

PARENT NEWS

Middle East International School

November 2017



Our Sister School in China



Each year, our goal is to establish one or more sister schools. This year, our focus has been on establishing our relationship with the Shijiazhuang Foreign Language School (SFLS) in Shijiazhuang, China. <http://www.sjzfls.com>

Our relationship with our sister school allows students and staff to travel to China, stay with host families and expand their international experiences. As our mission is “learning at high levels to be competitive in the international community,” students should interact with others around the world.

In October, Mr. Salem and Dr. Sue attended the GERA Conference in China. The purpose of the conference was to bring the many sister schools of Shijiazhuang Foreign Language School together in a meaningful way in order to share best practice in education. Also, during the visit to China, Mr. Salem signed the official sister school agreement between MIS and SFLS.

MIS hopes to continue to build opportunities abroad for students so that students can grow in their international perspective.



Mr. Salem is pictured with the HOS, Ms. Pei



Mr. Salem is pictured presenting the school gift.

MIS is:

- Internationally accredited by AdvancED
- Nationally accredited by QNSA
- Licensed to operate in Qatar
- Providing the American curriculum based on the Common Core Standards
- Welcomes students, teachers and families of all nationalities.

School starts at 7:15 a.m.

Being on time helps students develop lifelong habits for the world of work and ensures a smooth, organized start to their day. This is important as young learners build habits of working and learning in classrooms.

Parents dropping off before 6:30 a.m.—there is no supervision. Our gates open only at 6:30 a.m. for the canopy area.

School Ends at 2:00 p.m.

Please be prompt as supervision after school is not provided.

Qatar National Day

We will be celebrating Qatar National Day on **December 14**. You can see our celebration in two ways:

- Please join us at 8:00 a.m. for a dress rehearsal
- And/or join us at 6:30 p.m. for the full show

We hope this advance notice helps you plan to join us and celebrate Qatar!



November Events

November 9

End of Quarter 1

November 16

Early Dismissal @ 12:30 p.m.

Beginning of KG/Elementary Conferences in the afternoon at scheduled times

MS/HS Parent Conferences in the evening

November 16-21

KG/Elementary Conferences at scheduled times

November 30

Elementary Spelling Bee

Parent Survey

Please watch for our Parent Survey **coming in November**. Surveys are a way for you to give us feedback on how we are doing as well as valuable suggestions to improve our services.

New Website

www.misqatar.com

Core Values:

Responsibility,
Integrity, Community,
Empathy

Being Accredited

Being accredited shows the staff and school commitment to excellence. Like students, staff should always be engaged in growing and developing professionally. I've heard the analogy, "Would you want your doctor to operate on you the same way she did ten years ago?" The answer is obviously, "No." In education, although there are some tried and true methods, our field continues to change and our continuous improvement drives how well students achieve.

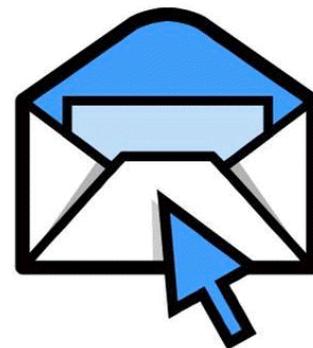
Email

As a part of our service to you, we provide our correspondence via email. **Please make sure that we have your updated email.**

If you do not receive anything from us, please check your child's book bag for something requesting your email, or send us an email at misadmin@misqatar.com with your child's name and grade.

When we have your email, you receive:

- Lesson Plans
- Newsletters
- Special Announcements
- Event Updates
- Community Opportunities



Parent-Teacher Conferences

We hold our Parent-Teacher Conferences differently based on what grade your child is in.

For KG/Elementary Students—Conferences are scheduled. Each family is given a specific time. We do look at brothers and sister who are both in KG/Elementary and try to schedule their times close together.

For Middle and High School—Conferences are drop-in. You can see any of your students teachers (or all of them).

We host the conferences at different times so that we can accommodate the many families that join us.

If you have any questions about conference times, please contact your child's teacher. They can clarify any questions you may have and ensure that you are able to attend the conferences as you would like.

In addition, you may receive communications prior to conferences if there are concerns about attendance, conditional enrollment, or other concerns we need to bring to your attention.

September High School Students of the Month

We had a little mistake in the October Newsletter, but wanted to make sure to correct it and honor the correct Students of the Month for September from the high school. Here they are!

