



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

January Newsletter

January, 2024

BIA West Newsletter

Letter from the Principal

Dear BIA West Families,

Welcome Back to School!

I hope you had a safe and enjoyable winter break.

There is always a sense of reflection at the beginning of a new year.

We have had our fair share of challenges in the past years, but we are glad to report that we are still moving forward. Our staff has been amazing, guiding and educating our students with creativity and kindness. We would also like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our families for their unwavering support. We feel honored to pursue our passion for working with your children.

We are excited to announce the addition of three new staff members to our team: Mrs. Wedge, a 4th-grade ELA teacher; Stephen "Christon" Wedge, a music teacher; and Ms. Sra. Diaz, a 4th-grade Spanish immersion teacher.

January is the month we assess our students' reading and math growth. We are pleased to report that our students are progressing in both areas, but we need to work harder to ensure math proficiency. Please encourage your students to complete their i-Ready lessons. Our goal is to guarantee that every student is skilled in reading and math by the end of the year, and your support is critical to us. Our teachers devote a minimum of 45 minutes weekly to i-Ready lessons, which have proven to improve academic performance. With our teachers' dedication, the support of i-Ready, and your support, we can help your child reach his or her full potential.

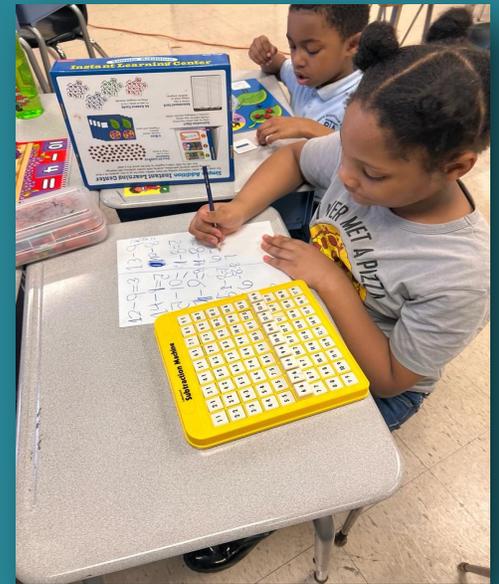
Please ensure that your students are completing their lessons. We offer Extended Learning Opportunities in Math and ELA to students in grades 2-3 and middle school. We are preparing our child(ren) for the MCAP 2024 state assessment in April. The statewide release of MCAP 2023 scores will be available at the end of January.

We want to express our sincere appreciation for your invaluable contribution to your child's education. Your involvement and support have been instrumental in enabling us to achieve our shared goals. Thank you.

Sincerely,

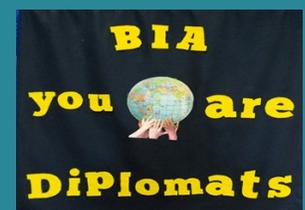
Keting Xiao,

Principal



INSIDE THIS EDITION

Letter from the Principal	1
Spanish Immersion Program	2-3
Chinese Immersion Program	4-6
French Immersion Programs	6-7
News from the IB Program	8-9
Letter from CEO	
News from the Community	10 -11
Congratulation Dr. Harris	12





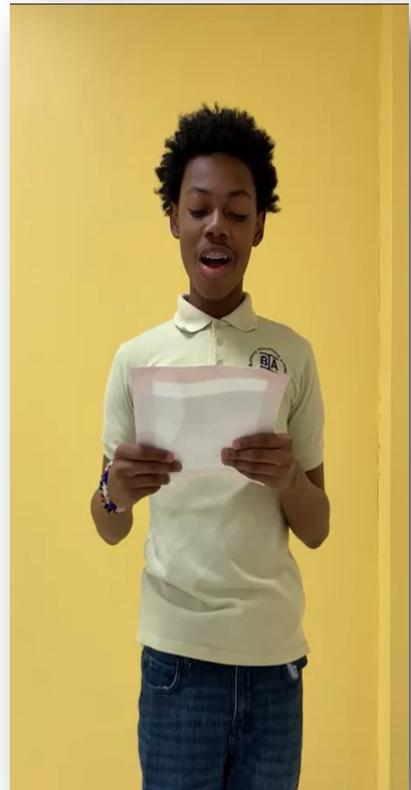
News from the Spanish Immersion Program

8TH GRADE STUDENTS ARE READING THEIR REFLECTIONS

During an IB Spanish class, a group of 8th-grade students eagerly shared their well-thought-out and insightful reflections on the historical impact and political ideas of the Federalist and Republican-Democratic parties.

They discussed Adam's Alien and Sedition Acts, delving into the nuances of this complex historical event and examining its implications.

It's inspiring to see young minds thoughtfully engage with such important topics and take a genuine interest in history and politics.



