



Contents

Headline News

- P1. 10th SABIS® Regional Tournament Draws 1,000+ Athletes
- P2. 20-Year Charter Renewal for SABIS® International School in Phoenix
- P3. SABIS® Invited to Discuss Corporate Governance at Lebanese American University
- P3. New Worldwide Brand Image for SABIS®: Mission Accomplished
- P4. SABIS® Represented at High-Profile ICT Conference

Academics

- P4. Fantastic Academic Results on External Exams in the U.A.E.
- P5. SABIS® Alumni Enjoy Smooth Transition to University

IT News

- P6. Students Enjoying SABIS® E-Books
- P6. SES Employees Participate in Business Process Management Training

SLO®

- P7. SLO®: The Year of Visibility

Making a Difference

- P8. The "500 Smiles" Project

HR News

- P9. SABIS® Seeks Top Talent at University Career Fairs

SAGA

- P9. SAGA University Application Module Expands

Feature School

- P10. The International School of Minnesota Residential Hall

Alumnus in the Spotlight

- P11. Samir Selman, ISC-Choueifat, Class of 2004

Headline News

10th SABIS® Regional Tournament Draws 1,000+ Athletes



Co-hosted by the International School of Choueifat – Sharjah (ISC-Sharjah) and the International School of Choueifat – Dubai Investments Park (ISC-DIP) in the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.), the highly-anticipated 10th SABIS® Regional Tournament took place on April 10 and 11, 2015. The tournament drew more than 1,000 athletes from 24 SABIS® Network schools in 12 countries to compete in a range of sports including swimming, basketball, soccer, sprint, relay, and long jump.

As in previous years, the two-day event kicked off with an elaborate opening ceremony that included a parade of athletes as well as speeches and performances. The parade included teams of athletes between 9 to 18 years of age from SABIS® Network schools in Bahrain, Egypt, Germany, Jordan, Kurdistan-Iraq, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, and the U.A.E. The ceremony continued with welcome addresses from Mr. Micha Gray, Director of ISC-DIP, Mr. Saeed Harib, the General Secretary of the Dubai Sports Council, and Mr. Victor Saad, SABIS® Vice President. All three addressed a distinguished gathering of guests including his Excellency Major General Khamis Muzainah, Chief Commander of Dubai Police, and directors from SABIS® Network schools in the region.

"You will win some and you will lose some but a most important life lesson that you can learn here today is to win with humility and lose with grace," said Mr. Saad to the teams and spectators gathered at the opening ceremony.

For two days, SABIS® athletes showcased athleticism and good sportsmanship for a crowd of local and international spectators. Records were broken by a number of students in swimming and track & field, with students from SABIS® Network schools in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Romania, and the U.A.E. combining to break more than 15 records. Other SABIS® Network schools' athletes

enjoyed the challenge of competition. When athletes were not competing, they were busy cheering on their fellow schoolmates, making new friends, and most importantly gaining a better understanding of different cultures.



Students participating in a swimming competition

In the closing ceremony, captivating speeches were delivered by ISC-Sharjah Director, Mr. John Kassis, and Deputy Regional Director of SABIS® Network schools in the Gulf region, Mr. Neil Smooker. "Whether you have won or lost, I commend you all for your team spirit, sportsmanship, and the mutual respect you have shown to one another," said Mr. Smooker. "Congratulations to all of you as you are all winners."



Athletes in the final stretch of a relay race

Before the tournament wrapped up with the traditional group photo and the ceremonial cake-cutting, medals and trophies were awarded to the winning teams and individual athletes, and everyone received a special token for participating in the event. Having created fond memories and new friendships, the athletes then began their journey home, where they can begin preparations for the next Regional Tournament in 2017.

To view an exclusive video of the SABIS® 10th Regional Tournament, visit <http://sab.is/XP44NB>.

20-Year Charter Renewal for SABIS® International School in Phoenix

The SABIS® International School (SIS-Phoenix), a public charter school located in Phoenix, Arizona, U.S., recently learned that it has been granted a 20-year renewal of its charter. The K-8 school opened in 2001 to serve students in metropolitan Phoenix and currently educates 730 students.

All charter schools in the U.S. operate under and are held accountable through a charter, a performance contract detailing the school's mission, program, goals, methods of assessment, and ways to measure success. In the state of Arizona, charters awarded to new schools have a term of 15 years and are reviewed by the Arizona State Department of Education every five years. Several aspects of the school's operation are considered at these five-year intervals including, among other things, the school's effectiveness in meeting or making sufficient progress toward academic and operational performance expectations. A school can lose its charter and be forced to close if it fails to meet the conditions under which the charter was granted.

