

# BFS Newsletter

October 2023 Edition

Busan Foreign School // 2023-2024 School Year



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



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**OCTOBER 2023 EDITION**



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# Word from the Principals



Lauren Harvey & Carl Brenneman



The month of October has been FINTastic at BFS as we saw students grow in their Shark values in many ways! On Founder's Day, unified in our spirit t-shirts, we celebrated our school community with heartwarming poems, collaborative games and activities, performances by our talented MS/HS Choir and Palette dance club, and a rousing faculty vs students volleyball game that had everyone cheering.

We are proud of our students' accomplishments in arts, athletics, and academics. The Busan is Ready contest winners shared their impressive creativity in art, writing, and music video to promote Busan as the 2030 World Expo site. Our Shark athletes for ES Futsal, MS Futsal, HS Volleyball, and Cross Country competed in SKAC tournaments, tried their individual best, and developed their teamwork skills.

Quarter 1 Report Cards were sent home electronically to share students' progress on standards-based learning objectives. These reports offer insights into students' strengths and areas of growth for Quarter 2. As we review these along with diagnostic NWEA MAP and classroom assessments, teachers will support students to continue to learn and grow.

To end this month, we had a safe and fun Halloween celebration with the support of our teachers and organizations including PTSO, MS StucCo, HS StuCo, and For Girls Club.

We are truly grateful for our community - every student, teacher, parent, and staff member contributes to our success. We look forward to welcoming families for parent teacher conferences and to more upcoming activities as we support the emotional, social, and academic learning and growth of our students in a safe, caring, and supportive environment.



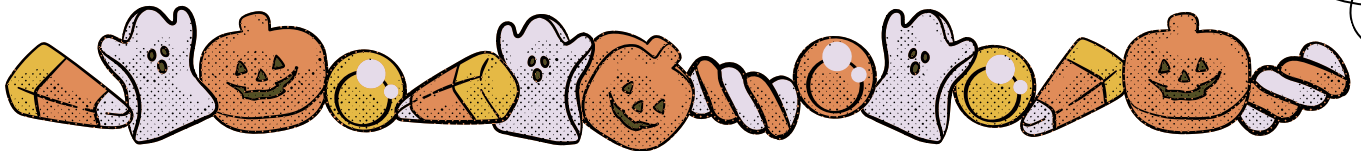
## 2023-24 SY BFS HALLOWEEN

Happy Halloween BFS! Thank you to our PTSO for making it a spooktacular event. Students had a scary good time ~ elementary students went trick or treating around campus and middle and high school had a haunted house, halloween arcade, & door decorations! 🎃





## 2023-24 SY BFS HALLOWEEN





## Busan is Ready Contest Winners!

Let's give a big round of applause to our BFS Busan is Ready Contest Winners! Thank you to everyone who entered; we really had fun watching your videos, reading your essays, and admiring your artwork. We are really proud of your creativity and your Busan pride!

🌟 **Video Winner: Joy, Skylar, David, Mire, Sky, & Evan** 📺  
(<https://shorturl.at/cejyN>)



🌟 **Art Winner: Miru** 🎨



## Busan is Ready Contest Winners!

🌟 Essay Winner: Bobby 🖋️

### **Busan and The World Expo: Soulmates? by Bobby L. (Grade 7)**

On a flaring hot summer day, where the people are weary, the resilient waves of the ocean flow constantly, with no breaks at all. In a way, you can realize that the waves are Busan, as Busan is constantly flowing the way to a successful city where it blooms with its dynamic beauty that no other city has provided yet. This hardworking city has proved its readiness about the World Expo multiple times, but if it hasn't been enough, I'll prove it once again.

Firstly, Busan's deliberate location is an ideal match for the Expo, as it is established to be the largest port city in South Korea, along with Gimhae International Airport, South Korea's exceptional airport, along with its convenient maritime facilities along the dock. This accessibility makes it advantageous to international exhibitors to reach the Expo.

Speaking of maritime facilities, Busan is eminent for its seas. Busan's tactical location along the coast provides a stunning backdrop for the World Expo. The city's stunning beaches, waterfront promenades, and glorious views of the sea enhances the experience for Expo participants as it creates an atmosphere not to be missed.

