

BAIS BUZZ

Message from the Director

Dear BAIS Families,

This week we continued with MAP testing. Special thanks to Ms. Amal Alfa, who coordinates our testing. So many of our students made significant improvements! But I want to recognize one student especially for outstanding achievement. **Adham Hydara** set a BAIS record for the highest score ever achieved! Adham scored the 98th percentile, meaning that he scored higher than 98% of students who take the test worldwide. Congratulations Adham!

The Student Council Lock-in is **tonight!** This event is for students in grades 2-12. Permission slips went home last week. A special thanks to all of our teachers and staff who volunteer their Friday night and Saturday morning to provide this memorable event for our students.

There is more updated information inside the Buzz about Beach Day. Remember that is Friday, May 30 at the Kalimba Beach Resort. Please see the information inside the Buzz. **Remember that students will be dropped off and picked up at the Kalimba resort on Friday, not BAIS**

Please remember the date of the **Annual General Meeting**, Thursday May 29 at 6:00 PM, and plan to attend. The meeting should take about 45 minutes. A highlight is our board election. We have four outstanding candidates. Please plan to attend.

Finally, please remember that there is no school on Monday, and Wednesday is an early dismissal day.

Have a great weekend!

Robert Harper, Director

Inside this Issue

Board Candidate bios (p. 2-4)
PTO information (p. 5)
Student Council Lock-In (p. 6)
Annual General Meeting (p. 6)
Summer Camp (p. 6)
Saturday Basketball (p. 6)
Beach Day (p. 7)
Recycling Opportunities (p. 8)
May Lunch Menu (p. 9)
CoL Photos (p. 11-14)

Upcoming Events

Fri. May 23

Student Lock-In

Mon., May 26

Africa Day Holiday...No School

Wed., May 28

Faculty Professional Development Day (12:00 dismissal)

Thurs., May 29

Annual General Meeting

Fri., May 30

Beach Day...Kalimba Beach Resort

Fri., June 6

Tobaski Holiday

Mon. June 9

PTO Elections

Fri. June 13

11:30...PK-12 End of the Year Ceremony, BAIS Music Patio

6:00...Graduation, Coco Ocean.



Annual General Meeting/Board Election

Our Annual General Meeting will be next Thursday, May 29, at 6:00 PM. The purpose of the AGM is for the Board to present its annual report to the Association, and to have the school board election. This year we have one vacancy to fill, and four candidates. Following is biographical information for each candidate.

Emily Joof

I hold a Master's degree in Education and International Development, with a focus on inclusive learning systems, foundational learning and early childhood education. I also attended BAIS during grade school, and my mother taught as the French teacher there for over a decade—making me a proud BAIS legacy.

I am an Education Technical Advisor with over 15 years of experience designing and leading education programs across Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. I currently serve as the Founder and CEO of the Mbife Foundation, where I lead initiatives to expand literacy and access to culturally relevant books for children in The Gambia. I have worked with international organizations such as the World Bank, UNDP, and global NGOs, with a focus on foundational literacy, inclusive education, and children's rights.

I have contributed to various community-driven education and literacy initiatives through mentorship, advocacy, and program development. I also run parent and teacher workshops on inclusive learning practices and have volunteered in literacy campaigns promoting diverse children's literature.

I bring a strong background in education policy, program design, and advocacy, alongside lived experience as a multicultural, multilingual parent and former BAIS student. My skills in strategic planning, inclusive learning, and stakeholder engagement position me to contribute meaningfully to the school's mission. I am deeply committed to creating learning environments where every child feels seen, supported, and empowered to succeed.

Sarah Pearson Davis

I am a British citizen and have been residing in The Gambia for five years. I currently have my daughter attending BAIS in grade 9 and my two younger children will hopefully be joining in September 2025 in grade 6 and 2.

I have been fortunate to have worked in various roles employed and self-employed throughout my professional career however, before moving to The Gambia I was the Director and owner of a logistics company that transported cargo between the Amazon fulfilment centres within the UK. My roles included logistics planning for the fleet of HGV vehicles, human resources, and accounting.

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Before becoming the director of my own company, I managed a team of forty-five representatives for an architectural company that spanned the UK, and Ireland. I was responsible for their recruiting, targets, KPI's, training programs, and all reporting. Alongside of the management of the team I was also required to present to board members the figures generated by the team and myself along with a weekly and monthly reports of competition and market trends.

I have also enjoyed volunteering for various charities; in 2014 - 2019 I assisted with event coordination and fundraising for a mental health charity within the UK. Since being in The Gambia I have also volunteered for an African start up charity called My Farm where I assisted in the learning labs with local Gambian children. I also helped with the volunteers from abroad that would stay at the farm and volunteer for short periods of time.

I believe that I will be a valuable member of the board due to my vast skill set, level-headed approach and my instinct to do what is best for my children.

Asta Jobe

Asta is a proud BAIS Gambian parent, with one son currently in Grade 3 and another set to begin Kindergarten this year. She is excited to support the school community by serving on the Board of Directors.

Asta is an economist with over a decade of experience in public service, where she has played a leading role in advancing national policy and reform initiatives. Her professional focus spans economic policy, public financial management, and tax policy. She has also worked in close collaboration with international and regional institutions on development planning and strategic policy issues.

