in the month of June we look forward to Student Council's Camping-themed *Lock-In* party, the End-of-Year Ceremony, and Student Council's End-of-Year Party, as well as the publishing and sharing of our Service Learning chapbook and the completion of our bottle-house bantaba! Please use the "Upcoming Events" column to the right to help keep track of the dates of all these activities. You can also follow [this link](#) to our Google [Calendar of BAIS Events](#).

This issue of the *BAIS Buzz* contains updates on these and many other BAIS happenings. Don't hesitate to reach out to me at director@baisgambia.org with any questions.

Thanks as always for your support in making BAIS a fun, safe, welcoming, and vibrant learning community.

Caleb Steindam, Director

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Upcoming Events

Fri, May 10, 10:30am-12:15pm
STEM Fair (Grades K-8)

Fri, May 10 – Sat, May 11
MS Overnight Trip to Marakissa

Fri, May 17, 11:45am-12:15pm
"Specials" Celebration of Learning

Fri, May 17
Spirit Day: *Bais Colors Day*

Sat, May 18, 10:00am-1:00pm
BAIS Community Yard Sale

Thu, May 23, 4:30-8:30pm
AGM & Movie Night

Fri, May 24
NO SCHOOL (Africa Day)

Mon, May 27, 3:15-4:15pm
Final After-School Activities

Wed, May 29, 8:00am-3:00pm
Tanji Boat Trip (K-4)

Fri, May 31
NO SCHOOL (Lailat al-Qadr)

Fri, June 7-Sat, June 8
Humanities Celebration of Learning

June 7, 5:30pm - June 8, 10am
"Lock-In" Party



Board of Directors Updates

The BAIS Board of Directors is pleased to announce that three candidates have put themselves forward for consideration to be members of the Board. These candidates will be presented to the BAIS Association for approval during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Thursday, May 23rd. As there will be three candidates for three open positions, the decision to elect the new Board members will be approved by a show of hands (not by secret ballot) in accordance with BAIS policy.

It is important that we have good attendance from the Association in order to have a quorum to officially approve the new Board members. The AGM is also a valuable opportunity for all Board members to hear reports from the Board of Directors and School Director, as well as the PTO, Student Council, and a report on the previous year's financial audit.

Here are the bios of our four incoming Board members. Jamal, Sandra, and Carla are the three Board candidates who to be confirmed in the upcoming AGM. Youliana will join the Board as the US Embassy's appointee.

Jamal Bensouda: I was born and raised in The Gambia, and I am a Gambian and American citizen. I am married and have four children including Amadou Jamal Bensouda who attends BAIS. I attended St. Augustine's High School where I received my O Levels Certificate in 1989 and went to America to further my education. I obtained my Bachelor's in Business Administration and Finance and my Master's in Project Management and Information Systems. I have more than 20 years of professional experience in public and private institutions in America and The Gambia. I have management experience as the Operations Manager of Afrimobile Money/Africell, Head of Public at Access Bank and Financial Analyst with Commerce Bank in Kansas City and Account Manager for American Humanics. Education is very important to me and the greatest gift an individual can have is a good education. That is why we choose BAIS for our children because of the excellent curriculum, school plays and activities, after school programs and the qualified teachers and staff. I truly believe that BAIS should be the standard model for every private school in The Gambia and that is why I would like to be part of the outstanding institution and contribute to the quality education that BAIS provides.

Sandra Amalfi: I am an economist that has worked for the European Union, both as permanent staff and consultant to conduct evaluation missions of EU-funded projects, in many developing countries over the past two decades. Resident in the Gambia since 2013, I have been part of the great BAIS community since my arrival, with my two sons, Batiste and Emile, currently enrolled in BAIS in Grade 5 and Grade 1. Over the past 6 years, I have volunteered several times to help the BAIS Parent-Teacher-Organization and already served BAIS Board of Directors for 2 years during the school accreditation process. I strongly believe in the power of education and genuinely appreciate all the hard work BAIS teachers and staffs are putting into empowering BAIS students to create a better future for tomorrow. The school year 2019-2020 will be my family's last year in the Gambia and I am delighted to have the opportunity to give back some of my time and knowledge to the BAIS community.