With no question, the sea holds a special place in Busan. It is mixed with themes of vitality, rejuvenation, and transformation. This coastal location expresses the profound history of Busan to exhibitors. This particular setting can influence the natural beauty and its cultural importance to the international attendees of Expo.

Moving on from Busan's natural beauty, it boasts a collection of historical sites that reflect on the region's cultural history. The most eminent being hanok villages, where every inch is integrated with the intricate design and craftsmanship of ancient houses. This exhibits and demonstrates an opportunity to young attendees as it offers an educational experience of spiritual and traditional architecture history of Busan.

Adding on, Busan has emerged to embrace art over the years. It has established numerous art galleries, museums, and art festivals. The Expo can collaborate with artists in Busan featuring contemporary art installations, exhibitions, and performances, providing a space for both creative and cultural expression.

Moreover, art can be elaborated into clothing, which in the case of South Korea, is hanbok. The Expo is given the opportunity to promote traditional Korean attire, allowing visitors to dress in traditional clothing, letting them enhance the cultural immersion experience, allowing them to express themselves with the attire of traditional Korean clothing.

The city's coastal charm, with its picturesque beaches, waterfront promenades, and the awe-inspiring sea as a backdrop, offers a unique atmosphere that will leave an indelible mark on the hearts of all Expo attendees. Busan's deep-rooted cultural heritage, reflected in its historical sites, particularly the hanok villages, provides an opportunity for young visitors to learn and appreciate the rich architectural history of the region. Furthermore, Busan's incredible art scene, with its galleries, museums, and festivals, presents an exciting platform for the Expo to collaborate with artists, showcasing contemporary art installations, exhibitions, and performances that celebrate both creativity and cultural expression. The Expo's promotion of traditional Korean attire, such as hanbok, will allow visitors to immerse themselves in the rich cultural tapestry of South Korea.

In essence, Busan's readiness to host the World Expo is not only evident in its infrastructure but also in its commitment to creating a vibrant, educational, and culturally enriching experience for all who attend. As the waves of Busan's ocean flow tirelessly, so does the city's dedication to ensuring the success of this extraordinary event. Busan and the World Expo are, indeed, soulmates destined to create an unforgettable and harmonious partnership.



## BFS Featured on Busan is Good



Our BFS Principals, Carl Brenneman, and Lauren Harvey, were recently featured in an article for Daily Busan. They were asked about BFS, what we teach, and some of their insights and opinions on the city of Busan's initiatives.

**Read the full article here:** <https://shorturl.at/jot24>

**Check out other news from Daily Busan here:**

<https://shorturl.at/cvFJK>

The Busan Foreign School in Haeundae-gu district was established in 1996 to provide education for students from different backgrounds. BFS opened its doors to the Busan community and its surrounding areas and offers its students opportunities to grow together with local communities.

Lauren Harvey, the Early Childhood and Elementary Principal, and Carl Brenneman, the Upper School Principal, spoke with Daily Busan and shared their thoughts on the school's philosophy, Busan's "English-Friendly City" policy, and the World Expo 2030 Busan.

### Q Please introduce Busan Foreign School.

**Carl:** We seek to instill in our students the values of being Social Conscious, Hardworking, Active Communicators, and Respectful. At BFS we believe in a growth mindset to help students Keep Learning. Together, the first letter of these traits spells SHARK. Therefore, our school mascot is the shark.

### Q What does the school teach about the history of Busan or Korea?

**Lauren:** Across grades K-12, students may choose Korean, or Spanish, as their foreign language. In the Korean Language and Culture class, students learn about important Korean holidays and celebrations such as Chuseok, Hangul Day, and Seollal.

### Q Busan is currently implementing an "English-Friendly City" policy. What do you think about this? Please share your opinion.

**Carl:** I think Busan is very English-friendly. People are also very patient and make a noticeable effort to interact in English.

**Lauren:** I am always surprised by the number of street and store signs in English. I think Busan has improved greatly in being an English-friendly city.

