Season’s Greetings
&
Happy Holidays

YOUR COMMUNITY!
YOUR NEWS!
Message from Pre/ Primary School

November Events in Pre and Primary School

The PTA Social Committee led by Tracy Whitehead set up an amazing Haunted House on Friday 28 October. The green gym was transformed into a graveyard with scary fairytale characters appearing in the woods! The Haunted House was made complete with the fairytale characters having a gruesome dinner party. The children also enjoyed ‘trick or treat’ fun and games with their partner classes.

Monday 31 October saw the beginning of our International Week. This was led by Mrs Esiyok, the Area Leader for Humanities. Mrs Esiyok and her History and Geography team organised a very informative and enjoyable week for the children. Each year group was asked to choose one Article from the UN Conventions of Human Rights. The children explored their chosen Article in class and for homework, using many forms of media: discussion, pictures, information from the internet and research in the library. Each class was asked to display their findings. The week culminated in an assembly as a celebration of the cultural diversity in our school community. The children enjoyed participating in a game show and a quiz before each National Anthem was played. The children left the theatre in their country groups and had their photograph taken then paraded around the field with their national flag. All the children and teachers were so enthusiastic about the day and joined in the spirit of our celebration. Parents decorated each classroom in their country’s traditional colours and displayed artifacts from their home country. They invited all teachers and children to sample their local cuisine. The Secondary teachers and students also visited each classroom. A huge thank you goes to Mrs Esiyok and her Humanities team for organizing a super week and to the PTA for cooking such delicious food for us all to enjoy.

Year 5 marked the death of Ataturk on Monday 14 November as we were on holiday on the 10 November. They held a special assembly on this day and informed the children about many facts from Ataturk’s life. Berke Turkay, as a representative from the Secondary School, also spoke to the Primary children. The Year 5 children continued to investigate Ataturk’s life by visiting the Naval Museum, Ataturk’s house, the Sea Museum and Dolmabahce Palace. Year 3 continued their village studies in Zekeriyakov and the EYFS classes visited Emirgan Park and the farm in Zekeriyakov.

Many of our teachers bring exceptional experience to our school. Mrs Gwillim and Mrs Guven were asked to speak at the Small Hands Conference on Friday 18, Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 November. This is a Pre and Primary Schools Conference organized for teachers in Istanbul. We are very proud that they represented the school at this conference.

The PTA demonstrated their culinary skills again on Teachers’ Appreciation Day on Thursday 24 November. They spoilt the teachers with a scrumptious brunch. Thank you PTA; we appreciate it!

A Whole School Charity Committee was set up to align the charities supported by the PTA and the Student Councils this year. Several meetings were held to shortlist the charities. The committee decided on three categories: local charities, national charities and international charities. The committee decided that local schools should be our local charity this year. The PTA have already organized a second hand clothes drive for a school in Tarabya; the CAS students are already supporting the local school in Sariyer for handicapped children. The four national charities shortlisted were TEMA, LOSEV, Baba Beni Okulu Gonder and Breast Cancer Awareness. The four international charities shortlisted were Send a Cow, Hand in Hand, Empower Tanzania, and Unicef. The committee then presented these charities at assemblies and encouraged all parents, children and teachers to vote. We await the ‘winners’ next month.

We began our preparations for the festive season towards the end of November with the start of Wacky Wednesdays in support of the Winter Bazaar: our first major charity event this year to be held on Thursday 15 December 13:30- 15:30. Children were allowed to wear their own clothes and also wacky socks, tights, ties and hair if they brought in a jam jar filled with hair accessories, stationery items, small toys or a small prize for the tombola. We look forward to seeing you at our Winter Bazaar next month!

Best regards

Amanda Ilhan
Pre and Primary Deputy Director

Richard I’Anson
Pre and Primary Director
YEARN 4’S FANTASTIC TUDOR SHOW!

On the 18th of November the Year 4 class put on a show about TERRIBLE TUDORS!

It was a triumphant success. All the characters had bright, bold costumes. Some people were holding their breath at parts, especially when some of Henry VIII’s wives got executed (head chopped off!) It was a splendid production and it was extremely well written.

