

BFS

MONTHLY WAVE

April 2017 Edition

Spring is in the air at Busan Foreign School!

A Word from the Principal

Iain Macfarlane



Spring is in the air at Busan Foreign School! At the end of our third quarter, students and teachers are showing all the qualities of a SHARK. March has been a time of great success at BFS. In academics, athletics and the arts we are meeting our mission inspire each learner. Spring is the time of rebirth and renewal and our successes this past month have reinvigorated us to meet the challenges of our final quarter.

Our first **Course Fair** was held at the beginning of the month to allow middle and high school students to make informed decisions for next year's course selections. **This is especially important now that we have increased offerings in the**

arts, foreign languages and computer science departments. By doubling the number of Advanced Placement classes at BFS, including our new AP Capstone Diploma, students have more opportunity and choice in deciding how best to prepare themselves to enter top universities worldwide. Students have made their course requests, and we will be sending home finalized schedules to parents in the middle of April.

March was **Literacy Month**. Mr. John Hellman and the Literacy Committee organised a number of outstanding events. While there were many worthwhile activities, two in particular stand out. The first was **Breakfast with a Book**. We had an amazing parent turnout and were treated to a delicious breakfast by our High School Student Council with generous donations from our PTSO. The second was the **whole school read along**. Students from different grade levels were paired with one another and for a beautiful 40 minutes, every single student in our school was participating in a larger reading community. Literacy is at the heart of everything we do at BFS.

In athletics, we have enjoyed outstanding success in March. **Our Middle School Boy's Volleyball team won the SKAC championship** for the first time ever. Our Elementary School Boy's Basketball team went undefeated in front of an unprecedented number of parents and students who came out to show their support. Our High School Boy's Futsal team was the only SKAC team to go undefeated when we travelled to HIS this past month. **More than our victories and successes, we are extremely proud of the increased participation.** In every sport and at every school division level there is a rush of students joining in to proudly wear the gold and blue of the BFS Sharks.

We have a tremendous amount of activities and events coming up during the month of April. It is a busy and challenging time of the year, but I know that as a school we are prepared to succeed. I look forward to seeing you all this week during the Parent Teacher Conferences.

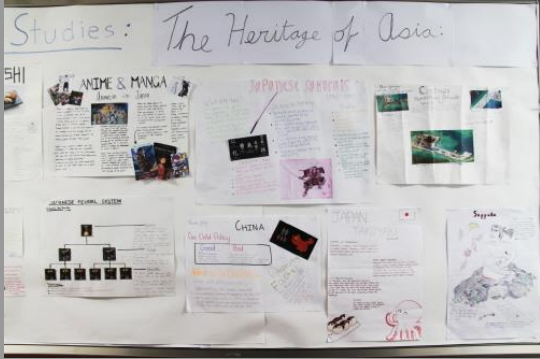
BELOW IS AN OVERVIEW OF OUR SCHOOL'S LATEST WEBSITE POSTS

SCHOOL-WIDE

[Ever wondered what is being displayed on the school boards?](#)

Apr 11, 2017 12:12 pm

You do not have time to come to the school and check the student work displayed on our boards? we took some pictures for you. We are proud of our student's hard work.



BFS hosts the annual SKAC Speech and Debate competition

Apr 10, 2017 02:00 pm

On Saturday, April 8th BFS hosted the inaugural SKAC Speech and Debate competition. It was a great event and our BFS students did an outstanding job representing us! We had two first place finishes that I would also like to celebrate.

1) High School Debate Team – First Place

- Sean Fox – Grade 12
- Jayna Nicholas – Grade 12
- Lillian Suchyata – Grade 12

2) Elementary Speech – Original Oratory

- Elizabeth Kim – Grade 4

All of our BFS students that competed should feel proud of their accomplishments.



Literacy Month

Apr 01, 2017 03:13 pm

March is a special month at BFS as we celebrate Literacy month. Although literacy is part of our daily lives at BFS, during the month of March we plan fun and didactic activities focused on honing the love for reading and writing.