### Q One of City Hall's goals is to make Busan a place where people want to live. Do you think Busan is doing well in this area? Please share your opinion.

**Carl:** I love living in Shin-Haeundae. If I take my morning run, I am at the ocean or track hiking trail in 10 minutes. When I want to go somewhere, I look at a bus app to find out when I can be picked up, I transfer onto the metro, and from there I can connect anywhere. The metro lines have clear signs, they are so clean and safe. Sometimes I wish that cultural events, like symphony concerts, firework shows, and visiting performances were better advertised in English.

### Q Busan is making significant efforts to secure the 2030 World Expo. Do you believe that Busan can successfully host the Expo?

**Lauren:** Yes, BFS supports the 2030 World Expo. We held a "Busan is Ready" contest for our students who created artwork, video, and essays supporting Busan as the 2030 World Expo site. We also created a school video that has been shared on YouTube.



## BFS Poetry Contest Winners

Congratulations to the 2023-24 SY BFS Founder's Day Poetry winners!

2023-24 SY  
BFS Founder's Day  
Poetry Contest  
Elementary Winner

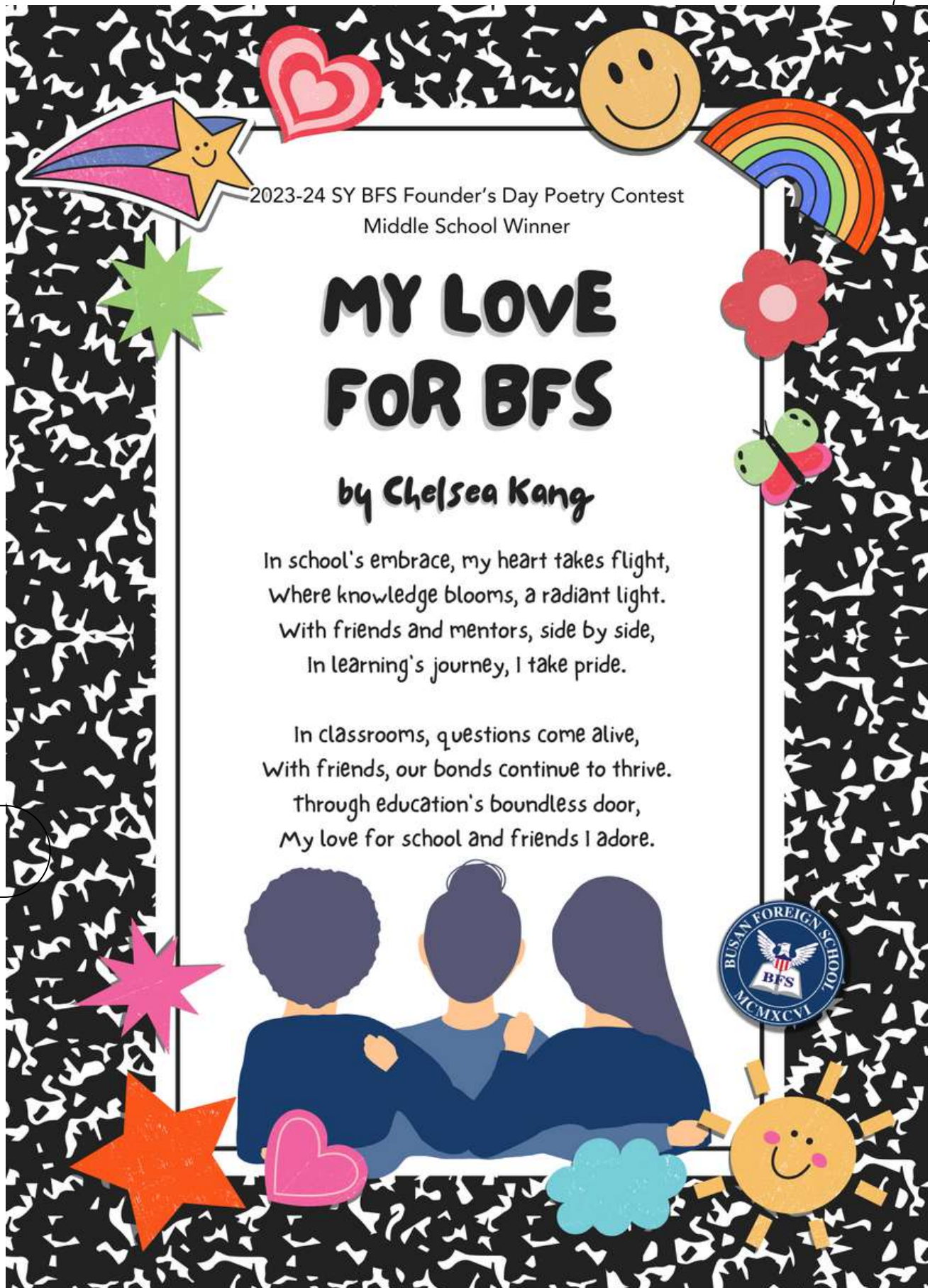
### *Happy Times at BFS* by Kirill Babitskii

