

DIRECTOR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

March 24th, 2022

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Message from the Director

Dear BIS Community,

I hope this message finds you well as we head into spring break. I am writing to inform you that the next school year 2022-2023 will be my last school year serving as the Director of Al-Bayan International School. This decision did not come easily and frankly, it was the most difficult decision I have had to make in my professional career – this is because of **how special BIS is and how important the work means to me**. However, by announcing this decision now, it provides the **Board of Directors an opportunity to recruit for a highly qualified Director to shepherd BIS into its next era**. I strongly believe that **BIS is positioned well** with our recent award of CIS accreditation and other international recognition, which will help **attract interest in the position globally**. We have done amazing work in the last several years, and I am **very excited about the future of BIS** and expect to get frequent updates about the **continued trajectory**. Regardless of my where my next professional journey takes me, **BIS will always remain near and dear to my heart** because of the **foundation upon which it was established**; this will continue to remain in-tact as BIS looks to the future.

I would like to reiterate my continued commitment to BIS for the remainder of my tenure and beyond. I have often said that **BIS truly has the ethos of a special school** and that is because it has **special people**. **I will be here next school year** and look forward to leading the work outlined in our school improvement plan and other strategic goals. I will continue to strive to be the best Director for BIS: for the students, parents, staff and community. It has been a pleasure partnering with all our parents, students and teachers that made my tenure here such a pleasure. We plan to engage the community in the search process and more details will be forthcoming.

Wishing you all a fantastic break and looking forward to seeing you back on Monday, April 4, 2022.

In Partnership,

Dr. Zak Palsha



PTA Vice-President Election

I would like to express thanks to the members of our BIS PTA Executive Committee for their continued dedication throughout our school and community. Our PTA members have established itself and grown to become an integral part of our school community, continually extending their hand to support students, staff and families. Ms. Shenna Behbehani accepted the challenge of being first to serve as PTA vice-president. Her outstanding leadership and selfless contributions will continue to impact positively on the home-school relationship, which remains a priority to our school and fundamental to students' success. BIS community is seeking nominations from any BIS parents interested in serving alongside the PTA Executive Committee as the next PTA Vice-President. BIS administration hosted an information session for interested candidates last Sunday, March 20, 2022. If you didn't attend the session and you are interested in serving on PTA, please email Mr. Ali at ali.williamson@bis.edu.kw. Click [here](#) to view the slide show that was shared with our parents during the session. Please look at the [election timeline](#).

BIS Spring Book Sale

Our new **Scholastic Book Club is up and running!** Click [here](#) to browse the latest books and order online. For **every \$1 you spend** on this month's Book Club, **our school will earn 20¢** in Scholastic Rewards. Please place your **order online by April 14th, 2022**.



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Cases of COVID at BIS

BIS continues to providing accurate, timely and transparent information with our community regarding COVID-19 cases. Since we returned from the National & Liberation week holiday, BIS has reported only one positive case of COVID-19 among its students and staff. Our COVID dashboard provides daily updates on the total number of active confirmed COVID-19 cases identified among staff and students. Please click [here](#) to view the COVID Dashboard. BIS's top priority is keeping everyone healthy and safe at school.



Ramadan Hours for Students & Staff

Please note that the school hours for all students during the Holy Month of Ramadan: **KG/ES & MS/HS**: 9:30 am – 1:30 pm, which will begin on Monday, April 4, 2022. Ramadan schedules have been sent from your school level administration. The school hours for our staff will be from 9:00 am and end at 2:00 pm.

Progress Reports Sent Home

Thanks to our guest speakers from GUST Private University for their session to our seniors to learn about the different options available to them.

Students' progress reports were sent home on March 21st, 2022 with your child(ren). The progress reports are also posted on PowerSchool. Please sign the envelope report and return it back to school by Monday, April 4th. Please click [here](#) to view the tutorial video to know how to get your child(ren) progress reports. Please use this [PS link](#) to access your account.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

We just concluded our second round of Parent-Teacher Conferences on March 23 and 24. Thanks to all the parents who signed up online and attended our recent Parent-Teacher Conferences. It is so important that we work as a team to support the students in our school. We had an amazing turnout. Your involvement is welcomed and appreciated.

MAP Assessments

MAP® Growth™ test from NWEA® stands for Measure of Academic Progress. No advance studying is required for these assessments. We are doing the MAP assessments at the below mentioned timings. The results from these assessments allow us to better support each individual student by highlighting strengths and area for growth, and enables teachers to better tailor their teaching and learning program accordingly. Please make sure that your child gets plenty of sleep the night before and eats breakfast in the morning.

Dates to Remember

- March 25-April 3:** Spring break.
- March 26-31:** BBS spring workshops camp.
- April 2:** Ramadan begins (approximately).
- April 4:** School resumes - Ramadan schedules start today.
School hours for our students: 9:30 am – 1:30 pm.
- April 5:** [Electives Presentation for Parents and Students](#) at 4 pm.
- April 6:** MAP Math Test for HS students.
- April 7:** MAP Math Test for MS students.
- April 10:** MAP Reading Test for HS students.
- April 11:** MAP Reading Test for MS students.
- April 12:** MAP Language Test for HS students.
- April 13:** MAP Language Test for MS students.
- April 14:** Last day to order from Scholastic Book.



- April 17:** MAP Reading Test for Grades 3-5.
- April 18:** MAP Reading Test for Grades 1-2.
- April 19:** MAP Language Test for Grades 3-5
- April 20:** MAP Math Test for Grades 1-2.
- April 21:** MAP Math Test for Grades 3-5.
- April 24-28:** Arabic exams for Grade 12 students.
- May 1 - 5:** Eid Al-Fitr Holiday.