

BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR NEWSLETTER



BFS NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2022 EDITION

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BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL

Embracing Diversity, Striving for Excellence



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BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL

Embracing Diversity, Striving for Excellence

**Spring
has
Sprung!**



BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL | APRIL 2022 EDITION

Word from the Principals

Lauren Harvey & Carl Brenneman

Over the month of March, we experienced an increase in Covid cases amid ongoing changes to Korean government regulations. Our goals have remained to keep our community safe while operating in-person as much as possible. While some grades have temporarily gone virtual due to high absences, overall we have been able to meet our goals through twice-weekly rapid antigen testing for faculty and students. We appreciate our families for keeping us informed, Nurse Kim and our office staff for managing test records, and our teachers for engaging students in tremendous learning across various modes of instruction.

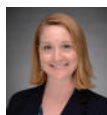
Our ACS WASC reaccreditation visit on March 6-10 went very well. The Visiting Committee commended BFS for having a warm and welcoming community where students feel known, cared for, and have a deep sense of belonging. In addition, they highlighted that the SHARK Schoolwide Learner Outcomes (SLOs) are clearly woven throughout the fabric of the school. We have been intentional in the implementation of programs such as Responsive Classroom morning meetings, advisory, and Second Step to support the social-emotional learning and well-being of students. Finally, the Visiting Committee noted that BFS has a strong academic program that prepares students well for success after high school. These commendations, in conjunction with their recommendations for continuous improvement, will support BFS as we move forward.

March has also been a month to celebrate accomplishments. Throughout the month, our Librarian Ms. Gleb has organized activities to celebrate literacy month including Scholastic book orders, potato book characters, Breakfast with a Book supported by HS Student Council, and Drop Everything and Read (DEAR). Also, we celebrated International Women's Day on March 8th, and in honor of Women's History Month we have shared the accomplishments of women that have made a lasting impact on our faculty. We finished the month celebrating student learning through Parent Teacher Conferences on Zoom. We'd like to recognize our Seniors who have continued to receive acceptances to top universities around the world. Despite the challenges of Covid, we have so much to celebrate.

We look forward to the remainder of Quarter 4, which we hope will include a decline in Covid cases and the restart of events such as field trips, music concerts, and athletic competitions with other schools.

We hope you have a chance to enjoy the cherry blossoms that remind us to be joyful and enjoy the precious moments in life. Have a safe and restful Spring Break.

*Ms. Lauren Harvey
Elementary Principal*



*Mr. Carl Brenneman
Upper School Principal*



WASC Committee Visit



Accredited by



BFS' WASC accreditation visit finished on March 10th.

The WASC accreditation process is an integral part in BFS' strategy definition process, and allows us to continuously question what we do and look for ways to improve, while staying true to who we are. We are very thankful to Chris Raymaakers, Ian Cordero, David Lovelin, and Shannon Tooley Page for your thoughtful input and support in our vision, mission and values.



Here are some items noted by the visiting Committee. We have so much to celebrate!

Students at BFS continue to outperform U.S. national averages in all standardized academic benchmarks that the school uses. This includes, NWEA MAP, PSAT, SAT, and AP scores. One such example of the growth that BFS has made is when looking at AP scores where the percentage of students scoring three or higher has increased from 77% in 2015 to 91% in 2021; while at the same time, the number of students who took AP exams increased by nearly 70%. The addition of the AP Capstone Diploma was also implemented for the graduating class of 2019.

College acceptances for the class of 2021 included 70 acceptances to over 60 different colleges and universities, including 18 Top 50 US Universities. This class received 27 different scholarships, totaling over \$2,000,000 USD in merit-based scholarships.

The visiting committee commends BFS on the progress made related to this goal.

BFS has a shared vision of care for all students and their learning community that was observed Through the Self-Study, interviews with faculty, support staff, parents, and, most importantly, students. Frequently we heard from students the overwhelming feeling of belonging, knowing each other, care, and pride in their school...The entire BFS community cultivates this culture of care and support.