All this time I've been wondering  
how it would be in other schools.  
But I always knew that it won't feel the same.  
This school is like my home.  
Being in BFS is an honor.  
Thank you teachers, friends, and others  
for this happy time.  
I will learn here until I can't.  
And I will never leave this school  
because it gave me memories, friends,  
knowledge, presents, and happy times.





## BFS Poetry Contest Winners





## BFS Poetry Contest Winners

### A Shark's Story

2023-24 SY BFS Founder's Day Poetry Contest High School Winner

By Chloe Jun

**Note:** This is a very short story about me when I was a new student and how the BFS community helped me for the past two years. It shows the past and present times.

#### "NEW KID"

I was all of that once  
*l o s t*,  
not knowing anything.

*Will I fit in well?*  
*Will I adapt to everything?*  
Curiosity went in → and out →  
of my ear.

The whole day,  
my hands **CLENCHED**  
with a poker face.  
**Freezing up,**  
**heart pOuNding**  
whenever I am approached.



It used to be like that.

Looking at the road  
behind me,  
I can see all the **STRUGGLES**  
left behind.  
I grin,  
as if it was all  
ridiculous.

I now see the road ahead of me  
a new *chapter*  
ready for me.

Every year  
starts with a new *chapter*.  
New people,  
new stories,  
new opportunities,  
new subjects,  
new faces,  
and a new reason why  
**I love BFS.**

My past *two chapters*  
has led me to where I am now.  
Now I see the opening  
for my *3rd*.

My community  
helped me get through it all  
here I am now,  
starting to do the same for others,  
*s pr ea di ng* the same **love BFS** gave me.



## 2023-24 SY FOUNDER'S DAY

Happy Founder's Day! In 1996, BFS embarked on its remarkable journey, establishing an inclusive international learning environment with just two dedicated students. Today, we have a thriving student body with pride, culture, and a strong sense of community. BFS students become true global citizens - attending prestigious universities or pursuing their passion in the world. Our community means a lot to us at BFS - every student, family, teacher, and staff member - we are grateful to have you and celebrate this day with you. On this special day, reflect on our SHARK values: Socially conscious, Hardworking, Active communicator, Respectful, Keep learning - what do these mean to you? Continue to live by our motto of: Embracing Diversity, Striving for Excellence. And of course, have fun everyone! 🎉🌞





## 2023-24 SY FOUNDER'S DAY



## HUMANS OF BFS ~ MS STUCO INTERVIEWS

Making friends can be hard! That's why MS Stuco interviewed other students as part of their Humans of BFS Project. They asked students from all grades & even faculty "What's one friend-making method you've had success with? How do you approach new people?"

👉 This project was inspired by "Humans of New York" - a photography project that began in 2010 with the goal of getting photos and stories of the real New Yorkers - getting to know people!

“

I go out of my comfort zone and start conversations. It just takes confidence to talk with people and make connections, making an effort to find a connection. It takes confidence to talk with people, but helps if you join a club, get involved in sports, etc.

**Ms. Harvey**  
Early Childhood &  
Elementary Principal



“

Be myself,  
that helps me make friends.

**Chelsea**  
Grade 7



“

I start off by saying "Hi"  
and let my brain lead on.

