



BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR NEWSLETTER



BFS NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2022 EDITION

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BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL
Embracing Diversity, Striving for Excellence



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Focus on Learning



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Word from the Principals

Lauren Harvey & Carl Brenneman

At BFS, the Sharks Keep Learning, a spirit of inquiry that shows through in so much of what we do.

BFS students have a growth mindset and make an effort for individual progress. In the elementary, Ms. Austin-Castillo has been sharing bullying prevention lessons with students through the Second Step program that help them understand the need to be empathetic as they grow socially and emotionally.

Elementary and high school students prepared for the annual STEM fair by conducting investigations and preparing presentations about their inquiries. With guidance from their elementary principal and from high school science teachers, students worked outside of the classroom time to complete their investigations and presentations.

That spirit of collaboration continued as high school computer science students worked with elementary students in the library to teach coding. Students teaching students under the guidance of their teachers exemplifies the spirit of continuing to learn and grow.

As they continue to learn and grow, our students have been developing creatively, artistically, and athletically as demonstrated by their performances in the band, choir, art, makerspace, and their participation in SKAC futsal, volleyball, basketball, and Model UN.

Both Dr. Barnes and Ms. Harvey participated in an ACS-WASC visiting committee during the month of November with Dr. Barnes traveling to Thailand and Ms. Harvey working remotely with a school in Cambodia. Through this vital professional development, BFS contributes to the global community of international schools. In helping other schools improve, we also learn and grow.

All of our teachers continue to learn and grow professionally, and we want to highlight the work of two in this issue. Ms. Amorós traveled to the U.S. and presented at the National Teacher's of English Conference to promote the value of students seeing themselves represented in the literature they read. At a regional counselors' conference, our counselor, Ms. Austin-Castillo, shared the work she is doing at BFS to break down barriers so that students feel comfortable receiving counseling support.

From our youngest learners, to our teaching staff continuing in professional development, our BFS Sharks show they continue to grow and learn.

We wish you a joyous season and that you have many opportunities to create lasting memories with friends and family during the winter break.

Ms. Lauren Harvey
Elementary Principal



Mr. Carl Brenneman
Upper School Principal



2022-23 SY BFS Thanksgiving

Happy Thanksgiving! We had a wonderful day with the support of Chef Oscar who cooked a delicious meal and our PTSO volunteers who assisted in decorating, preparing the turkey, and serving the lunch. Our Elementary students enjoyed a Turkey Trot with outdoor activity stations, and our MS StuCo facilitated Turkey Bingo in the afternoon. Our HS StuCo coordinated the Thankful Tree with messages of gratitude. We are so thankful for our warm, caring, and supporting community of students, teachers, staff, and families that make BFS such a special place.



Emergency Drill

BFS Sharks of all ages practiced moving safely and quietly to the basement. This was the first time since 2019 that we have been able to practice this specific drill because it requires us to bring several classes together in one of the basement classrooms. Practicing these kinds of procedures helps us remain calm in the event of an actual emergency.



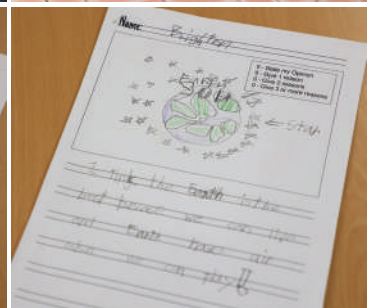
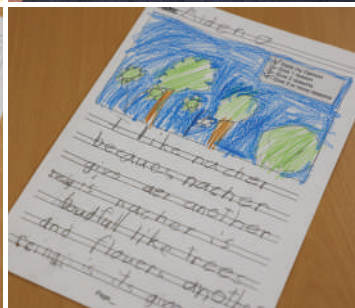
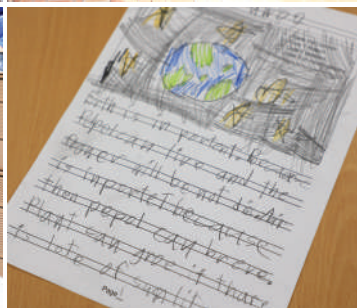
Teachers' Curriculum Development

In the monthly curriculum development meeting led by our Curriculum Coordinator Mr. Muller, teachers met in departmental groups to review performance based summative assessments. This collaborative planning time provides teachers with the opportunity to receive peer feedback and identify strengths and areas of growth. We appreciate Mr. Muller's support with this important work as we embrace diversity and strive for excellence.