Schools that successfully meet the conditions of their initial charter have the opportunity to apply for charter renewal. During the renewal process, officials consider data on student performance on state assessments in math and English, the number of students completing English Language Learner (ELL) programs, as well as indicators of financial health and viability among other factors. In Arizona, if granted, the renewal is for an additional 20 years, again with periods of review every five years.

On Wednesday, June 17, 2015, SIS-Phoenix learned that it had successfully completed the charter renewal process. Contributing to its successful renewal was the school's strong academic performance and consistently high rating from the state. (The school earned a "Performing Plus" label and also received As and Bs for its overall performance in the past four years.)

Mr. Will Henry, SIS-Phoenix Director, attributed several factors to the successful renewal. "We have great teachers delivering an outstanding curriculum that yields amazing academic results," he said. "In fact," he continued, "the SABIS® Educational System implemented at the school is so strong that we have had students complete Grade 8 with us and go on to finish high school in three rather than four years."



Mr. Will Henry with SIS-Phoenix students

A sense of pride about the renewal is shared by Jose Afonso, who has served as the president of the school's board for the past 10 years. "I'm extremely proud to serve on the board of such a successful SABIS® Network school," he said. "This school is effectively closing academic achievement gaps and proving that low-income and minority students can achieve at high levels. I'm looking forward to continued success in the next 20 years."

The school now has the coming 20 years to continue to help all students achieve their full potential and to make its reputation for excellence even stronger.

For more information about the SABIS® International School in Phoenix, visit sis.sabis.net.

SABIS® Invited to Discuss Corporate Governance at Lebanese American University

The Institute of Family and Entrepreneurial Business at the Lebanese American University (LAU) in Lebanon recently invited SABIS® board member and Group Vice President – Organization Development Division, Mr. Joe Achkar, to give a presentation on SABIS®'s governance strategy. The event took place on February 12, 2015, at the LAU Executive Center in Beirut and provided an opportunity for invited family business owners and friends of the institute to learn from SABIS®'s experiences.

Governance has, in recent years, become a hot topic in the world of business as many family businesses manage the challenges of evolving into larger companies and face increased external scrutiny and regulations. Established in 1886, SABIS® has grown over the past 128 years from a small village school in Choueifat, Lebanon, to a global brand that currently operates in 16 countries on four continents. Over the years, it has also learned how to adapt to the winds of change and the many challenges that accompany global expansion.

During his presentation, Mr. Achkar addressed the importance of sound family and business governance in ensuring continuity, enabling growth, and improving organizational effectiveness and operational efficiency. Mr. Achkar addressed a number of topics including SABIS®'s overall governance structure, ownership policy, board governance, management succession, and employment policy for family members – all pillars of good corporate governance. Mr. Achkar also discussed the positive impact SABIS®'s sound family governance strategy has had on the business. He wrapped things up by sharing lessons learned and the keys to success.

Commenting on the value-added of SABIS®'s participation in the event, Dr. Josiane Fahed-Sreih, Director of The Institute of Family and Entrepreneurial Business, said: *"The knowledge that Mr. Achkar shared with us about the importance of sound family and business governance practices, coupled with an insight into SABIS®'s governance journey, will undoubtedly contribute to helping many family businesses in addressing the everyday challenges they face."*

As an organization that has successfully gone from a small family-owned school to a thriving multinational organization, SABIS® has been the topic of various case studies by prestigious international organizations including the Harvard Business School (SABIS® - A Global Educational Venture From Lebanon), the International Finance Corporation (IFC) (Family Business Governance Handbook and Corporate Governance Success Stories), and the Pearl Initiative (Good Governance in Family Firms).

"I now realize just how unique we, SABIS® alumni, are and how empowered we feel. This truly makes me appreciate the benefit I have had being your student."

– Mena El Okda,
Head of Madaresna Wa7da, Egypt

New Worldwide Brand Image for SABIS®: Mission Accomplished

As an industry-leading organization operating in the 21st century, SABIS® recently unveiled a new brand image. This new identity is the result of a journey that began in December 2012 and included a great deal of time and effort to ensure that the new brand image depicts SABIS® as a forward-looking organization that maintains a strong sense of history.

Work on the branding project started with a comprehensive brand audit led by an internationally-renowned marketing agency, The Brand Union (TBU). TBU is a global agency with expertise in brand strategy, design, interaction, and brand management. In conducting a comprehensive brand audit to identify the key elements of the SABIS® brand, TBU met with SABIS® leadership and interviewed and surveyed corporate staff, stakeholders, and several other individuals throughout the SABIS® Network. Information gathered from the brand audit provided the foundation for further analysis and ultimately contributed to the design of the new SABIS® brand image.



