



# MAR QARDAKH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

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

## Parent Newsletter

Ms. Hala Warda, *Principal*

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May, 2021



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

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

Volume 1

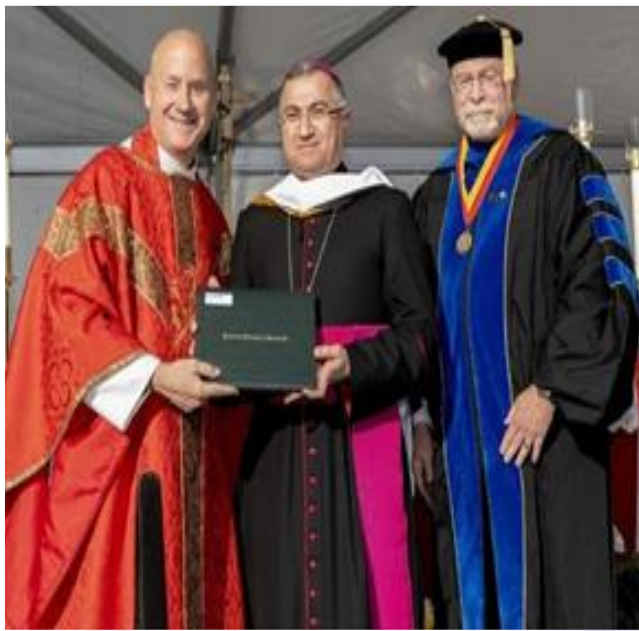
Community Service Class

Issue 5

### Three Honorary Doctorates - Two from USA and One from Australia

**His Excellency Archbishop  
DR. BASHAR MATTI WARDA**

On May 14<sup>th</sup> during the Baccalaureate Mass, our



excellency Archbishop Bashar Matti Warda was awarded the **Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters** for his dedication to preaching the Gospel and nourishing the faith amid the heightened persecution, terrorism, and unrest in Iraq in recent decades. In the photo, Dr. Dave Pivonka, President of Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio-USA, (left) and vice President Dr. Daniel Kempton (right) presenting the award. Following this memorable event, on May 16<sup>th</sup> his excellency received a third **Honorary Doctorate** from the University of Dallas, Texas-USA. The **first Honorary Doctorate** his excellency received was in 2019 from Australian Catholic University, Melbourne, Australia in recognition for his distinguished service to the Christian Community in the Middle East. Congratulations Your Excellency Archbishop Dr. Bashar Matti Warda. We, the Mar Qardakh International School family, are proud our school governor is being recognized worldwide for his contribution to the Christians of Iraq in all aspect of life including education. In addition to being the first IB world school in Iraq, for the upcoming school year 2021-2022, we will have the first Catholic High School in Iraq recognized worldwide especially in the USA– Chesterton Academy. With Dr. Bashar Matti Warda's leadership, commitment and perseverance our students will continue to receive a world class education right here in Ankawa.

### Meet our Intern from USA

*By Meryam Syawish*

Alex McKenna is a temporary teacher from Franciscan University of Steubenville where he studies Political Science and Humanities and Catholic culture. He is the oldest of six children. Alex has been teaching at our school since May 1st and will finish out the term. Alex has a passion for teaching religion from PYP1 through MYP3 and hopes to return to the school after his studies are completed.



### Mr. Najeeb Slewa Maroge, MQIS Administrative Director

*By Maryam Solav, Mileen, Anderyas, Christine and Dima*

Mr. Najeeb Slewa Maroge is a 44-year career educator. After he graduated from the University of Sulaimani back in 1973 with a degree in Science, he began teaching. He taught math and physics at Permam Middle and High School. from 1974 to 2004. After this resounding experience he worked as a supervisor for math and physics. He supervised teachers at Bakr Middle School, Mahaad Edad Almualmin and Ankawa middle school. Following this experience, he started working at Mar Qardakh International school since it was established in 2011. He is the Administrative Director. Among other things, Mr. Najeeb's duties and responsibilities are to complete all the necessary paperwork required by Kurdistan Ministry of Education and assist to convert the IB grading system to the Kurdistan



system. Mr. Najeeb enjoys his job. On his spare time, he enjoys reading and watching documentary films. Mr. Najeeb is married and has three daughters. His daughters are married and he is a proud grandfather of two boys and two girls. Mr. Najeeb is fluent in Arabic, Chaldean, and Kurdish. He is academically proficient in English. Mr. Najeeb enjoys his work. He is well or-



ganized and efficient. Mr. Najeeb loves the students and cares about the school so much that he is first in and last one out-day in and day out. Mr. Najeeb said this school year there has been great improvement regarding the quality of education. He stated that the license for high school has been approved for 2021-2022 school year for Chesterton Academy.

