



Tashkent International School

TIS News



2017-2018

January 18, 2018

Director's Letter

Myna Anderson - Director
director@tashschool.org

As Director, I work with the TIS Board on strategic initiatives to lead TIS to its Vision and Mission. Last week was busy with many of these initiatives, including:

- TIS Master Site Plan
- Building community and communication at TIS
- Strategic Initiative Development to guide us through 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21

Master Site Plan Update

Two building projects are now in process! The 2nd Gym is nearing completion and is set to be open by the end of January. And an exciting new project is now under way! See the Board Update in this newsletter for details!

Building TIS Community and Communications

TIS has a strong reputation as a warm and welcoming community thanks to our students, staff and parents. Increasing parent involvement in community events and improving our communication between school and home is a goal for this year. At the monthly PTO meeting last Friday, we saw that this is improving! More than twenty parents attended the PTO meeting to learn about school initiatives and to plan ways to engage parents in the life of the school! See the PTO Section to learn about some fun events that you can join.

Strategic Initiatives Development Committee

On Tuesday, January 9th a 20+ team of parents, teachers and students worked to go through all the suggestions given by the community about the main areas of focus needed at TIS for the coming three years - our Strategic Initiative - or Strategic Umbrellas as I like to call them. The groups spent four hours consolidating the input which will now be presented for feedback to the TIS Board and Academic Council. The final Strategic Initiatives will be approved in February and shared here.

Thanks to the following SIDC Members for their work:

Mrs Kyung Min Lee

Mrs Junyan Dou

Mrs Lili Qi

Mrs Shokhida Mukhamedova

Mr Woosug Cho

Mr Oddvar Aadnanes

Mr Logi Bragason

Mr Jason Brendan

Sylvie Allan

Valeria Wright

Dana Jung

Sam Grob

Yerin Kim

Victoria Furrer Valencia

Mr Rich McLeod

Mrs Sayyora Tairova

Ms Kelsey Kidd

Mr Jeff Mortelette

Mr Guime Odendaal

Mr Hojiakbar Kobilov

Mrs Robyn Ibrahim

Mrs Gulnoza Alimulaeva

Ms Seren Davis

VISION

To be an exemplary international school learning community.

MISSION

Tashkent International School educates students to be internationally-minded, think creatively, reason critically and communicate effectively.

Inside This Issue

Page 2	Directors Letter
Page 3	Elementary News
Page 4	Secondary news
Page 5	School Board
Page 6	PTO
Page 7	The Big Hoot
Page 8	The Big Hoot
Page 9	Cycling teachers
Page 11	Arts News
Page 12	Upcoming Events

Continued on next page.

Director's Letter (continued)

Spring Ball 2018: Along the Silk Road

Mark your calendars for the most elegant and entertaining evening of the year in Tashkent - the TIS Spring Ball! The Spring Ball is a fundraiser held to support our scholarship program for deserving Uzbekistani students. TIS Parents, diplomats and your friends are welcome to put on ball gowns and tuxedos for an evening enjoying dinner, dancing and donating money on amazing prizes and baskets!

TIS Spring Ball *Along the Silk Road*

Saturday, March 17th, 2018

6:00 p.m. onwards

In a new, splendid venue - the Hyatt Regency, Tashkent!

Stay tuned for more details. Reminder we sell tickets for a table of ten; you should speak with your friends now to decide who will be at your table!

Reminders Before I Go Recruiting

The Calendar: The Board approved the addition of the presidentially-decreed additional holiday on March 20th for an extended Navruz celebration. The Board waived the 180 days of school per year requirement in order to allow this and has agreed that the number of school days will not be any further reduced. If any future school days are called off between now and the end of the year, the day will be recovered by holding Saturday classes. We hope that this will not be necessary.

Safety First: Some reminders on safety aspects important to our school.

- 1. TIS is a Peanut Aware campus.** We ask all TIS community members to avoid bringing any peanut based product onto campus because we have a student with a Life-Threatening Peanut Allergy. If you must bring peanut-based items, they must be eaten at tables marked "Peanut Zone" and hands and faces must be thoroughly washed afterwards.
- 2. Drive slowly and respect the Drop Off Line.** Do not pass others and cut in the front of the line! We have had many traffic accidents involving parents and TIS family drivers in a rush - please be safe.
- 3. Present your TIS ID badges for entrance to campus.** We need to be sure our campus is secure. If you need a badge lease contact the Chief of Security, Ruslan Ismailov.

