

September 12, 2025 2025-26 Issue 3

BAIS Buzz

Message from the Director

Dear BAIS Families,

It was a busy week here at BAIS. Students are back and settled into their classrooms. As I visit each classroom, I am reminded of how thankful I am to be working on a staff of such dedicated professionals who care so much about their students.

Our Board governance training last Sunday with Ms. Kristi Williams was excellent. Please see Fady Ghanim's message inside the Buzz. Special thanks again to the U.S. State Department Office of Overseas Schools for their assistance in making this training possible.

Thank you again to all of the parents who came to the Open House. It was great to see everyone, and for you to meet our staff, especially our new teachers.

Saturday Soccer starts tomorrow. Younger players...generally any players in elementary...will be from 9:00 to 10:00, and older players...middle and high school...from 10:15 to 11:15. Players may bring friends from other schools.

Our first PTO meeting will be at 5:30 PM this Tuesday, September 16, in the meeting room at school. Please see the information inside the Buzz. There is a link to attend virtually.

Thank you!

Robert Harper, Director

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Upcoming Events

Sat. Sept. 13

Saturday soccer begins

Tues Sept. 16

PTO Meeting, 5:30

Tues & Thurs Sept. 16 & 18

Writing Diagnostic

Fri. Sept. 19

Celebration of Learning

Mon.-Fri., Sept. 22-26

Map Testing K-5

Mon.-Fri., Sept. 29-Oct. 3

Map Testing 6-8

Thurs. Oct. 2

After School Activities Begin

Wed. Oct. 8

Professional Development Day
12:00 dismissal



Staff Spotlight

Ms. Nora Johnson



Hello! My name is Nora Johnson, and I am so excited to be joining BAIS as the first- and second-grade teacher this year.

I grew up in Oak Park, Illinois, just outside of the beautiful city of Chicago. I am a recent graduate of Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin, where I studied elementary and middle school education with a minor in English. At Carthage, I was fortunate to learn from inspiring faculty mentors and to be part of a close-knit community of future teachers, many of whom have become lifelong friends. Last spring, I completed my student teaching in fifth grade and seventh grade in the Kenosha Unified School District under the guidance of excellent cooperating teachers, an experience that gave me



valuable classroom skills and confidence as a new educator. My work as an inclusion aide with West Suburban Special Recreation, with the American Youth Soccer Association, and as a summer school teaching assistant in River Forest, Illinois, has also helped prepare me for the exciting opportunity to teach here at BAIS.



During my time at Carthage, I was fortunate to travel to both Asia and Africa. Those experiences sparked my passion for international education and inspired me to pursue a teaching position at an international school. I feel very fortunate to now be in The Gambia and to be part of the welcoming BAIS community.

Outside of teaching, I enjoy reading, watching movies, traveling, and spending time with my friends and family. I am truly looking forward to getting to know my students and their families, and to learning and growing together throughout this school year.

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Staff Development

On Wednesday, we had our first Staff Development day. This session was led by Dr. Kim Seefried, our Learning Support director. Dr. Kim's session focused on Creating a Culture of Learning. She shared, among other things, various cooperative learning strategies and strategies for building community within the classroom and maximizing student involvement in class discussions. We are so fortunate to have Dr. Kim on staff this year!

Our next staff development half-day will be Wednesday, October 8.



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Simon Badjie Represents BAIS in Nairobi

This summer I had the privilege of being a part of the 2025 Yale Young African Scholars (YYAS) 9-day residential program in Nairobi, Kenya. This year, YYAS brought together over 100 high school students, specifically juniors and sophomores, from 40+ African countries!

Looking back at it, the program was one of the most rewarding opportunities of my academic journey. Being in such a diverse community of unique and talented people that are willing to share their goals and dreams for the African continent was truly inspiring. The seminars were especially engaging and thought-provoking, as they pushed me to think critically and consider new perspectives on several global issues.

Perhaps the most interesting part of the program was the college preparation sessions led by Yale students, alumni, and admissions officers from various universities. Their guidance on applications, essays, and financial aid will definitely help me for the next step with regard to university applications. In addition, various guest speakers shared personal stories of leadership, resilience, and service that made me think and reflect on my own ambitions.

Above all, YYAS showed me the importance of connections. Beyond exchanging ideas, I built meaningful friendships and networks that I know will last well beyond the program.

