

BFS Newsletter

November 2023 Edition

Busan Foreign School // 2023-2024 School Year



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



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NOVEMBER 2023 EDITION



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Word from the Principals



Lauren Harvey & Carl Brenneman



It's no secret that expressing gratitude improves our emotional and mental well-being. The article *Giving Thanks Can Make*

You Happier from Harvard Health Publishing effectively summarizes multiple studies that support this truth. Many cultures build this into their festival season; from Korean Chuseok to American Thanksgiving, autumn brings us many calendar reminders to give thanks for the people and opportunities in our lives.

At BFS, we have had many reasons to be thankful this season. In early November our parents showed up in person and online to hear about their child's academic and social progress. Our Parent Teacher's Conferences (PTCs) were well attended and based on parent surveys reflected positively on the learning that happens each day here at school. We are grateful for a positive and supportive parent community that helps us provide quality education for all our Sharks.

We are grateful for an opportunity to listen to our parents, teachers, and students as we review our school's mission and vision statements. Through those listening sessions, we saw so many ways that people appreciate their school and the work we are doing each day.

Finally, we appreciate the many volunteers who helped us assemble a wonderful Thanksgiving feast this year. The whole BFS community creates the holiday atmosphere and shares in the tastes and smells of a traditional celebration. To many people away from extended families, this event is an important connection to their culture, and it's a great way to share thankfulness with others.

As we move into the rest of the year, we hope that each BFS Shark will remember to mark each day with gratitude for the people and events that bring us joy.

2023-24 SY BFS THANKSGIVING

We celebrated Thanksgiving today with our students, teachers, staff, and parents! There was a Turkey Trot this morning, a feast together with parents in the afternoon, and we ended the day with Turkey BINGO! Thank you PTSO, students, teachers, staff, parents, special visitors like U.S. Consul Mr. Nolan Barkhouse, and everyone involved for making this American holiday a memorable one for us!



School-wide

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Thank you PTSO!



BFS Mission & Vision Revision

Since our beginning in 1996, our school and community have grown and evolved through the years. And with that comes change. We are excited to announce that we are currently revising our BFS mission & vision statements with community members to better reflect who we are today and our aspirations for the future. As part of our commitment to excellence and in alignment with our ACS WASC accreditation action plan, listening sessions were held in November with teachers and parents to begin our school mission and vision review. During these sessions, participants actively considered the defining qualities of BFS students and reflected on the overarching purpose of our school. Their valuable thoughts and ideas have become an integral part of this process. We're eagerly ecstatic to receive this feedback and see where it takes us!



2023-24 SY Picture Days

Smile! It's Picture Day at Busan Foreign School, capturing memories for the 2023-24SY yearbook! 📸🇰🇷



Fire Drill with Haeundae Fire Department

In alignment with our school's safety and emergency plans, we held a successful fire drill today with the Haeundae Fire Department there monitoring our methods! Students and teachers evacuated in less than three minutes, great work BFS! And thank you to the Haeundae firefighters! 🚒



Early Childhood Visits Haeundae Fire Station

To learn more about our community, the Early Childhood students visited the fire Station yesterday. They were excited to see the fire trucks 🚒 and ambulances 🚑, and they especially loved the fire hose. EC students also learned that in Korea, you dial 119 for emergencies. Our EC Sharks Keep Learning!



Early Childhood & Elementary

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Grade 2 Ralph Gibson Photograph Lesson

"You're young and you see the world differently."

😊 We are so grateful that the famous photographer from NY, Ralph Gibson, visited our Grade 2 class! He talked to students about visual language, methods he uses, and how when you look at a photo, you're looking at the photographer's intention. He was very engaging with our BFS Sharks! He also visited our art class to see other students' work. Ralph Gibson's exhibition 《Political Abstraction》 will be held at @gibson_goeun_museum during 2023.11.3 - 2024.4.30,



Elementary SLO Assembly: Active Communicator

Grade 4 led the Elementary SLO assembly highlighting how to be an active communicator. Students shared what being an active communicator means to them and put their listening skills to the test with the activity before celebrating November birthdays! Great job Grade 4!



