

# BFS Newsletter

January & February 2024 Edition

Busan Foreign School // 2023-2024 School Year



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





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**JANUARY FEBRUARY 2024 EDITION**



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BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL

# Word from the Principals



Lauren Harvey &amp; Carl Brenneman



Happy 2024 and the Year of the Dragon to all of our Shark Community! We hope that this year will be the start of a prosperous year for all our families.

Having two calendars to mark the passage of time, one solar and the other lunar, helps keep us in tune with culturally significant events here in Korea or with various faith traditions as we also mark the journey of the Earth around the Sun.

The calendar also helps us ensure that we are marking the progress of BFS students towards achieving excellence in their academic pursuits, and reminds us to communicate clearly with parents. This quarter we look forward to meeting face-to-face with many parents on March 14 and 15 as we talk about social-emotional growth and relay how well students are meeting academic expectations. We hope that parents will also be able to join the principals for short presentations on social media use and its impact on developing minds. These will be held during the meal breaks on Thursday and Friday of the PTCs.

At BFS, we bring together people of a rich diversity of backgrounds, and we use our SHARK values to help establish a unique school culture. Parents who choose to send their children to BFS understand that their children will interact with people from diverse perspectives and that they will be changed as a result. As our BFS Sharks mature we hope that they will internalize the importance of understanding others, being hardworking, showing respect for diversity, and that they will advocate for others. Through this, we believe the change will be positive.

Most teachers go into education because of the transformative power of learning. The results do not always show up in a calendar year. However, for most of us, there is at least one teacher or coach that we can point to who had a powerful influence on the person we are today, and at BFS, we hope your child will meet that teacher for their educational journey.

## 2023-24 SY BFS 2 SPIRIT WEEK

Monday, January 29th: Pajama Day



2 Tuesday, January 30th: Barbie and Ken Day





# School-wide

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Wednesday, January 31st: Favorite Holiday



Thursday, February 1st: Pep Rally





Friday, February 2nd: Sports Day



Spirit Week kicked off with a cozy start on Monday with Pajama Day, followed by the fabulous Barbie & Ken Day on Tuesday. Wednesday brought out the festive spirit with Favorite Holiday attire, while Thursday roared with excitement during our Pep Rally, uniting our BFS community in Shark pride. Wrapping up the week, Friday celebrated Sports Day, showcasing everyone's favorite team spirit! What a week of fun! Thank you all for participating and making BFS Spirit Week a memorable experience! Go SHARKS! 🐋🎉





## Elementary SLO Assembly: Keep Learning (G2) & Socially Conscious (G1)

Elementary Assembly (hosted by Grade 2) in January explored the importance of one of our SHARK values ~ to #keeplearning 🇲🇻 Students were asked 'What does keep learning mean to you?'. They also talked about HOW we learn and the difference between a growth mindset and fixed mindset. To visually explain the difference, Grade 2 students crafted an adorable role playing video. ❤️ A heartfelt thank you to Grade 2 for inspiring us to embrace the journey of lifelong learning! 🇲🇻



Grade 1 students hosted February Elementary Schoolwide Learning Outcome Assembly focused on being Socially Conscious. Our young sharks did great teaching others about different cultures as they worked to develop empathy and promote an inclusive community at BFS!





# Early Childhood & Elementary

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## Grade 4 Mythological Greek Wax Museum

Behold the Grade 4 Greek Mythology Wax Museum! In February, our students unveiled their hard work in a display of mythological Greek marvels. For this project, students chose a character, researched and learned about them so they could take on the persona of their chosen Greek mythology character. These studious 'wax figures' remained frozen in time until activated by guests - parents, students, and teachers - who eagerly listened to speeches about each character.





# Early Childhood & Elementary

Busan Foreign School ✨

## Grade 5 Debates

Should chocolate milk be in schools? Should animal testing exist? Which is better: sour or spicy? These are a few of the student led topics that Grade 5 took on. Their challenge was to present authentic data from our own student surveys, interviews, and research. Grade 5 used logic, character, and emotional arguments to persuade our audience. CHALLENGE ACCEPTED!