- On Wednesday March 8th, we hosted a school-wide read-aloud of *Thank You Mr. Falker*, a story about a girl with a reading disability who finally ends up succeeding as a reader thanks to a caring teacher. Ilya Kim recorded Mr. Macfarlane reading “Thank You Mr. Falker”, and the video was simultaneously shown to all classes on March. Check the recording on: <http://www.busanforeignschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/2017.03.Mr-Macfarlane-Story-Reading.mp4> (Fun Fact: This is autobiographical, so Trisha from the book is actually the very famous author, Patricia Polacco.)
- On Tuesday March 14th, HS Stuco and the PTSO welcomed parents and students to have breakfast at the school ... with a book. This was a great event where parents, teachers and students were brought together for the love of reading. It was great to see so many faces. thank you HS Stuco for waking up so early to prepare such delicious breakfast for all.
- On Wednesday March 15th, during the “Teacher Read Aloud Book Swap” teachers were sent to different classrooms to read their short story of choice to students.
- On Wednesday March 22nd, MS and HS students became reading buddies of Early Childhood and Elementary students. it was great to see young and “old” reading together.
- On Thursday March 24th, we hosted a Library Open House where parents were invited to discover our large book collection and even check out books of their choice. The same day upper elementary got to come to

school dressed up like their favourite book character!

and things do not stop here ... Save the date for June 1st and June 2nd as we host “What The Book”, the Seoul based English book store at our school for a book fair. Do not miss the opportunity to tell “What The Book” which books you are interested in by filling in the google form:

https://docs.google.com/a/bfs.or.kr/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfuTxA07H6H4IGEn_j7q9OudGdA9gYaCmZvLm6tHdcz_ho3cpQ/viewform

The best way to stock your shelves before the summer holidays!



Congratulations to the “Signs of Spring” BFS photo challenge contest

Mar 25, 2017 04:56 pm

Congratulations to Alexa Myakonkovaa, Ran Wang, and Mrs. Harvey for winning the BFS PhotoClub “Signs of Spring” photo contest. Thank you Mrs Nicholas, Mrs Fox, Mr Lee, and Mrs Allepuz for participating! The next photo challenge is themed “Freedom” For most people spring break is about freedom. Escaping the daily grind and travelling to a new place, having that extra piece of cake or spending time doing the things that you enjoy the most – freedom means different things to different people. Show us what freedom means to you! Send your photos to apotter@bfs.or.kr by April 4th, 2017.



By Alexa Myakonkovaa



By Ran Wang



By Mrs. Harvey

Humans of BFS: an interview to Mr. Alam Virgen

Mar 09, 2017 04:01 pm

It all started when I was in college, I went to a mission trip in Thailand. That was my first exposure over the seas and to a culture completely different from my own. I grew up in Mexico, I lived in America, but for the most part,

they are the same. So, in college was the first when I was exposed to other people, other cultures, and other religions. That first opened up my eyes of one day living overseas, but that was just kind of like a dream that I thought would never happen. Then I graduated college, started teaching, and got married. I don't know, I loved my teaching job in Arizona. I love going there like as much as I love my job here. Then my wife started working too.

We had an awesome community of friends in Phoenix with our church and family. Not to sound arrogant, but life was easy. I loved my job, everything went well, but it got to a point where I got too comfortable. I was missing the feeling of being uncomfortable, because in my opinion you grow when you feel uncomfortable and you experience challenges.

So, I talked to my wife and we decided that it will be good for our marriage, because that way we could hold on to each other during hard times. That is why we decided to step out of our "comfort zone", and leave a place that we like so much.

By Alex Tian (Digital Media Creation class)



EARLY CHILDHOOD AND ELEMENTARY

Non Fiction Ice-cream Social

Apr 11, 2017 11:31 am

Friday April 7th, Elementary students were treated with ice cream ... why? the students accomplished their goal of checking out over 300 Nonfiction books from the library. Something to be proud of! Thank you Ms. Wesen for organizing and the BFS Parent Support Organization for sponsoring!





