

DIRECTOR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

January 24th, 2021



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20-21 Issue 2/4 Striving for accuracy ● Thinking Flexibly ● Persisting ● Respect ● Empathy ● Self-Discipline

Message from the Director

Dear BIS Community,

I hope you find the second quarterly Director's newsletter for school year 2020-2021 valuable. I wish each of you a healthy, prosperous and safe year ahead.

What a semester it has been! I would like to take a moment to thank our staff members at BIS. Our administrators, teachers and support staff have done an amazing job adjusting to the "new normal" and have made our e-learning program a success. While I recognize the importance of their work, in the same breath, I recognize that the partnership that we have with school and home on the same page working towards a common goal is really what sets BIS apart from other schools in Kuwait. Thank you for collaborating with us and putting our students, your kids first!

This newsletter will have some highlights regarding the work that we continue to do in order to prepare to have students back on campus. Of course, the safety of our entire community: our staff and our families is our utmost priority and we are waiting on the authorities to guide us and approve our campus reunification plan. Nonetheless, as Benjamin Franklin once said, "if you fail to plan, you are planning to fail". BIS is planning so we are ready, whenever the time is right and safe. The newsletter also contains information about our partnership with PTA and other important events and happenings at the school.

Thank you again for working alongside us and being committed to excellence.

In Service,

Dr. Zak Palsha

BIS Campus Preparing for Reopening

Recently we have installed automatic sinks and soap dispensers. Furthermore, throughout the campus we have installed automatic hand sanitization stations for everyone's convenience. Our classrooms are prepared with social distancing tape and our desks are being fitted with desk shields. Finally, we recently received thermal scans that we will be installing over the next few weeks. Again, we believe that we need to continue to prepare and plan accordingly. Therefore, we have taken these steps to ensure our campus is ready should the authorities allow us to reopen our campus.



Arabic Reading Challenge Partnering with BIS PTA

Encouraging our students to build their reading skills is essential. The Arabic reading challenge will start on February 1, 2021 to February 18, 2021 in cooperation with BIS PTA. The reading challenge is for students in KG2-Grade 8 through "I read Arabic" platform and "I start Arabic" platform for AFL students. The percentage of reading stories will be counted, testing and listening will not be counted, and students will be evaluated according to their reading levels.

Coffee with the HS Counselor

For Grade 12 Parents, please join Ms. Kenya Waltower, BIS High School Counselor, for Coffee with the Counselor. The Zoom session will be on Tuesday, Feb 2 from 5pm-6pm. Ms. Kenya will discuss "College and accommodations for learning differences". The Zoom link will be emailed to the parents at a later date.

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BIS Online After-School Activities

Online After-School Activities complement our after-school support sessions by providing students with a safe online environment where they can engage and be social with their friends. Hosted by BIS faculty members, these opportunities ensure students can access academic support as well as student centered recreation. We will be offering different clubs to choose from. Please click [here](#) to view the schedules.

BIS Calendar SY 21-22

Please find the updated calendar for SY 21-22 which provides parents with important dates, such as the first day for students for all school levels, PD Days, holidays and parent-teacher conferences. Parents can download a PDF version or view it from our website online. Click [here](#) to view the calendar.

Report Cards Available on PS

Please take the time to go over your child's report card with him/her. They will be available on PowerSchool on Wednesday, Jan. 27th, 2021. We are halfway through the school year, so now is the time for us to work together to get our students where they need to be to ensure they move on to the next grade level at the end of the year! Please note that the report card will go with your child's envelope on February 3, 2021 on the pick-up parade day. Please make sure to return the signed envelope with the March pick-up parade. Please click [here](#) to view the tutorial video to know how to get your child(ren) report cards. Please use this [PS link](#) to access your account.



Report Cards are posted on
 PowerSchool

ANNOUNCEMENT

PTA Membership Drive



The BIS PTA's goal is to work towards establishing programs and services to improve children's lives. Although many of our beloved programs and events have been put on hold during the current health crisis, the PTA never stops planning and preparing new initiatives to enrich our students' experiences. We look forward to a time when BIS can safely reopen for in-person instruction. Until then, our PTA will continue to work with school, staff and parents as we navigate these challenging times together. Please read the [PTA letter](#) regarding the membership drive toward being actively engaged in our school community. Should you have any questions, please email our PTA at bispta@bis.edu.kw.

BIS ACTIVITIES ONLINE MS/HS 3:15 - 4:00pm	BIS ACTIVITIES ONLINE KG - Grade 2 and Grade 3 - Grade 5 2:30 - 4pm	BIS ACTIVITIES ONLINE KG - Grade 2 and Grade 3 - Grade 5 2:30 - 4pm	BIS ACTIVITIES ONLINE MS/HS 3:15 - 4:00pm
SUNDAY 	SUNDAY: DRAWING AND PAINTING + HOMEWORK HELP	SUNDAY 	SUNDAY: CROSSFIT WITH MR. IGOR
MONDAY 	MONDAY: FITNESS AND EXERCISE + HOMEWORK HELP	MONDAY 	MONDAY: COMPUTERS WITH MS. ANGELIQUE
TUESDAY 	TUESDAY: MUSIC, DANCE & DRAMA + HOMEWORK HELP	TUESDAY 	TUESDAY: ART WITH MS. AMINA
WEDNESDAY 	WEDNESDAY: BOOK CLUB + HOMEWORK HELP	WEDNESDAY 	WEDNESDAY: MUSIC WITH MR. ADAM

Dates to Remember

January 24-27: PD week from 2:30 pm - 4:05 pm (no after-school support services).

January 27: Report Cards available on PowerSchool at 12 pm.

February 1-18: Arabic Reading Challenge for KG2-Grade 8 students.

February 2: Coffee with HS Counselor from 5 pm - 6 pm.

February 3: Pick up materials for MS/HS from 12:30 - 1:30 pm at gate #1, and for KG/ES from 2:00 - 3:45 pm at gate #1 for KG1-Grade 1 and gate #2 for Grade 2 - Grade 5 (early release for all students at 12:10 pm).

February 25: **National Day Holiday.**