

BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR NEWSLETTER



BFS NEWSLETTER

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2023 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

**Go
BFS
Sharks!**



BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL | JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2023 EDITION

Word from the Principals

Lauren Harvey & Carl Brenneman

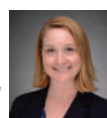
Since returning to school after winter break in January, our community has come together in many ways. Our **Hardworking** high school Student Council sponsored a spirit week with dress up days that were enjoyed by Sharks of all ages. This culminated in a faculty vs. students basketball game on Fins Out Friday, with a well-earned victory by our HS team. Since the end of the indoor mask requirement, we've had a smooth transition, and we've been impressed with our students being **Respectful** of each person's individual choice.

In the words of Coretta Scott King, "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." We are proud of our **Socially conscious** middle school students who organized a Türkiye earthquake relief effort with support by Ms. Soohyun Hwang. This initiative collected aid materials and raised a 169,620 KRW donation to UNHCR. In February, we also celebrated Black History Month with Ms. Platt's Grade 5 Library students demonstrating their research and writing skills for the social media campaign. This initiative helps students develop as **Active communicators** that recognize unfairness and injustice and advocate for self and others.

Our athletics teams across ES, MS, and HS have developed their skills, and they have been very successful with championship wins for HS Girls KISAC Basketball, MS Girls KISAC Volleyball, and MS Girls SKAC Volleyball. We appreciate that our coaches provide the opportunity for our athletes to **Keep learning** about teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. In March, we look forward to holding We Love Reading Month, celebrating Women's History, and hosting the HS Girls SKAC Basketball Final and the KIMEA Elementary Choral Festival.

Thank you to families for completing the "Intent to Return" form. The participation rate was high, and we are excited to welcome back so many students next year. Parent comments on the form reinforced that BFS has a healthy community for students to learn and grow. Your trust in BFS to support your child's social, emotional, and academic growth is appreciated.

Ms. Lauren Harvey
Elementary Principal



Mr. Carl Brenneman
Upper School Principal



2022-23 SY BFS Spirit Week

January 30th to February 3rd was BFS Spirit Week hosted by HS STUCO. BFSers dressed up and showed their school spirit!

Morning Monday:	Tint it Tuesday:	Who Wore it Better Wednesday:	To the Future Thursday:	Fins Out Friday:
<i>Wear your pajamas!</i>	<i>Wear your favorite color in head to toe!</i>	<i>Dress out like a famous character or celebrity!</i>	<i>Dress up in a possible career or profession!</i>	<i>Wear your Shark spirit tee!</i>



On January 30th to February 3rd, BFS celebrated Spirit Week which ended in a Teachers vs. Student basketball game. It was wonderful to see all students from age 3 to 18 dressed out in each day's theme. Students wore their best pajamas to school and dressed out in their favorite color. Students dressed like a celebrity or character from a movie. We saw some Michael Jacksons, Britney Spears, a Mr. Rogers, and lots of Wednesday Adams! On Thursday, students dressed in possible future careers including lawyers, office workers, coders, and doctors. Friday was a sea of BFS blue as students and staff wore their Shark Shirts for "Fins Out Friday!" Although the teachers put up a good fight, our BFS high school basketball players took the win in the basketball game! Congratulations to all the players for a great game and a fantastic week at BFS.



Teacher Professional Development Day

On February 17th's Teacher Professional Development Day, BFS was pleased to welcome Ms. Rachel Guilfoyle, the 2022 DODEA Teacher of the Year and a Fulbright (GTC) Teachers for Global Classrooms Scholar. Ms. Guilfoyle presented a session on "Global Education: Think. Learn. Act." and shared the importance of encouraging students to be globally competent citizens to increase student engagement, college and career readiness, social-emotional learning, and student empowerment. She encouraged teachers to create classrooms with an actionable and intentional global lens. As a proud member of the Non-DoD Schools Program (NDSP), BFS serves a significant number of U.S. military-affiliated students and international students from approximately 20 different nationalities.