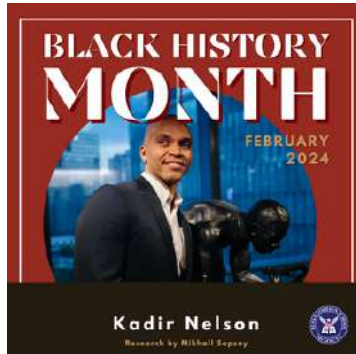
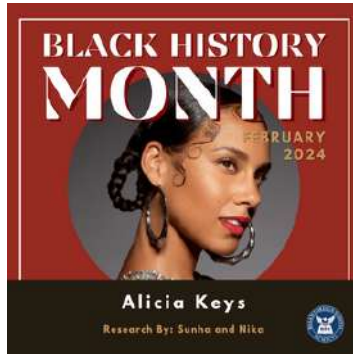
## Anchored4Life Moving Bag

Our Elementary Anchored4Life Club team leaders are Socially conscious Sharks who support classmates as they move away from BFS. The A4L moving bag presentation helps departing students to remember their time at BFS and prepare for the next step in their journey. Once a Shark, Always a Shark! 🐋❤️ #a4lclub



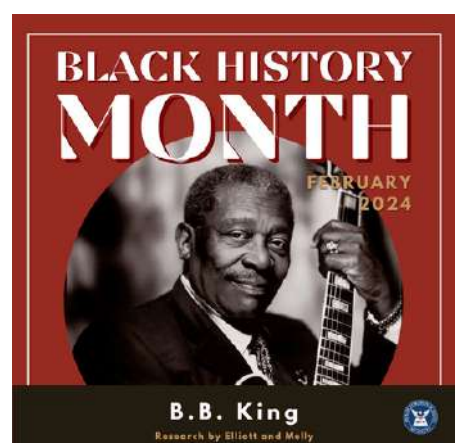
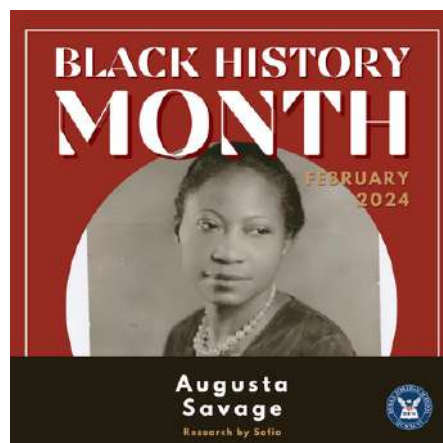
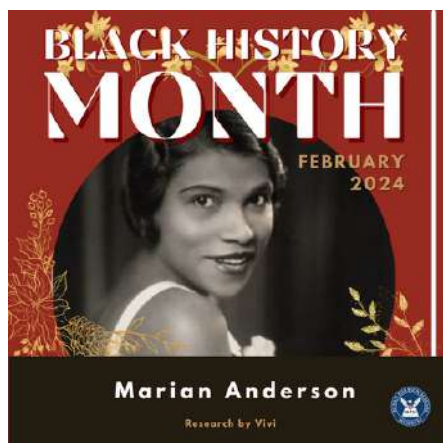
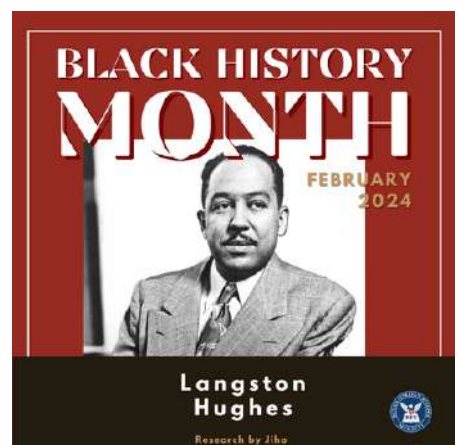
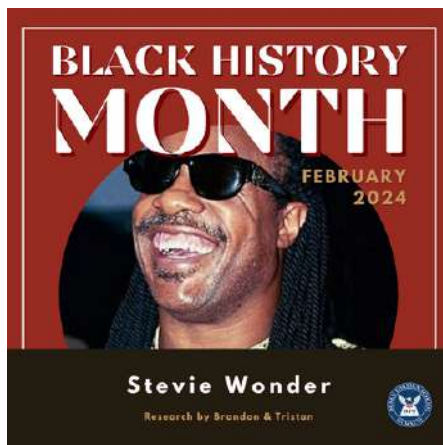
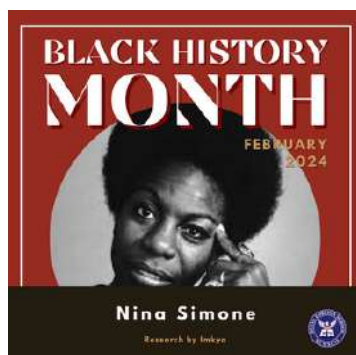


## Black History Month



In honor of Black History Month, Grade 5 students in Ms. Platt's library class researched artists and musicians based on the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) theme of African Americans and the Arts. Throughout the research process, students learned about the oppression and prejudice their subjects encountered as well as how their creative expression had a powerful impact on society. By celebrating Black voices while recognizing there is still work to be done to stand up against injustice, our Sharks are continuing to demonstrate that they are Socially Conscious and invested in learning and growing.