Elementary Quarterly Specialists Newsletter Published

Apr 06, 2017 09:30 am

The elementary specialists newsletter has been published. This will be a quarterly publication and will include what your child has been doing in music, visual arts, languages (Koreans and Spanish), PE, and library. We hope you enjoy it.



Theatre Reading 3rd and 4th grade

Mar 24, 2017 10:38 am

The third grade library class performed two readers theater performances about bullying. One play was called Lace Up Against Bullying which was inspired by true events in which students joined together to stand up for a student who was being bullied. The third grade class did a great job getting into character and using props. The second play was a verse about bullying and what you can do to stop it. It was very powerful in that students had to work together in doing the sounds and actions in unison. One group of students even created a bullying poster that they worked on during their recess time.

The fourth grade class had a readers theater performance about bullying. It was a verse in which all students had various lines and actions. The used fantastic expression and worked together as a group. In addition to this assignment, I gave them a choice to either create a skit about bullying or design artwork about bullying. I gave them a few days to work on this before we had our performance. I had two groups create skits which bullying and being a bystander was addressed. I had a coworker even say they got goosebumps during the performance!

I'm so proud of these students and that bullying will not be tolerated here at BFS!

By Amy Wesen, librarian.



March Field-trips

Mar 20, 2017 12:31 pm

The Early Childhood and the Elementary students went to NC in March and two exciting field-trips: Zoolong, and to the movies. I am sure you have already heard all about it ;-) Here are some pictures to remind you of of the fun. A big thanks to all parents that chaperoned and do expect more outdoor activities as the weather warms up.



Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss

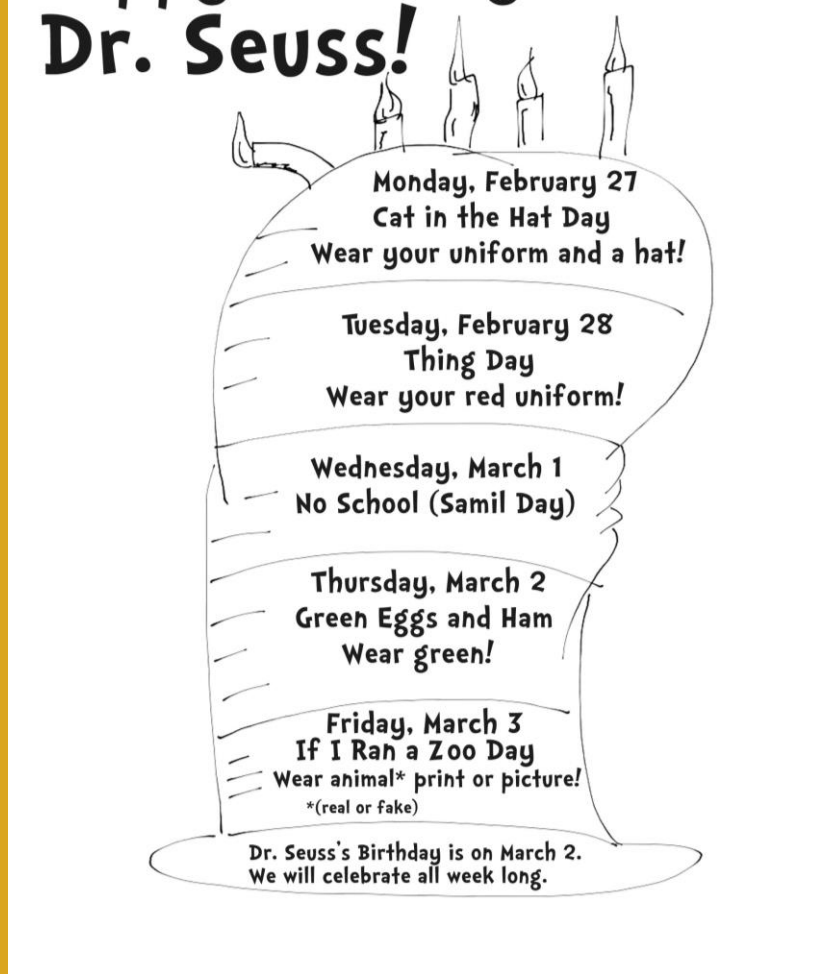
Feb 27, 2017 09:03 am

This week we celebrate Dr. Seuss birthday (March 2nd) at BFS Elementary with a week long celebration!

- Monday "Cat in the Hat": wear your uniform and a hat
- Tuesday "Thing Day": wear your red uniform
- Thursday "Green Eggs and Ham": wear green
- Friday "If I Ran a Zoo": wear animal (print or picture)

Happy Birthday,





MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL

[An insight into Urban Agriculture by Rachel Jung](#)

Apr 10, 2017 09:30 am

For my 7th period in BFS, I decided to take this course, named “Urban Agriculture”. The very, first day of this class, I realized that there weren’t a whole lot of 8th graders compared to the number of 6th graders, I may have underestimated the class. I was thinking that it might not be very difficult. Nevertheless, after a few weeks passed I noticed that it wasn’t easy just because most of the class was crowded by 6th graders. Instead, it was the same as other normal 8th grade classes. And, in this class, I’ve learned some amazing things such as new vocabulary from each unit, more about the plant life and our school “shark” behaviors and so on.

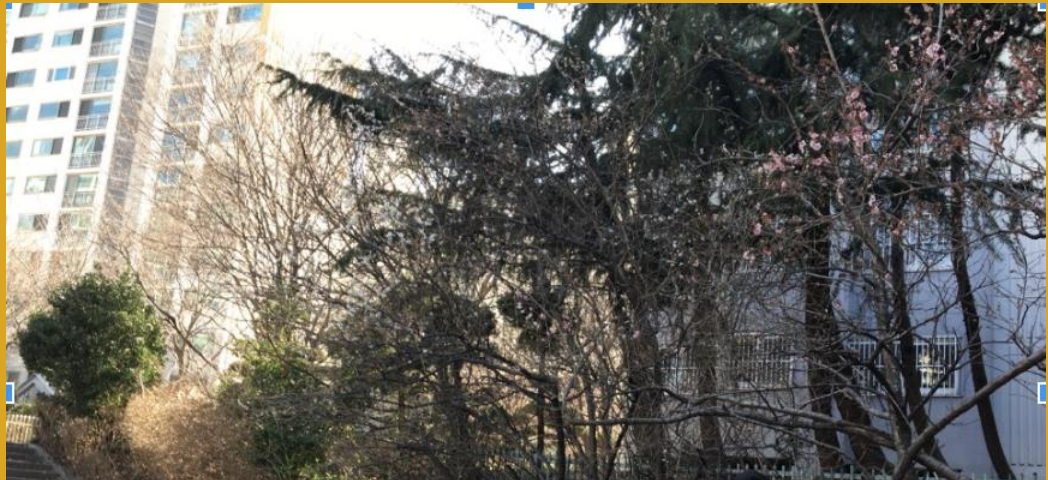
Ms. Branch, our teacher, tries her best to make us understand certain concepts. She does that by making outdoor activities, so we can see, feel, touch, and draw the plants. Also not only that, but before the test, she likes to review everything at least once to make sure people understand. Normally, she makes us move around in a circular form and on every part of the circle, there is a question for us to answer. This makes us not only think but also, a little bit of exercise at the same time.

Not only this, but she would most certainly like to go on field trips every Friday. We normally just go near school, because just across from our school there is a redpath which eventually leads to the Jangsan Mountain. In the field trip, she requires us to take our field notebooks, pencils, eraser and coats and sometimes hats and gloves if the weather is not helping us.

