

# The Bridgian Herald

24<sup>th</sup> February–30<sup>th</sup> March 2025

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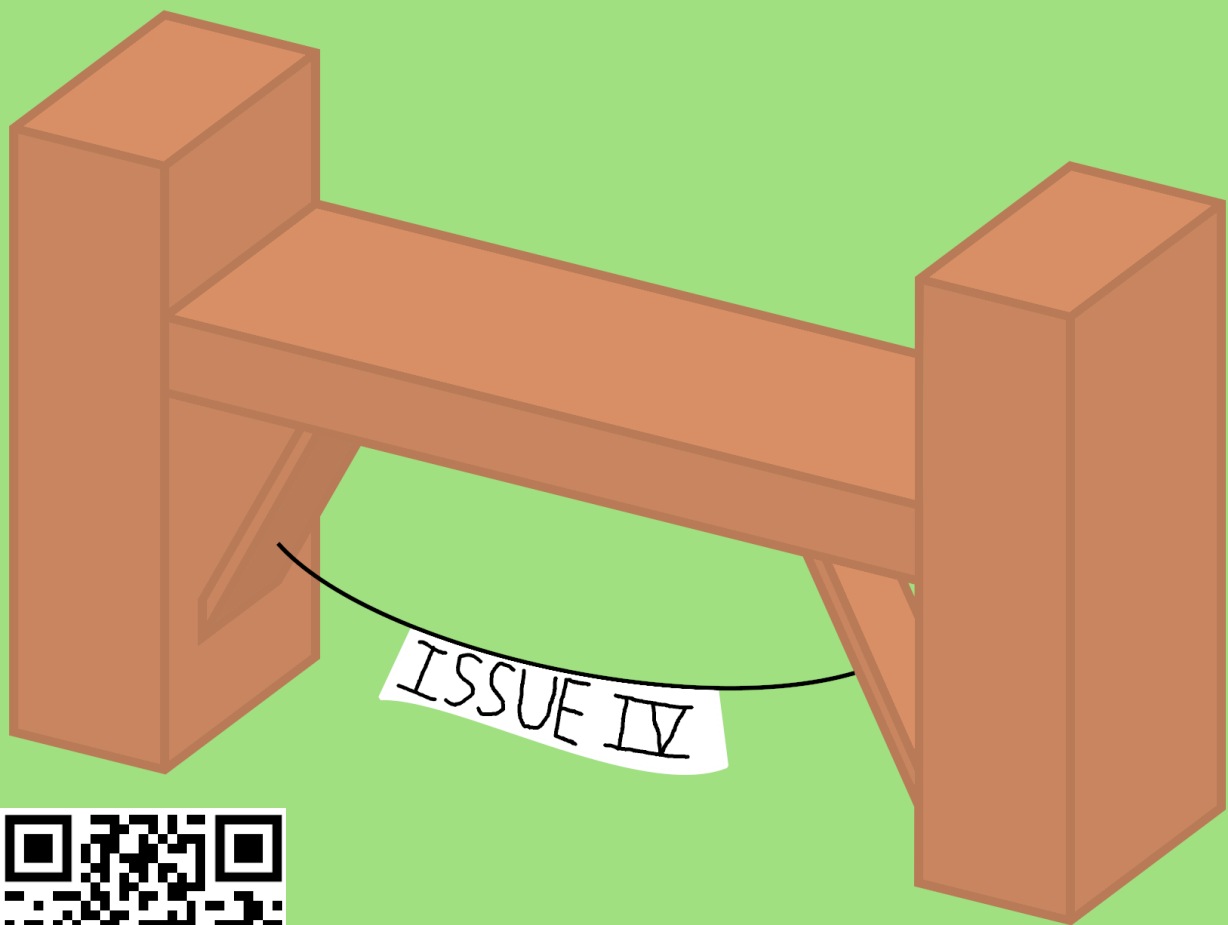
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## **Front-cover design**

For issue 4 of the *Bridgian Herald*, we have changed the design of our front cover. Previously, we had an image selected by the Devious One from his back catalogue (as shown by their low quality), but we now have a dedicated design, with a wooden bridge symbolising Bridge Base. The old logo – a letter “B” flanked by trees – has been withdrawn because it was hard to include by the title.

