



MARQARDAKH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL PARENT NEWSLETTER



Ms. Hala Warda, Principal
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Governor's Corner:

This year is a special year at Mar Qardakh. The school year began with a wonderful group of new and returning faculty and staff members including 8 foreign missionaries. This year, however, is particularly special because it is an evaluation year for Mar Qardakh. This means that MQS will be working along-side IB representatives to evaluate and measure MQS's progress and process of implementing the IB Programme to ensure that our students receive a world class education. Preparations for this visit have already begun at MQS. The administration has started working on and preparing all the necessary paperwork. Many of our faculty and staff members have started taking different IB courses, and teachers have made changes in their classroom and hubs. The students are taking part in this process by demonstrating, in word and action, new IB Learner Attributes and Attitudes. The success of this year's undertaking requires the help of all, including parents. We need to begin preparing our MQS parents for this process, and we ask for the prayers and cooperation of all. Thank you. God Bless.

Principal's Words:

I feel extremely blessed to be a part of Mar Qardakh this year. We all, administration, teachers, and staff at MQS, are working hard to prepare for the IB evaluation visit in May 2022. I assure you that this will support the learning journey of our students by encouraging them as they accomplish great things and grow. Our core values of caring, honesty, perseverance, respect, and responsibility will support their learning journey as IB life-long learners. As the school's principal, I kindly ask that you advise your children to look at the schedule on ManageBac in order to avoid having to take all their textbooks home daily, and thus reduce the weight of their backpacks. Finally, I truly appreciate you making sure your children complete their homework, as it is mandatory to review the skills and concepts they have acquired while they are in school. Thank you for being a part of the MQS family. Together, we will see this unique year through. God bless you all.

All Saints Day

On November 1st, the Church annually honors all those who have made it into heaven, whether known or unknown. This year, the students, faculty, and staff of MQS celebrated the Solemnity of All Saints by dressing up as their favorite Saints, and uniting in fellowship to pray and sing together, as one body.

في الأول من شهر تشرين الثاني، تقيم الكنيسة تذكّار جميع القديسين. إثر ذلك، يجتمع طلاب مدرسة مار قرداغ الدولية للاحتفال بنفس واحد، مرتدين زيّ قديسهم المفضل، إشارة منهم لقبولهم السعي بفرح نحو حياة القداسة.

INTRODUCING NEW PYP TEACHERS!

REBEKAH



My name is Rebekah Nevarez, and I teach PYP 5a. I am from Massachusetts. I have a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Elementary Education and Special Education, and I am working towards receiving a Master's in Administrative Education from Franciscan University of Steubenville. I have enjoyed getting to know each one of my students, and I look forward to seeing the plans God has in store for PYP 5a this year.

MARIANA



My name is Mariana and I teach Physical Education for PYP. I am from Baghdad, but I live in Erbil. I graduated from Salahaddin University - College of Physical Education & Sport Sciences. For me, PE is not supposed to be a lesson but rather a passion. I want to make students fall in love with PE and understand how important it can be for their physical and mental health.

IZABEL



My name is Izabel. I am the PYP 1c homeroom teacher. I am from Kirkuk and I studied at Salahaddin University, college of agriculture. Teaching in Mar Qardakh school has given me the opportunity to teach students how to be caring and responsible.

MIRNA



My name is Mirna Thaer and I am the PYP 5b teacher. I am from Baghdad. I have a Master's degree in English Literature from the University of Baghdad. I have been teaching for over two years, and I look forward to continuing my journey as a teacher here at MQS.

SHAHAD



My name is Shahad and I teach Arabic for PYP. I am from Mosul, and I studied at the University of Ninawa - Department of Communication Engineering. Teaching Arabic at MQS has given me the chance to teach students that our culture, traditions, and language are the foundations upon which we build our identity.

KAY



My name is Ms. Kay Salih, and I teach PYP 3b. I am from the Philippines, and I have a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology from AMA University. I am truly fortunate to be teaching at Mar Qardakh this year, and I am looking forward to being a part of this beautiful family.

HADEEL



My name is Hadeel Husham and I am a PYP 2 teacher. I was born and raised in Ankawa. Since graduating from the English Language for Teaching Department at Tishik International University, teaching has always been my passion. I speak five languages and I am very happy to be a part of Mar Qardakh's amazing team for this year.

VINA



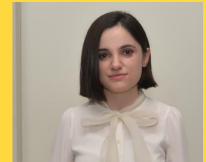
My name is Vina Yousif and I was born in Erbil, Ankawa. After graduating from Medical school, I started my journey at Babel College for Philosophy and Theology, and then I joined Mar Qardakh School as a religion teacher. My aspiration is to deliver the Word of God to my students and drive them into understanding their faith, in order to help them follow Jesus' footsteps towards holiness.

FARAH



My name is Farah and I am a PYP 2 teacher. I am from Koya and I have studied at Salahaddin University - Department of Geology. Our students need to build the skills they need in order for them to be lifelong learners, and I am looking forward to the adventures that my students and I will have together in this year, as we discover where we truly belong.

NIVIL



Hello, my name is Nivil, and I teach Arabic for PYP. I am from Erbil, and I studied at Soran University, College of Arts - Department of Arabic Language. I have been working in this field for almost six years now, and teaching at MQS is one of the best experiences in my career so far. I have learned many great things since I have been here, and I look forward to learning many more.

