

November 8, 2024

2024-25, Issue 12

# BAIS Buzz

## Message from the Director

Dear BAIS Families,

The Halloween Party was a huge success! Thank you so much to PTO, especially Mary Jobe and Jeremy Ogusky for organizing! A big thank you also to the US Marines for organizing the haunted house! It was wonderful to see all of our families...parents and students...having fun and enjoying each other's company. We also had visiting families in attendance who are considering BAIS for their children, and I know they appreciated being made to feel welcome. The next PTO event is the Christmas Party on Saturday, December 7. More info inside the Buzz.

Book Month is off to a good start. Students are well on their way toward their goal of 1,000 hours of outside reading! Thank you for encouraging your children to read at home. Special thanks to Ms. Vanessa for her guest appearance today!

Parent-Teacher conference was well attended. **A huge thank you to Ms. Amal for coordinating the schedule.** If you were unable to attend, please reach out to your child's teacher to schedule a conference. And please remember that you can always schedule a conference with your child's teacher anytime you want to come in and discuss your child's progress.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Robert Harper, Director

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## Upcoming Events

### November...Book Month

#### Wed., Nov. 13

Professional Development Day  
 12:00 dismissal

#### Fri., Nov. 15 and 22

Celebration of Learning, 11:40

#### Thurs. Nov. 28

Thanksgiving Holiday...12:00  
 dismissal

#### Fri. Nov. 29

Illustrator's Tea

#### Sat., Dec. 7

PTO School Christmas Party




## PTO Update/ Christmas Party

### 🎄 **BAIS Family Christmas Party** 🎄

Come celebrate the season with us at our annual BAIS Family Christmas Party!

 **Date:** Saturday, December 7th

 **Time:** 4:00 - 6:30 PM

Enjoy an evening filled with festive games, cookie decorating, and a special visit from Santa himself!

Stay tuned for more details coming soon. We can't wait to celebrate together

Should you want to join the planning committee please contact Mary Jobe (Sadie K/G1) via WhatsApp at +1 401-573-6199.

## Saturday Football Update

We will be back on the big field tomorrow. 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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## Learning Support Update

As you know, this year BAIS has added a Learning Support program, with Ms. Danielle Shulkin leading that program. The program is off to a great start, including the completion of our new building which houses the learning support room. Ms. Danielle has been working hard with individual students and also with teachers and assistants to identify students who need assistance, and how best to meet the needs of students. In conjunction with that, I am excited to announce that Dr. David Bateman will travel to Banjul in February to meet with Danielle and the rest of the staff to help us meet the needs of students even more effectively. Dr. Bateman has an extensive background and many years of experience in working in the area of special needs and has authored several books on the topic. We are deeply indebted to the Office of Overseas Schools of the U.S. State Department for funding our learning support program and also Dr. Bateman's visit.

## School Board Update

At the last school board meeting on November 4, the School Board approved the calendar for the 2025-26 school year. The calendar is attached in this week's Buzz. The next School Board meeting is Monday, December 9. I again want to thank all of our Board members for their dedication and volunteering their time in service to the school.

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## Book Month at BAIS!

Our Reading Month kickoff has been met with incredible enthusiasm from students! Students, especially in the elementary grades, are clocking in reading minutes that far exceed their personal goals. At this pace, I'm confident we'll reach our school-wide goal of 1,000 hours by the end of the month.

A special thanks to our guest readers, whose sessions have been a huge hit, particularly with our younger grades. Mystery readers have brought a wonderful sense of surprise and excitement to each session. Today, we had the pleasure of welcoming Mrs. Sanyang, the former librarian, as our guest reader, and the students and staff enjoyed engaging with her.

### Upcoming Events for Week 2 of Book Month

**Book Swap Day:** Next Friday, students are invited to bring in a gently used book to exchange with their classmates.

**Illustrators' Tea and Edible Feast:** On Friday, November 29th, we're hosting the Illustrators' Tea and the Edible Feast at The COL. We can't wait to see the favourite book cover designs our students are working on and look forward to celebrating their creativity!

Thank you to all the students, families, and teachers for making Book Month a success so far. Let's keep up the momentum and continue making reading an exciting highlight in our school!

Ms. Sainab

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## Musical Update from Mr. Emmanuel



Please mark your calendars for two important events:

1. On November 12th and 14th at lunch -- **Auditions for lead roles**

2. On **Friday February 21st -- the Big Show - BAIS Musical 2024**

Notes:

All students K-G8 will be part of the Musical.