I will be travelling for the next three weekends to recruit the last two teachers needed to complete our faculty next year. I will return January 30th if not sooner. If you need any support, please see Jan Humpleby, Elementary Principal. I will be missing Saturday basketball games and recommend that you take my place to cheer on our middle and high school basketball teams. It is exciting to watch and a good place to meet other parents. Go TIS Owls!



From the Principal

Jan Humpleby - Elementary Principal
elemprincipal@tashschool.org

Welcome Back: Welcome back to 2018 and a happy new year to everyone. We hope you and your family had a fantastic vacation with time to relax, rejuvenate, reconnect with family and friends and have some adventure too. School is back in full swing as students recommence their learning together. This includes the beginning of the second ASA sessions; please be aware of your child's schedule and arrange pick up accordingly.

Semester 1 Report Cards: You will have received your child's semester 1 report card prior to the Winter break. Classroom and single subject teachers have continually assessed students since the start of school in August. This report is an important record of your child's progress, their areas of growth and their approach to learning - how your child interacts socially and the attitudes your child displays in class. We hope you found these reports informative.

Parent-Student-Teacher Mid-year Conferences: It is with great pleasure that we invite you to our mid-year parent, student and teacher conferences on **January 25th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** A strong parent-school partnership is fundamental to student achievement and an integral part of our philosophy. Please review your child's Semester 1 report that was sent before the Winter Break prior to the conference. To allow a more focused conversation, students in Preschool to Grade 2 may either stay at home or play outside where they will be supervised by the teaching assistants whereas students in Grades 3 to 5 should attend the conferences with their parents.

These mid-year conferences provide an opportunity to focus on:

- Where your child has come from (any previous learning challenges, areas of strength)
- Where your child is now (current levels of learning and understanding) and
- Where your child is going next (setting challenging and achievable goals for semester 2)

Parents of students in Ms. Tamsin (2T), Mr. Shawn (3P) and Ms. Moss (5M) will have their meetings on **Wednesday January 24th** as these teachers will be absent on the 25th. Mrs. Currey (PE G1- G5) will be absent all week so if you would like to set up an individual meeting to discuss your child's progress in PE please email her directly lesliec@tashschool.org. There be no regular school for elementary students on the 25th.

Grade 5 PYP Exhibition: The Exhibition in Grade 5 is the culminating project in every PYP school where students can demonstrate who they are as learners as well as utilizing their research, communication, self management, thinking and inquiry skills. During the first week of the year our eldest students have spent time exploring issues, learning about conflict resolution, personality types and the various roles and responsibilities of their group members. They have now formed their specific groups, identified a common issue about which they feel passionate, developed questions and met with their various teacher mentors.

Wet Weather: We are experiencing wonderful Spring-like weather currently, however in the event of snow and light rain, students will still be sent outside for recess. Students need the fresh air to stay focused in class. Please send an extra set of clothing to change into in case of playground falls, etc.

Secondary

From the Principal

Andrew Buckman - Secondary Principal
secprincipal@tashschool.org

Reports and Conferences

First semester progress reports will be available to parents on ManageBac on Monday, January 29th. Please take some time to review the report with your child(ren). While parents are able to access current grades at any time via ManageBac, the report indicates your child's achievement levels at the end of Semester 1.

Please reserve Friday, February 2 for Student-Parent-Teacher conferences. These important sessions give both you and your child(ren) an opportunity to discuss progress and opportunities with all teachers. The conference schedule will be emailed to you soon. Don't feel as though you need to wait for the conferences to speak with teachers though - all teachers can be reached by email at any time if you have any questions or comments!

Secondary School Highlights

Later this month a group of students will travel to The Hague for the prestigious annual THIMUN (The Hague International Model United Nations) event. Model UN teaches students leadership, public speaking, current global events and initiatives, diplomacy and negotiation skills, among others. We are very proud of the student who will be representing TIS internationally and we wish them a fantastic trip!

We have a record number of students from grades 6 to 12 participating in our competitive basketball league which will culminate when TIS hosts the CABC (Central Asia Basketball Classic) tournament in March during which will see both local and international schools from surrounding countries focus on fitness, individual skill, sportsmanship and sport strategy. In the meantime, they are busy training several times per week and host league games most weekends in our gym. Visit the school calendar for dates and times - we would love to see you in the gym supporting our teams. Go Owls!

A large group of enthusiastic middle school students recently began a creative journey which will culminate in the Middle School drama production. Always a theatrical tour de force, watch out for more details and be sure to secure your tickets early!

