

BULLETIN No. 4

The British School of Costa Rica
20th of February, 2026



UPCOMING DATES

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| Friday 20th February: | School closed - staff training day |
| Saturday 28th February: | International Fair |
| Wednesday 4th March: | Start of Year 9 Camp |



BSCR NEWS - GENERAL

International Fair 2026

We would like to invite all members of our Learning Community to our annual International Fair, which is on Saturday the 28th of February. This year's theme is 'Towards a Sustainable Future!'

Vehicle TAG Reminder - Campus Access

Parents and Caregivers, please be reminded that an up to date vehicle TAG is mandatory for entry to the campus when collecting students by vehicle. If you require a TAG, please email quickpass@bscr.ed.cr to request one, and a TAG request form will be sent. For families who have already requested TAGs but have not collected them, we would like to remind you that they are available for collection at Reception. Alternatively, if you prefer, you may email quickpass@bscr.ed.cr to request authorisation for the TAG to be sent home with your child. An email will be sent notifying you when the TAG has been given to the student. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and efficient campus environment.

BSCR NEWS - EARLY YEARS & PRIMARY

International Student Teachers

This week our Primary School welcomed two international student teachers who are undertaking their second year of the International Teacher Education for Primary Schools (ITEPS) course. Megan Haupt will be working with Teacher Katingo in Year 4C while Anna Heller will be working with Teacher Giannina in Year 2B. We warmly welcome both Megan and Anna to our Learning Community.

Election of Primary House Captains

Congratulations to the following Year 5 students who were democratically elected by their peers to serve as the respective House Captains and Vice-Captains for the 2026 academic year.

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| Arenal: | Montserrat Ballar (Captain) / Elena Quiros (Vice-Captain) |
| Poas: | Alberto Arrieta (Captain) / Fernando Gurdian (Vice-Captain) |
| Irazu: | Becky Chen Wu (Captain) / Ainara Araya (Vice-Captain) |
| Barva: | Alejandro Gamboa (Captain) / Miranda Soto (Vice-Captain) |

BSCR NEWS - EARLY YEARS & PRIMARY



Personalised Learning Period (Y4 & Y5)

Last week saw the successful launch of the PLP period for Year 4 and Year 5 students. There was lots of anticipation, later followed by excitement and enjoyment of sessions chosen by the students, for the students. We are incredibly excited to see how this initiative develops over the coming weeks and months.



Chinese New Year Assembly in Primary

Monday's assembly was a wonderful example of a student led assembly. It was an opportunity to learn more about the important cultural and historical context of the Chinese New Year celebration and what it means to some of our students and families. A very big thank you to Amanda Song who started off the assembly with a breathtaking musical performance using the traditional Chinese instrument Guzheng. This was followed by a presentation celebrating the Chinese New Year as well as sharing cultural nuances which was confidently delivered by Becky Chen Wu, Karry Gong, Christopher Ye Chen and Katrina Qiu with a notable mention for Harry Zun Lin who helped considerably in creating the presentation. A wonderful team effort led by the students which was respectfully received by a captivated audience. Well done everyone!



BSCR NEWS - EARLY YEARS & PRIMARY

Dance Success

Congratulations to Natalia Arrieta (Year 5) on reaching the 'Outstanding Dancer Finalist' phase at the recent New York City Dance Alliance (NYCDA) competition held in the USA.



BSCR NEWS - SECONDARY

Year 6 & Year 8 English Language Cambridge exams

On February 24 and 25 the Year 6 and Year 8 students will test their English language skills to obtain an additional international language certification, according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. This test assesses their current skills of Reading and Use of English, Writing, Speaking and Listening. There is no need for students to further prepare for this test. This certification will further support our students in their future national or international plans for university or work. It is essential that they bring an official ID (national cedula, DIMEX or passport) in order to be allowed into the examination room. The school ID, photocopies or scans will not be accepted. Further details about specific exam times will be in their inbox soon.

