

January 17, 2025

2024-25, Issue 19

BAIS Buzz

Message from the Director

Dear BAIS Families,

It's an exciting time at BAIS! In the last two weeks, **eight** new students have enrolled! This puts our current enrollment at 88, which is the highest number in quite some time.

We have a couple of new faces on our staff here as well. Isaac Bockarie has joined us in the office. James Joof has left BAIS to pursue a business opportunity, and while we will miss him, we are happy for him and congratulate him as he embarks on a new opportunity. Also, Rhema Egonu joins us to assist Danielle Shulkin as she works with our students remotely from the US. More information about our new staff is inside.

We have some changes to ASAs starting next week. Christina Aziz, who many of you know, will offer chess on Mondays for grades 2 and up. This will take place in the science room. Also, at the request of our high school students, starting tomorrow we are making a change in our Saturday basketball times. Again, more information is inside the Buzz.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Robert Harper, Director

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Upcoming Events

Sat. Jan. 18
Saturday Basketball

Fri. Jan 24
Semester 1 Ends

Celebration of Learning, hosted by
Pre-K

Mon. Jan. 27
School Board Meeting

Mon. Feb. 3
Report Cards go home

Wed. Feb. 12
Professional Development Day
12:00 dismissal

Fri. Feb. 14
Gambia Day Celebration



Welcome New Staff Members!

Isaac Bockarie



My name is Isaac Bockarie, I am a Gambian and I am excited to join the BAIS work force as the administrative assistant. I attained my first degree in Accounting & Finance from the University of Sierra Leone. I began my professional career with Miracle of Help, a Non-Profit organization based in Sierra Leone whose primary focus is to cater for the health and well-being of pregnant women and children less than 5 years. This work experience made me develop a passion in working with kids and I believe being part of the BAIS community will further fuel this desire of mine. Outside of work, I love to do research, read and play football. I am excited to be part of this wonderful establishment and I hope with my experience I can add value to BAIS.

Rhema Egonu



It is such a pleasure to be welcomed to this great team of staff, parents, and students with arms wide open. My name is Rhema C. Egonu, and I am here as an assistant to the learning support team. From a very young age, I have had the opportunity to work with children in the early child's development program, and I enjoyed it so much that I decided to take one year off after I finished high school to teach and train in this field.

My tertiary education began when I underwent my first course in Radiology at the University of The Gambia (UTG), and after completion, I started a second degree in Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation at the UTG. In doing so, I have had the opportunity to clinically practice and study in Spain.

Professionally, I work with individuals, including children with different abilities, and it is a constant joy to see them achieve goals they couldn't before my experience with them.

I have also been opportuned to gain knowledge from the Medical Research Council, Batch Diagnostic, and The Forbes Academy (a training, mentoring, and coaching program) on public speaking. When I am not at work, I like to volunteer—so far I have worked with a health community-based service and Girl Child Empowerment (Girl's Talk), sing, read, teach at Sunday school, exercise, go to the beach, visit new places, and learn new things.

I am grateful to be here, and I am trusting that my time at BAIS will add value to you. Thank you for the warmth and for making me feel at home.

Mission Statement

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After School Chess Update

Starting Monday, we will also offer chess as an after school activity. Ms. Christina Aziz, whom many of you know from the chess meet ups at Iceland, will be hosting this ASA. It will take place in the science lab. There is no need to sign up, but if your child will be switching from another activity, please let the leader of that activity know. Thank you, Christina, for volunteering to host this event!

Following is a message from Christina.

Attention BAIS students! Get ready to make some brilliant moves after school because the Chess Club is here! Starting this semester, all students from Grade 2 and up are warmly invited to join the fun! Whether you're a total beginner or a seasoned chess champion, there's a place for everyone at our board.

What's the Buzz About Chess Club?

Chess isn't just a game, it's a mind workout that's fun, challenging, and incredibly rewarding. Every week, we'll gather to play, learn, and sharpen our skills in an encouraging and exciting environment. Expect puzzles, mini-tournaments, and plenty of high-fives (for good moves AND great efforts)!

Why Should You Join?

Not only is chess fun, but it's also packed with amazing benefits for YOU!

Builds Brain Power: Chess strengthens critical thinking and problem-solving skills—perfect for tackling tricky schoolwork.

Improves Focus: Planning your next move teaches concentration and patience.

Boosts Confidence: There's no better feeling than winning your first game or solving a tough chess puzzle.

