



November 2012 – issue number 048

## In this Issue



### Highlights of the Issue

Dublin Hosts 16 <sup>th</sup> Annual SABIS® Directors' Meeting	P.1
James Tooley Tours U.S. to Launch SABIS® Book	P.2
SABIS® School Network Expands in the MENA region	P.4

### Academics

2012 SABIS® External Exam Results Continue to Beat Global Averages	P.5
SABIS® 2012 Graduates Accepted to Top Universities	P.6
SABIS® Holds 2012 Academic Conferences	P.7

### IT News

IT at SABIS®: Education for Future Generations	P.8
SABIS® WebSchool 2.0	P.9

### SABIS Student Life Organization® News

SABIS® Student Life Training Camps Offer Opportunity of Lifetime	P.10
--	------

### HR News

SABIS® Professional Development Institute Offers Expanded Repertoire	P.12
--	------

### Feature School

Linwood Public Charter School	P.14
-------------------------------	------

### SAGA

SAGA Introduces New Features and Membership Benefits	P.16
--	------

### Graduate in the Spotlight

ISC-Choueifat Alumnus, Rani Panjarian	P.17
---------------------------------------	------

opportunity to catch up on the latest network developments, engage in reflection of the past year, and start preparations for the year ahead.

Focusing on the theme of *Changing the World through Education*, the four days of meetings included updates on network growth and expansion and new developments in Academics, IT, the SABIS® Professional Development Institute, and SAGA, the SABIS® Alumni Global Association. Attendees also learned about building a school culture for success and

## Highlights of the Issue

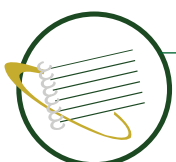


### Dublin Hosts 16<sup>th</sup> Annual SABIS® Directors' Meeting



2012 Directors' Meeting attendees at the Royal College of Physicians

Reflecting SABIS®'s ongoing commitment to continual improvement, at the culmination of each academic year, directors from SABIS® member schools around the world are invited to attend the SABIS® Directors' Meeting. Dublin, Ireland played host to the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual SABIS® Directors' Meeting from July 4-7, 2012, when over 80 SABIS® school directors, SABIS® Board members, and senior support staff assembled. The meetings provided directors with the



For more information on employment or alumni news within the SABIS® School Network, access our websites: <http://www.sabis.net>, <http://www.sabiscareers.com>, <http://www.iscalumni.com>.

had the opportunity to hear about individual student success stories presented by directors from each of the five regions where SABIS® operates schools.

SABIS® secured U.K. author and education policy expert, Professor James Tooley, as the conference keynote speaker and fittingly celebrated the launch of his latest book, *From Village School to Global Brand: Changing the World through Education*, on the last day of the conference. Tooley, whose book traces the history, philosophy, and development of SABIS®, spoke about his findings in researching for the book and read passages as part of his keynote address. He was also on hand along with SABIS® Board Chair, Mrs. Leila Saad, and SABIS® Director General, Mr. Ralph Bistany, to sign advance copies of the book which were distributed to all in attendance.

Feedback from those in attendance indicated that the conference was a resounding success:

*"The conference was excellent and inspiring. I want to go back to school now and make a difference!"*

*"An interesting and informative experience as always. The opportunity to meet other members of the SABIS® network and to listen to their experiences and ideas cannot be underestimated. The meeting allows the SABIS® family to become closer as the years go by no matter the distance."*

*"James Tooley's keynote speech was even more than I expected. As usual, he was inspirational."*

For more information about James Tooley's book, visit [www.theSABISstory.com](http://www.theSABISstory.com).

## James Tooley Tours U.S. to Launch SABIS® Book



James Tooley (center left) poses with Carl Bistany, George Saad, Mahdi Kansou, and Udo Schulz (far left) before book event in Washington D.C.

Professor James Tooley spent the week of October 8-12, 2012, traveling to major U.S. cities to launch his latest book, *From Village School to Global Brand: Changing the World through Education*. Joined by key members of SABIS®'s U.S. operations, Tooley spoke about the book and his findings at events organized in the cities of Minneapolis, Boston, Washington D.C., and New York.

The book tour began in Minnesota on Monday, October 8, 2012, at The International School of Minnesota (ISM), the first SABIS® member school established in the U.S. Tooley spoke to an audience of ISM faculty and staff, parents, and students as well as employees of SABIS® Educational Systems, Inc. and members of the local community and press.

*"It is fitting that we are here in the Leila C. Saad Performing Arts Center for this event as she has played such an important role in SABIS® over the years and has obviously left quite an impression on me as well as you,"* Tooley commented upon opening the event.

He went on to briefly trace the organization's beginning and the individuals who shaped and influenced its development before reading select passages from the book and taking questions from the audience.

On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, the tour moved on to Massachusetts, a state where SABIS® currently operates two successful public charter schools, yet a state where SABIS® has come up against resistance in its efforts to open additional schools. Tooley spoke at an event co-sponsored by SABIS®, the Pioneer Institute, Harvard Program on Education Policy and Governance, Massachusetts Charter Schools Association, and the Black Alliance for Educational

Options. The event, titled *For-Profit Charter School Management: International Lessons from SABIS®*, featured a panel debate on the merits of private sector involvement in public education and gave Professor Tooley the opportunity to find out the reasons behind the state's rejection of a recent charter school application.



Moderator Jeanne Allen poses with panelists James Tooley, Carl Bistany, and John Engler at SABIS® book event in Washington D.C.