Global Politics Visit

On Thursday, February 12, Year 12 Global Politics students visited the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in San Jose. In this visit, students learned about the history of the Court, the work it does and specific cases that have affected human rights in Costa Rica. The trip helped students deepen their understanding of how human rights operate in the region.



BSCR NEWS - SECONDARY

National Honor Society - Valentine's Day Activity

Last Friday, February 13th, the National Honor Society (NHS) organized several activities to celebrate Valentine's Day. Among them, we held a successful Bake Sale, where members of our school community enjoyed a variety of delicious treats prepared with great enthusiasm. The funds raised will be used for future NHS projects and to support a local organization in need, reaffirming our commitment to service and solidarity. We sincerely thank everyone who supported us with their purchases - your participation truly makes a difference!



Friendship Day Student Council

On the occasion of Friendship Day, the Student Council organized a special activity aimed at strengthening the bonds of friendship within our community. Hearts, roses, serenades, and shipboards were made available, giving students the opportunity to express appreciation, gratitude, and affection toward their friends. Beyond the symbolic gesture, the initiative sought to remind us that friendship is built through respect, closeness, and mutual care. We thank the Student Council for promoting spaces that strengthen our sense of community and positive coexistence.

Agents of Change Activity

Last Friday, the entire Year 11 cohort welcomed students and staff from the United World College for a full-day workshop. Students collaborated in groups to develop their skills as 'Agents of Change,' identifying key issues—some within our school community and others in the wider Costa Rican context—and designing creative solutions. These ideas were refined into three-minute "elevator pitches" and presented to an audience of 70 students and staff. It was truly inspiring to witness the energy, creativity, and capability of our students. We now have the seeds of future Service Learning and CAS projects.

Throughout the day, students embodied our core values of Creativity, Independence, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility. We are looking forward to building on the connections made and encouraging our students to continue to be a force for positive change.



BSCR NEWS - SECONDARY

Visits in Upper Secondary

Last week, we had the opportunity to welcome a university representative from the University of Wyoming, who presented exciting opportunities for our Year 9 to Year 12 students during a lunchtime break session. She also visited a Year 12 group and delivered a presentation on higher education in the USA and her institution. We welcomed a representative for Costa Rica from the National Student Leadership Conference (NSLC), who shared information about their prestigious summer programs. NSLC offers high school students the opportunity to develop leadership skills, explore potential career paths, and experience life on a university campus in the United States. If parents would like more information about this or other summer camp opportunities for their children, please feel free to contact Ana Lourdes Baumgartner at abaumgartner@bscr.ed.cr

SAT (for Year 11 and 12 students)

This year's first SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) will take place on March 14th. The British School of Costa Rica will serve as a test center on this date. The registration deadline is Friday, February 27th. The test fee is \$111, payable online. For more information on 2026 test dates and deadlines, please visit the International SAT Dates. The SAT is a standardized test administered by The College Board. Many universities worldwide, particularly in the United States, consider it either a requirement or an optional part of the application process. The SAT is now digital, and students are allowed to use their own computers or tablets. For practice and preparation resources, please visit the SAT Practice and Preparation Information. Khan Academy is an excellent free resource for SAT preparation.

We recommend that students registering for the first time, schedule a meeting with Ana Lourdes Baumgartner, University Counselor, to complete the process. If you have any questions, please contact Ana Lourdes at abaumgartner@bscr.ed.cr.

BSCR NEWS - Student Development Services (SDS)

Building Healthy Relationships

Last week, on the occasion of Friendship Day, we carried out a series of activities aimed at encouraging, developing, and inspiring children and young people to build healthy relationships with their friends. We promoted values such as respect, tolerance, kindness, gratitude, and teamwork, among others, which will help us shape better adults in the future. It was a very special time in which our students had the opportunity to show their affection for their friends. We invite you to continue reinforcing these values at home and to create opportunities for conversation and reflection about friendship. We are sharing some images of what we experienced together.

