

BAIS BUZZ

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Message from the Director

Dear BAIS Families,

Plans are being made for our annual PTO Christmas Party. The date is Saturday, December 6, from 4:00 to 6:30. Thanks so much to **Christel Oomen** for organizing. More info, including a signup sheet for volunteers, is inside the Buzz.

Swimming instruction is off to a good start in MS/HS physical education class on Monday. We are transporting all students home afterwards, except those whose parents give permission for them to walk home. If this continues to go well, we may be able to offer swimming instruction to younger students as an ASA later in the year.

This week I had the opportunity to visit both Marina International School and Maarif International School. I appreciated the hospitality by Mr, Jonathan Warner, head of Marina, and Mr. Mustafa Dirier, the head of Maarif, both of whom have visited BAIS.

Finally, Happy 250th Birthday to the U.S. Marines! Tonight the U.S. Marine Security Detachment at the U.S. Embassy will host their annual **Marine Ball**, celebrating the birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps. Marines all over the world mark this occasion every year with a formal ball. This year is an even more special event, as it marks the 250th anniversary. The Marines at our Embassy have always been an important part of the BAIS family, whether they were organizing the Haunted House at our Halloween parties, organizing flag football and other after school activities, or other activities. Happy 250th birthday, Marines!

Finally, **please read the reminder in the Buzz about morning drop off and afternoon pick up procedures.** Please help us keep our students safe by always following the procedures.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Robert Harper, Director

Upcoming Events

Thurs., Nov. 27

Thanksgiving Holiday
 12:00 Dismissal

Sat., Dec. 6

PTO Christmas Party

Fri., Dec. 12

Last day before Winter Break



Santa is Coming to BAIS!

Our annual PTO Christmas Party is right around the corner! This year's party is scheduled for Saturday, December 6, from 4:00 to 6:30. **Christel Oomen** has graciously agreed to organize this year's party. She has created a Google document for people to sign up to help. More information will be forthcoming soon.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_f7c3qrJxHDL5iFplwVsIGsAAbhtBVi3sG3QiheP8Ks/edit?tab=t.0

Swimming in MS and HS Physical Education

Swimming in MS/HS physical education classes began on Monday. This is a four week unit of swimming instruction in middle school and high school physical education class. Swimming will continue on Mondays and Wednesdays through December 3. Classes are being held at the swimming pool at the Fajara Club and are being instructed by the Aquafit Swimming Club. **We are transporting students to the Club at the beginning of class and again back to BAIS after class.** However, those students who live within walking distance of the Fajara Club are allowed to walk home afterwards if we have their parents' permission.

As mentioned last week, this is swimming instruction, with students being taught proper skill techniques by a qualified professional who is also trained in CPR. Student participation will be included as part of their P.E. grade for the quarter. This is not a time for free play in the swimming pool; we plan to offer swimming as an after school activity for younger students later in the school year, with the possibility of instruction included for that as well. Mr. George, Ms. Awa, and I accompany the students to the Club.

Happy 250th Birthday, U.S. Marines!

On November 10, 1775, the United States Marine Corps were established in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Every year around that date, wherever U.S. Marines are stationed around the world, they celebrate the event with a formal ball and cake cutting ceremony. It is a highlight of the year in many international communities. More information about the history of the birthday can be found here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Marine_Corps_Birthday

The Marines at our Embassy have always been an important part of the BAIS community. Whether they are organizing the Haunted House at our Halloween parties, organizing flag football and other after school activities, or being involved in other events, they have always been tremendous supporters of our school, and our students always appreciate their involvement.

So on this special occasion, thank you and congratulations to the Marines for their service, not just to their country and the Embassy, but also to BAIS. Happy Birthday!

Dr. David Bateman Returns to BAIS

I am excited to announce Dr. David Bateman will be returning to BAIS the week of April 13-17 to conduct staff development training for all of our staff in the area of special needs and learning support. You may recall that Dr. Bateman was with us for three days back in February of this year. Feedback from our faculty was extremely positive; all though he was one of the best presenters they had seen.

Dr. Bateman is regarded in the United States as somewhat of a guru in the area of special needs and learning support for students. He is a former professor at Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania in the Department of Educational Leadership and Special Education where he taught courses on special education law, assessment, and IEP implementation/development. Dr. Bateman has been a classroom teacher of students with learning disabilities, behavior disorders, intellectual disability, and hearing impairments. He has recently co-authored the following books: *A Principal's Guide to Special Education (4th ed.)*, *Developing Educational Meaningful and Legally Sound IEPs*, and *Current Trends and Issues in Special Education*, *A Teacher's Guide to Special Education*, *Special Education Law Case Studies*, and *Special Education Leadership: Building Effective Programming in Schools*. Dr. Bateman will present workshops for our faculty, visit classes, and work with individual teachers on how to more effectively meet the needs of students with special needs.