*"I have nothing against SABIS®,"* stated one panelist who was involved in the decision to turn down SABIS®'s application. *"It came down to two things – finances and politics."*

Washington D.C. was the next city on the schedule for Wednesday, October 10, 2012. The event was co-sponsored by SABIS® and The Center for Education Reform and took place at the Business Roundtable. The event featured a roundtable discussion moderated by Jeanne Allen, President of the Center for Education Reform. The panel included the Honorable John Engler, former Governor of Michigan, Carl Bistany, SABIS® President, and Professor Tooley. Panelists discussed their views on whether education can be run as a profitable business and still be guided by a humanitarian vision? The event was streamed live on the Internet and can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ImrmlFyuL-I&feature=youtu.be>.

Tooley's final stop on the book tour was Brooklyn, New York, where he presented the book at the Brownsville Ascend Charter School. The event was sponsored by SABIS® and Ascend Learning, the New York-based non-profit charter management organization and licensee of the SABIS® Educational System. Steven Wilson, Ascend's founder and President, opened the event by welcoming guests to Brownsville Ascend Charter School, his organization's newest school, and introducing Professor Tooley and his latest work.

*"There are so many things to admire in this book, but I will mention only one—the human story that [Professor Tooley] tells so well of SABIS®,"* began Wilson. *"The story of its exceptionally charming, quietly charismatic, and steely co-founders, Mrs. Leila Saad, and Mr. Ralph Bistany, who I very much wish could be with us tonight."*

After taking the stage, Tooley indulged the audience in stories about Steven Wilson's journey to SABIS® and the ensuing success of Ascend Learning's schools.

Similar events to launch the SABIS® book have taken place in Lebanon and are scheduled elsewhere throughout the SABIS® School Network. Additionally, an event planned by the U.K. publisher of the work, Profile Books, took place on Tuesday, October 23, 2012.

For more information on ***From Village School to Global Brand***, visit [www.theSABISstory.com](http://www.theSABISstory.com).

## Testimonials

“ The story told by ***From Village School to Global Brand*** offers hope for the world. This is not an unrealistic claim. A system, demonstrated in many countries to be successful for educating even the most disadvantaged children, has addressed with results, not theories, the leading barrier to success for individuals and nations. The book explains how those results have been accomplished. It offers convincing evidence that others can achieve similar success. ”

**William Edgerly, Chairman Emeritus, State Street Corporation**



## SABIS® School Network Expands in the MENA region

The first school in what would become the SABIS® School Network opened its doors in 1886 in the village of Choueifat, Lebanon. Surviving and, indeed, thriving in the 126 years since then, the SABIS® School Network has come to be comprised of schools operating in 15 countries on four continents. For the 2012-13 academic year, the network continued its pattern of growth with the opening of 6 new schools – 2 private schools and 4 Public-Private Partnership schools.

The International School of Choueifat in Dream City, Erbil (ISC-Dream City), in Kurdistan, northern Iraq, four Public-Private Partnerships schools also in Kurdistan, and the International School of Choueifat in Dubai Investments Park, Dubai



ISC-Dream City in Erbil, Kurdistan

(ISC- DIP) in the United Arab Emirates are the newest schools to join the global SABIS® network. All welcomed students in September 2012.

SABIS® has been operating schools in Kurdistan, northern Iraq since 2006, when it established the International School of Choueifat-Erbil. ISC-Erbil began operating with an initial enrollment of 420 students located in a temporary campus. The school later moved to a new state-of-the-art-campus and continued to grow at an astonishing rate. In 2008, there were 780 students enrolled, this number soared to 1,400 in 2010, 2,000 in 2011 and reached 1,945 by 2012!

In an effort to keep up with the demand for school places in SABIS® member schools in Kurdistan, ISC-Dream City began offering classes to 120 students in Kindergarten through Grade 1 in September 2012. The school will add one grade level in each subsequent year of its operation until it offers a full K-12 program. ISC-Dream City currently has the capacity to house up to 600 students. Its facilities include two playgrounds, a football field, computer laboratory, cafeteria, and art room. ISC-Dream City aims to build on the reputation SABIS® has developed in northern Iraq, and indeed over more than 126 years of being a provider of world-class education that delivers stellar results year after year.

*“This school was opened to help cope with the large demand we have for places in SABIS® schools in Erbil. This year alone we received over 1,700 student applications between the PPP schools and the SABIS® private schools in Erbil,”* said Mr. Raed Mahmoud, SABIS® Representative in Kurdistan. *“This is testament to the success of the SABIS® methodology and the reputation we have built in the few years that we have operated in Kurdistan.”*

SABIS® network expansion in Kurdistan this year is not limited to ISC-Dream City, but also includes expansion in the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) arena. In September 2012, four new PPP schools were opened in the remote cities of Kalar, Soran, Suleimaniah, and Zakkho. Each of these new PPP schools welcomed approximately 300 students from Kindergarten through Grade 2, thus helping to address the growing demand for a SABIS® education.

SABIS®-managed schools in Kurdistan currently total 10 with 7 PPP schools and 3 private schools in addition to the SABIS® University, which was established in 2009.

Expansion in the number of schools managed by SABIS® in 2012-13 is rounded out by ISC - DIP, the 14<sup>th</sup> SABIS® operated school in the Gulf and second school in Dubai. SABIS® has a long history in the region. In fact, back in 1975, ISC-Sharjah was the first SABIS® member school to operate outside of Lebanon.



ISC-Dubai Investments Park in Dubai, U.A.E.

