



European School

Newsletter

IB programmes at European School: The journey continues.

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP), with its rigour and careful balance between breadth and depth of information, is regarded by many reputable universities as the gold standard of high school education.

For students, success in the IBDP often results in advanced standing; course credit; scholarships and other admissions-related benefits at many universities. Since 2012 IBDP graduates of European School have been enjoying those benefits. Instead of simply a set of qualifications, IB programmes offer an education with a philosophical purpose: to “develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world”. There is no doubt that the impact that IB students can make in their community depends to various extent on how long they are exposed to IB education. European School being a continuum school, we are able to provide a fully-fledged 12-year IB education to young people.

When opening European School in 2007, the founders could have made it just another high-performing Georgian private school. Instead, they decided to implement IB programmes. Throughout the years considerable investments have been made into facilities, equipment and staff development.

It is therefore no secret that we are committed to offering high quality education to our students. Just like our societies are changing due to technology, globalization and other factors, so are the requirements of what constitutes quality education. The implication for a school like ours is that there must be continuous improvement of the quality of instruction, pastoral care, enrolment processes, student

support system and co-curricular opportunities, not only at the DP level, but also in PYP and MYP.

It is a multilayer, multifactorial, multi-year, yet very exciting task.

In my first year as Deputy Principal and Head of IB Programmes at European School, two of my areas of focus are teacher professional development and enrolment processes. Our teachers have solid academic backgrounds in their respective subjects. Our aim is for each one of them to also have access to continuing IB-certified training.

As for enrolment processes, we want the assessment and guidance of new students to be such that we can provide them with the best fit possible for them to achieve their full potential.

Dr Brice Bomo

Deputy Principal & Head of IB Programmes



The European School - the First CIS Accredited School in Georgia



Great news in the Georgian education field. We are proud to announce that the European School is officially the first school in Georgia accredited by the Council of International Schools (CIS). "CIS is a leader in the field of school evaluation. Its accreditation is recognized worldwide as a demonstration of the high-quality international education offered by the school, facilitating the acceptance of students' transcripts with colleges and universities. The final award of CIS accreditation shows that the European School has achieved high standards of professional performance in international education

and has a commitment to continuous improvement," said European School Director Sophio Bazadze.

After a long and challenging self-study process, where the European School identified its strengths and areas for improvement, the ES hosted the CIS evaluation team, which observed all types of learning situations, met with representatives of each constituent of the school community and evaluated all aspects of the school as they considered how the European School measured against the internationally-agreed standards of CIS school evaluation.

The European School is committed to put the school community on the track of continuous improvement and maintain the international high standards of education.

"I create the world around me as I wish"

Astrid Lindgren Week and Greetings from Astrid Lindgren's Granddaughter

Everything started on a snowy winter day in Stockholm when a housewife, Astrid Lindgren, fell down in the street and injured her leg. While laid up in bed, she commenced writing a book which was later given to the daughter on her birthday. This is the beginning of Pippi's story, the story of a character who said, "I create the world around me as I wish."

November 14 is Swedish writer Astrid Lindgren's birthday. She is beloved around the globe. Many of the European School students came to school dressed as naughty Pippy and gourmand Karlsson.

Kids arranged a dance performance for the special guests: John Runeson, the Second Secretary at the Embassy of Sweden in Georgia, Tamar Datuashvili, the Communications and Cultural Affairs Officer at the Embassy of Sweden in Tbilisi, Tina Mamulashvili, a publisher from Bakur Sulakauri Publishing House, and Davit Gabunia, a dramatist and translator.

The kids loved the fact that Astrid Lindgren's granddaughter Molly, informed about the ES celebration week, sent the ES students warm greetings. The guests shared special stories about Sweden and the famous author with the kids. They presented new books, motivated children and, most importantly, inspired a love of reading.

During the week, several literary quiz shows, book presentations, and a drama performance were held, as well as a tasting of Pippi's freeters and Karlsson's famous jams.



The European School started the new academic year with great news

On September 9, the European School greeted students, teachers, and parents and welcomed all of them to the beginning of a new academic year.

We are proud to announce that the school gained an additional international recognition and started the new academic year with an important achievement; it became the first CIS accredited school in Georgia.