The design is to be altered and elaborated each issue, according to its designer; the *Herald* remains open to any feedback which its readers wish to provide. As we say, *Bíshbês-sà Angên ingil le ensaún gè fae ren.*

## **Credits**

Activities: Tim, Zachery

Articles: Zachery

Design: Zachery

Editing: Zachery

Front cover: Kai, Zachery

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## **The *Bridgian Herald***

Initiated in November 2024 by the Bridge Base Foundation to “improve social cohesion and understanding in the School through the collectivisation of information.” *Bíshbês nádoíðà!*

While measures have been taken to ensure content-accuracy, it is possible that errors or omissions have been made. Feedback would be greatly appreciated to improve the *Herald* for all.

Any correspondence should be sent to:  
Domebush Treehouse,  
Domebush Base / Base κ,  
Near Orchard,  
Ephkaí (Senkaí),  
Unsted Park School.

# Bridgian News

## Dthenbês untêbà rae!

*The Treehouse returns to Domebush*

THE HAND OF Ephkaí moves again. The Bridge Base Foundation changes its seat. Domebush is Bridgianity incarnate, returned and revived, rising out of its very ashes. Ruin becomes rebuilding – disappointment becomes hope – paralysis becomes synthesis – all from the commitment and ingenuity of a small group of students. (Although this description implies a great deal of collaboration and organisation which was certainly not present; perhaps “persistence” would be a better word.)

Last month’s issue of the *Bridgian Herald* (“Domebush Reborn”, 27th January) discussed the history and then-future plans for Domebush Base, or Base κ – said “kappa”. What it did not mention, besides passing remarks of a prototypical stick-Treehouse, was the events that were occurring at the time. This seems odd, as the present régime began around a week before the article went to print. And a lot has happened since then anyway; an update on the matter is certainly justified.

### *Gephyrosis*

The new “Domebush era” started in earnest in late January, when the members of Bridge Base started congregating there primarily. Whilst our Head Guard had started building a Treehouse using sticks, the others continued to reside in Gilnar Base’s Meeting Room – or, as was increasingly typical, running off in search of something more interesting to do.

The reconstruction of Domebush Treehouse was largely a symbolic move, at least initially, because its former iteration had been destroyed in May last year. This was the end of the Foundation’s first stay in Base κ, when conflicts, both internal and external, caused it to collapse. The third section of the song *Imsaún Bishbês-sà* – literally,

the “Bridgian Speech” – sums up the situation quite poignantly:

*But every time it falls away,  
Bridgian life runs astray;  
Yet in time we must restart,  
From the North-land’s bitter heart!*

Rebuilding the Treehouse marked a return to this environment of high Bridgianity, even though the sticks did not make it look like the finest structure. Proper cross-beams were added a few days later, along with a mysteriously acquired section of fence. (Using sticks is often impractical due to their low strength, but they are still centrally used to this day – the main beam on the west side was originally part of a tree in Bridgehaven.)

By the start of February, two pallets and an eastern extension had appeared on the Treehouse, along with a door-like design at the Domebush’s southern entrance. An attempt was made at a pulley, but such was not availed before Chaos got its way. Thin, green metal wires were used to hold beams and other structural elements together.

The roof-tarpaulin – predictably dubbed “the Canopy” – appeared around a week later, shielding the central part of the Base from the elements. Its configuration has varied over time to better meet the needs of its users, unlike the ladder, which achieved the opposite.

Ah, the ladder. It appeared around this time and was reportedly procured (read: blatantly stolen) from a location in southern Lenkaí whilst the *Group* was not looking. The ladder’s initial placement was almost inaccessible, taking users up to the eastern Treehouse-extension. Its movement to become a bridge over the Base was equally unhelpful, as was its eventual fate by the hand of Beryl.

The last event to occur in the Domebush, before this issue went to print, was another instance of this force – conflict, chaos, whatever it is to be called – which befalls the Base predictably but irregularly. Entry 664 of the Bridge Base Log sums it up thus – ‘I noticed that many structures in Base κ had been damaged or destroyed: the metal gate-ladder was removed, the Canopy was collapsed, and the Lookout was completely gone.’

Honestly, Bridgians! Can you just be civil for once? I suppose we can’t have progress without something to limit us...

# School News

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## Category: Sport

*News from Student Council*

**T**HURSDAY, 6TH February, 2025. Pearl Room, Northside, Lintae. The month's Student Council is primed to begin, where the leaders of Entékaí will convene. Your correspondent waits eagerly, in the cold, for the doors to open. Such they do, botheringly but expectably late, to let the meeting commence. He sits down, before the table, where croissants and orange-juice are being distributed between the attendees to prepare for thinking. ("No, I'm fine," he says when offered them.) Thence began the Council – and hence runs the account.