SABIS® Vice President, Mr. Victor Saad, is optimistic about the school’s prospect and its potential to add to the education landscape in Dubai, U.A.E. *“Based on the demand for seats in SABIS® member schools in the UAE, we saw a need for another school,”* he stated. *“In the first ten weeks of registration for ISC – DIP, we had accepted over 700 students, the full capacity of the school in its first phase of development.”* He continued, *“We look forward to the day when the school will be at its full enrollment capacity of offering a solid and well-rounded education for each of its 3,600 students.”*

Today, ISC-DIP is poised to serve the Emirati as well as growing multinational communities in Dubai. Boasting a 60,000 square meter purpose built campus, ISC-DIP offers world-class facilities including science and computer laboratories, a performance hall, and extensive sports facilities including a semi-Olympic sized pool, an indoor basketball/tennis court, an Olympic sized soccer field and an athletic track.

*“Our operations in the UAE have come a long way since we started our first school in Sharjah,”* commented SABIS® Executive Regional Director, Mr. Ramzi Germanos. *“We have high expectations for ISC-DIP and look forward to helping all students achieve their full potential.”*

Like all other SABIS® member schools, ISC-DIP students will follow the SABIS® college-preparatory curriculum supported by its own proprietary book series. The school’s students will also be encouraged to raise academic standards, develop life skills, and pursue their interests by actively participating in the SABIS Student Life Organization® at the school.

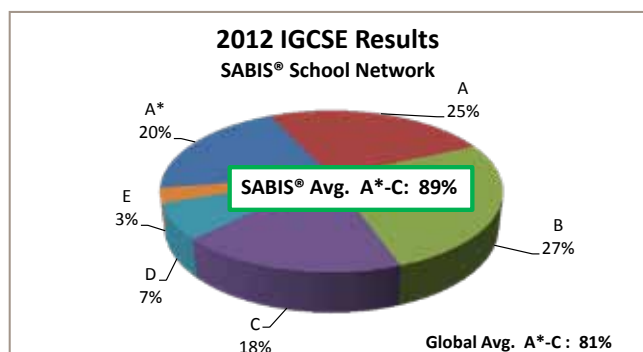
All of the schools new to the network in the 2012-13 academic year will implement the SABIS® Educational System, a comprehensive, rigorous educational program that includes proven teaching methods, targeted book series, and regular assessments ensuring that every student is prepared for success in college and beyond.

For more information about the schools mentioned in this article, visit [www.iscdreamcity-sabis.net](http://www.iscdreamcity-sabis.net), [www.pppkurdistan-sabis.net](http://www.pppkurdistan-sabis.net), or [www.iscdip-sabis.net](http://www.iscdip-sabis.net).

## Academics



### 2012 SABIS® External Exam Results Continue to Beat Global Averages



SABIS® member schools are college-preparatory institutions that aim to help nearly every student gain admission to college or university upon graduation. In support of this vision, SABIS® member schools follow a challenging international curriculum that provides students with a strong knowledge base. Further, through SABIS®’s approach to frequent assessment, students acquire the test-taking skills – organization, time and stress management – that enable them to perform well on external exams.

Every year students in several SABIS® member schools take external exams, and results show year after year that the SABIS® approach is very effective in preparing students to do well on their exams. In the spring of 2012, students at SABIS® member schools took various external examinations. Among the exams taken were the American Advanced Placement (AP®) exam and the British-based Advanced Level (A Level) and International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) exams in addition to others. Upon release of the results in the late summer of 2012, the results were compiled and showed that SABIS® students continue to out-perform global averages.

#### Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement exams are generally taken by senior students just before graduating. The exams take place in May of each year over a two week period and can include written, oral, and practical portions which are designed to assess student knowledge and retention of material covered over a period of one or two years.

In the spring of 2012, 855 SABIS® students took AP® exams in 26 subjects. A total of 2,374 exams were taken in 23 SABIS® member schools. Results showed that 73% of the examinations scored the highest marks of 3, 4, or 5, with 5 being the highest mark possible.

## Advanced Level

Like AP® exams, British-based Advanced Level exams, or A Levels, are taken by students who will soon be completing their secondary education. The exams cover a two-year curriculum in a set subject and can include written, oral, and practical portions, with examinations scheduled over a period of one and a half months in the late spring each year.

In 2012, 305 SABIS® students took A Level examinations in 9 subjects including Arabic, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Mathematics, Further Maths, Economics, Physics, and Urdu. Results from the 376 exams taken showed that 80% of examinations scored passing marks of A\* through C, with A\* being the highest score. More remarkable than these results is that the global average of A\*-C in the same subjects was only 67%.

## International General Certificate of Secondary Education

Also a British exam, the IGCSEs are typically taken by students who are completing the 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade in SABIS® member schools. In some subjects such as world languages, IGCSE exams are also taken by SABIS® students who are much younger. Like the AP® and AL exams, IGCSEs cover material learned by students over a one to two year period and are taken over a period of one and a half months in the spring of each year.

In the spring 2012 examination session, 1,611 students from 20 SABIS® member schools took a total of 4,545 IGCSE exams in 24 subjects. Results showed that 89% of the examinations were awarded marks of A\*-C in comparison to a global average of 81% in the same subjects worldwide.

In commenting on the overall external exam results from the 2012 examination session, SABIS® VP - Academic Development, Mr. Ghassan Kansou stated, *"Naturally we are pleased to see that our students continue to out-perform global averages on these exams. With continued effort and careful analysis of all areas of student performance on external exams, we are committed to achieving even better results next year."*

For more information about SABIS®, visit [www.sabis.net](http://www.sabis.net).