Check out their project on our website:  
<https://shorturl.at/mxCS8>



## Emotion Management using Second Step

During the months of January and February, elementary students learned about Emotion Management using Second Step. Topics included

- Feelings of pride and disappointment
- How to help yourself feel better
- Rethinking Decisions
- Managing strong emotions and stress
- Planning for Change

Parents and guardians can encourage their children to think about their emotions in various situations by asking them to identify how they are feeling. In class, we also discussed that people show their emotions in different ways!



**MS.  
SOFIA  
SINGLEY**





## Grade 10 Media Literacy

Ms. Platt and Ms. Amoros are worked with Grade 10 students as they take on the role of independent fact checkers! Students practiced their media literacy skills as they investigated whether posts shared on social media represent truth or spread misinformation.



## KIMEA Middle School Honor Band Festival

Our SHARKS attended the KIMEA Middle School Honor Band Festival held at Seoul Foreign School in January. Way to go BFS MS Honor Band ~ Andrew G., Elijah J., Kyle K., Neel K., Jayden L., Bobby L., Rayleene L., Yesong L., Dani N., Marquis P., Wong Gong W., and of course our fabulous Music Teacher, Ms. Nikki!



## Applying to College Information Session

Applying to College Information Session was held on Tuesday, February 20th at BFS. Mr. Glenn Saunders, our Director of College Counseling, discussed crucial topics such as the Counseling Program offerings, strategies for choosing colleges, our student-centered approach, and the holistic evaluation process encompassing transcripts, extracurricular activities, awards, essays, and more. The session also highlighted additional resources available to students. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please feel free to reach out to Mr. Saunders. (gsaunders@bfs.or.kr)



For those of you who were unable to attend, please find the slides and video of the presentation below.



Applying to College  
Presentation Slides



Applying to College  
Presentation Video





## College Board AP Computer Science Principles Female Diversity Award 2023



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 2023. BFS has also received this award in 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2022. Out of 1,127 schools being recognized for their work toward equal gender representation in 2022, 834 have earned this award for AP Computer Science Principles. According to new College Board research, female students who take APCSP 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 APCSP. We're honored that our school earned this distinction and look to continue to make the world of computer science a welcoming one to all of our students here at BFS.

More information about the award can be found here: <https://shorturl.at/iktCD>

## Justin Y. Wins 4th Place in the National Embedded SW Teen Startup Contest!



We are excited to share Justin Yeo's accomplishment in the Embedded SW Teen Startup Contest! The competition, exclusive to individuals born between 2005 and 2010, presented a challenge to develop revenue-generating services and products utilizing embedded software technology, with no restrictions on programming languages. Justin navigated through two stages—the preliminary round and the final, where only the top 10 teams made the cut and traveled to Seoul to present their projects.

His project was both innovative and impactful—a bracelet and Android app aimed at delivering danger announcements to the hard of hearing through vibrations in the bracelet. Choosing Android Kotlin as the coding language, Justin incorporated the OpenAI/Whisper API, along with a Python-Flask server and the Raspberry Pi Pico to enhance functionality.

The competition commenced in July and stretched through the end of October. Justin's dedication and hard work clinched 4th place in the national competition! This competition not only sharpened his coding skills but also provided an avenue to contribute to a cause and a solution to a need for others.

# MS&HS Counselor's Corner

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Middle School participated in a two part lesson on Friendship, Groups, and Cliques. Students engaged in dynamic conversations around what it means to be an inclusive friend. We also talked about qualities we look for in friends and how they align or don't align to the qualities we have ourselves.

High School students participated in the first of 4 lessons on Body Positivity, hosted by UCLA medical students. Topics to be covered are:

1. Body Messages Today
2. Eating Disorder/Diet Culture/Body Dysmorphia
3. Intuitive Eating and Joyful Movements
4. Mental Health/Self-Care/Empowering Myself and Others