SABIS® promotional items

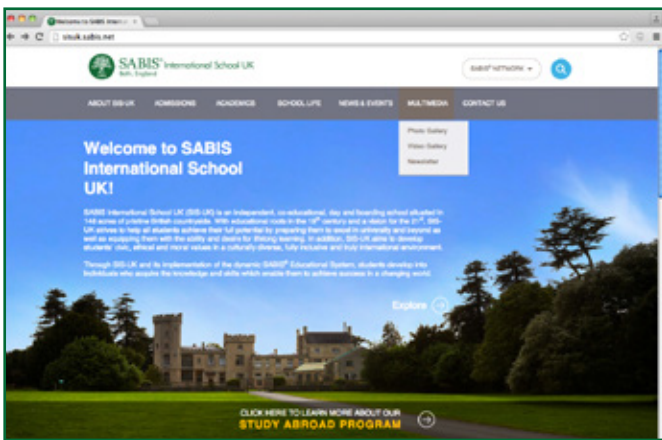
The new brand image was designed to reflect both SABIS®'s deeply-rooted history and its commitment to remain on the cutting-edge in education in the future. SABIS®'s new image retains the core elements of the former SABIS® logo, including the iconic olive tree associated with the olive groves once covering Mt. Lebanon and Choueifat, the location of the first school in what later became the SABIS® Network. The olive tree is also a symbol for peace, cooperation, and hope, messages which are deeply embedded in SABIS®'s core values. The new identity also honors the company's history by displaying 1886, the year in which the first school was founded.



The new SABIS® logo on rebranded print material

Reflecting the organization's commitment to making a difference in the world through education, the SABIS® tree, with strong roots, is surrounded by a circle symbolizing the globe. The new image also includes bold script that reflects the organization's strength, confidence, and determination to remain relevant in a changing world.

Once the new design was set and approved, the implementation phase began. Every item bearing the former SABIS® logo needed to be re-branded. This included websites, promotional items, and all printed material such as brochures and banners, buildings, signs, and much more. In order to ensure that the new SABIS® brand image would be used consistently across the network, detailed brand guidelines were shared throughout the network.



New websites for all SABIS® Network schools

“It is imperative to maintain a single identity through visual communication and to ensure that the brand is systematically used and reinforced,” stated Rita Bitar, Manager of the SABIS® Creative Design Department. *“The guidelines established will definitely ensure that the identity remains coherent, which in turn will allow the brand as a whole and everything associated with it to be consistent.”*

Today, the SABIS® brand stands for consistency across borders and excellence in education. It is a brand that reflects hard work over many generations and a deeply-rooted commitment to continually improve and move forward so that all students in SABIS® Network schools can achieve their full potential. Currently, close to 65,000 students in schools located in 16 countries benefit from the strength of the SABIS® Educational System and brand.

SABIS® Represented at High-Profile ICT Conference



On March 19, 2015, SABIS® Vice President – Academic Development, Mr. Ghassan Kansou, represented SABIS® at the ArabNet Beirut

Conference, an event highlighting the role of digital technology in education. Currently in its sixth year, the ArabNet Beirut Conference draws speakers, exhibitors, and attendees from across the MENA and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and provides a context for attendees to network and explore the latest trends in web and mobile businesses.

Invited by conference organizers to present a case study on the innovative ways SABIS® is using digital technology in the realm of education, Mr. Kansou discussed SABIS®’s commitment to staying on the cutting-edge through its use of digital technology in schools. But unlike other schools’ approach to technology, which often derails the learning process or distracts students and teachers, Mr. Kansou emphasized SABIS®’s digital strategy *“as a well-thought out strategy that helps us achieve our objectives, rather than simply and randomly introducing IT tools for the sake of it.”* By taking this approach, SABIS® ensures that any technology used in the network adds value and enhances the learning process.

In his 30-minute presentation, Mr. Kansou also highlighted various digital tools that have been developed by SABIS®. These included SABIS® E-books, Interactive Whiteboards, and several applications that are currently in use in SABIS® Network schools around the world.

“SABIS® is at the forefront of education in the Middle East, so it was a natural choice to invite Mr. Kansou to discuss the network’s experience in digital education,” explained Mr. Omar Christidis, CEO of ArabNet. *“The idea to replace printed books with digital content on computers and tablets is very much in line with the way the whole world is moving. It shows how educational systems can introduce transformative technologies that rethink the entire mode of educational delivery.”*

“The fact that we were invited to speak at this event is testament to SABIS®’s success in crafting and implementing a digital education strategy that ultimately serves the best interest of each and every one of our students,” said Kansou.

