

BAIS BUZZ

Message from the Director

Dear BAIS Families,

Happy Friday, everyone! It is hard for me to believe that the school year is half over! **Semester 1 reports** are going home today. If you do not receive your child's report, or if you have difficulty opening it, please contact Mr. Isaac in the office.

There are many upcoming events! More information is inside the Buzz, so please read.

Our first **golf tournament** will be next Saturday at the Fajara Club. This promises to be a fun event! You do not need to be a skilled golfer to participate...you can even be a beginner or a first time player! Teams are comprised of 4 players, in a best ball "scramble" format. All four players on your tee off, then you choose the best shot of the four, then all four players hit their next shot from that spot. Play will begin at 9:00, with each team beginning at the same time from various tees. Proceeds are going to support the Model United Nations trip to Barcelona in April. Special thanks to **Mary Jobe** for organizing.

Our annual Gambia Day celebration will be Friday, February 13. This is always a highlight of the year. More information, including a link to sign up to bring food, is inside the Buzz. Thanks to **Mr. Badjie, Ms. Fatou, Ms. Sainab, and Mr. Valentine** for organizing.

Please remember that **school photos** will be taken this Tuesday, February 3. Information about the different packages went out in the WhatsApp groups.

Finally, a couple of community notes. The **Perreh Fest** cultural festival tomorrow at Palma Rima Beach. There will be artistic exhibits, cultural performances, volleyball, music, and more. More info is inside the Buzz. Thanks to **Dominique Buchholz** for making us aware of this event. Also, the times for **yoga** have changed, now with two age groups.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Robert Harper, Director

Inside this Issue

Staff Spotlight (p. 2)
Golf Tournament (p. 3)
Gambia Day (p. 4-5)
iReady Update (p. 6)
School Photos/Staffing Need (p. 7)
Model UN Update (p. 8)
Perreh Fest (p. 9)
2026-27 Calendar (p. 10)
Yoga News (p. 11)
i-Ready & Facebook Updates (p. 12)
February Lunch Menu (p. 13)
Photos (p.14-15)

Upcoming Events

Wed., Feb. 4

Staff Development Day
12:00 Dismissal

Fri., Feb. 6

CoL...Hosted by Grade Pre-Kinder

Sat., Feb. 7

Golf Tournament

Wed., Feb. 11

100th Day of School

Fri., Feb. 13

Gambia Day Celebration

Wed., Feb. 18

Gambian Independence Day
No School

Thurs. Mar. 12

Art Show

Fri. Mar. 13

Pi Day

Sat., Mar. 28

Fun Run

Staff Spotlight...Ms. Hala Dbouk

Hello BAIS families,

My name is Hala Dbouk, and I have the absolute joy of teaching the Kindergarten class in BAIS this year.

Over the past 4 years, I have been dedicated to teaching within the BAIS community, gaining experience across Pre-K, Kindergarten and combined Kindergarten/Grade 1 classrooms. There is nothing more rewarding than witnessing the incredible growth and development of the “early learners” throughout the academic year.

I hold a Master’s degree in Physics from the Lebanese University in Beirut. There, I began my career in elementary science education. I then discovered my passion for early childhood education during the COVID time, after creating a “home-school” Kindergarten class for my twin boys. That period was significant as it solidified my interest in foundational learning.

My husband Hassan and I are proud parents of 10-year-old twin boys Ali and Abbas, who are currently enjoying their journey in Grade 5. Outside the classroom, we enjoy baking, and watching cooking shows. On a personal note, I love to explore various forms of creating arts and hands-on projects.

I feel truly fortunate to be a part of the BAIS community, and look forward to wonderful days of learning and growth for our students.

Warmly,

Hala Dbouk



BAIS Model UN GOLF TOURNAMENT



BAIS

BANJUL AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 7, 2026 - STARTS AT 9AM

Fajara Club Golf Course

9 Hole Tournament - All Welcome! Regardless of skill level and age, and non-members of the Fajara Club are also invited.

To benefit BAIS high school students traveling to Barcelona for a Model United Nations Conference BIMUN Esade in April!