What did people actually think about it???

Some people thought it was brilliant and interesting because Henry VIII chopped off two of his wives heads! Ga Eun’s mum thought it was short, funny, not at all boring and better than Robin Hood, our previous school production. Gui’s mum thought it was so good she would pay us all 100TL each! So Yong thought it was a spectacular success and the costumes were very Tudorish! Eren thought the show was spectacular because it looked like the real Tudors!

By Esha Narang—Year 4G
ETILER PRE SCHOOL TRIP TO TURKUAZOO AQUARIUM

At the beginning of November the children in Pre School visited Aqua Zoo, the Aquarium. The children were able to explore a variety of amazing underworld creatures. We stroked a crab and watched the sting rays being fed! This gave the children the opportunity to have first-hand experience to observe the different variety of sea creatures who live under the sea.

Ms Doreen & Ms Kayleigh’s Class
Trip to the Islamic Art Museum

On Thursday 17th November 1B and 1T visited the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Art, as part of their Homes history topic. The children had a wonderful day and learnt a lot, as the sentences below show!

I liked the big carpets. There were lots of patterns.

I saw a lady with colourful hair.

I saw lots of interesting things. I saw the coloured wool and silk in the beautiful carpets.

I saw a sewing machine.

I saw a mosaic wall.

I saw old houses.

It was a fun trip!

Sarah Tutal
The Halloween Celebration at BISI

By intrepid investigator Seung Jun Kang from Year 6 using Journalistic Genre

Today, a small celebration took place at BISI (British International School Istanbul). It was a celebration for Halloween and we sent some reporters and cameramen to the school to report on the event.

First, some children came to the school (BISI) in their scary and creepy Halloween costumes. Then, the school had an assembly, it was about how to realise if a painting(s) and music (or sound) are scary or creepy.

After assembly, the ‘Year 6s’ went to the Haunted House. When reported, a child said: “The Haunted House was very scary.” But some people didn’t go in the Haunted House. When interviewed, one of them reported that he had bad dreams when he went in last year, so he didn’t go in.

Finally, after break, the children went trick or treating to other classes, and got lots of sweets.

It is believed that the Halloween celebration was very successful.
OUR TEACHERS!

OUR STUDENTS
This term the Year 5s have been studying Ataturk. The children have looked at all aspects of his life from when he was born to him as a soldier and finally the first President of Turkey. Year 5F presented a news style assembly showing key aspects of Ataturk's life for the primary school and their parents. The native Turkish speakers also took part in the 10th November Remembrance assembly; which this year due to Bayram was held on 14th November. In their Turkish lessons with Miss Sibel, the native Turkish children wrote a letter to Ataturk which was then read out in the assembly.

To consolidate all their learning, the Year 5 students from both campuses visited The Military Museum, Ataturk's Museum, The Naval Museum, Palace Collections and finally Dolmabahce Palace. On all these trips the children behaved extremely well answering questions in their trip booklets, finding out interesting facts and sketching some of the fantastic museum pieces. Many people commented on their exceptional behaviour; the most important of these being the Director of the Naval Museum who was astonished at the maturity the children in year 5 showed when visiting his museum and took time out to speak to some of the staff and children individually.

Rebecca Fox - Year 5 teacher
Dear Ataturk

If we had the chance to see you we would have told you that, you are a perfect person to me. You were a good soldier who changed the world. You stopped Turkey from being split up between the allies: France, Britain, Greece and Italy. You risked your life for Turkey and because of this you saved the Turkish nation. You took big risks for Turkey and saved all of us Turks. If you didn't save Turkey none of us would be here today.

You defeated the Ottoman Empire, a 600 year old empire, one of the biggest empires in the world; with countries in Europe, Africa and the Middle East; and created a brand new country, Turkey. You fulfilled your dream because you never gave up. You stayed strong through all the battles, World War One and Gallipoli as well as the Turkish Wars of Independence. You freed and modernized Turkey. You created rules and laws that we still follow today. You gave women freedom, you let them vote and be elected into parliament. You changed the alphabet from Arabic to a Latin based one. You modernised fashions, people could wear more westernised clothing.