Marine Stewardship Council Visits Grade 5

Our BFS students received a special visit and educational lesson from the Marine Stewardship Council today! Ms. Angie, a representative of MSC, engaged with students on topics like ocean sustainability, overfishing, bycatch, illegal fishing, how we can help the ocean, and why to choose MSC labels! G5 students have been learning about ocean environments so this was the perfect opportunity to dive into it! Thank you @msc_in_korea 🐟🌊💙



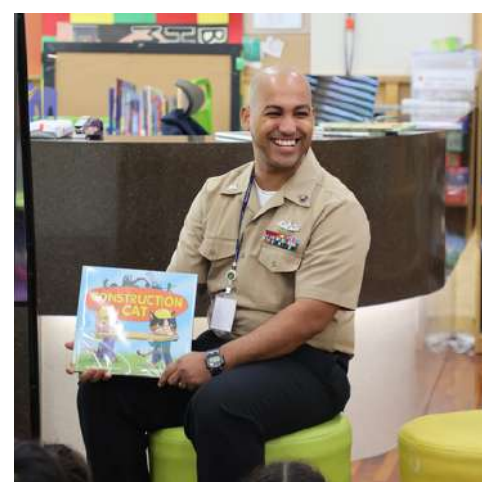
Jordan Hatter (Help4Refugees) Visits Grade 5

Grade 5 students were hardworking last month as we completed a walkathon and bake sales to raise over \$1,000 for a Syrian refugee family. During this week, they were active communicators and spoke to Jordan Hatter, the director of Help4Refugees, and Noor's family, who benefited from the fundraising. Students ask questions about Noor's life, her family, and what we can do to help. The big takeaway: be thankful for what we have. Grade 5 is thankful for the family and friends we have! Thanks, Mr. Hatter for sharing this story and how we impacted Noor's family.



BFS Library Storytime with Service Members

To connect with our military community in honor of Veterans Day, the BFS Library hosted Storytime with a Service Member. Students were excited to welcome our guest readers, ask them questions, and thank them for their service and for sharing stories with us. Thank you to our service members and Mr. Lawson at Jinhae Naval Base for coordinating this special experience for our students!



Early Childhood & Elementary

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Call to Earth Day

Kindergarten and 4th grade came together for Call to Earth day. This day is organized by CNN in order for students to play a part in protecting our earth. This week Kindergarten has been learning about how humans impact the environment and what they can do to help make it a better place.



Early Childhood & Elementary

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Anchored4Life World Kindness Day

The Anchored4Life Leadership Club met on World Kindness Day and the team leaders discussed ways to show kindness. After doing an activity on giving and receiving compliments, they made and delivered Kindness cards for our Main Office staff. The A4L team leaders serve as role models in Elementary that support a positive learning environment.



Elementary STEM Fair @GIFS

BFS STEM Club members in grades 4-5 participated in the SKAC ES STEM Fair at GIFS on November 29, 2023. These Hardworking Sharks have spent the past couple of months with their experiments and making observations to come to a conclusion for their topics. In grade 4, Léa and Hina won second place for the topic question, "Does the amount of light have an effect on mold growth?"

Ms. Kim is extremely proud of all the STEM club members for their efforts of exploration and participation. Great work Sharks!



Second Step Bullying Prevention Unit

This month, Early Childhood students completed the Second Step Bullying Prevention Unit where they learned how to report, recognize, and refuse bullying as well as how to be a helpful bystander. Students bonded through art, creative writing, and role play, as we practiced putting skills to use and recognizing what makes each of us unique. Continue to talk to your child about how to recognize and report bullying.

Here are some ways to get your child talking:

- Finding common ground (playing their favorite game, cooking their favorite meal together, listening to their favorite playlist).
- Listen without judgment.
- Respond to "I don't know" with "Well, if you had to guess". This gives them some time to think of a response and works almost every time!
- Allow them some time to decompress before asking about their day. Kids, much like adults, also need time to tune out after being "on" all day.
- Ask specific, open-ended questions, "Tell me what games you played at recess today". "Did/Do you" often invites a yes or no response but "tell me" elicits more elaboration.

During the month of December, K-4 will be focusing on Emotion Management while 5th grade will be learning all about problem solving and being solution oriented.



**MS.
SOFIA
SINGLEY**



Middle School & High School

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2023-24 SY NHS Induction

On Monday, November 13th, we held the high school's National Honor Society Induction Ceremony! Congratulations to all of the new Inductees! 🌟 Please take a moment to welcome our fall 2023 members ~ Joy C., David C., Grace C., Chloe C., Miru E., Skylar F., Chloe J., Tanvi K., Lauren L., Schuyler L., Chae M., Victoria Y., Claire Z., and Evan Z.

