

# PARENT NEWS

Middle East International School

FEBRUARY 2019

## MIS Facebook Page

MIS1994 is the place to search for our Facebook page!

We recently re-launched with a new page in December under the direction of Ms. Dina.

We post announcements and pictures of school events and activities.



We hope you will "like us."



Dear Parents,

January was a quiet month. Grades 6-12 spent the early part of the month preparing for exams while the KG-Grade 5 students finished the work of first semester. So, this newsletter has far less student activities for January as we encouraged a quiet, focused atmosphere for the serious exams that happened at the end of first semester. We want, of course, fewer distractions so that students can plan their study schedule and focus on learning throughout January. It is a month where the remarkable hard work of the students can really shine. Then, there is a well deserved break between semesters.

As second semester starts, we hope you will help your student have an impressive third quarter by ensuring attendance on time, organization of materials, a smooth transition from home to school each morning including a good breakfast, adequate study time and a nutritious lunch. These things may seem simple, but each one impacts a student's day. As always, thank you for your support with this!

This month, we will start fall registration. Please secure your seat! Several grades are very limited for new seats and we have applicants. We need you to secure your seat so that we can complete fall, 2019-2020, registration for everyone.

*Dr. Sue*

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.

## Email

Your email is the way we communicate with you.

To update your email or even your contact information, write us at

[misadmin@misqatar.com](mailto:misadmin@misqatar.com)

with the subject line as: *Email/Contact Update*



## Re-Enrolling?

**Our re-enrollment period is from February 3-March 31.**

Please be sure to complete your child's re-enrollment form to reserve a seat for the 2019-20 school year.

We look forward to another amazing year with you and your child!

## Random Facts

88

Number of students taking AP (college) classes at MIS

51

Number of Seniors expecting to graduate this June!

5+

New students joining MIS this second semester

This brings our student enrollment to 816.

## Water Bottles

Please ensure your child has a water bottle that they use every day. They can bring from home and/or fill at our filtered water dispensers. Drinking enough water in our climate is important to the healthy functioning of growing bodies (and us as adults).

Our school is making a sincere effort to not use plastic cups any longer. This helps the environment of Qatar, our home.

## First Grade Students Create Bird Habitats

Our first graders created some bird habitats for our tress. These homes give our birds a safer place to live away from predators and the blowing sand.



## Check the Calendar

Because of the need to finish the learning and complete 180 days of instruction in order to certify credits, MIS is not able to offer early exams.

Please check the school calendar today for the end of year exam week. School continues into June after Eid!

Please do not ask for early exams. Early exams are granted only when the student is withdrawing from MIS and the family is leaving the country.

Each year, the school calendar is unique as determined by the Ministry of Education and schools across Qatar. The calendar is determined based on offering a quality education that is the equivalent of an American education. Without fulfilling the many requirements, we cannot certify that your student has earned the credits necessary for the next grade level.

We know that the calendar for this year may be inconvenient for families wishing a longer summer holiday. However, the holiday is not an educational need.

Please, please check the calendar before you make plans. (The calendar is available on the website and Communication folder in One Drive.)

Ending the year early for convenience or vacation may mean not having a complete report card issued and students may have to take exams in July or August prior to starting the new year.

Please review the calendar prior to making plans.

## Attending a College Preparatory School

Attending MIS means attending a college preparatory school. How is this different than a typical American school?

First, students take a course sequence beginning in Grade 8 which only about 10-15% of American students take. It involves taking the math and science sequence a year in advance of the typical American student. Second, starting in kindergarten, the curriculum is advanced and accelerated at each grade level in order to prepare students for the advanced sequence. Third, the expectations for students to develop independent work habits, responsibility, and integrity are much higher. Fourth, students are expected to devote all 180 days of instruction to doing their best. Planning vacations during scheduled school days, ending the school year early, or starting breaks early is not acceptable as we have to maximize learning time and students truly need the time to complete all learning. Fifth, as a college preparatory school, our accreditations hold the staff to a high standard. This includes their individual licenses and preparation for classes, upholding the standards, and dedication to improving their craft.



