



Mar Qardakh International School



Primary Years Programme

2021-2022



Middle Years Programme



Governor's Corner

His Excellency Bashar Matti Warda

This year is a special year at Mar Qardakh. The school year began with a wonderful group of new and returning faculty and staff members including eight foreign missionaries. This year, however, is particularly special because it is an evaluation year. This means that MQS will be working alongside IB representatives to evaluate progress in implementing the IB programme to ensure that our students receive a world class education. Preparations for this visit have already begun at MQS. Many of our faculty and staff members have started taking different IB courses and teachers have made improvements in their classrooms and hubs. The students are taking part in this process too by demonstrating in word and action IB Learner Attributes and Attitudes. The success of this year's undertaking requires the help of all including parents. We need to begin preparing our MQS parents for this process and we ask for the prayers and cooperation of all. Thank you and God bless.

Let's All Become Saints!

The PYP students celebrated All Saints Day by coming to school dressed up as their favorite Saint. In the morning hours, all of PYP gathered in the lobby to pray, sing songs, and share with others a little about their Saints. Also, each class picked a patron Saint for their classroom, to whom they pray for intercession and ask for Heavenly protection. Similarly, the MYP students honored their favorite Saints in costume and created posters for Mr. Ryan's religion class. At the end of the school day, all MYP students gathered in the lobby for fellowship to celebrate their Saints.



To the Stars



On November 17th and 24th, PYP 3 students had a space exploration exhibition.

Parents were invited to the exhibition to learn about astronauts, the Solar System, phases of the moon, space travel, and the International Space Station. Mr. Eyad, an astronomer, was invited as a guest speaker to talk about his job and answer any questions. Students did an exceptional job on their presentations and parents were proud to witness their achievements.

On February 22nd, PYP visited the Erbil Zoo to learn more about their current science unit on living and growing. Students had a great time learning about the lifecycles of different beings through wild animals, their offspring, and habitats.



Trip to the Erbil Zoo

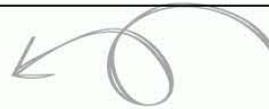


HOLY WEEK

On April 10th, students in MYP walked over to Mar Yousif Cathedral and joined high school students from across Ankawa in Mass for Palm Sunday. Every student received a blessed palm branch and sang Hosanna while heading back to school. Palm Sunday has a special place in Chaldean spirituality as the precursor to Christ's glorification at Easter!



Christmas Celebration



As the students of Mar Qardakh awaited the birth of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, they began preparing their voices in Mr. Mushriq's music class. On December 5th, students gathered around the beautiful Christmas tree and Nativity scene that adorned the MQS foyer to sing *Silent Night* and *Laylat al-Milad*.

The Christmas tree was decorated with PYP Christmas crafts and students also made Christmas cards for their parents and friends. In Ms. Saveen and Ms. Ranas' design classes, students designed Christmas paper ornaments with their pictures. The Christmas festivities concluded on December 9th just before break, with a Nativity pageant. After listening to the story of Jesus' birth, each MYP hub presented how Christmas is celebrated around the world. To conclude the celebration, students sang Christmas songs while they placed their wishes on the Christmas tree. Santa Claus showed up laden with gifts and wished the world a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Traditional Clothes Day



On March 10th, MQS celebrated traditional clothes day. The PYP and MYP students gathered together to dance dressed in their traditional garb specific to their family's village of origin. In addition, students learned the importance of their cultural identity within the larger world.



Lenten Fundraiser

MYP students wrapped tin cans to distribute to all of MQS students, and raise funds for those in need. Students are encouraged to deposit funds in their can as a form of almsgiving during the Lenten Season. After Lent student will have to opportunity to personally give their alms to a family in need.

Year in Review

The 2021-2022 school year began with a big question mark--the IB evaluation. While confident in our program, we also knew the high level of scrutiny required to be a part of this prestigious academic system. By the grace of God and the hard work of the entire staff, the evaluation showed the mettle of Mar Qardakh School and only offered four recommendations for potential changes.



Personal Projects

Students in MYP 5 have come a long way with their personal projects. After detailed preparation, students held multiple successful fundraisers for their work. They continue to finish up the last details of their projects and reports throughout the school day. Cynthia, one of the students, used her project as a way to serve the community. Through a bake sale and charitable giving, she raised funds for people suffering from cancer.