

BFS Newsletter

December 2023 Edition

Busan Foreign School // 2023-2024 School Year



SHARK
SHARK
SHARK

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



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DECEMBER 2023 EDITION**



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Word from the Principals

Lauren Harvey & Carl Brenneman



December has been full of memorable moments and wonderful opportunities for our Sharks to come together and demonstrate their learning.

Our Shark scientists shared their research process and results at the ES SKAC STEM Fair (GIFS) and the MS/HS SKAC STEM Fair (DIS) with a BFS 4th grade group receiving second place, a 6th and 7th grade group earning first place, and an 11th and 12th grade pair also earning second place. Our talented students shined with amazing performances at the Early Childhood Concert with Mr. Kuo, and the Elementary Winter Concert with Ms. Pochon, and the Middle and High School Band and Choir led by Ms. Pochon and Ms. Harris. In honor of Computer Science Education Week, Dr. Barnes supported our hardworking coders to participate in the MS/HS Codementum Competition and an ES Codementum Competition with the Computer Science Honor Society. Guided by Ms. Kimak, middle and high school students participated in the SKAC MUN event (KFS) and gained valuable experience debating critical world issues. Our athletic season with ES Volleyball, MS Volleyball, and HS Basketball has begun, and athletes are developing their individual and teamwork skills as they prepare for upcoming SKAC and KISAC competitions in the new year.

Parents are an integral part of our community, and we appreciate the generous support of PTSO to provide coffee and treats at the ES Winter Concert, sponsor the movie night event, and plan the faculty appreciation snacks. We are fortunate to have the strong support of parents and families at BFS.

We wish you a very happy holiday season, and we hope that you have many opportunities to create meaningful lasting memories with family and friends during the winter break. We look forward to welcoming back students on **Tuesday, January 9th.**

Honoring Commander Rackauskas and Welcoming Commander Dipasquale at Jinhae Base

Our MSHS Principal, Mr. Brenneman, and Director of Admissions & College Counseling, Mr. Saunders visited the Jinhae Base to congratulate Commander Rackauskas on the outstanding job he's done as Base Commander and welcome the new Base Commander Dipasquale. We're so thankful to be part of the Rackauskas family's time in Busan over the past four years.



