

BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR NEWSLETTER



# BFS NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2021 EDITION

[www.busanforeignschool.org](http://www.busanforeignschool.org)



**BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL**  
*Embracing Diversity. Striving for Excellence*

*Busan Foreign School  
wishes you a  
Happy Lunar New Year!*



The school will remain closed from  
Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.





# BFS NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY 2021 EDITION

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**BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL**  
*Embracing Diversity, Striving for Excellence*

# The BFS Community Gives Back



BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL | FEBRUARY 2021 EDITION

## A Word from the Principal *Iain Macfarlane*

Dear Parents,

The Lunar New Year is a beautiful opportunity to reflect on what makes Busan Foreign School so unique. Our mission is to prepare our students to be responsible and contributing citizens in a rapidly changing world. This past month we have seen all ages of students reaching out to improve our communities. With a new year, there is renewed optimism that we can all make a difference.

Under the guidance of Ms. Carr and Ms. Kjelden, the Early Childhood students raised money for front-line health-care workers. These are the people who have made South Korea's pandemic response the envy of the world. 5th Graders, Mason Nelson and Danil Nesterenko, took their passion for sea turtles and raised over 400,000 KRW for seeturtles.org.

Currently, we have three other initiatives, which are raising money and awareness. February is black history month, and Mr. Philips is accepting donations on behalf of the NAACP. On behalf of the NHS, Michele Moon is collecting book donations

for two needy schools in the Philippines. Finally, the High School Student Council is raising money for the Korea Breast Cancer Foundation through the imaginative Cure Salon. Breast Cancer accounts for nearly 25% of all cancer cases in women of all ages. We all know a friend, a colleague, or a family member who has been affected. Please keep checking your emails and our Facebook and Instagram accounts to see how you can support our students as they develop the qualities that make our SHARKS so successful.

Happy New Year!  
새해 복 많이 받으세요!

*Iain Macfarlane*  
BFS Principal



## BFS Spirit Week

HS STUCO went over board making sure the return to school after winter break would be memorable. Despite the short notice participation was high and spanned over all grades. I bet our parents also had fun seeing their children in different attires every day.



*Monday, January 11th: Pajama Day*



*Tuesday, January 12th: Top-tier Day*





Wednesday, January 13th: Character Day



Thursday, January 14th: Throwback Day



Friday, January 15th: Shark Day



## Reading Buddies

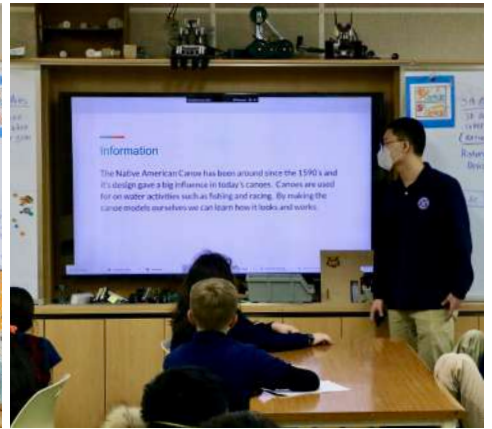
Every month, our students partner with another class for Reading Buddies. Pairs or small groups of older and younger students read books aloud to each other, improving their reading, speaking, and vocabulary skills. Together, students of all ages develop a love of reading.





## Student Teaches at Makerspace

The HS Makerspace students became teachers for the duration of a class during the second week of February. In pairs and under the supervision of Ms. Widholm, they prepared presentations, materials and helped students build artifacts like a bee bottle, a marionette, a canoe, a robot...