## Fees

Final fee payments for Semester 1 (September-January) are long overdue. If you have an outstanding balance, there have been fees added during the unpaid months.

**Semester 2 fee payments are due on or before February 28, 2019. February 28 is the final day to pay fees prior to any late charges being added.**

Thank you to the many parents who have been diligent with your payments. It is much appreciated!

And, as always, if there are unique, extenuating circumstances, please communicate with Mr. Hussain in the Business Office.

## One Drive

Your link to One Drive works for the **entire school year!**

Please use it regularly to access weekly plans and other communications.

## Student Absences

What do you do if your child needs to leave school?

**Call us. Only a parent phone call can excuse a child from school.** Calls from nannies or drivers will not be accepted by the school. We want to ensure that you are in control of when/if your student is absent—not student, nanny, family friend or driver.

## Questions?

If you have a question about anything at school, please email any one of the principals or Dr. Sue. We are happy to assist you.

School is different now than many years ago and different than independent schools or community schools. We are happy to explain why we do some things and take your suggestions.

[Susan.Borden@misqatar.com](mailto:Susan.Borden@misqatar.com)

**Website**  
[www.misqatar.com](http://www.misqatar.com)



# February Events

February 3—School resumes at 7:15 a.m.

February 7—KG and Elementary Sports Day

February 12—HOLIDAY—NO SCHOOL

February 14—Parent/Teacher Conferences

KG from 1-4 p.m.

Elementary from 1-4 p.m.

Middle School from 4-7 p.m.

High School from 4-7 p.m.

February 20—Middle School Sports Day

February 21—High School Sports Day

## Sports Days

February is focused on our Sport Day celebrations!



## Celebrating Sports Day

The Ministry of Education invites students, staff and parents of schools around Qatar to celebrate the National Sports Day.

This year the following schools are hosting:

- ⇒ Tariq Bin Ziad Secondary School for boys
- ⇒ Al Yarmouk Middle School for boys
- ⇒ Moza Bint Mohammed Middle School for girls

## Student Trip—China

The final decision will be made about the trip on February 3. Currently, there are seven students who have paid.

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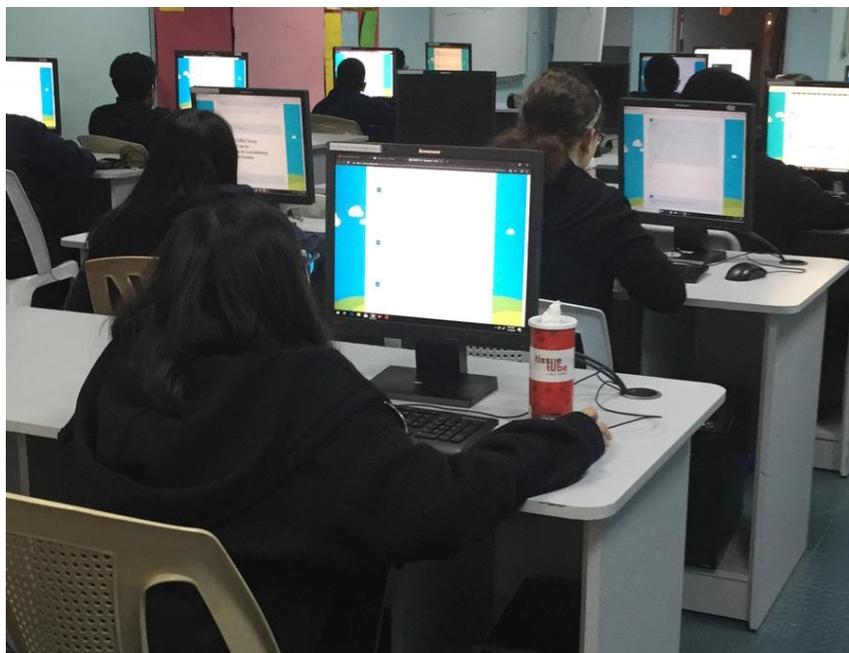
## Student Trip—Czech Republic

Fifteen students will be attending the trip to Prague! All fifteen are in the process of obtaining their visas as the next step.



