

December 13, 2024

2024-25, Issue 17

# BAIS Buzz

## Message from the Director

Dear BAIS Families,

I want to thank all of you who came out and supported the PTO Christmas Party. A special word of thanks to Mary Jobe for organizing and planning, along with all the work that day. Thank you Bob Taylor for reprising your role as Santa, and Toni Cuerva of Gambega, for donating the soft drinks. Thank you, Mr. Emmanuel and your students, for the wonderful musical performance. And what an amazing accomplishment by our 2nd and 3rd grade classes with their fundraiser! Thank you to Ms. Halima, Ms. Fatoumatta, and Ms. Kiran for organizing and to all who contributed! Please read the update inside the Buzz.

The PTO did an amazing job, but they can use all the help they can get! The next PTO meeting will be Tuesday, January 14 at 6:00 PM in the library. This will give our parents who work during the day the opportunity to attend. If you have not yet been involved with the PTO, please consider joining.

On Saturday, January 11, we will begin Saturday basketball. More information is inside the Buzz.

I'm sure that all of our students are looking forward to the winter break. I hope all of you have a safe and enjoyable break.

Robert Harper, Director

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## Upcoming Events

**Mon. Jan. 6**  
 Classes Resume

**Sat. Jan. 11**  
 Saturday Basketball begins

**Tues. Jan. 14**  
 PTO Meeting, 6:00 PM

**Mon. Jan. 27**  
 School Board Meeting



## From the Business Office/ Tuition Reminder

This is a reminder that second trimester tuition payments were due on **November 20**. If you have already paid...thank you!! If you have not yet paid, please see Ms. Leah in the business office as soon as possible to make arrangements for payment. Thank you!

## PTO Update

The next PTO meeting will be Tuesday, January 14, at 6:00 PM in the school library. This will give our parents who work the opportunity to attend. Please plan to attend! The PTO needs more volunteers!

## Chess Update



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## Community Service Corner Elementary School...UPDATE

**Dear Grade 2 and 3 Parents and BAIS Community,**

### **Grade 2 and 3 Service Learning Project: A Heartfelt Success!**

This holiday season, our Grade 2 and Grade 3 students at BAIS embarked on a truly inspiring journey of service and community engagement. As part of their English Language Arts and Social Studies units on Schools and Communities, and Citizenship, the students were introduced to the challenges faced by children at **GOVI (The Gambian Organization of the Visually Impaired)**. GOVI is a school for children who are blind or visually impaired in The Gambia.

During our Field Trip to GOVI, the students learned about the resilience and determination of their peers in The Gambia. One of the most powerful lessons was discovering how challenging it can be for the students at GOVI when they run out of braille paper, a resource that is not locally produced and must be imported, which often results in delays in their learning.

Inspired by this experience, our Grade 2 and Grade 3 students decided to take action and make a difference. Their goal was to raise funds to purchase **braille paper, educational resources, and backpacks** for the 70 students at GOVI. This service learning project not only provided an opportunity to support a meaningful cause, but it also gave our young learners a chance to develop valuable life skills such as empathy, responsibility, and teamwork.

### **The Fundraiser**

In collaboration with the **PTO**, the students set up a fundraising stand at the Christmas Party. They worked diligently to create handmade items that would be sold to raise money, including **drawings, Christmas ornaments, cards, jewelry, and more**. The BAIS community came together to support these young philanthropists, and the turnout was truly heartwarming.

### **The Results**

We are thrilled to share that the fundraiser was a tremendous success! Thanks to the generous support of our parents, teachers, and students, we raised **168,656 Dalasis**, which is equivalent to over **\$2,000**. These funds will go directly to purchasing the much-needed supplies for GOVI, which is significantly more than we had anticipated. This unexpected

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success means we can now make an even more substantial impact, providing not only the essential braille paper and resources, but also potentially funding additional supplies like sanitary products, or even the improvement of the school physically.

### **A Valuable Learning Experience**

This project was about so much more than just fundraising; it was about instilling a sense of **global citizenship** in our students. Through this initiative, they learned that even small acts of kindness can create meaningful change. They also gained a deeper understanding of the **importance of diversity and inclusion**, as they learned firsthand that despite different circumstances, every child has something valuable to offer.

The service learning project also provided our students with the chance to reflect on the **privileges** they often take for granted and recognize how they can use their resources and abilities to help others. It was a powerful reminder of the importance of **giving back** and how, together, we can make the world a better place.

### **A Big Thank You**

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported this incredible initiative, whether through donations, volunteering, or simply encouraging our students along the way. Your kindness and generosity not only helped the students at GOVI, but also reinforced the important lessons of community, compassion, and service.

We are incredibly proud of the Grade 2 and Grade 3 students for their hard work and dedication to this cause, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact of their efforts at GOVI.