**Elijah**  
Grade 7



“

I feel a little shy at first. I take  
some deep breaths, then I  
go up and say hello.

**Constantine**  
Grade 3





“

Be a friendly person. You could be goofy, like a comedian, when greeting someone. You can give a handshake and high-fives, etc. I like to give a good first impression.

**Adam**  
Grade 7



“

I just go up to them with my braveness and then it's up to them if they want to be friends.

**Audrey**  
Grade 6



“

I just go up to them and say, "Hi, do you want to be friends?"

**Sofia**  
Grade 5



“

I'm shy around new friends, but if I just go, I make new friends.

**Rania**  
Kindergarten



“

Positive body language – smile, making sure they're safe – and then asking questions about them.

**Ms. Tempest**  
MS & HS Science  
Teacher



“

Making a joke. I made a joke and people came up and wanted to be my friend because I was funny.

**Liam**  
Grade 6



## G5 Fundraiser Amount Raised



WOW! Grade 5 students raised 1,568,700 KRW for Help4refugees! 🤗 The elementary walkathon, the generous donations, the community walkathon and the bake sale were a success that will help Syrian refugees families in Jordan. 🤗 Thank you to those who donated, pledged to walk at home with your kids, and thank you Grade 5 and Mr. H for pulling it all together!



## Elementary SLO Assembly: Hardworking

During October elementary SLO assembly, students focused on the importance of being hardworking. Then everyone had fun enjoying the "Would You Rather" activity, and wrapped up by celebrating October birthdays. Well done Grade 5 for hosting the SLO assembly!





## Halloween Coding Competition

In the spirit of Halloween, the Firia Labs Haunted Code Chronicles Competition kicked off yesterday in Dr. Barnes' classroom. Middle and high school coders worked collaboratively to get acclimated to the CodeBot Python API to navigate a robotic companion through a six-room haunted house simulation, each room presenting multiple coding challenges. Students will continue this adventure on their own until the end of October and plan to check in as a whole group a few times before the end of the month in hopes to complete all challenges and win one of the competition prizes! Best of luck to our coders on their haunted excursion!



## Clara An Piano Award



BFS' talented pianist, Clara A (Grade 12), won a silver medal at the 2023 Maestro Music Competition. Clara received high praise for her excellent piano playing technique and musical expression. Let's send her a hearty round of applause. Congratulations, Clara!

## HS STUDENTS OF THE QUARTER 1

Yesterday, our high school students gathered for their first-quarter assembly. The assembly was packed with fun games, a student-made recap video, and important announcements. However, the highlight of the morning was undoubtedly the recognition of our HS SOQ 1 winners! 🎉 Keep up the fantastic work, Sharks!

- Socially Conscious: Joy C (Grade 10)
- Hardworking: Grace C (Grade 12)
- Active Communicator: Lexine P (Grade 11)
- Respectful: Eli M (Grade 12)
- Keep Learning: Kristina K (Grade 9)





## SKAC Cross Country Meet 1

### 🏃 MS/HS Cross Country:

Congratulations to the middle and high school cross country teams who competed at Daegu on Friday, October 6th. All runners competed to the best of their ability and had a fun day cheering on their teammates. The middle school boys and middle school girls both won their races. The middle school girls team was led by a 3rd place finish by Mina C. The boys team was led by George M. finishing 1st, Neel K.



### 🏃 Elementary Cross Country:

On Friday, October 6, the elementary cross country team went to Bongmu reservoir in Daegu to participate in SKAC Meet 1. The elementary Sharks gave their best effort to run 2.75km on a beautiful sunny day. In the girls' race, our top finishers were Isabella who came in 5th place, Klara who came in 6th, and Sarah who came in 10th amongst twenty-two runners. In the boys' race, Cy came in 11th, Tim came in 12th, and Brandon came in 14th amongst thirty-three runners. Overall, it was a rewarding experience for the Sharks. Having experienced the first cross country event of the year, the sharks look forward to improving their records in the next and final meet. Well done elementary cross country team!





