

## NEWSLETTER

USA • EUROPE • AFRICA • ASIA & THE MIDDLE EAST

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### **Highlight of the Issue**

SABIS® US Meetings:

The annual SABIS® Management and US Directors meetings took place from November 2-5, 2003. The overall theme of the SABIS® Management workshop was 'Increasing Efficiency within the SABIS® Organization', with a focus on such topics as decision-making authority, training and development, and support from SABIS® Educational Systems, Inc. to the member schools.



The Directors' Meeting highlighted topics such as the level of implementation of the SABIS® Student Life Organization $^{\text{TM}}$  in the schools, teacher evaluation criteria, time management and delegation tips. US Directors had the opportunity to exchange ideas, and the sessions enabled participants to discuss successful strategies with one another. Through the time the Directors spent with each other, they gained the opportunity to share and benefit from the best practices in order to continue to strive for academic excellence. "The meetings were extremely informative", one Director stated, "I left energized and ready to work even harder."

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### **ICSS - Schenectady**

### ICSS - NY Enlarges its Facilities:



The start of the new academic year saw the *International Charter School of Schenectady, New York* expand its facilities to accommodate a growing student body from 256 to 425 students. Four modular classrooms were installed to help increase the school's services to the community including the addition of a music and dance classroom. This unit will give students introductory lessons in "creative movement", such as jazz, hip-hop, or ballet. The other modules installed house five first grade and one kindergarten class.

Expansion and renovation of the school's facilities is one of the major factors in achieving excellence throughout the SABIS® academic program and in striving to become one of the state's top charter schools.

### **SLO News**

### Sports Games at ISM

ISM students and staff have a long-standing tradition of sports rivalry between them. Their competitions have often found their way onto the soccer field or the basketball court. Term one of the AY 2003-04 was no exception.

The sun smiled on the match set for October  $14^{th}$  featuring ISM's varsity boys' and girls' soccer teams pitted against the combined  $ISM/SABIS^{\circledast}$  staff team. It shaped up to be the game of all games. While the students traditionally



The cheerful team

dominated the sports rivalry on the basketball court, they had never succeeded in beating the staff in soccer. This year, *ISM* students made history .... almost. The final score revealed a 3:3 draw.

Ms. Marlene Goblish, *ISM* Student Life Coordinator, cited this match as one of the best showings the students had ever made. She cited game highlights such as the hat trick scored by *ISM* French teacher, Mr. Raphael Fraisse, which was only narrowly outdone by the game-tying goal scored by the students in the final minutes. Mr. Sean Dempsy, *ISM* senior, not only scored the pivotal goal, he also did it with style, turning a mid-air deflection into the equalizer.

The match was a fabulous display of athletic talent by staff and students alike. The moves and antics of the teams also proved to be quite entertaining for participants as well as the spectators. Balls were bouncing off faces, people were falling down, and, as *ISM* Art teacher, Mr. John Bramble, added, "Spectacles were flying everywhere".

### **ISF**

### 1200 persons attend ISF's International Day



With a diverse student body, *ISF* has traditionally celebrated its internationalism. 'International Day' was established at *ISF* approximately 3 years ago as a way to enjoy and learn about other cultures. This year, 'International Day' was held on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> and was the culmination of a week of activities.

*ISF* students and teachers began their preparation for International Day well before its start as they worked to produce posters representing each of the 46 different nationalities at *ISF*. The posters featured many different items particular to each country: flags, traditional costumes, food, special holidays, geographical information, and much more.

In addition to preparing posters, each grade level from Kindergarten through Grade 6 was assigned one of seven focus countries. They then worked together with their teachers and *ISF* families of that nationality to gather information for display later in the week.

The high point of the week came on Saturday, November 8th, The school was adorned with 46 posters. Focus country presentations were set up in classrooms. Visitors received a free t-shirt to commemorate the day's events. Students were given passports to take along to each focus country exhibit, where they could receive a stamp after learning a bit about the country. The day also featured this year's first ISF Drama production, 'Wild Things'. Visitors could also indulge in specialty cakes from nationalities, could take in some performing arts events, and could mill about in the International Marketplace featuring over 20 different vendors and their wares.



