# NEWSLETTER

NORTH AMERICA • EUROPE • AFRICA • ASIA & THE MIDDLE EAST





#### In this Issue **Highlights of the Issue** SABIS® Emphasizes Good Governance Measures at IFC Education Conference P. 1 2010 SABIS® Educational Summer Camp in Full Swing P.2 SABIS® to Open New School in U.S. Developments at SABIS® University P.3 Two U.S. Charter Schools Receive Renewals P.5 Two SABIS® Schools Expand Facilities P.6 <u>Academics</u> SABIS® Students Honored for External Exam P. 7 Performance SABIS® STARS Held in Levant Region P.8 ISC-Lahore Students Recognized in Country-Wide Science and Math Olympiad P.9 SIS-Adma Becomes a Cambridge International Examination Center P.10 SABIS® Academic Development Department Delivers Regional Workshops P.11 IT News Web School: A Website for the SABIS® P.12 Community **HR News** SABIS® U.A.E. PPP Principals Participate in Leasdership Conference P.13 SABIS Student Life Organization® News LPCS Students Participate in Project to Promote Healthy Habits P.14 SLO™'s Anti-Bullying Program P.15 **Feature School** International School of Choueifat-Manama P.16 **Alumnus in the Spotlight** P.19 ISF Alumnus Sergej Maier

# **Highlights of the Issue**



# SABIS® Emphasizes Good Governance Measures at IFC Education Conference

As a global organization committed to providing high-quality education, SABIS® was invited to take part in the International Finance Corporation's (IFC) Education Conference held from March 28-30, 2010, at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, D.C.

SABIS® President, Mr. Carl Bistany, and Group VP - Organizational Development, Mr. Joe Achkar, represented the organization and joined influential international panelists in discussing topics revolving around "Strategic Resilience in Times of Recession." Conference participants and panelists explored the future of education in developing countries and the challenges resulting from the global financial crisis. The conference also provided a platform for speakers from several countries to present strategic decisions that enhanced their organization's resilience and, in some cases, helped their organization to flourish despite difficult financial times.

During his presentation and the ensuing panel discussion on "Ensuring Good Governance," Mr. Achkar shared SABIS®'s experience in

establishing board governance. "Over the past ten years, SABIS® has successfully managed significant growth and exceeded development targets," stated Mr. Achkar. "This feat could not have been accomplished without the guidance of the IFC and the deliberate implementation of several strategically chosen corporate and family governance measures."



Now Available Online



Mr. Joe Achkar Presenting at the Conference

Mr. Achkar went on to outline the governance measures implemented, which have improved organizational effectiveness, operational efficiency, and sustainability. "SABIS® is committed to capitalizing on its investment in good governance to position future generations for continued success," added Mr. Achkar.

During his panel discussion on "Strategic Use of Technologies," Mr. Bistany shared some of SABIS®'s accomplishments in educational technology that have contributed to the organization's status as a global leader in IT. "Our IT Department works continually to develop cutting-edge programs and services which keep it at the forefront of technological advances in education," commented Mr. Bistany.

The IFC Education Conference highlighted the substantial change and growth currently affecting the public education

sector in developing countries in spite of the economic downturn and reinforced the positive role that the private sector can play in contributing to the development of public education.

For more information about SABIS®, visit www.sabis.net.

## 2010 SABIS® Educational Summer Camp in Full Swing



SIS-UK Campus

With the academic year now over, the muchanticipated 2010 SABIS® Educational Summer Camp is in full swing. Once a fixture on the SABIS® calendar, the camp has resumed after a nine-year break. Held in Bath, England, at SABIS® International School UK (SIS-UK), students in the SABIS® School Network and non-SABIS® students with recommendations have the opportunity to participate in this unique summer experience.

For years, the SABIS® Educational Summer Camp has offered students an enriching summer experience, which incorporates the high-quality SABIS® Educational System into a program that combines learning, culture, and fun on 148 acres of pristine Wiltshire countryside. "In the past, we had students who joined the Educational Summer Camp one year after the other because they loved it so much... they are a testament to our success," commented SABIS® Regional Director and SIS-UK School Director, Mr. Salah Ayche. "The camp provides students with a balanced schedule of academic and extracurricular activities so they can learn but also enjoy their time while they are at it."

In the morning, students attend classes which include the following subjects in all levels: English, French, Arabic, mathematics, science, and some enrichment courses, among others. In the afternoon, students choose from a wide range of activities. "Swimming and many other sports activities are held on campus; horse riding is an off-campus supervised activity; and bowling is one option for the evening trips and the activities that students can participate in. With so many choices, students have a chance to master a favorite hobby or take up a new interest," added Mr. Ayche. To foster cultural understanding, students embark on weekend trips to museums, historical sites, and other places of interest, such as amusement parks.

"Both my children went in the past and they had an incredible time learning and engaging in so many recreational activities they had never done before. Now that they are in college, they are still in touch with the many friends they made there from around the world," said a SABIS® parent.

Students from sixteen different SABIS® schools are participating in this year's Educational Summer Camp, which runs from July 12th to August 13th.



SIS-UK Classroom

For more information SABIS® Educational Summer Camp in Bath, England, visit http://www.sisuk-sabis.net/summer-camp.

# SABIS® to Open New School in U.S.

The SABIS® School Network is welcoming a new member school that is slated to open in the fall of 2010 in the U.S. Georgia's Charter Schools Commission gave SABIS® the approval to operate and manage Peachtree Hope Charter School (PHCS) in DeKalb County, Georgia. PHCS will serve 654 students in grades K-5 and plans to expand by one grade level each year until it offers a full K-12 program.

