

May 9, 2025

2024-25 Issue 34

# BAIS Buzz

## Message from the Director

Dear BAIS Families,

I want to thank Ms. Amal Alfa for organizing today's STEAM fair and all of our staff who supported that. Thank you to all the parents who came to observe the students' demonstrations. The quality of the presentations was so high at all grade levels. Our students enjoyed putting together their projects and demonstrations, and no doubt will remember this experience for years to come. Thank you, Ms. Amal and all of our teachers!

Thank you so much to our PTO for organizing the Teacher Appreciation Week, and especially for Ms. Ni Mehler for all of her efforts in organizing the week. Thank you especially for all of the wonderful food at the pot luck lunch on Wednesday. Our entire staff truly appreciated it!

MAP testing is this coming week. It is always helpful if students are well rested and breakfast before coming. It is difficult for students to do their best if they are tired or hungry,

The Student Council Lock-in is scheduled for Friday, May 23. This event is for students in grades 2-12. More information will be forthcoming.

Remember that Beach Day has been set for Friday, May 30. The location will be Kalimba Beach Resort. On that day, students will be dropped off and picked up directly at the resort.

Please note 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.

Have a wonderful weekend...and Happy Mothers' Day!

Robert Harper, Director

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## Upcoming Events

**May 11-15**

MAP Testing

**Fri. May 23**

Student Lock-In

**Mon., May 26**

Africa Day Holiday...No School

**Thurs., May 29**

Annual General Meeting

**Fri., May 30**

Beach Day...Kalimba Beach Resort

**Mon. June 9**

PTO Elections



## Happy Mother's Day!

Mothers' Day is this **Sunday, May 11**. I want to take a moment and wish all of our mothers a Happy Mothers' Day. There is no way to overstate how much the mothers in our community mean to their families and their importance in the lives of their children.

On May 12, 1965, my own mother became a widow at the age of 35, with three boys aged 13, 12, and 8, when my father passed away. This was during an era in the United States when there were very few single mothers. She had never worked outside the home after she became a mother, and she had never continued her education beyond high school. When my father passed, my mother decided to go to college. She began attending classes at the local junior college, received her A.A. degree, then continued her education at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, where she received her bachelor's degree. She then began a career as a teacher, then worked with the state labor department, and finally with the United States Social Security Administration, until her retirement.

Along the way, my mother made many sacrifices so that my brothers and I never lacked anything that we needed. She made sure that we understood the importance of a good education and hard work, and that we had access to the best schools. And there was never a question about whether or not we would attend university. All three of us ultimately received multiple graduate degrees and went on to have successful professional careers. None of that would have ever been possible without the love, dedication, and example provided by our mother.

So this Sunday, on Mothers' Day, I hope that all of our BAIS mothers have a wonderful day and always remember how much you mean to your families and our school community!

*Mr. Robert*

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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](mailto: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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## Tennis Tournament



**THE GAMBIA LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION  
INDEPENDENCE STADIUM, BAKAU**

08/05/2025.

Director  
Banjul American International School (BAIS)  
Atlantic Road  
Fajara.

Dear Sir,

**Re: Invitation to Participate in the GLTA Tennis Inter-School Tournament**

The Gambia Lawn Tennis Association (GLTA) is excited to invite your institution to participate in the upcoming inter-school tennis competition. This event will take place from **May 16th to May 18th, 2025, at the Independence Stadium Tennis Court, Bakau**. This tournament is part of our initiative to promote and revitalize the sport of lawn tennis in schools across The Gambia.

The GLTA Open Inter-School Tournament will feature about five participating schools. Each school is allowed to register four players, consisting of 2 males and 2 females aged 13-16, in the following categories: Men's Singles, Women's Singles, and Mixed Doubles (1 male and 1 female player).

To ensure effective preparation, the GLTA will assign tennis coaches who will work closely with sports teachers to assist participating students.

All participants will receive certificates of participation, and additional awards will be presented for the following categories:

1. Male Singles Winner and Runner-Up
2. Female Singles Winner and Runner-Up
3. Mixed Doubles Winner and Runner-Up

We look forward to your positive response confirming your school's participation in this significant tournament.

