



# MAR QARDAKH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

MQIS- Where Students Get a World Class Education!

## Parent Newsletter

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His Excellency Archbishop

BASHAR WARDA

Governor of the School

An International Baccalaureate  
School in the Heart of Ankawa-  
Erbil, Kurdistan-IRAQ

Volume 1

Community Service Class

Issue 2

**Governor's Corner-** We are making headwaves in fulfilling your expectations of ensuring all children at MQIS get a world class education that will enable them to study abroad or here in Iraq. I do daily walkthroughs of the school and I am impressed with the changes I am seeing in the school. The new staff under the pandemic are working diligently to make sure all students acquire the G.L.C.E's - grade level content expectation consistent with IB programme standards. As we embark on the 2021 Lent Season, I had the pleasure of talking to your children and as you will see in this issue students for the next 50 days have developed several resolutions for themselves and I kindly advise that you support their self improvement and modifications to become 'needed', 'not needy' servants of God and humanity. As you already know, we are blessed that his Holiness Pope Francis will be visiting us on March 7th. Pray for his Holiness that he will have a memorable and successful visit in Iraq and especially in Erbil. Parents, please be advised representatives from the USA on March 3rd to open a Chesterton Academy here at MQIS so our MYP students can continue their education starting September 2021 and be prepared to take the required SAT exam for university admission worldwide as they get IB world recognized education here in Ankawa. For more details of the school, please visit this website: <https://chestertonschoolsnetwork.org/> Please work with teachers and school administrators to ensure we secure the best possible education for the most precious prize you have on this earth-your children.

### We are Proactive at MQIS

By Christine Hani Makokji

Our new English Teacher, Ms. Jenny, has been doing a phenomenal job not only teaching English, Language and Literature, but also teaching Drama and preparing MYP3&4 students for the SAT exam. According to the Chaldean Archdiocese students at MQIS and others will be able to finish high school by opening Chesterton Academy. High school graduates will be ready and prepared to take the SAT exam that is required by universities around the world. The details are forthcoming as representatives of Chesterton Academy will be meeting with school administrators, students, staff and his Excellency Archbishop Bashar Warda.



You are all brothers (Matt 23:8)  
**Pope Francis' visit to Iraq**  
5-8 March 2021

### His Holiness Pope Francis is Coming to Erbil-Kurdistan- Iraq

We are blessed to learn His Holiness will definitely be visiting us here in Erbil on Sunday, March 7th. Despite the pandemic, he persisted on visiting the beautiful people of Ankawa-Erbil- Kurdistan/Iraq. All are welcome to attend the Holy Mass that will take place at Franso Hariri Football Stadium starting at 2pm. Please do not report to the stadium unless you have registered at CUE. Our school will be closed that day and only MYP3&4 will accompany the school staff to the stadium. Other students are encouraged to go with their families. If you cannot attend the mass at the stadium, pray for his holiness to have a successful visit in Erbil.

### Welcome Back Students

By Meerna Barbat

On Sunday February 7th, KMofE-Kurdistan Ministry of Education decided to allow students to return to school and receive face to face education. However, any parent who is reluctant to send their children to school due to the pandemic, can opt to receive distance learning. So, parents have an option to either send their kids to school or hybrid- some days send them to school other days online teaching and learning. But at MQIS, the overwhelming majority of students reported to school to receive face to face education. Despite the social distancing, teachers and students were excited to see each other in-person once again. Students were well-prepared and ready for their classes. Students and staff were all happy including parents who dropped them off early in the morning.



**Principal's Corner-** We are so pleased to have all of our students back to school receiving a world class education face to face. Despite KMofE-Kurdistan Ministry of Education guidelines, we are still requiring the MYP students to continue receiving distance learning on Thursdays and we intentionally dismiss the PYP students one hour earlier to prevent congregation at dismissal. We appreciate the patience of all parents when you drop your children off at the school as we check their temperatures and ensure that safety guidelines are followed consistent with KMofE and W.H.O-World Health Organization recommendations. Safety of all at MQIS is paramount and rest assured that we exercise every safety precautionary measure for all who enter our school compound. As the school principal, I kindly ask that you advise your child(ren) to look at the schedule in ManageBac to avoid having to take all their textbooks daily, thus reducing the weight of the backpacks. I truly appreciate you making sure your child(ren) complete their homework as it is mandatory to review the skills and concepts they have acquired while they were in school.

### PYP1A Teaching MYP3 about Covid-19

By Mereet Oghanna

On Wednesday, February 17th Ms. Setta's-PYP1A students did a presentation during



the 3rd period to Ms. Jenny's MYP3 class on Coronavirus. First, a group of students took turns explaining what is Coronavirus. Another group spoke about symptoms and prevention of Coronavirus. The third group, demonstrated how to wash your hands with soap and water. Finally, Ata played the role of the patient. Our young Dr. William took the temperature and Tonya the nurse assisted. Afterwards, Romy, the pharmacist explained to the patient how to take the medication to reduce the temperature. All were amazed by the use of vocabulary, presentation skills and confidence PYP1A students had. View the video clips of this excellent presentation in our school Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MarQardakhSchool/>