



# 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

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Community Service Class

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### 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 Almuallim 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.