Carla Cerami: I am an American scientist and physician who has been based in The Gambia since 2016. I am a Senior Investigator in the Nutrition Theme at MRCG Unit The Gambia at The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and an Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Population Health at The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. I have served continuously since 1999 on the Board of Directors of the Kenneth S Warren Institute (KSWI), a US based non-profit organisation dedicated to medical research with a budget of up to 2 million USD per year.



I have served in the roles of both President and Treasurer and been involved in real estate transactions on behalf of KSWI. At MRC Unit The Gambia I have supervised and mentored multiple PhD, MsC and BSc students. I am also an active member of the MRC Women in Science group. I currently have two children, William and Sophia, in the 8th grade at BAIS. I would like to serve on the BAIS BOD in order to help support the school and its current mission. In addition, I would like to offer my energy and enthusiasm towards the possible creation of a high school at BAIS. I welcome this opportunity to serve the BAIS community.

Youliana Sadowski: Youliana Sadowski serves as the Political/Economic Chief at U.S. Embassy Banjul. She assumed this role in June 2017. Prior to that, Youliana was a consular officer in Frankfurt and an economic officer in Seoul. Youliana joined the Foreign Service in March 2012, after serving for 6 years as a civil servant at the State Department. Prior to working for the State Department, Youliana worked as a policy analyst at the Export-Import Bank. She is a former Presidential Management Fellow (PMF). Youliana holds a master's degree in International Affairs from American University, Washington, DC and a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Georgia. Youliana is married and has two children, one of which attends BAIS.



Here is the agenda for the AGM, which will be held on **Thursday, May 23rd**, in the **BAIS Library** and will be followed by our final **Movie Night** of the 2018-2019 school year!

- 4:30pm** – Social Time with Coffee, Tea, and Cookies (outside)
- 5:00pm** – Annual General Meeting in Library
 1. Welcoming Remarks – Dr. Martin Antonio
 2. Reports to the Association
 - a. Student Council Report
 - b. Director's Report – Mr. Caleb Steindam
 - c. Board Chair's Report – Dr. Martin Antonio
 - d. Report on Financial Audit – Mr. Paul Gaye (Payce Consulting Partner)
 - e. Finance Update – Ms. Niania Dabo Touray
 - f. PTO Report – Ms. Cassie Banna
 3. Questions and Comments from Association
 4. Election of New Board Members
 - a. Thanks to Outgoing Board Members – Mr. Cian O'Siochain
 - b. Introduction of Board Candidates
 - c. Explanation of Election Policy
 - d. Approval of New Board Members by Show of Hands
 - e. Welcome New Board Members – Mr. Cian O'Siochain
 5. Adjournment
- 6:30pm** – Movie Night

New E-mail Addresses for BAIS Faculty & Administration

We now have official e-mail addresses for BAIS teachers and administrators with the domain @baisgambia.org. The new email addresses are listed in the table below. The two teachers who are not returning next year will continue to use their existing email accounts for the remainder of this school year. Myna Anderson will also use the director@baisgambia.org email address when she takes on the role of BAIS Director this coming August.