Several persons visited the focus room of Korea and took in a sample of Korean television

For more information on the Internationale Schule Frankfurt-Rhein-Main, please visit www.isf-net.de

# Parent Testimonials Schenectady, NY

We are writing to inform you of our intention to have our daughter attend the International Charter School of Schenectady, NY for the 2003-2004 year. She has had a wonderful kindergarten experience and has learned and grown so much. We are thrilled with the quality of the educational program provided through SABIS® and look forward to: her emergence as a reader; her continued growth as a Spanish speaker; and her recognition of herself as a capable learner and responsible citizen within the educational community.

### **Feature School**

Ruwais Private School



In September 2001, the *International School of Choueifat* took over the management of the Ruwais Private School, owned by the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC).

The school is housed in a purpose-built facility and located in the town of Ruwais, a green oasis of tranquility on the Arabian Gulf, at a distance of two hundred fifty kilometers south west of Abu Dhabi.

The school caters to children of all nationalities from ages 3 to 18. Its seven hundred and thirty students currently represent thirty-one nationalities.

The International School of Choueifat - Ruwais has two campuses about a kilometer apart. The Junior school campus currently accommodates four hundred and forty pupils from KG to grade four. Its facilities include classrooms, a computer room, a music room, an art room, a multipurpose sports hall with a stage, a car track, and large play and sports grounds.

The Senior School site caters for two hundred and ninety students from grade five to twelve with well-equipped classrooms, an art room, a music room, three laboratories, a computer room, a library, a large gymnasium with a stage, and large multi-sports grounds.





Music concert during the International evening with music selection from 18 different countries

### Academics

The SABIS® curriculum prepares students for top universities world wide, including the most competitive American and British universities. As in all other SABIS® schools, student learning is continuously monitored to ensure that academic gaps are promptly identified and eliminated.

*ISC-Ruwais* students performed extremely well in 'O-Level' exams in 2002/03, maintaining the high level of success which has come to be expected of its students.

### The SABIS<sup>®</sup> Student Life Organization™

The main focus of the SABIS® Student Life Organization™ is to represent and serve the needs and the interests of all students. Every student has the opportunity to be involved in one of the many facets of Student Life: Academics, Discipline, Management, Sports, and Clubs.

*ISC-Ruwais* students are actively involved in contributing to the SABIS $^{\circ}$  SLO $^{\mathsf{TM}}$ . The Primary students have started a new prefects program, which calls for the formation of squads of five student prefects with a designated leader. Those teams are in charge of school activities such as a discipline program in which prevention and advising are key elements, a health food program where prefects encourage

students to eat healthy food, and playground activities where games are organized among other things. The Junior School students have also worked very hard to make and keep their school clean and as a result proudly announced in a banner in the school entrance that they are studying in "the cleanest school in the world".





ISC-Ruwais Gymnastics Team

ISC-Ruwais Basketball Team

Last year awards for the girls gymnastics club members were numerous, totaling eleven gold medals and fifteen silver and bronze medals in inter-school competitions. The different teams also received six trophies in recognition of their excellent performance.

#### **Activities**

Over the past two years the students of all ages performed in the school facilities or in the town recreation centers in music concerts, plays, gymnastics and fashion shows, art displays, etc. These functions have become a "must" for parents of Ruwais and always result in full house attendance.

The Junior school students were given an opportunity in March to display their musical talents by interpreting selections they had practiced throughout the school year. In April, students in grades four to seven treated their audience to a bouquet of International musical selections from five continents and eighteen countries. "Umoja" or spirit of togetherness was the name of the play the young actors presented to a captive audience in February. The story was that of a young African boy who is vainly trying to gain love and acceptance from his father but is instead rewarded by his community for his hard work and tenacity.

