

# DECEMBER, 2021

## MARQARDAKH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL PARENT NEWSLETTER



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On December 9th, the students, faculty, and staff of Mar Qardakh came together to celebrate Christmas. They gathered around a reverent live nativity scene and Christmas tree to sing Christmas songs, share Christmas wishes, and receive a special gift from Santa Clause.

في التاسع من شهر كانون الأول، تحلّق حول شجرة الميلاد والطفل المولود مع أمّه في المغارة طلاب مدرسة مار قرداغ، مدرّسيها والعاملين فيها مغنّين أغاني ميلاديّة في جوّ ملوّه التقوى والفرح. بعد تشارك الأمنيات الميلاديّة والأفراح، اختتمّ الحفل بتوزيع الهدايا من قبل بابا نويل كعربونٍ للمحبّة التي بها نحيا.

### Head Of School's Words:

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us at Mar Qardakh School!

"It's the most wonderful time of the year," where one celebrates the spirit of unity and love.

At Mar Qardakh School, we are one family, a community that cares for one another, and shares love and happiness during these special holidays.

Thanks to you, our teachers have poured their hearts and souls into teaching and guiding our students during this tumultuous time. I want to thank you parents for putting your faith in us.

As the Head of School, I want to wish you and your family a great holiday season. I can confidently say that whichever obstacles might surface, we will march into a new year with renewed vigor and firm resolve. I believe that united there is nothing we cannot accomplish.

Thank you for a great year!

### Coordinator's Words:

Winter greetings to all who are a part of our Mar Qardakh School family! I am incredibly excited to partner with you all in the adventure of the new year. As the Middle Years Programme Coordinator, it was a joy for me to witness our students work to cultivate international mindedness and connection throughout this holiday season. During our school-wide Christmas celebration, students across the MYP and PYP collaborated to understand and present how Christmas is celebrated in cultures all around the world. Their learning and collaboration empowered the entire school community to come together and celebrate the way persons from radically different cultural contexts rejoice in the greatest possible Gift: the Gift of Jesus to the world. By contemplating how God gave His only Son, Jesus, to save all of humankind, we can reflect upon the ways in which we can give our very selves to our communities. May we all strive to give of ourselves radically and abundantly this new year. For it is only through a gift of self that we may be fully known, loved, and joyfully received by everyone around us.

# Christmas Preparations:

As the students of Mar Qaradakh awaited the birth of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, they began preparing their voices in Mr. Mushiqli's Music class, and on December 5th, students gathered around the beautiful Christmas tree and Nativity scene that adorned the MQS foyer to sing *Silent Night* and *Laylat Al-Milad*.

The Christmas tree was decorated with the PYP Christmas crafting projects. Students also made Christmas cards for their parents and friends, and designed Christmas paper ornaments with their pictures, and 2021 Christmas wishes in Ms. Rana and Ms. Sayeen's Design class.



# Christmas Celebration:



On December 9th Mar Qardakh celebrated Christmas. All of MQS gathered around a live Nativity scene in the gym hall. After listening to the story of Jesus's birth, each MYP House presented how Christmas is celebrated around the world. To conclude the celebration, students sang Christmas songs while they placed their wishes on the Christmas tree. Each received a special gift from Santa Clause, and wished each other a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.





## NEW TEACHERS!

We welcomed three new teachers to our MQS Family this January!



Hello, my name is Eliea Al-Aseel. I am from Homs, Syria, and I teach PHE for MYP students. I studied pharmacy and pharmaceutical chemistry. I have taught at a special needs center in Syria, and I also volunteered as a tutor, tutoring students who needed help. I am looking forward to establishing new concepts in physical and health education for the MYP students at MQS this year.



Hello, my name is Ayham Doumet, and I teach Math to MYP 1 & 2 students. I am from Safita, Syria, and I studied ICT Engineering with a specialization in Information Technology. I am very grateful to be a part of MQS this year. I have been a Math teacher for 7 years, and I look forward to doing everything in my power to help my students.



Hello, I am Father Stephanous Abou Assali, and I teach Arabic for MYP students. I am from Damascus, Syria, where I began studying Mechanical and Electrical Engineering. I then moved to Lebanon to study Theology. I started teaching in 2005 and I have been teaching and directing in many schools ever since. I am very happy to have joined the MQS family, and I look forward to this academic year.