Grade 9—Hanan Riaz

Grade 10—Sean Michael

Grade 11—Janessa Sophia Paderes

Grade 12—Zahwa Puspita Jalas

Thank you for your hard work at the very beginning of the year!



Investing in MIS

We have been making some investments as the school year continues! Here are some new additions happening in October and November:

- We placed a LARGE order of additional books for the library in both Arabic and English. Please encourage your students to read for pleasure!!
- Our new bus is serving Barwa City.



Dear Parents,

I hope the start of the year has been as wonderful for you as it has been at MIS. Our students are doing an exceptional job being focused on learning and we are so pleased to be working with such a nice group of students. Reflecting on the Parent Open House, one parent asked me, **“How much is MIS like schools in America?”** I reflected on this—thinking about how many of you, as parents, may not have grown up in American schools or worked (nearly) a lifetime in American schools, like me. Of course, this is a great question! And, I’ll bet it is even a question some of our staff or your children may have.

So, here’s what I can say: MIS is amazingly like every school I worked with in America over more than twenty years. Exceptionally similar: (1) standards, (2) curriculum, (3) textbooks (many schools in America use the same science, math, and social studies series), (4) style of teaching with cooperative learning, differentiation, and a focus on objectives, (5) look of the classrooms (with lots of student work on display, key vocabulary, and strategic processes), (6) professionals who truly care about children and work really hard to give them the very best, (7) debate/discussion about best practice, (8) same teacher evaluation system, (9) schedule for the day, and (10) same reporting systems (report cards, credits, ACT, SAT, etc.)

Some of the challenges are also the same. Primarily, ensuring students read for pleasure is always a struggle with the demands of homework. Reading for pleasure will increase overall reading skills. And, a big challenge is always clear communications with the use of technology. Helping guide parents to the website and their classroom teachers is always a priority.

What is different? Well, obviously, the cultural diversity is much greater than the area of America I came from. And, another difference is the movement of students. We looked at our 68 students in Grade 12 and only 12 students (18%) have been with us from the start of their education. The movement of students makes it challenging to ensure they have the same background in their learning.

Please know that what we do at MIS is remarkably similar to high performing schools in America. Your children are getting a quality education that will help us fulfill our mission of helping them be competitive in the international community and, it will help them fulfill their personal goals and the hopes and dreams of your family.

And, we are adding more for students every month!

Thank you to this parent for a great question.

Dr. Sue, Head of School

New Programs at Middle School

This year, MIS is continuing to expand after school extra-curricular programs into the middle school.

- Model United Nations (MUN) will be starting in the middle school. It allows students the opportunity to compete through debate and discussion of current world issues.
- Robotics has already expanded to include middle school students.
- Destination Imagination (DI) is currently pulling teams together for their creative problem-solving competition.

Points of Pride

- MIS employs 72 full-time teachers and additional support staff
- Teachers from over 20 countries are a part of MIS
- 50% of teachers have their masters degree; all teachers have a bachelors (in education) degree
- 4 staff members have or are pursuing their PhD
- Our staff includes teachers from Romania, Turkey, Qatar, Eritrea, Jordan, UK, Nigeria, Mozambique, and Cyprus

EdCamp Qatar



More teachers attended EdCamp on October 7 than we expected! **Great work MIS staff for taking your Saturday to attend and to take advantage of some wonderful professional learning.**

Ms. Kristi Ms. Sheena Ms. Susan Mr. Elliot

Ms. Haylin Ms. Almas Ms. Marina Dr. Sue

Ms. Rania Ms. Anie Ms. Tamil

China Student Trip

The planning for our first student trip to China continues. We will meet with students again at the end of October with some more precise estimates and share the rubric for choosing students who may go. Attendance, grades, MAP scores, uniform policy adherence and behavior may all be a part of the selection of students for overseas school trips.

October Students of the Month

KG—Shaheen Faisal Y A Al-Sulaiti

Grade 1—Ryan Butler

Grade 2—Bisma Mushtaq

Grade 3—Kinan Sami Baraqawi

Grade 4—Farid Ali

Grade 5—Abdulaziz Khaled Khamiri

Grade 6—Carlos Mari Bisenio

Grade 7—Lian Carlo Hernandez

Grade 8—Keara Denise Recolizado

Grade 9—Maria Kezdekbayeva

Grade 10—Reem Nabil Abdelkawy

Grade 11—Mohamad Zaina

Grade 12—Linara Ildar Nuralieva

Thank you to these outstanding students for being role models socially and academically for their peers. They helped us start our school year in a very positive way!