Also more shoutouts to our NHS leaders ~ Officer of Leadership (Bella), Officer of Scholarship (Minjune), Officer of Service (Angie), Officer of Character (Youseung), Treasurer (Miru)



EARCOS Workshop



Mr. Saunders and grade 11 students Chaewon M. and Claire Z. attended an EARCOS workshop hosted by Daegu International School. The one-day conference focused on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB). It was a mixture of school staff and students as they learned the importance of DEIB in today's world – particularly in school environments. The presenter, Jessica Wei Huang, was a dynamic presenter, and Chaewon and Claire already have ideas on how we can adapt DEIB practices on the BFS campus. This experience highlighted the Socially Conscious Schoolwide Learner Outcome. We can't wait to see what Claire and Chaewon have in store for us!

Jeju MUN X, Hosted by KIS Jeju

BFS students participated in high-level diplomacy and political debates at JejuMUN X, hosted by KIS Jeju. Students explored substantive and salient issues including: the China-Taiwan relationship, the Silicon Valley Bank collapse, and tackled ways to reduce the global drug trade and responsibly dispose of chemical weapons. They also reassessed British-colonial relations before the American Revolution. Dozens of speeches, motions, and questions were made to ultimately craft and pass resolutions. Congratulations to Daniil N. (8) for participating in his first conference, Vivian C. (9) and David C. (10) passed resolutions and private directives in their committees. Sophomore Joy C. won Outstanding Delegate for her work representing China on disposing of chemical weapons, and Evan Z. (10) won Best Delegate representing Bangladesh for his diplomatic work on combating the global drug trade. Congratulations to these emerging diplomats!



AP Statistics Marvel Bungee



How many rubber bands are needed for Marvel superheroes to have a safe, yet thrilling bungee jump?



AP Statistics students recently explored the relationship between the number of rubber bands used to bungee jump and the distance traveled for various Marvel superheroes. Students used their knowledge of bivariate data to determine how many rubber bands their jumper would need to predict a safe, yet exciting bungee jump, keeping in mind the dangers of extrapolation. Scatterplots and residual plots were analyzed. Technology was used to create equations for regression lines.

Correlation coefficients and coefficients of determination were interpreted. Data transformations were made involving powers and logarithms to help determine which model does the best job of describing the relationship between the two quantitative variables. After rubber bands were added to the jumpers' feet, they leaped head-first from the second floor of the foyer! All jumpers had a thrilling experience, but one stood out as the safest and most thrilling - Spiderman! His statisticians recorded accurate data and were able to attach an adequate amount of rubber bands to predict a distance where he would fall just the right distance.

MS SLO Assembly: Active Communicator



The 8th Graders adeptly ran their Q2 Assembly during Advisory this morning. They collaborated as three committees: Script Writers, Vibe Setters, and Game Organizers... Vibe Setters greeted Grade 6 and 7 Advisories, conducting a "follow the leader" icebreaker to get active communicators ready. Then they transferred leadership to the Game Leaders for different communication activities: Count'n On It, Noodle Doddlin', and See It, Say It (No Peeking). Each station had students practicing communicating in collaborative ways. Script Writers and Vibe Setters worked together to create presentations that reminisced our second quarter experiences like Humans of BFS, school portraits, and Thanksgiving



Mural Volunteer in Mongolia

We are so proud of Grade 11 student, Miru E. who went on a 2-week volunteer trip in Mongolia with the International Youth Volunteer Corps at the end of the summer. She painted a mural about environmental protection at a local youth center and the organization just sent her a plaque of appreciation for her outstanding work on the project. GO MIRU! 🌞



Inisio Hacks Hackathon



Vivian C (9) was one of 6 students who initially responded with interest in participating in the Inisio Hacks Hackathon. Not only was she the sole finisher among the group, but she was also named as a winner in the competition! Vivian's project submission, "Issues with Today's Education," can be found alongside other winning projects on the winners' page within the project gallery: Inisio Hacks Project Gallery. Her project's individual page can be explored at: [Issues with Today's Education](#).

Inisio Hacks, an advocate for empowering students in the art of project development for social good, framed this year's theme around education. The three-day competition presented participants with three participation tracks:

ideathon, beginner, and advanced. Vivian stepped into the beginner category with her program "Issues with Today's Education." Her creation, an interactive quiz, prompts users to a brief exam of their awareness of today's educational issues and offers further insights on how individuals can contribute to positive change in education. You can try Vivian's project here: [Issues with Education Today on CodeHS](#).