Shortly after Dr. Kim Seefried was hired back in February, she and Dr. Bateman began collaborating, so they already have a working relationship, and Dr. Bateman already is familiar with some of our classes from his previous visit. He also continued to meet virtually with our staff during the spring.

Dr. Bateman's visit is made possible by an increase in our grant from the U.S. State Department. Meeting the needs of students with special needs has become an area of increased emphasis by the State Department, and we are grateful to be able to benefit from that. We will continue to make that our highest priority when requesting grant assistance. We are so grateful for the assistance we receive from the Office of Overseas Schools back in Washington, and also everyone at our own Embassy here in Banjul

Chess Updates



We have some very exciting news! We're thrilled to announce that we are finally organizing The Gambia's First-Ever Interschool Chess Tournament! 🏆

If you're interested in playing, please register your name and information using the link below so we can know how many players to expect.

You don't have to be a professional player to join — come for the experience, the fun, and the chance to meet other young chess enthusiasts!

Everyone is welcome — ages 18 and under **ONLY!**

We can't wait to see you all and enjoy an unforgettable day of chess together!

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1cflzawH1DiVYMw_7r5_GiTYXX2_JthBVJ4m0CYu2s8U/edit?usp=sharing

Important information about school drop off and pick up

For some years now, the policy has been that car riders must be dropped in the morning and picked up in the afternoon at the back gate. This is for the safety of students who walk or ride their bicycles to school. Whether you drive your children, or whether they are brought by a driver, please adhere to this policy. The policy is designed to make morning dropoff as safe as possible. In addition, if our security staff has to remind you or your driver, please respectfully follow their instructions. Thank you.

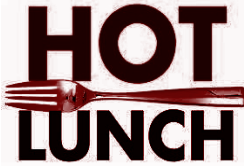
Follow BAIS on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/BAISGAMBIA>

Check our Facebook page for more photos and updates! Thank you to Mr. Michael for re-starting our Facebook page and for all the updates and photos!

Saturday Soccer

Saturday Soccer continues tomorrow. Young players at 9:00 AM and older players at 10:15. As always, BAIS students may bring their friends from other schools. We only have a couple of weeks left, so come on out and enjoy the fun!



November 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.***

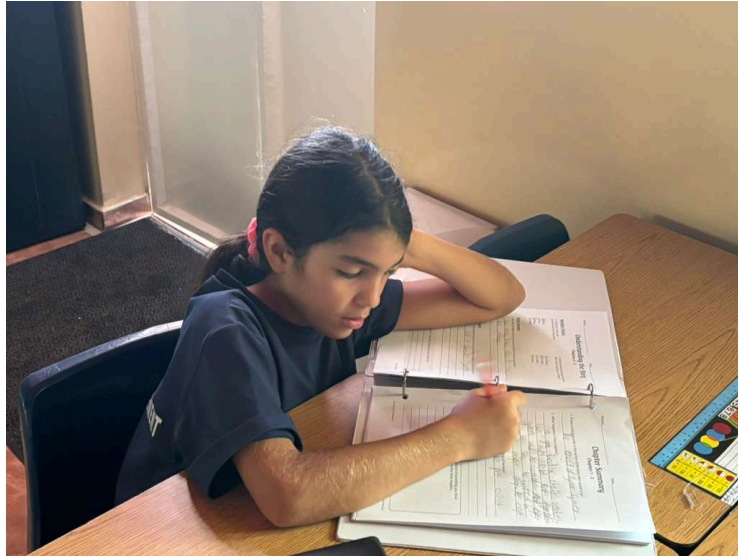
By the day:

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

November 2025	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Nov 3 - 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tick to order</i> Fish Fingers, French Fries with Salad & Fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tick to order</i> Spaghetti with Tomato Sauce & Fruit 	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ Faculty PD Noon Dismissal ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tick to order</i> Grilled Chicken W/ Coconut Curry Rice & Cake
Nov 10 - 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tick to order</i> Creamy Mushroom Chicken W/ Mixed Pasta & Fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tick to order</i> Fish in Batter With Roasted Potatoes & Veggies & Fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tick to order</i> Crispy Potato Cheese Balls, Sweet Chilli Sauce, Mixed Salad & Fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tick to order</i> Beef Burger, French Fries W/ Cucumber Salad & Fruit
Nov 17 - 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tick to order</i> Chicken Shawarma W/ Mixed Salad & Fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tick to order</i> Spaghetti Bolognese & Fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tick to order</i> Fish and Cherry Tomato Sauce W/ Rice & Cake 	<i>Tick to order</i> Margarita Pizza Mixed Salad & Ice Cream
Nov 24 - 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tick to order</i> Fish Benachin & Vegetables with Bissap Sauce & Cake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tick to order</i> Chicken Brochette with potato Salad & Fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tick to order</i> Beef Ragu W/ Tagliatelle Pasta & Fruit 	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ Thanksgiving Holiday Noon Dismissal ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Grade 4/5 Book Study!





Who stepped on the big queen ant???