## ICT Exams Taken Online

As part of our vision, students integrate technology into the classroom. Students in ICT at the high school were able to take their exams online.



## January Students

### of the Month

Thank you to these outstanding students for being role models socially and academically for their peers!

KG—Yurie Celestial Cabrillos Artuz

1—Asil Sameh Ahmed Khedr

2—Ralph Jacob Miclat

3—Ahmad Abdelsalam Abdelhamid Safa

4—Noor Emadeldin Abdelkader Elzefzafy

5—Yara Bassam Jamil Al Masri

6—Malak Amjad Abdulkareem Al Bodour

7—Aaliyah Khaharani Jalas

8—Muhammad Alief Rama Aditya

9—Sara Ayman Fawzy Abbas Soliman

10—Anastasia Vladislavova Marinova

11—Selma Eushaw Adam

12—Ibrahim Ahmed Abbas



## TIMMS

The TIMMS assessment will be happening in March. It is a mandatory test from the Ministry. It is not a part of student grades at MIS in any way.

Students in Grades 4 and 8 are selected by the Ministry for the test. Some students will take the test online. Some students will take a paper test.

We will, of course, notify parents near the end of February with regard to the date and participation of their student.

February 14

Parent-Teacher  
Conferences

All Grades

February 13



Report Cards are  
coming home!

## Grade 4-6 Boys Compete in Inter School Bas-



Thank you to our PE Staff, Mr. Habib, for giving our students the opportunity to compete with other schools. Win or lose, the boys were excellent sportsmen embodying our mission of excellence and our Core Values.

## SAT/ACT Practice Test Opportunity

ScorePlus Qatar invites you to the National Test Fest 2019. All students of MIS from Grades 10-12 are invited to participate in this event on February 14 (Thursday), from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. All participants are required to pay a registration fee of QR 30 to ScorePlus on that day.

The National Test Fest gives students a chance to practice a full-length SAT/ACT test in a simulated testing environment. Following the test, students receive a customized score report on their performance highlighting your strengths and weaknesses in core areas in Math and English. You will also have the chance to ask questions about the test and learn some important exam strategies at a complimentary test review session.

For questions, please contact Ms. Tessy via email [tessy.manalil@misqatar.com](mailto:tessy.manalil@misqatar.com).

## Not Just Playing in the Dirt

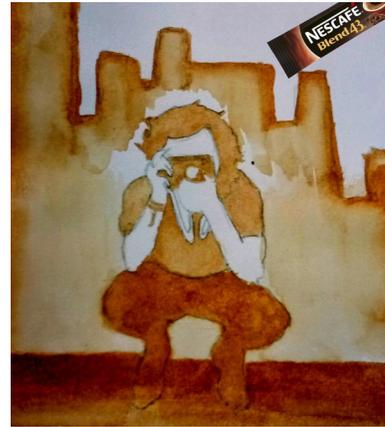
A volunteer group of students assembled a school garden as part of Farm Your Country. Farm Your Country is a competition between schools which involves learning the science behind farming. On January 17, during their lunch, the students prepared the soil, filled the garden boxes, and watered the new plants. The crop consists of decorative flowers, tomatoes, lettuce, watercress, zucchini and much more.

During second semester, judges will visit the school garden. Ms. Susan and Ms. Tamil, will advise the best treatments as well as study the science behind our garden. Thank you to the Ministry for developing this hands-on learning to develop problem-solving and critical thinking. And, thank you to our volunteer students for getting their hands dirty and showing off their shovel and broom skills!



# Coffee Art

With endless creativity, our art teachers have something to share with you each month. This month, high school students are creating unique works of coffee art.



# MAP TESTING

During February and into the first week of March, your child will take tests called Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP®). We give students MAP tests to determine your child's instructional level and to measure academic growth throughout the school year, and from year to year in the areas of math, reading, and language. Your child will take the tests on a computer. Total testing time will be about 3 hours total per student, but may be slightly less or more depending on the student. MAP results do not count towards academic grades. We use the results for information to help us plan our classroom instruction, give us more information on our students as learners, determine honors placement and much more.