## Meet Our Alumni: Jason Moon | Class of 2013



### MEET OUR ALUMNI!



### Jason (Sang Joon) Moon

*BFS Class of 2013*

- Gerson Lehrman Group Seoul office: Council Development Associate
- University of Washington, Bachelor's degree in Economics with a minor in Information Systems, 2019

#### What are you up to now? (talk about your job, life, etc)

Upon graduation, I was able to land a job at a global market research platform company called GLG (Gerson Lehrman Group), and have kicked off my career working as a Council Development Associate (Executive Recruiter). On a daily basis, I conduct multi-sector industry research/analysis and recruit industry executives who have the necessary insights to various consultation projects requested by our global client base (Investment firms, Management Consultancies, and Corporations).

During my short tenure within my first professional working environment, I was able to capture my passion to expand my intellectual competence, and understand the importance of leveraging time to strengthen my academics. Thus, apart from work, I am slowly preparing to enroll into graduate school with a target year of 2021 or 2022, to eventually pursue a PhD in Business.

#### Do you have any passion projects?

Because I have a substantial amount of interests in the general business landscape and current political/economical events, I dedicate a lot of my leisure time studying the financial markets and reading the news. I try the best of my capabilities to consistently improve my craft and invest in my knowledge. I am also a passionate "sports guy", who loves to watch and play just about any sports out there (soccer, basketball, baseball, football, etc.). I recently fell in love with golf and have been devoting a lot of time crafting my game.

#### What was the biggest challenge you faced in College?

In college, the biggest challenge for any freshmen would be the absence of academic and life guidance. You should not expect your professors to direct you on the right path, if such path indeed exists, when you are delivering inadequate results, because simply speaking, THEY DO NOT CARE. You are strictly expected to be responsible for any actions you make, and will be held accountable for all the decisions you decide to pursue. Just like any freshmen, I too had to face the same challenge, but I can humbly claim that my four years of College equipped me with the necessary tools to be socially responsible and independent.

#### What advice do you have for BFS students as they go off to university/college?

Always be ready to take on obstacles and challenges. Do not distance yourself from failure by trying to find an easy way out. I've learned many lessons in my college days, and the most crucial one was accepting what it means to fail, because nothing can replace the teachings that results from such experience. A defeat is what makes you stronger and a better person, because it equips you with the necessary tools to not repeat the same mistake in the future.

#### What memory of BFS comes to mind?

Soccer and basketball tournaments! Getting to spend the whole day playing sports with a fired-up team was always so much fun. That and Socratic seminars in English classes.





## Meet Our Alumni: Valentine Didier-Pernet | Class of 2012



### MEET OUR ALUMNI!



### Valentine Didier-Pernet

*BFS Class of 2012*

- Montrouge Habitat OPH, Communications officer
- CMH, International Hospitality Management, 2019

#### Do you have any passion projects?

I am French, so my main hobbies would be drinking wine and eating cheese (not complaining).

#### What was the biggest challenge you faced in College?

The biggest challenge was to come back from Korea, where I was used to speaking and writing English and going to college where every assignment had to be done in French was hard because I really lost the French grammar. Also, living alone in France, when my family was in Korea was hard at first, but I got used to it and ended up living my best life!

#### What advice do you have for BFS students as they go off to university/college?

Honestly, the best is yet to come. There will be some tough times, doubts and scary moments but everything will end up fine. Keep going, keep working hard, never lose your goals, and always remember that it's all for the best.

#### What memory of BFS comes to mind?

I have so many memories, but I really enjoyed MMJ Class with Mr Lipsky, which was so fun ! It made us so creative ! Also, he was a great teacher and I enjoyed being in his class. But I don't want to forget also about Miss Mallozzi, who was amazing with me when I first came to BFS as a non-English speaker ! I will never forget BFS, everyone I have met there, teachers or students, they all made my time in Korea unforgettable!



## Sea Turtles Fundraiser



Two young fifth graders, passionate about nature, took the initiative to start a fundraiser to support turtles. They took time to look into organizations, create posters, advertise, and raise funds. For a week, they woke up early and stood at the school lobby to raise awareness and advocate for their initiative. Everyone can make a difference!