She would set us free when we arrive at the certain tree she would ask us to draw. Here is a quick image of the scene. We would gather around in a group or pair to observe the plant and draw carefully in our notebooks.

I believe this class, is an amazing class, the more you try, the better you will get. And, also as you are drawing the observations each week, your skills of drawing improve each week. So I think I’m very glad to be in such a wonderful class.

By Rachel Jung





NHS Clothing Drive

Apr 08, 2017 11:37 am

During March, the National Honor Society has conducted a clothing drive for the local orphanage. NHS has recently delivered the donated clothing to the local orphanage “Jongdukwon” with success. The orphanage and NHS send thanks to those who participated in in the Clothing Drive.

By Alexa Myakonkova

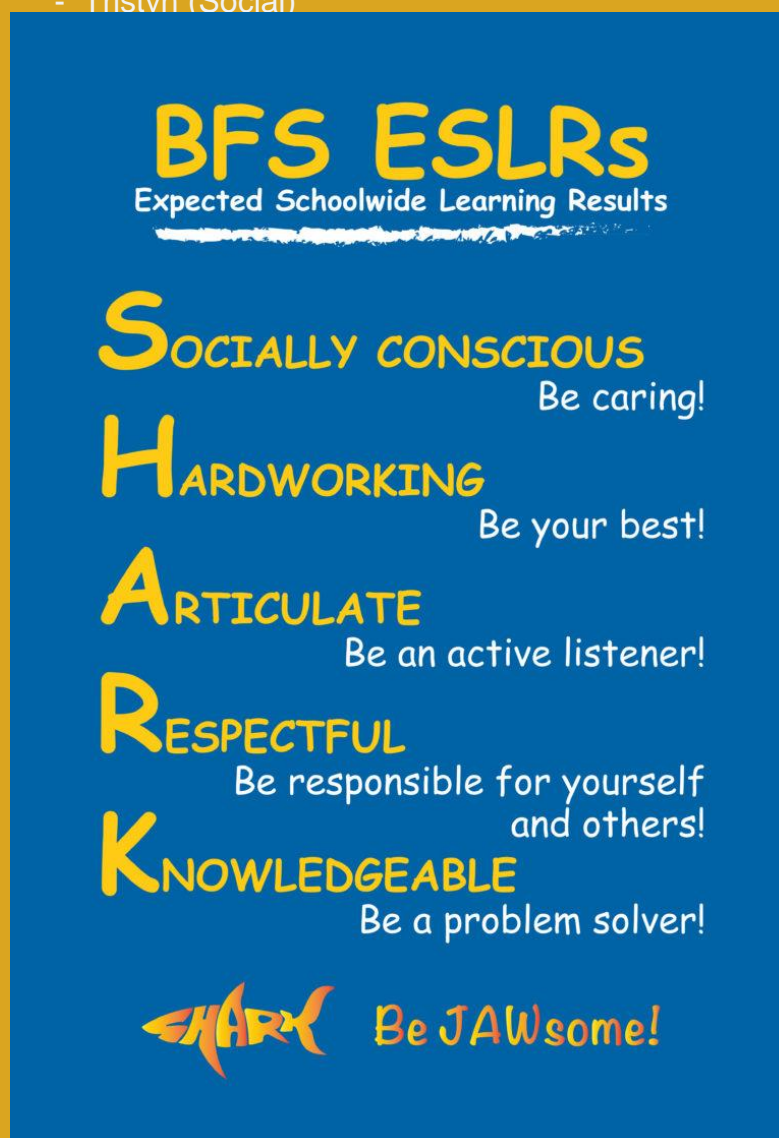


HS Student of the Quarter (Q3)

Apr 05, 2017 03:37 pm

Congratulations to the HS winners for the Q3 Student of the Quarter!

