

# BFS Newsletter

September 2023 Edition

Busan Foreign School // 2023-2024 School Year



Socially Conscious | Hardworking | Active Communicator | Respectful | Keep Learning



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**SEPTEMBER 2023 EDITION**



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# Word from the Principals

Lauren Harvey & Carl Brenneman



Dear Families,

We welcome back our returning families and extend a warm welcome to all the new Sharks. We hope that everyone had a great Chuseok celebration.

As BFS enters its 27th year, we are proud of the way that we are able to provide excellent education for students from around the world whose families are fortunate enough to call Busan home. Each year brings us opportunities to Strive for Excellence and Embrace Diversity, and this year is no exception.

We are proud of our High School Advanced Placement (AP) students. Last May, a record 97% of AP test takers scored a 3 or higher on their AP exams. We are also pleased that so many students have taken the challenge to enroll in AP Seminar, a class that introduces them to the rigors of college-level research and writing.

Our Middle School students are engaged and welcoming. We were so happy to see them encouraging each other during our outdoor adventure day at the Busan Youth Training Center. We are looking forward to finding more places around Busan where we can discover more outdoor activities.

Our Early Childhood and Elementary students are engaged in developing their social, emotional, and academic skills. We are proud of the many ways that students develop relationships through Morning Meetings, Reading Buddies, athletics, and cooperative play. Our empathetic Grade 5 class has engaged in an ambitious fundraising project to support Syrian refugees as they develop their Sharks traits to be more socially conscious and respectful.

We are also very thankful for our engaged parent community, for the way they have found new ways to show their care for our Sharks. Most recently, the snacks during MAP testing helped our students maintain their focus and fueled their brains through those twice-a-year assessments. We appreciate our parents and look forward to seeing them at sporting events and other activities throughout the year.





## 2023-24SY First Day of School

BFS Sharks are back! Whether you're returning or new this school year, congrats on completing the first day of school! BFS buzzed with excitement today & we're so grateful to have each & every one of you in our BFS community.



## BFS on AMCHAM Journal

Congratulations, BFS! The mention of our students in the latest AmCham Korea Journal is truly exciting. They are being recognized for their outstanding fundraising initiatives during the Spring of 2023, aimed at supporting the earthquake relief efforts in Turkey. We take immense pride in our students, who exhibited exceptional collaboration, empathy, and a strong sense of social responsibility.

### Corporate Social Responsibility News & Highlights from AMCHAM Members

Please read below to see how AMCHAM members gave back to communities in Korea in the second quarter of 2023.



Busan Foreign School strives for students to become responsible, contributing citizens in a rapidly changing world. In Spring 2023, BFS middle school students began a fundraising effort for Türkiye earthquake relief. Supporting their efforts, other student organizations then joined, demonstrating their empathy and socially conscious spirit. These student-led clubs, including HS Art Club, HS Student Council, For Girls Club, National Honor Society, Palette Dance Club, HS Volunteer Club, and MS Student Council, held a variety of events and raised over KRW 1.2 million to be donated to relief organizations.



## 2023-24SY First PTSO Meeting



Thank you to the PTSO members that were able to attend the 1st meeting of the year! BFS parents held a meet & greet at the start, then discussed their plans for the school year. Also, a big thanks to PTSO board members for all their hard work (Abigail, Daniel, Kate, & Poonam)! PTSO is a great way to connect with other parents, stay involved in school happenings, volunteer, & support teachers while advocating for students!



## Hispanic/LatinX Heritage Month

Hispanic/LatinX Heritage Month (September 15 – October 15) celebrates the histories, cultures, and contributions of Hispanic Americans, Latinos, Latinas, and Latinx-identifying people. Find your next great read at the Hispanic/LatinX Heritage Month display in the BFS library, which was curated with the help of Grade 5 students.



One of our BFS parents, Ms. Ana Maria Brueggemann, came to Elementary Spanish classes to celebrate Hispanic Latinx Heritage Month by sharing her Mexican culture with 4th and 5th graders. It was an amazing experience! She showed us breathtaking pictures of Mexico, introduced us to typical Mexican foods, and talked about celebrations like Dia de los Muertos. To top it off, she brought churros, candies, and sugar skulls for the kids to decorate. Needless to say, the students had an absolute blast!





## BUSAN IS READY!

We throw our full support to Busan's bid for World Expo 2030! Its bid for the World Expo 2030 aims to create a platform for collaboration and dialogue that will benefit not only the city but the entire world. As a diverse international school, that's something we can get behind, but don't take our word for it - hear what students, parents, & teachers had to say about Busan & why we think Busan is ready! Show your support and help bring this transformative event to the shores of Busan.

