

October 23, 2026

2026-27 Issue 8

BAIS Buzz

Message from the Director

Dear BAIS Families,

Book Month is almost here!! This is always a highlight of the year at BAIS. We will also continue the tradition of Beach Day in June if we meet our reading goals. Please see the information from **Ms. Sainab** in the Buzz. She always does such an awesome job of organizing Book Month.

Today **Ms. Amal** and I met virtually with **Mr. Jerry Darko**, our consultant with the **International Baccalaureate Organization**. The session was very positive and encouraging. We are planning for Mr. Darko to make a consultation visit to BAIS, hopefully at the end of November/first week of December. Thanks again to our teachers for eagerly embracing this process, and to our Board for their steadfast support.

Halloween will be here next weekend! Please be sure to read the information about the **PTO** and our **Halloween Party on Saturday, October 31**. For those of you who have already signed up for various roles, thank you. If you have not yet volunteered, please do so. I spoke with the Detachment Commander yesterday, and the Marines are again looking forward to operating the Haunted House!

Finally, for those who may not be aware, we have two specially fortified rooms on campus specifically designed to be safe haven rooms, should the need ever arise to use them. This week we had a safe haven drill, and all of our students from PK all the way through Grade 12 did an amazing job. In three minutes, our campus looked like a ghost town! Thanks also to the teachers who prepared their students for the drill. While it is extremely unlikely that we would ever need to use the rooms, it is important to have a drill and practice that. Special thanks again to the **U.S. Embassy** and the **U.S. State Department** for the funding to construct the rooms. I also followed up the drill with a meeting with the Regional Security Officer at the Embassy; we communicate regularly. Again, while we know of no concern at this time, we want to always be prepared just in case.

Have a great weekend!

Robert Harper, Director

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Upcoming Events

Wed. Oct. 28

Book Month Begins

Vision Screening

Sat., Oct. 31

Halloween Party

Nov. 16-20

Altamont Visit

Wed., Nov 18

Professional Development Day
12:00 dismissal

Thurs. Nov. 26

Thanksgiving Holiday
12:00 dismissal



The International Baccalaureate Core...Part 2

Last week I introduced you to the International Baccalaureate Core, focusing on the Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS) component. This week we will look at the Extended Essay (EE).

From ibo.org...

What is the extended essay

The extended essay is a required component of the International Baccalaureate® (IB) Diploma Programme (DP). It is an independent piece of research, culminating with a 4,000-word paper.

What is the significance of the extended essay?

The extended essay provides:

- practical preparation for undergraduate research
- an opportunity for students to investigate a topic of personal interest to them, which relates to one of the student's six DP subjects, or takes the interdisciplinary approach of a World Studies extended essay.

Through the research process for the extended essay, students develop skills in:

- formulating an appropriate research question
- engaging in a personal exploration of the topic
- communicating ideas
- developing an argument.

Participation in this process develops the capacity to analyze, synthesize and evaluate knowledge.

An extended essay can also be undertaken in [world studies](#), where students carry out an in-depth interdisciplinary study of an issue of contemporary global significance, across two IB diploma disciplines.

How is study of the extended essay structured?

Students are supported throughout the process of researching and writing the extended essay, with advice and guidance from a supervisor who is usually a teacher at the school.

Students are required to have three mandatory reflection sessions with their supervisors. The final session, a concluding interview, is also known as *viva voce*.

The extended essay and reflection sessions can be a valuable stimulus for discussion in countries where interviews are required prior to acceptance for employment or for a place at university.

How is the extended essay assessed?

All extended essays are externally assessed by examiners appointed by the IB. They are marked on a scale from 0 to 34.

The score a student receives relates to a band. The bands are:

- A – work of an excellent standard.
- B – work of a good standard.
- C – work of a satisfactory standard.
- D – work of a mediocre standard.
- E – work of an elementary standard.

Vision Screening

On Wednesday, October 28, vision screening by I Care Optical will be provided for all students, starting with pre-kinder. Parents will receive a report on the screening. If for some reason you do not want your child to be screened, please let us know.

Halloween is Coming!

Please click [this link](#) to volunteer!



Book Month Is Coming!

BAIS Book Month starts on Wednesday, October 28! 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 links will be sent to parents on Tuesday 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. Michael Seefried



After a wonderful first year at BAIS, I am excited to be back teaching our 4th and 5th graders! Getting to know our students, families, and the BAIS community made our first year in The Gambia a great experience. I bring more than 34 years of experience in education, including 24 years as a principal and leadership roles in international schools across Central Asia, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East. Throughout my career, I have believed that students learn best when they are challenged, supported, and encouraged to do their very best.