## SABIS® 2012 Graduates Accepted to Top Universities



Helping nearly every student gain admission to college or university is a key tenet of the SABIS® philosophy along with implementing a non-selective admission policy and adding value to all students. Every aspect of the comprehensive SABIS® Educational System has been designed to reflect this philosophy and to position students in all SABIS® member schools for success in the college/university admission process.

In 2012, 1,435 students, an increase of 25%, graduated from 24 SABIS® member schools and received their high school diplomas. The new graduates accepted their diplomas with a sense of pride for having successfully completed their secondary education and with anticipation of a bright future at university.

SABIS® 2012 graduates were accepted to a total of 448 colleges and universities in 31 countries. Tertiary institutions in the U.S. were the most prevalent with 242 colleges and universities accepting SABIS® graduates. In the U.K., 76 different college and universities accepted 2012 graduates. SABIS® graduates were also accepted to universities in Germany, the Netherlands, the UAE, Lebanon, and Egypt, among several others.

In helping each student apply to the right university, one that meets his/her needs, offers suitable degree programs, and meets other requirements, SABIS® encourages students to select top universities that may have more challenging admissions requirements as well as those that can be considered more readily accessible. Reflecting this approach, 42% of the world's Top 200 universities for 2012, as identified by the U.K. *Times Educational Supplement*, accepted SABIS® 2012 graduates.

To download the full list of SABIS® 2012 university offers and acceptances, go to [www.sabis.net/educational-services/downloads.aspx](http://www.sabis.net/educational-services/downloads.aspx).



## SABIS® Holds 2012 Academic Conferences

As a global education management organization, SABIS® owes much of its success to its commitment to ongoing research and development as well as continual improvement. With a view to sharing new developments with key staff in SABIS® member schools, including schools that license the SABIS® Educational System, each year SABIS® holds a number of academic conferences.

### SABIS® Licensee Leadership Training

In the summer of 2012, SABIS® held its largest Licensee Leadership Training session to date. The training took place at SABIS® Educational Systems, Inc. offices in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, and brought together 20 participants from SABIS® Licensed schools in the U.S.A, namely BelovED Community Charter School from New Jersey as well as all three Ascend Learning schools from Brooklyn, New York.

Participants included an interesting mix of individuals both new to SABIS® and those already familiar with the comprehensive educational program. Attendees included school directors, deans of instruction, lead teachers, and school leaders, all of whom engaged in the “train the trainer” type of seminar, with participants acquiring the skills and understanding necessary to train the rest of their team upon returning to their school.



2012 Licensee Leadership Training attendees

More specifically, the training included sessions on subject-specific courses, the SABIS Point System®, and IT in SABIS® member schools in addition to sessions on the effective use and management of SABIS Integrated Testing and Learning® (ITL®) and the SABIS Academic Monitoring System® (SABIS® AMS).



Participants taking part in group work

Ayham Ayche, SABIS® Licensing Program Manager, was pleased with the outcome. *“Everyone involved in the training was highly engaged and responsive. I am confident that the school leaders were well-prepared to help their on-site teams better understand and effectively implement the SABIS® system in their schools.”*

For their part, attendees also expressed confidence in their newly-acquired skills and knowledge: *“I was absolutely delighted with the licensee training. It provided me with various opportunities to better understand the SABIS® philosophy and approach to education. Through large conferences, small group content breakout sessions, and interactive workshops, I was able to identify and develop best practice techniques critical to the SABIS® model. This undoubtedly was some of the best and most effective professional development I have attended,”* said Erin Swan-Potras, Dean of Instruction, Grades 3-4, Brownsville Ascend Charter School.

For more information about licensing the SABIS® Educational System, visit SABIS®, visit [www.sabis.net/licensing](http://www.sabis.net/licensing).

## SABIS® Academic Quality Controller Conference



Dr. Restom Kassem with the Academic Operations Team at SABIS® USA at the Conference in Minnesota



AQC's and the Academic Operations Team at SABIS® USA during the Annual SABIS® Academic Quality Controller Conference

Joining the Licensee Leadership Training for two days of shared workshops were Academic Quality Controllers (AQC's) from SABIS®-managed U.S. schools. Eighteen AQC's from across the U.S. came together to participate in sessions on the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS), the implication of the CCSS on the SABIS® Educational System, and a review of the SABIS® Science Program. The agenda also covered the different tasks pertaining to the AQC's role.

A packed agenda for the conference was delivered by 18 members of the SABIS® corporate support team based in Minnesota and compiled by Dr. Restom Kassem, SABIS® Director of Academic Operations. *"The juxtaposition of the sessions was a huge success allowing those with experience with the SABIS® Educational System to share stories and advice with new colleagues,"* noted Dr. Kassem.

Feedback from attendees also showed the added value from the conference:

*"The 2012 AQC conference helped me understand what my responsibilities are as an AQC and how to work hand-in-hand with the rest of the school staff to ensure that students in my school get the best possible education,"* stated a new participant at the conference.

## IT News



### IT at SABIS®: Education for Future Generations



SABIS® is committed to investing in IT projects and innovations aimed at enhancing teacher efficiency and empowering students using the latest cutting-edge technology. In keeping with this commitment, SABIS® recently signed an agreement with Young Digital Planet (YDP) to convert the entire 1,700+ SABIS® Book Series into E-books for student use.

After a long search for a suitable partner that could meet all the requirements, SABIS® opted to partner with YDP, part of the Sanoma Corporation and one of Europe's leading media and educational publishing groups in digital publishing.