In line with SABIS®'s philosophy that a high-quality education should be accessible to all students, not just a select few, Peachtree Hope's mission is to provide low-income students in Georgia with quality educational choices not offered in the current public school system. "We are absolutely thrilled to have the chance to provide Georgia's children a world-class education in partnership with SABIS®," said Mr. Lonnie King, Chairman of PHCS's Board of Directors. "If we succeed in DeKalb County, we plan to open similar schools throughout the state," he added.

SABIS® currently operates eight successful charter schools across five states in the U.S. Like the other SABIS® charter schools, PHCS will employ the time-tested methods of the SABIS® Educational System to prepare students for success in college and equip them with the skills to face the challenges of a changing world.

For more information on Peachtree Hope Charter School, visit www.peachtreehope-sabis.net.

# **Developments at SABIS® University**

Now completing its inaugural year in operation, SABIS® University in Erbil, Kurdistan, is continuing to shape its future and that of the region. The university has been actively engaged in expanding its extracurricular offerings to students, ramping up its recruitment efforts, and updating its course catalog and website. Rounding out the new developments at the university is the appointment of a president to lead the university successfully into the future.

With the aim of providing students with access to leading experts in various fields, SABIS® University recently initiated a seminar series, bringing local and global leaders to the campus to discuss their profession and field questions from interested students. For each guest, the university holds two seminars, one for SABIS® University students, and another that is open to the public and typically attended by community and business leaders.

Through these seminars, SABIS® University continues to build a strong relationship between the institution and community and helps contribute to the rebuilding of the nation by raising the standard of education.

SABIS® University currently serves more than 80 students and plans to enroll many more in the coming years. The university recently held a weekend-long conference and provided nearly 2,000 high school students and their parents with information on the university's programs and advice on how to navigate the admission process. "The students were thrilled to be there. For them SABIS® U. offers the high-quality education they may not have had access to in high school," commented SABIS® Operations Director-Higher Education, Dr. Zahi Ramadan. Given the warm response from conference attendees, the university



SABIS® University Recruitment Conference

expects to have a significant increase in applicants for the coming year and beyond. As such, SABIS® University will be accepting applications until the beginning of the fall 2010 semester.

Course curriculum and offerings, which are continually being reviewed and updated to reflect industry-related developments, have undergone revision over the past year that has been incorporated both in print and online materials. SABIS® University students now have access to the university's new course catalog, featuring updated course descriptions and prerequisites, among other new features. "The new catalog includes everything I need to know as a student at SABIS® U.," said a SABIS® University student. Additionally, the university is in the initial stages of enhancing its website to achieve a higher level of user interaction.

Completing its search for a leader to steer the university, SABIS® University's board recently announced the appointment of Dr. Mahir Aziz in the position of SABIS® University President. "Under Dr. Aziz's leadership, I look forward to watching the university, its students, and the entire region continue successfully on the journey toward success," commented SABIS® President and SABIS® University Chairman, Mr. Carl Bistany. Due to commence his duties on August 1, 2010, Dr. Aziz has extensive experience in education and has worked successfully as a lecturer, researcher, author, and journalist. Additionally, Dr. Aziz brings value to SABIS® University through his own pursuit of education in Kurdistan, where he completed bachelor and master's degrees.

SABIS® University, located in downtown Erbil, currently offers degrees through two colleges, the College of Education and the College of Business and Management Studies. The colleges, which will be joined by others as the university grows, were established based on the most urgent needs of the nation. SABIS® University contributes to raising the standard of education and rebuilding the nation by providing a solid foundation of knowledge, skills, and experiences.

For more information on SABIS® University, visit www.sabisuniversity.net.

### Two SABIS® U.S. Charter Schools Receive Renewals

In addition to operating private schools around the world, SABIS® is committed to contributing to the quality of education in the public sector. SABIS®'s involvement in the public sector began in earnest in 1995 with the establishment of its first charter school in the U.S. Since then SABIS® has been awarded the management of seven additional U.S. charter schools with one additional school to open in the fall of 2010. Each of the SABIS® public schools operates under a charter for a specific time period – usually three to five years – at the end of which the school must apply for a charter renewal. A charter renewal is then awarded based on the school's performance as well as on its success in meeting set objectives established in its initial charter.



**HCCS Main Entrance** 

In the 2009-10 academic year, SABIS® charter schools operating in the state of Massachusetts were awarded renewals of their charters, allowing them to continue their efforts. Holyoke Community Charter School (HCCS) and the SABIS® International Charter School (SICS) each received an <u>unconditional</u> charter renewal by the Massachusetts Board of Education.



SICS Campus

This is the first charter renewal for HCCS, which opened in 2005 and now serves just over 700 students in grades K-8. For SICS, the first of SABIS®'s U.S. charter schools, it is the third consecutive charter renewal. SICS opened in 1995 and currently serves more than 1,500 students in K-12.

"The renewal applications for HCCS and SICS

presented clear and objective evidence of these schools' success in previous charter terms," stated Mr. George Saad, Vice President - Operations for SABIS® Educational Systems, Inc. Dr. Sonia Correa Pope, HCCS School Director, highlighted the school's bright future. "HCCS personnel, the Board of Trustees, and SABIS® Educational Systems are confident that the school will remain faithful to its charter and continue to achieve academic success and organizational viability," she said.