I enjoy bringing my experience into the classroom while making learning fun, engaging, and meaningful for students. My wife, Dr. Kim, and I have been married for going on 42 years, and our careers in education have taken us around the world. We have three grown sons who keep us busy and proud! I look forward to another great year at BAIS, working with our students and families and helping every child grow and succeed!



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!



A festive announcement graphic for the Marine Corps Ball. It features a dark red background with a gold border decorated with ribbons and floral motifs. At the top center is the Marine Corps emblem. The text is centered and reads: "WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE MARINE CORPS BALL", "A special moment to gather and celebrate the 251st Marine Corps Birthday Ball with an evening to remember.", "NOVEMBER | 13 | 06:00PM", "KAIRABA HOTEL", "TICKETS: 4,000 DALASI", and "To purchase a ticket contact JohansenEA@state.gov WhatsApp +220-87-797-3971". A small gold heart is at the bottom center of the text area.

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MARINE CORPS BALL

A special moment to gather and celebrate the 251st Marine Corps Birthday Ball with an evening to remember.

NOVEMBER | 13 | 06:00PM

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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.



Swimming Update



AQUAFIT SWIMMING CLUB
Stronger Swimmers, Safer Communities

ALL SKILL LEVELS WELCOME!
Learn · Improve · Compete

GIRLS & WOMEN SWIMMING TOURNAMENT

NOVEMBER 15TH

AGES 3+ • GIRLS & WOMEN
FROM LITTLE SWIMMERS TO ADULTS – EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

BEGINNER LEVEL
Build confidence and learn the basics.

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL
Improve technique and take your skills further.

BUILD CONFIDENCE

IMPROVE SAFETY SKILLS

MEET NEW FRIENDS

HAVE FUN & COMPETE

FOR MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION
CALL: 877415730

Swim - Grow - Thrive

WATER SAFETY **HEALTH & FITNESS** **LIFELONG SKILLS**

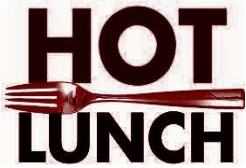
To all my Aquafit students 🏊💙❤️

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 & Intermediate**



October 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 : **16 lunches** (Total cost: **Small = D4,000 OR Large = D4,800**)
- **Tick here to order lunches by the day.**

By the day:

1. Tick the days desired in the chart below
2. Multiply x D 250 (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
Oct 5 - 8	• <u>Tick to order</u> Beef Stew W/ Rice & Veggies Dessert: Fruit Salad	• <u>Tick to order</u> Margarita Pizza Mixed Salad Dessert: Ice Cream	• <u>Tick to order</u> Fish Fingers W/ French Fries & Salad Dessert: Cake	• <u>Tick to order</u> Creamy Mushroom Chicken Penne Pasta Dessert: Fruit
Oct 12 - 15	• <u>Tick to order</u> Grilled Chicken W/ French Fries & Veggies Dessert: Fruit	• <u>Tick to order</u> Beef Ragu W/ Tagliatelle Pasta Dessert: Fruit Salad	• <u>Tick to order</u> Fish in Batter W/ Roasted Potatoes & Veggie Dessert: Fruit	• <u>Tick to order</u> Chicken Fried Rice W/ Veggies Dessert: Fruit
Oct 19 - 22	• <u>Tick to order</u> Baked Ziti W/ Veggies Dessert: Fruit	• <u>Tick to order</u> Fish Benachin Vegetables W/ Bissap Sauce Dessert: Cake	• <u>Tick to order</u> Spaghetti Bolognese Dessert: Fruit Salad	• <u>Tick to order</u> Crispy Chicken W/ Baked Veggies Salad Dessert: Fruit
Oct 26 - 30	• <u>Tick to order</u> Pasta With Creamy Tomato Meatball Sauce Dessert: Fruit	• <u>Tick to order</u> Chicken Cutlets with French Fries Dessert: Cake	• <u>Tick to order</u> Shepherd's Pie Dessert: Fruit Salad	• <u>Tick to order</u> Fish Brochette W/ Potato Salad Dessert: Fruit

After School Activities Update

The excitement continues as we wrap up another fantastic week of After School Activities. From fun-filled experiences and exciting discoveries. Our students are learning new skills, exploring their interests, and making wonderful memories along the way. The smiles, enthusiasm, and eagerness to participate show that learning can be both educational and fun. Our dedicated instructors have been working tirelessly to keep the activities engaging, encourage creativity, and help every child make the most of each session. As we move forward, the energy remains high, the learning continues, and the fun never stops. Here's to more exciting activities, new discoveries, and happy learners in the weeks ahead.

Mr. Palmer