Read the Stars and Stripes Korea's full article here: shorturl.at/lyzHO



February PTSO Meeting

In February PTSO meeting, Principals were honored to talk with our parents about the ways we're achieving the mission and vision of BFS and supporting students to grow socially, emotionally, and academically as well as athletically and artistically. Mr. Saunders joined in to celebrate the many great early decision university acceptances our Seniors are receiving. It's great to get support from our diverse parent community and we are so happy to see unmasked faces at the PTSO meeting!



National School Counselor's Week (February 6 ~ 10)

BFS is fortunate to have two specialists dedicated to providing counseling services for our students: Ms. AC and Mr. Saunders! While their roles are very different, they help make our school a safe and welcoming environment for our students.

Ms. Austin-Castillo joined BFS in 2020, arriving in Korea when a two-week quarantine was required. She has helped students navigate returning to school in person, helped them understand themselves better, and shown them ways to be empathetic towards others. She teaches counseling lessons to our elementary students and has been instrumental in building out our Second Step program to include the middle school. Students know that they can schedule a meeting with Ms. A-C to talk about friendship issues, and to build the courage to face challenging classes, tests, or teachers. They know she will listen and help them develop coping strategies. She is a caring colleague who makes time to listen to others, and she finds time and energy to share the success of BFS with the broader international community through publications and presentations at conferences. She models a growth mindset as she seeks to grow professionally and personally.

Mr. Saunders has been the college counselor at BFS since 2013. During that time he has provided personalized counseling to BFS students and parents, helping them navigate the complexities of college admissions. He starts working with students in grade 9, to help them see that they are creating a profile for themselves that will be shared with potential universities. He shares his expertise with BFS parents and helps our seniors craft their college essays. In addition, he oversees PSAT and SAT testing at BFS, and coordinates all of our AP exams. Because he also works as our admissions director, he knows the students' backgrounds and families and is a trusted advisor for all our students. On the rare occasion when he is out of the building, a steady flow of students looking for him demonstrates the critical role he plays in students' lives.



BFS Alumni Page

Yes, our BFS grads go on to amazing universities and colleges, but did you ever wonder where they go after college? You should check out our alumni page -- we have doctors at Yale and Cornell, architects, financial consultants, numerous scientists pursuing PhDs, fashion models, school teachers, pharmacists, dentists, and even an account manager at Tiktok! Check 'em out!



MEET OUR ALUMNI!

Jayna Nichols
BFS Class of 2017

- Pursuing PhD Genetics and Molecular Biology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, B.S. in Biochemistry, Graduated 2021



MEET OUR ALUMNI!

Yulia Kan
BFS Class of 2010

- Global Mobility Manager, Solarius Law Firm, Toronto, CA
- University of British Columbia, Modern European Studies and Human Migration, 2015



MEET OUR ALUMNI!