Encourages Team Spirit: While it's a one-on-one game, the club fosters friendships and collaboration.

Fun for Everyone: The game is easy to learn, and every player improves at their own pace.

Who Can Join?

If you're in Grade 2 or above, we'd love to have you! Beginners will learn the basics, and advanced players can sharpen their strategies. Our club is all about learning, sharing, and having fun.

So, what are you waiting for? Join the BAIS Chess Club and discover the joy of making every move count, both on and off the board. Let's get those chess pieces moving! 🎉

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PTO Update

THANK YOU to everyone that came out to the PTO meeting tuesday night! A few keys takeaways:

- * Cesare will be organizing an MRC Blood Drive at BAIS in March. More info soon..
- * The BAIS Fun Run will be April 5 and Sarah has agreed to be the lead organizer (thank you!). More info soon about this but please save the date + we will need several volunteers to make the event a success. Please let us know if you are interested.
- * BAIS Teacher appreciation week is the first week of May, and Ni will be planning it (thank you!). She will be sending out information closer to the date.
- * we chatted about future potential PTO events such as End-of-Year Party for Kids and Families and holding an adults trivia night like we did last year. If anyone is interested in these ideas (or others) please let Mary Jobe or Jeremy Ogusky know and we can find a way to make it happen

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!

Volunteers Needed

As I reported in last week's Buzz, Dr. David Bateman will be coming from the U.S. to lead a staff development workshop in the area of special needs. His wife will be accompanying him. I am looking for volunteers to agree to take Ms. Bateman around Banjul during the school day and show her some of the interesting things there are to see here. If you are willing and able to volunteer for one of the days, please let me know.

Saturday Basketball Update

Times for the younger basketball group will remain the same...9:00-10:10. However, older students will be from 1:00 to 2:00 PM. This is in response to a request from the high school. Please feel free to invite your friends from other schools, as long as it doesn't get too crowded. Parents are also invited to come out and assist as well, 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"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Vegetable kolhapuri with rice & fruit ②	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Roast Chicken, with Fries, Vegetables & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Shepherd's Pie & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Fish brochettes with sauteed vegetables & fruit
Jan 13 - 16	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Spaghetti with tomato sauce & fruit ②	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Crispy chicken with fries, salad, & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Beef & sauteed vegetable wraps with salad & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Fish Benachin, vegetables & fruit
Jan 20 - 23	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Chicken Piccata with vegetables, rice & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Grilled fish with baked vegetables & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Pasta with meatballs in tomato sauce & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Margarita Pizza Ice cream & fruit ②
Jan 27 - 30	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Fish Fingers with fries, salad, & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Spaghetti Bolognese & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Chicken fried rice & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Potato Cheese balls, sweet chilli sauce, cucumber and tomato salad & fruit ②