- Tristvn (Social)



Environmental Science and Marine Science classes field trip to Haeundae beach

Apr 04, 2017 09:58 am

The Busan Foreign School Environmental Science and Marine Science classes went on a field trip to Haeundae

Beach on March 9th, 2017. The students did three labs in total. The first one was to find which intertidal zone barnacles grow on. The students used a hula hoop to find which intertidal zone the barnacles live in. The students also looked around to find if there were other organisms living in the intertidal zones. The second lab was about finding the height of the tide with ten minute intervals. There was no specific methodology to finding the height of the tide. They guessed the height by estimating it by observing where the tide usually lands on. The final lab was looking at the wrack line on the beach. People were divided into eight groups and each group had 30 meter intervals between them. Then, they walked with a plastic bag and recorded what kind of trash they found along the wrack line on a sheet of paper and collected the trash in a trash bag.

The next day in class, we looked at all the trash that was collected and the seaweed that was collected. Students identified macro algae by using internet resources and using dissecting scopes to view the specimens. We also discussed our measuring the tide lab and figured out how our methodology could have been better. We learned a lot about the way that scientists measure the height of tides worldwide, and how they determine where “0” or sea level is actually located.



HS Korean Class for non native speakers cook Korean delicacies

Mar 21, 2017 04:23 pm

Students of HS Korean Class had a fun cultural activity, Cooking Tteokbokki (떡볶이) and Ggomahkimbop (꼬마김밥), in the school staff kitchen on the 21st of March. In the Quarter 3, students got their project topic; Aspects of Korea or Korean Culture with a variety of the different topics. One of the topics was ‘Popular Korean Food’ and Tteokbokki (떡볶이) and Ggomahkimbop (꼬마김밥 which is a smaller version of ordinary Kimbop) are the popular Korean snacks enjoyed by many foreigners as well as Korean people.

The students trimmed and chopped the vegetables like green onions, onions and carrots under the guide the school staff, Mrs. Ha. A few of the students got tears in their eyes while they were chopping the onions. After twenty minutes of cooking, students were able to dig in the food “they” cooked. Before they had a bite, they said, “맛있게 드세요” and “잘 먹겠습니다” which literally means “Enjoy your food” and “let me eat well/ let me help myself “ to the elderly teachers and the staff. How polite they are! They enjoyed themselves cooking, cooperating and EATING!!

“I was very surprised to see the students working, assisting and being mannered”, said Mrs. Ha.

“Don’t forget to have more room for lunch guys”, said Miss L (the teacher of Korean Class) and one of the students said, “Oh, do not worry, our stomach can fit far more....” (Giggles).

Korean Expression: 맛있어요(MAH-SI-SSUH-YO), which means ‘It is delicious/ yummy’.





[An update on our university acceptances for the senior class](#)

Mar 18, 2017 04:21 pm

Here's an update on university acceptances. We've received over 60 acceptances from US, Canada, Korea, Hong Kong, China and the UK. Kids have earned over \$678,000 in merit scholarship money.

1. Auburn
2. Boston College
3. BYU
4. Cal Poly
5. Cal Sate LB
6. Colorado State
7. Depaul
8. Emily Carr, Canada
9. Hawaii Pacific
10. Hofstra
11. Hong Kong City
12. Hong Kong Poly
13. Hult
14. Illinois
15. Indiana
16. Keio University
17. Kings College
18. Minnesota
19. Mt. Holyoke
20. Northeastern
21. Pace
22. Penn State
23. Purdue
24. Rochester
25. RPI
26. Rutgers University
27. Santa Clara University
28. Seattle Pacific
29. St. Marys, Canada
30. Stony Brook
31. SUNY Korea
32. Syracuse
33. Texas
34. Texas A&M
35. UBC
36. UC Davis

37. UC San Diego
38. University of Georgia
39. Waseda, Japan
40. Wisconsin
41. WPI
42. Liverpool University, China
43. York University, Canada
44. Wash U, St. Louis
45. Baylor
46. Rose-Hulman Institute
47. Regents, UK
48. University of Portland

SPORTS

HS Soccer SKAC divisional results: we did it!