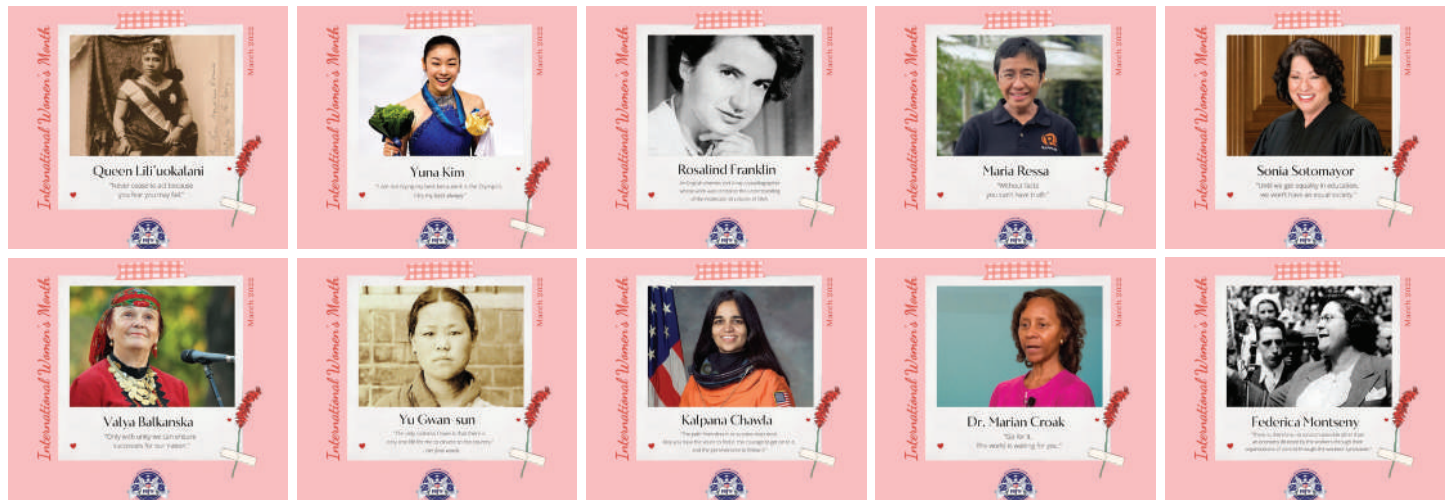
BFS should be commended for providing students with different opportunities to demonstrate high-level learning, creating thinking, problem-solving, knowledge attainment, and transfer and application of knowledge and skills.

Since 2018, the school has tripled the professional development allowance for each staff.

BFS has a robust and engaging co-curricular program that reflects and responds to student needs and interests. Students have voice and agency in the creation of their own student-led clubs.

March Women's History Month

On March 8th we acknowledged International Women's Day. Additionally, in recognition of Women's History Month, we asked our faculty and students to share with us female figures that have inspired them... Not all chose their mothers!

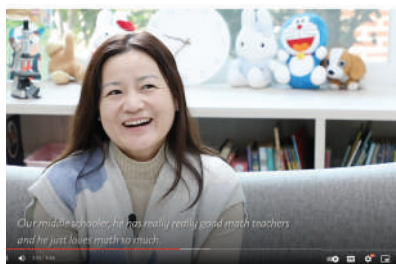


MOU With Busan eFM

In March, we were honored with Busan eFM's CEO presence, Mr. Ki Deuk Jeon, to mark an important milestone and celebrate the signing of an MOU between BeFM and BFS. With this MOU we bring internship and other opportunities to our students. There is already talk of a grandiose Halloween celebration (restrictions allowing).



BFS Parent Testimonial



BFS is blessed with families that are willing to share their experiences at BFS. Scan QR Code to watch our latest testimonial featuring Suzanne Lee, mother of three BFS students.

Would you like to share your own?
Contact the communications department
(bfs_communications@bfs.or.kr) and we
will set a date! Filming a testimonial does
not take long: 20 minutes is sufficient.

BFS March Literacy Month

Crazy Socks Day: Wednesday, March 2nd



Potato Book Character: Monday, March 14th ~ Friday, March 18th



Breakfast With a Book Hosted by HS STUCO: Friday, March 18th



DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) Assembly: Thursday, March 31st



Thank you Ms. Gleb,
BFS librarian
for organizing the
literacy month events.
You make a difference.