Rehearsals for G2 - G8 every Thursday starting from November 21st after school 3.20 - 4.10 pm. Pick up at 4.15pm.

HOW CAN YOUR CHILD AUDITION FOR A LEAD ROLE

1. Sign up for an audition time at this link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VNuKXFixUo6FeQDQBMbS-o6sWZMQpyT6hAV9v6c3yo8/edit?usp=sharing>

2. Choose a song they love to sing - practice it - be ready to sing it at their audition. Add dance steps and a loud voice if possible.

Enquiries, reach the Musical director if there be any concerns.

Mr. Emmanuel

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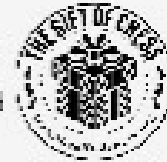
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# SATURDAY CHESS MEET-UP!

**CGSC**

Chess in Gambia  
Schools & Communities



**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER  
9TH**

**SCHEDULE**

**FROM 3PM TO 6.30PM**

**LOCATION**

**ICELAND ICE  
CREAM PARLOUR,  
NEAR HOLY FAMILY  
CHURCH, HIGHWAY  
TO STADIUM**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**+220 261 6769 // +220 254 2657**

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## Staff Spotlight

### Ms. Hala



Hello BAIS community,

My name is Hala Dbouk. I am the Kindergarten and Grade 1 homeroom teacher. I taught Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten in the past 2 years, and this is my 3rd year teaching here at BAIS. It warms my heart to see the little students engaged in a learning environment where every child feels valued, special and is supported to achieve their full potential.

I earned my Masters Degree in Physics from the Lebanese University. After tutoring during my university years, I discovered my love for teaching. I started my career in education as an elementary science teacher in my home country Lebanon before I moved to the smiling coast back in 2011. My husband Hassan and I are blessed to have 9 year old twin boys Ali and Abbas who have been in BAIS since Pre-k 1 and now are in Grade 4.

Outside school, during my free time, I enjoy baking and creating arts.

I feel so blessed to be part of the BAIS big family, where I consider it a place to achieve my dream of making the world a better place by laying the foundations of empathy and kindness in the hearts of the little learners.

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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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# 2025-26 Calendar



## BAIS 2025-2026 School Calendar

Approved November 4, 2024

### August 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

15 Assumption Day Holiday  
18 TAs & New Teachers report to work  
25-29 Teacher Inservice  
28 New Family Orientation

### February 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

19 class days  
4 Faculty PD (12pm dismissal)  
18 Gambian Independence Holiday

### September 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

21 class days  
1 - School Opens  
4 - TBC - Prophet's Birthday  
10 Faculty PD (12pm dismissal)  
Holiday: Approximate date - BAIS will observe the date confirmed by Govt of domicile

### March 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

20 class days  
4 Faculty PD (12pm dismissal)  
TBC 19-20 Korlehi/ Eid Ul Fitr

### October 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

#### Book Month!

21 class days  
1- Book Month begins  
8 Faculty PD (12pm dismissal)  
BAIS Holiday  
31 End of Quarter 1 (42 days)

### April 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

16 class days  
2 End of Quarter 2 (46 days)  
3 Good Friday Holiday,  
6-10 Spring Break

### November 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

20 class days  
5 Faculty PD (12pm dismissal)  
27 Thanksgiving Holiday-noon dismissal

### May 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

18 class days  
1 Labor Day  
21 BAIS Annual General Meeting  
25 Africa Day,  
26 Eid ul Adha/ Tobaski  
27 Faculty PD (12pm dismissal)

### December 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

10 class days  
Dec 18-Jan 5 - Winter Break

### June 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

15 class days  
17 End of Year Ceremony & Graduation  
17 Semester 2 Ends (45/91 days)  
19 Last Day (12pm dismissal)  
22 Teacher Work Day

### January 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

20 class days  
5 Classes resume  
23 Semester 1 Ends (45/91 days)

### July 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

<b>180 PK - Grade 8 Learning Days</b>	<b>180 High School Learning Days</b>	<b>PD Half Days = 6 days</b>
Quarter 1 = 45 days	Quarter 1 = 44 days	Sep 10; Oct 8; Nov 5
Quarter 2 = 46 days	Quarter 2 = 45 days	Feb 4; Mar 4; May 27
Semester 1 = 91 days	Semester 1 = 89 days	
Semester 2 = 89 days	Semester 2 = 91 days	

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## Happy Halloween!



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