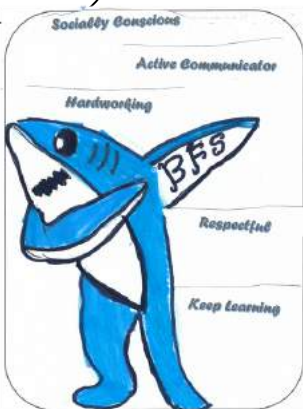




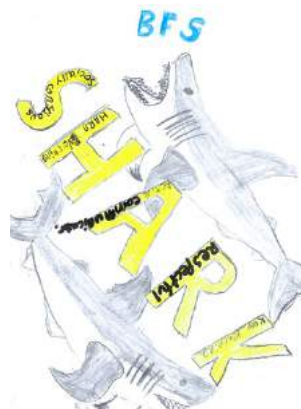
## 23-24 SY BFS SPIRIT TEE CONTEST WINNER



Congratulations to our talented students Mikhail S. (Gr. 5) and Kelila H. (Gr. 11), for winning this year's BFS Spirit T-shirt Design Contest! 🏆 Thank you to everyone who participated - you've made BFS spirit stronger than ever!



Elementary Runner Up  
Margaret Haddon (G2)



MS/HS Runner Up  
Neel Koirala (G7)



Faculty Runner Up  
Goeun Choi

Parent Runner Up  
Olivia Cassero



Honorable Mention  
Sona Park (G12)



## Happy Chuseok! Hanbok Day at BFS

BFS Sharks came to school wearing Hanbok, Korean traditional attire, to celebrate Chuseok and extend their wishes for a joyful and harmonious Chuseok holiday to everyone!





## Early Childhood Emilia Reggio

Our youngest Sharks in PK3 and K4 spend time running, jumping, climbing and engaging in imaginative play on their playground. As students play, they build fine and gross motor skills and hand eye coordination; learn to appreciate nature; and develop social and communication skills. Inspired by the Reggio Emilia model, daily sensory play helps our Early Childhood students to learn and grow.



## Early Childhood Gardening & Making Pajeon

On Tuesday, September 19th, our K4 sharks carefully harvested carrots, spring onions, and peppers from the EC vegetable garden. After that, they transformed their veggies into a delicious Korean Pajeon pancake!





# Early Childhood & Elementary

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## Grade 1 Culture & Identity Day

Our young Grade 1 sharks showed their Socially Conscious and Respectful traits learning about a variety of diverse cultures on Culture & Identity Day.



## International Dot Day

In the library, students in grades K-2 read *The Dot* and made connections to the main character Vashti. Vashti feels like she is just not good at drawing, but with encouragement from her teacher, Vashti recognizes that she does have creative gifts to share and can make her mark on the world. Students discussed the power of kindness and encouragement, believing in yourself, and persistence and then created their own unique dots to "make their mark."





## Grade 5 Walkathon & Bake Sale for Syrian Refugees Fundraiser



As part of their social studies unit, Grade 5 Sharks will host a fundraiser to help Syrian Refugees in Jordan who need shelter, clothing, and other necessities in partnership with [help4refugees.org](https://help4refugees.org). They'll do walkathon at school, pledge amounts of time to walk at home each day, and sell some yummy treats during lunch. Plus, they'll hold a Community Walkathon on Sunday Oct. 15th to anyone who wants to join & show their support! We hope you will join us & give to those in need.

- 🍪 **Schoolwide Bake Sale on Thursday Oct. 5th & Wednesday, Oct. 11th in the Cafeteria**
- 👟 **Community Walkathon on Sunday, Oct. 15th from 3-4PM at the Reservoir**

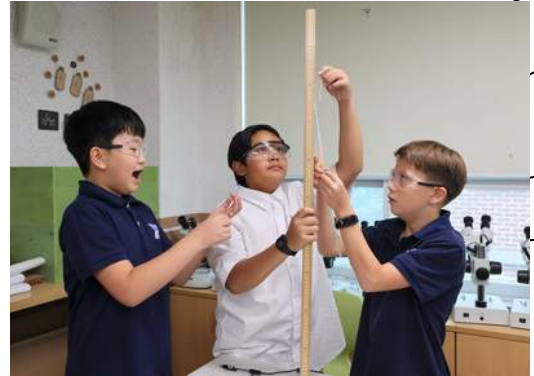
## Elementary SLO Assembly: Socially Conscious

Elementary students came together for their first SHARK Assembly of the year focused on what it means to be Socially conscious. Students shared ways to be empathetic and inclusive and to make good choices as they work cooperatively. We are Socially conscious!