*"E-book technology is undoubtedly the future of publishing,"* said Mr. Serge Bakhos, SABIS® Group Vice President – Information Technology, Book Publishing and Creative Design. *"No other technology has been adopted so quickly in modern history. In fact, according to the Association of American Publishers, 'net sales revenues for E-books exceeded that of covered books in the first quarter of the year and with advent of new tablets devices, consumer E-book adoption will most likely continue to rise substantially.' In keeping with our core values, SABIS® will leverage this technology to make education more engaging and more effective."*



The main driver behind this shift is the desire to increase student engagement in the learning process and appeal to a generation that responds to technology, converting otherwise static material into engaging and dynamic teaching content.

*“This is not simply about digitizing our textbooks,” said Bakhos. “We are introducing some fantastic features in the new E-books. A myriad of features including interactive activities, simulations and animations within the lessons, videos, interlinks to prerequisite material and links to external resources making the E-books a truly unique and interactive experience.”* He added, *“On the academic level, students can experience the true added value of the SABIS® Educational System. They become better prepared to use technology in their prospective careers and meet the challenges that lie ahead.”*

For more information about SABIS®, visit [www.sabis.net](http://www.sabis.net).

## SABIS® WebSchool 2.0

SABIS® WebSchool is a secure, user-friendly information portal designed to enhance the educational experience of SABIS® students and their parents. It provides students with easy access to track homework assignments, academic progress, and Student Life participation. For parents, WebSchool provides a window into their child’s life at school. Through the site, parents can view regular updates on their child’s academic performance, behavior, and involvement in SLO® activities, among other things.

With new and improved technical specifications and design, SABIS® WebSchool provides several benefits to students and parents alike including a more user friendly and visually stimulating site as well as some new and enhanced features.

Among the many new features, by far the most exciting aspect is the introduction of the new “Progress Review”. This new feature is designed for students to monitor their own academic performance and overall school experience. It also gives parents a clear picture of their child’s results, general behavior, attendance record, and SLO® involvement. For each term of the academic year, the Progress Overview summarizes all relevant information on a single screen or page.

*“We are very excited about the changes to WebSchool,” said Mr. Sami Assi, IT Solutions Manager at SABIS®. “Now, more than ever, students can easily and readily take ownership of their scholastic program, commit to their studies, and aspire to progress at school by actively monitoring their own performance.”*

*According to SABIS® parent, Mrs. Fadia Issa, “WebSchool engages us parents and allows us to be easily involved in our child’s education. It nurtures a close-knit environment that is ultimately in the best interest of each and every SABIS® student. No other school offers anything like it!”*

For further information or to provide feedback on WebSchool, please contact your school’s Administration office.



WebSchool brochure to be available in SABIS® member schools

## Testimonials

“ I am settled into my life here at the **University of British Columbia in Canada**. I just finished my first round of midterms and in true Choueifat fashion did very well (one A and two A+s). I wanted to just sincerely and properly thank you so much for the millionth time, but it will just never be enough. I really do realize that I probably wouldn't be at UBC if it wasn't for the support SABIS® has given me. SABIS® literally helped forge my future.”

**Hatim Hanafi**  
**2012 Graduate – ISC – Abu Dhabi**

## SABIS Student Life Organization® News



Morning “Dancersize” at the SABIS® Student Life Training Camp in Bath, U.K.

SABIS® firmly believes that education has the power to change the world. The Student Life Organization® (SLO®) is an integral part of all SABIS® schools and gives students the opportunity to develop life skills that empower them to make a difference. Through SLO® activities, students experience real-life responsibilities, develop their leadership and communication skills, gain self-confidence, and learn how to give back to their community. Students are also encouraged to make their school a place for everyone to enjoy.

The Student Life Training Camp, held each year, is a wonderful opportunity for select SLO® prefects to acquire and develop these skills, which they in turn share with their whole school.

### Worldwide SABIS® Student Life Training Camp



Mr. Roger Soweid during a presentation on leadership skills

The worldwide Student Life Training Camp (SLTC) took place in the summer of 2012 in Bath, England. For 11 days, over 90 SLO® prefects from SABIS® schools all over the world met on the idyllic campus of the SABIS International School UK in Bath. Participating students, aged 14-17, were selected to represent their school and partake in the many educational sessions and activities held throughout the camp.

The Student Life Training Camp's program included many exciting sessions and excursions. The workshop sessions aimed to develop skills such as leadership, motivation, and team building as well as build awareness of how to deal with difficult situations, such as bullying, faced by students in and outside of school.

Attendees also participated in several cultural outings including visits to the Roman Baths, the SS Great Britain ship and Warwick Castle in addition to an outing to the mall for a spot of shopping.



SLO® Camp participants in Bath, England

*"The SL training camp has been the most amazing experience I have had so far, and it has really made me believe more in myself and be more confident in what I do. It has also given us all new ideas to implement in our schools."* SLTC participant from ISC-Khalifa City, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

*"The person I was at the beginning of the Student Life Training Camp is surely not the same person who ended the camp. I'm motivated; I'm inspired; I want to make a change in this world. They just unleashed the potential in me. I'm truly grateful for the experience."* SLTC participant from SABIS® International School-Adma, Lebanon

*"The Student Life Training Camp changed my life. I learned that you can always make a difference if you don't give up, that you should dare to inspire someone. I met the most amazing people, from all over the world that I know I will stay in touch with for a long time. I cherish the memories and what I learned at this camp."* SLTC participant from The International School of Minnesota, Eden Prairie, MN, U.S.