I am truly grateful for the program and to those who helped me on the way. I look forward to future opportunities, whether similar or even more thrilling, to keep learning, making connections, and broadening my horizons.

Simon Badjie



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From the Board of Directors

The new Board would like to welcome everyone back. We are already off to a great start, all board members participated in board training last Sunday. Areas for improvements were identified and the Board is confident that there will be improvements this year. Our calendar is set for the year and we would like to remind everyone that they are welcome to attend the open session of our monthly board meetings. Keep informed with the BAIS Buzz, with meetings notifications and Board updates.

This year's Board members are Fady Ghanim (chair), Fady Hocheimy, Kris Murray, Enya Braun, Sarah Pearson Davis, and Rob Anderson (U.S. Embassy representative).

Fady Ghanim

Saturday Soccer Starts Tomorrow

Attention all soccer players! Saturday Soccer starts again tomorrow. Younger players will go from 9:00-10:00, and older players from 10:15 to 11:15. Players should bring a water bottle and should also wear sunscreen. Parents are also welcome to come and join in! Older players may also bring friends from other schools. See you tomorrow!

From the Business Office

Parents, please check your emails for tuition invoices. Please remember to reply back to Ms. Leah to acknowledge receipt.

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PTO News

Hi folks, our PTO meeting will be this coming Tuesday September 16 at 5.30pm in the teachers lounge next to the library!

The PTO will very likely be changing it's structure this year SO if you have opinions on how best to restructure it, please come to the meeting & share your thoughts!

We will discuss new ways to organize parents and yearly events+ what to do with the roughly 6000 USD in the PTO bank account

Please plan to come to the meeting if you can. To attend the meeting virtually, go to...

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79935733714?pwd=V3by7hHtF7xJ0WWYEkzOslmNC9LfR2.1>

Thank you!

Jeremy Ogusky

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Chess Activities

Hello Chess Friends! We hope you've all had an incredible summer holiday! We are very excited to announce our first Saturday Chess Meetup of the new school year! Join us Saturday the 13th of September at Iceland Ice Cream Parlour from 4PM to 7PM for an amazing afternoon!

Oh and PS...we have a VERY SPECIAL guest joining us all the way from South Africa, Woman International Master Anzel Laubscher!!

CGSC
Chess in
Gambia
Schools &
Communities

THE GIFT OF CHESS
International Chess

**BACK TO
SCHOOL
CHESS MEETUP!**

SEP 13

AT ICELAND ICE CREAM PARLOUR
FROM 4PM TO 7PM

WITH SPECIAL GUEST WOMAN
INTERNATIONAL MASTER ANZEL
LAUSCHER!

**WOMAN INTERNATIONAL
CHESS
MASTER**

MEET AND GREET!

JOIN US AT THE ALLIANCE FRANCAISE DE BANJUL
AND MEET WOMAN INTERNATIONAL MASTER
ANZEL LAUSCHER! WATCH HER PLAY AGAINST
20 PROMISING YOUNG PLAYERS IN A
SIMULTANEOUS!

WHEN/WHERE?

MONDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER AT THE ALLIANCE
FRANCAISE DE BANJUL CONFERENCE HALL!

SCHEDULE:

MEET & GREET: 5PM TO 5.30PM

SIMULTANEOUS: 5.30PM

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:
+220 261 6769**

af
Alliance Française
Banjul

THE GIFT OF CHESS
International Chess

CGSC
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Gambia
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September 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 : 19 lunches (Total cost: Small = D3,800 OR Large = D4,750)

☐ 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

Sept 2025	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Sept 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Grilled Fish served W/ Mexican Rice & Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Spaghetti W/ Creamy Tomato Sauce & Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Creamy Mushroom Chicken Penne Pasta & Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Fish Fingers, French Fries with Salad & Fruit
Sept 8-11	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Tagliatelle With Truffle Mushroom Sauce & Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Fajita (Grilled Chicken & Bell Pepper Wraps) & Cake	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ <i>Faculty PD</i> <i>Noon Dismissal</i> ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Pasta in Creamy Tomato Meatball Sauce & Fruit
Sept 15-18	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Fish Benachin & Vegetables with Bissap Sauce & Cake	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Chicken Brochette with potato Salad & Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Fish in Batter with Roasted Vegetables & Cake	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Beef Bourguignon With Rice & Fruit
Sept 22-25	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Creamy Mushroom Chicken W/ Mixed Pasta & Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Beef Burger, French Fries W/ Cucumber Salad	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Chicken Tagine with Rice & Vegetables & Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Margarita Pizza Mixed Salad & Ice Cream
Sept-Oct 29-2	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Grilled Fish with Rice & Butter-lime Sauce & Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Spaghetti Bolognese & Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Crispy Chicken W/ Baked Vegetable Salad & Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Beef Stew W/ Rice & Veggies & Fruit