## G6 Science Class

Grade 6 kicked off the school year (and middle school) with a STEM Building Challenge! They were given minimal materials and collaborated to make fishing rods! The goal of the fishing rod was to lift as heavy a load as possible. 🐟 Students ignited their creativity & embraced the mindset of "fail early, fail often, fail forward"! They tested different weights to see how much their fishing rod could hold.



## Middle School Student Council 2023-24SY



Congratulations to our newly elected middle school class representatives!

Grade 6 - Jeremy P., Olivia G., Nastya D.

Grade 7 - Jayden L., Liz R.,

Grade 8 - Ariel C., Shirley H.

We look forward to seeing the positive impact you will make in BFS community! 🐟🐟



# Middle School & High School

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## 23-24 SY MIDDLE SCHOOL FUN DAY



On September 22nd, our middle school Sharks had a blast bonding and building teamwork through rock climbing, playing soccer and exploring all the exciting facilities at the Geumryunsan Youth Center. Afterward, they headed to Songjeong Beach for even more fun in the sun!





## MS/HS Clubs Fair

BFS hosted a Clubs Fair for middle and high school students. Students learned about after-school clubs and met others who shared their interests. 🍌 All BFS students are encouraged to join these extracurricular activities to explore, learn, and grow.



## KIMEA Jazz Skills Workshop



On Saturday, September 16th, four BFS students traveled to Seoul Foreign School for the annual KIMEA Jazz Skills Workshop. Joy C. (10), Christy S. (10), Jayden L. (7), and Bobby L. (7), spent the day learning jazz techniques and improvisation skills with international school students from all over Korea. They also attended a presentation led by the Berklee College of Music about new and exciting collegiate music offerings. The event concluded with each group sharing a performance of the tune Bag's Groove by Miles Davis.



## BUSANeFM Internship

Grade 11 student, Miru E., completed her internship at BUSANeFM during summer break! She was awarded a Certificate of Completion, congratulations Miru! We are so proud of you & BFS is grateful for BUSANeFM for providing the opportunity to one of our students.



## University Visits



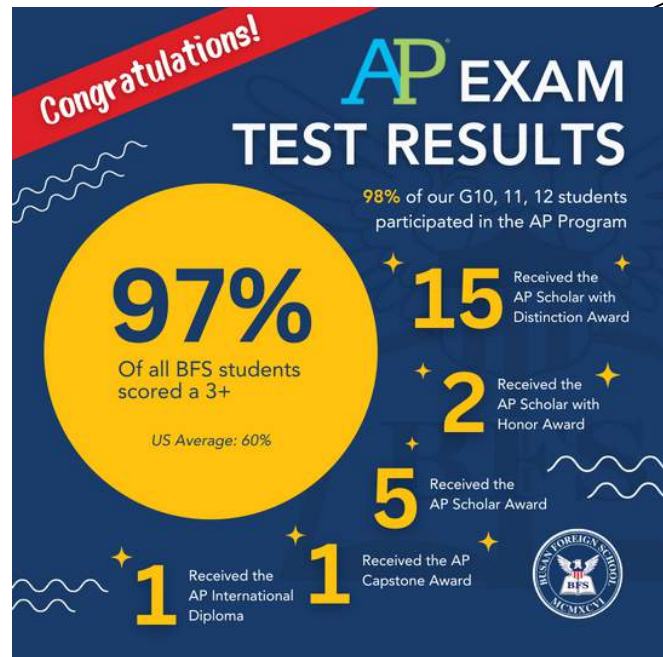
The University of California at Davis and York University of Canada visited BFS to present to our students. Our Sharks asked insightful questions about the application process and what life is like at university. Opportunities to speak directly to university representatives are an important part of the college decision-making process. We make available to all our high school students here at BFS!

Thank you to the UCLA med students who visited BFS & met with some of our high school students on Tuesday, September 12th! They had lunch together where they discussed mental health & body positivity.

## AP Exam Results

Congratulations to our Grade 10, 11, & 12 BFS students! The AP Exam results are in and they have knocked it out of the park. These results are a true testament to your outstanding hard work and achievements. Way to go, Sharks!

- ★ 97% of BFS students scored 3+
- 🏆 15 students received the AP Scholar with Distinction Award
- 🏆 5 received the AP Scholar Award
- 🏆 2 received the AP Scholar with Honor Award
- 🏆 1 received the AP Capstone Award
- 🏆 1 received the AP International Diploma Award



## High School Student Council 2023-24SY



### **Executive Board**

Advisor: Ms. Kimak

Co-Presidents: Sona P. (G12), Victoria Y. (G12)

Communications Director: Chloe C. (G11)

Secretary: Ryan S. (G11)

Treasurer: Tanvi K. (G11)

### **Class Representatives**

Grade 9: Kristina K. & Vivian C.