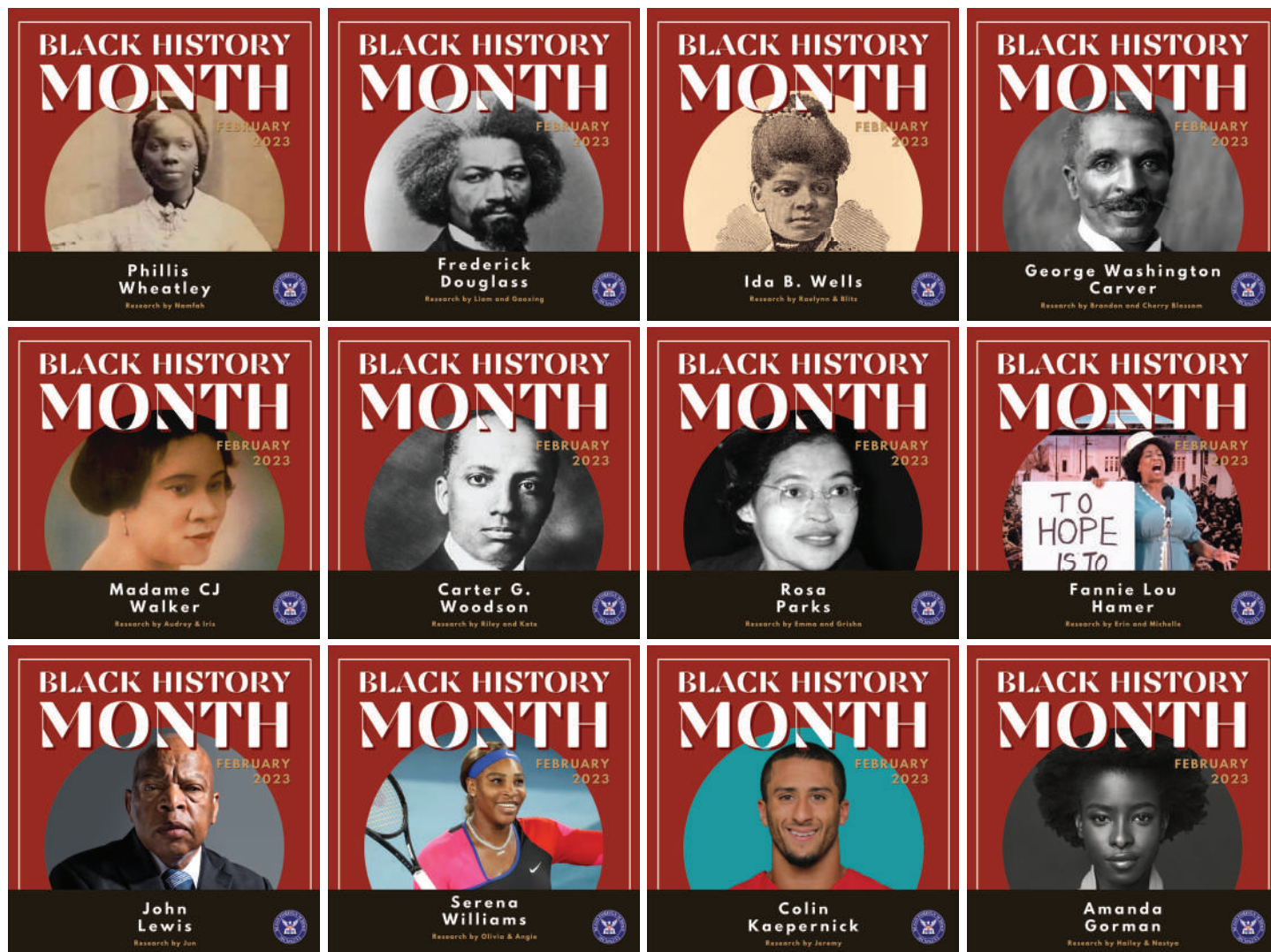
Jason (Sang Joon) Moon
BFS Class of 2013

- Client Solutions Manager at TikTok
- University of Washington, Bachelor's degree in Economics with a minor in Information Systems, 2019



Black History Month

During the month of February, BFS recognized Black History Month: Grade 5 students did research and informational writing in Ms. Platt's Library class based on the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) theme of Black Resistance. By demonstrating how African Americans have resisted historic and ongoing oppression in all forms, our Sharks are learning to be Respectful citizens that recognize a responsibility to stand up to exclusion, prejudice, bias, and injustice.



Busan Foreign School Art

Check out our wonderful artworks of elementary and middle school Sharks during 2022! Visit: busanforeignschool.art





Counselor's Corner

Ms. Rebecca Austin-Castillo

Play helps to develop sturdy brain architecture, the foundations of lifelong health, and the building blocks of resilience. Playful interactions with adults also help children build executive function skills. (Reference: Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University)

Children's executive function, self-regulation, and physical skills develop rapidly during the years from four to seven. Every child develops at their own pace, so choose games that align with their individual skill levels. Games should be challenging, but not too frustrating. Younger children in this age range may need help as they learn game rules. As kids get older, their independence grows as well. You can support this development by stepping back from leading their play. Your goal is for children to eventually manage their own games with their friends and peers, though your help may still be needed occasionally for sorting out disagreements.