D1,000 PER PLAYER

PLAYERS IN GROUPS OF 4

Celebratory meal and prizes for the top 3 teams to follow!

SIGN-UP TODAY!

Contact: Ms. Mary Jobe - WhatsApp:

+1401-573-6199 or 220-723-6986



GAMBIA



INDEPENDENCE DAY POTLUCK

PRESENTED BY THE BAIS COMMUNITY



**JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL COL
CELEBRATING THE GAMBIAN
INDEPENDENCE**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH
11 AM**

**BRING YOUR FAVORITE
GAMBIAN DISHES/SNACKS TO SHARE!**

SIGN UP USING THIS [LINK TO THE GOOGLE FORM](#)
WHICH INCLUDES MANY
RECOMMENDATIONS.

**WANT TO CONTRIBUTE BUT
CAN'T PREPARE A GAMBIAN DISH?**

CONTACT LEAH JOHN IF YOU'D LIKE TO
CONTRIBUTE TO THE SCHOOL'S POTLUCK
PREPARED BY THE BAIS SCHOOL CATERER!



Gambia Day is Coming!

BAIS will celebrate the Independence of our host country on **Friday February 13th 2026** – from **11.00am to 1.00pm**. The official date is February 18th, but because it might coincide with the beginning of Ramadan, the school has decided to have this annual community event earlier. There will be a **variety of activities** on that day, including:

- **Presentations** from all Homeroom classes;
- Gambian dance by **masquerades**;
- A display of **Art works** and other pieces from our students;
- **Potluck**: a display and sharing of dishes from The Gambia/ West Africa.

We encourage everyone to dress up in their **Gambian attire**. Families can bring a local dish or liaise with the Office to sponsor one. (Click on link: <https://forms.gle/D8jkvCGEGskcD2wMA>)

Kindly mark this date on your calendar and we hope you will come and celebrate with your child(ren). We look forward to seeing you.

Jerejef!

The Gambia Day Team (Ms. Sainab, Ms. Fatou, Mr. Valentine & Mr. Badjie)

Here is a link to a video of last year's Gambia Day:

https://youtu.be/N1Cqup_Z5d8?si=t2iV34aArIHgO8pA

Learning Support & iReady Update from Dr. Kim:

Over the past two weeks, students who received learning support at the beginning of the year, along with those in Mr. Michael's class, have been completing the i-Ready Diagnostic assessment. We will be sending i-Ready reports home to parents by February 6th. Students who took the diagnostic in November have continued to advance through their individualized lessons. Since returning from winter break, our K-3 students have been tracking their progress on sticker charts. When a chart is filled, students earn a prize from the treasure chest and can take their chart home. Congratulations to **Bella, Roan, and Joe** from Ms. Nora's class for being the first to complete their sticker charts! If you would like to contribute small items for our treasure chest, please let me know—any donations are greatly appreciated.



School Photos Tuesday, February 3

Please remember that Picture Day will be this Tuesday, February 3. Information and order forms have gone out in the WhatsApp groups. Individual, class, and sibling photos will be available. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Isaac in the office.

Urgent Need

We are **urgently** seeking someone to fill a position as a one-on-one assistant for a young student. The ideal candidate would be someone who has completed high school, enjoys being around small children, and demonstrates considerable empathy, patience, and caring. We need someone to start as soon as possible. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please contact Mr. Robert.

Model UN Class to Attend Barcelona Conference!

Dear BAIS Community,

The Model United Nations class is thrilled to announce their upcoming MUN Conference in **Barcelona this April**, where students will debate real-world issues and represent countries in an international forum.

To help make this opportunity possible, we are hosting a **fundraiser golf tournament** at the Fajara Club on **February 7**. Everyone is welcome to join and enjoy the day!

We are also seeking **sponsors from local businesses**. Ideally, each of the nine holes will be sponsored by a different company. Sponsors will have the opportunity to **advertise at their hole**, have their **name featured in the event pamphlet**, and be **acknowledged at the celebratory meal** following the tournament.