Commenting on SICS's charter renewal, SICS School Director, Mrs. Karen Reuter said, "This reflects the school's accomplishment of providing Springfield students with a first-rate education." She added, "We have established a proven track record here in our community, which is an amazing feat given our audacious goals and the fact that we opened our doors at a time when charter schools were new to Massachusetts."

The charter renewals come on the heels of HCCS and SICS's accomplishments of meeting Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the 2008-09 academic year, meaning both schools reached the state-defined standards of academic achievement in reading/language arts and mathematics.

HCCS and SICS are among the other SABIS® charter schools in the U.S. aiming to improve the educational system by providing public sector students with a solid foundation of knowledge, skills, and experiences for success in college and beyond.

For more information about Holyoke Community Charter School or the SABIS® International Charter School, visit www.hccs-sabis.net or www.sics-sabis.net, respectively.

## **Two SABIS® Schools Expand Facilities**



ISC-Amman's New Academic Building

Expansion among schools in the SABIS® School Network is an ongoing process as schools enhance their facilities or expand to accommodate the growing number of students they serve. Most notably, the International School of Choueifat-Amman, Jordan, and The International School of Minnesota, U.S., have recently or will soon experience a major expansion of their campuses.

The International School of Choueifat-Amman, which opened its doors in September 1997, initially welcomed 200 students. The school's student enrollment has rapidly increased over the years, and it now serves nearly 1,400 students in Pre-K through Grade 12. To accommodate the growth, ISC-Amman recently completed an expansion project, which included the renovation of its Kindergarten Department and the addition of an academic building.

ISC-Amman's revamped Kindergarten Department now boasts a full-service dining area, large atrium play area, indoor swimming pool and gym, multipurpose activity hall, outdoor tricycle track, sand playground, and modern classrooms. Additionally, the new academic building offers a state-of-the-art Integrated Testing and Learning<sup>®</sup> (ITL<sup>®</sup>) hall, which has the capacity to accommodate 300 students.

The International School of Minnesota (ISM), the first SABIS® school to operate in the U.S., opened its doors in 1985 and now serves over 600 students in Pre-K to Grade 12. Celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> year in operation, ISM has marked the occasion by significantly expanding its sports facilities. Construction has just kicked off on a new soccer pitch and track that will be equipped to support a variety of field sports including high jump, long jump, triple jump, discus, shot put, and pole vault. "We are looking forward to the completion of the new facilities in May of 2011 and are confident that it will serve to further enhance the ISM/SABIS® education experience," said ISM Director, Mrs. Sue Berg.



ISM's Future Soccer Pitch and Track

SABIS® is committed to providing its students with a high-quality education in facilities that promote lifelong academic and physical fitness. To this extent, every school in the SABIS® School Network operates campuses with a focus on functionality, durability, and safety.

For more information about ISC-Amman and ISM, visit www.iscamman-sabis.net and www.ism-sabis.net.



### SABIS® Students Honored for External Exam Performance

Seventeen students in the SABIS® School Network recently received recognition for their remarkable results on 2009 British-based external examinations. Seven students from ISF Internationale Schule Frankfurt-Rhein-Main, three students from The International School of Choueifat-Cairo, The International School of Choueifat-Dubai, and The International School of Choueifat-Amman, and one student from The International School of Choueifat-Abu Dhabi were distinguished with awards. Students who receive an award do so for either being among the top ten scorers on an exam in a subject in their country/region or for earning the best exam score in a subject worldwide.



ISC-Lahore Students Honored for IGCSE Exam Results

The first external exam on which SABIS® students excelled is the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) exam, a well-reputed external examination taken by thousands of students worldwide. In fact, the University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) is the world's largest provider of international qualifications for 14–19 year olds. The SABIS® students, twelve of whom are currently either in the 11th or 12th grade and two who graduated in 2009, earned recognition in a wide variety of subjects including math, chemistry, English literature, business studies, world languages, and computer science, among others.

Seven students at ISF in Germany were honored in eight different subjects, with one student earning the highest marks in Germany on both the chemistry and physics exams. Furthermore, one ISF student was recognized for earning the highest exam results in the world on the First Language Korean exam, and another student was recognized for the second-highest exam results worldwide on the First Language German exam. "We are delighted and proud that so many of our ISF students have achieved such an outstanding level of achievement in such a wide range of subjects," stated ISF Director, Mr. Angus Slesser.

At ISC-Cairo in Egypt, teachers and students were congratulated and the high-quality SABIS® curriculum appliance for providing a solid training ground. "We are thrilled with our students' performance on the IGCSE exams," said a school administrator from ISC-Cairo. "We are striving to continue improving our performance on external exams year after year!"

Three students at ISC-Lahore were honored for having top scores region-wide on IGCSE subject exams in Lahore, Pakistan. "This accomplishment indicates that our students are receiving the proper foundation of knowledge to achieve high academic standards," said ISC-Lahore Director, Mrs. Margo Abdel Aziz.

The SABIS® Educational System emphasizes student mastery of mathematics and English, including literature, and ISC-Dubai student, Siddartha Kavya, demonstrated her grasp of

literature on the IGCSE English Literature exam. Kavya earned the HH Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Cambridge Award as the top scorer in the world. She explained her passion for literature saying, "I believe literature opens people's minds to different perspectives and also rounds off your knowledge base." A second ISC-Dubai student earned recognition for having the top score in English Literature in the U.A.E.