### Two Masters Degrees for Ms. Hala

Our principal Miss Hala Warda graduated from Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio-USA on Saturday, May 15, 2021. She fulfilled all the requirements in receiving not



one Master's Degree, but two: **Masters of Science in Education Administration** and **Masters of Business Administration**. Congratulations Ms. Hala. We, the Mar Qardakh International School family are proud of your academic achievement. We look forward to having you run Mar Qardakh International School in upcoming school years. This school year the MQIS school community have come to know you and respect you for your passion and commitment to ensuring our children receive a quality education in a clean, safe, healthy teaching and learning environment.

**Principal's Corner-** His excellency Dr. Bashar Matti Warda and I accomplished a lot while we were in the USA during most part of the month of May. Besides getting my degrees and his excellency receiving his Honorary Doctorate, we managed to accomplish a lot for our school for the upcoming school year. We interviewed and hired several newly graduated teachers who will be coming to teach at MQIS and Chesterton Academy during 2021-2022 school year. Chesterton trainers in USA have also reached out and trained these teachers on the unique high school curriculum Chesterton has that will prepare our students to do well in SAT exam so when they graduate they can go to any university here or abroad. During our absence we maintained contact with staff at MQIS and everything went according to our plan. Please be advised the last day for students for this school year is June 10th. Thus, be advised summative assessments are scheduled first ten days as noted in the calendar in the last page of this issue of the Parent Newsletter. We are grateful for the support we received from MQIS school community. Thank you for the positive comments you have shared for our accomplishments through social media. I look forward in working with you for the upcoming school year. God bless and have a wonderful summer.



## Surprise Party for Our Distinguished Leaders

By Patrisha Najeeb

On Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, during last hour of school, a pleasant surprise party was arranged by MYP



students and staff of MQIS for his excellency Dr. Warda and the school principal Ms. Hala for their achievement in the United States of America during the month of May. His excellency was recognized for his decades of untiring effort in preaching the gospel in the midst of crisis in Iraq. He was bestowed **two Honorary Doctorate Degrees** from two prestigious universities. Whereas Ms. Hala, our principal received two Masters Degrees. His excellency could not participate because he had a meeting but Ms. Hala was surprised and thanked everybody. A bouquet of flowers was presented to Ms. Hala and of course she cut the special cake made for her. Students and staff enjoyed the cake and other sweets for this special occasion. Congratulations to both of our school leaders! God Bless!



### MQIS Actors

By Maryam Siraj

On Tuesday May 11, during first period, Miss Jenny's MYP4 Drama class performed their original skits in the gymnasium. There were four groups. Each one was assigned a Christian value (love, courage, compassion, and respect). The groups were assigned to write their own original script that reflected their value. They also came up with the settings, characters, and storyline. The students had to be creative by doing props, costumes, and stage set up. MYP4 did a great job. They learned how to communicate, work as a



### Drama Class

By Carmen Rami

The students from MYP1 and MYP2 presented their second Drama skits with Mr. Brendan on Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> and Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> of May. Mr. Brendan split the students up in groups of 4-5 and gave the students themes to choose from such as "lost in a forest", "holiday gone bad", and "treasure hunt". The students from each respective class then spent a few periods writing their scripts based on the themes given. This was followed by a few periods of rehearsal and practice until the students were finally ready to perform in front of their peers. This type of activity not only gets the students to showcase their acting skills, but also their creativity and how they work together as a team.



## MYP1 and MYP2 Drama Classes

By Christine Hani

On Tuesday, May 4, 2021, students in MYP1 and MYP2 performed in front of their peers and guests. They did a great job acting out their roles in mini-plays provided by their teacher Mr. Brandon. Using the script of short comedy plays written by D.M. Larson students in small groups acted out the following plays: cell Phone Zombie, The Magic Coin and the Lemonade, Pig Nose Princesses, and Rock!



### Family Tree- By Anryas Asker

Maryam, Chant and Salina worked together on a project in Design Class. Ms. Saveen who teaches Design class stated that it was their idea to make the Family Tree for the school. They included the photos of the principal, teachers and some of their class mates. The reason for the family tree is to show their appreciation for their teachers and class mates during Teacher They Appreciation week which was May 2-7. They did this project to show that we are like a family at Mar Qardakh International School. The box below the tree is for students to place their goals for the year



### MYP1 & MYP2 Design Class

By Sentya Kakona

Universally, it is agreed that recycling is one of the most beneficial projects to attempt especially in our modern times. People in different occupations have shown their interest to recycle objects in order to make them into something new. Specifically, in the field of design, this is a big step toward creativity and innovation. Recycling encourages us to be creative to work with the material we have, which has already been used. In this way, the design thinker has to dive into new depths and create unique ideas to manage their recycling project. Thus, as design thinkers, MYP1 and MYP2 decided to take on this project as their new step for this unit, and have worked hard to produce items that represent creativity, beauty, and innovation. First, this project encouraged the students to do manual work that helps them with practicality and movement. Secondly, it helped them show their creative side, and flourish their skills in this area. Thirdly, the recycling project has been a fun and entertaining part of the class for the students, which helps them learn more as they enjoy more. To conclude, the students learn about the importance of recycling to our planet. The importance of reducing chemical (gas) emissions by eliminating burning and throwing away objects, and instead shaping them into new interesting items that can be re-used. This entire process of work and fun is essential for the design student to understand that through creativity, hard work and determination, our projects can help the planet be a better place!