Books

We want to say thank you once again for your patience with the book delivery this year. As we kept working on the issue, we appreciated that we were able to focus on getting the books here as quickly as possible because of your support.

Thank you.

All books have been delivered. If you have a question about a missing book, please email Mr. Hussain at Hussain@misqatar.com.

Grading Your Work

As parents, you know that the school will provide you with several reports on your students progress throughout the school year. But, we also thought it might be interesting to have you reflect on the start of the year for our working relationship. ***Give yourself one point for each of the things you are doing to work with the school and see how you do.***

I have emailed the teacher with any questions, comments or concerns before contacting the principal.

I know my child's attendance.

Early dismissal days are in my personal calendar to pick up my child at 12:30 p.m.

I know school starts at 7:15 a.m.

I have logged into One Drive to see lesson plans.

I read the first three parent newsletters.

I have looked at the school organizational chart in the Student-Parent Handbook.

I have read the Parent-Student Handbook.

I ask questions to learn new information.

I have Parent-Teacher Conferences in my personal calendar.

Give yourself an A+ if you scored answered "yes" to all ten questions.

Give yourself an A- for "yes" to nine questions.

Given yourself a B if you answered "yes" to 7-8 questions!

And, for anything else, we are here to support you. Please contact your child's teacher with questions.



Toastmasters Starts at MIS

Our students are talented in so many ways! Student leader, Hanaan Mohammad Riaz, shares her drive to lead Toastmasters at MIS.

"Today, people are all about expressing their opinions, especially through social media. We rarely see young people expressing their opinions through speaking publically. That's where Toastmasters International comes in. Toastmasters International is an organization that helps people of all ages improve their skills in communicating, public speaking, and leadership. It has helped over 352,000 people attending over 16,400 of their clubs. Their mission is to "Empower individuals to become effective communicators and leaders." It develops this need for students to express what they believe in without being suppressed by this fear of talking in front of hundreds of people. It develops confidence not only when their speaking, but it teaches them to have confidence in their abilities, and that confidence is what motivates them to go forward.

To start Toastmasters in MIS, I would first like to give a presentation, to the students, about what the idea of toastmasters is, and how it could help them. Our main focus for members could be grade 9, since there are a lot of interested students willing to join the club. After that, when we have at least 20 or more students interested, we will call in an area official from Toastmasters International to come to school and have a meeting about opening a club. After this, we will have an official Toastmasters club in MIS."

How do we use MAP testing?

The Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) is given to all students in Grade 1-11. We use MAP to:

- Measure ourselves nationally and internationally
- Show you the growth of your student
- Determine Honors sections
- Determine Gifted and Talented Programming
- Determine part of eligibility for overseas travel
- Advise students about their readiness for Advanced Placement courses
- Measure how students who have been with MIS for multiple years look as compared to students starting with us after attending other schools.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Roles in the Parent-Teacher Conference

Parents:

Learn about their children's progress in school

Recognize the teacher as someone working on your child's behalf each day - respect them

Seek solutions collaboratively

Participate in developing an action plan, if needed

Clarify how you will communicate with the teacher

Teachers:

Show examples of student work and examples of expected levels of performance

Ask questions about what the parent sees the student struggling with

Gain insights into their student's home and community lives

Gain an understanding of parent perceived strengths and needs

Share ideas for supporting student learning at **home**

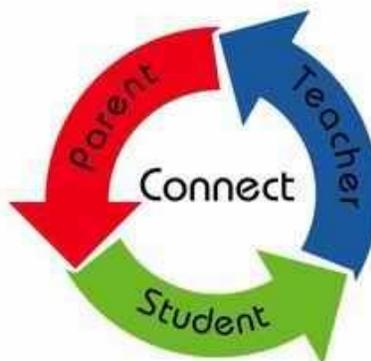
Together:

Develop new strategies collaboratively to support student learning at school

Ensure clear, future communication directly from the teacher to the parent

Top 10 Questions to Ask: Parent-Teacher Conferences

1. How is my child doing socially?
2. How is my child doing emotionally?
3. What academic progress have you seen?
4. What do you think my child is good at?
5. Is my child at grade level?
6. Is my child doing their best?
7. Does my child need any extra help?
8. How can I help?
9. Can I share a concern?
10. How can I contact you?