Mar 17, 2017 04:10 pm

Outstanding day for the boys team as they went 3-0! Tremendous leadership by Captains Sam Lee, a stalwart on defense, and Daniel “I can score from anywhere on the field” Kim. Dima and Ricky provided the rest of the offense and both Hans and Tony tag-teamed a great day in the net. We defeated last year’s champion HIS in our first game in a white-knuckler that went to penalty shots. Our second game proved to be less competitive, but our last game showed our real resolve. Down 2-0 at the half and then tying it 2-2 in the second half only to go down 3-2 with very little time left — Ricky “I like basketball more than soccer” scored two goals in the span of about 2 minutes to seal the win. An exciting day for all. Congratulation our boys if you seem them around school today.

The HS Girls Soccer team won 2 games and lost 1. The captains were Ann and JiHong. JiHong scored 3, Stella scored 3, Ann scored 1, and Elina scored 1.

The goalies were Min J and Alice S. Well done Lady Sharks!



Elementary Basketball Divisionals

Mar 14, 2017 09:20 am

It was a beautiful Saturday to play basketball at BIFS this past weekend!

- Boys team 1 won 3 games and tied the fourth game.
- Girls team won 1 game and lost 3.
- Boys 2 team won 2 and lost 2.

All teams played tough and demonstrated great sportsmanship.

Coach Wesen and Coach Zwingelberg were really proud of everyone and for having a great attitude and playing as a team. It was wonderful to see the students demonstrate skills we have been focused on during practice. We are all looking forward to the finals in April.

MS Boys bring home the SKAC Volleyball Cup!

Mar 08, 2017 06:33 pm

BFS Middle School boys are proud to announce that we brought home gold from the final tournament yesterday!

There were some very intense matches, but the boys were able to work together as a team for this victory. The girls volleyball team made an excellent showing during the final tournament of the year, here at BFS, hosted by Busan Foreign School.

The girls continued to show vigor, sportsmanship and skill development over the course of this season. All girls worked hard and played to the end of each match as a team.

Coach Fox is so proud of their efforts and improvement! The girls placed 3rd on the Varsity team and 4th for the Junior Varsity team.

Congratulations girls on a great tournament and a good showing for BFS!

Go Sharks!



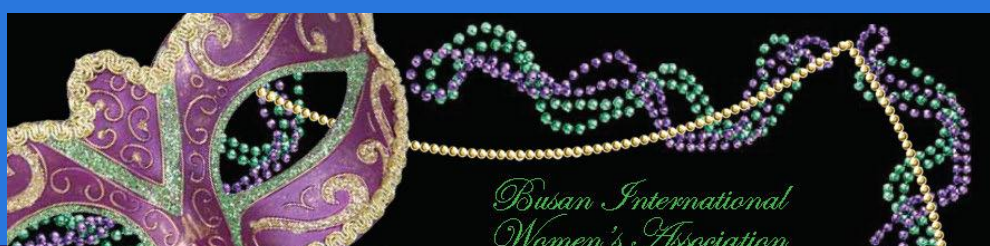
OTHER

Join the BIWA Charity Spring Ball

Apr 11, 2017 01:07 pm

The Busan International Women Association cordially invites all BFS families to participate to its annual charity ball.

The ball will take place on Saturday, April 22, at the Haeundae Grand Hotel – Emerald Hall. Please see attached flyer for more information.





Did you know that on average, children grow about 2 inches (6 cm) per year?

Apr 05, 2017 03:08 pm

Did you know that on average, children grow about 2 inches (6 cm) per year? Since your child has grown please check their school uniform to be sure that the length of their pants, skirts, and shorts meets the BFS dress code.

For more information and complete details on our dress code, please visit:

<http://www.busanforeignschool.org/admissions/bfs-dress-code/>



IMAGES OF THE MONTH