The meeting started with an update on the plans for western Lintae's playground. Reportedly, discussions are taking place with various companies to extract maximal cost-effectiveness. The work could begin in a few months, said our head teacher, Shane, "and it shouldn't affect the rest of the School too much." The same applies for the proposed roof over the tennis courts in the Bridge Down: it was going to cost £175,000, even without resurfacing, so other suppliers are being consulted for a better price.

Littering was briefly mentioned as an issue: certain people, apparently, cannot be bothered to walk the hundred-or-so metres to their nearest bin, instead leaving their rubbish on the floor or in bushes. As a friend of mine commented, "I wonder who that could be...". (Many Bridgians have been known to leave unwanted items in Base κ; on one occasion, a roll of toilet-paper was found strewn across the Domebush's branches.) A potential solution was to add more bins – say, in Gap Plains' football pitch – but we thought that the most effective measure was encouraging students to remind peers.

Gender-equality seems a strange topic to review at a Council with two females out of ten members (only one of which attended), but we did so anyway. Predictably, the only problem raised was the poor provision of sanitary products to the girls' bathroom – not exactly equality, but nonetheless important.

Students' rights were briefly discussed, though not as extensively as in their specifically set meetings. Attendees said that they broadly felt safe, although the *Group's* conflict-management system was criticised. The School has recently been promoted to a silver award in the "Rights Respecting School" initiative, run by the United Nations' UNICEF; a banner is now displayed on the fence by the cooking classroom, in Rintae.

### The "Football Council"

Interspersing all this were proposals for a long list of sport-related improvements. Benches by the football pitch and tennis courts; repairing a hole in said courts' fence; new footballs, to replace those lost by bushes; the provision of a swimming club; *et cetera*. An uncommitting response was key here, as sating the voracious appetite of sport-players is a truly quixotic goal.

Overall though, Student Council went as well as it can be expected to, being insightful for both parties involved. It would help if representatives took suggestions from their classmates, so everyone's voice is heard. Your correspondent, in his usual, hyphenated way, described the meeting as "a devious kind of birthday-party" – despite his displeasure at being late for first lesson. The next meeting is on the 6th of March, another Thursday, at 9 o'clock. Let's hope this one runs on time.

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### The power of nature

A fox – see artist's impression – has recently been spotted taking up residence at the School, most frequently in the bushes of Gilnar and



Flank Forest. Undisclosed penalties are out for any who attempt to chase, kill, or (ironically) feed it.

# Guides

## Bridgianity, explained

*Would this be a good article to write?*

**B**RIDGE BASE appears to some like a forbidden realm, too cryptic and reticent for the uninitiated to really understand. To its members, though, it appears to be precisely the opposite – too plain and naïve, at least beneath the surface, to make any sense. They simply enter the Base, and thence do whatever they like, often to the bafflement of fellows and onlookers alike. This is consistent with history: the “just do whatever” attitude is what made it attractive in the first place, and has done ever since.

The Bridge Base Foundation has played various roles during their four years of operation at the School. First, they were the principal rivals to the Beryllians (a Bridgian exonym, given from the base which they occupied); next the masters of somewhat shoddy construction, epitomised by the state of Base  $\beta$  in mid-2023; then the enemies to authority, outlawed by the *Group*. Recently, they have oscillated between these last two states, briefly forming the appearance of an innocuous friend-group before restarting their devious ways.

But there have been three components of Bridgianism which have remained constant during all this time. These can be summed up with three words: deviosity, resilience, and originality. The Bridgians have always been a bit devious in their ways – note, though, that breaking the rules is not their main aim, merely a byproduct of larger goals – and they resile fixedly when met with challenges, whether from within or outside. The word “original” can both mean unique and rooted to the start; the Foundation achieves both at once, in eternal contradiction.

This is really the main, defining quality of Bridge Base: contradiction. It is both organised enough to build things and markedly in complete,

isotypic disarray. Its members are ostensibly friends, but run into conflict on more days than not. It is in constant flux – a phrase with an aptly oxymoronic feel – but equally remains embodied by the same themes, again and again.

### True Bridgianity must prevail

As the Foundation returns to Domebush (see Bridgian News section), the same questions are reiterated, as they are whenever it undergoes some major change. What is the purpose of Bridge Base? What should we, its members, do to achieve this? And, most frequently, why do the Bridgians continue to, well, Bridgianise, rather than just fizzling out, as those of Beryl did two years ago?

