October 30, 2026 2026-27 Issue 9

BAIS Buzz

Message from the Director

Dear BAIS Families,

Book Month has begun!! A big thanks to **Mr. Rob Anderson**, Deputy Chief of Mission from the U.S. Embassy…and proud BAIS parent…for being our first Mystery Reader today! And again, a big thank you **to Ms. Sainab** for doing such an outstanding job organizing Book Month. Who will next week's Mystery Reader be??? Let's all make sure we complete our reading goals so we can have Beach Day at the end of the year!

This week we continue our discussion about the **International Baccalaur**eate Diploma, **focusing on the Theory of Knowledge component**. Please see the information inside the Buzz.

Halloween is here!! Please remember our school wide **Halloween Party** tomorrow evening. This is also a great opportunity to invite guests onto our campus.

Have a great weekend!

Robert Harper, Director

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Upcoming Events

Sat., Oct. 31
Halloween Party

Throughout November
Book Month Continues

Nov. 16-20
Altamont Visit

Wed., Nov 18
Professional Development Day
12:00 dismissal

Thurs. Nov. 26
Thanksgiving Holiday
12:00 dismissal

Fri. Nov. 27
Illustrator's Tea

BAIS
BANJUL AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

The International Baccalaureate Core...Part 3

The last two weeks, we have talked about two of the three components of the International Baccalaureate Core…the Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS) component and the Extended Essay (EE). Today we will talk about the Theory of Knowledge component (TOK).

From ibo.org

What is Theory of Knowledge?

Theory of knowledge (TOK) plays a special role in the International Baccalaureate® (IB) Diploma Programme (DP), by providing an opportunity for students to reflect on the nature of knowledge, and on how we know what we claim to know.

It is one of the components of the DP core and is mandatory for all students. The TOK requirement is central to the educational philosophy of the DP.

How is TOK structured?

As a thoughtful and purposeful inquiry into different ways of knowing, and into different kinds of knowledge, TOK is composed almost entirely of questions.

The most central of these is "How do we know?", while other questions include:

- What counts as evidence for X?
- How do we judge which is the best model of Y?
- What does theory Z mean in the real world?

Through discussions of these and other questions, students gain greater awareness of their personal and ideological assumptions, as well as developing an appreciation of the diversity and richness of cultural perspectives.

Assessment of TOK

The TOK course is assessed through an exhibition and a 1,600 word essay.

The exhibition requires the students to create an exhibition of three objects that explores how TOK manifests in the world around us.

The essay focuses on a conceptual issue in TOK. For example, it may ask students to discuss the claim that the methodologies used to produce knowledge depend on the use to which that knowledge will be used.

What is the significance of TOK?

TOK aims to make students aware of the interpretative nature of knowledge, including personal ideological biases – whether these biases are retained, revised or rejected.

It offers students and their teachers the opportunity to:

- reflect critically on diverse ways of knowing and on areas of knowledge
- consider the role and nature of knowledge in their own culture, in the cultures of others and in the wider world.

In addition, TOK prompts students to:

- be aware of themselves as thinkers, encouraging them to become more acquainted with the complexity of knowledge
- recognize the need to act responsibly in an increasingly interconnected but uncertain world.

TOK also provides coherence for the student, by linking academic subject areas as well as transcending them.

It therefore demonstrates the ways in which the student can apply their knowledge with greater awareness and credibility.

Halloween is Coming!

Please click **this link** to volunteer!

Book Month Is Here!

BAIS Book Month began on Wednesday! We have lots planned for the month, including mystery readers, visits to local libraries, D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read), and other fun reading activities.

Reading log lihave been sent to parents so you can log your child's reading minutes each day as we work towards our school-wide goal of 1,000 hours of reading.

We look forward to sharing stories, discovering new books, and enjoying reading together throughout the month!

Ms. Sainab.

Book Month at BAIS is all about encouraging our students to become enthusiastic readers and discover the joy of reading, both at home and at school. Throughout the month, we will celebrate books, reading, writing, and creativity through a variety of fun activities and special events.