Vivian's project carries a strong sense of purpose. She believes that education is an essential foundation for success in society. However, recognizing the flaws in the existing education system, she created her project as a call to action. In her words, "There are things everyone needs to thrive and succeed in society—one being a stable education. However, with the many problems of our current education system, it's not looking very bright for the future. In order to resolve these issues in the future, we, the current students, need to take action by spreading awareness first."

To bring her vision to life, Vivian created a straightforward Python program to craft an accessible quiz for the general public. Her proudest achievement was making her project user-friendly while equipping it to disseminate knowledge and encourage a deeper understanding of education systems. In the process, she broadened her Python programming expertise and gained a profound insight into the intricacies of educational systems. Her research into statistics regarding education was particularly eye-opening, motivating her to share this critical information with others.

Vivian looks to further improve her project. She envisions enhancing her project with additional statistics and questions, offering users more opportunities to explore potential solutions to improve education. In recognition of her achievement, Vivian earned a series of well-deserved prizes, including a coding interview prep course from Interview Cake, a 1Password Family plan, an Echo 3D Pro Tier subscription, a free domain from XYZ Domains, and a digital certificate of participation from Certopus Certificates.

Social-Emotional Learning

This year we are working to improve the way we address student Social-Emotional Learning. Social media and online safety play a big part in the lives of our students, and we are seeking ways to inform students to keep themselves safe online. Special Agent Michael Rieger with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) led an engaging dialogue with our HS and MS students about navigating the internet responsibly.

Reflecting with your student on family values can open conversation around healthy social media usage, the influencers they follow, and safely navigating the digital world. With curiosity, ask your student if the media they watch supports or goes against your family values.



**MS.
SOFIA
SINGLEY**



SKAC Cross Country Meet

On Wednesday, November 22, the BFS cross-country team traveled to ISB for the final tournament of the year. The students did their best and ran their hardest, putting everything they learned this year into the final race! The top finishers were Cy S. (G3) for elementary boys, and Klara D. (G3) for elementary girls.

For middle school boys race, George M.(G7) was second place, and Neel K.(G7) was 3rd. In the high school boys race, David C.(G10) was 2nd place. In the HS girls' race, Joy C.(G10) was 1st, Claire Z.(G11) was 4th, Sasha P.(G10) was 5th, and Chae M.(G11) was 6th. Great job everyone on a great season of cross country!



KISAC HS Volleyball Tournament

🏐 Our BFS Sharks competed in Jeju on November 16 ~ 18 at the KISAC Volleyball Tournament. We are proud of our SHARKS and great game everyone.

🏆 Girls Varsity TOOK 1st PLACE! Angie G., Maria Y., and Sophie G. were named to the all-tournament team. This is their third tournament triumph and they have been undefeated this entire season, congrats Girls Varsity! 🎉🎉🎉

🌟 Boys Varsity didn't take home the win, but they have improved and grown so much this season. Setter Sky L. was named to the all-tournament team. A special shoutout to our seniors Minjune C., Youseung K., and Eli M. on a tremendous season where they led by example.

💪 Girls JV played amazingly as a team and placed 5th overall! Throughout the season the girls have improved on all aspects and they should be proud of their hard work!



SKAC MS Futsal Finals

The Middle School girls had a great experience playing in the SKAC futsal finals in Pohang. The girls Team A won their first match against HIS 3-0. They went on to win their second game against DIS 3-2. In their third match, they beat ISB 2-0, which brought the girls into first place. Unfortunately, in the semi-finals they tied ISB 1-1 and the game ended in shootouts. The goals were scored by: Mina, Michelle, Ariel, and Irene. Many assists were made by Audrey, Shioubin, Emma and Liz throughout the season. Michelle and Audrey displayed excellent goal tending skills throughout all four games.

The girls Team B worked extremely hard throughout this futsal season and their development of new skills and teamwork was evident in the SKAC finals. The games were all close either ending in a tie or by a short goal difference. Airis displayed excellent goaltending skills, while Olivia and Alisa helped with their strong defensive skills and communication. Faith, Nastya and Yesong, displayed excellent teamwork in their ability to pass, shoot and take strong corner kicks.

We are extremely proud of the hard work and progress the girls made this season. The middle school girls displayed excellent teamwork and sportsmanship!



**GO
SHARKS!**



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