## PYP SPACE EXPLORATION :

On November 17th and 24th, the PYP 3 students had a Space Exploration Exhibition. Parents were invited to the Exhibition to learn about astronauts, the solar system, the phases of the moon, space travel, and the international space station. Mr. Eyad, an astronomer, was invited as a guest speaker to talk about his job, and answer any questions. Students did an exceptional job on their projects and presentations, and parents were able to witness their hard work.



# NEWS:

## COLLEGE CREDIT:

MQS is pleased to announce that beginning the 2022-2023 academic school year, it will be offering dual-credit classes for MYP 5. Students who successfully complete the course and pass an examination, will have the opportunity to receive college credit from Franciscan University of Steubenville!



## IB EVALUATION SUBMISSION:

Mar Qardakh has successfully completed the first part of the IB Evaluation. On January 15th, the IB Evaluation team gathered in Ms. Hala's office to submit all the Preliminary Review paperwork. The teachers, faculty, and staff at MQS have been working tirelessly for months preparing and gathering all the necessary paperwork for this submission. Thank you everyone for your dedication and hard work. It is truly appreciated.



## SNOW DAY:

MQS closed its doors on Wednesday, January 19th, due to the cold weather, and snow in the forecast. Students, however, continued their classes via Zoom. The education and safety of our students and staff at MQS is of the utmost importance. Transitioning classes onto Zoom ensures the safety of everyone, and enables our students to continue their education. Additionally, it is important for our IB learners to be familiar with attending online classes in case circumstances with Covid change.



## ARABIC PHASES

Fr. Stephanous has been working closely with Ms. Byara to support students, as MQS begins to transition its MYP students into Phases in Arabic.

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

PYP1 A: Nicholas Mazin Shamoon 12/12  
PYP1 B: Maryam Yoel Buttrus 12/16  
PYP1 B: Nathan Fikrat Jalal 12/07  
PYP2 A: Daniel Dani Zuhair 12/20  
PYP2 B: Sibel Daved Akram 12/14  
PYP2 B: Rashel Yousif Naeem 12/10  
PYP2 B: Yoram Ramsin Yalda 12/01  
PYP3 A: Lida Karam Fouad 12/05  
PYP3 A: Sahm Sarmad Nafea 12/08  
PYP3 B: John Ramseen Afrdon 12/07  
PYP3 B: Avron Ayan Farid 12/11  
PYP4 A: Matia Areej Jalal 12/12  
PYP4 B: Gloria Shwan Hanna 12/18  
PYP4 B: Ninar Khalil Asad 12/09  
PYP5 B: Maria Luay Fakhri 12/23  
PYP5 B: Shad Dilzar Hikmat 12/10  
PYP5 B: Yara Rony Farouq 12/25  
MYP1 A: Souriana Khalil Asad 12/14  
MYP1 B: Calvin Nimrod Michael 12/11  
MYP3 A: Harvi Savyo Ato 12/13  
MYP3 A: Valantin Sasan Gorgees 12/02  
MYP3 A: Rawool Anas Fadhil 12/12  
MYP3 B: Nicholas Foltyn 12/20  
MYP3 B: Malath Majd Nafee 12/07  
MYP4: Matilda Ramzi Shamoun 12/27  
MYP5: Yousif Khalid Jamal 12/1

### BLESSED BIRTHDAY WISHES TO OUR STUDENTS BORN IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER AND JANUARY!



### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

PYP1/C Shahm Duraid Tlayea 01/10  
PYP1/C Odel Robert Khoshaba 01/25  
PYP1/B Emmy Dandy Hanna 01/25  
PYP1/B Elana Rani Zuhair 01/10  
PYP1/B Nella Sargon Nade 01/12  
PYP1/B Murad Majd Nafee 01/10  
PYP2/A Rami Basam Saher 01/16  
PYP4/B Ryon Rimoun Shamoun 01/31  
MYP1/A Fadi Alaa Edyard 01/03  
MYP1/A Yohan Dlear Gorges 01/02  
MYP1/A Gozyan Marwan Hekmat 01/31  
MYP1 A Rama Mazin Yousif 01/12  
MYP1/A Stavros Nihad Isshaq 01/03  
MYP1/B Bronail Diar Rophail 01/01  
MYP2/A Malak Naseem Solaaka 01/01  
MYP2/A Damian Raad Najat 01/31  
MYP2/B Daniel Edmon Khammo 01/27  
MYP2/B Amy Raid Mikhael 01/31  
MYP3/B Andrew Robert William 01/21  
MYP5/ Tallin Hagob Serob 01/24  
MYP5/ Marina Adil Slewa 01/07