If you own a business or know someone who would like to help our students attend this conference, please **contact me or Mr. Robert**. Your support will make a meaningful difference in our students' educational experience.

Thank you for helping our students reach their full potential!

Warm regards,

Mary Jobe - Whatsapp +1401-573-6199 or 220-723-6986.

Cultural Festival Tomorrow!

I'd like to alert you to a very family-friendly cultural event happening this Saturday, 31 January at Palma Rima Beach. Lots of music, dancing and activities. It is co-funded by the EU, the International Trade Centre and the Gambian Government.

Dominique Buchholz



FLEX FUZION

VENUE: PALMA RIMA BEACH

SATURDAY 31ST JAN 2026

TIME: 11:00 AM 9:00PM

PERREH FEST

CREATIVE EXHIBITIONS

HIDS: D25 UNDER 10YRS
ADULTS: D50
VIP: D500 (PLUS A COMPLIMENTARY DRINK)

Funded by the European Union
International Trade Centre

@flexfuzionent +220 7177996 / 7036623

Supported by: The European Union Youth Empowerment Project - Tourism & Creative Industries



FLEX FUZION

VENUE: PALMA RIMA BEACH

SATURDAY 31ST JAN 2026

TIME: 11:00 AM 9:00PM

PERREH FEST

CULTURAL PERFORMANCES

HIDS: D25 UNDER 10YRS
ADULTS: D50
VIP: D500 (PLUS A COMPLIMENTARY DRINK)

Funded by the European Union
International Trade Centre

@flexfuzionent +220 7177996 / 7036623

Supported by: The European Union Youth Empowerment Project - Tourism & Creative Industries



FLEX FUZION

VENUE: PALMA RIMA BEACH

SATURDAY 31ST JAN 2026

TIME: 11:00 AM 9:00PM

PERREH FEST

BEACH VOLLEYBALL & HANDBALL

HIDS: D25 UNDER 10YRS
ADULTS: D50
VIP: D500 (PLUS A COMPLIMENTARY DRINK)

Funded by the European Union
International Trade Centre

@flexfuzionent +220 7177996 / 7036623

Supported by: The European Union Youth Empowerment Project - Tourism & Creative Industries



FLEX FUZION

VENUE: PALMA RIMA BEACH

SATURDAY 31ST JAN 2026

TIME: 11:00 AM 9:00PM

PERREH FEST

JALI MADI, BRIGHT STARS, NYANCHO & PA EBOU

HIDS: D25 UNDER 10YRS
ADULTS: D50
VIP: D500 (PLUS A COMPLIMENTARY DRINK)

Funded by the European Union
International Trade Centre

@flexfuzionent +220 7177996 / 7036623

Supported by: The European Union Youth Empowerment Project - Tourism & Creative Industries



BAIS 2026-2027 School Calendar

Approved December 8, 2025

August 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

17 TAs & New Teachers report to work
24 All Teachers report to work
25 TBC - Prophet's Birthday

February 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

19 class days
3 Faculty PD (12pm dismissal)
18 Gambian Independence Holiday

September 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

22 class days
1 - School Opens
9 Faculty PD (12pm dismissal)

March 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

18 class days
3 Faculty PD (12pm dismissal)
TBC 10 Koriteh/ Eid Ul Fitr
Holiday, Approximate date - BAIS will observe the date confirmed by Govt of Gambia
26 Good Friday
26- 2 Spring Break

October 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Book Month!
20 class days
1- Book Month begins
7 Faculty PD (12pm dismissal)
22-23 BAIS Holiday
31 End of Quarter 1 (42 days)

April 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

20 class days
8 End of Quarter 3 (46 days)
1-2 Spring Break

November 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

21 class days
4 Faculty PD (12pm dismissal)
26 Thanksgiving Holiday-noon dismissal