On Resilience

Counselor's Corner: Mrs. Austin-Castillo

Resilience helps us get through and overcome hardship. Resilient youth are capable of dealing with stress, coping with everyday challenges, and bouncing back from disappointment, adversity, and trauma. They are capable of developing clear and realistic goals, solving problems, relating to others, and treating themselves and others with respect.

Resilience is composed of three areas: Sense of Mastery, Sense of Relatedness, and Emotional Reactivity.

- **Sense of trust:** Perception that others are reliable and accepting; ability to be authentic in relationships
- **Support:** Belief that there are others to turn to when dealing with adversity
- **Comfort:** Ability to be in the presence of others without discomfort or anxiety
- **Tolerance:** Belief that they can safely express differences within a relationship



- **Sensitivity:** Threshold and the intensity of reaction.
- **Recovery:** Ability to bounce back from a disturbance
- **Impairment:** Ability to maintain an emotional equilibrium when aroused

- **Optimism:** Positive attitude
- **Self-Efficacy:** Approach to obstacles/problems
- **Adaptability:** Ability to consider different options in problem solving, accept criticism, and learn from mistakes

We aren't born with resilience- it is built up over time as the experiences we have interact with our genetic makeup. Caregivers can increase resilience by reducing sources of stress and increasing positive experiences, especially through supportive, responsive relationships.

Ways to Foster Resilience



Notice what's good; express gratitude



Be present in the moment; mindfulness



Acknowledge negative emotions;
name the emotion and understand that it will pass



Create healthy habits;
spend time outdoors, be active

K4 Flying Wings



K4 is currently inquiring into the habitats of many animals around Busan. Students are extremely curious about the homes of birds (nests). We have decided the best way to experience what it is like to be a bird, is to create our own bird wings and explore the outdoors. Students read the story “ALL the BIRDS in the WORLD” by: David Opie, and identified different color patterns on a variety of birds. Students then started creating their own wings based on the bird they felt they identified with the most. Check them out!

*Watch
K4 friends flying
their wings!*



Elementary SLO Assembly Hosted by Kindergarten

Our kindergarteners outdid themselves as they hosted the March Elementary monthly SLO assembly, which focused on the outcome “Socially Conscious”. Considering recent events it seems so appropriate. Thank you BFS students for reminding us what empathy and care means.



*Watch what
“Socially Conscious”
mean to
Kindergarten
friends!*

Grade 1 Listen Up!

Grade 1 students have been challenged to improve their listening skills. They achieved this with the help from various faculty members and a variety of games and activities. Some of these included:

- Listening to popcorn pop (it burnt because we didn't do a great job listening)
- Simon Says, Dance Dribble, and the Telephone game
- Guess the musical instrument
- Listening Walks
- Science Experiment: Dancing Gummies

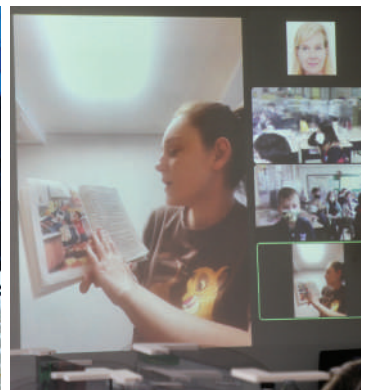
Overall, many of us did a great job improving our listening skills but we can always get better. Remember... Listen-Up!



Check out
Grade 1
learning the
importance
of listening!

Elementary Classes Invite Parents to Read to or With Their Children

In some of our elementary classes, and as part of literacy month, students got to enjoy parents joining the class during reading time. We're so grateful for their participation and specially for all those that volunteered to read in their native language to the classes: Not an easy task when done through Zoom.



Grade 2 Library Voting

Grades K5, 1, and 2 have been listening to five stories that are nominees for the Morning Calm picture book award. This award is for books selected by the librarians at international schools in Korea and voted on by students in those schools. Our BFS Sharks have also been learning about the voting process including discussions about the recent elections in Korea. Creating connections enhances the learning experience.