You may have also recently seen information from a number of different student led initiatives raising awareness for a variety of worthy and notable causes. The Service Learning Council is collecting clothing and supplies for a local orphanage and are planning an Art Afternoon for the children there (clothing and art/craft supplies are still being collected! Drop them off in Ms Davis' office!). The Honey Project is still supporting a local charity through the sale of honey cultivated at their center. Look out for tasting and buying opportunities at school events in the coming weeks. The Buy Art Help Kids annual art auction is February 9th and the organizers are still accepting art donations which will be auctioned in support of the Sanvikt Art Center for Disabled Children which gives children an opportunity to overcome mental and physical limitations through various mediums of visual art.

Recruiting New Teachers

I am away the remainder of this week hiring exemplary new teachers who will join us next year. I look forward to introducing the new faculty when the process is complete.

Board News

David Thomas - TIS School Board Secretary

The Board welcomes everyone back from Winter break, and hopes everyone is rested and ready for another creative and productive session! Board committees met this past week to take up the regular business of the school and the full Board will be meeting for its regular meeting on January 31st.

The Facilities Committee, in particular, has seen quite a bit of activity recently, with two different projects. First, the 2nd Gym project is nearing completion and we expect that it will be completed by the end of January. Although we continue to experience delays on completion, we hope to have students using the new gym shortly. Everyone is watching closely; teachers and students alike cannot wait to get into the new gym. The Facilities Committee plans to inaugurate the 2nd Gym at the opening of the CABC Basketball Tournament March 1st.

Next, we are all excited by the next building project, the Elementary 2nd Wing (E2W) . TIS hosted David Epstein and Ben Allred, architects from the American firm Truexcullins, from January 10th to 12th. They were here to work with TIS staff to develop a vision for the design of this building. E2W will house ELC classrooms, elementary arts and Russian classrooms, elementary offices and reception and a full elementary library and makerspace!

This is the first TIS building to be designed by an overseas firm working with a local design firm. We look forward to the collaboration between Truexcullins and Geo-Inform. The project management firm of True Engineering Supervision (TES) will oversee the entire project. A concept design image and floor plan of the E2W is below:



PTO News

We wish a very happy New Year to teachers, staff, families and students. May this year bring you lots of happiness and great health! Also, we would like to thank everyone who has donated their time and effort to make the PTO stronger and more efficient. We're looking forward to your continued support for the rest of the academic year.

The PTO is always looking for volunteers. Everyone can be involved – even if you only have a couple hours a year to help out. There are opportunities to help during the day or in the evenings. You can volunteer on a regular basis or just be available from time to time. Everyone has a skill they can share – baking, organizing or helping with fundraisers. You can choose to participate in our monthly meetings where you will get a chance to meet and laugh with other parents – or you can simply be available to be called on if we need extra help. If you are interested in finding out more about how you can be involved in your Parent Teacher Organization - please email us at pto@tashschool.org.

Popcorn Friday is a small monthly fundraiser run by parent volunteers which raises money for our PTO events. We need volunteers from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. to help pop and sell! Parents agree that this activity is EASY and FUN to run with a friend! Please contact our Volunteer Coordinators at pto@tashschool.org if you are interested in helping at any or all of our Popcorn Fridays.

If your child would like to purchase popcorn, please send them with 3,000 soum every Friday!!

- **PTO Monthly Meetings:** The next PTO meeting is Friday, February 2nd from 8:30 to 9:30 am. Grab your friends and join us to learn more about what is happening at the place where your kids spend most of their time. Parents with little or no English are encouraged to attend -- we will find translators to be sure you can share your ideas.
- **PTO Language Liaisons:** TIS is a very multilingual community and we know that communication works best through language channels. The PTO is working to identify a language liaison for each language group at TIS. We have a liaison for Korean, English and Chinese, and we are looking for community-minded parents willing to be the central communicator for Hindi, Spanish, Urdu, German, French, Bahasa and all other languages.
- **PTO Event:** New Parent Welcome - February 5th -- As part of our initiative to strengthen the TIS community, we will host a New Family Welcome in February. Mark your calendars and join us: Monday, February 5th from 8:30 am to 9:15 am in room 705 - Upstairs in the Art & Design Building. All parents are asked to come meet the new TIS parents who joined us in November, December and January. We will introduce TIS staff, new families and the PTO, have a warm welcome for each family, followed by coffee and cake!
- **PTO FUN-raising:** The PTO has decided to host a Family 5K Fun Run (or walk) to promote healthy exercise and as an event in which moms, dads and kids of all ages can join. If you want to help with organization of this event, write to the PTO leaders at pto@tashschool.org) and keep reading the TIS newsletter for the date.