Grade 10: Joy C. & Evan Z.

Grade 11: Claire Z. & Chaewon M.

Grade 12: Youseung K. & Chloe J.



## Chloe J. (G12) Launches Her Own iOS App

Chloe J., a senior at Busan Foreign School, just launched her own iOS app called "Coloring Tiles" on the Apple App Store. This puzzle-based game combines numbers and coloring to help you create simple yet adorable pictures.

Chloe's journey on this project began in her AP Computer Science Principles class with Dr. Barnes at the end of last school year. After the AP exam, she and her class embarked on a four-week self-study project where they dove headfirst into a computer science topic of their choice. Chloe focused her efforts on the Swift programming language.

Now, her hard work has paid off, and you can enjoy her creative app on your iPhone. Get ready to have a blast coloring and matching tiles while unleashing your inner artist with "Coloring Tiles"!



**Installing Coloring Tiles is as Easy as 1-2-3!**

To install Chloe's app, go to the Apple App Store and type in "Coloring Tiles" in the search bar. Once you scroll and see the app pictured above, tap "Install" to start the fun! Open the app, select a drawing and start matching the colors and numbers on the tiles. Explore all the drawing and most of all, have fun!

Link to the app here:

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/coloring-tiles/id6464309619>



# Middle School & High School

Busan Foreign School ✧

## 23-24 SY HIGH SCHOOL FUN DAY

On Friday, September 22nd, high school students traveled to Lotte World Adventure: Busan to compete in pirate-themed challenges and bond together as a high school community. The High School Student Council designed a 16-challenge Treasure Map that asked students to learn about their classmates, BFS, and their teachers. They found Sharky, played Ocean and Brethren's Court trivia games, found the treasure, and rode "the four seas" with all four classes. Students and advisors had a great time and discovered that "not all treasure is silver and gold, mate!" Special thanks to the Student Council, HS advisors, Ms. Jeehae Park, Ms. Naro Ha, and Mr. Brenneman for making this day a wonderful experience for all HS students.





## Elementary Futsal Tournament at ISB

On Saturday, September 23rd, our BFS Elementary Sharks participated in the SKAC Futsal Divisional Tournament at ISB with four other schools. They played fiercely and we couldn't be prouder! Shoutout to all the coaches involved & ISB for hosting the event. Mark your calendars for the finals - set for October 24th at HIS! Brace yourselves because the Sharks are ready to take the CHOMPionship!



## High School Volleyball Teams Tie-dyeing Session

The high school volleyball teams are off to a great start this season. High school volleyball teams and coaches got creative with a tie-dyeing session led by HS Girl's Assistant Coach, Ms. Cottier. Our boys and girls teams are not only mastering the basics and systems of volleyball, but also getting to know each other and creating memories together.





This month the counseling department launched Second Step lessons. Students were excited to learn about how our brain forms pathways and networks to learn a new skill! We talked about using practice to help our brains form those pathways and having patience with ourselves. The first unit focuses on paying attention and managing directions, developing a growth mindset, and applying goal-setting strategies both socially and academically.

October is Bullying Prevention Month. We'll spend this month focusing on the 3 Rs: Report, Recognize, and Refuse. We start to think about the difference between conflict and bullying as well as how students can advocate for themselves and others if they see or experience bullying behavior. Early intervention is key!



MS.  
SOFIA  
SINGLEY

Your support is paramount! You can support your student's social-emotional goals by asking them what they learned with their counselor during our lessons in the classroom. Please reach out to me at [ssingley@bfs.or.kr](mailto:ssingley@bfs.or.kr) if you would like to be in touch about the lessons, or your student, or have an idea about topics you'd like to see covered!

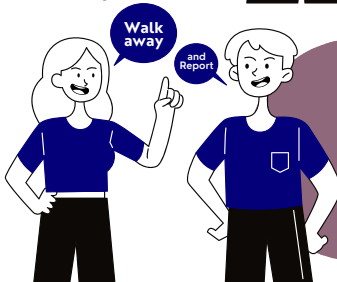


## October: Bullying Prevention Month

### Help Stop Bullying

#### Recognize

Recognize bullying

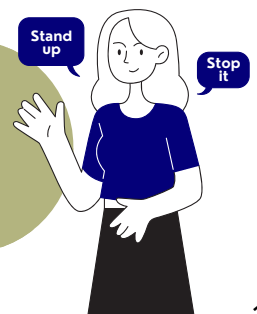


#### Report

Report it to an adult

#### Refuse

Refuse bullying







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