SLO® Prefects surprised by what they find during the Treasure Hunt

### **SABIS® Student Life Junior Camp**

For the first time ever, the SABIS Student Life Organization® (SLO®) held a Student Life Training Camp for middle school students from K-8 schools in the U.S.

*"We felt that schools in the U.S. that only run up to Grade 8 were missing out on the wonderful experience and benefits of a Student Life Training Camp,"* said Mr. Roger Soweid, Corporate Director of SABIS® Student Life and Student Management. *"That is why we decided this year to organize a special camp in Minnesota for these younger SLO® prefects."*





SLO® prefects at the SABIS® Student Life Junior Camp in Minnesota

Like the annual worldwide Student Life Training Camp, the junior camp brought together student leaders and Student Life Coordinators (SLCs) for a unique experience. The camp sought to equip the students in attendance with important life skills and inspire them to share their new skills and knowledge with other students in their schools in order to improve their respective schools.

The junior camp was tailored to suit its younger participants aged 11 to 13. For three days, 26 SLO® prefects participated in seminars and hands-on activities and enjoyed many fun and inspiring activities.

*"I have brought back everything that I learned and showed other prefects and students. I gave a presentation at my school on anti-bullying that we had during the Minnesota training."* Participant from Holyoke Community Charter School, Holyoke, Massachusetts

*"When I first started at SABIS®, I never thought that I'd be able to participate in a camp like this. The camp was a great opportunity to learn new skills that will help to improve my school. I am proud to be one of the first prefects to attend this camp... This was a great opportunity for me. I learned a lot of lessons that I will use the rest of my life."* Participant from SABIS® International School, Phoenix, Arizona.

Whatever their age, students who participated in Student Life Training Camps returned to their respective schools ready to make a difference and realized that it takes only one person to inspire an entire community.

For more information about Student Life, visit [www.sabis.net](http://www.sabis.net).

## HR News



### SABIS® Professional Development Institute Offers Expanded Repertoire



Participants at the Team Building Workshop at ISR in Neuss, Germany

SABIS® is committed to the personal and professional development of its employees. In line with this commitment, the SABIS® Professional Development Institute (SPDI) continuously designs and develops new seminars and training workshops that provide development opportunities for all employees, at all levels and in all fields, to enhance their professional skills and competency level.

Recently, SPDI held a series of training workshops for employees at SABIS® Educational Services in Lebanon as well as SABIS® schools in the Levant, KSA, Kurdistan, and Germany covering a range of topics including Performance Management, Team Building, Classroom Management, as well as Leadership training for AQC's.

*“The HR Department worked very closely with SPDI this year to ensure that all employees were familiar with the new and improved Performance Management Process,”* said Ms. Maha Khani, Employee Relations Officer at SES-Lebanon. *“We ran a series of workshops and training sessions throughout the year on how to set objectives, how to evaluate employee performance, the importance of following up on objectives set early in the academic year, and how to give productive and enhanced feedback.”*



Participants at the Presentation Skills Workshop for AQC's from ISC-Chouifat, SIS-Adma and SIS-Koura held on the SIS-Adma Campus

The SPDI also held a successful Team Building workshop, giving managers, executives, and team leaders insight into how to build and maintain an environment of teamwork. This module has been received with enthusiasm and is gaining momentum across the network. So far it has been delivered in Jordan, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia. It was also delivered to Directors and AQC's in Germany and Erbil.

*“The team building workshop was a huge success. The administrative team at ISR found the exercises and discussions very productive; a good learning opportunity while at the same time very enjoyable. We have benefitted greatly from this event and we look forward to a follow up session in the new academic year,”* said Eileen Lyons, School Director, ISR-Germany.

SPDI also developed an “on-the job” training workshop on classroom management aimed at identifying successful and practical classroom management techniques in actual teaching situations. As this necessitated field feedback, AQC's in all regions reviewed and amended the content of the module to provide teachers with a maximum number of techniques to draw from. Prior to the start of the 2012-13 academic year, the classroom management module was rolled out in workshops across all schools during the teacher orientation sessions.

*“In addition to the traditional and regular workshops offered by SPDI, we continuously develop and introduce new workshops that meet the organization's needs,”* said Mr. Johnny Harb, SABIS® Corporate Operations Director. *“Our in-house training department allows us to deliver target training, on time, to a wide audience,”* Harb added. *“We also update and improve existing training workshops on a regular basis, and we are developing a new module for AQC training that will be ready in 2013.”*

For information on available training workshops, send an E-mail to [info@sabis.net](mailto:info@sabis.net).

***The mission of the SABIS® Professional Development Institute is to support SABIS® and its network of schools by providing training programs to schools' administrators, teachers and corporate staff.***



### Linwood Public Charter School

Linwood Public Charter School (LPCS) is a public charter school located in Shreveport, Louisiana in the U.S. and is a member of the global SABIS® School Network. The middle school, which was taken over and awarded to SABIS® after recording several years of underperformance, opened its doors in 2009 to students in grades 6 through 8. Today, LPCS provides a quality educational opportunity to the children of Caddo Parish and has a current enrollment of 530 students.



Linwood Public Charter School, Shreveport, Louisiana

Located in one of the most challenging areas of North Louisiana, LPCS has overcome its fair share of hardships. Burdened by a reputation for poor academic performance and challenging disciplinary problems before its takeover, LPCS has turned into a pillar of excellence and today carries a message of hope for all charter schools across the U.S.

*"We are very proud of our students for their hard work and efforts; they are increasingly taking their work seriously. We are transforming the school's culture as well as its academic standing,"* said Vickie Carroll, Linwood School Director.