Parallel to the recognition received by SABIS® students on the IGCSE exams administered by CIE, two students from The International School of Choueifat-Amman and one student from The International School of Choueifat-Abu Dhabi also received recognition for their results on British O and A Level exams administered through Edexcel. Earning the highest score in the world on the O Level Economics exam, the ISC-AD student was honored with an Edexcel Outstanding Performance Award. "This is a top achievement which means that no one earned a grade as high as this student," commented SABIS® Regional Director, Mr. Ramzi Germanos. The two ISC-Amman students earned Edexcel Outstanding Performance Awards for being among the candidates with the highest scores worldwide on A Level Arabic and A Level Chemistry exams.

Through the comprehensive SABIS® Educational System including a world-class curriculum, SABIS® students are prepared to master a variety of subjects, excel on a number of external exams, and gain entry to the world's top universities.

# **Testimonials**

I believe there are few places like the International School of Choueifat-Erbil in Kurdistan. I have enjoyed the international environment and the opportunity to work hard and immediately see the results. We are doing very important development work in this school, and it has been very satisfying for me personally to be part of the Iraqi nation-building on a different level.

Ms. Lone Goulani Former ISC-Erbil Teacher

## SABIS® STARS Held in Levant Region



SABIS® STARS Participants

The SABIS® STARS (Student Life Talent and Academic Regionals) Competition was held in the Levant Region, also known as the Eastern Mediterranean, on April 9-10, 2010 at SABIS® International School-Adma (SIS-Adma). Having had success in its first year, when it was held in the U.A.E. for SABIS® schools in that region, SABIS® STARS is becoming popular across the SABIS® School Network.

This year, more than 120 students from ISC-Choueifat, ISC-Koura, SIS-Adma in Lebanon, and ISC-Amman in Jordan participated in the

competition. The students in grades 4 through 12 represented their schools in a wide range of categories, which included debate, public speaking, photography, advertising, art, poster

design, creative writing, and spelling, in addition to a science fair.

Before the competition, students worked hard in preparation for their particular category. Depending on the category, students either completed a project before the event or mastered the subject they were competing in. "Although the pressure was on, the students came to the event delighted to share their work with peers and with eagerness to perform well in their category," said SIS-Adma School Director, Mr. Marius Wessels. "What's more, there was a spirit of camaraderie in the air among the students despite them not knowing one another very well."

Teachers from the participating schools, along with regional and school Academic Quality Controllers and SABIS®'s Academic Department personnel, took part in judging the events. Given the fierce competition, deciding on a student for the 1st prize STAR trophy, and 2nd and 3rd place runners-up in each event proved to be difficult. "Work presented in the different categories was of a very high standard," stated ISC-Koura AQC and judge, Ms. Patricia Jarrah. "Being in such a competitive environment was a valuable learning experience for our students and they enjoyed every minute," Ms. Jarrah



Mr. Marius Wessels Presenting STAR Trophies

added. Students were thrilled with the opportunity to showcase their talents at a regional level and to meet students from other SABIS® schools who shared their interests. "I got to know so many neat people and many that shared my passion for debate," said a SIS-Adma student.

Student participation in  $SLO^{TM}$ , which oversees student extracurricular activities like SABIS<sup>®</sup> STARS, is a key component of the SABIS<sup>®</sup> Educational System. Aligned with  $SLO^{TM}$ 's mission to foster the exploration of a wide range of interests and encourage the development of students' individual talents, SABIS<sup>®</sup> STARS achieved just that and will be available at other schools in the SABIS<sup>®</sup> School Network in the future.

# **ISC-Lahore Students Recognized in Country-Wide Science and Math Olympiad**

Despite the current tumultuous political climate in Pakistan, and specifically Lahore, students of the International School of Choueifat-Lahore (ISC-Lahore) are maintaining their focus on academics. In fact, five 10<sup>th</sup> grade students from ISC-Lahore competed in the country-wide "Psi-Fi Olympiad" organized by the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS). The four-day event, from March 25-28, was the first Olympiad of its kind held in Pakistan, where students from 150 high schools and universities across the country came together to showcase their science and mathematics knowledge.

With an aim of promoting scientific development and teamwork, LUMS hosted the event encompassing fourteen academic and curricular events, where each team participated in two elective events and a compulsory one.

In their first elective event, "Math Gauge," a complex mathematical test including problem solving and logical deduction, the ISC-Lahore team placed third among 50 participating institutions. In the second elective event, "Race to Infinity," a scavenger hunt based on IQ intelligence and math knowledge, the ISC-Lahore team reached stage five out of six total stages. In the compulsory event, "Tour de Mind," testing general knowledge, logic, mathematics,



ISC-Lahore Olympiad Participants

and physics, among others, the ISC-Lahore team placed second among the 150 institutions participating. Overall, ISC-Lahore students were praised for their science and mathematics prowess as they tackled problems that were at a difficulty level of a first-year university course and higher.

What makes this accomplishment more noteworthy is ISC-Lahore's team of five students—Ebrahim Khan, Muhammad Bin Awais, Taimoor Shafiq, Wahab Butt, and Dilsher Ahmed—was the youngest of all participants at

the Olympiad. "Our students' participation was in itself a significant achievement as they were the least experienced among students of institutions from all over Pakistan, with most of them either studying for the A-Levels or working toward degrees at universities," commented ISC-Lahore School Director, Ms. Margo Abdel Aziz. "Yet in the end, our students' knowledge and skills exceed those of other schools as well as well-known universities in the country."