## Summative Assessment in Gymnasium

By Patrisha Najeeb

On Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, MYP3 students took the English summative exam in the Gymnasium. The assessment was on Unit 1 entitled Am I ready for the Real World? Ms. Jenny distributed the exam and students wasted no time and got right into



it. They appeared confident in answering the questions.

### Hands on Activity is the Way to Learn

By Jenny Jallo

In preparation for the last summative assessment in Mr. Robert Leonard's MYP2 I&S class, students in the latter part of May had to work on a Theme Project Organizer: Follow an Explorer. Students had to choose a route of an explorer from the unit covered in class and think about what they would see on their journey if they traveled that route. Students also described what to wear while travelling with the explorer. Students had to draw a map showing the various routes and create a map with illustrations that show what exploration was like during the time the explorer made the journey. Students had to think about how the land and the people who live there are different. In order to prepare to make the map, they were required to answer some questions to guide them to completion of the task. The next part for students was to write a story about the people they meet on the journey. In order to help students write the story, a list of questions was provided to them. Following this, students had to make a transportation collage. Modes of transportation can include ships, horses, mules and even your feet. The last part of this project is to display the work and do a presentation in front of the class. Students can even dress in a costume to do their presentation on June 6<sup>th</sup>. On the photo we see Salina Salim, Yara Wassim and Maryam Martin of MYP2B displaying their project which they will present to the class.



### Reading is Fun! By Meryam Syawish

Ms. Sahar, Homeroom teacher, devoted some time during the latter part of May on raising awareness about reading strategies with her PYP4B students. The objective is to get the students friends and family to read more. It is indeed a joy to see our students read to their parents and friends. Those that read not only improve their speaking skills but their writing skills as well.





## PYP5A Students Conducting a Survey

By Maryam Solav

On Thursday, May 6, 2021, Mr. Albron's students were observed in groups of four going around in school asking teachers and students questions. Each group had only one question with five different responses that one can select. This task was assigned as part of a class assignment. One group's question was "What is your favorite sport?" Another group had the question of, "What is your favorite pet?" The third group's question was, "What is your favorite football team?". The favorite question for some of the staff members was, "What is your favorite food?" From information collected, students analyzed the data by finding out the mean, mode, median and range as part of completing the Math assignment. Students handled this task in a professional manner. Keep up the good work MQIS stu-



## Parts of Speech

By Carmen Rami

In Mr. John's class, PYP 3B students built a train out of cardboard. For each wagon, students labeled it as one part of the speech i.e noun, verb, adverb. Students recently enjoyed doing this project which enabled them to remember all parts of speech. They used



boxes, colored paper, stick, duct tape, and scissors to create a train that explained each part by itself. Whereas On Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Mr. John's MYP Students did a presentation about the **Earth's Water**. Groups of four students got in front of the class and did their presentations by listing the inventions to Save Earth's Water. First, the group had read and then prepared for the



presentations to answer the following questions; How do we use water responsibly at home? How to use water responsibly in our community? How countries are resolving conflict in regards to water and how they share water with one another? Students provided answers to these and other questions during their presentation i.e take shorter showers, turn water off when you are brushing your teeth, etc

## PYP1 and PYP2 Learning Arabic Letters

By Maryam Siraj

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Christina developed a fun learning activity for PYP pupils to learn the Arabic Letters. First, she had the kids create a clock with Arabic letters. Then, pupils would spin the handle on the clock. Afterwards, they would write the Arabic letter the handle stopped on using their finger on a plate of white sugar. The kids enjoyed this activity. Some could not resist licking their fingers.



## English Lesson for PYP1A

By Maryam Gilyana

Pupils in Ms. Setta's homeroom had an English test in a fun way. The test was basically to review what they have learned. There were 13 envelopes, each numbered. Each envelope had a profound saying, i.e *You are amazing! I believe in you!*



The teacher called each pupil to go in front of the class and pick a number from the bag. The teacher provided each pupil with the envelope with the corresponding number. Before the pupil can go back to the seat, each had to read in front of the class what was written on the envelope. Following this fun activity, pupils had to open the envelope and pull out a sheet with a list of nouns. The task was for them to make each noun plural using 's' or 'ies'.