1. Freeze dance
2. Simon Says
3. I Spy
4. Opposites Bingo
5. "Continue the Story" Game

For kids between 8 and 12 years old, play can help them strengthen executive function and self-regulation skills, practice their budding social skills, and promote their physical health. The sample activities below help kids challenge their minds and bodies, learn to get along with others, and make new friends. To hold their interest, suggest increasingly complex activities. Encourage kids to focus on having fun and learning new things, rather than on winning or losing. (Although it's also important to practice being a good sport

whether you win or lose.) Note each child's unique interests and talents as they take shape!

1. Puzzles and Brain Teasers (e.g., jigsaw puzzles, mazes, word finds, Rubik's Cube)
2. Strategy and Fantasy Games (e.g., Go, Battleship, Clue, Minecraft)
3. Organized Sports
4. Informal Physical Activities (e.g., frisbee, tag, jump rope)
5. Musical Instruments and Singing
6. Dancing

Even teens need time to play. As with younger children, play helps support learning and development, particularly in building executive function and self-regulation skills—such as setting goals and planning ahead, being adaptable and flexible, and controlling impulsive behavior.

These skills give youth a strong foundation for the adult years and help with managing increasing school-related responsibilities, like homework load and time commitments for sports and clubs. The activities below are a few examples of how teens can challenge their minds and bodies, but also unwind and have fun. It's much too easy for teens' lives to become over-scheduled and stressful. Help them to have unstructured play time and down time for a healthy balance. (They may resist adults' suggestions at first, but often the ideas sink in and they act on them later!)

1. Get Moving (e.g., sports, yoga, frisbee, biking, hiking)
2. Enjoy Music (e.g., play an instrument, sing, dance)
3. Be Dramatic (e.g., participate in theater)
4. Try Something New (e.g., explore and safely take risks)
5. Be Silly (e.g., water balloon fights, scavenger hunts)
6. Play (a Little Bit of) Video Games (games can be researched for appropriateness using Common Sense Media)

K4 Inquiring into Community Spaces

K4 Sharks have been inquiring into community spaces. They were especially interested in the cat houses in the local community. Students planned, designed, and built a cat hotel for the local stray cats. On Friday, February 3rd, K4 celebrated the grand opening of the BFS Cat Hotel. Students added their hotel to the local cat community.



Grade 1 Creating a Classroom Map

As part of their Social Studies unit, Grade 1 students have been creating a map of the classroom. After completing their first drafts, they got feedback from some Grade 5 friends to check if the map had a key with symbols, a compass, scale and correct locations. Yesterday, some Grade 9 and 10 students also gave feedback. T.E.A.M First loved working with both classes and everyone gave a thumbs up when asked if the feedback helped. Grade 1 had a short dance party to celebrate. Big thank you to Ms. Kimak and Mr. Hernandez for making sure our young Sharks Keep Learning!



Grade 4 Makerspace Class Learning Circuits and Conductivity

Grade 4 students in Makerspace have been learning about circuits and conductivity using the Makey Makey. They have been designing their own controllers with everyday materials like playdough or graphite pencils. Students created different shapes using playdough to connect with the Makey Makey in order to play their own song!



Elementary Semester 2 After School Clubs

Elementary after-school clubs have started with a variety of activities including play dough, taekwondo, reading, coding, yoga and mindfulness, movie making, and string orchestra. These after-school clubs are a great way for students to learn new skills and build relationships while having fun.



January & February Elementary SHARK Assembly

Grade 3 presented January Shark SLO, Keep Learning. Students know how important it is for them to continue to learn and grow in order to be prepared for the next new challenge. During the assembly, we learned that other grades were learning important things too like, how to be a boss, Geometry, American Revolution and the Civil War. Third graders practiced and rehearsed to make sure they spoke clearly, memorized their lines and presented in front of the entire elementary school! They did a fantastic job.