## Early Childhood Fundraising for Healthcare Workers

BFS' youngest learners are overjoyed with the results of their recent fundraiser for our healthcare workers. Thank you to all that contributed! On Friday, January 29th, they went to the fire station close to the school and brought some caffeine treats to the emergency response team.

How much money did we raise?

Pre-K: 175,000	Grade 8: 3,000
K-5: 41,000	Grade 9: 44,300
Grade 1: 01,000	Grade 10: 9,500
Grade 2: 50,000	Grade 11: 51,300
Grade 3: 14,800	Grade 12: 2,400
Grade 4: 8,000	
Grade 5: 17,900	
Grade 6: 75,250	
Grade 7: 84,600	



## Elementary Morning Assembly

January 28th morning's elementary assembly, led by 4th grade, put everyone in a good mood with their dance routine! Forget K-pop and live for BFS-pop: embracing diversity!





## Anna Schier Contributes to the Busan's Annual Happiness Insight Conference

On the 23rd of December, I was fortunate to attend Busan's annual Happiness Insight Conference as a youth speaker. 'Happiness' is an incredibly broad term, one that is difficult to be defined, as it is valued and determined according to unique individual perspectives. The conference, however, aimed to incorporate a range of these perspectives to perpetuate the discussion on what it means to be happy, especially in a world that is dynamic and rapidly changing.

In December, this discourse was initiated by Robert Waldinger, the director of a Harvard study that is evaluating what truly makes people happy. The study began eighty-three years ago and it's most notable participant is John F. Kennedy. Dr Waldinger shared that the greatest indication of happiness is the quality of the relationships we maintain with those around us. Other notable speakers included Mr Jai-Chul Choi, former ambassador to Denmark, and neuroscientist Dr Dong-seon Chang, who shared the biochemical effects of happiness in the brain. I was personally part of a presentation and panel discussion that focused on 'Generation Z's Perspective on Happiness'. Myself and two others shared our views on what happiness means to us and what factors influence our happiness the most. My presentation focused on the tumultuous year that was 2020, and the immense impact community and connectedness can have on wellbeing. Isolation and loneliness are the factors that have proved to be most detrimental to my personal happiness, and I reflected on how joining the BFS community, in particular, has altered and improved this.

Overall, participating in the conference was a pleasure and an honour. It allowed me to truly reflect on how community and support enable us to thrive, even when presented with the most daunting of challenges.

By Anna Schier (Grade 11)



## SKAC Master Chess Tournament

Our student led Chess club participated the SKAC Chess tournament on Saturday, January 30th and they did great! we are grateful to the SKAC as they expand the competing disciplines and as such motivate our students to pursue and showcase their passions.



10 min - ISK Invitational Chess Tournament MASTERS (300-3000)				
Standard   5 rounds   13 players				
Finished				
#	Player	Rating	Score	Rank
#1	Lev14th4n16	(2119)	5/5	13
#2	DIS_Ricky	(1128)	4/5	8
#3	ISK_yeeet	(1118)	3/5	7
#3	BFS-Misha	(1095)	3/5	7
#3	noahadidas	(833)	3/5	7
#6	DISdababy	(1144)	3/5	6
#6	MrBlooSkye	(798)	3/5	6
#8	ISKEstebanW	(828)	3/5	3
#9	DIS_aint_it_chief	(996)	2/5	5
#10	DIS_Andrew	(733)	2/5	3

## Model United Nations

Thank You Busan U.S. Consul Gordon Church for taking the time to come to our school and hand awards to our Model United Nations students Brayden, Ethan, Hyunjun, Jasmin, Jordan, Jun, Ken, Misha, Sophia, Valentine for their outstanding contribution at the latest Model UN SKAC meet.

U.S. Consul Gordon Church shared his love for this initiative and recognized Model UN teacher advisor Mr. Tim Neeno by granting him the Busan consulate signature coin.

Our Model UN team will be participating at the GECMUN, which will take place virtually in March.