This year, the ES opened its doors to almost 900 students who were provided with renewed classrooms, labs and all the necessary resources for obtaining a high-quality education. Internationally recognized professionals joined the school team as well.

The European School started the new academic year with new challenges, innovative plans and achievements.



Mrs. Carol Bower's Visit to the European School

The grass is greener on the other side, but your own country is a better place to realize your dreams. These are the words of Mrs. Carol Bower, the Special Advocate for UNICEF South Africa's Influential Women's Forum, media celebrity, and entrepreneur who visited the European School on Tuesday, October 1st. The visit was part of Mrs. Bower's ongoing work as an Advocate for Women and Children. At the ES, she met the school administration and the students. During the school tour, enthusiastic and energetic student guides provided the high profile guest with a student perspective on the learning environment.

Mrs. Bower, who has contributed to effecting major changes in women's and children's lives in South Africa and who, in doing so, has managed to empower thousands through her actions and raise millions towards the welfare of children, gave an inspirational talk during her meeting with the students. Mrs. Bower encouraged young enthusiasts to make a difference in society with their small and influential steps.



Honorable Guest from the European Parliament



Roman Strasser, the Head of the European Parliament's Department for Inter-cultural Relations, visited the European School and invited students to participate in a conference at the European Parliament. He listened to students' speeches and gave them advice to succeed in the international arena.

The students were interested to know the reasons behind having Parliament at the European Union. The guest informed the students that initially, in 1950, the European Union had a General Assembly, the predecessor of the European Parliament which consisted of parliamentary delegates of member countries. The General Assembly was an essential instrument for maintaining balance between the executive authorities. It was believed that integration would end with the formation of the united European state, where parliament will be elected on the basis of voting. In 1979, after long discussions about the election system, the first parliamentary elections were held.

Mr. Strasser, along with European School students and Young Diplomats of Georgia, discussed the goals and future plans during his visit in Georgia.

The Secretary General of the EU-Georgia Friendship Group has announced new international programs to be held in Brussels for young diplomats under the auspices of the European Parliament. At the end of the meeting, the students of the European School conducted a tour of the building for Mr. Strasser and explained their teaching methods in detail.

Roman Strasser's visit to the European School was planned within the frames of the four-party Memorandum of Understanding signed in the European Parliament in April 2019.

Choosing the Best School for your Child

School fairs are a common platform for parents to receive detailed information about different schools from representatives of the different educational institutions.

That's why, on December 6-7, the European School participated in School Fair 2019, which was held at Expo Georgia.

This exhibition, the second of its kind in Georgia, was designed to provide a single medium for the education sector, in one dedicated space, and create a venue where all participants in the industry could come together.

The aim was to focus on potential customers and visitors who had the opportunity to participate and make an assessment of the presented educational institutions and their advantages, their programs, teaching methods, infrastructure, curriculum and the technical support they provide.

Visitors to our stand received comprehensive information about the European School and actively inquired about the programs offered by our school. During these 2 days, our highly engaging stand was constantly busy with the groups of interested parents and children. We would like to thank our visitors and hope to see them in the near future as parents and pupils at our school.



Georgian Primary Program Student Council-Sharing International Experience

The role of knowledge, concepts, and skills in raising global citizens is essential, but it is equally important to develop attitudes towards the environment, ownership of the learning process and an understanding of social realities.

Student Council is a place where everyone enjoys learning and using their creativity. Students try new things, find solutions, develop leadership qualities and characteristics and embrace responsibilities.

On October 4, Georgian Primary Program representatives met the PYP Coordinator. Administrators discussed the work of student council, organizational details, and possibilities for future collaboration.



Considering the recommendations of the PYP coordinator and following election procedures, Georgian Primary Program students from grades 2-5 elected council representatives.

For their first task, students were asked to discuss important student issues and find solutions. On October 31, the meeting of Student Council representatives and their classmates took place in the Main Hall to complete this task.

The newly elected student council started working with great enthusiasm. Students took part in planning and conducting several events: Astrid Lindgren Week, International Day of Tolerance and New Year celebrations.

Get to Know the ES Graduates



Inviting professionals from different fields is a tradition at the European School. This year, we decided to arrange meetings with graduates. Fortunately, there are many successful and exemplary individuals among them. We didn't search for a long time - the idea of inviting the General Manager of Academic Phridon Todua Medical Centre -Giorgi Diasamidze came very fast. Everybody remembers him at the ES to be an active and successful student. Nowadays, he is one of the youngest, most busy and creative managers of the country. The meeting passed in a warm atmosphere. Giorgi recalled lovely memories from his childhood and answered students' questions honestly.