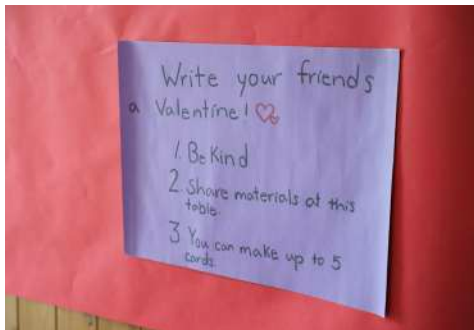


In February, Grade 4 led the morning meeting and shared what it means to be Social Conscious students that care about everyone. They did a great job showing examples of how students can show empathy, be open-minded, appreciate various cultures, and work well in groups. Thank you to Ms. Pehl and the Grade 4 class for showing how to be Socially Conscious.



Valentine's Day Events Hosted by MS & HS STUCO

Middle School Student Council planned some fun with Wheel of Valentine's and a card making station. Students could take their chance and spin for a pencil and eraser, some candy, juice, or the best of all... a squishy plushie! Students could also create thoughtful cards to celebrate friendship. Thank you to all who participated.



High School Student Council hosted a Valentine's Arcade during the morning break and MS/HS lunch during Valentine's Day week. Students participated to get some special prizes and had so much fun!



9th Annual Global Education City Model United Nations Conference

BFS students participated in the 9th annual Global Education City Model United Nations conference held in Jeju. Led by Head Delegate Bella Kim (11), students debated, compromised, and wrote detailed resolutions to solve issues including the global water crisis, rising sea levels, resource depletion, and the global economic crisis. They collaborated with students from top international schools in Korea and Southeast Asia and gained valuable insight into the United Nations, diplomatic strategy, and international cooperation. Juniors Bella Kim and Youseung Kim, and Chloe Chung (10) chaired the Economic and Social Council. All delegates earned high scores on their position papers, introduced motions, and were co-sponsors of passing resolutions.



BFS Earns the College Board's AP® Computer Science Female Diversity Award

Congratulations Dr. Barnes and BFS for once again earning the College Board's AP® Computer Science Female Diversity Award. This award has been granted for attaining female student representation in AP Computer Science Principles (APCSP) for 2022. BFS has also received this award in 2018, 2019, and 2020.

Out of 1,105 schools being recognized for their work toward equal gender representation in 2022, 832 have earned this award for AP Computer Science Principles. According to new College Board research (<http://ow.ly/uTSE50MtsC7>), female students who take AP CSP in high school are more than 5 times as likely to major in computer science in college, compared to similar students who did not take CSP.

We're honored that our school earned this distinction and look forward to seeing these young women and others pursue and achieve success in computer science education and careers.

More information about the award can be found here: <http://ow.ly/toAq50MtsC6>



2022-23 Codementum Coding Competition: BFS High School 1st Place

The coding competition included 57,206 students from 2,129 schools representing 133 different countries worldwide. BFS registered a team in both the Middle School and High School divisions of the competition.

We are pleased to congratulate our High School team on winning FIRST PLACE in this global coding competition in the High School Division! As this is the first time that BFS has participated in this competition, Dr. Barnes is extremely proud of the group's teamwork and support of one another which ultimately led them to their impressive success to win the competition.

The official competition results and Codementum announcement can be seen here: <https://codementum.com/hour-of-code/>



동아일보 · 사회
부산외국인학교, 전세계 코딩대회서 1위 차지

광성명 기자
입력 2023-05-18 03:00 | 업데이트 2023-05-18 03:00



부산지역 외국인학교 학생들이 세계코딩대회에서 1위를 차지했다.

부산외국인학교(BFS)는 지난해 12월 1~15일 온라인으로 진행된 '코드멘텀(Codementum)' 세계코딩대회에서 우승했다고 15일 밝혔다.

2019년부터 매년 열리는 코드멘텀 대회는 20개의 코딩 과제를 파이썬, 자바스크립트 등의 프로그램을 통해 창의적이고 효율적으로 해결하는 능력을 겨룬다. 온라인으로 진행된 대회에 전 세계 133개국의 2129개 학교에서 5만7206명의 초·중·고교 학생들이 참가했다. 팀은 참가자가 제출한 과제에 대한 연일한 검토를 거쳐 최후의 순위가 확정됐다.

