



**MAR QARDAKH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**

**MQIS– Where Students Get a World Class Education!**

# Parent Newsletter

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**February, 2021**

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



**His Excellency Archbishop  
BASHAR WARDA  
Governor of the School**

**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 7<sup>th</sup>. 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 17<sup>th</sup> Ms. Setta's-PYP1A students did a presentation during



the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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/>



## The MYP 1A&B Completed & Presented Their Projects on the Environment

By Christine Hani Makokji

On Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, MYP1A&B students in assigned groups presented their projects on various pollutions in Mr. Leonard's Individual and Society class. Students spoke about the damages of pollution on the society, humans, and animals. Some explained how technology can help prevent pollution and make the environment better. Each poster did not only explain how pollution has a negative effect on the environment and the living things, but also revealed how it got started, and what we can do to correct the problem. The students did a great job organizing their thoughts on the charts and did a wonderful presentation. They used their creativity to create this beautiful message to teach people that its better to take care of our environment than to pollute it. The students now are much more aware of where to throw their trash, and how to save the environment and our health especially during the pandemic.



## Hands on Learning Experience is What we do at MQIS

By Maryam Solav

On Monday, February 8th at 11:00am for his MYP 3 science class, Mr. Kareem brought in real sheep lungs to demonstrate to students how the flow of air from your nose will reach the alveoli by passing through the major air way called the windpipe (trachea). Dima is dissecting the heart showing the valves, chambers and the cords of the valves as other student look on.



Mariam Alkadani showing how the aorta delivers rich oxygen blood to the body. Students truly enjoyed learning through hands on experience. All students were engaged!



Kristian & Rose demonstrate to students how lungs expand by inserting the hose into the windpipe and blow in the air. Following this experience, the next day students took a summative exams and they all did well!

## Its Lent Season!

By Meerna Barbat

On February 9th, students in MYP3 and on February 10th students in MYP4 were privileged to hear his Excellency Archbishop



Bashar Warda speak with them regarding Lent. Students were advised to start thinking about what they really need. In the Community Service class, students will list their resolutions and follow the guide, not to deter from it, but to keep the promise to God and do the right thing for themselves and



others. As Jesus said, "I came not to be served but to serve," and students were advised to ask God where and how to serve HIM. His Excellency advised the students that there are rules that one must follow as the football and gifted 'players' – leaders-are needed to work as a team and respect one another. His Excellency advised students to become needed not needy. A story from the Gospel of Luke was shared where a wounded person was helped by a passerby because he needed him. Students were honored and truly thankful to his Excellency for taking time off his busy schedule to come and talk to them about the purpose of Lent season that starts on February 15 and will continue for 50 days up to Easter.



## Thank you Father Milan

On Friday February 5th, Father Milan decided to take several MQIS staff members on a journey to visit several Christian sites in the Northern Part of Iraq. First stop was at the historical site of Alqosh- the prehistoric monastery next they met the mayor of the city, Ms. Lara Zara, who gave a tour of the restoration of the tomb of the prophet Nahum. Around noon, they had lunch with Father Salar Kajo before going to the town of Teleskof Father Karam Shamasha gave a tour of the town including showing his great grandfather's home that had writing in Aramic and the two beautiful churches that operate in this town. The one day journey lasted until 6pm. Sukaran Fr. Milan. Mr. Leonard, Ms. Jenny, and Ms. Maryam had a great time.



## Professional Development at MQIS

By Christine Hani Makokji

On Thursday, February 25th from 11:00am to 1:00pm, the school administration conducted a workshop on Madeline Hunter's EEEI-Essential Elements of Effective Instruction including Bloom's Taxonomy which enables the students to establish higher order thinking skills as required by the IB program. The teachers truly enjoyed this learning experience. They closure at 12:40 conducted by the presenter truly revealed the participants acquired the elements needed for effective instructions. As the way to



close the training, our principal Ms. Hala presented a Certificate of Participation to all the participants. After Mr. Albrion did the five minute presentation on the upcoming PYP5 Exhibition, all staff enjoyed a lunch together provided by the school.

## IB Learners at MQIS

By Melen Kakoni

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world. As IB Learners at Mar Qardakh International School we strive to be: **Inquirers, Knowledgeable, Thinkers, Communicators, Principled, Open-Minded, Caring, Risk-Takers, Balanced, and Reflective.** For the month of February Ms Maryam, recognized Maryam Martin as **Principled** student, Sebastine Kakone as th **Risk-Taker** and Mumtaz Qasmati as the **Inquirer**. Congratulations to our stars!