Among other things, the achievement can be attributed to the SABIS® Educational System, which emphasizes the core subject of mathematics, among others, and by doing so, develops students' ability for mathematical thinking and an appreciation of the power and use of math. "It was not a matter of luck but of hard work, incredible passion, perseverance, and confidence that as Choueifat students they can reach higher than many others," added Ms. Abdel Aziz.

For more information about ISC-Lahore, visit www.isclahore-sabis.net.

# SIS-Adma Becomes a Cambridge International Examination Center

In January 2010, SABIS® International School-Adma (SIS-Adma) applied to the University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) to become a Center for International Exams and spent the last few months making the necessary preparations to meet specific requirements set forth by CIE to gain approval. Ensuring that these requirements were met at the candidate site, CIE organized an inspection of the school and sent Mrs. Magda Mohyeldin, the Senior Business Development Manager for the Middle East and North Africa, for a site inspection in the spring of 2010.

During her visit, Mrs. Mohyeldin met with the SIS-Adma Director, as well as the school's Academic Quality Controller, and Exam Officer, among others. She toured the campus and inspected the school's resources and facilities to ensure they meet CIE standards. The inspection included a review of the exam hall, library, storage facilities, classrooms, and science laboratories.

Within a month of CIE's inspection, SIS-Adma was informed that it had met all the standards required to become a Cambridge International Center. "The months of preparation and planning have come to fruition. We are pleased to become CIE's newest exam center," exclaimed SIS-Adma Director, Mr. Marius Wessels. "The center will serve the students' needs well, given that external exams are an important part of assessing students' mastery of a subject and aids in gaining entry to the world's top universities."

By becoming a Cambridge International Center (CIC), SIS-Adma joins a host of other SABIS®

member schools that administer CIE exams. Schools designated as Examination Centers demonstrate a commitment to the highest educational standards and support a reputation for excellence among parents, pupils, and the wider community. SIS-Adma joins a network of 6,000 CIE examination centers worldwide.

In its fifth year of operation, SIS-Adma continues to grow with an enrollment of nearly 800 students. SIS-Adma students in pre-school through Grade 12 are all working to acquire a solid foundation of knowledge, skills, and experiences in preparation for college and beyond.

For more information about SIS-Adma, visit www.sisadma-sabis.net.

# SABIS® Academic Development Department Delivers Regional Workshops

Maintaining the high-standards of the SABIS® curriculum and ensuring its successful implementation, the SABIS® Academic Development Department recently held a series of workshops for the organization's Regional Centers. Carried out from March through May 2010, the Academic Development Department, which is responsible for continuously reviewing, updating, and developing the curriculum, carefully planned workshops that were tailored to each region to meet the individual needs of schools they serve.



SABIS® Educational Services and Lebanon Regional Center's Academic Teams at ISC-Choueifat

The SABIS® Academic Development team held workshops at the SABIS® Educational Services headquarters in Adma, Lebanon, as well as delivered them on-site at the organization's Regional Centers located in the U.S., Egypt, Lebanon, and U.A.E., in order to collaborate with the Regional Directors, Regional Academic Quality Controllers (RAQCs), Regional Subject Coordinators, and Regional Center Coordinators. "Through this series of workshops and continuous support, Academic Development is able to address the needs of the schools in the different regions, and continuously refine the SABIS® curriculum to meet these needs,"



Mr. Ghassan Kansou Facilitating a Workshop

commented SABIS® Academic Development Director, Mr. Ghassan Kansou.

Workshop participants were informed of new curriculum developments that included textbooks, software tools, and region-specific programs. Participants also had the opportunity to discuss operational issues as well as needs related to school support. Furthermore, the workshops provided a platform for all academic personnel, at the corporate and regional levels, to assess the current academic year, and brainstorm strategies to ensure

effective implementation of the curriculum for the upcoming academic year. "This year's workshops have helped us kick off our preparations early for the 2010-11 academic year, and I feel strongly that as a result all the Regional Centers' academic personnel will be able to further support our member schools," said Mr. Kansou.

These annual workshops, coupled with regular training conferences and constant support to the Regional Centers' Academic Departments, complement the critical review of curriculum

that is ongoing, so that SABIS® can continue to offer a high-quality education that is suited to the needs of a rapidly changing, global society.

The SABIS® Academic Development Department plays a vital role in maintaining the SABIS® Educational System. In addition to continuously reviewing, updating, and developing all SABIS® curriculum and teacher support materials, the department is responsible for producing and maintaining the content of over 1,400 books in the SABIS® Educational Book Series. Through the support of the SABIS® Academic Development Department, SABIS® is able to challenge students to meet and exceed state and national performance standards in academic subjects and become strong candidates at top universities.

## **IT News**



## Web School: A Website for the SABIS® Community

With the aim of providing an innovative gateway to the SABIS® community online, the SABIS® IT Department recently launched SABIS® Web School, featuring tools and resources for students, parents, and teachers. Through three specialized sites, this new Internet portal allows users to log in and access pertinent information tailored for each user type.

Through SABIS® Web Student, students can view homework assignments, event announcements, exam dates, academic progress information, and downloadable lessons. "Web Student provides students with more than just a schedule and news announcements," commented Mr. Serge Bakhos, SABIS® Vice President of IT. "It's interactive and can generate online practice lessons based on the student's past exam results, allowing a student to study material further and ultimately improve their academic performance."