Students in grades KG-11 take the tests in fall, winter, and spring. Attendance during MAP testing is very important. I would encourage you to avoid making appointments or checking your child out of school during the assigned testing dates. Students tend to perform better when they take tests in their regular testing environment. For this reason, we try to avoid the additional stress to your child by scheduling them out to make up missed tests.

Below is a list of other tips to help your child do well on the MAP test:

- Make sure your child gets a good night sleep.
- Make sure your child has a good breakfast.
- Encourage your child to do his/her best.
- Make sure your child is at school on time.
- Ask about the test each day. Let your child know the test is important and that you care about the results.

For more information on resources for parents, please go to:

<https://www.nwea.org/parent-toolkit/>



## February 14 Parent/Teacher Conferences

KG from 1-4 p.m.

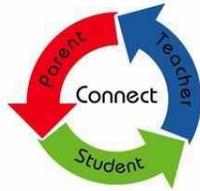
Elementary from 1-4 p.m.

Middle School from 4-7 p.m.

High School from 4-7 p.m.

# Top 10 Questions to Ask at 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?



## Teacher Feature: Mr. Abdoul Hamid Ouedraogo

“**Learning** is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence.” This month’s teacher feature is about Mr. Abdoul Hamid Ouedraogo who teaches Islamic Studies and is an enthusiastic learner, who has completed his second Masters degree in Islamic Studies from Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar.

“The solution to every problem is in *sabr* (patience) and *istigfaar* (seeking forgiveness).” Mr. Abdoul Hamid Ouedraogo teaches Islamic Studies from grades 3 to 12 and helps our students embrace this philosophy of patience and forgiveness. He plays a very strong role in molding students’ character by strengthening their faith in the Almighty.

Born in Burkina Faso in 1983, Mr. Abdoul Hamid has completed his Bachelor of Arts in Islamic Studies from the International Islamic University of Malaysia. He has completed two Masters. The first one is in Islamic Jurisprudence and Jurisdiction from University of Malaysia. His desire for learning took him further to pursue a second Masters in Contemporary Islamic Jurisprudence from Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar in 2018.

He has a wide range of teaching experience. He taught Quran memorization and all the sciences related to the Holy Quran for five years at Dar’ul’Quran in Ivory Coast. He memorized the Holy Quran in the center and taught high school students at the Center. He has taught Islamic Studies to first year undergraduates that were pursuing different majors in the University of Malaysia. He also taught French and Arabic in the Learning and Enhancement Center at the University of Malaysia for two years.

He wants his students to apply the concept of relevantization and contextualization of Islamic Studies. His mission and desire is to make the study of Islamic Studies relevant to the human kind and modern sciences. He works sincerely every school day with the desire to encourage students to be able to focus on improving their critical thinking skills. His mission is to ensure student’s learning of Islam is not limited to Islamic teaching but to understand the relevance of the Holy Quran to the modern society. He wants students of all ages to establish a connection with Human Sciences.

Teaching and learning is Mr. Abdoul Hamid’s passion and he speaks Arabic, English and French. We wish him every success and happiness.

# 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

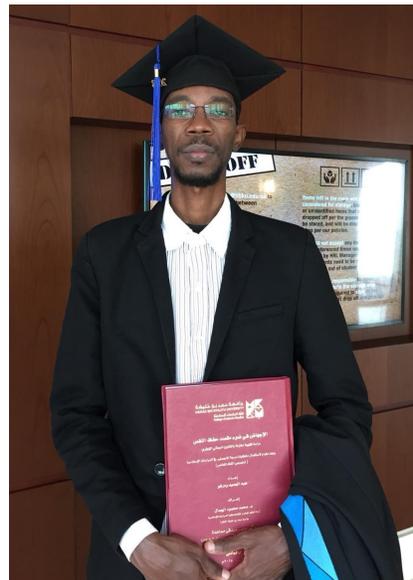
Gain an understanding of parent perceived strengths and needs

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



## Looking Forward

March 14

**NO SCHOOL—LONG WEEKEND**

March 21

**12:30—Early Dismissal**

March 28

**International Day**

# Reading... Why?

## 1. Children who read often and widely get better at it.

After all, practice makes perfect in almost everything humans do, and reading is no different.