Below are the details of this year's activities. Your support, encouragement, and participation will help make Book Month a meaningful and memorable experience for our students.

Together, we can inspire a lasting love of reading!

HOW CAN WE WORK TOGETHER TO SUPPORT Book Month?

There are many simple ways families can support Book Month and help make it a special experience for students:

- **Stay Informed:** Take a look at the Book Month activities and events planned throughout the month.
- **Support the Illustrator's Tea:** Talk with your child about their presentation and help them prepare for the **Illustrator's Tea on Friday,November 27th 2026**.
- **Encourage Reading at Home:** Read together, talk about books, or share some of your own childhood favourites. Your enthusiasm can inspire theirs!
- **Motivate Older Students:** Encourage middle and high school students to take part through fun reading challenges or giving them small incentives.

Staff Spotlight...Mr. Muhammad Njie

Mr. Njie brings nearly four decades of classroom experience to BAIS, where he teaches Middle and High School English and IB Theory of Knowledge. His career began in 1988 as a Language Arts teacher in the Bibb County Public Schools in Macon, Georgia, after he earned a B.A. in English and Sociology from Mercer University. He went on to complete postgraduate certification at Mercer, earning Georgia Teacher's Certificates in English and Social Studies (K–12), and spent fifteen years teaching in the Atlanta area.

In 2015, he took his teaching abroad, working with English language learners in China and South Korea. Having taught public school students, international students, adult learners, and university students, he has developed a deep understanding of how to inspire and guide learners from every background. He now lives in Fajara and is delighted to be part of the BAIS community.

From Dr. Kim

i-Ready @ BAIS

The school year is off to a great start. i-Ready Reading and Math diagnostic assessments are now complete for most students in Grades K–8. Teachers are reviewing the results to better understand student strengths and areas where students may need additional support or challenge. i-Ready reports will be sent home to families along with a letter explaining how to read and understand the results. I will be happy to meet with any parents who have questions about their individual child's/children's report.

We are excited to expand our use of i-Ready this year to include our middle school students in Grades 6–8. Students in Grades K–5 complete individualized i-Ready Reading and Math lessons four to five days each week, depending on their class schedules. Students in Grades 6–8 complete i-Ready lessons three times per week.

These lessons help students build and strengthen important skills in both reading and math. We are especially excited that many of the reading lessons include science and social studies content. This gives students an additional opportunity to strengthen their reading skills while also building knowledge in other subject areas.

i-Ready is a great way to give students additional practice at their individual level. Whether a student needs extra support or is ready for enrichment, the lessons give us another way to support continued growth throughout the school year.

We are also looking forward to our 1st Semester Pizza Palooza! To earn an invitation, students must successfully complete and pass 25 i-Ready Reading lessons and 25 i-Ready Math lessons during the semester. Pizza Palooza gives students a fun goal to work toward while recognizing their effort, persistence, and progress in both reading and math.

Pizza Palooza & Ice Cream Party

TO QUALIFY:

You must complete and pass at least 25 i-Ready reading **AND** 25 math lessons by Monday, November 30th.

WHEN: Friday, December 4th.

TIME: 10:30 @ the Music Patio

The Marine Ball Is Coming!

On November 10, 1775, the **U.S. Marine Corps** was established by Congress. Every November, wherever in the world U.S. Marines are stationed, they celebrate the birthday of the Marine Corps with a formal **Marine Corps Birthday Ball**. This is always a highlight of the year in any international community where there is a U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

You can read more about the Marine Ball here.

I want to take this opportunity to mention the Marine Security Guard detachment here at our Embassy. Over the years, individual Marines and detachment commanders have come and gone, but this has always remained constant: the Marines have always been a vital part of the BAIS community, and the Marines currently stationed here are no exception. Whether it's operating the Haunted House at our annual Halloween Party, or leading flag football for our students as an after school activity, the Marines have always given selflessly of their time. We now have an opportunity to give back to the Marines and let them know how much we appreciate them. I hope many of our BAIS parents will join me at the Kairaba Hotel on Friday, November 13, as we wish the U.S. Marines a very happy birthday and help them celebrate in style!

