

March 28, 2025

2024-25, Issue 29

BAIS Buzz

Message from the Director

Dear BAIS Families,

The **PTO Fun Run** is almost here! This annual event will be next **Saturday, April 5**. In preparation for the event, Student Council will sponsor a warm-up run every day next week at the beginning of school. All students should wear sneakers and be ready to run! More information inside the Buzz.

Today we inducted our first chapter of the **National Junior Honor Society**. Six members of our middle school were inducted. We were proud to recognize the accomplishments of these young students. More information in the Buzz.

This week concluded Grade 4's celebration of Women's History Month. We are thankful for all of the speakers who joined us. Our students were always well prepared with thoughtful questions.

Again, please remember to complete the enrollment survey for next year. It is very important for us to get a picture of what our enrollment will be as we start to schedule and budget for next year. If you have not already done so, please fill out the registration survey for next year. Your plans don't have to be concrete at this point. If you can just give us a "best guess", even that would be helpful.

Remember that there is no school on Monday and Tuesday. Have a safe and enjoyable long weekend, and Happy Koriteh to those who celebrate it.

Robert Harper, Director

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Upcoming Events

Mon. & Tues, Mar. 31 & Apr. 1
 No School

Sat. Apr. 5
 PTO Fun Run/Color Run

Thurs. Apr. 10
 Parent-Teacher Conferences

April 18-25
 Spring Break



Color Run Saturday, April 5



🏃‍♂️ Color Fun Run – Next Saturday! 🏃‍♀️

Get ready for a blast of color and fun! The **Color Fun Run** is happening **next Saturday, April 5th**, at **8:30 AM** at the **MRC**. Be sure to check the **course map** for route details.

🏃‍♂️ Training Starts Wednesday!

Beginning **Wednesday, April 2nd**, from **8:00–8:20 AM**, students will kick off their **morning training sessions** to get ready for the big run. Join in and get moving!

🍪 We Need Your Help!

We're looking for volunteers to **bake some delicious treats** for our **bake sale**. If you can contribute, please let us know!

Let's make this event colorful, exciting, and successful! 🌈 🎉

Thank you - BAIS PTO

Mission Statement

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Route Information

-  2km Route/Trail Marker
-  1km Route/Trail Marker
-  Run/Walkers (on the trail)
-  Water + First Aid station
-  Racecourse Marshal
-  Visitor parking

 Washrooms

 Climbing Tree

 The Entrance/Exit to MRC (from Atlantic)

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Also, from the Student Council...

Next week, leading up to the Fun Run/Color Run, the Student Council has organized a practice run around the school from 8:00 to 8:15 AM, Wednesday to Friday. On Thursday and Friday, only middle and high school students will have the opportunity to run outside the school.

The track for the Fun Run starts at the basketball court. From there, runners will go around the admin building, pass by the lunch area, and head down the long path. Next, they will turn into the Middle School/High School area, continue down to the back gate, and make their way to the Pre-K area. After rounding the tree, runners will head back to the basketball court to complete the route.

Omar Njie

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Introducing the BAIS Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society



Today we had the privilege of inducting the first members of the BAIS chapter of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). Our charter members inducted today are **Leon Badjie, Kaden Ghanim, David John, Marlow Murray, Clinton Pietrosanti,** and **Shuyu Wu.**

The NJHS was founded in 1929 with the purpose of creating enthusiasm for scholarship; stimulating a desire to render service; promoting leadership; encouraging responsible citizenship; and developing character in secondary school students.



The National Junior Honor Society is not merely an honor roll. It is the preeminent middle school/junior high school recognition organization in US schools and American/international schools worldwide.

Membership in the NJHS chapters is an honor bestowed upon a student by a Faculty Council and is based on the pillars of NJHS: scholarship, character, leadership, service, and citizenship. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.

Here at BAIS we have always emphasized the importance of character, leadership, and service, in addition to academics. Along with our NHS chapter, it is our goal that our chapter of the National Junior Honor Society will serve as an example in these areas for the rest of the school and will be a driving force behind service to the community.

Congratulations again to these outstanding students! We are so proud of you!

Both the NHS and the NJHS are sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

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Grade 4/5 Celebrates Women's History Month!

The Honorable Fatoumatta Njai



Did you know this week the Honorable Fatoumatta Njai visited our class, Grade 4/5. She shared with us her life story and how she overcame challenges of being a woman in the parliament. This essay will shed some light on Honorable Fatoumatta Njai's life.

