

December 6, 2024

2024-25, Issue 16

BAIS BUZZ

Message from the Director

Dear BAIS Families,

Like all of you, I am looking forward to an awesome Christmas Party tomorrow! Thank you so much to all of you with the PTO who have worked so hard to create this special event. Thank you especially to Mary Jobe for all of your efforts in organizing this special event. Thanks also to Jeff Blythe and his staff at the US Embassy for providing the tables and chairs. And thank you Santa...what would a BAIS Christmas be without you?

I am blessed this afternoon to have the opportunity to celebrate with our entire school staff at our staff Christmas Party. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our staff: teachers, assistants, office staff, maintenance, guards...everyone. From my visit in March until now, I have been continually impressed with the dedication of everyone who works here. It is truly my privilege to work with them.

The last week or so, students at all grade levels have had the opportunity to go on field trips. I appreciate all of our teachers for finding relevant opportunities and organizing those trips. Thanks also to Mr. Badjie who, as our Gambian Studies coordinator, assists with the coordination of all trips.

Looking forward to seeing you all tomorrow!

Robert Harper, Director

Inside this Issue

Tuition Notice (p. 2)
 Christmas Party update (p. 2)
 Community Service Corner (p. 3-4)
 Chess Update (p. 5)
 Staff Spotlight (p. 6)
 Saturday Basketball (p. 7)
 Field TRips (p. 7)
 Photos (p. 8)

Upcoming Events

Sat., Dec. 7

PTO School Christmas Party

Fri. Dec. 13

Celebration of Learning, 11:40
 School dismissed for Winter Break

Mon. Jan. 6

Classes Resume



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...Christmas Party

 **The BAIS PTO Invites YOU to Our Annual Jingle & Mingle!** 

Get ready to celebrate the holiday season with our wonderful BAIS community!

 **Date:** Saturday, December 7th

 **Time:** 4:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Bring your family and a dish to share at this festive **holiday potluck**, where the food, fun, and holiday cheer are on the house—courtesy of the BAIS PTO and our amazing community contributions.

 **What's in store?**

- **Kids' Activities:** Cookie decorating, Holiday Bingo, Musical Chairs, and Chess to keep the little ones entertained.
- **Santa's Visit:** Santa will make his grand entrance at **5:00 PM**, ready to spread joy and pose for magical photos.
- **Professional Photography:** A skilled photographer will capture all the special moments with Santa! Photos of your children with Santa will be shared via email a few days after the event.

While the kids enjoy the activities, adults can relax, mingle, and soak in the holiday spirit.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to celebrate the season and connect with the BAIS community. We can't wait to see you there!

Please use this [Link](#) to RSVP: To help us plan accordingly, we kindly ask that each family confirm their attendance.

Please sign up here: [Link](#) to let us know what you will be bringing.

  **Happy Holidays from the BAIS PTO!**  

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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.

Community Service Corner Elementary School

Dear Grade 2 and 3 Parents and BAIS Community,

A few weeks ago, our students had the wonderful opportunity to visit **GOVI (The Gambian Organization of the Visually Impaired)**, a school dedicated to serving children who are blind or visually impaired. During this field trip, our students learned about the **braille system** and the ways in which the students at GOVI navigate their education. They discovered the many **similarities and differences** between our school and theirs, and it was a truly eye-opening experience for everyone.

Our students learned that while the children at GOVI may not have as many resources as we do, they are just as **capable** and **determined** in their pursuit of knowledge. One of the most impactful lessons came from hearing how learning can be especially challenging for GOVI's students when they run out of braille paper. As braille paper is not produced in The Gambia, and transporting it can be both difficult and expensive, these students sometimes have to wait for more supplies and, in the meantime, can only learn through auditory methods. It is a reminder of the resilience and **resourcefulness** these students display every day.