Please contact the email or WhatsApp number in the flier to purchase tickets, or contact me directly if you would like me to assist.

Tennis News

GLTA
Gambia Lawn Tennis Association
OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT
GLTA / ERCA / EYSDC
Presents
14 & Under Sub-Regional Tennis Championship
Date: 6th - 8th November 2026
Venue: Independence Stadium, Bakau, The Gambia
Categories:
Boys & Girls 14 & Under • Singles and Doubles
PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES
Gambia
(Host)
Senegal
Guinea Bissau
Hosted by
Gambia Lawn Tennis Association
Sanctioned by
ERCA - ECOWAS Region
Partners:
EYSDC

Swimming Update

To all my Aquafit students 🏊‍♀️💙❤️
I want to see EVERYONE in this tournament! 🔥🏆
You've been training with us, now it's time to challenge yourself, have fun, build confidence and show how far you've come! 💪🏊‍♀️

Don't just watch… GET IN THE WATER! 😄🔥🗓️ November 15th | Ages 3+ | Beginner & Intermediat

November 2026

STUDENT NAME _____ **Class** _____

PARENT CONTACT Name: _____ **Phone** _____

ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Choose Portion Size:**
   - ☐ **Small - 250 Dalasi**
   - ☐ **Large - 300 Dalasi**
2. **Choose how you will order:**
   - ☐ ***Tick here to order all the lunches for this month.***
     Full Period : 14 lunches (Total cost: **Small = D3,500 OR Large = D4,200**)
   - ☐ ***Tick here to order lunches by the day.***

     By the day:
     1. Tick the days desired in the chart below
     2. Multiply x D250 (small) or D300 (large).
     3. Write in here: **Total # lunches: ____ x Cost per portion _____ = D _____**
3. **Get money and form to BAIS OFFICE**

October 2026	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Nov 2 - 5	☐ *Tick to order.* Creamy Baked Ziti W/ Veggies Dessert: Fruit Salad	☐ *Tick to order.* Fish in Batter W/ Roasted Potatoes & Veggie Dessert: Fruit	☐ *Tick to order.* Spaghetti With Creamy Tomato Sauce Dessert: Fruit	☐ *Tick to order.* Chicken Tagine with Rice & Vegetables Dessert: cake
Nov 9 - 12	☐ *Tick to order.* Shepherd's Pie Dessert: Fruit Salad	☐ *Tick to order.* Grilled Fish with Butter-Lime Sauce With Rice Dessert: Cake	☐ *Tick to Order.* Creamy Mushroom Chicken Penne Pasta Dessert: Fruit	☐ *Tick to order.* Fish Benachin Vegetables W/ Bissap Sauce Dessert: Cake
Oct 16 - 19	☐ *Tick to order.* Spaghetti Bolognese Dessert: Fruit Salad	☐ *Tick to order.* Grilled Chicken W/ French Fries & Veggies Dessert: Fruit	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ *Faculty PD* *Noon Dismissal* ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆	☐ *Tick to order.* Beef Stew W/ Rice & Veggies Dessert: Fruit Salad
Oct 23 - 26	☐ *Tick to order.* Beef Ragu W/ Tagliatelle Pasta Dessert: Fruit Salad	☐ *Tick to order.* Chicken Kebab with Potato Salad & Dessert: Fruit	☐ *Tick to order.* Margarita Pizza Mixed Salad Dessert: Ice Cream	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ *Thanksgiving Holiday* *Noon Dismissal* ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Halloween Door Decorating

PUMPKINS
GHOSTS
SPOOKY
LITTLE
MINDS!

ENTER
IF YOU
DARE

LET'S
PLAY
TAG
I'M
IT