Grade 3 Black History Month Presentation

Grade 3 students presented their summative assessments on group research for Black History Month. Lots of fun facts to hear! :)



Grade 3 Learning About Economy

In their Quarter 3 Social Studies unit, Grade 3 have been learning about how the law of supply and demand affects prices, and that people need to make choices since they can't get everything that they want. They became producers and manufactured paper products that they sold to buyers in a mock market.



Grade 5 Health Lesson

This quarter, Grade 5 students learned about having a positive personal identity and how their gender, ethnicity, and nationality are important parts of their personality. In celebration of International Women's Day, they stood up in agreement to support a gender equal environment at BFS.



Middle School Quarter 3 Assembly

During March, 7th graders hosted the MS quarter 3 assembly. This assembly was focused on BFS' School-wide Learner Outcome "Hardworking" and students reached a deeper understanding of why being hardworking is important and what it really means. Big thanks to Mr. Brenneman for sharing his personal story and struggles with sports and basketball during his school years.



Grade 7 Strawberry DNA Lab

The grade 7s completed the in-class portion of their Strawberry DNA lab in March. Next they will create a model that describes the separation of DNA from a planet cell, and explain the structure and function of DNA molecules.



High School Late Night

HS Stuco is proving to live up to the challenge of organizing events during "living with Covid" times. Undeterred in their mission of creating a more inclusive environment, their latest initiative, "HS Late Night", was a success. Not only was participation high, but they also offered many activities, which addressed all tastes and helped create bonds while discovering new friendships.



Intro to Computer Science Collaborative Projects

Check these collaborative end of unit assessments projects submitted by our Intro to Computer Science class. They were designed using the python code and are as unique and diverse as our students are.



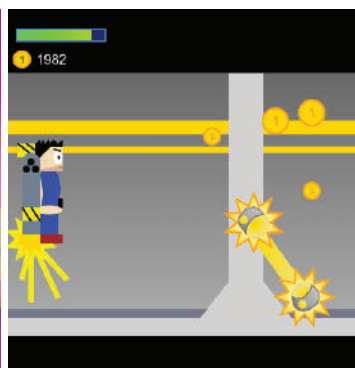
Alyssa Mae Toledo (9)
& John Hoira (10)



Alyssa Mae Toledo (9)
& Jun Park (9)



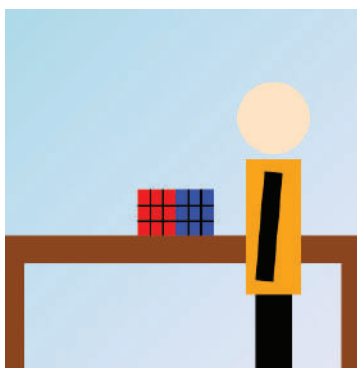
Angie Galles (9) &
Lucy Park (12)



Angie Galles (9)
& Jack Rackauskas (9)



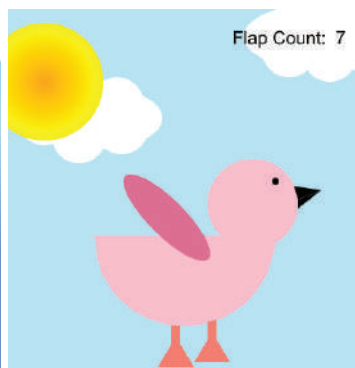
Jack Rackauskas (9)
& Tobias Tuomaala (10)



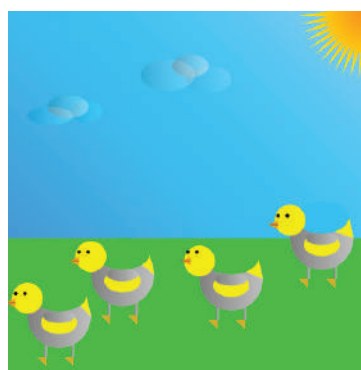
Kelila Harvey (9)
& Jun Park (9)