Read future SABIS® Newsletters to follow the latest IT developments being deployed in SABIS® Network schools.

Academics

Fantastic Academic Results on External Exams in the U.A.E.

The 2014-15 academic year marks the 40th year of operation of the International School of Choueifat – Sharjah in the U.A.E., the first SABIS® Network school to operate outside of Lebanon. ISC-Sharjah first opened its doors in January 1976 to a mere 141 students in the relatively unknown emirate back in the early 70s. And so began four decades of academic excellence in the U.A.E.

Over the next 40 years, the SABIS® Network steadily expanded in the U.A.E. in response to demand for the high-quality SABIS® Educational System. Today, SABIS® Network schools in the region educate close to 35,000 students, whose external examination results have set a high bar of achievement. Analysis of data from the past five years indicates how external examination results from SABIS® Network schools in the region have been strong and consistent.

In the 2009-10 academic year, 79% of students from SABIS® Network schools in the U.A.E. who took AP®s earned 3, 4, or 5 on their AP® exams in comparison to 65% of students who took AP® exams at non-SABIS® Network schools in the U.A.E. and 60% globally. In 2013-14, 86% of students from SABIS® Network schools in the U.A.E. who took AP®s earned the highest marks. The percentage of high scorers from non-SABIS® Network schools in 2014 was 69%; globally, 61% performed at that level.

Not only are the results for U.A.E. SABIS® Network schools on AP® exams high in and of themselves and in comparison to other schools in the region, but SABIS® Network schools also have by far the largest number of students registered to take AP® exams each year in the U.A.E. in math and the sciences. For example, in the five year period from 2010 through 2014, there were a total of 934 students registered to take AP® Biology exams in the U.A.E. Of these students, 66% (614) were from SABIS® Network schools and 68% of them earned top scores. This pattern is consistent for AP® Chemistry, AP® Calculus AB and BC, and AP® Physics B and C (Electricity and Magnetism). In fact, for AP® Physics, 73% (1443) of all AP® test takers in the U.A.E. over the past five years were from SABIS® Network

schools. And 77% of these earned top marks on their exams. To put this into the global perspective 63% of all AP® Physics B and C (Electricity and Magnetism) students earn 3, 4, or 5.

SABIS® Network schools in the U.A.E. have distinguished themselves in more external exams than just the AP®s. The recent release of performance data from SABIS® Network students at the International School of Choueifat – Dubai on the 2012 Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) showed how ISC-Dubai 9th and 10th graders measure up against others from around the world. The PISA test has been used since 2000 as an international benchmarking exam and was designed to assess “functional skills that students have acquired as they near the end of compulsory schooling.” The test is administered to a group of students who are selected as representatives of the full population in a country. The students can be attending either public or private schools.

In 2012, 31 students from ISC-Dubai took the PISA test. The students were randomly identified by the school based on the students’ date of birth, and the students were independently validated. The results these students achieved are remarkable: Math: 573; Reading: 566; Science: 587. Based on the final ranking of nations, ISC-Dubai students’ math results would have put them in 2nd place in the world tied with Singapore; their reading results would have put them in 2nd place in the world after Shanghai, China; and their results in science would have landed them in 1st place in the world, beating out Shanghai, China, by 7 points! While results from 31 students are not necessarily grounds for an accurate comparison with the results from a larger sampling of an entire country, the ISC-Dubai results do provide an interesting reference point and show that the school is effectively preparing students to compete on the global stage.

A long history of outstanding performance on external examinations in SABIS® Network schools in the U.A.E. and throughout the global SABIS® Network reflects the effectiveness of the SABIS® Educational System and reinforces the network’s commitment to preparing students for future success.

SABIS® Alumni Enjoy Smooth Transition to University

As another academic year comes to a close, students in their graduating year around the world bid farewell to their school friends and alma mater and eagerly anticipate the next chapter of their lives. For many graduates, their journey leads them to university and an experience that is both new and exciting.

The SABIS® Newsletter team reached out to a number of Class of 2014 graduates from across the network to ask them about the transition from their SABIS® Network school to university. The graduates we contacted were eager to share their experiences and challenges, and some also took the time to pass on valuable advice to this year’s graduates.



Ward Haddadin graduated from the International School of Choueifat – Amman (ISC-Amman) in Amman, Jordan. He is currently studying physics at the University of Cambridge in the U.K., one of the most prestigious universities in the world. Ward feels that he was very well prepared for tertiary level education. “The SABIS®

curriculum is one of the best in the world. During my first and second terms in university, the curriculum included concepts that I had already covered in school, even though I was studying at one of the best and most difficult universities in the world!”