## Student Presentations

By Dima Wisam

On Sunday, February 7th, in Ms. Maryam's English class, MYP2A students did a presentation about what they like in their community. Harvey spoke about the church and the dogs, Matties did a presentation on Ankawa Mall and St. Peter and St. Paul church, whereas Astella did a presentation regarding Mar Gorgis church. Malath did a presentation on ABC Restaurant where they serve food from seven different countries. Mumtaz did a presentation on Prego Restaurant. Merrienne did a



presentation on the Library and Abel did a presentation on three cities he visited in Turkey. At the end of each presentation students asked questions. All students did a great job with their presentations.

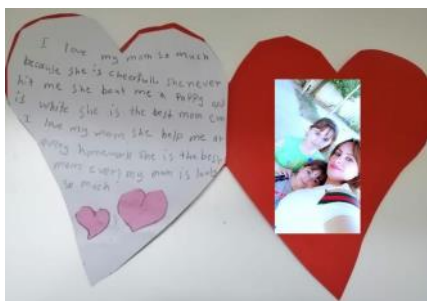




## Valentine's Day at MQIS

By Rose Redar & Sara Luay

Valentine's Day occurs every February 14th. Across the world, candy, flowers and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. The history of this special day dates back to Roman times. The history of Valentine's Day—and the story of its patron saint—is shrouded in mystery. We do know that February has long



been celebrated as a month of romance, and that St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains

vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. At MQIS, pupils celebrated this special day in different ways. Some brought roses for Ms. Hala, the school principal, as they entered the school while she checked their temperature. Others, as we see in this photo, made gifts for their teachers and parents. we see Lida Karam Fouad Bibi draw a special heart for her teacher Ms. Mozghan-PYP2B, Mariana Fadi Ohana wrote a special note to her mother about how much she loves her, and Nardeen Musa of PYP4B is dressed for the occasion and has a special card and a rose for her teacher Ms. Sahar.



## PYP5 Exhibition

By Maryam Gilwana, Maryam Siraj & Khatoon Faez

Starting February 21st, students in PYP5 will begin preparation for their exhibition that will take place in latter part of June. Such preparation helps students develop **positive attitudes**: appreciation, commitments, confidence, cooperation, creativity, curiosity, empathy, enthusiasm, independence, integrity, respect and tolerance. Such projects also help students improve **various skills** such as communication, social, research, and self management. Overall such projects increase their **knowledge** about who we are, how the world works, where we are in place and time, how we express ourselves, sharing and how we



organize ourselves. The purpose of the exhibition is to engage students in an in-depth collaborative inquiry, and enables our students to demonstrate independence and responsibility. In addition, they apply their learning and reflect upon their journey, and learn to take action. This experience enables students to work collaboratively with other students, teachers and even parents. Exhibition is a way to celebrate their learning experience during this long term project. The two classes combined will form groups of no more than four students who will have a mentor. The topic to investigate, plan, take action and reflect will be generated from student input that may include pandemic, global warming, pollution etc. The mentor for each group will be a teacher.

**Our Principal Ms. Hala Teaches Religion to PYP Students at MQIS.** As Fr. Milan teaches religion to MYP students, our principal Ms. Hala Warda decided to teach religion to the PYP1-5 students at least once a week. On February 15, 2021 during the PYP1b class, Ms. Hala taught about creation and a young student said it took God 7 days to create the earth. For PYP 3-5, Stations of the Cross are taught to students and they cover the book entitled Bible-Based Character Contentment including the following units: Kindness & Empathy, Courage, Contentment, Self-Control, Perseverance, Honesty and Forgiveness. On Tuesday, February 16th, students in PYP4 really enjoyed learning from Ms. Hala about Forgiveness.



## Learning About 2D&3D Shapes

By Matilda Ramzi

On Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Manar taught her students in PYP3 about 2D and 3D shapes. Following the lesson, she had students making various shapes. It was a joy to see Stella (first on the left of the photo) was so proud that she completed a 3D shape, she clapped for herself; a feeling of great accomplishment!



## Mr. Fadi's PYP4A-Measuring Activity!

By Rose Redar

As part of the "how we express ourselves" theme, the Math focus was on introducing measurements, using different tools such as a measuring tape, ruler, protractor, and caliper, and calculating the area and perimeter of 2-dimensional shapes. After exploring the topic in the classroom, PYP4A



students had a great opportunity to reflect on the learning and take action where students experienced calculating the area and perimeter of irregular 2-dimensional shapes outside the classroom.

## Introducing PYP1-4 Design Teacher

By Maryam Solav and Mileen Naseem

We welcome our new design teacher to the MQIS family. Her name is Rana Amer Yousif. She graduated from Salahaddin University with a degree in Architecture. Ms. Rana likes designing and enjoys teaching the students. Teaching at our school is a dream come true for her. She loves to travel. Ms. Rana has been to Lebanon and Turkey and hopes one day to go on vacation in Italy.