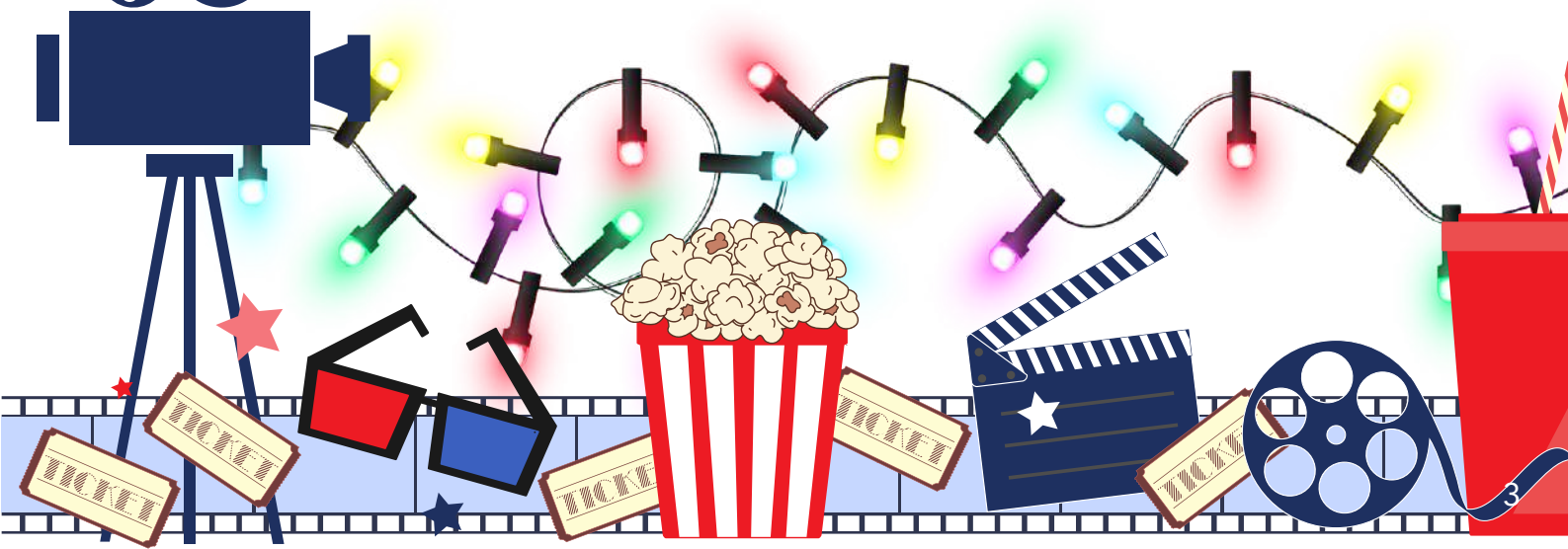
Reading Buddies

Each quarter, our Early Childhood and Elementary students partner with another class for Reading Buddies. In pairs or small groups, older and younger students read books aloud to each other, improving their reading, speaking, and vocabulary skills. Together, students of all ages develop a love of reading. This month, Grade 1 and Grade 6 Reading Buddies got together, and we appreciate teachers for providing this opportunity for older students serve as role models for their younger peers as they build friendships and community at BFS. Ask your child about their reading buddy!



PTSO Movie Night

On December 15th, the PTSO sponsored a movie night for students with a heartwarming movie, delicious treats, and fun activities. It was a perfect way to celebrate winter spirit together, and students had a blast! We appreciate all the hard work that PTSO parents and MS/HS student volunteers put into making this event a night of community, cheer, and celebration! 🎄🎁🎬



Early Childhood & Elementary

Busan Foreign School

EC Winter Concert & Gingerbread House Event

The Early Childhood Sharklings put on an amazing winter concert performance based on a digital storybook developed by Mr. Kuo with art by his wife Ms. Jo. Following the heartwarming concert, students and their families decorated gingerbread houses with lots of delicious treats donated by families. It was so much fun to have EC students, siblings, and parents visit, and we appreciate Ms. Sandstrom and Ms. Smyth for supporting this special event.



Early Childhood & Elementary

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Elementary Winter Concert & Art Showcase

❄️🎵 So much fantastic artwork and magical performances this evening at the ES Winter Concert & Art Showcase! We're so proud of our students and a big shoutout to Ms. Pochon (Music Teacher), Ms. Soo (Art Teacher), Lauren L. (G11), Ms. Natalia (pianist), our HS instrumentalist (Joy, Skylar, & Schuyler), ES teachers, the Ballet Club, and PTSO!



Early Childhood & Elementary

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EC & ES Winter Spirit Days

Merry Monday

Early childhood and elementary kicked off their Winter Spirit Days with Merry Monday, where our Sharks dazzled in their festive socks! 🦈🧦🎄



Twinkle Tuesday

On Twinkle Tuesday, we saw lots of reindeer antlers, Santa hats, and other fun accessories.



Early Childhood & Elementary

Busan Foreign School ✧

Winter Wednesday

On Winter Wednesday, many faculty and students wore fun winter sweaters as we head into winter break.



Elementary SLO Assembly: Respectful

Grade 3 had an amazing time presenting their SLO assembly on being Respectful. They opened up with a wonderful slideshow of EC and Elementary student activities throughout the month of November and December. They talked about what being Respectful meant and asked for volunteers to share their ideas on how they can demonstrate respect to teachers and students. Through a series of mini clips, and full participation, they allowed the crowd to identify what was and was not respectful, followed by an explanation. They ended their assembly with a music video they made along to Bobby Willis' song, Show Some Respect. Great job third grade!