The Big Hoot: Athletics and Activities

Rich McLeod, Athletic Director

RichardM@tashschool.org

TIS Basketball League 2018

The teams are set and ready for another competitive season of Owls Basketball. This year is a special season for a number of reasons. In 2018, we see the addition of both a boys and girls Middle School team. We are also eagerly anticipating the opening of our second gymnasium and our JV and Varsity teams culminating event, the Central Asia Basketball Classic (CABC) is here in Tashkent. More information regarding the CABC will follow as the date nears.

TIS Basketball League Dates

Basketball players and families should have received a more detailed schedule of times via email. We do hope the entire community takes the opportunity to enjoy a "Basketball Saturday" with us!

- Saturday, January 20
- Saturday, January 27
- Saturday, February 10
- Saturday, February 24 (Season Finals)

Central Asia Basketball Classic: March 1-3 at TIS



The Big Hoot: Athletics and Activities

Drew Maul, Activity Coordinator

DrewM@tashschool.org

Trimester 2 After School Activities started this week with some exciting new additions to the program. This trimester we are offering Lego Creator Club for the first time ever at TIS. The popularity of this new activity exceeded all expectations. Unfortunately only 15 slots were available for Lego Club, with more than 60 registration requests. Every effort was made to honor as many requests as possible, and second choices were considered where applicable. Other exciting new activities for Trimester 2 include Animation Studio, Robotics, Language Learning Apps and Games, Business Club, Health Investigation and expansion of Maker-Space into secondary.

We are also very pleased to continue our mother tongue program emphasizing Russian, Chinese, Polish, Korean, and Uzbek in Grades KG-5. This trimester we are also introducing Spanish Mother Tongue. As a hybrid activity, Spanish Mother Tongue is also open to non-native speakers who wish to improve their fluency. If you are interested in joining any of the Mother Tongue activities, please contact Mr Drew in the front office who will be able to process your application immediately. These mother tongue activities would not be possible without the selfless volunteerism of dedicated parents!

Many more activities still have open slots. Please contact Mr Drew for available options if you are still interested in signing up for Trimester 2, or if both your first and second choices were not available. Opportunities are still open for participation in the After School Activities program. Late registration forms continue to be available in the front office.

TIS Doc/Fest

Matthew Wright, Individuals and Societies Teacher

We held the 'TIS Doc/Fest last week, which was an event to highlight good work the Grade 8 having been doing in Individuals and Societies on Human Rights. They produced documentaries about Human Rights Champions - people who have made a difference on rights around the world.

There were 6 finalists - Shawn Khattak, Luise Graumann, KyungSun Min, Arina Leytgold, Nafisa Sagdullayeva and Michael Li.

All the documentaries did a great job of highlighting important issues in a way that engaged the audience and generated empathy. They can all be proud of their achievements! Arina Leytgold, and Michael Li achieved honorable mentions. Shawn was voted the runner up and Luise was voted the winner.

We definitely have talented documentary makers in our midst at TIS!



Touring Teachers Bike Around the World!

Matthew Good and Niamh Conway

Matthew Good (UK) and Niamh Conway (Ireland) continue their circumnavigation of the globe. Both Matthew and Niamh taught at TIS for several years before departing on their trip at the end of the school year last year. Six months and 7000kms in, they are now about to re-enter Cambodia!

Looking back on the ride east from the desert steppe of Western Uzbekistan, highlights include:

- Speeding through the desert
- 40km of descent into the Ferghana
- Weeks of mountain passes and wild camping in Kyrgyzstan
- Watching the National Horse Games at high altitude Song-Kul Lake
- Mist shrouded Buddhist temples revealing themselves on ascents
- Relaxing on two of southern Laos' 4000 Islands
- The Mekong Discovery Trail
- Christmas breaks with families
- Of course there have been tough times such as:
- Overheating and fainting in the desert
- Racing through China in order to avoid overstaying visas
- Feeling lost on river islands
- Being swept along in the torrent of traffic in Ho Chi Minh

All the while, the duo has been grateful for the kindness of strangers, who have offered support in the form of food, water, shelter or lifts.

The touring cyclists continue to support PWSA, having raised nearly \$10,000 for medical treatment and family support network events in the UK. They have also been developing an educational project called TEDWEB, adding to an online database of stories for global citizenship learning by visiting schools along the way.

The rather relaxed teachers are looking forward to the next 6 months of sun, sea sand and pedaling towards Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia!



Multilingualism: Idioms From Around the World

Nargiza Azizova, ELL Teacher

Idioms From Around the World - Language and Spelling activities

During Language Arts our Grade 3 students have been learning about idioms. Students select an idiom and study its meaning and origin. Then their teacher Mr. Shawn writes down the idiom with some spelling mistakes for students to correct.