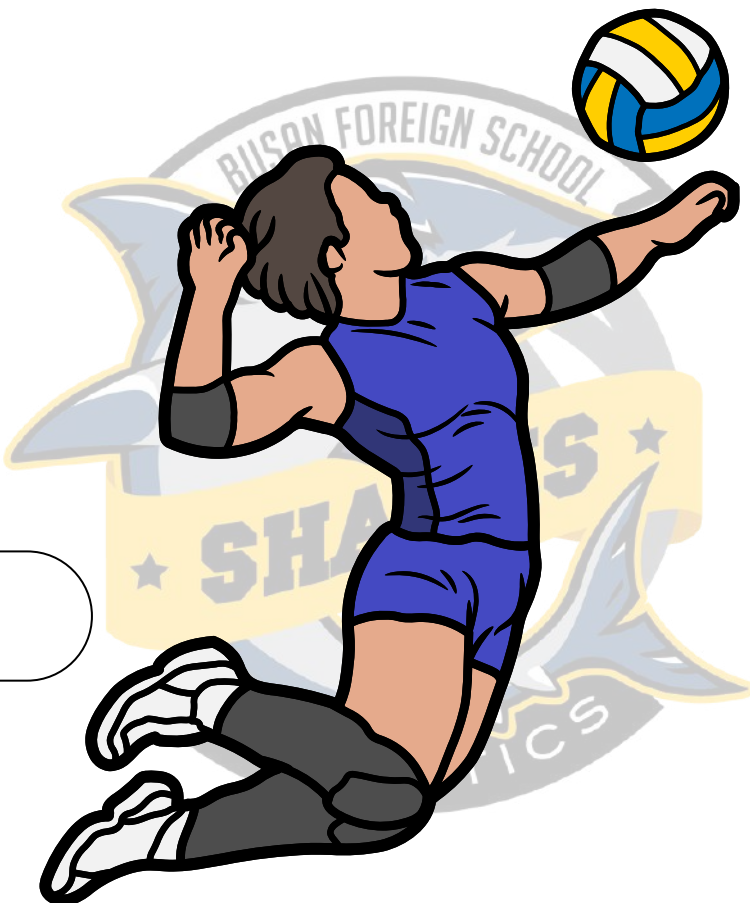
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## Elementary SKAC Volleyball Final

The ES Volleyball team excelled in the SKAC Final at AIS on February 14th. This event fostered teamwork, healthy competition, and fun among students. The Girls A team achieved second place, showcasing respectful sportsmanship. Special thanks to our coaches, Ms. Pehl and Ms. Ndjana, and HS helpers for their support throughout the season. Go Sharks! 🏐❤️





## Middle School SKAC Volleyball Final

### MS Volleyball Boys

The A team boys clinched second place after a hard-fought tournament, while the B team showed significant growth with some close sets. Teamwork prevailed throughout the day.

### MS Volleyball Girls

The MS Girls A team finished 2-2 at the SKAC finals, showcasing considerable growth. Shirley H. and Irene K. received all-tournament honors, and the team is gearing up for more competition in Jeju to further enhance their skills.

The B team girls demonstrated remarkable improvement, securing a well-deserved 2nd place in the SKAC Finals. Their success is attributed to outstanding individual performances and collective effort, fostering a positive team culture driven by hard work and sportsmanship.

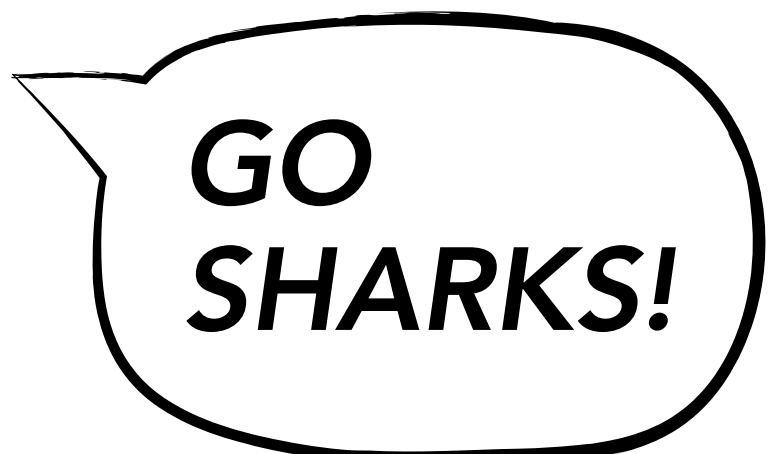




## High School KISAC Basketball Final

Congratulations HS Girls Varsity team for winning their games against NLCS!

HS Boys Basketball Team competed fiercely in the KISAC Basketball Tournament at SJA Jeju on February 23rd and 24th, facing tough opponents like St. Johnsbury 1, DIS, FPS, and Saint Johnsbury 2. Their outstanding performance highlighted improved team chemistry and defensive skills, particularly demonstrated by David C., Sky L., and Noah R. Justin H. led in scoring, earning a spot on the All-Tournament Team with impressive stats. Jun P.'s dominance in the paint was crucial to the team's success. Reflecting on their journey, the Sharks are determined for the SKAC Final.





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