You showed your love to all the people. You made friends with old enemies of Turkey, to keep the nation safe and at peace. You adapted 8 poorer children allowing them to have a good education and therefore better life than they would have had without you. You allowed them to achieve great things, for example, Sabiha Gokcen who was the world's first female fighter pilot.

You were an extremely brave hero who never quit. Even though you died at 9:05am on 10th November 73 years ago in 1938 you have never been forgotten. Even now in 2011 people still remember you and what you did for our nation.

Thank you for helping our nation. You are and always will be an angel in the sky. Everybody loves you. We will never forget your braveness.

Love from Year 5 at BISI.
Gosh, this year really is flying! We are at the end of November already and before we have time to turn around we will be off on holiday and 2012 will be on top of us. Which reminds me; Helen won’t be producing an issue of the newsletter in December so this is the last one for this term.

Considering we have had a week of Bayram during November, there has been a lot happening in the school this month. The Humanities Department kicked us off with International Week and the food available at the International Food Court was absolutely fantastic! Events like that can really pile the pounds on so I definitely had to be careful. But a great big vote of thanks to the PTA, the staff, the students and everyone who worked so hard to make International Week such a success.

I guess the big event for Secondary, following the break, was the Parent Teacher Conferences and they were a huge success with over 70% of our parents attending, so again thanks to parents for coming, to the staff for spending 5 solid hours (in some cases) talking and to Fatosh and her team for the tea, coffee and snacks that were available throughout the afternoon. And as for the students – I do hope that not too many of you were grounded.

Of course, on the same day we had our IGCSE Awards Assembly where the students of Year 12 were honoured for their achievements in the IGCSE Examinations in May and June, alongside those in Year 11 who had sat certain examinations a year early. Our students achieved fabulous results in their examinations and we really are very proud of them. With approximately 45% of all examination results gaining a grade of A or A*, with over 80% of all results being A*, A, B or C and with 98% of our students getting at least 5 C grades, our students have a lot to be proud about. Congratulations to every one of the students who were awarded their IGCSE Certificates, you have set the benchmark to which those coming behind you must aspire.

In particular I want to recognise two students who each gain a phenomenal 6 A* grades, special congratulations have to go to:

**Tolga Guven**

and the winner of the Director’s Award for the most Outstanding IGCSE Student

**Jae Hyuk Chang**

Gentlemen, well done to both of you!

I also wish to congratulate our Year 12 and 13 CAS students who held a very successful entertainments night on the 25th and whilst doing so I must thank all the staff who helped. But I especially want to thank Caroline Garner and Stephen John who both put a massive amount of their own time into CAS, and I am absolutely sure that every CAS student will also join me.

Which just about leaves me space to say, as this is the last newsletter of the year, wherever you are spending your festive season, have a lovely holiday and may I wish you all a happy, healthy, peaceful and prosperous 2012.

William Bradley
Director of Secondary
Message from the Head of PR/Communications

As we slowly approach the end of 2011, I would like to remind you of some of the fantastic events and projects that have taken place over the year.

We saw the Graduation of BISI’s largest group to date! All 21 students of the Class of 2011 are now scattered around the globe and either successfully continuing with their education or taking part in ventures new.

We have seen our school grow both in the number of students and in its physical size. The opening of the new secondary building was celebrated at the start of this academic year and its grounds appreciated by the students. The cosmetic changes to the city campuses also went down a treat. We experienced the school stepping into the 21st century as the ICT labs on all campuses were kitted with Apple Macs, much to everyone’s delight!

We have celebrated Awards Ceremonies, Summer Proms, Fun Days, Sports Days, Swimming Galas, Fashion Shows, Specialised Weeks, Halloween, International Day and many many other super events.

As this will be our last Newsletter of 2011, may I take this opportunity to wish all our families a Healthy, Prosperous and Happy New Year!