Andrew Carlander graduated from The International School of Minnesota (ISM) in Minnesota, U.S., and is currently pursuing a bachelor’s degree in business administration at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. “My SABIS® education prepared me incredibly well for university. I found that, by virtue of

being a part of a rigorous curriculum throughout my time at ISM, I was already one step ahead academically compared to most other students at college. SABIS®’s tremendously strong emphasis on language learning has served me greatly, as my exposure to other cultures has allowed for me to network with students and faculty from all across the world at my university. I am truly grateful to have been a part of ISM.” In particular, Andrew appreciates his experience with regular assessment. “At ISM, I was very used to the idea of exams because we were tested so regularly. But for a lot of students who were not so accustomed to the idea of weekly quizzes and exams, it was the cause of a lot of anxiety, almost to an unhealthy degree. But I was completely used to it!”



Masa AlRefai was a student at the International School of Choueifat – Damascus (ISC-Damascus) in Syria. When her family moved to the U.A.E., Masa enrolled at another SABIS® Network school in the region – the International School of Choueifat – Dubai (ISC-Dubai) and graduated in the summer of 2014.

She is currently studying chemical engineering at the American University of Sharjah, U.A.E. Masa credits the SABIS Student Life Organization® (SLO®) as well as her solid education for making the transition to university easy. “SLO® prepared me for university. Through SLO® I became a strong and independent individual. The teamwork, management, leadership, and social skills I acquired prove to be of great value in every presentation, project, and event I do.” She urges students in SABIS® Network schools to join SLO® and make a difference. “Contribute to SLO® and reach out to the world. Make the best of everything that comes your way. Everyone has the power and ability to accomplish the impossible.”



Hailing from Kurdistan, Iraq, **Roman Mohammed**, who graduated from the International School of Choueifat – Erbil (ISC-Erbil) in Kurdistan, tells of his equally smooth transition. “I left my hometown of Erbil and moved to the U.S. to study mechanical engineering at the University of California Davis,” said Roman. “I felt

that SABIS® had prepared me well for university. I had a very strong foundation in math and science concepts and had a competitive edge over my fellow UC Davis students.” To students who are still in school, Roman shares some priceless advice. “Do not strive just for good grades, more importantly, strive for knowledge, for understanding. It is not the grades that will make you successful in college and life, but knowledge.”



Astefanos Al-Dalakta, also an ISC-Erbil graduate, moved from Kurdistan to Lebanon after he was awarded a scholarship to study biology at the Lebanese American University in Byblos, Lebanon. Astefanos, like many graduates, comments that he had already covered at school most of the material taught during the first year of

university. “The biology, physics, and chemistry courses I took during my first year at university are equivalent to the biology, chemistry, and physics courses I had in Grade 12.” Astefanos also commented that the continuous testing he received at ISC-Erbil really helped him manage his schedule and load at university.



After graduating from the Internationale Schule Frankfurt-Rhein-Main (ISF) in Frankfurt, Germany, **Catherine Williams** went on to study international relations at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, U.K. "Initially, the workload expected of students was daunting," Catherine reflects. "However, I quickly adapted to the fast pace of university life. My SABIS® education provided me with the necessary skills and work ethic necessary for the rigorous academics at university." Catherine would like to share what she has learned from her experience: "If I could provide any advice to the students back at my school, I would tell them that the constant examinations and assessments at school, although demanding, prepare you for university life and make the transition from school significantly less challenging and far more enjoyable."

Ward, Andrew, Masa, Roman, Astefanos, and Catherine are a few of the many graduates from SABIS® Network schools around the world who have reported back about their experiences in transitioning from school to university life. Alumni from SABIS® Network schools are living proof of how the solid academic foundation and life skills SABIS® Network schools offer their students prepare them for a successful transition to university.

For a full list of universities around the world that have accepted 2014 graduates from SABIS® Network schools, [click here](#).

For a full list of universities around the world that have accepted 2014 graduates from SABIS® Network schools, [click here](#).

IT News

Students Enjoying SABIS® E-Books

In July 2012, SABIS® announced the launch of the SABIS® E-book project – an endeavor that would involve the conversion of over 1,800 titles from the SABIS® Book Series into interactive E-books using the latest in tablet technology. Less than three years later, over 3,000 students in five SABIS® Network schools in Lebanon and the U.A.E. are currently enjoying the full-functioning features of their SABIS® E-books.



Sample of a SABIS® E-book

This is just some of what the students are saying:

"I feel more comfortable because I am more used to electronics than paper books."

– Cesar Bassim, SABIS® International School – Adma

"My favorite feature of the E-books is that it's very organized and simple. All the books are present with us at all times."