## Elementary SKAC Futsal Tournament @HIS

BFS ES Futsal came in strong, and ready to conquer the fields. With energy high and hearts elated, they put their all in their games on October 24th at HIS. The Boys Team A tried their best, but were unable to defeat their competitors. The Boys Team B1 had a couple of close calls but also were defeated in all their matches. The Boys Team B2 started their matches with winning attitudes. They tied their first game and won the next two games. They were only 2 points short of joining the finals and thus could not play for the championship. The Girls B team tied their first game, lost the second game and tied the last game. This resulted in a penalty shoot out, where the girls sadly missed the last shot. Team A Girls were determined to win this tournament, to redeem themselves from their losing streak in the previous tournament. They won their first game, lost by 1 to their rival DIS and won the last game. Making it to the finals, they once again played DIS only to tie 1 to 1. The girls reigned supreme in the penalty, with their amazing goalie Sunha blocking the last shot and leading them to victory. Tears of joy and hugs concluded what was truly a much deserved win.





## SKAC Volleyball Final

Our BFS Sharks took part in the SKAC HS Volleyball Finals this weekend at BFS & ISB. Our Varsity Boys had some amazing serves & points made but didn't make it out of the pool play - next time Sharks! Our JV Girls placed 3rd out of 6 teams and never gave up. 🐟 Varsity Girls faced off against AIS and clinched the win in 3 sets, defending their title and taking home the trophy for the 2nd year in a row! 🏆 We're proud of all of you for your FINTastic 🐟 performance and efforts. WAY TO GO SHARKS!





## KISAC MS Futsal @ Jeju

The MS girls' soccer teams competed in the KISAC Soccer Tournament at Branksome Hall in Jeju over the weekend. They played 4 games with some ties and some close wins! The final match for the A team ended in a tie, leading to an intense shoot-out against St. Johnsbury Academy. Goals were scored by Mina, Audrey, Liz, and Esila, while Faith, Shirley, and Chelsea contributed goals for the BFS B team. Goalies Michelle, Chrystal, and Airis showcased exceptional skills in all matches. The BFS Sharks displayed a strong defensive lineup and provided numerous assists throughout the tournament. The girls displayed excellent teamwork, sportsmanship, and thoroughly enjoyed playing in Jeju!

Meanwhile, the BFS Boys' Middle School Futsal team also participated in the KISAC Futsal Tournament on Jeju island. Despite their hard-fought efforts, they were eliminated in the knock-out round on Saturday. Joel, George, and Owen stood out as the top scorers for BFS during the weekend. Well done & next time Sharks!





## 2023 Busan Invitational HS Varsity Volleyball

On October 26th and 27th, the BFS **HS Varsity Boys Volleyball** team hosted and participated in the inaugural Busan Invitational Varsity Volleyball Tournament which hosted Daegu International School, Handong International School, Fayston Preparatory School, and Cornerstone Academy.

The varsity boys team was led by senior captain Minjune C. who led a small but mighty 9-player squad which showcased a tremendous amount of grit and growth over the course of the two days. Youseung K. and Jun J. combined for 114 attacks over the course of eight matches. Egor I. led the team in serve receive with 91% completion percentage. Egor I. and Sky L. were named to the All Tournament Team. While there were plenty of individual accolades to celebrate, the true highlights stemmed from the intangibles of team play that allowed BFS to keep matches close against HIS in pool play and DIS in the semi final. The BFS boys ultimately finished in third place and took home some hardware for their efforts. Coach Barnes and Lee were extremely proud of the amount of growth the team made in just a few days. They easily equate this tournament as a success in the areas of overall improvement, teamwork, and confidence.

The boys look ahead to further improve in anticipation of their final tournament on Jeju island on November 16th.

**HS Varsity Girls Volleyball** prevailed over the weekend taking first place in the Busan Invitational Varsity Volleyball Tournament. The Sharks maintained their undefeated record finishing the weekend 7-0. The victory was won due to a solid effort from all players on the 6-team roster. Sophie G. and Maria Y. were named to the all-tournament team with Angie G. being recognized as all-tournament team captain. Girls Varsity is looking forward to challenging their skills and working as a team during the KISAC tournament taking place in Jeju on November 16.





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