– Halimatu Jawara

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## Community Service Corner/ High School

### Hi BAIS Rollers!

The High School Service Learning group is building a Bantaba at Bakau Upper Basic School. We are building one significantly larger than the one at BAIS and we need over 1,000 plastic bottles. We would like to ask parents, students, or staff to collect and bring in any 500-milliliter bottles to help us achieve our goal. During the Sunday Christmas Party, we will have a large box at the back gate of the school. At the party, please drop any used bottles into the box! You may also bring in any bottles that you have lying around your house. Over the holiday break, could you please save and collect bottles and ask friends or family members to do the same. When you return from break please return the bottles to campus.

Thank you in Advance for your help.

The HS Service Learning Team.

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## Staff Spotlight Ms. Fatoumatta



### Hello BAIS Rollers!

My name is Fatoumatta Jobe, and I have had the pleasure of working as a teaching assistant at BAIS for the past year and a half. Time has truly flown by!

I began my tertiary education journey at Montgomery College in Maryland, where I studied Economics and earned an Associate's degree. I also obtained a Maryland leadership certification, focusing on service, awareness, and advocacy through the lens of the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. After the COVID-19 pandemic, I made the decision to return to my home country, The Gambia, to be closer to my family. Once settled, I transferred to The University of The Gambia, where I recently graduated with honors, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Marketing. I am now working towards obtaining my teaching certification in 2025, and in the near future, I hope to pursue a Master's degree in Cognitive Psychology.

Professionally, I have worked in various roles, including sales and administration, but the majority of my experience has been in the field of transitional justice. I worked at a civil society organization called the African Network Against Extrajudicial Killings and Enforced Disappearances (ANEKED). I started as a Summarization Expert, composing summaries of testimonies given during the Truth, Reconciliation, and Reparations Commission proceedings, and later served as a Communications Specialist. In that role, I managed promotional campaigns, covered traveling exhibitions, and facilitated school outreach programs across The Gambia, Senegal, and New York.

My work with ANEKED allowed me to connect with many students, which only deepened my interest in education. I've always known I wanted to be an educator, though I never imagined it would happen so soon or that it would be in elementary school. I never expected to be in a position where I could experience so much wonder, curiosity, and exploration. Each day, I get to play the role of a poet, scientist, mathematician, artist, athlete, counselor, and nurse – sometimes all at the same time.

Growing up, curiosity always drove me. I was the child who constantly asked "why?" Thankfully, I had a family who humored me and teachers who nurtured my inquisitive nature. I still remember learning about fossils with Ms. Rampoldi, receiving books about marine life from Ms. Seuss, and exploring my short lived love for horror writing under the guidance of Ms. Frank. While I may not have become a paleontologist, marine biologist, or author, the

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memories of those moments remain with me, and I'm forever grateful for the teachers who encouraged my imagination.

The teachers in my life allowed me to explore the world within their classrooms, and I will always be better for it. They taught me to view school as a place for constant imagination and reinvention. They allowed me to be as many things as I could, and I hope I am and continue to be that kind of educator.

At BAIS, I have been humbled by the small but mighty children I have the pleasure of seeing each day. Their tenacity, perseverance, and bravery have changed my perspective on the world. They approach every challenge with courage and sincerity, inspiring me to do the same.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the entire BAIS community. Thank you to the teachers who mentored me, the admin who supported me, the staff who guided me, the students who were patient with me, and the parents who welcomed me into the BAIS family.

I am incredibly grateful for my time at BAIS and look forward to many more wonderful years together.

Wishing you all a joyful and restful holiday!

Sincerely,

Fatoumatta Jobe

## **Saturday Basketball Starting in January**

On Saturday, January 11, we will begin Saturday basketball at BAIS. The format will be similar to how soccer was...younger players from 9:00 to 10:00, and older players from 10:15 to 11:15. BIS students are allowed to bring friends, as long as it doesn't get too crowded. Parents are also invited to come out and assist as well, and I understand that we have a few that were avid players also! So plan to come out and be a part of this fun activity

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## January 2025

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 : 16 lunches (Total cost: Small = D3,200 OR Large = D4,000)

 *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

January 2025	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Jan 6 - 9	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Vegetable kolhapuri with rice & fruit ☺	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Roast Chicken, with Fries, Vegetables & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Shepherd's Pie & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Fish brochettes with sauteed vegetables & fruit
Jan 13 - 16	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Spaghetti with tomato sauce & fruit ☺	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Crispy chicken with fries, salad, & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Beef & sauteed vegetable wraps with salad & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Fish Benachin, vegetables & fruit
Jan 20 - 23	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Chicken Piccata with vegetables, rice & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Grilled fish with baked vegetables & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Pasta with meatballs in tomato sauce & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Margarita Pizza Ice cream & fruit ☺
Jan 27 - 30	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Fish Fingers with fries, salad, & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Spaghetti Bolognaise & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Chicken fried rice & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Potato Cheese balls, sweet chilli sauce, cucumber and tomato salad & fruit ☺

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

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## Faculty-Student Dodgeball!



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