

November 21, 2025

2025-26 Issue 13

# BAIS Buzz

## Message from the Director

Dear BAIS Families,

**Please remember our annual PTO Christmas Party on Saturday, December 6, from 4:00 to 6:30 PM.** Thanks so much to **Christel Oomen** for organizing. Please see the flyer and additional information inside the Buzz, including a link to a signup sheet.

Today **Simon Badjie, India Pearson Davis,** and **Fatoumatta Sillah** joined **Teju James-Akinsulure** in our chapter of the National Honor Society in our induction ceremony. We are so proud of these outstanding students! Thanks also to **Ms. Amal Alfa** for organizing the ceremony.

**Swimming instruction** continues in MS/HS physical education class on Monday and Wednesday for the next two weeks. We are transporting all students home afterwards, except those whose parents give permission for them to walk home.

Finally, if you pay tuition by trimesters, please remember that the next deadline for payment is Friday, December 5.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Robert Harper, Director

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## Upcoming Events

### Thurs., Nov. 27

Thanksgiving Holiday  
12:00 Dismissal

### Fri., Dec. 5

Second trimester tuition payments due

### Sat., Dec. 6

PTO Christmas Party

### Mon., Dec. 8

School Board Meeting

### Fri., Dec. 12

Last day before Winter Break

### Mon., Jan. 5

School Resumes



## National Honor Society Inductions



Today we had the honor of inducting **Simon Badjie, India Pearson Davis,** and **Fatoumatta Sillah** into the BAIS chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS). Simon, India, and Fatoumatta join **Teju James-Akinsulure**, our returning member from last year. Founded in 1921, the NHS is one of the oldest, largest, and most widely recognized cocurricular student organizations in American and international high schools, with 1.4 million members.

The National Honor Society is not merely an honor roll. It is the preeminent high school recognition organization in US high schools and American international schools worldwide. The purpose of the NHS is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to recognize outstanding students, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the students of secondary schools. Here at BAIS we have always emphasized the importance of character, leadership, and service, in addition to academics. Inductees were selected by our NHS Faculty Council based on criteria established by the National Honor Society organization. Our NHS and NJHS sponsor is **Ms. Amal Alfa**. Ms. Amal puts considerable energy into the NHS, and I appreciate her efforts.

Membership in the NHS chapters is an honor bestowed upon a student by a Faculty Council and is based on the four pillars of NHS: scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities. Membership requirements and more information may be found on the NHS website at <https://www.nationalhonorsociety.org/>.

Membership in the NHS is one of the most impressive things that students can add to their college applications. In addition, last year the NHS awarded over \$2,000,000 in college scholarships to over 600 applicants, including some from American/international schools.

The NHS is sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. The NASSP also sponsors the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) for middle schools. In the spring we will have another induction ceremony for new NJHS members, as well as any new qualifying students for the NHS.

Congratulations to **Simon, India,** and **Fatoumatta** for your scholarship and dedication!

## Grade 4/5 Visits Parliament

On Wednesday, November 19th, our 4th and 5th graders had an incredible experience visiting The Gambian Parliament, where they were able to see firsthand how national leaders make important decisions for the country. The students showed outstanding curiosity, asked thoughtful questions, and truly engaged with the learning opportunity. We are so proud of how respectfully and responsibly they represented BAIS throughout the visit!

*Mr. Michael*





## Santa is Coming to BAIS!

Dear PTO & Helpful Parents!

Here are some great ways you can help out with the Holiday Party on December 6! Any contribution is welcome, no matter how big or small 🧑🏻‍🦱 🧑🏻‍🦱

- 🌲 Photography!
- 🌲 Bring food or drinks!
- 🌲 Lend Christmas light or decorations!

It would be very helpful to fill out the Google Doc (especially for food and dessert!!) but you can also reply to this message or DM me 😊

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1\\_f7c3qrJxHDL5iFplwVsIGsAAbhtBVi3sG3QiheP8Ks/edit?tab=t.0](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_f7c3qrJxHDL5iFplwVsIGsAAbhtBVi3sG3QiheP8Ks/edit?tab=t.0)

*Christel Oomen*



## **From the Business Office**

For those of you who pay by trimesters, please remember that the next tuition payment is due Friday, December 5.

### **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](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1cflzawH1DiVYMw_7r5_GiTYXX2_JthBVJ4m0CYu2s8U/edit?usp=sharing)

## Follow BAIS on Facebook!

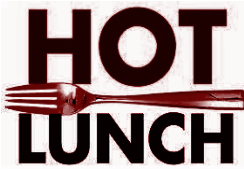
<https://www.facebook.com/BAISGAMBIA>

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

**Tomorrow** will be the last day of Saturday Soccer. 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!

Later, after the break, we will have basketball on Saturdays, as we did last year. More information will follow about that after we return from Winter Break



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



## Honor Society Induction Ceremony