## 2. Reading exercises our brain.

Reading is a much more complex task for the human brain rather than watching TV, for example. Reading strengthens brains connections and builds NEW connections.

## 3. Reading improves concentration.

Children have to sit still and quietly so that they can focus on the story when they are reading. If they read often, they will develop the skill to do this for longer.

## 4. Reading teaches children about the world around them.

## 5. Reading improves vocabulary and language skills.

Children learn new words as they read. Subconsciously, they absorb information on how to structure sentences and how to use words and other language features effectively in their writing and speaking.

## 6. Reading develops a child's imagination.

As we read our brains translate the descriptions we read of people, places and things into pictures. While we are engaged in a story we are also imagining how a character is feeling. Young children then bring this knowledge into their everyday play.

## 7. Reading helps children to develop empathy.

As children develop they begin to imagine how they would feel in that situation.

## 8. Reading is fun!

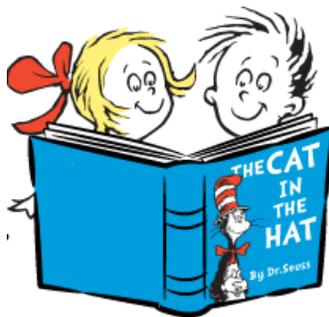
## 9. Reading is a great way to spend time together.

Enjoy quiet moments reading as you tuck your child into bed or time together as you search for a book in the new National Library.

## 10. Children who read achieve better in school.

Reading promotes achievement in all subjects, not just English.

Children who are good readers tend to achieve better across the curriculum.



# How do I Encourage Reading at Home?

Growing readers takes care and feeding, just like growing a beautiful flower.

Here are some ways that you can grow a reader:

\*Go to the new National Library

\*Be a role model by reading in front of your child

\*Allow your child to read anything—comic books, cereal boxes, and magazines

\*Learn about “just right” books and help your child pick them

\*Play games identifying letters when out in public

\*Make it a habit to read at bedtime each night

\*Create a cozy “reading spot” in your house with soft cushions, a beanbag and good lighting

\*Ensure access to lots of things to read in the house

# The Basics on Normal School Day

6:30 a.m.—Gate by blue canopy opens, 45 minutes before school starts

6:45 a.m.—Main gate opens, students allowed to move from blue canopy to courtyard

7:00 a.m.—Doors of school open to allow students inside

7:15 a.m.—Classes begin, attendance taken. Students arriving late should enter through the office for a late slip

12:30 p.m.—Buses leave with KG students

1:55 p.m.—Dismissal for all students. Parents in front, buses in back please.

## New at MIS—Investing in Our Students and School

- Xylophones for the music program were ordered at the start of the year and arrived over Winter Break. Check out the Facebook page for MIS1994 to see the students in action using them.
- Lots of painting happened over the Winter Break including back walls of the building, large gates in the front of the building and even painting some walls for our neighbors.
- New sports equipment including an additional ping-pong table, lots of volleyballs and basketballs arrived at school to both re-stock the program and develop new opportunities
- New online admissions testing for 2019-2020!

## School Calendar for 2019-20

As always, we wait for the Ministry of Education and the Minister of Education's office for information about the calendar of the upcoming year. Once we receive that, we can create our school calendar.

We hope to share the calendar for 2019-20 with you by March 1, 2019. We know you are eager to make plans!



## What is a Standards-Based Report Card?

A standards-based report card emphasizes learning instead of earning marks in KG-Grade 5. 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 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 our Elementary Principal: [susan.borden@misqatar.com](mailto:susan.borden@misqatar.com) or KG Principal: [minu.varghese@misqatar.com](mailto:minu.varghese@misqatar.com).