#Call to Earth Day

On November 3rd, CNN organized a call to help our mother planet, the Earth. As a contributing factor BFS ran a campaign sharing things we can all do in order to save the ocean. Also for Call to Earth Day, Grade 1 students were challenged to write their opinions about nature, the ocean, or Earth. The class also spent Writers Workshop time outside to help students shore up their opinions and provide some inspiration to think of lots of reasons.





Counselor's Corner

Ms. Austin-Castillo

Kids and teens ask lots of questions, some of which may make you feel uncomfortable. As uncomfortable as you may feel discussing topics such as race, sex, or death, it is important that you try when your child asks. Look at their questions as teachable moments - chances to teach them your values and beliefs.

When your child asks a particularly challenging question:

Figure out what they already understand. Start with a question of your own. If they ask "Where do babies come from?", reply with a question of your own: "Tell me, where do you think they come from?"

Encourage their interest. Start your answer with, "That's a good question. I'm glad you asked." This makes them feel comfortable about asking questions. It also buys you time to gather your thoughts.

Don't laugh. Even if the question is cute, treat it seriously. Laughing may make them feel ashamed of their curiosity.

Try not to appear too embarrassed by the question. This just calls more attention to it. Take it in stride.

See if they want or need to know more. Follow up your answers with, "Does that answer your question?"

Listen to their responses and reactions. This will tell you how much they understood.

When you answer your child's questions, they will know where to go when they next have questions: to you, their most reliable source for honest information.

The American Academy of Pediatrics website (www.healthychildren.org) has information that may help you handle potentially difficult conversations with your child including sex, tragedies and other news events, and helping children cope with death.

Ms. Austin Castillo

Elementary Winter Concert & Art/Makerspace Showcase

The Elementary Winter Concert and Art/Makerspace Showcase was a wonderful celebration! Kindergarten to Grade 5 students demonstrated all they've learned in Music, World Languages, Art, and Makerspace. It's cold outside, but BFS was filled with the warm spirit of sharing, togetherness, and joy as we approach the end of 2022. We appreciate our dedicated teachers for organizing this special event as well as our PTSO for providing a kind gift to teachers.



Early Childhood Winter Concert & Gingerbread House Making Activity

On December 14th, the Early Childhood students performed a short concert led by Ms. Pochon. After that, students and their families enjoyed a gingerbread house making activity. We are so proud of our youngest Sharks as they've continued to learn and grow this semester!



Early Childhood & Elementary Winter Spirit Days

Early Childhood and Elementary faculty and students celebrated winter spirit days this week. On Winter Wednesday, we saw warm and cozy socks in many colors and styles. For Twinkle Thursday, we had many sparkly reindeer and elf headbands, hats, and accessories to brighten our day. On Festive Friday, we have many fun sweaters and flannels as we head into winter break. Thank you to everyone that participated for making a memorable and fun last few days of school.

WINTER WEDNESDAY: Wear your winter socks!



TWINKLE THURSDAY: Wear your fun holiday accessories!





FESTIVE FRIDAY: Wear your fun holiday sweaters or flannels!



Elementary STEM Fair at GIFS

The ES STEM Club members attended the SKAC STEM Fair hosted by GIFS. They had the opportunity to participate in group challenges with students from other schools, and they presented the projects they developed. Our Sharks Keep Learning!



Elementary December SLO Assembly: Respectful

Grade 2 hosted the morning meeting at December SLO assembly. The focus was on respect and how we can respect others at school. We also discussed why respect is such an important part of being a Shark. Grade 2 students created and shared a music video to the song "Respect" by Aretha Franklin and showed off some really cool dance moves. We got to hear from a guest speaker, Master Heo, who taught us all about respect through Taekwondo. We even got to try out some Taekwondo moves and a few lucky students got to break some boards with their fist... Mrs. Harvey broke 3! It was a lot of fun.



Early Childhood Visits Fire Station

Early childhood students had a great time on their visit to the fire station. As part of their inquiry into community helpers, they met the firefighters, learned about what is in an ambulance, and even got to go into the fire truck!