Beyond her professional achievements, Asta is passionate about giving back to the community. She is actively engaged in an organization that supports Gambian mothers through emotional support and empowerment initiatives, and she volunteers with the Jeggan Cole Memorial Foundation, which champions access to quality education for underprivileged children. Through her work in both professional and volunteer settings, Asta brings strong skills in governance, strategic planning, and inclusive decision-making.

As a candidate for the School Board, Asta combines technical expertise with a deep personal commitment to education and service. She is eager to contribute to the continued growth and success of BAIS, by building a nurturing and inclusive environment where all students can thrive and reach their full potential.

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Mampol Semega-Janneh

Mampol Semega-Janneh is a pharmacist and entrepreneur with a strong passion for education and community development. She brings valuable experience from her previous service on an education board, where she contributed to policy and strategic planning. With a background in healthcare and business, Mampol offers a well-rounded perspective to advancing educational goals.

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Interested in Joining the BAIS PTO Leadership Team?

The BAIS Parent Teacher Organization is excited to announce that we are now accepting nominations for next year's PTO officers! Serving on the PTO is a great way to support our school community, share your voice, and help shape events and initiatives at BAIS.

We are looking for candidates for the following elected positions:

- **President**
- **Vice President**
- **Secretary**
- **Treasurer**

Term: One academic year (with the possibility of re-election)

Election Date: June 9th

Deadline to Submit Interest: June 1

How to Apply: Please send your name and the position you're interested in to the School Director, Mr. Robert Harper director@baisgambia.org, no later than **June 1**.

Officer Duties:

- **President:** Leads meetings, oversees committees, and acts as the main liaison with school leadership.
- **Vice President:** Supports the President and steps in when needed.
- **Secretary:** Keeps meeting records, manages communication, and oversees the PTO WhatsApp group for voting and updates.
- **Treasurer:** Manages all PTO funds, tracks financial records, and reports on budget and spending.

Voting Process:

- Final candidate list and voting instructions will be posted in the PTO WhatsApp group by Monday of election week. New members please request to be added to the WhatsApp group chat.
- Voting will take place via online poll or form shared in the WhatsApp group.
- Voting will be open for five (5) days in the WhatsApp PTO Group
- A plurality of votes cast is needed to elect each officer.

We encourage all interested parents and guardians to consider running—your involvement makes a difference!

Thank you, **BAIS PTO**

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Student Council Lock-in TONIGHT!

The Student Council Lock-In is TONIGHT!!. This has become an annual tradition here at BAIS. Students in grades 2-12 can come to school and enjoy pizza, a movie, and then (if they have their parents permission) may sleep over here on campus until the next morning, when breakfast will be provided. Information and permission slips were sent home this week.

Summer Camp is Back

BAIS will once again host Summer Camp starting Monday, June 23. The camp will be from 9:00 to 12:00, Monday through Thursday, ending on July 31. A flyer will come home in the next couple of weeks.

Saturday Basketball...UPDATE

Saturday basketball will continue tomorrow at school for both groups...younger players at 9:00 and older players at 1:00. Remember that students may bring their friends!

Vehicle For Sale

Maria Altmann from the German Embassy has asked me to pass along to you that a colleague of hers has a 2003 Mercedes C class automobile, registered here in The Gambia, for sale. If you have any interest, please contact Maria, or send a message to me.

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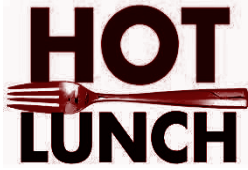
UPDATE...Beach Day...Friday, May 30 Kalimba Beach Resort

Please remember that next Friday, May 30, we will have our Beach Day to celebrate achieving our reading goals for Book Month. The location will be the Kalimba Beach Resort. Parents should drop students off between 7:45 and 8:00 at the front gate of the Kalimba Resort. **Dropoff and pick up will be at the Kalimba Resort, adjacent to the Tamala Resort.** Staff will be there to assist as children are dropped off. **Please do not drop students before 7:45, as there will be no supervision.** Students then should be picked up between 12:00 and 12:15, and again, **no later than 12:15.** There will be snacks and drinks provided; however, students may bring their own snacks. Students also should have their own water bottle, along with sunscreen and a hat to protect from the sun.



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MAY 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 : **14 lunches** (Total cost: **Small = D2,800 OR Large = D3,500**)
- **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

MAY 2025	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
May 5 - 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tick to order Chicken Brochette W/ Sauteed Vegetables & Fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tick to order Grilled Fish W/ Rice, Butterlime Sauce & Fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tick to order Spaghetti with Tomato Sauce & Fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tick to order Beef Stew W/ Rice & Veggies & Fruit
May 12 - 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tick to order Fish and Chips & Cake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tick to order Butter Chicken W/Rice & Vegetables & Cake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tick to order Pasta in Creamy Tomato Meatball Sauce & Fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tick to order Margarita Pizza Mixed Salad & Ice Cream
May 19 - 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tick to order Fish in Batter With Roasted Potatoes & Veggies & Fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tick to order Spaghetti Bolognese & Fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tick to order Crispy Chicken W/ Baked Vegetables and Salad & Fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tick to order Fish Benachin & Vegetables with Bissap Sauce & Cake
May 26 - 29	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ NO SCHOOL ☺ Africa Day ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tick to order Grilled Chicken W/ Coconut Curry Rice & Fruit 	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ Faculty PD Noon Dismissal ☺ ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tick to order Fried Noodles w/ Beef & Vegetables & Fruit

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Celebration of Learning



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