## The BEST of the Greatest at MQIS!

During the Month of February, 2021

## Students of the Month –PYP1-5

By Matilda Ramzi

Students who had great academic achievement, excellent behavior, good attendance and displayed leadership qualities in the classroom among their peers were recognized for being students of the month for the month of February. Our principal Ms. Hala, and Ms. Maryam had pizza with the PYP Students of the Month.



**Kneeling left to right:** Yacoub Yousif-PYP2A, Sahm Sarmed PYP2B  
**Middle Row left to right:** Alberto Ayman, Aron Van-PYP3B, Iodeph Methaq-PYP1A, and Yara Bromy PYP4A  
**Back line from left to right:** Yara Sher PYP3A, Ms. Hala, principal, Salam Karam PYP5B, Ayana Ramy-PYP1B, Maryam Farah PYP5A and Natalya Fikrat -PYP4B

## Students of the Month –MYP1-4

By Maryam Nihad

At the MYP Staff meeting, all teachers agreed to select the following students for standing out academically, good citizenship, excellent attendance and showed leadership skills. The MYP Coordinator on Wednesday, Feb.24 went in each classroom and recognized the student of the month in front of their peers all of whom gave each a resounding round of applause. During lunch time students had Pizza with Ms. Hala, the principal and the MYP Coordinator.



**Front Row From Left to Right:** Ms. Hala, principal, Malak Bano-MYP1A, Odell Kakone-MYP2B and Sharbel Yousif MYP1  
**Back Row from left to right:** Rawool Yahol-MYP2A, Dima Harboosh-MYP3 and Maryam Gilyana-MYP4



**TO Our February Born Students!**

Ayand Ramy Noori-PYP1  
Meleen Faiq Sulaqa-PYP2  
Randy Rani Raid-PYP3  
Aaron Van Fareed-PYP3  
Sharbel Sherzad Samaan-PYP3  
Natalya Fikrat Jalal-PYP4  
Valentia Waleed Zaya-MYP1  
Malak Evan Luis-MYP1  
Nadan Sarmad Pulas-MYP1  
Naenawa Rimom Jirjees-MYP1  
Matias Faiz Matti-MYP2  
Wadeea Karam Sabah-MYP2  
Cynthia Basman Hanna-MYP4



## Employee(s) of the Month at MQIS

Congratulations to Ms. Setta and Ms. Rawaa for being selected employees of the month for February. Our principal, Ms. Hala indicated both had outstanding performance, service and dedication by going above their call of duty to service the educational needs of all PYP students. Therefore, this month two outstanding teachers are recognized for their contribution.







# MQIS-Mar Qardakh International School

## Calendar

### March, 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 -Lent-2021 -MYP1&2 Design -MYP1&2- Math Summative -MYP3- Drama Presentations -MYP4- Drama Presentations	2 -Lent-2021 -MYP1 Civics-Exam -MYP2-Human Rights-Summative -S.S -MYP3&4-Arabic Listening -Myp3&4- Drama Presentations	3 -Chesterion Meeting with MQIS Administration -Lent-2021 -MYP2-Arabic-Listening Exam -MYP1- English Summative Exam	4 -Chesterion Delegation –Meeting with teachers -Lent-2021	5 -Lent-2021	6 -Lent-2021
7 <i>His Holiness Pope Francis –Erbil</i>  -No School -Lent-2021	8 -Chesterion-Meeting with the students -Steubenville Delegation-Meeting with staff & lunch -Lent-2021	9 -Lent-2021 -MYP3&4 Writing Arabic	10 -Lent-2021 -MYP3-English Summative -MYP4-Lang. & Literature Summative	11 -Lent-2021	12 -Lent-2021	13 -Lent-2021
14 -Lent-2021 -MYP4-English Summative -MYP3-Lang.& Lit. Summative -MYP1A&1B-1&S-Summative Exam	15 -Lent-2021	16 -Lent-2021 -MYP4-Chemistry Unit 4-Summative -MYP3-1&S-Summative Exam	17 -Lent-2021 MYP3-Science-Unit 4 Exam MYP4-Physics-Unit 4 Exam -MYP2A&B-1&S-Summative Exam	18 -Lent-2021	19 -Lent-2021	20 -Lent-2021
21 -Lent-2021 -MYP1- Science Summative	22 -Lent-2021 -MYP2- Lang.& Lit. Summative Exam	23 -Lent-2021 -MYP1-Lang/&Lit Summative Exam -MYP4-1&S -Summative Exam	24 -Lent-2021 -MYP2-Science Summative Exam	25 -Lent-2021	26 -Lent-2021	27 Lent-2021
28 -Lent-2021 -MYP4- Biology Summative Exam -PYP1-Summative Exam-Unit 4	29 -Lent-2021	30 -Lent-2021	31 -Lent-2021			