– Firas Rammal, International School of Choueifat – Choueifat

"The feature I like most is the 'Add Note' feature. I use it on every single page in my French reading book. I add notes to remember how the teacher explained the passage or identified a new vocabulary word."

– Aida Nsouli, International School of Choueifat – Choueifat

"When it's hard to understand or imagine something, the videos and pictures in the E-books really help."

– Ellia Doumit, SABIS® International School – Adma

"It is easier to work in an uncluttered environment, something made possible after the introduction of E-books."

– Yara Karanouh, International School of Choueifat – Choueifat

"The E-books have enhanced my learning experience in many fruitful ways. One positive effect is not having to flip pages to look for a section or chapter. Instead, the table of contents feature on the tablet easily simplifies the task."

– Leonardo Boustany, SABIS® International School – Adma

"The tablet is like a mini Interactive Whiteboard, so I can always stay on track with the teacher."

– Shaden Mehdi, International School of Choueifat – Choueifat

"The glossary is the best feature since I can directly click on the vocabulary word and read the definition."

– Renad Mehtar, International School of Choueifat – Choueifat

SABIS® E-books are not simply SABIS® textbooks that have been digitized. They include a myriad of features including interactive activities, simulations, and animations that accompany each lesson; videos; interlinks to prerequisite material; and links to external resources.

"We have adopted a well-engineered and staged roll-out process within the network," explained Mr. Elie Gemayel, Production Manager – Academic Development at SABIS® Educational Services in Lebanon. *"This measured approach allows us, as an organization, to monitor and immediately act on any problem or glitch that undoubtedly might arise with the launch of new IT software. Ultimately, our goal is to make sure that E-books are enhancing the educational experience at every step of the way."*

To date, SABIS® E-books are being used by students in grades 3, 5, and 9 (Levels E, G, and K) at the SABIS® International School – Adma and the International School of Choueifat – Choueifat in Lebanon and the International School of Choueifat in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Khalifa City in the U.A.E. SABIS® E-books will be available in three additional grade levels – 4, 6, and 10 (Levels F, H, and L) – in the upcoming academic year. The program is also set to roll out in a number of SABIS® Network schools in the year ahead.

To remain up-to-date on when SABIS® E-books may be coming to a SABIS® Network school in your region, follow us on Twitter @SABIS_EDUCATION.

SES Employees Participate in Business Process Management Training

Members of the SABIS® Educational Services' IT, Creative Design, Book Publishing, and Training and Talent Development teams recently participated in a four-day Business Process Management (BPM) training. From March 3-6, 2015, 11 employees gathered to learn more about BPM, its benefits, and the potential value it could bring to SABIS® Educational Services.

BPM is a field of operations management that focuses on improving company performance by managing and improving processes. As such, it is a natural extension of SABIS®'s approach to good business and the organization's commitment to continual improvement.

The BPM training, delivered by Mr. Frank Kowalkowski, President of Knowledge Consultants, Inc., covered the design, development, and documentation of processes as well as the practice of process visualization to determine impact on school operations and assess performance and goals. The training also covered ways to ensure the continual improvement of processes.

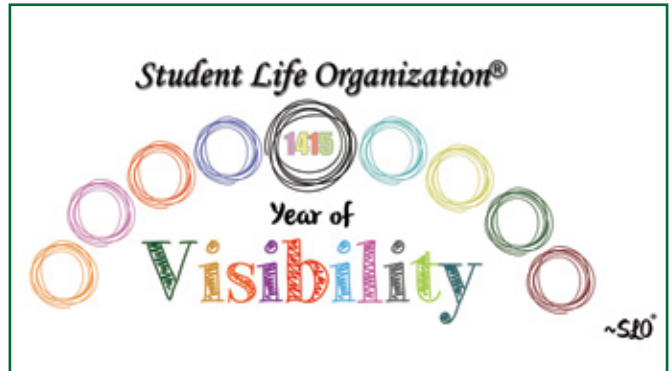
“The goal in using BPM is to achieve utmost efficiency and yield secure outcomes,” stated Mr. Serge Bakhos, SABIS® Group Vice President – Information Technology, Creative Design, Book Publishing. *“We plan to use BPM to contribute to the institutionalization of the SABIS® Educational System, which will result in consistently high outcomes around the network.”*

BPM is currently being used by the IT Department as the foundation for the development of new software and products.

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

SLO®

SLO®: The Year of Visibility



SLO® Year of Visibility banner prepared by Ruwais Private School students


As one of the pillars of the SABIS® Educational System, the SABIS Student Life Organization® plays an important role in contributing to a positive educational environment in every SABIS® Network school. SLO® actively engages students in their life at school and encourages them to share their SLO® experiences with others.