May 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

18 class days
3 Labor Day
17 Eid ul Adha/ Tobaski
Holiday, Approximate date - BAIS will observe the date confirmed by Govt of Gambia
25 Africa Day
26 Faculty PD (12pm dismissal)

December 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

9 class days
11 Dismiss for break
Dec 11-Jan 4 - Winter Break

June 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	31			

14 class days
17 End of Year Ceremony & Graduation
17 Semester 2 Ends (45/91 days)
18 Last Day (12pm dismissal)
21 Teacher Work Day

January 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

20 class days
4 Classes resume
22 Semester 1 Ends (45/87 days)

July 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

180 PK - Grade 8 Learning Days	180 High School Learning Days	PD Half Days = 6 days
Quarter 1 = 45 days	Quarter 1 = 44 days	Sep 10; Oct 8; Nov 5
Quarter 2 = 46 days	Quarter 2 = 45 days	Feb 4; Mar 4; May 27
Quarter 3 = 43 days	Quarter 3 = 46 days	
Quarter 4 = 46 days	Quarter 4 = 45 days	
Semester 1 = 91 days	Semester 1 = 89 days	
Semester 2 = 89 days	Semester 2 = 91 days	

Yoga!
Please note the change in times!

YOGA KIDS

Ages 5-8
Saturday 12-1pm

Ages 9-12
Saturday 1-2pm

Drop-in 600d or
1 month 1.800d



KOLOLI BEACH RESORT SHALA

To Book: +44 7739 754673
hello@alinajaberyoga.com

Social Media Update **Follow BAIS on Facebook AND Instagram!**

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

We are in the process of updating and restarting our school Instagram page. This will be a student council project, under the supervision of **Ms. Fatou**. We will have important safeguards in place (no public comments, no direct messaging). When we are ready to launch, we will send out the link. This can be a wonderful way (with appropriate supervision) for our student leaders to help promote the school. Thank you, Ms. Fatou!

And please continue to follow us on Facebook for more photos and updates! I really want to thank **Mr. Michael** for revitalizing our Facebook page. He has done such an awesome job of posting photos, videos, and stories. This will continue to be the source to go to for photos of school happenings and events. Thank you to **Mr. Michael!**

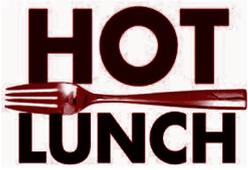
Personalize Learning All the Way! **Dr. Kim & Mr. Michael - iReady Parent Night Presentation**

For those who missed the iReady parent night held by DR. Kim and Mr. Michael, here are the links to that presentation. This is a great instructional tool for our K-8 students!

Be on the lookout for more learning tips and tools in Dr. Kim's next Parent Newsletter.

→ **[iReady Parent Night Presentation PDF - CLICK HERE](#)**

→ **[iReady Handout from Presentation - CLICK HERE](#)**



February 2026

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

February 2026	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Feb 2 - 5	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Grilled Chicken With Roasted Potatoes & Veggies & Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Fish Benachin Vegetables with Bissap Sauce & Cake	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ Faculty PD <i>Noon Dismissal</i> ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Spaghetti with Tomato Sauce & Fruit Salad
Feb 9 - 12	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Beef Stir Fried Noodles W/ Vegetables & Fruit Salad	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Crispy Chicken W/ Baked Vegetable Salad & Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Fish in Batter With Roasted Potatoes & Veggies & Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Chicken Fricasses with Pasta & Fruit
Feb 16 - 19	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Spaghetti Bolognese & Fruit Salad	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Butter Chicken W/ Rice & Vegetables & Cake	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ NO SCHOOL ☺ Independence Day ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆	<i>Tick to order</i> Beef Ragu W/ Tagliatelle Pasta & Fruit
Feb 23 - 26	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Chicken Benachin Vegetables with Bissap Sauce & Cake	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Tagliatelle With Truffle Mushroom Sauce & Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Fish Fingers With Roasted Potatoes & Veggies & Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Margarita Pizza Mixed Salad & Ice Cream

Grade 4/5 Learns About Opinion Pieces



Grade 3 Visits BEST Water