ES Codementum Competition with HS Computer Science Honor Society (CSHS)

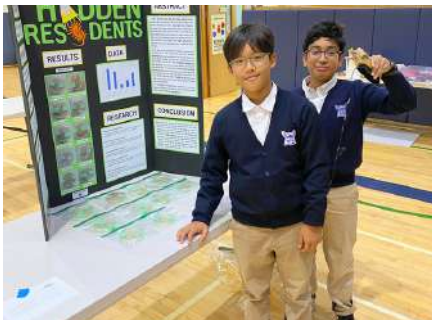
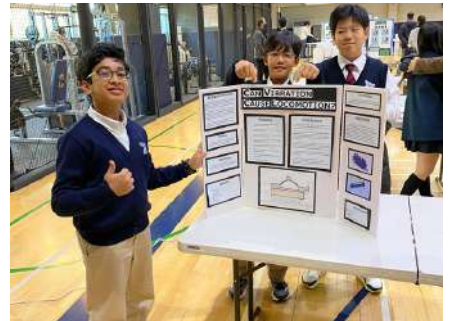
To celebrate Computer Science Education Week 2023, the high school Computer Science Honor Society (CSHS) sponsored a Codementum International Coding Competition for students in Grades 3-5. Students worked together to complete challenges, and students received a certificate of participation. We appreciate the CSHS President, Tanvi K. (G11), CSHS members, and Dr. Barnes for collaborating with upper Elementary students to provide this exciting opportunity.



MS & HS STEM Fair



On Friday, December 1st, a group of Middle and High School Students traveled to Daegu International School to participate in the SKAC STEM Fair. Jeremy (6, 1st place), Jayden (7, 1st place), Bobby (7, 1st place), Andrew (7, 1st place), Lera (8), Dana (10), Chae (11, 2nd place), Claire (11), Bella (12, 2nd place), and Minjune (12) worked hard to plan their projects, perform their experiments, and prepare their displays for judging. They did an amazing job of presenting their projects at the fair. Congratulations to our participants for their great work!



SKAC Model UN at KFS

Students in the Model United Nations (MUN) Club and the Global Issues class traveled to Kwangju Foreign School on Saturday, December 9th to participate in SKAC MUN. Many students participated in their first Model UN conference and learned a lot about the diplomatic process and passing resolutions.

Students debated the immigration crisis in the European Union, the release of radioactive water from the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant, global deforestation, China's Belt and Road Initiative, and gene manipulation and the ethics of cloning. Bella K. (12) and Chloe C. (11) chaired the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Committees, respectively. Sophomores Evan Z. and Joy C. were recognized for an Honorable Mention and Best Delegate in their ECOSOC and Security Council Committees. Great work BFS! 🌟



HS Student of the Quarter 2

Our high school students had their Second Quarter Assembly on December 13th. Let's see which students were nominated and chosen for best representing our SHARK values for HS Student of the Quarter 2! 🐋

- ♥ Socially conscious ~ David C.
- ♥ Hardworking ~ Sasha P. (not pictured)
- ♥ Active communicator ~ Vivian C.
- ♥ Respectful ~ Dana K.
- ♥ Keep learning ~ Jack R.



Middle School & High School

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MS & HS Winter Concert

We were blown away by the MSHS performances on December 7th with Choir, Beginner Band, Intermediate Band, and Advanced Band. 🌟 Thank you to our performing students - we're so proud! Thanks to Ms. Pochon and Ms. Harris for all your hard work. And thank you to the families and teachers who were able to attend! 🎵🎤



Computer Science Week Coding Competition

To celebrate Computer Science Education Week 2023, two teams of secondary students (8 middle school students and 13 high school students) stayed after school on December 5th in the auditorium with Dr. Barnes to participate in the Codementum International Coding Competition. Students worked together and completed 20 challenges that tested their knowledge and application of programming basics, variables, repeat loops, and arrays. While students already received their certificates of completion, Codementum will also be announcing the top three classes in both the middle and high school divisions shortly after the competition window ends on December 15th. After our high school students won first place last year, we eagerly look forward to hearing this year's results!



Middle School Movie Session

Sharing snacks and smiles, BFS middle schoolers enjoyed a cozy movie session together before diving into the winter break adventures ahead! 🎁🌟



Middle School & High School

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For Girls Club & HOSA Holiday Event

Bringing cheer to the halls before the winter break! 🎄🎅 The For Girls Club and HOSA Club teamed up for an incredible holiday event, packed with games, food, and joy for high school students on December 20th.



Have a wonderful
winter break Sharks!
See you on
Tuesday, January 9th!

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
*Monday, December 25th, Thursday, December 28th,
Friday, December 29th & Monday, January 1st.*

School will be opened on
Saturday, January 6th for
Semester 2 starting students' orientation.

School resumes on
Tuesday, January 9th.





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