### Beating the Odds



Pink campaign at LPCS

As a member of the SABIS® School Network, LPCS implements the SABIS® Educational System, a comprehensive academic program that has been developed and refined over 126 years. With a balance of academics, self-development, and life preparation, the SABIS® Educational System is based on a challenging curriculum and a disciplined approach to education.

The SABIS® curriculum implemented at the school has been tailored and aligned to meet the Louisiana Content Standards and Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP) 21 and

integrated Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (iLEAP) requirements. The curriculum emphasizes the subjects of English and mathematics, which are considered gateway subjects and the building blocks for understanding and exploring other subjects. Other subjects covered include science, social studies, music, art, health, P.E., and IT.

With the odds stacked high against many students in the public school system, students at LCPS have beat the odds and performed outstandingly on state exams. LPCS 8<sup>th</sup> graders made double digit gains in all subjects on the Spring 2012 LEAP over their performance in 2011. In addition, they outperformed their peers in other middle schools and in the other Recovery School District (RSD) school in Shreveport. They also outperformed the mean scores of their peers in RSD Louisiana schools.

Students at LPCS are very involved in their education. Those who are particularly good in a certain subject learn how to be Shadow Teachers®. These students assist teachers in the classroom by helping their fellow classmates understand the concepts taught. Students also manage "re-teach, retake", a period each week in which students re-teach concepts missed by their peers on the weekly Academic Monitoring System tests.



By creating a well-knit community of learners and an atmosphere of cooperation, students ultimately become very involved and committed to their education and develop a strong sense of community.

*"I have been a Shadow Teacher® for the past two years at LPCS and really like it. I get to teach my classmates and learn how to speak in front of others at the same time,"* stated one LPCS student. *"I've learned that I like to talk in front of people and I think I'm good at it."*

### **SABIS Student Life Organization® (SLO®)**



SLO® Prefect at LPCS

LPCS is dedicated to creating a community in which all students can grow, excel, and take pride in their individual and collective accomplishments. To this end, SLO® offers many opportunities designed for students to reach their full potential.

Through SLO®, students can participate in a whole range of activities outside of the classroom that include academics, performing arts such as drama productions or instrumental ensembles, and sports for boys and girls including basketball, boys and girls track, cheerleading, pep squad, and dance. In addition to these activities, through SLO® students create and

roll out a number of projects and social activities with the aim of giving back to their school and their community. These included *Muffins with Mom*, *Donuts with Dad*, *Pink Party* (celebrating breast cancer awareness), *Relay for Life*, *holiday parades*, and *Area Work Day*.

In the summer of 2012, three students from LPCS had the opportunity of a lifetime and attended the first ever SABIS® Student Life Junior Camp which took place in Minnesota. Until June 2012, Student Life Training Camps were offered only to high school prefects, and schools, such as LPCS, that only ran up to Grade 8 had missed out on the wonderful benefits and returns of Student Life Training Camps.

*"The trip to Minnesota was an experience that I will never forget. All the sessions and team building activities were helpful. They made me believe in myself and build character that I will use throughout life. I am thankful for my Student Life Coordinator and Director for choosing me to go and experience this wonderful opportunity."* LCPS 8<sup>th</sup> grader and participant of the Student Life Junior Camp.



Kids with their father during *Donuts with Dad*

Having made a lot of progress since it was established, Linwood Public Charter School is ready to confidently face the challenges that lie ahead and continue to bring first class education and a brighter future to the children of Shreveport, Louisiana.

For more information about Linwood Public Charter School, visit [www.lpcs-sabis.net](http://www.lpcs-sabis.net).



SAGA – SABIS® Alumni Global Association

## SAGA Introduces New Features and Membership Benefits

The SABIS® Alumni Global Association (SAGA) is an organization that unites graduates from all schools in the worldwide SABIS® School Network. Founded in June 2011, SAGA's mission is to create a dynamic, global forum that provides opportunities for SABIS® graduates to connect with each other and help foster the lifelong friendships formed while attending a SABIS® member school. To this end, the SAGA team is rolling out a number of initiatives designed to strengthen SAGA membership and benefit alumni.

As part of its outreach to new graduates from SABIS® member schools, SAGA has introduced an "early sign up" option whereby students in their final year at school can become alumni members. To run in parallel with this new option, the SAGA website has been revamped to include information that is timely and relevant to these new members. The website now has a *University Applications Link* that outlines the application process at select universities. The website also offers several new additional features including a *Recommended Reading*

### SAGA Facts & Figures:

- 3,500+ Registered Users
- 12,000+ graduates over past 14 years
- 1,200+ graduates every year
- 800 LinkedIn members
- 6,500+ hits on SAGA website

section as well as a *Discussion Blog*, designed to help foster dialogue between students interested in attending a specific university and alumni who have attended that university.

New SAGA members also benefit from a whole range of facilities including free membership for three years after graduation, a SAGA membership card, a lifetime SABIS®

E-mail account, updates on upcoming alumni events (organized by region of residence), and access to a directory to help locate other alumni within the network. SAGA members in Lebanon will soon benefit from a new package that will enable them to profit from discounts at major retail outlets and restaurants.

*"I love the new and improved SAGA website,"* said Carmen Inati, ISC-Koura, class of 2003. *"I particularly enjoy the interactive platform and the benefits offered, she added."*

According to Ms. Darine Bader, Corporate Operations Analyst, *"SAGA is an extremely valuable and fast growing network of professionals. Access to this network is a privilege and, when used wisely, can be a strategic tool in helping young graduates benefit from connections through SABIS® alumni living and working around the world."*

For more information, visit the new and improved SAGA website, visit [www.saga.sabis.net](http://www.saga.sabis.net).