Read Dongailbo's (동아일보)
full article here:
<https://rb.gy/md4de1>

Kathleen Flynn, NY Times Editor and Author of The Jane Austen Project Visits BFS

Kathleen Flynn, editor at the NYTimes Asia Hub in Seoul, and author of the historical/science fiction novel The Jane Austen Project made a visit to BFS on February 23rd to do a reading for students and hold a Q&A. Students asked amazing questions which led to a lively discussion of how to decide "what makes a story" in both the realms of international journalism and fiction!



PTSO Supports BFS Athletics Team

Our PTSO sent our student-athletes on their way to the tournaments with a great gift. Thanks to their donation, our athletes arrived in their games with Shark-themed drawstring bags and a water bottle. Thank you to the parents for helping our team stay organized and hydrated while we compete with other schools. Go Sharks!



Elementary SKAC Volleyball Tournament

The Elementary Volleyball Sharks traveled to AIS in Geoje on February 21 to participate in the volleyball finals. Players had the opportunity to put the skills they have been learning into action and show their excellent sportsmanship as they faced off against teams from ISB, AIS, DIS, and GIFS. Coaches were impressed with the progress players have made since the beginning of the season and a fun day was had by all!



Middle School KISAC Volleyball Tournament



Middle School Girls Team

During February 17th and 18th, the MS girls volleyball A team placed 1st in the KISAC tournament hosted at BFS! Not only that, but they went undefeated on the whole weekend out scoring other teams by a large margin in many cases. The bracket play victories were hard fought and well earned by our lady sharks to clinch the championship title.

BFS Middle School Girls Volleyball B team competed against 8 strong teams during the KISAC tournament. Throughout the tournament, our players learned to communicate with each other and play as a team. Many players hustled to get every ball and had some fantastic serves. This tournament was a great experience for all the players, win or lose. We look forward to being a stronger team for the future.

Great job girls! We are so proud of all your hard work throughout this season!



Middle School Boys Team

The MS boys volleyball team traveled to Jeju for the KISAC invitational. They joined teams from the Global Education City in Jeju as well as teams from Daegu, Seoul and Busan to vie for the first-place trophy.

The A team had phenomenal serving throughout the tournament and defeated SKAC rivals DIS to move into the semi-finals on Saturday. They fell in three games to the eventual 2nd place team and put up a great fight against the Dragons from KISJ to take 4th place in the A division. Considering the strong competition, the Sharks had a great weekend.

The B team showed amazing team unity and spirit. As the only B team composed entirely of 6th-grade students, they faced strong competition from their opponents and came away from the tournament with one win in six matches. Great job 6th-grade boys representing BFS, and learning lessons in teamwork for the future.

Returning players said the trip was worth the lost sleep and sore muscles to build team unity.



Middle School SKAC Volleyball Tournament

Middle School Girls Team

A Team

MS Girls Volleyball A Team competed in the SKAC finals on February 24, 2021 hosted by BFS. The girls were able to maintain their perfect record finishing the season 18-0 and bringing home a 1st place finish and the SKAC trophy. The lady sharks showed tremendous growth throughout the season in all areas, but especially in serving consistency and defensive play.

B Team

The B girls' team spent much of the year on skills development, learning to serve consistently, to pass to a target, and to support each other. At SKAC they were coached by two high school students who volunteered at the last minute when Coach Kim became sick and could not attend the tournament. The girls rose to the occasion and did a great job of representing their school and had a record of 2 wins and 3 losses.



Middle School Boys Team

A Team

At the SKAC finals, the Boys A team continued their tradition of great serving and built on the hard work they had put in during the Jeju trip. After falling to DIS in the semi-finals the boys had to beat ISB and faced DIS again in the finals. The last three games of the day were played back-to-back, with little rest between rounds. Even though athletes kept up their energy and morale, they came up short in the finals to take 2nd place at SKAC. Throughout the season the athletes developed the ability to play any position on the court, they learned the value of communication, and they learned to trust their teammates to handle the pressure of being on the court. Both 8th-grade captains showed strong leadership in communicating with their teammates and in leading both on and off the court.