Every year, the SABIS Student Life Organization® (SLO®) has a theme which becomes the focus for student activities in all SABIS® Network schools worldwide. With the aim of raising awareness of SLO® and its valuable position at the heart of every SABIS® Network school, the theme for the 2014-15 academic year was *“The Year of Visibility.”*

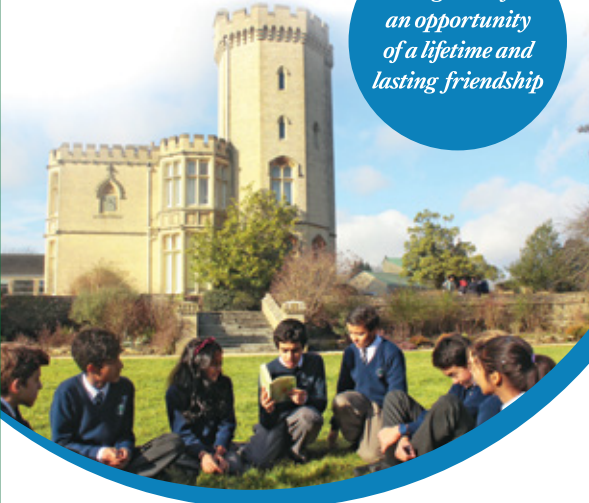


Impromptu SLO® dance at ISC-Damascus



Many new activities were rolled out in schools across the global SABIS® Network to reinforce the year’s theme. At the International School of Choueifat – Damascus (ISC-Damascus) in Syria, the older SLO® students staged an impromptu dance which got all the younger students involved. At the International School of Choueifat – City of 6 October (ISC-6 October) in Egypt, the SLO® team worked over the summer to make several short videos highlighting what each of the eight SLO® departments does. The video clips were posted on WebSchool for all to see and were shown to students in grades 2-12, ultimately giving them a more visible idea about how each SLO® department operates. *“We highlighted every activity that was organized by SLO®,”* said Nora Abdelaziz, Student Life Coordinator for ISC-City of 6 October. To keep the message fresh throughout the year, each week the SLO® team uploaded photos of the week’s SLO® activities.



SABIS®



Your gateway to an opportunity of a lifetime and lasting friendship

SABIS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL UK FULL YEAR ABROAD PROGRAM

Open to students in SABIS® Network schools in Levels I, J, K, L, M, & N.
(Students not currently enrolled in the SABIS® Network are welcome to apply.)

SABIS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL UK STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

Open to students in SABIS® Network schools in Levels I, J, & K
Academic Year 2015-16

For more information
sisuk.sabis.net
#sisukbath

Education for a changing world.™

North America | Europe | North Africa | Middle East & Asia

sabis.net

Making a Difference

The "500 Smiles" Project

One million and seven hundred thousand. That is the official number of orphans, or "children without parental care," living in Egypt according to a census conducted in 2009 by UNICEF. Shunned by society, the future for the majority of orphans in Egypt is bleak. In an attempt to raise awareness about the plight of orphans across Egypt and the importance of integrating them into society, Egyptian National Orphan Day was created in 2004 by Al-Orman Orphanage under the sponsorship of the Egyptian Government. On the first Friday of April each year, orphanages nationwide plan festivities for both the children and their communities. Since the day was inaugurated 11 years ago, Egyptian National Orphan Day has become a major event in the Egyptian calendar.

Inspired by the festivities that were held this year on National Orphan Day, SABIS® Network schools in Egypt – ISC-Cairo and ISC-City of 6 October – decided they also wanted to do their part to help orphans in the country. And so the "500 Smiles" project was born. On Friday, May 15, 2015, prefects from the SLO® Social Responsibility departments in both ISC-Cairo and ISC-City of 6 October organized an event aimed to bring smiles to the faces of 500 orphans.

At 9:00 a.m. school buses from both schools set out to pick up children, aged 4 to 12, from 16 orphanages across Cairo. The excited children were brought to the ISC-Cairo campus, where they were met by over 80 SLO® Social Responsibility Department prefects for a day packed with fun activities including face painting, arts and crafts, games, music, food, and much more.

Students from both SABIS® Network schools felt that the "500 Smiles" project was a wonderful opportunity that allowed them to make a difference in the lives of those who are less fortunate than themselves. "Adding a smile on the faces of the kids meant the world to me, especially when one of the children asked for my number and called me a few days later. I felt we had really made a difference," a Grade 10 prefect from ISC-Cairo proudly said.