## High School Student of the Quarter 2



Socially Conscious	Anna
Hardworking	Siyun & Nikita
Articulate	Danil & Hyunjun
Responsible	Esther
Knowledgeable	Edwards

Congratulations to the student of the quarter HS SHARK award winners who were recognized on Wednesday, January 20th, during high school morning assembly.





## Middle School Morning Assembly

The MS Assembly on January 27th was fun! led by the 8th graders and following the “Knowledgeable” theme they effectively recapped last quarter’s learning.



## Middle School Computer Science Class

Dr. Barnes and the Middle School Computer Science students are currently working with Arduino-based electronics kits called DuinoKits. The DuinoKit Jr. hosts a variety of components and 20 mission learning cards to get started in learning about electronics and programming. Each mission contains additional sub-missions for extra fun and learning. Through this hands-on programming unit, students are able collaboratively investigate and experiment with the relationship between hardware and software.





## 2020 AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award



BFS is happy to announce we have received the 2020 AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for AP Computer Science Principles. This honor recognizes the outstanding work BFS is doing to engage more female students in computer science. Thank you Dr. Barnes for your hard work and dedication to this cause!. This is the third year in a row we received this award for this course.



## Building a Better World

In view of the recent Capitol Hill incidents, this morning our administration spent some time reminding our MS & HS students of what democracy means and the values that BFS embraces in the form of student learner outcomes (SLOs). How each one of us can make a positive impact on our community and school through our choice of words and action was highlighted. Together we can build a better world.

For an overview of our SLOs check: <https://busanforeignschool.org/about-us/mission-vision/#tab-1415577970-2-98>



## Friday Foyer

Our Friday Foyer performances keep coming in. During the last 4 weeks, we had

- Hyejeen: Guitar - Beau: Saxophone - Chloe: Flute

We might not be able to host our talent show this year, but we do find safe avenues for our students to showcase their talents.





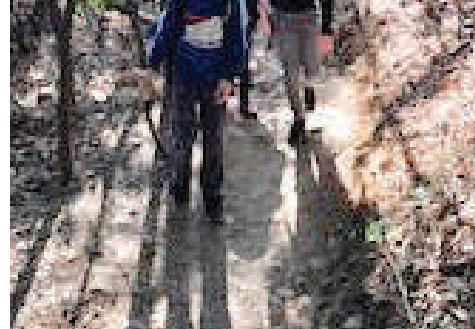
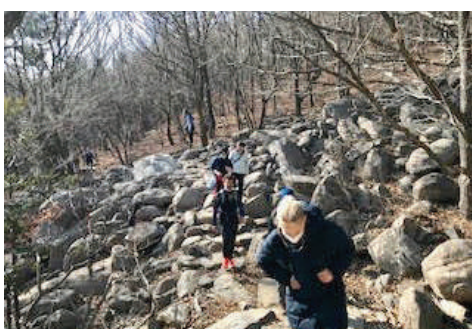
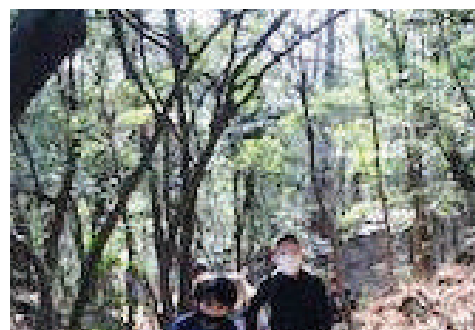
## Sports

Our sports program is operating almost in full swing. Elementary SKAC sports started right after the winter break and MS & HS after school in February. We all miss being able to compete with other schools but are grateful for the opportunity to develop our friendships through sports.



## Cross Country End of Season Celebration

Our cross country teams enjoyed the fantastic spring-like weather on Saturday, February 6th hiking up Jangsan mountain. The Great Outdoors!





## IMAGES OF THE MONTH









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