## Lesson on Electricity

By Nurseen Neenus

When Ms. Nagham and Ms. Mozghan covered a lesson with PYP2A and PYP2B students on electricity the students got excited. Consequently, they decided to have the students themselves use objects at home to create electrical circuits. Students could only use batteries, wire, light and switch. Students were very creative. No two projects were alike. Some used small watch batteries, others regular batteries. After they completed the project, each student was asked to present it to the class. Teachers were so pleased seeing the joy in the kids' eyes while they presented what they have made. Learning in this way is fun and students remember more when they do hands on activities.



## The PYP 3 A&B 2050 Design Project

By Tallin Ghazarian

The PYP3 A&B worked on a project to design a creative futuristic 2050 map using their imagination. They worked extra hard and from the drawings you can see how creative these students were in predicting the future maps. They got all the support they needed from their amazing Design teacher Ms. Rana. She provided them with the tools and with the extra help they needed. The students used their imagination to create these beautiful maps that they think is the next best thing in the future of 2050.



## Using Craft to Show a Human Virtue

By Khatoon Fayez

Our intern, Mr. Alex taught religion to PYP and MYP students. Students truly enjoyed his teaching style. After he would talk about a human virtue during the PYP class he used traditional Mexican craft to understand honesty. Our students will miss Mr. Alex and hope that he will return after he finishes his studies in USA.



## Stars of the Month -PYP1-5

Every month teachers select our stars of the month who had excellent attendance and stood out in class. The following students were selected by their homeroom teachers who met this criteria. We congratulate our stars for a job well done.

Rami Basam and William Tofek-PYP1A, Daniel Dani & Veronica Frankleen-PYP1B, Matias Shamel-PYP2A, Lida Karam-PYP2B, George Unafi-PYP3A, Maran Martin-PYP3B, David Dildar-PYP4A, Meeral Muhannad-PYP4B, Baz Wisam-PYP5A and Fadi Luay-PYP5B



## Students of the Month MYP1-4

Students in upper grades are selected as students of the month not by one teacher but by all their teachers. Teachers meet every month and discuss which students stood out during the month in the area of attendance, summative exam results and student leadership including supporting the academic achievement.

In addition, the most improved students are selected. Congratulation to the following students: Noora Sarmad (I) & Nae Nawa Rimoro MYP1A, Malak Naseen & Nadan Sarmad (I)-MYP1B, Harel Hadeer-MYP2A, Damel Ewan-MYP2B, Merna Mohanad-MYP3, Christina Makoji and Nurseen Neenus- (I)-MYP4



## Employees of the Month

For the month of May, students selected the employees of the month for going above and beyond their call of duty. Community Service class conducted a survey and students selected Ms. Saveen



and Ms. Sahar as the teachers who stood out this month for outstanding performance, service and dedication. Congratulations, Ms. Saveen and Ms. Sahar!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MAY BORN Students

Elona Hadeer George-PYP1  
Elen Hagob Seerob-PYP1  
Harut Hrant Rustum-PYP1  
San Nabeel Seryoka-PYP2  
Bella Zanko Skharia-PYP2  
Matias Shamil Anwer-PYP2  
Malak Wisam Jamal-PYP2  
Merna Khalid Jamal-PYP2  
Yohan Firas Ablahad-PYP2  
Stavro Nihad Kareem-PYP5  
Enana Amange Fraci-MYP1  
Maria Evan Yousif-MYP1  
Hanil Hadeer Najeeb-MYP2  
Yani Luay Fakhri-MYP2  
Maryam Shamil Anwar-MYP3  
Maryam Siraj Mumtaz-MYP4







# MQIS-Mar Qardakh International School

## June, 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 -MYP1 & MYP 2 L& L Test -MYP3&4- S.S. Summative -PYP5- Kurdish Summative	2 -MYP 4- Biology Summative -MYP 2- Kurdish Summative -MYP 1- Social Studies Summative	3 -MYP2 & MYP 3- Science Test -MYP 4- Kurdish Test -MYP 1- Civics Summative -PYP3&4 -Kurdish Summative -PYP4&5-Social Summative	4	5
6 MYP 1A &MYP 1B-I&S Test -MYP2A & MYP2B-I&S Test -MYP4- Physics Summative -PYP1- Summative - PYP5A &B-EXHIBITION	7 MYP 3-I&S Summative MYP 4- Chemistry Test MYP1- Science Test MYP2- S.S. Summative PYP3- Summative Test PYP4- Summative PYP5A &B-EXHIBITION	8 -MYP 3- English Summative -MYP4-I&S- Summative -MYP2- Human Rights Test -PYP4-Civics Summative PYP5A &B-EXHIBITION	9 MYP 4- L&L Summative MYP 3-L& L Summative PYP5-Civics Summative	10 -MYP 4- English Summative -PYP5-Summative Assessment	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	-		