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**"A good teacher
is like a candle,
it consumes
itself to light
the way for
others!"**



We look forward to even bigger and better things



Let's all become saints!

The PYP students celebrated All Saints Day by coming to school dressed up as their favorite saint. In the mid-morning hours, all the PYP gathered in the lobby to pray, sing songs, and share with others a little about their saints. Also, each PYP class picked a Patron Saint for their classroom, to whom they pray to intercede for them and ask for heavenly protection.



The MYP students honored their favorite saints by dressing in costumes. Students created posters of their favorite saints in Mr. Ryan's Religion class, which were displayed throughout Hub 3. At the end of the school day, all MYP students gathered in the lobby in fellowship to celebrate their saints. Students received a religious article as a gift, and took pictures with one another.



NEWS

PYP NEWS

Oshan Arkhawan Yousif, a PYP2B student, won the first IB Learner Award, for being a Risk-Taker. Oshan would get anxious and overly stressed every time his teacher stepped out of the room, or was not next to him. However, Oshan, with the help of his parents, teacher, and the MQS Administration, fought his fears and was able to overcome them. "For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love and of a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7) Congratulations Oshan!



MYP NEWS

Students in MYP started having "Mentorships" and "Reading buddy" periods, in which they help to mentor and guide PYP students with PowerPoint projects, presentations, reading, and many other relevant skills.



TEACHERS OF THE MONTH:



Every month our principal, Ms. Hala, selects Teachers of the Month. This month we congratulate Ms. Marwa Gilyana, the PYP 4b teacher, and Ms. Saveen Soran, the MYP Design teacher, for being selected as Teacher of the Month. Both have gone above and beyond their call of duty and have done an extraordinary job at MQS. Thank you both for everything you do for our school, but most importantly for our students, and congratulations!

PYP NEWS

On November 18th, PYP 4 students visited the Citadel in Erbil, one of the oldest, continuously inhabited settlements. Students inquired about the history of this ancient settlement, and about the artifacts that were displayed and exhibited in the museum.



STARS OF THE MONTH:



Every month, each PYP homeroom teacher selects a student who has excelled academically and behaviorally to be Stars of the Month. This month Nawras Nadir 5b, Rameel Romio 5a, Yaaqub Yousif 3b, Emanuel Manhal 3a, Michael Coyle 4a, Danial Rami 4b (back row from left to right), Merka Wisam 2a, Murad Majd 1b, Elana Rani 1b, Joyce Noor 1c, Elana Rani 1b, Annabelle Savania, and Fidel Firas 2b (front row from left to right) were selected as Stars of the Month. On November 28, 2021, Ms. Hala, our principal, and Ms. Yvette, our PYP coordinator, congratulated each of them and delivered their certificates. Congratulations to all of our Stars!



Each month, MYP teachers select students who have made the most progress, and have demonstrated exemplary academic achievements and leadership skills, as Students of the Month. For November, MYP teachers selected Amy Raid MYP 2b, Dima Kharboosh MYP 4, Marina Slewa MYP 5, and Yana Yousif MYP 2a (back row from left to right), Rawool Yakoo MYP 3a, Fadi Alaa MYP 1a, Verona Shwan MYP 1b, and Mayar Bazi MYP 3b (front row from left to right) as Students of the Month. On November 28, 2021 Ms. Hala, our principal, and Ms. Madeline, our MYP coordinator, congratulated each student and handed them their certificate.

MYP NEWS

There are four newly created MQS Houses: the House of St. Ambrose, St. Augustine, St. John Chrysostom, and St. Athanasius. Along with the Houses, a new merit/demerit system was established. Students earn merits for exhibiting IB Learner attitudes and attributes, and for their good and virtuous behavior. Students, however, receive demerits when their behavior is disorderly. Houses compete for merits, and at the end of the year the house with the most merits, wins the White Horse Cup. During the month of November, the houses competed with the other in a friendly game of "Capture the Flag." The winner of the game takes five points away from the team they competed against.



BLESSED BIRTHDAY WISHES TO OUR STUDENTS BORN IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER:

- PYP1b: Armand Ararad Markar 11/17
Tatya Nuhayl Shakir 11/17
- PYP1c: Maruska Rudan Muneer 11/02
Anabela Julian Habib 11/01
- PYP2a: Leon Naseem Boya 11/10
William Towfek Zouheir 11/28
- PYP2b: Fidel Firas Polis 11/24
Mariam Ara Haykaz 11/01
- PYP3a: Rozalina Fadi Solaqa 11/05
- PYP3b: Linel Sandro Solaqa 11/15
- PYP4a: Meena Yousif Bakoss 11/20
Dima Husam Khidhir 11/07
- PYP5a: Abdullah Zaed Naffi 11/15
Meeral Mohanad Manueel 11/08
Elbro Kaldo Ramzi 11/16
- MYP1a: Joseph Rony Habib 11/26
- MYP1b: Shon Naseem Boya 11/18
- MYP2b: Yousif Siraj Mumtaz 11/16
- MYP3a: Mery An Sinan Adnan 11/12
- MYP3b: Mumtaz Ihab Mumtaz 11/25
Sebastian Basman Hanna 11/14
- MYP4: Meerna Mohanad Manueel 11/22
Yousif Diyar Qardagh 11/24
Ibrahim Nasseer Najeeb 11/21