Sometimes students share idioms from their mother tongue (home language). This time JiYu shared a Korean idiom which translates “Belly button is bigger than a belly.” Korean people say this when someone forgets what’s really important and ends up making or doing more of something that is extra. For example, when you see someone cooking just for three people and buying the amount of ingredients for 30 people.

Students took their learning to the next level by trying to write down the idiom in Korean first.

When we asked JiYu how she felt when her classmates were eager to write in her home language, she said she was very proud and thrilled that her friends were so curious and open-minded.

Thank you for embracing and supporting Multilingualism at TIS!



Arts News

Middle School Production

Rehearsals have started already for the Middle School production. 30 students from grades 6 to 8 will be working hard over the next couple of months to develop and stage a production of "A Thousand Cranes." The production will be in March - stay tuned for more news about the production!

Elementary Winter Concert - Winter Fantasy

The winter concert is fast-approaching! Please read the information below carefully with regards to concert logistics. We look forward to seeing you all on Thursday, 1 February to celebrate 2018 and enjoy beautiful music.

Concert Logistics

This year's Elementary Winter Concert will be very special with songs and themes centered around winter. It is very important that all of the students have the opportunity to participate in the concert because they have been working hard and they need the support of their classmates as well as the opportunity to perform in an ensemble.

Students need to arrive at school at 18:00 (6:00pm) on Thursday, February 1st. Upon arrival, they should go to their assigned classroom and check in with the classroom monitors. The classes and monitors will be announced closer to the concert date.

Students will stay in the classrooms with their classroom monitors until it is time for them to perform. After their class performance, they will go back to their assigned classroom with the classroom monitor and wait there to be picked up by their parents at the end of the concert.

Dress Code

Students should come to the concert in nice, dressy clothing. Examples of nice, dressy clothing include:

- Ladies: Dresses, skirts that fall at or below the knee, trousers, blouses. **Please do not wear leggings.**
- Gentlemen: trousers, shirts with a collar, ties if desired.

Students should not wear jeans, sports or loungewear, or shirts/tops with words on them. We want the focus to be on our student's performance, not what it says on their clothes.

Audience Etiquette

It can be so entertaining and wonderful to see children perform! The performance will be most enjoyable when we all agree to adhere to proper audience etiquette, which includes:

- Turning all mobile devices on silent or off.
- Listening quietly while all children are performing.
- Clapping respectfully when all children are finished performing.
- Staying in the designated seats for the duration of the concert.
- Allowing the videographer to film the concert so that there is not a mob of people near the front of the stage, which can be distracting to the students. Videos will be placed on the music blog during the week after the concert is finished.

Secondary Winter Concert Review

The Secondary Music concert Jazz Under the Stars was a great success last December! The concert included students from Grades 6 through 12 performing in choirs, rock bands, orchestras, and class ensembles, and culminated in a combined musical performance which included over 140 student performers. Thank you to all the students, parents, teachers, and staff for making the night a success!



Upcoming Events

In addition to this list, an email is sent to all parents every Monday afternoon with a list of important upcoming events. You can also view events for the entire year on our website.

JANUARY

Saturday, January 20: **Basketball League Games** TIS games between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 24: **Elementary Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences for Ms. Tamsin, Mr. Shawn, Ms. Moss.** Regular school for all students

Thursday, January 25: **Elementary Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences** No regular school for elementary students, Elementary ASA's and music lessons are cancelled.

Saturday, January 27: **Basketball League Games** TIS games between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. - full schedule on the TIS google calendar

Wednesday, January 31: **Teacher PD - Half Day.** All ASA's and music lessons are cancelled unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, January 31: **TIS Board meeting** - 6:00 pm (This is a special meeting to discuss tuition. Parents interested in joining the Board are welcome to attend.)

FEBRUARY

Thursday, February 1: **Elementary Winter Concert** (time and more details will be shared soon!).

Friday, February 2: **PTO Meeting** 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in the parent room.

Friday, February 2: **Secondary Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences.**

Monday, February 5: **New Family Welcome** 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Friday, February 9: **Buy Art Help Kids** charity art auction

The TIS News - The TIS News is a publication of Tashkent International School, 38 Sarikulskaya, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 100005. It is distributed every second Thursday via email to parents and staff of TIS. For information, contact the school at +998-71-291-9670/72 or via the Internet at www.tashschool.org and office@tashschool.org.

Tashkent International School is an International Baccalaureate World School offering the Primary Years Programme, Middle Years Programme and Diploma Programme to children in preschool through grade 12.