Student Council

Middle School

President: Dean Nathaniel Cimatu

Vice President: Lukman Swai

Secretary: Abdelrahman Adnan

Treasurer: Grace Ruggles

PROs: Yara Omar

Mariam Badrieh

Activity Director: Aseel Hesham

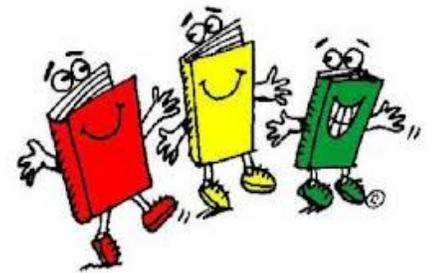
Sports Director: Dawoud Zarandah

Representatives:

Grade 6: Syed Unaid Ali

Grade 7: Amanda Firas Haddad

Grade 8: Delphina Ayeki Arthur



Book Fair

There will be a Book Fair set up in the main lobby during the school day on November 15-16.

Students may bring money and choose over a wide range of books selection.

As the saying goes, "Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body." – Richard Steele

Standards-Based Grading

A standards-based report card emphasizes learning instead of earning marks.

For example, when young readers first learn to read, they learn the difference between pictures and words. Next, they learn that words in English go from left to right and top to bottom. Then, they learn many sight words. And, finally, they can read a sentence. Moving through each step to becoming a reader means mastering a new standard. Standards help you know what your child is learning and what they need to learn next.

Each quarter, we will provide students multiple opportunities to practice, attain, and demonstrate proficiency on the standards. In a standards-based classroom, the focus is on a student's performance over multiple opportunities beyond the grading and averaging of tests and quizzes. Hence, the report card will accurately communicate achievement of learning standards to students, parents, and educators.

Through the identification of clear standards, a student's knowledge and skills will be measured on a continual basis, stretching students to perform at their highest level of potential. Teachers will collect evidence of a child's achievement through careful observations, examination of the students' work, discussions, projects, performance tasks, quizzes, and tests. Teachers will record information about each child's progress on a frequent basis, analyze and compile that information, and finally use the data to evaluate each child's progress toward attainment of the standard. Therefore, the grade for each semester will communicate a student's progress as compared to where we would expect him/her to be at that moment in time.

Social/emotional development grades will be reported separately from proficiency grades. They are an integral piece of the report card as they reflect the degree to which a student demonstrates behaviors in the areas of effort and work ethic, attitude and decision making, as well as preparedness for learning.

Standards have been developed for the core subjects in Grades 1-5 for each quarter. The purpose of these are to assist students and parents in understanding what the specific learning expectations are for students to be considered proficient at each grade level in each skill area at each quarter. These learning expectations may grow or increase as the school year progresses and more content/skills are introduced.

If you have questions regarding standards-based report cards, please email me at tasneem.ali@misqatar.com.

Kindergarten Hearing Check



The Alhadi Center visited our kindergarten October 19 to conduct a hearing test for all students in KG1.

Best Speaker and Best Handwriting in Arabic Class

One of our new teachers, Ms. Nesrin, has started some new awards for students in Arabic class. She recently awarded the best speaker and best handwriting (Arabic). Congratulations to these students!

Grade 1—Joud Radwan

Grade 2—Sara Salaheddin, Ahmed Khalid Safa, Mahmoud Ziad

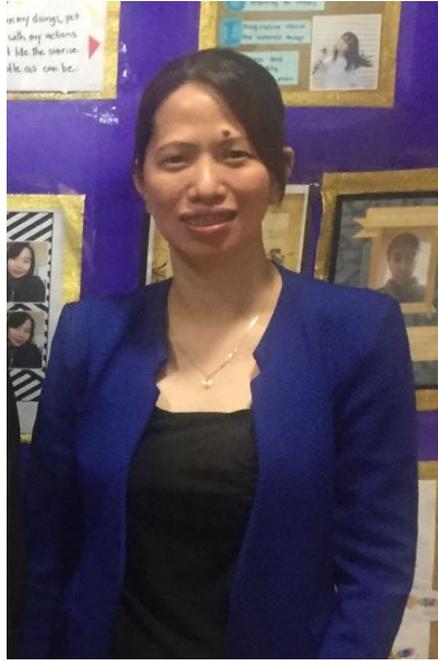
Grade 3—Kinan Sami, Malak Khaled

Grade 4—Yara Bassam

Grade 5—Yamin Bassam, Zain Radwan, Abdullah Amer, Adam Saleem, Janna Wael

Teacher Feature: Ms. Rhia

We have many great student centered teachers at MIS, and Ms. Rhia is one of those teachers that is always willing to work with students to help them be successful. As you step into her classroom, you will see Ms. Rhia surrounded by students, always willing to share her time. As part of her classroom teaching, Ms. Rhia believes that as people we are accountable to the decision we make. Ms. Rhia has high ethical standards for her students and is a model of those standards with her own professionalism.