B Team

The B boys team had a great year on and off the court. In Jeju, they were the only B team composed entirely of grade 6 students. Despite this, they won one match and learned so many things together. One thing they learned was the importance of talking and of having chants and words of encouragement to say together. They brought this team spirit and active support to the SKAC final at ISB. Even though they finished out of the medal round they were competitive in all their games, taking several opponents into the third game before the outcome could be decided. If these Sharks hang together and keep developing their talents and enthusiasm they will have great team chemistry and skills in the coming years.



KISAC High School Basketball



Girls Junior Varsity

On Thursday, February 9th our HS girls basketball teams traveled to Jeju Island to participate in the KISAC HS basketball tournament. This was the first KISAC tournament since 2019! Both of our teams played 6 games over the two day tournament.

Our Shark Junior Varsity team won their first 5 games and made it to the championship game. In the championship game the Shark JV girls jumped out to a 10-2 lead, and looked poised to bring home the championship.

Unfortunately, from that point on their shots just wouldn't go in and they ended up on the short end of the score in second place 10-15.

Congratulations on a great tournament and final game record of 5 wins against just 1 close loss.

Girls Varsity

The Shark Varsity Girls Team also went 5-1, and their lone loss came on day one against NLCS by a score of 22-26. The girls were determined though to keep playing hard and trying to improve game by game.

On Saturday, the Varsity girls beat FPS 33-18 in the quarter finals, then DIS 38-6 in the semi finals to reach the championship game. Again they would face the undefeated NLCS Orcas, however, this time the Lady Sharks would not be denied their #1 goal of winning the KISAC Title.

Trailing 16-20 after 3 periods, the Varsity girls outscored NLCS 16-5 in the fourth quarter by hitting 4 three-pointers and two critical layups.

The girls defended with all their might and held off NLCS's late run and earned the championship win 32-25!



Boys Junior Varsity

The HS Boys Junior Varsity Basketball team recently traveled to Jeju to participate in the KISAC tournament, where they faced some formidable opponents. Despite their difficulties against a zone defense in their games against large schools, the team demonstrated significant growth and resilience throughout the tournament.

The highlight of the tournament was an exhilarating double-overtime 24-22 win against ISB. The victory was a testament to their hard work, teamwork, and tenacity.

Overall, the tournament was an excellent learning experience. They grew together and built stronger bonds as they faced challenging competition. Their dedication and tenacity in the face of adversity was truly inspiring, and their positive attitude and growth mindset will undoubtedly serve them well in future competitions.

The team is now more motivated than ever and is eagerly looking forward to the upcoming SKAC finals tournament on March 17. They are thirsty for some wins and excited to bring their best performance to the court.

Boys Varsity

The HS Boys Varsity Basketball team traveled to Jeju to participate in the KISAC tournament, and despite facing some stiff competition, they put up a commendable performance. On the first day of the tournament, the team won one game and lost two, but they bounced back on the second day, improving significantly. They out-rebounded every team they played during bracket play, which was a positive takeaway.

In a game that came down to the final seconds, the team beat FPS by one point, after previously losing to them by double digits in the SKAC divisional tournament. The team showed remarkable resilience and determination in that game, and their strong defense in the final 18 seconds sealed the victory.

In the semi-final game, the team lost to KISJ, who went on to get 2nd place, but the team remained competitive and put up a good fight. In the game for 3rd place, the team once again showed their fighting spirit, with the game being decided in the final seconds against NLCS. Unfortunately, a last-second attempt to win with a 3-point shot missed the mark, resulting in a 4th-place finish.

Overall, the tournament was a great learning experience for the team, and they showed tremendous improvement throughout. Their excellent team spirit, resilience, and determination were on full display, and they proved that they could compete against highly skilled teams. The team is looking forward to building on their positive performance and making the necessary improvements to compete in the upcoming SKAC finals.





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