First, Miss Njai was shy as a child and always ran away from trouble. She went to Saint Joseph primary school and Gambia university. As a child her role model was her grandmother because she was able to connect to the neighbourhood. Her favorite hobby as a child was to go to the library with friends. Though her family was associated with politics. She was never expected to become a member of parliament.

Moreover, Mrs. Fatoumatta Njai was inspired to become a member of parliament by her friend. Her friend encouraged her to run for a spot in parliament which meant that she would have to leave her job as a head of bank to run and when she was in the running she left her party because they were going in the wrong direction so when she tried to help get them back on path they rejected her so she decided to be an independent candidate and ended up winning the election!

Mrs. Fatoumatta Njai ran to be a member of parliament without a political party. She was elected in 2017. She started as the person who shared the petrol coupons. Mrs. Fatoumatta Njai has been working as a MP for eight years.

This week When Mrs. Fatoumatta Njai visited us. She shared her life story, how she overcame challenges that she faced and more, she is also writing a book titled 'The Term That Was Meant To Be'. We really enjoyed having her and we appreciate her for honouring our invitation.

By: Ella, Lydia, Bethany, and Keigo

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High School Visits National Environment Agency



Our visit to the National Environment Agency (NEA) was very productive and informative. We gained valuable insight into their initiatives, the challenges they face, and the steps they take to achieve their goals.



One of the key takeaways was their efforts in waste management. While they have started programs such as the "Set Setal" clean-up, which was originally scheduled monthly, they have faced issues due to limited participation and government support. However, despite the challenges, the NEA continues to push forward. They are focused on raising awareness, supervising the environment, and enforcing rules through fining and confiscations.



A significant part of their work is the regulation of plastic use. The ban on single-use plastics is a huge step in reducing waste, though exceptions are made for important products that require plastic packaging.

During our visit, we had the opportunity to ask questions about the government's role in environmental protection and the measures being taken to address environmental concerns. The NEA provided insightful responses, helping us better understand the puzzling aspects of environmental management in The Gambia.

For the future, we hope to see improvements in waste management and the implementation of more efficient and environmentally friendly systems to help protect the environment.

by Adham, Fatmatta, Teju, and India

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Grade 2 Field Trip to Lamin Lodge: Exploring the River Gambia!

Grade 2 students recently had an exciting and educational field trip to Lamin Lodge, where they had the opportunity to explore the River Gambia and deepen their understanding of this vital river and its significance to the community. In Social Studies, we've been learning about the River Gambia: where it starts, its importance to the economy, and its role in sustaining local communities. In Science: we've been learning about ecosystems, and sustainability. This trip allowed the students to experience first-hand many of the concepts they've been learning in class.

The River Gambia, which flows from Guinea through Senegal and into The Gambia before reaching the Atlantic Ocean, is crucial to the people who live along its banks. It plays a key role in transportation, agriculture, and fishing, providing not just water for daily life but also economic opportunities for the communities. Students learned that the river is home to a diverse ecosystem, including mangroves, oysters, crabs, and many species of birds, all of which are important for both the environment and the local economy.

During the field trip, the students went on a boat ride along the river and saw many fascinating things. One of the first things they encountered were the unique mangrove trees, which grow with their roots extending above the water, unlike most plants. The children learned that these trees help prevent flooding by soaking up excess water and provide protection against strong waves and storms. Mangroves also play a critical role in reducing the effects of climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide. Students were amazed to see oysters clinging to the roots of the mangroves, and they learned that oysters are essential for keeping the river water clean by filtering out dirt and pollution.

A particularly exciting part of the trip was the opportunity to witness how local women collect oysters. The women travel by boat to the mangrove areas, where they gather oysters from the roots of the mangroves. They then bring them back, smoke them to make cracking easier, and carefully crack the shells to retrieve the oysters. Students learned that the shells are so sharp that the women must wear gloves to handle them safely. The oyster shells are also repurposed for other uses, such as feeding chickens for extra calcium and even making local cement and paint, and nothing goes to waste.

The students also visited Daranka Island, a beautiful and serene spot where they saw one of the oldest (over 800 years old) and largest trees in The Gambia called a silk cotton tree. This tree was so large that all 16 of the students were able to fit inside its natural treehouse! It was a wonderful moment for the students to appreciate the size and grandeur of the tree,

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and they learned that the community there uses the river in various ways for their daily lives, from fishing to farming and even building.