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Our Grade 2 and Grade 3 students have decided to take action. For our **service learning project**, we are raising funds to **purchase braille paper** and possibly **backpacks** for the 70 students at GOVI. This is a small school, but its needs are great, and we want to make a meaningful difference.

How can you help?

We will be collaborating with the **PTO** to set up a **fundraising stand** at the **Christmas Party**. The students will be selling a variety of items they have decided to create, including **drawings, Christmas ornaments, cards, handmade jewelry**, and possibly even **desserts and finger foods**, depending on donations. We encourage you to stop by, support their efforts, and help make this fundraiser a success. Additionally, we are sending home **fundraiser forms** today with the students. These forms will help our young philanthropists collect donations. Please encourage your child to ask for support from **family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues**. This form also serves as a receipt, so kindly help them keep it safe and organized. Please place money orders in envelopes, as indicated on the form.

Why is this important?

This initiative is about so much more than just raising money—it's about learning the value of giving back. Through this project, our students are not only helping the children at GOVI, but they are also learning invaluable life lessons that will stay with them forever. By contributing to a cause bigger than themselves, our students are developing a sense of **empathy, compassion, and responsibility**. They are experiencing firsthand what it means to make a **positive impact** on others and how small acts of kindness can lead to profound changes.

Furthermore, giving back is at the heart of our school's mission. We want our students to grow into **citizens of the world** who understand that we are all part of a global community. They are learning that true happiness often comes from helping others, and that the power to make a difference lies within each one of them. This fundraiser is a chance for our students to show **gratitude** for the privileges they have, and to recognize that there are many others who face different challenges. It teaches them to be **mindful** and **thoughtful** about how they can help, and to feel the joy that comes from supporting their peers. It also helps them develop a deeper understanding of **diversity** and **inclusion**, as they realize that despite different circumstances, every child has something valuable to offer.

Thank you for your support. Your encouragement and generosity will not only help the students at GOVI, but will also instill in our own children a lifelong appreciation for kindness, community, and service. We are excited about this wonderful opportunity to come together for such an important cause, and we hope to see you at the Christmas Party to support our fundraising efforts.

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Chess Updates



Santa's special elves will be playing chess at:

the BAIS Christmas Party on the 7th from 4-6.30pm

the French School's Christmas Market on the 8th from 1-5pm



Saturday 14th from 3-6.30 PM

At Iceland Ice Cream Parlour

All Levels and Ages Welcome!!
contact + 220 2616769 for more info



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Staff Spotlight Mr. Valentine



Hello, BAIS family! I'm Valentine Williams, and it's hard to believe that I've been a part of this incredible community for the past 9 years. This year, I have the joy of working with the amazing Ms. Hala and our Kindergarten and Grade 1 students. Over the years, I've been lucky enough to work with every elementary grade, from Pre-K to Grade 5, and it's been a privilege to witness the growth and learning that happens at each stage of childhood.

When I'm not at school, you'll often find me enjoying quality time with friends, tutoring, taking a refreshing swim, playing volley ball, or unwinding with a good TV show. I also have big dreams for my future, my hope is to some day work towards earning my degree and becoming a certified educator, so I can continue to support and inspire students in even more meaningful ways.

I'm truly grateful to be part of such a warm, vibrant, and supportive community. Thank you for being a part of my journey!

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Saturday Basketball Starting in January

We will start with basketball in January, so be watching with announcements about those dates. The format will again be younger kids at 9:00, and older players after. Students may bring friends, as long as it doesn't get too crowded. In addition to Mr. George, I will be there to assist and help coach. I played throughout high school and coached for many years internationally and in the US, so I am excited about getting back on the court! 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

Field Trip to the National Museum of The Gambia



The middle school and high school students have been studying Gambian History and culture during morning circles, and as curricular field trip support, the students visited the National Museum of the Gambia on Thursday, 5th December 2024. The purpose of the visit was to provide the students with a great opportunity to learn more about Gambian History and culture.

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Middle School Collaboration/ Direct Variation



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