Meetings with successful graduates will continue in the future as well.

December 5- International Day of Volunteers

On December 5, Georgian Red Cross Association held an awareness event at Mediathek.5 winner schools made presentations on warfare techniques and methods. The theme of the ES students' presentation was Armed Military Drones. Students explained to peers how far can drones and other military weapons fly. This method of informing youth was very productive. The ES expressed gratitude towards the Red Cross for organizing such an event.



Georgian Program Middle School Assembly

This year, Georgian Program middle school held a separate assembly. This was an event finalizing one more productive semester. Students from grade 7a presented a literary project; Grade 8 students brought back wonderful memories from Geneva International Conference and shared them with peers; A beautiful example of tolerance was showed by grade 7a students who presented a project on Korean Culture and Traditions; Chemistry club LiKBaCaNa demonstrated an interesting and complex STEM Kitchen; Grade 8-9 students, members of the Literary Club -We Love Literature discussed wonderful works of famous writers; Students from grade 9 made presentations about emigrants and emigration in general.



The ES students took part in the competition for designing a new coin of Davit Aghmashenebli. Authors of two winning designs were awarded by the Ambassador of Great Britain and Northern Irland to Georgia.



PYP Elections

PYP grade 5 students inquired into the ways government systems influence the lives of the citizens during the transdisciplinary theme "How We Organize Ourselves". Students have been working on an election campaign where they had to promote their party and a candidate for the PYP president.

Our candidates were: Aleksandre Tsiklauri, Maryam Huseynova, Nikolozi Iakobidze and Atila Rousta. During the week they met with the PYP community and promoted their candidacy through flyers, video promotions and charity actions. On November 21st they held debates where all the candidates had to come up with solutions to the problems our community faces.

The students worked as a team and came up with creative and practical answers. The 3rd and 4th year students attended the debates and asked questions about the goals of each party. Aleksandre Tsiklauri won the PYP Election. The PYP community congratulates Aleksander on being selected as PYP President.



Halloween

Halloween was celebrated on the 31st of October. It was a fun filled day with an exciting costume parade as well as different spooky games in the PYP department. There were very happy superheroes, witches, ghosts, scary clowns and other interesting characters walking around. Excited faces were everywhere as the children played, danced and posed for photographs.

The children participated in different game stations and were rewarded with candy and treats. They decorated pumpkins and participated in a 'scariest pumpkin' contest. They danced to different Halloween songs and then proceeded to walk around the middle yard parading their costumes.

PYP students enjoyed the treats that they had so generously brought to school. The children had a wonderful time and were seen smiling happily as they left the school.



How does the European Union work?

A study program organized by the European Alliance for Georgia, Young Diplomats of Georgia and European School called “How Does the EU Work” was held in November 2019. Students of the European School participated in this program for the second time.

The main aim of this program was to educate young citizens of Georgia about the European Union and the relationships between the EU and Georgia. Throughout the project, successful students from the European School visited and attended seminars and meetings in different institutions. The European Commission, European Parliament and European Committee of Regions opened their doors to our students for these events.

Apart from the meetings and seminars, the European School team prepared presentations about the problems young Georgian citizens face and worked on different topics, which involved occupation, air pollution, waste management and social conflicts. The team also asked about the solutions to these problems to the heads of different departments in EU.

Moreover, European school student Misho Gabaidze, among five other artists, was specifically invited to prepare paintings for an art exhibition held in Belgium, Brussels in the embassy of Georgia called “Our Voice to Europe”. He tried to depict the voice of the Georgian nation, so that Europeans could understand the concerns Georgian people have nowadays.

Most importantly, some very successful young diplomats, including European School students Misho Gabaidze, Ilia Nebieridze and Niko Daseni, received an official status of “Young Diplomat of Georgia”. This gives them exclusive access to opportunities like attending a professional training program in European Parliament, participating in unique summer schools about political academic studies, being an intern in prestigious civil society organizations in the USA, among others. This status is a very big honor and responsibility, since this team is the voice of Georgia outside of the borders from now on.