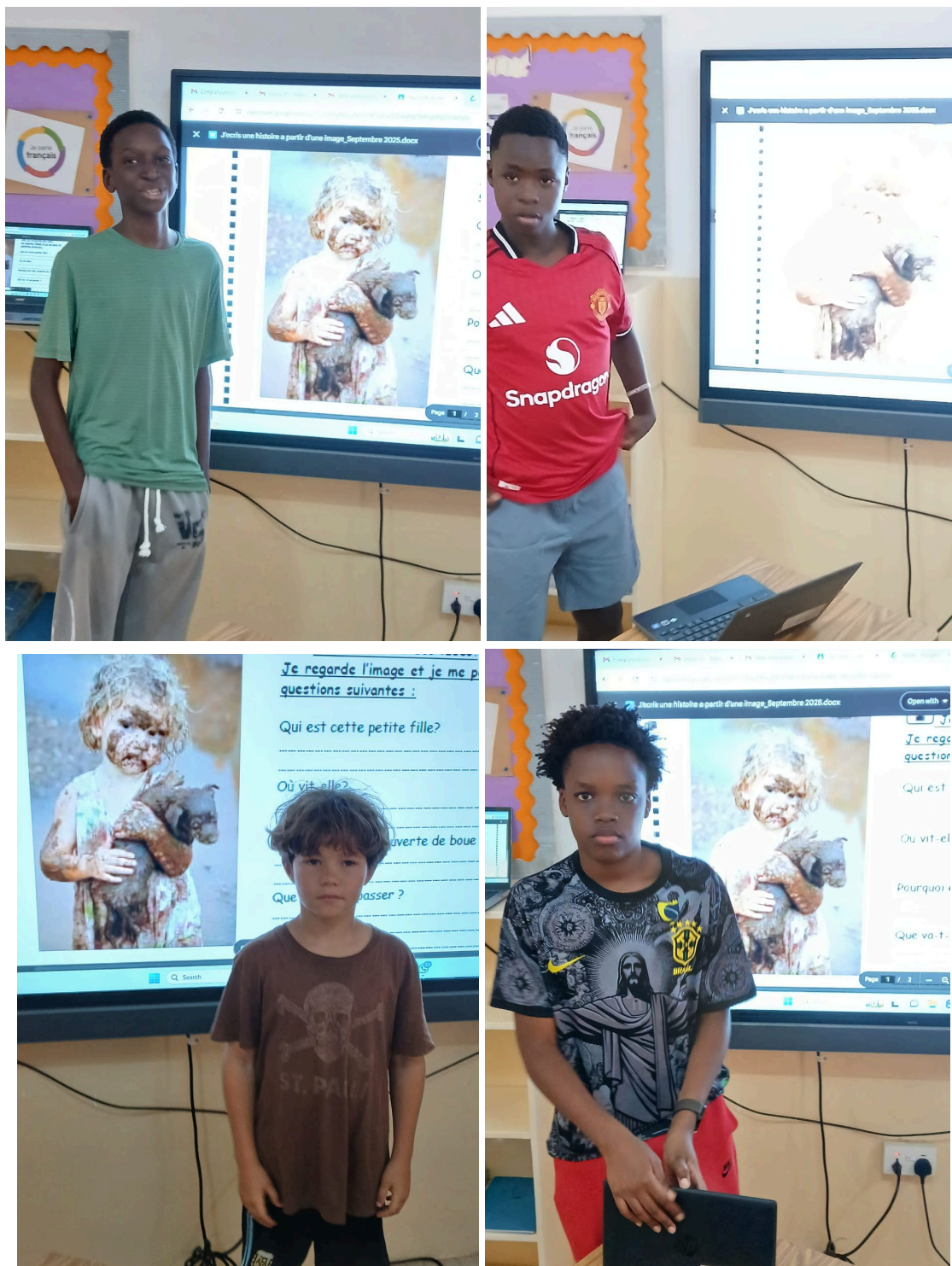
Grade 4/5 Art...line landscapes



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French Presentations



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