Helen Kiran

Memories of 2011
As Humanities Week coincided with International Day we took the theme of internationalism for the whole week. This was supported by the Modern language department’s launch of Share the Language, a scheme that encourages secondary students to teach their classmates a few words of their mother tongue. The week got off to a scary start with students dressing in Halloween costumes and visiting the fantastic chamber of horrors provided by parents. The scare factor was increased for secondary students and I must confess really scared me. Tuesday also saw the launch of our invited speaker series, where Business Students enjoyed listening to Sanjeev Kathpalia’s experience in Business. Later in the morning the Humanities Assembly concentrated on celebrating Humanity, voting for the all time best humanitarian (winner Martin Luther King) and tackling the problems of racism. The Economics challenge, an investment simulation, ran all week, giving students a taste of share trading with the aim of making profits. The winner of this challenge was Derin Olenile, with joint second placed going to Selin Olenile, Hannah Watson and Mina Dolay.

The whole of the Humanities Department contributed throughout the week with displays and mini events. The culmination of the week was joining with Primary in celebrating international day, all members of Secondary representing their countries. We had a short interlude were the flags of the home countries of our students where displayed on the fence in the green courtyard. I feel that the inaugural Humanities Week was a great success, due to the involvement of students, teachers and parents, with a positive attitude from all. Above all I feel it was a great celebration of Humans!

Sue Williamson
Humanities Week Election - The Most Outstanding Human of All Time

Humanities Week saw seven teams vying to win the votes of the Secondary school electorate. Having selected a potential candidate, students built an election team comprising speaker, speech writers, public relations reps and media designers. The election campaign was launched on the Monday and posters were billed throughout the school as the candidates were announced. Year 7 nominated the civil rights campaigner, Martin Luther King Jr. Year 8 chose Apple entrepreneur, Steve Jobs. Year 9 picked the revolutionary Argentine, Ernesto ‘Che’ Guevara. Year 10 and 11 both nominated scientists, Stephen Hawking and Albert Einstein. Year 12 put forward the Italian nationalist, Giuseppe Garibaldi, while a joint Year 10 and 12 team risked fielding a rank outsider, the singer songwriter, William Fitzsimmons. All teams bravely gave speeches at the Tuesday assembly and made themselves available for questions on Wednesday for Question Time. The whole school voted on Thursday and the results were declared on the Friday.

The winner of the election with clear majority of 70% was Martin Luther King Jr, followed by Steve Jobs and Albert Einstein. Year 7 had triumphed over more experienced teams managing to take votes across the whole teacher and student cohort. On the other hand the other teams had failed to recognise the importance of swing voters and underhand campaign tactics. Congratulations to the Year 7 team for an active and carefully planned campaign. If only one of the teams had instead nominated a female candidate, the results may have been very different indeed!

Robert Somers
Last weekend 24 BISI students gave up their weekend to participate in the 6th Annual Junior Model United Nations Conference at Hisar Schools in Göktürk. This year’s theme was ‘Feed the World’ and our largest delegation yet saw students active in the General Assembly and Special Conferences, Advisory Panel, Chair positions, International Court of Justice and Press Team.

An incredibly successful conference saw the contrasting chairing styles of Vishwesh Shah and David Davutoğlu with Vishwesh bribing delegates with sweets and David choosing a more dictatorial stance at the top table. Representing the Russian Federation, Sophie Schmitz bravely delivered her Ambassador’s speech before hundreds of delegates at the General Assembly. BISI was also ascendant in the International Court of Justice where our judges, Konmaz, Schmitz, Varol, Köksal and Dinç delivered harsh verdicts against Ecuador in their attempt to accuse Columbia of harmful herbicide contamination from spraying coca crops too near the border. The Blanken twins, Lieke and Mare, were Russia’s surprise weapon in the Security Council, while first time delegates, Mariam Zara, Won Jun Lee, Selin Dolay, Josephine Randet, Adya Chatterjee and Akanksha Shah fought hard to make amendments to resolutions which favoured the USA over Russian interests. Berke Türkay and Serra Peker showed their experience with strong performances in their respective Committee rooms and UNCCD expert, Derin Olenik, won best delegate in the Advisory Panel discussing food distribution and political unrest in the Nile Basin. Special mention must also go to Press Team’s Selin Olenik and Hannah Watson, who tirelessly interviewed and reported publishing twenty articles in the three newspapers distributed over the event.