Kindergarten & Grade 1 Science Fair

Kindergarten and Grade 1 demonstrated how to be Active Communicators at the Science Fair today. Grade 1 shared with students and parents natural solutions to real-life problems. Students had to design and engineer solutions to real-life problems using plant or animal parts. Kindergarten presented investigation stations about force and motions. They explained how simple machines work.



Grade 2 Reading Celebration

In November, Grade 1 and 2 students learned to read nonfiction. They have become experts on certain topics, especially animals. On November 23rd, Grade 2 shared their keywords, facts, and knowledge with Grade 1. Students went on a little 'tour' and rotated around the library learning lots of new and exciting details about a variety of animals. At BFS, we are active communicators and also love to keep learning!



Grade 3 Field Trip to Museum of Illusion and Busan Science National Center

Grade 3 students had two back-to-back field trips exploring the Museum of Illusion and Busan Science National Center. Both museums offered an interactive, immersive, and fun experience. It taught students about vision, perception, and the human brain. In a similar manner, the Science Center offered ways to interact with science activities. They experimented with pulley systems, aerodynamics using paper airplanes, building legos and much more. All kids had a wonderful, safe, and engaging time.



Grade 5 Field Trip to Aquarium

Grade 5 continued our discussion on aquatic ecosystems and the balance needed between producers, consumers, and decomposers. On Friday, November 18th, Grade 5 ventured into the depths of the ocean at the Busan Sea Life Aquarium! After discussing our endangered creatures, what better way to see how delicate our aquatic ecosystem is than visit an aquarium to see our friends?



Anchored4Life Club: Socially Conscious

The Elementary Anchored4Life Club supports students that are leaving BFS by providing a moving bag full of items that will help them to successfully transition to their next school. Our Grade 3, 4, and 5 A4L Club members did a great job presenting the moving bags to departing students. These socially conscious Sharks care about everyone!



MS/HS Choir & Band Winter Concert

On Friday, December 9th, BFS middle school and high school students performed at the 2022 Winter Concert! The performance featured three bands, three choirs, and our outstanding pianist Clara An (Grade 11). We enjoyed sharing our music with the BFS Community.



Middle School Q2 Assembly Hosted by Grade 8

On Wednesday, November 30, BFS held MS Quarter 2 Assembly led by Grade 8 students. Before entering the gym for the assembly, every middle school student was served with a cup of mouthwash to ensure that they can all be an Active Communicator -- the theme of the assembly. The assembly began with a skit prepared by the MS Drama class; it was their very first performance in front of a large audience. Following the skit, students were divided into groups to participate in an activity which involved accurately communicating a message from one person to the next. In the final stage of the assembly, students had a chance to watch a video of photos from Quarter 2 to reflect on their accomplishments. Strong communication, Sharks!



Grade 6 Social Studies Class: Ancient Egypt

Grade 6 students learned about ancient Egypt. They explored the different social classes and jobs during the time. While also exploring hieroglyphs to create their own name.



Computer Science Education Week

During December 5 to 11, students in library class celebrated Computer Science Education week by participating in the global Hour of Code. Dr. Barnes' Intro to CS students shared a few of their previous Python programming projects with 1st and 5th graders to inspire our learners and teach them about how coding works!



Codementum International Coding Competition

To celebrate Computer Science Education Week, two teams of secondary students (9 middle school students and 14 high school students) stayed after school on December 2nd and December 9th with Dr. Barnes to participate in the Codementum International Coding Competition. Students worked together and efficiently completed 20 challenges that tested their knowledge and application of programming basics, variables, repeat loops, and arrays.



High School Makerspace Dream Homes

Our high school Makerspace students spent almost 2 months planning, designing, and building their dream homes. First, the students began their planning and sketching their floor plans using a blank sheet of graph paper. Then, they created a digital floor plan. Next, the students began building the interior of their homes using foam boards, knives, and foam glues. Finally, the students finished their homes by building and painting the exterior, including the roof! Our students worked very hard to build their dream homes.



Probability & Statistics Students Hosts “Carnival of Games”

Students in Probability & Statistics used rules of probability to create games of chance involving Uno cards, cards from a standard deck, and dice. They hosted a “carnival of games” during lunch for middle school students and private “carnivals” for Grade 1 and Grade 5 learners. The probability and statistics students learned the importance of simplifying rules in order to make their games more accessible to the younger students.