As the boat continued along the river back to the lodge, the students observed a variety of wildlife, including herons, vultures, and different species of crabs. They learned about three types of crabs in particular: black crabs, filter mud crabs, and land crabs. Students discovered that mud crabs are not safe to eat, as they have a tendency to accumulate harmful substances in their bodies from the mud in which they live.

Another highlight of the trip was the visit to an oyster farm created by the local community. This innovative farm brought by a tourist, made from bamboo sticks and strings, was designed to make oyster collection safer and more sustainable. By allowing the oysters to grow on the strings, the farm makes the process of harvesting oysters easier and reduces the risks of injury from the sharp oyster shells.

This field trip was a perfect way for the students to apply their knowledge from both Gambian Studies and Science units, particularly about plants, animals, sustainability, community, and ecosystems. They were able to connect the concepts they've been learning about in class to the real world, seeing how the River Gambia impacts both the environment and the local people. It helped solidify our understanding of the River Gambia and its importance in both Gambian studies and science.

As Antoine said, "The river sounded peaceful," Indigo added, "The river was calming," and Sadie described it as "the best field trip ever!" We are grateful to the community for sharing their knowledge and experiences with us, making this an unforgettable learning experience.

Thank you to everyone involved in making this trip a success!

Ms. Halima

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Learning Support Update

At our faculty meeting on Wednesday, we met virtually with **Dr. David Bateman**, our special needs consultant who held our workshop here last month. Dr. Bateman followed up on strategies he presented at that time and answered questions from our staff. In addition, **Dr. Kimberly Seefried**, our incoming Director of Learning Support, has been in communication with Dr. Bateman and received feedback from him about his visit. She was previously aware of him and his work, and had even read one of his books.

Dr. Kimberly has asked me to go ahead and share her contact information with you. Even though she does not arrive until August, she encourages any parents who have questions for her to email her. Her email address is kseefried@baigambia.org.

I am very excited about Kimberly joining our staff in August. She will have a tremendous impact on student learning and will take our learning support program to higher levels.

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Important Reminder...2025-26 Registration

I want to remind everyone once again about enrollment for next year. Thank you to all of you who have already responded. It is vitally important that we collect this information as soon as possible. Please...if you have not already replied, please use the following link to indicate if your children will be returning to BAIS next year. Again, this does not have to be a form commitment yet. We are just trying to get a picture of what our enrollment will be. This is important as we start to plan our schedule. You do not have to be 100% certain of your plans; it would be helpful even if you can just give us your best estimate, and indicate that. Thank you so much for your assistance. Please follow the link below to respond, if you have not already done so.

[2025-26 Enrollment Survey](#)

From the Business Office/ Tuition Reminder

Tuition payments for the third trimester were due on **March 10**. If you have already paid...thank you!! If you have not yet paid, please contact Ms. Leah in the business office.

Saturday Basketball Update

Remember Saturday basketball tomorrow. Younger players at 9:00, and older players at 1:00. We are working on finding some opportunities for our older players to compete in a tournament or matches with another school. Also, please remember that players may bring their friends from other schools.

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HOT LUNCH

APRIL 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 : 12 lunches (Total cost: Small = D2,400 OR Large = D3,000)

☐ 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

APRIL 2025	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Apr 31 - 3	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ NO SCHOOL ☺ KORITEH BREAK ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ NO SCHOOL ☺ KORITEH BREAK ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Pasta in Creamy Meatball Sauce & Cake	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Grilled Fish W/ Rice, Butterlime Sauce & Fruit
Apr 7 - 10	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Butter Chicken with Vegetables W/ Rice & Cake	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Spaghetti with Tomato Sauce & Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Fish in Batter with Salad & Fruit	NO SCHOOL ☺ Parent-Teacher Conference ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
Apr 14 - 17	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Chicken Vermicell with Vegetables & Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Fish Fingers W/ Roasted Potatoes W/ Veggies & Cake	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Chicken Fried Rice with Vegetables & Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Margarita Pizza Mixed Salad & Ice Cream
Apr 21 - 24	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ NO SCHOOL ☺ ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ NO SCHOOL ☺ ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ NO SCHOOL ☺ ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ NO SCHOOL ☺ ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
Apr 28 - 1	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Fish Benachin W/ Vegetables & Bissap Sauce & Cake	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Spaghetti Bolognaise & Fruit	<u>Tick to order</u> Vegetable Spring Rolls With Sweet Chili Sauce & Chips	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ NO SCHOOL ☺ ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