The ES Student Parliament Chairman became the MYP student Anna-Maria Iakobidze.

Ana-Maria Iakobidze is a student who has become an active member of our school's everyday life. This was the main reason why she has decided to participate in the European School Parliament chair elections.

The fight for the victory was not easy. It took great effort and time for Ana-Maria to win the student body's trust and commitment. This dedication was revealed during the pre-election campaign. She conducted several meetings with the Head of the Education, Culture and Science Committee, Miss Mariam Jashi. She also conducted educational meetings with famous people and planned events to help socially vulnerable families. Through her actions, she took steps to raise awerness about charity and the importance of caring at European School.



Ana-Maria was opposed by three candidates from three different programs: the American Sector, the Georgian Sector and the DP. The pre-election campaign was held in a tense environment, as demonstrated by the parliamentary debates. The winner of the election was a mystery until the very last minute. Ana-Maria's victory received a standing ovation from the students of European School.

IB DP CAS workshop in Tsinandali

IB DP organized a CAS workshop in the Tsinandali Radisson Collection on November 9th. As a result of the workshop, students improved their understanding of CAS 7 learning outcomes, together with CAS project stages. The workshop provided an opportunity for DP 12 students to share their experiences with DP 11 students, in terms of completing the CAS projects. Such workshops are regularly organized by the Diploma Program, in order to make sure that students have proper understanding of CAS and its role and to develop practical skills.



Visit of the Youth Representative to the UN

IB DP hosted the Youth Representative to the UN, Ms. Esma Gumberidze on December 4th. The guest shared valuable experience with the students, in terms of participating in multiple international projects. She informed the students about the necessary procedures for becoming volunteers and provided practical tips on how students can become more socially responsible citizens. The European School closely cooperates with leading international organizations, which is expressed by regular visits from their representatives and opportunities for our students' involvement in international projects.



Excursion to Tao-Klarjeti

On October 18-21, 2019, the ninth graders of the Georgian-American High School went on an informative excursion to Tao-Klarjeti. They had the opportunity to visit Georgian cultural monuments currently located outside of Georgian borders. The tour was planned and carried out by the Academic Dean of the Georgian-American High School, Natia Tevzadze, and a few students.

During a four-day tour which took them through a difficult route, the students were able to see firsthand the historical and cultural monuments they had read about in their textbooks. The tour was full of adventures, and plenty of emotions, that made those four days unforgettable for the students.

They visited monuments such as Mere Castle, Qajeti Castle (Turkish Sheutani Castle), Artaani, Shavsheti, Satle Castle, Tbeti, Doliskana (Turkish Dolishane), Artvin, Artanuji Fortress, Devil's (Jojokheti or hell) Canyon, Akhiza Castle, the Chorokhi Gorge, Yusufeli, Otkhta Church, the Kavkazidzes' and Vejaneti Castles, Parkhali, Ishkhani, Oshki Monastery, Tortum Waterfall and Castle, Bana Cathedral.

Tours like this are useful and cognitive since they affect the students' social and cultural awareness. Besides rest and relaxation, they also get important information about Georgian historical and cultural facts in a hands-on way.



COGNIA Conference

On October 13, 2019, in Madrid, Spain, the international conference CONNECT 20 was held. It was carried out on the initiative of COGNIA, an American organization of Private and Public Schools' Certification and Accreditation.

Ms. Irma Barbakadze, Georgian-American High School principal, and Mrs. Natia Tevzadze, Academic Dean, attended the conference dedicated to the development, enhancement and sharing of new ideas about teaching methods in Asia and Europe. The best specialists and experts in the field shared their information and practical experience with the audience.

The information provided will assist school administrations to improve their activities, increase motivation among students and help them in readiness for accreditation. The sponsor of the conference, COGNIA, organizes international school accreditations worldwide.



Final Presentations of American High School 12-th Graders

The American High School program explores many literary works. During the fall term of the 2018-2019 academic year, American High School 12th graders studied Crime and Punishment within the English Language Course and made final presentations in English as their midterm works.

In the presentations they showcased overall analyses of the piece, characteristics of each protagonist and a resume stating their own perspective. The presentation was attended by school administration and staff. This kind of activity facilitates the students' analytical and argumentative mindset, helps establish discipline and improves their presentation skills. The conference was successful and all the students received high marks.



