



# MAR QARDAKH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

MQIS- Where Students Get a World Class Education!

## Parent Newsletter

Ms. Hala Warda, Principal

+96475014450

[h.warda@marqardakh.com](mailto:h.warda@marqardakh.com)

March, 2021



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 3

**Governor's Corner-** The month of March has been rather overwhelming with tasks and responsibilities. Thanks to Almighty God for the energy provided, we have been able to accomplish a lot not only for our school commitment, but for the future of Christians in Iraq. His Holiness Pope Francis's visit to Iraq hopefully will have a significant positive impact on tolerance and coexistence in peace and prosperity for all 'brothers' in Iraq - land of Abraham. Our staff and students participated in his Holiness Mass in Franso Hariri Stadium where they were interviewed by the international media and seeing your children on TV was truly a joyous moment for me, feeling proud of their talents and commitment to life successes. As a result of his Holiness visit, we had two American delegation visit the Archdioceses of Ankawa which focused on our future generation- Education. Thanks to hard work of our principal Ms. Hala at MQIS, we managed to meet and greet the two delegations in a productive matter. Consequently, we received commitment that they will work with us cooperatively and collaboratively to ensure academic success for all of our posterity. First, we had the delegation from Chesterton Network in establishing a Catholic High School where our students will be able to develop a love for Jesus Christ, but with their cohesive Grade 9-12 curriculum our students will do very well in the SAT or other external exams required for university admission either here in Iraq or abroad. This delegation met with parents, students and staff and they are excited to work with us on this mission. We met with the KRG Minister of Education, Mr. Alan and thanks to Mr. Faim we secured a licensed to open such school in our midst. During this time, we also hosted a delegation from Franciscan University of Steubenville from Ohio, USA. The MQIS school administration and I met with them and kindly requested that they provide us at least 10 teachers starting August 2021. The teachers including a friar/priest I requested for religious education, will work together with the Chesterton administration so these teachers receive PD-Professional Development training to ensure that they will be able to implement the curriculum in such a matter that will enable our students to excel academically and be successful in whatever university they will attend. Happy Easter to all.

### PYP 5A&B- Projects in Progress

On St. Patrick's Day, Wednesday, March 17th parents of PYP5 prepared food for all students to have lunch. The proceeds of this will be used to fund the projects of the students in PYP5A&B. Eight groups have already been formed to research and prepare projects on the following eight topics: Climate Change, Pollution, Pandemic, Endangered Species, Waste Management, Natural Disasters, Deforestation, and Over Population. Researching, planning and working together on these projects, students will acquire a wealth of knowledge including developing positive attitudes i.e appreciation, commitment, confidence, cooperation, creativity, curiosity, empathy, enthusiasm, independence, respect and tolerance. These projects help students improve various skills such as communication, social, research, and self management. Good luck PYP5A&B on your mission to a superb exhibition towards end of May beginning of June.



**On Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at the Franso Hariri Stadium,** his holiness Pope Francis conducted a mass in the presence of 10,000 people starting at 4:00pm. MQIS MYP 3 and 4 students had VIP passes where they were seated near the stage where his Holiness conducted the mass. As the Pope arrived in his Popemobile, as a result of one of the MQIS staff member's initiative, people began shouting VIVA PAPA as he was passing by. Prior to His Holiness arrival at the stadium, the MQIS staff and students began singing and dancing with the nuns. Our Excellency Archbishop Bashar Warda towards the end of the mass made a historic speech in English thanking his Holiness for coming to Iraq and inspire Christians to remain in their ancestral land-land of Abraham and predicated coexistence and tolerance. Students and staff of MQIS were picked up by buses at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chaldean Catholic Parish

**On Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>,** the Delegation from Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio-USA made up of Franciscan Friar, Dave Pivonka, president of the university, Dr. Daniel Kempton-Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Tif-



fany Boury, Director of the Masters in Catholic Leadership met with his Excellency Archbishop Bashar Warda and Ms. Hala, to discuss a plan of bringing at least 10 teachers from this prestigious university to come and teach next academic year. Details of the agreement were discussed and both parties agreed to the terms and conditions. A tour of the school was provided to the guests and they were impressed with the students, staff and the school.

**Principal's Corner-** As you were made aware on March 11th and Sunday, March 14th school was closed due to the Kurdistan Holiday and Covid 19. Please be advised in person, on line or hybrid, I assure you, your children will continue to get a world class education ensuring that they acquire all the necessary skills and concepts they need to move on to the next grade level come August 2021. But your support is needed to work with our teachers to ensure academic success for our children. I like to encourage you to ensure that your children devote at least one hour to completion of homework assignments. It is imperative that you set a time where either you or your wife can just sit next to your child to ensure that they complete their assignments. Homework is basically to review what they have learned that day and prepare them for the summative exams. As you all know, during the month of March we had all sorts of different activities but all was related for the betterment of your children and their future. We have missed several school days in March due to the Kurdish Nowruz and as a result of students will have to catch up with their classes because as you know due to Easter Holiday, school will be closed on Thursday April 1st, Sunday, April 4th and Monday, April 5th. Students are scheduled to return to school on Tuesday, April 6th. Happy Easter and God Bless MQIS Family!

**On Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, at 11:030am,** the Chesterton Delegation from USA- Mr. Andrew Youngblood, Ms. Amy Hunt and Ms. Laura



Bramon Hassan had a meeting with all MYP students of MQIS regarding the opening of a high school for 2021-2022 academic year. Mr. Andrew spoke to students about the curriculum that will enable students to do well in the SAT external exam required for university admissions. The courses are intertwined and the teacher serves as a facilitator. This is a four-year program with sequential and integrated curriculum with high level day to day lesson plans. The classical curriculum combines a broad liberal arts education with a strong emphasis on development of Christian virtues and appreciation of beauty. The three-pillar model- **Intellect-** western thought from physics to philosophy, **Character-** cardinal virtues, prudence, temperance, fortitude and justice; and **Spirituality-** to know God, love Him and serve Him. Students asked questions about the test and Mr. Andrew answered and also explained that in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade they can take PSAT. He advised the students that they can take the SAT as many times as they like and use the one with the highest score once they get to the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The meeting lasted until 12:15.