### Rani Panjarian, ISC-Choueifat, Class of 2012



Rani Panjarian, ISC-Choueifat, Class of 2012

Rani Panjarian is a passionate and talented young man. Joining ISC-Choueifat in 1997 as a student in Nursery, Rani graduated from the SABIS® mother school in June of 2012 and has just started his first semester at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, studying a double major in Physics and English Literature and set to commence a minor in Vocal Performance next semester.

Throughout his school years, Rani excelled academically and was an active member of the SABIS® Student Life Organization (SLO®). Rani joined the SLO® in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and took on more responsibility each year. He held the position of Head Prefect of the Academic Department in his final two years at school. With his stellar academic performance, Rani became very involved in study groups and peer tutoring and was committed to helping other students achieve their full potential. Through his support of fellow classmates, he helped learn and teach the value of teamwork and the importance of succeeding as a group rather than focusing only on his personal success. *“This attitude has stayed with me and is now a part of who I am,”* Rani commented.

Reflecting on his role in the SLO®, Rani says, *“We did our utmost to establish a balance between academics and extracurricular activities for the entire student body and to create a well-rounded school life for our peers. I am very proud of our accomplishments.”*

In addition to his pursuits in academics and SLO®, Rani was also very involved in the school’s musical theater program. With a passion for singing and acting, Rani starred in ISC-Choueifat’s many performances including *Oliver Twist*, *Westside Story*, *Hairspray*, *Fame*, and *Mamma Mia*. *“Our audiences grew progressively larger and musical performances in our school became a very popular aspect of the campus extracurricular life,”* said Rani.

Now that Rani is at university with a wide open future in front of him, he is still weighing his options. *“I have still not decided what career exactly I want to pursue. For the moment, I am studying what I am passionate about and will form a career goal a little further down the road,”* he added.

In the meantime, Rani Panjarian is well-poised to face the challenges that lie ahead. *“I cannot emphasize enough how much ISC-Choueifat and the SLO® have shaped my outlook on the world around me, both socially and with respect to the community around me,”* he reflected. *“The school and my experiences there have given me confidence to settle in to a foreign country and become involved straight away in university campus life. And thanks to ISC’s rigorous curriculum, I am coasting my way through my classes because I covered most of the material we are currently studying in 10<sup>th</sup> grade!”* he added with just a hint of mischief.





SABIS® is a global education management organization that manages Pre-K and K-12 schools worldwide. The network is comprised of schools in 15 countries on four continents. Since the first school was founded in 1886, SABIS® has graduated thousands of students who have joined top universities around the world.

## MEMBERS OF THE SABIS® SCHOOL NETWORK

**MIDDLE EAST REGION:** The International School of Choueifat - Sharjah, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Al Ain, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Ras Al Khaimah, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Dubai, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Umm Al Quwain, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Doha, Qatar | The International School of Choueifat - Ruwais, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Muscat, Oman | The International School of Choueifat - Manama, Bahrain | The International School of Choueifat - Abu Dhabi Khalifa City "A", U.A.E. | Abdul Aziz International School - Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | The International School of Choueifat - Choueifat, Lebanon | The International School of Choueifat - Koura, Lebanon | The International School of Choueifat - Amman, Jordan | The International School of Choueifat - Damascus, Syria | SABIS® International School - Adma, Lebanon | The International School of Choueifat - Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq | The International School of Choueifat - Suleimaniah, Kurdistan, Iraq | The International School of Choueifat - Dream City, Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq | The International School of Choueifat - Dubai Investments Park - Dubai, U.A.E. **PPP Schools:** Military High School - Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | 7 Schools - Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq **EGYPT:** The International School of Choueifat - Cairo, Egypt | The International School of Choueifat - City of 6 October, Egypt

**PAKISTAN:** The International School of Choueifat - Lahore, Pakistan **NORTH AMERICA:** The International School of Minnesota - Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.A. | SABIS® International Charter School - Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A. | International Academy of Flint - Flint, Michigan, U.S.A. | SABIS® International School - Phoenix, Arizona, U.S.A. | Milestone SABIS® Academy of New Orleans - New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S.A. | Holyoke Community Charter School - Holyoke, Massachusetts, U.S.A. | International Academy of Saginaw - Saginaw, Michigan, U.S.A. | Mt. Auburn International Academy - Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.A. | Linwood Public Charter School - Shreveport, Louisiana, U.S.A. | International Preparatory Academy, Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A. | Brooklyn Ascend Charter School - Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A. (Licensed Member School) | Brownsville Ascend Charter School - Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A. (Licensed Member School) | Bushwick Ascend Charter School - Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A. (Licensed Member School) | American International Academy - Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A. (Licensed Member School) | BelovED Community Charter School - Jersey City, New Jersey, U.S.A. (Licensed Member School)

**UNITED KINGDOM:** SABIS International School U.K. - Bath, England **GERMANY:** ISF Internationale Schule Frankfurt-Rhein-Main - Frankfurt, Germany | ISR Internationale Schule am Rhein in Neuss - Neuss, Germany **ROMANIA:** Cambridge School of Bucharest - Bucharest, Romania **UNIVERSITIES:** SABIS® University - Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq

Disclaimer: As SABIS® is a global organization operating in several countries, English usage in the SABIS® newsletter may vary depending on the style used (U.S./ U.K.) in the region represented.