BALTIMORE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

SECOND GRADE SPANISH STUDENTS LEARNING

MATH PLAYING BINGO

The ability to make mathematics engaging and enjoyable is a challenge. However, Spanish second-grade students have accomplished this task remarkably well. By incorporating problem-solving activities and games emphasizing the importance of place value, including the game of Bingo, these students have demonstrated the potential for learning to be a positive and uplifting experience. This achievement is a testament to the effectiveness of interactive and fun-based educational approaches, which can serve as a model for educators seeking to enhance their students' learning experience.

The progress of the second-grade students enrolled in the Spanish International Baccalaureate program in math has been impressive, and their engagement in the learning process is commendable.



The second-grade Spanish immersion class had an exciting end to their week as they worked on their project, "Making the Cycle of the Moon with Oreos." The project involved creating a model of the moon's phases using Oreo cookies.

The students were divided into groups and tasked with arranging the cookies to represent the various stages of the moon's cycle. They were also required to label each phase correctly.

The project was a fun and engaging way to learn about the moon's cycle and helped the students practice their Spanish vocabulary related to space and astronomy. The teacher provided guidance and encouragement, allowing the students to work independently and collaboratively.





News from the Chinese Immersion Program

On January 3, 2024, a group of talented International Baccalaureate students who are members of the esteemed Chinese Club meticulously crafted a beautifully intricate paper cutting of a Chinese dragon mask. This particular art form is one of the most highly regarded traditional Chinese practices, dating back to the 2nd century CE when paper was first invented. It has since become renowned for its ability to adorn doors and windows in exquisite fashion as paper became more widely accessible.



BALTIMORE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY WEST

CHINESE IMMERSION CLUB PICTURES





BALTIMORE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY WEST

News from the French Immersion Program

The students of Kindergarten French Immersion recently wrapped up their "How We Express Ourselves" IB project, which aimed to encourage self-expression and creativity among young learners.



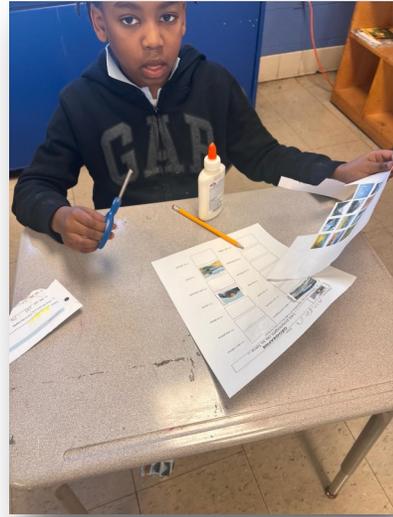
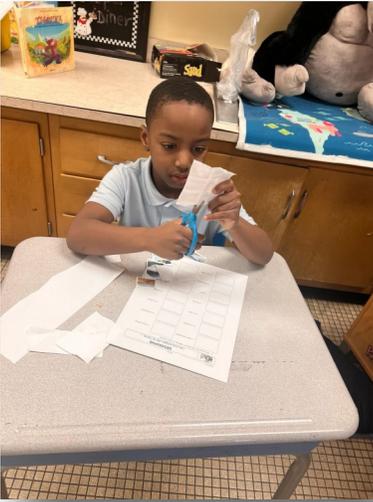
As part of this project, the students collaborated to create a beautifully designed booklet titled "My Emotions," which reflects their emotional experiences and represents their individuality. The booklet is a collection of drawings, paintings, and written pieces that showcase the students' understanding of their emotions and how they express them. The project was a success, and the students were proud to share their work with their teachers and parents.



French Immersion Student drawing and having fun in her class

BALTIMORE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY WEST

French Immersion Gallery





BALTIMORE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.

How can we become knowledgeable?

Observe: Look around at your environment. Paying attention to your surroundings can teach you new things.



We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. By participating and learning in all of these subjects, you will become better prepared for college and the real world.(otherwise know as college and career-ready).

We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.

Working to learn more about problems in our community and around the world.

How can we become knowledgeable?

Observe

Look around at your environment. Paying attention to your surroundings can teach you new things.

Be informed

Watch or read the news so you know what is going on in the larger community.

Research

Look up information when you are curious or confused.

Pay attention in Class

Your classes will expose you to a large amount of topics.

What are some issues, of local and global significance, you are curious about?

Albert Einstein— Theoretical Physicist—
Changed human understanding of the physical world through the theory of relativity.

Maria Montessori—Physician & Educator –
Innovated early years educational practices through her scientific learnings.

Omar Khayyam—Mathematician and Poet
Excelled in the fields of gastronomy, astrology, medicine, philosophy, Math and poetry.

