

THE ROAR

NEWSLETTER BY
 British International
School of Tbilisi



"In a world full of adversity, we must dare to dream."

ROB BURROW

UPCOMING EVENTS

BIST CALENDAR

◆ June

- 26th - BIST Sportspersons' Award Dinner
 - 27th - Lions Aladdin Kids parents' performance
 - 28th - End of Year Assembly
 - 28th - Last day of the school year
- July
- 1st-19th - BIST Summer Camp
- August
- 23rd - Open Afternoon for new and returning students and parents
 - 26th - First day of the 2024-25 Academic Year

STAFF GOODBYES

We say goodbye to a number of staff who have been an integral part of our school's development over the years and wish them well in their next adventures. I hope you have an opportunity to say goodbye to these colleagues... Alex Backhouse (to a British school in Malaysia), Ashley Baxendale (to a British school in Colombia), Teona Midelashvili (to an international school in the UAE), Andrew Morris (to semi-retirement), Yang Ooi (to a British school in Malaysia), Les Pemberton (to an international school in Qatar), Tamar Petashvili (to study Archaeology in Italy), George du Preez (to a British school in Spain), Stephen Priest (to a British school in Egypt), Pati Saltkhutsishvili (to establishing her own early years centre), Sven Saunders (to an international school in Germany), Tumika Sthapit (to the the brave new world of self-employment), Seth Voytek (to a new career path in the USA), Sharon Ware (to a British school in China), Joanna Webster (to a British school in Uzbekistan) and Michael Webster (to a British school in Uzbekistan).

NEW STAFF MEMBERS

In addition to our new principal, Mr. Snowden, we have a number of new staff members joining the team in August. Names, roles and a brief biography can be found [here](#).

FRIDAY - LAST DAY EVENTS

On Friday we have the last day of the school year. Our Summer Show will take place from 1.30pm to 3.00pm and all parents are welcome and encouraged to attend. School will end at 3.00pm and we ask all parents to ensure children are collected at 3.00pm. The buses will all leave shortly after 3.00pm and thus arrive at their destinations approximately 30 minutes earlier than the normal 3.30pm bus and 90 minutes earlier than the 4.30pm bus.

2024-25 ACADEMIC YEAR

Previously shared, but a useful reminder for parents to download, [here](#) is the Academic Year planner for 2024-25. Many of the dates for the year are also available on our [website calendar page](#) (worth bookmarking).

DEAR PARENTS

As I write this, my last ever edition of the BIST newsletter, I sit here with mixed emotions. I am excited about the new chapter that my family and I will be embarking upon in Egypt and the new challenges ahead. However, I am also sad to be leaving a school that has been my home for seven years and where we have made so many wonderful friends. The last seven years have seen many challenges, but as a community we have overcome them and flourished into the school we are now. BIST has graduates studying at some amazing universities around the world, our A Level examination results last year were fantastic and our students can now participate in an enormously varied programme of extra-curricular activities and school trips. All this we have achieved as a community and I thank you for the support given over the years. I hand over to a new principal, Robert Snowden, a school on a positive journey - no school's journey is ever finished and I believe Robert will build upon what we have achieved, as always with your continued support. Above all I hope that Robert and his family enjoy their time at BIST and in Georgia as much as we have.

GRADUATIONS

Last Thursday we were blessed with two wonderful graduation ceremonies. In the morning we celebrated our Foundation 2 children's graduation to Year 1 with songs, speeches and smiles. During the evening, it was the turn of the Year 13 students, the graduating class of 2024, who leave us for university this summer. There were moving and inspiring speeches by students, staff and a parent to celebrate the amazing achievement of these students.



LIONS ACADEMY ALADDIN

Today our Lions Academy children have been performing Aladdin Kids to children in Years 3 to 5. It is a fantastic show demonstrating the wonderful talents of our younger students. Tomorrow, they will perform for their parents. Look out for photos on our [Facebook page](#).

REPORTS AND PARENTS EVENINGS

On Friday, we published the End of Year (F1 to Y10) and GL Parental (Y2 to Y9) reports. If you have had any problems downloading them from the portal, please let us know. We apologise that some of the reports came onto the portal a little later than expected as downloading, then uploading and sending 1195 separate reports took longer than expected. Thank you to those parents who made appointments at the parent teacher conferences yesterday and on Monday.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. ASHLEY

Great news that Mr. Ashley, our Y3B teacher, has secured a publishing deal for his illustrated children's book. Unfortunately, the title is still a secret, but look out for him on Amazon in January when the book will be released.

INTERNATIONAL AWARD SILVER EXPEDITION

A group of our older students hit the trails in the Asureti area last week for a 3-day trekking and camping expedition. A rainstorm aside, all students passed this assessed part of their International Award.



HONOURED AND HUMBLLED

Today, I was named International School Leader of the Year in the Pearson International Teacher Awards. A panel, which includes global leaders such as COBIS CEO Colin Bell, decide on the award winners and consider nominations before deciding who wins. I have been nominated by students, staff and parents at BIST and colleagues from our fellow Black Sea Schools. I am honoured and humbled to be nominated and obviously over the moon to have been declared the Global Winner of this prestigious award.



STAFF APPRECIATION DAY

Many thanks to our wonderful PCA for the Staff Appreciation celebration yesterday. All staff cleaning service, cafeteria, bus drivers, administration, teaching, etc...received a nice surprise and feel doubly appreciated. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our PCA committee and the Class Reps for this year for their dedication and efforts.



PRIMARY SCHOOL PROGRESS AWARD CERTIFICATES

Last Friday, our Primary teachers awarded students for the academic progress they have made in recent weeks.

Primary School Progress Award Winners			
Foundation 1	Shiqi, Shiyu	Year 3W	Amanda, Jei
Foundation 2P	Abi, Elias	Year 4B	Benjamin, Jiarui
Foundation 2S	Amara, Soma	Year 4D	Maohan, Philippa
Year 1T	Andre, Moyi	Year 5A	Iren, Samuel
Year 1W	Eden, Emilia	Year 5H	Aisha, Nita
Year 2H	James, Nelson	Year 6R	Helmer, Sara
Year 2K	Minori, Teona	Year 6V	Miron, Yehryoung
Year 3B	Chae Ah, Nana	<i>Congratulations to all our winners!</i>	

HOUSE POINTS



TIGERS

9334 POINTS



PUMAS

9295 POINTS



PANTHERS

9973 POINTS



LEOPARDS

8612 POINTS

Mr. Stephen Priest
Principal

Mr. Alex Timmis
EYKS1 Coordinator

Ms. Zoe Abbott
KS4 Coordinator

Ms. Sophie Kasrashvili
PA to the Principal

26th June, 2024

Ms. Alexandra Backhouse
Vice Principal & Head of Primary

Mr. Simon Rooney
KS2 Coordinator

Mr. Les Pemberton
Head of Sixth Form

Ms. Tamuna Skhiereli
Office & Resource Manager

Mr. Adam Whybro
Head of Secondary

Ms. Christelle van Heerden
KS3 Coordinator

Ms. Tumika Sthapit
Head of Administration

Ms. Tata Petashvili
Secondary Office Manager