Model United Nations is a truly demanding activity which requires students to mimic the role played by experienced United Nations delegates. This year at Hisar, students put in over 24 hours of work with more time spent on pre-Conference preparation. I am sure we’ll see more of these kids in the years to come helping to shape the future direction of our world. Of course, none of this would be possible without the guiding hands of Mrs Oxlake, Ms Holly Garner and Dr Taylor, who kindly gave up their weekend to help chaperone and support our students.

Robert Somers
After months of planning and organising, the evening everyone had been looking forward to finally arrived: The Entertainment Night. At 6:00pm on the 25th of November, 75 students came to the British International School Istanbul to participate in the event in the name of charity.

At 6:30 the films started, the students had a choice of five rooms: the two games rooms or the three movie rooms which were divided into 11+, 15 and under as well as 15+. The first room to fill was the X-Box Room where Jordan took control with playing games with the other boys. The girls in this instant preferred to go into the films room first. Various movies where shown including Caroline, Mr Poppers Penguins, Angus Thongs and Perfect Snogging as well as The Ward, A Walk to Remember and Grown Ups.

After the first films were seen, crisps, chocolates and drinks were served. They were welcomed by students who by that time were very hungry and within a couple of minutes the baskets were emptied. Good job we had more! After the initial explosion of hot chocolate powder caused by Jay and Orhan which covered all of the mugs and table with brown powder the serving of the drinks ran smoothly. Then off they all went to the next movie or game!

We had promised them that the Pizza would arrive at 10:00pm and true to Dominos Pizzas style they managed to once again come late, which wasn’t a surprise to the helpers that stood out in the cold waiting! Domino’s had already messed up the previous day when Georgina and Susanne ordered the pizzas for the Friday night, but were surprise to receive it a night early on the Thursday at 10:00pm! With help from a Turkish Speaker we seemed to have cleared that problem up and the pizza arrived at 10:15. The Pizza was a hit with everyone participating with no slices of the Pepperoni left only a few of the Margarita. However, the vegetable pizza didn’t seem to be too popular with the students. At around 1:00am Sushi was served along with various snacks and drinks, which again couldn’t have come at a better time for the many hungry mouths.

At the end of the night the fatigue started to take over as students slowly drifted off to sleep. At 6:00 am cleaning up began and with everyone’s help we managed to complete it rapidly. All the rooms were restored to their original setting in no time and students were finally ready to leave for their homes.

A big thank you goes out to all the CAS students who helped as well as to: Miss Scotland, Mr and Mrs Bosman, Mr Robinson and especially Mr John and Miss Garner who stayed behind with everyone the whole Night. To everyone that took part, we hope you enjoyed yourselves and managed to make some new friends during this experience but most of all we hope everyone had fun!
If outside my classroom I could *force* students to read the books I’d wish them to read, then I would insist on several from the new(ish) eight below. They are absolutely cracking reads and with Christmas just around the corner any one of these titles would make an ideal stocking filler. The first four in particular are simply *superb* and should be on everyone’s bookshelves – including yours. They are each brilliantly outstanding in terms of plot structure, content, character development, language and style. They will provoke reflective thought and thoroughly engage the surliest of any surly teenager for several days after Boxing Day.

These books really are every bit as good as you would hope them to be. If you haven’t bought a book as yet for the holiday, then please do consider these top eight reads and allow yourselves a moment to enjoy some peace and guilt-free rest whilst your good teenager sits quietly absorbed in good writing.