Some academics (those whom your correspondent coins “gephyrologists”, from the Greek *gēphyrā*, ‘bridge’) believe that this evident persistence comes from a desire for purpose. It gives them satisfaction to construct and develop ideas, in a way which they will remember, with their friends. That is honestly what Bridge Base is: a group of friends, who began their campaign three and a half years ago, a time during which the idea of a “base”, and the related Foundation, became cemented in their minds – their Bridgianist culture – as almost the way things must be.

Anyway, what alternatives do the Bridgians have? Lunch-clubs are destined not to work, as it is highly unlikely that there will be a club that all of them will enjoy – separating the Bridgians sounds like as hard of a deal as any, so most will continue with the *status quo*. Simply walking around is what most do (and Bridge Base does this as well), but that is far too boring for the fun-seekers who attend the Base.

Therefore, they are stuck with the Foundation in some form. Pressure from Entékaí has led many construction projects to be cut short as materials have mysteriously disappeared; some have worked more on “media” projects, like this *Herald* and the Website (accessible via the QR-code on the front cover), as well as many smaller ventures.

So really, Bridgianity means almost nothing – but, at the same time, everything – on its own. It is just a term used to describe a friend-group which happens to convene in an Ephkaían bush, and who entitle themselves “Bridge Base”.

# Activities

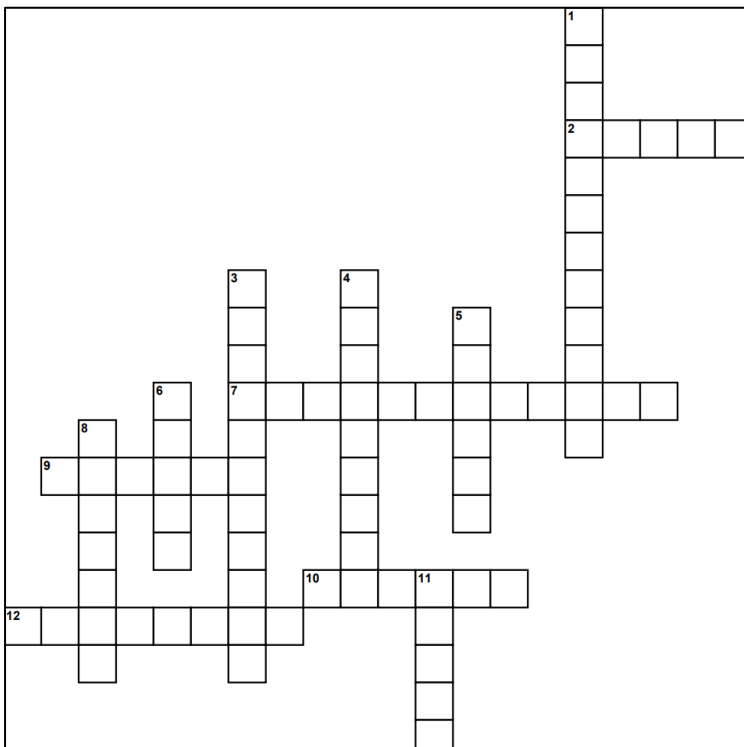
## Wordsearch



### Words

- Base Tau ( $\tau$ )
- Base Upsilon ( $\upsilon$ )
- Daves and Ladders
- Heartvault Base
- Pilfering
- Resources
- School Map
- Tarpaulin

## Crossword



### Across

2. Bridge Base's term for authorities (5)
7. Name of the Foundation's base (8,4)
9. e.g., Æthûsa, Dthenden, or Fälea (6)
10. Subdivision of a region (6)
12. Related to Bridge Base (8)

### Down

1. Description of School Map, ang. (3,2,7)
3. First-created form of Phonetics (11)
4. Bridgehaven \_\_ and Domebush \_\_ (9)
5. Translated as "speech", ang. or trad. (6)
6. Greek letter for most remote base (5)
8. Monthly meeting in Lintae (7)
11. Materials used for Domebush Wall (5)

## Sudoku

			4		5			1
	6		1			8	9	
1							6	
			5	1	3			9
	8	7				3		5
		3	9		7	4	2	
		9	3	5				
3	5	6				9		8
				7	9	6	5	3

### Rules

Fill all squares in the grid with the digits 1–9, such that each row, column, and 3×3 box contains every digit.

Digits may not be repeated in a row, column, or box.

## Kakuro

### Rules

Fill all squares in the grid with the digits 1–9, such that horizontal and vertical runs add up to their respective totals in the top or left.

No digit may be repeated in an unbroken column or row.