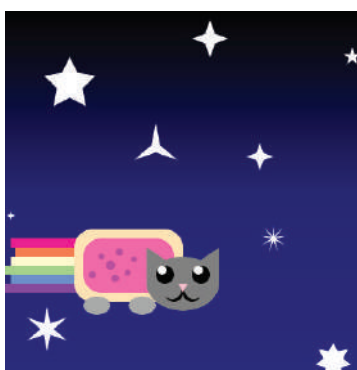
Leo Jun (9)
& Koko Flores (9)



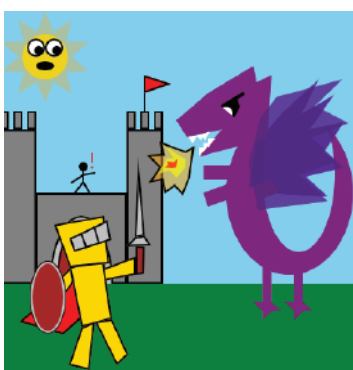
Lucy Park (12)
& Koko Flores (9)



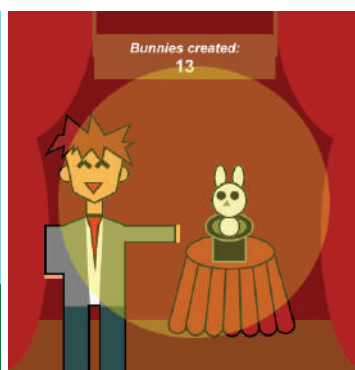
Miriam Beaty (9)
& Kelila Harvey (9)



Miriam Beaty (9)
& Leo Jun (9)



Tanvi Kumar (9)
& John Hoira (10)



Tanvi Kumar (9)
& Tobias Tuomaala (10)



Female Computer Scientists Board by BFS Art Club

BFS Art Club generously donated their time over the past week or so to create a magic/card-themed bulletin board in Dr. Barnes' classroom showcasing female computer scientists and their contributions to the field for Women's History Month.



High School Guitar Performance

Wondering what will you learn after a year in Guitar? The current class invited BFS students and faculty to discover their learning and encourage students to join next year. Learning to play the guitar greatly improves hand-eye co-ordination, but mostly, for our students, it provides an opportunity to learn about music, sing and play to modern tunes, and perform, all in a relaxed atmosphere.



Grade 12 Last Day of Uniform

The last day of quarter 3 at BFS is the last day our Seniors attend school in their uniforms (as fiercely negotiated with our Upper School Principal as part of their BFS Senior privileges). Don't they look smart in their uniforms? Getting used to life after BFS one milestone at a time.



High School Student of the Quarter 3

The HS Student of the Quarter Assembly took place on March 30th, under the leadership of High School Stuco. We would like to congratulate these quarter winners.



Students of the Quarter 3

Sona Park
 Michaela Goo
 Angie Galles
 Nikita Lysenko
 Youseung Kim
 Yujin Tatar
 Ewon Kim
 Ryker Cruz-Rivera
 Kelila Harvey
 Koko Flores
 Kacy Kim



After School Sport Activities

It is always nice to see our students engaged in physical activity. This season we have futsal in high school, and basketball at the middle and elementary schools.



High School Girls Basketball Game: Blue vs. White

After the pink vs blue HS boys basketball game, the BFS lady sharks gave their best in their own internal tournament "Blue vs White". I loved the atmosphere in the gym during the games as some of the peers of the players decided to stay and cheer for their friends. We might not be able to play at SKAC tournaments yet but our taste for sportsmanship and healthy competition remains.



IMAGES OF THE MONTH





UPCOMING EVENTS IN APRIL

APRIL 4 ~ 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spring Break
APRIL 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Back to School
APRIL 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Palette Dance Recital• Transition G8 to HS Parent Meeting
APRIL 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PTSO Egg Hunt• Purple Up day Day of the Military Child (Wear Purple)• Transition G5 to MS Parent Meeting
APRIL 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transition K4 to K5 Parent Meeting
APRIL 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HS Futsal Divisional @ISB
APRIL 25 ~ 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MAP Testing (G2 ~ G11)
APRIL 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MS Basketball Final @ISB• HS Futsal Final @HIS



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