Grade 10 English Class Q&A Session with Randy Ribay

Our Grade 10 English class was able to ask author Randy Ribay questions about his novel, *Patron Saints of Nothing*, which is a National Book Award Finalist, NPR Best Book of the Year, and NBC News Best Asian American Young Adult Book of the Year. Randy recorded responses to grade 10's questions and personally responded to each one! They used his responses in our Socratic Seminar, followed by a cultural potluck.



BFS & ISB Choir Performs at the ECCK Year End Party

The BFS Middle and High School Choirs worked together with the ISB 5th grade choir students to sing together at the ECCK year end party on December 8th. The students did their best, and enjoyed spending the day singing and having some fun together. The performance was wonderful. We are very proud of our BFS students and the hard work they have accomplished! Congratulations to our community partner ECCK as they celebrate 10 years of business development in Busan.



SKAC Model United Nations

Congratulations to all delegates who participated in the SKAC Model United Nations on Saturday, December 10th. BFS had a record 8 winning resolutions that were debated at the Conference! Four resolutions passed their respective committees. Special shoutout to Elizabeth Kim (grade 10) with an Best Delegate Honorable Mention on the ECOSOC Committee, and Evan Zhang (grade 9) who won Best Delegate on the Human Rights Committee.



High School Student of the Quarter 2



On December 14th, HS Stuco hosted the HS student of the quarter assembly. Congratulations to the students recognized at the assembly: You make us proud.

Socially Conscious	Minjune C. (G11)
Hardworking	Skylar F. (G9)
Active Communicator	Andrew R. (G11)
Respectful	Danica D. (G10)
Keep Learning	Joy C. (G9) Evan Z. (G9)



Elementary Futsal

Our Elementary Futsal Teams traveled across town to their end of season tournament hosted by ISB. The players had a lot of fun and showed a lot of growth throughout the season - physically, socially, and emotionally. The Girls team completed its season with a podium spot, finishing second after 2 thrilling shootouts! The coaches wish all players the best of luck with their future endeavors, academically and athletically.



Middle School Futsal

On Saturday, November 19, both MS Boys and Girls Futsal teams participated in the SKAC Futsal Finals.

Both Girls A and B teams were undisputed champions of the tournament, winning their championship in their respective divisions. With their exceptional fitness, perseverance, and aggressiveness, our girls displayed dominance over all of the other teams in the tournament. Both girls teams were undefeated, and were able to further consolidate their reputation for superb athleticism.

Our boys showed their best performance of the season. The boys were able to generate more goals than they did in the SKAC Divisional. Regardless of the match results, we are truly proud of our boys for the qualities they displayed throughout the day. Despite adversities, our boys were committed and showed grit.



High School Volleyball

Big shout out to HS Girls Volleyball varsity team for bringing home the trophy! Congratulations to our boys' teams for finishing in 2nd place! GO SHARKS!



Cross Country

On November 8th the elementary cross country team traveled to Daegu International School to compete in the final cross country competition of the year. The boys and girls competed separately with runners from several international schools in a 2.6 km race around a nearby lake. After the race was finished, the elementary students watched and cheered on the middle school and high school cross country runners from BFS. It was a great day and a great way to end the cross country season.

The BFS middle and high school cross country teams had a strong finish to the season on a beautiful day in Daegu. All runners competed hard and improved throughout the season. The Shark runners kept passing people during their races, demonstrating their good effort and fitness. In the middle school girls race, Sophie G. earned a medal by placing 3rd. In the middle school boys race, George M. placed 2nd, while Neel K., Blake P., and Edward S. all finished in the top 8. In the high school boys race, David C. placed 5th and Evan Z. placed 7th. Finally, in the high school girls race, the Sharks demonstrated their dominance by having 5 runners in the top 6. Maddy R. won the race, Joy C. placed 2nd, Sasha P. placed 3rd, Claire Z. placed 5th, and Daisy W. placed 6th. All Shark runners should be proud of their efforts. All runners improved throughout the season and gave their best efforts in the races in Geoje and Daegu. The runners' effort and dedication was rewarded with fast times and high race finishes. Congrats to all Shark runners!





WISHING YOU

Happy Holidays!

The school's main office will remain
available during the winter break
Monday through Friday 9 am to 3 pm

Please note that the school will be closed on
Thursday, December 22nd & Friday, December 23rd
and *Thursday, December 29th & Friday, December 30th*

School resumes on Monday, January 9th





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