BALTIMORE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY WEST

COMMUNITY NEWS

LETTER FROM DR. KONA-FACIA FREEMAN-NEPAY



Baltimore International Academy
 Academia Internacional de Baltimore
 巴尔的摩国际学校
 أكاديمية بالتيمور الدولية
 Балтиморская Интернациональная Академия
 Académie Internationale de Baltimore
 5434 Harford Rd. Baltimore, MD 21214
 Phone: (443) 278-9417
 Fax: (443) 278-9418



Joe Nimely, Chairman, Board of Directors
 Dr. Kona-Facia Freeman-Nepay, Founder/CEO

Elena Lokounia, Principal, BIA East
 Keting Xiao, Principal, BIA West



Dr. Kona-Facia Freeman-Nepay, CEO

January 23, 2024

Dear BIA Community,

We are pleased to announce the selection of Dr. Patrick Harris for the new Chief Academic Officer (CAO) position at BIA Inc. Dr. Harris holds a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Supervision from Walden University. He comes to us from a long history with Baltimore City Schools. He served as principal at both Dr. Carter G. Woodson Elementary/Middle School and James McHenry Elementary/Middle School. Since 2016, Dr. Harris has been with the district's Office of School Operations and Principal Support, working on the Blueprint for Success and providing individualized support to school leaders. Most recently, he served as BIA West's Interim and then Mentor Principal from August until his retirement from the district at the end of December. During his tenure at BIA West, he became familiar with our school culture, and he fully supports our mission and vision, including language immersion and International Baccalaureate (IB). Dr. Harris also comes from a military background.

As CAO, Dr. Harris will have oversight over the entire academic program, including school principals as well as academic and instructional staff. He will provide mentoring and support for the principals at both BIA East and BIA West to ensure that the academic programs at both schools are being implemented with fidelity to the charter and are meeting student achievement and other important goals.

Please join us in providing a warm welcome to Dr. Harris. He will split his time between both school campuses, and we look forward to working closely with him to support both of our schools.

Sincerely,

Kona-Facia Freeman-Nepay, Ed.D.
 Chief Executive Officer



BIA NEWEST STAFF MEMBERS

We're happy to welcome three new staff members to our team: Mrs. Wedge, a 4th-grade ELA teacher; Stephen "Christon" Wedge, a music teacher; and Ms. Sra. Diaz, a 4th-grade Spanish immersion teacher.



Mrs. Wedge

Mrs. Wedge has a Master of Professional Studies in Industrial Organizational Psychology, which has provided her with a strong foundation in the fundamental principles of psychology.

Additionally, she holds a Master of Professional Studies in Industrial Organizational Psychology, which has equipped her with the knowledge and skills to understand the complex dynamics of organizations and workplaces.

Mrs. Wedge's diverse educational background places her in a unique position to truly understand the diverse needs of BIA students. Her well-rounded experience enables her to connect with each student and provide the support they need to thrive.

Ms. Diaz is a highly experienced educator with over a decade of teaching experience in elementary school. She holds a specialization in language immersion and the International Baccalaureate (IB) program.

Throughout her career, Ms. Diaz has demonstrated a deep commitment to fostering a love of learning in her students and helping them to achieve their full potential.

Her expertise in language immersion has enabled her to create immersive learning environments where students can develop their language skills naturally, while her knowledge of the IB program has allowed her to design curriculum that is engaging, rigorous, and well-aligned with the program's standards.

Ms. Diaz is a dedicated and passionate teacher who takes great pride in helping her students succeed.



Ms. Sra. Diaz



BALTIMORE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

Cont. BIA West Newest Staff Members

BIA West welcomes Music Teacher Stephen "Christon" Wedge Mr. Wedge.

Mr. Wedge has a diverse background in music education, having taught at various levels from pre-school to university. He is passionate about making music accessible and enjoyable for all students, regardless of their abilities.

In addition to his expertise in music education, Mr. Wedge has also worked extensively with children's programs and community service organizations. He firmly believes in giving back to the community and empowering the next generation to impact the world positively.

BIA West is honored to have such an experienced and talented teacher as part of our community at BIA West, and we look forward to the many contributions he will make to BIA West students' musical education and overall growth



DON'T FORGET TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK. WE LIKE YOUR LIKES!

BIA WEST SCHOOL

DON'T FORGET TO

LIKE, COMMENT & SHARE

OUR PAGE

FOLLOW US

@BIA WEST 385

CONGRATULATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS, DR. PATRICK HARRIS!

It is our pleasure to extend our warmest congratulations to you.

We are delighted to extend our warmest congratulations to you, Dr. Harris, on your recent accomplishment. Your dedication, hard work, and perseverance have paid off, and we are thrilled to see you achieve such a significant milestone. Your achievement is a testament to your talent, expertise, and commitment to excellence.

We are confident that you will continue positively impacting your field, and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors. Congratulations once again! It is with great pleasure that we extend our best wishes for your future endeavors. Congratulations once again on your achievement!