A revamping of the preexisting SABIS® Web Parent site was included in the Web School launch. The original Web Parent features are still active, such as the ability for parents to view essential details about their child's performance including progress, attendance records, discipline reports, and Student Life participation, but the material has been restructured with a more user-friendly interface. Furthermore, the new Web Parent now gives parents the ability to view homework assigned to their children, use an interactive school calendar, and update contact details on their profile which are directly sent to their children's



SABIS® Web School Site

school. Updated on a weekly basis, SABIS® Web Parent provides an up-to-date summary of students' academic and extracurricular details. "I don't miss a thing on my son's progress at school," said an International School of Minnesota (ISM) parent. "Through Web Parent, I am better able to take an active role in his education."

SABIS® teachers are also an integral part of the Web School portal. Through SABIS® Web Teacher, teachers can access tools that enable them to assign their students homework and to check its completion status. The site's schedules and announcements of teacher events and

meetings also help teachers manage their time and classrooms.

"The Web School portal is a unique resource for SABIS® stakeholders, underlining and facilitating communication in a way that best positions our students for success," added Mr. Bakhos.

Successfully deployed at ISM in September 2009, SABIS® Web School is now available in several SABIS® schools.

For more information on SABIS® Web School, visit www.webschool.sabis.net.

# **Testimonials**

I don't have to look far to know how successful the SABIS® system is. My daughter, Sevan, graduated from ISC-Dubai in 2006 and she enrolled in McGill University at the age of 17, as a second-year student given her AP credits. She graduated in 2009, with first-class honors, from the computer science program, with a minor in philosophy - just two months short of her twentieth birthday. Currently, she is working on her master's thesis after finishing all required coursework. All this and she is not yet 21! She was brought up in the Choueifat system which taught the students to not only excel but to be leaders.

Ms. Choghig Kazandjian Hanissian Former ISC-Dubai Parent

### **HR News**

# **(**

# SABIS® U.A.E. PPP Principals Participate in Leadership Conference

In 2006 the Abu Dhabi Emirate launched a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Project with the aim of revitalizing public education by teaming up with the private sector.

SABIS® was selected from among several education providers to be involved with the program. As the program has evolved and proven effective in mobilizing the knowledge and resources of the private sector for the improvement of public education, the scope of the project has expanded. Notably, the six schools originally awarded to SABIS® have since grown to 32.



PPP Administrators Participating in Teamwork Activity

Ensuring continued success of the project, school principals from the 32 PPP schools in the U.A.E., recently participated in professional development conferences organized by SABIS® in collaboration with Beyond Consulting & Training, a company specializing in advanced training for administrators. Entitled "Leadership in Modern Administrations," the conference

provided SABIS® PPP top administrators with an opportunity for continuous development and improvement.

Meeting in two separate conference locations divided by region, seventeen principals from the eastern region gathered in Al Ain and fifteen principals from the western region convened in Ruwais. There they spent time engaged in activities revolving around the importance of building alliances, managing difficult relationships, nurturing respect and trust, and improving communication among team members. With the help of group discussions and situational examples, principals also defined their personal vision on effective leadership and focused on handling challenges, among other topics.

The training conferences were well-received by principals. "Feedback from principals continues to be very positive and it indicates they were really engaged and happy with the sessions," commented SABIS® PPP Senior Administrator, Dr. Lynn Spampinato. "The events were not only enjoyable, but helped in building positive relationships and developing deeper trust among principals."

Conference partner Beyond Consulting & Training shared positive feedback about the training outcomes and praised the SABIS® principals' dedication to the training activities. "I was very impressed by the participants in many ways. The principals should be commended for the level of participation in exercises and readiness to share their opinions and experiences on the job and on a personal level," said Mr. Joseph Maalouf of Beyond Consulting & Training. Similarly, a SABIS® conference organizer lauded the principals' involvement, "The principals embraced the benefits of these conferences with their active participation and enthusiastic attitude and really showed that they are open to venturing into advanced training in educational leadership."

The conference is part of a series of training and development programs specifically designed by SABIS® for school principals. The series reinforces SABIS®'s commitment to ensuring increased efficiency and strengthening leadership skills among key administrators.

# **SABIS Student Life Organization®**



# **LPCS Students Participate in Project to Promote Healthy Habits**

Because a healthy body is as important as a healthy mind, students at the Linwood Public Charter School (LPCS) in Shreveport, Louisiana, U.S., have been participating in Project

5210, a program to encourage healthy habits among students. The program, which has been implemented in schools across the U.S., focuses on nutrition, exercise, and medical information to help equip students with the knowledge and tools to improve their present and future lifestyles.

The project, organized by the LPCS Student Life Organization, is entitled 5210 for its message which stresses 5 servings of fruits and vegetables each day; a daily 2-hour limit of screen time - television, computer, or video games; 1 hour of physical activity every day; and 0 tolerance for alcohol, tobacco, and



LPCS Students Awarded for Participating in Project 5210

drugs. "It is easy to remember and my children even remind me to follow 5210 everyday," commented an LPCS parent.

LPCS students promote nutrition and exercise through several activities including interactive workshops on healthy eating, group exercise and activities, field trips, educational sessions, and coaching sessions. During educational sessions, students focus on the prevention of future health problems, such as diabetes, hypertension, and orthopedic problems. Through coaching sessions, students counsel their fellow students on changing unhealthy behaviors. "Without our health we would not be able to enjoy and contribute to the world," said an LPCS student. "Project 5210 reminds everyone about the importance of taking care of your body in order to live a long and healthy life."