*Junk* – Melvin Burgess  
Publisher: Puffin  
ISBN-10: 0140380191

*The 10pm Question* – Kate De Goldi  
Publisher: Templar (1 Mar 2011)  
ISBN-10: 1848774664

*I am the Cheese* – Robert Cormier  
Publisher: Puffin; New Ed edition  
ISBN-10: 0141300515

*No Turning Back* – Beverly Naidoo  
Publisher: Puffin  
ISBN-10: 0140369481

*Noughts and Crosses* – Malorie Blackman  
Publisher: Corgi Childrens  
ISBN-10: 0552546321

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* – Mark Haddon  
Publisher: David Fickling Books  
ISBN-10: 1849920419

*Witch Child* – Celia Rees  
Publisher: Bloomsbury Publishing  
ISBN-10: 0747550093

*Postcards from No Man's Land* – Aidan Chambers  
Publisher: Red Fox  
ISBN-10: 0099408627

Russell Gunnell
Creative Arts Presents...

The Winter Concert & Show

Thursday the 1st of December 2011

A fantastic showcase not to be missed!
Snacks and drinks available for sale organized by the PTA

3.40pm A Short Film...How the Grinch Stole Christmas

4.15pm – 6pm The Winter Concert Performance and drama performances
Winter Bazaar

Date 15th December
Time 13:30-15:30

Come and join in the fun and show your support! There will be lovely items on sale: jewellery, books, knitted goods, baked goods, festive cards and much more. See on the other side for full details.

STUDENTS and PARENTS SCHEDULE on the day:
Come to School in your own clothes with a festive theme! Please collect your child from their classroom at 13:30 and have a fun afternoon doing some festive shopping and seasonal games!

Please send in items for our jar jamboree stall for this Wacky Wednesday: fill a clean jam jar with stationery items for example new pens, pencils, hair accessories, small games.
Below is a list of confirmed stalls that will be at the Winter Bazaar:
Greenhouse Books
Jamboree
Cake stall
PTA Food Court
Winter raffle
More to follow next week!

What will be at the Winter Bazaar?

WACKY WEDNESDAYS!
23rd November Wacky Socks, Tights & Ties
30th November Wacky Hair Day
7th December Opposites Day
14th December Festive Costumes

We need your help!
Please donate raffle prizes for our Winter raffle! Can your company donate ...
A dinner for two
A lunch for two
DVD/Ipod/Phone
Handmade cards
Santa’s Grotto
Are you looking for unique and exclusive gifts for Christmas and New Year? Zekeriyaköy Art Group invites you to find your festive spirit and offers authentic presents at their exhibition called 'Winter Happiness'.

Zekeriyaköy Art Group consists of 25 artists and artisans who live in and around Zekeriyaköy who work on different disciplines such as painting, ceramics, sculpture, felt, jewelry, and mosaic. For this festive season, they can help you make your loved ones happy with a choice of creative and original gifts.

Opening Cocktail: 17th of December between 5.30 and 8pm
Exhibition Dates and Hours: 17-31 of December, 2011, 11a.m to 8pm
Bizim Konak (Zekeriyaköy Evler İşletme Kooperatifi)

Konaklar Mah., Manolya Sokak No.1
Zekeriyaköy/Sarıyer - İst.
Tel. 0212-202 6118
Private Piano and Violin lessons offered to all ages

After school and weekend lessons available

Lessons will take place in your own home and will be one hour per week

Opportunity to study in preparation for the Royal Academy and London College Certificate Program

For further information please contact Firuze Goltepe
(Music teacher at BISI)
Mobile number 0532 788 11 25
DIRECTORS OF SCHOOLS

Amanda Ilhan  
Pre School & Primary School Deputy Director  
+90 212 202 7027  
amandailhan@bis.k12.tr

Richard I’Anson  
Pre School & Primary School Director  
+90 212 257 5136  
richardianson@bis.k12.tr

William Bradley  
Director of Secondary and Principal of Zekeriyakoy Campus  
+90 212 202 7027  
williambradley@bis.k12.tr

Tuba Guven  
Director of Admissions  
+90 212 286 7375  
registrar@bis.k12.tr

Helen Kiran  
Head of PR/Communications  
+90 212 202 7027  
communications@bis.k12.tr

Find us on www.bis.k12.tr