One of Ms. Rhia's personal educational philosophies is that "Learning is a continuous process." This is apparent with her own educational background. Ms. Rhia has a Bachelor's of Secondary Education in Mathematics, and has earned her Masters of Arts in Education and Educational Management. As part of her Master's program, she wrote a thesis on the infusion of technology in mathematics. This skill has translated well to the MIS vision around technology.

Ms. Rhia has been teaching for a total of 16 years in both the Philippines and in Qatar. She has taught several levels all the way from KG to Grade 12. She has spent the last 6 years at MIS teaching mostly middle school.

Ms. Rhia has special training around Multiple Intelligences. She uses this knowledge to help meet the needs of her students in her classes. She further used this skill when she was an Assistant Administrator of a private school and then at Hi Tech Training Center here in Doha.

PISA

The Program of International Student Assessment (PISA) is given every three years. Students who were born in 2002 are required to take a Diagnostic Test (November 2017), Trial Test (February 2018) and the PISA (March 2018). The requirement is from the Ministry of Education.

On October 31, students took the Diagnostic Test and they will receive their scores the week of November 5.

MIS Voices

MIS students and staff are pulling together a new publication called "MIS Voices" to showcase the art and writing of our students.



We'll be sure to send you an electronic copy when it is ready!

Water Bottles

Starting November 5, we are asking all students to have a water bottle (clearly labeled with their name). November is environmental awareness month across Qatar and we want to do our part to ensure that we are creating less plastic waste. So, we are working toward eliminating the use of small, plastic cups at school.

Please ensure your child has a water bottle.

Student Council

High School

Student Council President: Hasan Al Falluji

Vice President: Mouhmmad Mdhat Swai

PRO: Ana Albertine Mendoza

Treasurer: Fatima Omar Ibrahim

Activity Coordinators: Sherifa Wael Eletrebi
& Linara Ildar Nuralieva

Sports Coordinators: Zena Khaled Abouzenad
& Saifeddin Samer Shalan

Representatives:

Grade 9: Hanaan Mohammad Riaz

Grade 10: Zain Ali Mansoor Chaudhary

Grade 11: Omar Raed Barghouti

Grade 12: Zacharie Arash Ghavami

PE and Generation Amazing—Professional Partnership



This school year and last school year, our PE Teachers have partnered with Generation Amazing, a program sponsored by the Supreme Council of Delivery and Legacy.

Teachers and students are able to work with staff from Generation Amazing.

This year, many of the Generation Amazing staff are new to us and come from the Qatar Football Association (QFA).

Pictured at the left: Mike Richardson (Generation Amazing coach), Zainab Osman (grade 5) and Marwan Mamdouh (grade 5).

Discipline Techniques for Preteens

Is your little one turning into a messy pre-teen with every passing day? Has he/she been reacting arrogantly, disobeying instructions? If you nodded along in agreement, here are effective discipline techniques for your pre-teen.

Have house rules—Set the rules for your house and make sure he/she understands and follows them. Keep it clear that contributing to the household chores is not a choice.

Rewards work wonders—Have a behavioral contract with your little one and reward them with extra privileges or gifts of your time, if they abide by those rules and are disciplined.

Use If....Then....else Statement—They are old enough to understand the action-consequence relation, so start using 'If...then' statements that will outline the consequences of any unacceptable behavior. This will also help them to learn self-discipline.

Be a role-model—Pre-teens learn from what they see. So, make sure you lead a life that serves as a worthy role-model. Keep your calm even under stressful situations.

Use the calm approach—Make it a practice and an unwritten rule at home that things get done only when you're calm. Also make sure you practice this and don't lose your cool when they are not following any of the rules you've laid.

Ms. Poonam, School Counselor (Poonam.bedi@misqatar.com)

School Fees

Thank you to the vast majority of our parents for paying school fees by the deadline. We appreciate your diligence!

If you have not paid your school fees, a late fee is applied beginning on November 1, 2017.

Smoking

Smoking, possession of or the use of illegal substances on school grounds is prohibited. As a member of the MIS school community, the school reserves the right to inspect any and all backpacks, purses, etc. that come onto school grounds.