To foster fitness and well being, SABIS® students take advantage of a wide-range of sports activities implemented in SABIS® Educational System's physical education curriculum as well as through Student Life activities.

Project 5210 is part of an emerging national initiative developed through the American Medical Association and the Centers for Disease Control, among other organizations, and is aimed at preventing negative habits that can lead to obesity in children through improved nutrition and exercise.

For more information on Project 5210 or LPCS, visit www.5210goestoschool.org and www.linwood-sabis.net.

# **SLO™'s Anti-Bullying Program**

Bullying has become more prevalent in many schools worldwide and can have major emotional and physical consequences for the students involved. While many schools take a reactive approach to the issue, SABIS® schools strive to maintain a safe and supportive environment through a proactive, team approach that focuses on prevention and awareness of bullying.

In SABIS® schools, the administration, faculty, and staff play an important role in creating a positive, healthy learning environment. Through the SABIS Student Life Organization®'s ( $SLO^{TM}$ ) four-step Anti-Bullying Program, students also work to address and prevent bullying.



SABIS® Students

The first step in the SLO™ Anti-Bullying Program is carried out by ambassador prefects, who inform new students on the school's zero-tolerance policy towards bullying. Furthermore, ambassador prefects make new students aware of their responsibility to report any bullying they encounter. "From day one this crucial step makes it very clear to new students—who may be used to being a bully or being bullied—that bullying is unacceptable at every level," commented SABIS® Student Life Consultant, Mr. Roger Soweid.

The next step hinges on maintaining anti-bullying awareness throughout the year by organizing various programs and campaigns. This is achieved through  $SLO^{TM}$  prefect-to-student discussions, advising lessons, bulletin boards, guest speakers, and anti-bullying marketing campaigns.

Coordinating a grand-scale event is the third step of  $SLO^{TM}$  's Anti-Bullying Program. Once per term, a major school-wide event is held to promote the benefits of a supportive and caring campus community that does not and will not tolerate bullying. "Students at SABIS® schools have put on some unique events like organizing skits and plays with a focus on anti-bullying," stated Mr. Soweid. He added, "Other schools have arranged 't-shirt days' where students wear a certain color shirt in solidarity to promote anti-bullying at their schools."

The final step in the program is to identify the students being bullied as well as those who are prone to bully in order to provide them with help and attention. "This is a vital part of the SABIS® anti-bullying approach so that fellow students and staff can make sure that those involved are receiving the support they need, and as a result, destructive behavior is curbed," said Mr. Soweid.

Through the new SLO™ Anti-Bullying Program, SABIS® schools will continue working tirelessly to foster bully-free campuses that emphasize understanding among students. The new program will be fully implemented across the SABIS® School Network starting in the fall of 2010.

For more information about the SABIS Student Life Organization®, visit www.sabis.net.

## **Feature School**

# (>)

## **International School of Choueifat-Manama**

When it opened in the fall of 2006 on Amwaj Island in Manama, Bahrain, the International School of Choueifat-Manama welcomed more than 350 students in kindergarten through Grade 8. Each year since then, the school has expanded by offering an additional grade level, and in doing so, has now reached an impressive enrollment of just over 1,000 students in grades K-11. The school's grade offerings will be complete next year when it adds Grade 12.



ISC-Manama Campus

#### **Academics**

ISC-Manama provides students in Bahrain, as well as pupils in the eastern provinces of Saudi Arabia who commute using a causeway, with a world-class education that follows the SABIS® Educational System. Developed and refined over a span of 120 years, the SABIS® Educational System, employed at ISC-Manama and schools across the entire SABIS® School network, is a comprehensive academic program that prepares students for success in college, fosters a lifelong interest in learning, and develops responsible world-class citizens. Through the SABIS®

Educational System, ISC-Manama provides a safe, disciplined, and positive environment that encourages learning and responsible behavior among the students.

The SABIS® Educational System also prepares students with the foundation to excel on external exams. Accordingly, ISC-Manama has received authorization as a Cambridge International Examination (CIE) Center and is also an official Edexcel Exam Center, so ISC-Manama students can begin taking these external exams this spring. Additionally, the school is in the process of securing authorization to become an examination center for U.S.-based Advanced Placement (AP) exams.

In positioning the school's students for success, ISC-Manama also sought and was awarded accreditation from North Central Association-Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA-CASI). This accreditation not only validates the strength of the SABIS® Educational System, but also serves as an indicator of quality to the best colleges and universities around the world.

"ISC-Manama is giving my children a fantastic, international education and between the rich curriculum and huge amount of sports activities I couldn't ask for more...and my sons couldn't be happier," said an ISC-Manama parent.

Praising the teachers and the SABIS® Educational System, another ISC-Manama parent said, "My six-year-old daughter can read!" She added, "It's thanks to the strong curriculum and excellent teachers who have really encouraged my child to reach these high reading levels that I didn't think was possible at such a young age." ISC-Manama teachers strive to provide a world-class educational experience and ensure students there gain a solid academic and developmental foundation in preparation for college and beyond.

## **Achievements**



ISC-Manama's First Graduating Class

Attesting to the school's success, ISC-Manama graduated its first class of students in July 2010, all of whom have been accepted to colleges next fall. Students have secured spots at prominent universities such as, University of Tampa and Southern Methodist University in the U.S. and, University of Surrey and City University London in the U.K.