Tolerance and Thanksgiving Week at American High School

On November 25-29, Tolerance and Thanksgiving week was held at American High School. The invited guests from the Centre for Participation and Development gave the 10th and 11th graders a free lecture. The lecturers spoke about tolerance, its meaning and importance, violence against women and how to eliminate it.

The lecture was an interactive one and the students expressed interesting opinions, viewpoints and ideas. The guests evaluated the lecture as successful and highlighted that the students have well-developed debate and argumentative reasoning skills.

As for Thanksgiving, the students spent this day in a warm and friendly ambience. They wrote Thanksgiving letters to each other and carried out a charity event through selling homemade dishes and juices. All the money they earned was used for charity reasons. It is worth noting that events like this are often held at American High School and, as a result, the students are well aware of the essence of charity and its importance in personality development.



At the start of new 2019 academic year, a Sport Department has been formed in the European School. Giorgi Akhvlediani is the New Head of Sport Department. Two new PE teachers have been hired as well, Shota Tepnadze, who teaches MYP PE, and Mindia Kordzadze, who teaches classes from the Georgian section and in the American High school.

Ivery Chelidze Football Tournament

An annual football tournament has been held at European School in loving memory of former student Ivery Chelidze. Over 30 different classes participated in the tournament from all three academic sections of European School. Tournament was held over a duration of three weeks and was divided into three different age groups. Finals were played on 26th November. The winners were classes 4A, 8A and grade 10, all from Georgian section. As a tradition winner medals and trophies were awarded by Iver Chelidze's family members.



Alma Cup 2019

On November 20-23, with the initiative of the Student Union Alma Mater, a tournament in the Minifootball-Alma Cup 2019 was held at Grigol Robakidze University. Several teams participated from the university faculties and partner schools: European School, State School №23 and State School №98 participated at the tournament. After a fantastic performance from the European School team, but a narrow defeat in the semi finals, the bronze medal was awarded to the European School team.



Sports Events in European School

Various different sports events were organized during the semester. Every couple of weeks, fun relay competitions were organized for the lower grades. Students competed with different classes. A table tennis tournament was organized in October, which over 40 students took part in. Every Thursday there was a volleyball game played between students and teachers. A friendly basketball game was also played between students and teachers.



Elis's Wonderland at the European Kindergarten

On September 9, the European Kindergarten once again opened its door to Alice's Wonderland for our little ones. There was an amazing atmosphere during the event. The students played with fairy-tale characters, enjoyed the clown's silly jokes, did beautiful face painting, painted giant roses, created sand crafts and took memorable photos with colorful soap bubbles.



Global Handwashing Day

On October 15, we celebrated Global Handwashing Day at the European Kindergarten. Teachers talked to the children about this day. The kids presented group artwork in our playground and with the doctor they recalled the rules of proper hand washing. The children washed their hands and took memorable photos.



Goodbye Autumn

At the end of November, the European Kindergarten organized the event "Goodbye Autumn, Hello Winter". The children, in costumes of their favorite heroes, had fun doing different kinds of activities. They decorated their autumn tree with yellow leaves and their winter tree with white snowflakes. They competed in collecting cones, building towers and painting winter and autumn landscapes. At the end, the kids wrapped their teachers in warm winter clothes and finally ate the churchkhelas which they had made earlier.



Parent Week

In the beginning of November, the European Kindergarten hosted Parent Week. During this time, many parents visited the kindergarten. They offered very interesting and fun activities to our little ones. A chemist made a spectacular appearance doing chemical experiments outside on the playground. An engineer father talked about construction machinery. We were also visited by lawyers who talked about children's rights and public order. Doctors introduced the children to a healthy lifestyle and talked about the human body. The teachers offered story time and English lessons. Some talked about hotels, being a chef and cooking.



Skype Lesson

European Kindergarten children had very interesting peer-learning experience with Miras International Kindergarten in Almaty Kazakhstan. We thought it was a great idea connecting our kids to extend their inquiry abroad through Skype to integrate global citizenship. The objective of this networking was to develop children's international-mindedness and help them become global citizens, which is related to the current inquiry theme "Who We Are". This theme focuses on building good relationships with others. The kids introduced themselves, sang some songs and shared their ideas. They really enjoyed it!