Sincerely,

**Haddy Fatty**  
Acting Secretary General  
GLTA  
CC: File

**For more information, contact 368 8368**

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## Student Council Lock-in May 23

The Student Council Lock-In is scheduled for Friday, May 23. 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. More information will be forthcoming in next week's Buzz.

## Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting for this year will be **Thursday evening, May 29**, at 6:00 PM. All members of the BAIS Association...all parents and teachers...are encouraged to attend. The purpose of the meeting is twofold...to elect members of the BAIS Board of Directors, and for the Board to present their annual financial report to the members. This meeting should not take longer than 45 minutes and is very important. Please mark this important date on your calendar. **A separate letter explaining the nomination and voting process was sent to all the WhatsApp groups.**

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

On 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. On that day, parents will drop off and pick up students directly at the resort. More information will be forthcoming soon.



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## Community Opportunities

Reach Out Foundation is a Charitable Foundation registered in The Gambia in October 2018. The individuals that make up the foundation have each in their own way been active in the area of supporting underserved communities in the past 7 years. The foundation's aims and objectives is:

1. To help set up a standard administration system for orphanages and provide basic amenities, shelter and structured educational programs for the children.
2. To help the needy by facilitating the provision of clean drinking water, clothing, basic food amenities, disaster relief etc.
3. To provide mentorship to young men and women
4. To provide skills training especially targeted at students graduating from Qur'aanic Education.

In line with our objectives, here are some of the projects we have recently embarked upon.

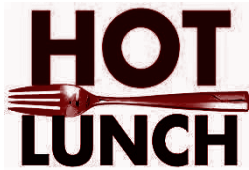
- We facilitated the building of multiple boreholes giving communities access to clean water supply.
- We raised funds annually for the poor and needy during the Muslim Holy Month of Ramadaan.
- We have enhanced living conditions of orphanages through fund raising and construction and refurbishment of living facilities.
- We enabled the collaboration of international bodies with Islamic institutions in building a masjid.
- We have organized summer programs targeted at orphanages.
- We have provided clothing especially during winter months by organizing clothing drives.
- We have provided Disaster Relief through food , shelter and clothing during Floods, fires and other natural disasters.

For more information, please contact Sarah Pearson Davis.

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

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## STEAM Fair



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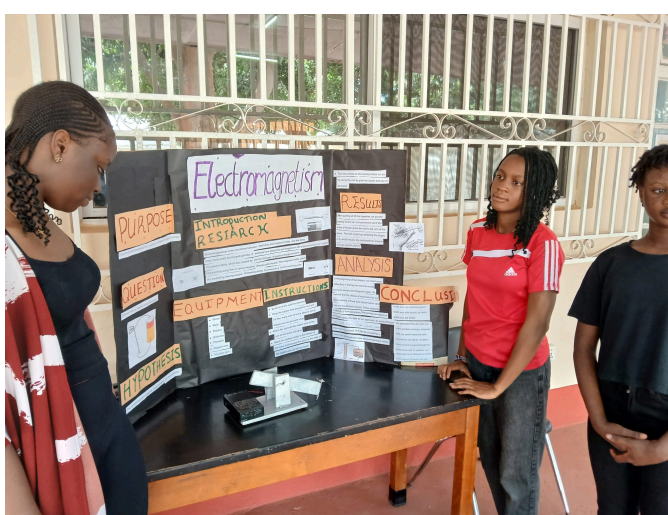




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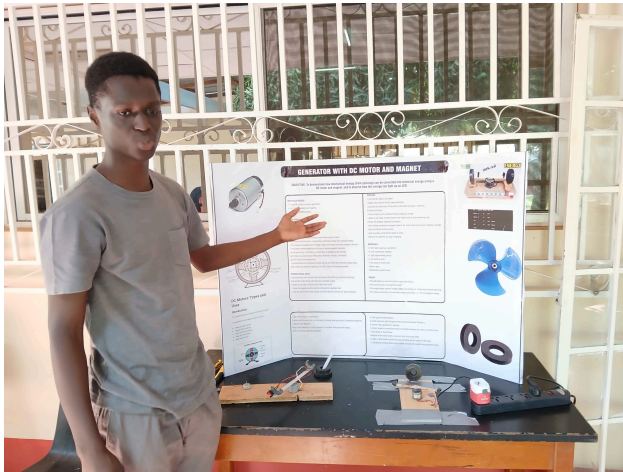




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