"Think SABIS®, think big," said a graduating student, summing up his ISC-Manama experience. Commenting on the school's success in preparing students for college and helping them gain entry to their top choice schools, ISC-Manama Director, Mr. Paul Quinn said, "The graduating class'

achievements are a reflection of what ISC-Manama has done in shaping them for life on the world stage, and it's only the beginning." He added, "The ISC-Manama community looks forward to many more graduating classes that are ready to take with them knowledge and experiences so that they can prosper in college and contribute to changing the world."

#### **SLO™**

ISC-Manama's Student Life Organization has experienced steady growth over the last four years. An integral part in equipping students with experiences and skills through clubs and extracurricular activities, ISC-Manama's SLO™ is a valued aspect of the school. As such, ISC-Manama's SLO™ has been sending student leaders to represent the school at the annual SLO™ Training Camp in Egypt. "Friendship, networking, and new ideas have resulted from having attended the training camp," said an ISC-Manama student. "We have started many new clubs based on the fresh ideas that come from the training camps," he added.



ISC-Manama Students Enjoying an Extracurricular Activity

ISC-Manama students have a variety of SLO™ activities to choose from including yearbook, swimming, drama, and events such as SABIS® Regional Sports Tournaments, and SABIS® STARS, among others. Given the wide range of activities, ISC-Manama students can participate in weekly activities during the Student Life period or after school and/or attend Saturday activities. Summer camp is also offered each year and has experienced an increasing number of participants.

"SLO<sup>TM</sup> is a hit at the school. While taking part in educational and extracurricular activities, students are not only learning but growing into role models we can be proud of," commented an ISC-Manama school administrator.

In just four years, ISC-Manama has become a well-reputed institution in Bahrain and will continue to make a difference in the lives of students, preparing them for success in college and beyond.

For more information on ISC-Manama, visit www.iscmanama-sabis.net.

# **ISF Alumnus Sergej Maier**



ISF Alumnus, Sergej Maier

Since his childhood, Sergej Maier, a 2008 graduate of ISF Internationale Schule Frankfurt-Rhein-Main (ISF) in Germany, has dreamed of making a difference through art. Now an active artist in his community in London, England, he has already begun to achieve his aspiration.

Maier joined ISF in 2000 as a Grade 5 student and reaped the benefits of the high-quality SABIS® Educational System implemented there. He credits the school for providing him with the strong academic foundation that equipped him with the knowledge and skills to succeed among people much older and experienced than him. Furthermore, he praises ISF for preparing him for his life outside of Germany. "ISF educated me and gave me solid knowledge of English, without which I would struggle to live and study in the U.K.," said Maier. Now at the famed

Architectural Association School of Architecture (AA) in London, Maier is in his second year of architecture studies, keeping up with the requirements of a demanding program, where portfolio assignments and complex projects are an everyday occurrence.



Artwork by Sergej Maier

Maier cultivated his passion for art from an early age. With the help of a local art expert who guided him for nearly 10 years, Maier began taking lessons from artist Alfred Reinhold Schuster. During those years, Mr. Schuster became Maier's tutor and mentor and challenged him to become a better artist. "He started questioning my creativity and educated me in not just technique but also the history and meaning of art," recalled Maier. "I became aware that artists are in a unique position because they are often the eye of their time and see things that others may overlook," he added. With time, they found a style that allowed Maier to express himself—an adaptation of the orthodox icon painting—and it was followed by his foray into art exhibitions.

Demonstrating his maturity and zeal for art, Maier showcased his work in a number of art exhibitions while attending ISF. In a short time, Maier has come

a long way from his childhood dreams, now making them a reality. "I can truly make a statement with my paintings," exclaimed Maier. He did precisely that through his artwork at the most recent art exhibition. "It was a critical view of modern day society and its values.

I painted modern day fashion-iconography in the traditional style trying to make a statement on how society praises the tangible materialistic things rather than spirituality and its pureness."

Maier is certain that he will continue to make a difference through his artwork, but does not plan to limit his career options to only painting. "Studying architecture gives me a broader field of opportunities," commented Maier. "My future career goal would be to do something that I enjoy doing, whatever it might be."

With the strong academic foundation developed through ISF, which fed his thirst for creativity and offered an outlet to express himself, coupled with his artistic ability and intense determination, Maier is on a distinct path to achieve his goal of making a difference through art.

SABIS® is an educational management organization that manages K-12 coeducational schools worldwide. The network is comprised of schools spanning 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 AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE SABIS® SCHOOL NETWORK

MIDDLE FAST REGION: The International School of Choueifat - Choueifat - Choueifat, Lebanon | 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 - Koura, Lebanon | The International School of Choueifat - Amman, Jordan | King Abdul Aziz International School - Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | The International School of Choueifat - Doha, Qatar | The International School of Choueifat - Damascus, Syria | The International School of Choueifat - Ruwais, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Muscat, Oman | The International School of Choueifat - Homs, Syria | SABIS® International School - Adma, Lebanon | The International School of Choueifat - Manama, Bahrain | The International School of Choueifat - Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq | The International School of Choueifat - Abu Dhabi Khalifa City "A", U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Suleimaniah, Kurdistan, Iraq PPP Schools: Military High School - Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | 3 Schools - Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq | 16 Schools in Western Region (Al Ghayathi, Al Silaa, Beda'a Al Motawa'ah, Ruwais) - Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | 17 in Eastern Region (Al Magam, Al Khazna, Al Khatm, Al Ain) - Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. 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. | Peachtree Hope Charter School - Atlanta, Georgia, 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) UNITED KINGDOM: SABIS® International School UK - 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

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.