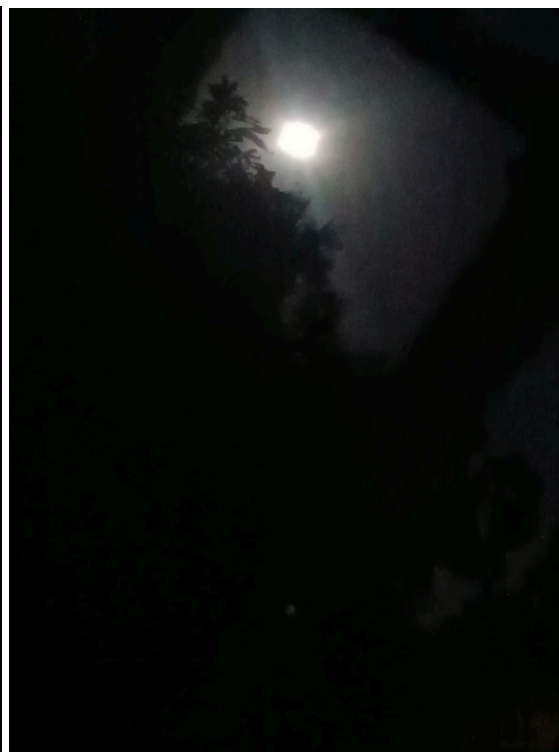
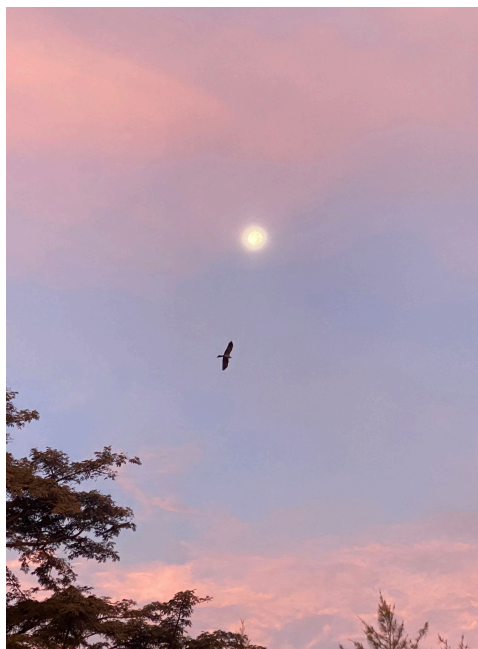
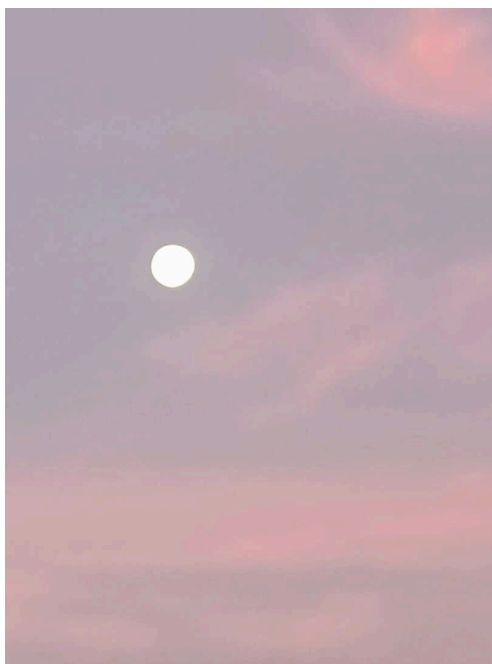
Please contact Ms. Leah for any Hot Lunch inquiries and allergy information (7744477).

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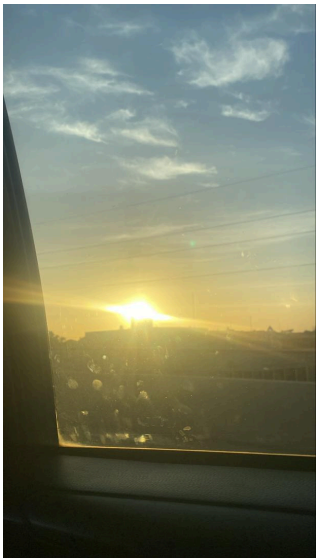
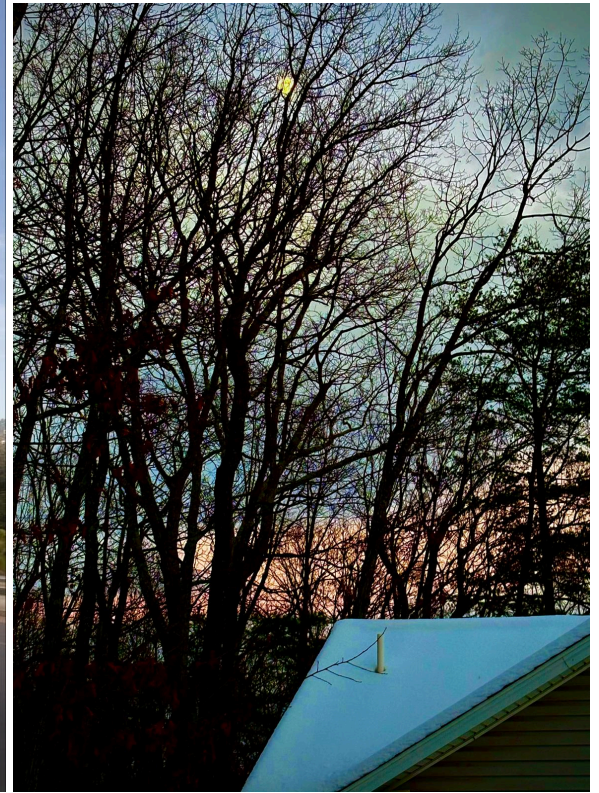
BAIS Astronomers Photograph the Moon!

Do you recognize your photo?



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