The most anticipated event of the year was the fashion show the senior school students presented at the end of April 2003. The students proudly modeled the outfits they had spent months designing and sewing. The hours of practice walking the runway in music paid off as the show was an unqualified success and was the highlight of the year's events.

### Visitor Testimonials SICS, MA

I've been an educator for the state of New York for over 27 years and I've never seen a school like this one! I am very impressed!

The main focus this year will be on continuing to improve the students' academic and personal achievements in a safe and orderly school environment, and on having a larger impact on the Ruwais community.

### Alumnus Spotlight

### Roman Strutynski, ISM Class 1991



*ISM* is pleased to relate a success story of one of its earliest graduates, Roman Strutynski.

Wojciech Strutynski, father of Roman and Claudia, immigrated to the United States 16 years ago from East Germany, having decided that his children would not have much of a future there. With a few pieces of luggage and Mr. Strutynski's Master's Degree in Electronics and Automation, the Strutynskis moved to Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, where Mr. Strutynski became an Apartment Building Caretaker to survive the cold Minnesota winter. He did it for his kids and says, "It was worth the trouble."



Roman was already 15 years old when he came to the United States. His English was "close to zero", though now his profession in law is based upon his "perfect knowledge of the language". His time at *ISM* gave him a fantastic jump start for his successes in life, according to his father. "The teachers work in a partnership with the students and offer their full support to ensure learning." Roman not only graduated from *ISM* but also gained admission to Carleton College, a top private college in Minnesota.

Following his studies at Carleton, Roman worked for a law firm in Minneapolis, Meagher & Greer, where he discovered his future vocation in law. After continuing his academic career at the American University School of Law in Washington, D.C., Roman graduated with his Juris Doctorate--and Cum Laude honors. With his newly acquired American citizenship and law degree, Roman moved to Germany to be closer to his Swiss sweetheart and currently works in Mergers & Acquisitions for a well-established German law firm, CMS Hasche Sigle Eschenlohr Peltzer Schaefer, in Stuttgart.

SABIS® is an educational organization that manages K-12 co-educational schools worldwide. Today, the network comprises 27 schools spanning across 4 continents Since the first school was founded in 1886, thousands of graduates have joined top universities in North America, Europe,

Australia & the Middle East.

### MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE SABIS® SCHOOL NETWORK

The International School of Choueifat -Choueifat, Lebanon |The International School of Choueifat - Sharjah, UAE |The International School of Choueifat - Abu Dhabi, UAE |The International School of Choueifat - Al Ain, UAE |The International School of Minnesota - Minneapolis, USA |The International School of Choueifat - Ras Al khaimah, UAE |The International School of Choueifat - Lahore, Pakistan |The International School of Choueifat - Dubai, UAE |The International School of Choueifat - Dubai, UAE |The International School of Choueifat - Springfield, Massachusetts, USA |ISF International School of Choueifat - Ras Al khaimah, UAE |The International Charter School - Springfield, Massachusetts, USA |ISF Internationale Schule Frankfurt - Rhein-Main, Germany |The International School of Choueifat - Cairo, Egypt |The International School of Choueifat - Koura, Lebanon |The International School of Choueifat - Amman, Jordan |The International Academy of Flint - Michigan, USA |King Abdul Aziz International School - Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (Associate Member) |The International School of Choueifat - Doha, Qatar |The International School of Choueifat - Damascus, Syria |The SABIS® International School - South Phoenix, Arizona, USA |Guilford Charter School - Greensboro, North Carolina, USA |Modern Education School - Muscat, Oman |Ruwais Private School - Ruwais, Abu Dhabi, UAE |The International Charter School of Schenectady - New York, USA |Milestone SABIS® Academy of New Orleans - New Orleans, Louisiana, USA |Internationale Schule am Rhein - News, Germany |The International School of Choueifat - Dreamland - City of 6 October Branch, Egypt |International College Preparatory Academy - Ohio, USA