Name, Position	Email
Caleb Steindam, Director	director@baisgambia.org
Madline Ashcroft, Administrative Officer	admin@baisgambia.org
Leah John, Business Manager	finance@baisgambia.org
Amal A. Alfa, MS Math & IT Teacher	aalfa@baisgambia.org
D. Edward Badjie, French Teacher	debadjie@baisgambia.org
Scott Hemsey, MS Humanities Teacher	shemsey@baisgambia.org
Elin Jacobson, Grade 2 Teacher	ejacobson@baisgambia.org
Kelly McAllester, Grades 3-4 Teacher	kmcallester@baisgambia.org
Natalie Touray, Grades K-1 Teacher	ntouray@baisgambia.org
Daniel Twum, Music Teacher	dtwum@baisgambia.org
Leah Woldman, Art & Library Teacher	lwoldman@baisgambia.org
Stephen Wright, PE Teacher	swright@baisgambia.org

Seussical Videos

The *Seussical KIDS* performance videos are available to view on YouTube. The link was shared with the email when the last newsletter was sent out before spring break, and it was shared again in the email with this newsletter. (Please share this link only with family and friends, do not post it publicly.)



Please notify Caleb if you would like to receive a DVD copy of the videos.

Also, **we are continuing to accept donations for new roofing for the Gambian Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.** All donations will go directly to the cost of new roofs for their school buildings, which we aim to provide before the rains start.

2019 Gambia Teachers Institute

Last Saturday, April 27th, BAIS welcomed more than 100 educators from throughout The Gambia for our second highly successful Gambia Teachers Institute of the 2018-2019 school year. Huge thanks to the BAIS teachers and outside facilitators who volunteered their time to lead workshops on a variety of topics relevant to Gambian classrooms.



Announcing BAIS Yard Sale!



YARD SALE

Saturday, May 18th
10am-1pm at BAIS in Fajara

Reserve your table for D400!

Get rid of your old things or come to buy new or used ones!

Toys, sports equipment, books, household goods etc!

Drinks and ice lollys for sale!



**Email: baisdirector@gmail.com to
reserve your table today!**

Service Learning Update



Bottle Bantaba Update



Plastic bottles
needed!

Thank you to everyone who has donated large plastic water bottles! They are being put to good use and soon BAIS will have its own bottle bantaba.

We still need more plastic bottles to reach our goal!

Please help by donating as many large plastic water bottles as you possibly can at the BAIS Student/Back Gate



STEM Fair

STEM Fair will be next Friday, May 10th, from 10:30am to 12:00pm. STEM stands for *Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math*. (This event was previously called Science Fair.) We will have keynote remarks from Dr. Anna Roca at 10:30am, followed by poster presentations by all students in grades K-8! All BAIS community members are invited and encouraged to attend!

Student Council Announcements

Student Council is planning an overnight camping-themed *Lock-In Party* for grades 2-8, which will be on July 7th-8th. Then on June 21st, we will have the **End-of-Year Party** organized by Student Council in the afternoon following our End-of-Year Ceremony, which will feature food, dancing, a photobooth, sprinklers to run through, and other fun!



We had great fun with today's Spirit Day theme of "Backwards Day"! The next Spirit Day is two just weeks away—Friday, May 17th, will be **BAIS Colors Day!** (BAIS colors are red, blue, green, and yellow.)

Overnight Middle School Marakissa Trip

Next Friday (the same day as STEM Fair!), May 10th, the middle school students will go on an overnight field trip to the village of Marakissa with Ms. Stephanie, Ms. Amal, Mr. Scott, Ms. Maiyai, and Mr. Caleb. We will depart from BAIS in a bus at 3:00pm Friday and return at about 3:00pm Saturday. The trip will include a nature walk, campfire, river canoe trips, a meeting with members of the Marakissa community, star watching, and an outdoor art activity.



Primary School Boat Trip in Tanji

On Wednesday, May 29th, grades K-4 will travel to the Tanji River Karinti Bird Reserve where they will take boats on the river with the Kayaking Gambia Company to experience the beautiful river ecosystem. In connection with our Life Below Water Service Learning theme, this field trip is for students to observe life in the mangroves, including the rich array of bird life relying on the river for food. Students and teachers will travel together by boat with expert guides through the mangroves before embarking at Bijol Islands (Kajonyi Islands) to explore the area and collect water specimens to see what is living in the river. The boat trip and island visit will last approximately 3 hours, and they will return to school on time for a late lunch.