In the U.S. at the International Academy of Flint (IAF) in Flint, Michigan, SLO® held a canned food drive inspired by the theme. During the month of January, the SLO® Social Responsibility Department encouraged students, teachers, and staff members to donate canned foods which were later given to a local food bank. By the month's end, IAF was ranked number five in the county for the most canned food collected. The students were even featured on the local news, making the SLO®'s charitable efforts more visible to the community. "Several prefects were interviewed on the local news that morning, which truly proved that not only is our SABIS Student Life Organization® beneficial for the school, but for the community as well," Angela Nichols, Student Life Coordinator at IAF said.



Canned food drive at IAF

At Ruwais Private School in Abu Dhabi, new SLO® events were introduced to students such as Thursday...Smile Day. Each Thursday morning, SLO® prefects would stand at the doors of the school and greet all the teachers and staff with a smile. In addition, they offered them smiley face badges to wear. The objectives of this initiative were to remind everyone of the power of smiling and to make the SLO® more visible throughout the school. "Our aim was to have anyone who walked into the school take notice SLO® within the first five minutes, be it through display boards, announcements, or greeting prefects," Sam Horness, Student Life Coordinator at the school said. Thanks to the SLO® at Ruwais Private School, Thursdays were filled with big smiles.

In the U.A.E., the International School of Choueifat – Sharjah (ISC-Sharjah) maximized its visibility by organizing numerous events involving large numbers of students. During the events, the students were encouraged to join SLO®. "I am proud to announce that this year participation in SLO® has almost doubled," said ISC-Sharjah Student Life Coordinator, Imad Abou Ghannam. "More students have been actively involved in the SLO® than ever."

The Year of Visibility has made a lasting impression on students and staff members in SABIS® Network schools. The school communities have learned more about SLO® and the organization's objectives. More parents and students have come to realize that SLO® activities promote a healthy environment for student personal development and growth. "It is not just about the clubs, activities and spirit days, it is also about what the students do for the other students – in the Academic Department by being a Shadow Teacher®, in the Discipline Department by helping others, or in numerous other ways every day," said Riham Ismail, Student Life Coordinator of the International School of Choueifat – Cairo.

To learn more about the enriching programs, events, and opportunities that are available to students through SLO®, visit sabis.net/educational-systems/educational-approach/slo.



500 children, 500 smiles

The "500 Smiles" project is one of many outreach activities organized by SABIS® Network schools in Egypt. Over the years, ISC-Cairo and ISC-City of 6 October have built a strong reputation for giving back. Their combined community service efforts have caught the attention of the Minister of Education in Egypt, who has praised their commitment to helping others. In 2013 ISC-Cairo and ISC-City of 6 October organized a 24-hour marathon that raised enough money for two life-saving cardiac surgery operations with the Dr. Magdy Yacoub Heart Foundation.

Through numerous projects students develop a sense of empathy for others, realize that the welfare of their community is a shared responsibility, and learn that it really is possible to make a difference.

For more information about ISC-Cairo, visit iscairo.sabis.net. To learn more about ISC-6 October, visit isc6october.sabis.net.

HR News

SABIS® Seeks Top Talent at University Career Fairs



SABIS® Careers booth at AUB

The Human Resources Department at SABIS® Educational Services (SES) in Lebanon has been on a mission – to find the most skilled applicants at university career fairs across the country. From March until the end of May 2015, SES recruiters reached out to hundreds of students at Lebanon’s top universities – including Notre Dame University, St. Joseph’s University, The American University of Beirut (AUB), the University of Balamand – to identify promising employees and interns and meet with individuals who had applied for positions through SABIS®’s careers website, SABIScareers.com.



SES Lebanon HR staff with job seekers during job fairs

Highly-skilled students from some of Lebanon’s best universities discussed SABIS®’s job openings with SES recruiters and were encouraged to apply online for open positions. “We received excellent applications and met some great potential candidates for our vacancies,” Ms. Marisa Andraos, SES Recruitment Coordinator said. “Students approached us to find out more about SABIS® and were impressed to learn how our organization is changing the world through education.”

In addition to highlighting ways that working with SABIS® can make a difference, the SES recruitment team explained some of the other benefits of working in the SABIS® Network. For example, employees benefit from on-site training and support and have access to many tools which can assist them in their career development and advancement.

Several job opportunities for part-time, full-time, and internships are available across the SABIS® Network. These openings include both teaching and administrative positions in the network in Egypt, Germany, the U.K., and the U.S., among other places.

Currently, over 6,000 individuals are employed in SABIS® Network schools in 16 countries, and with the network expanding annually, new positions open regularly.

To find out more about the latest open positions in the SABIS® Network, visit SABIScareers.com. To learn more about how SABIS® is changing the world through education, visit sabis.net.

SAGA

SAGA University Application Module Expands

The American University in Dubai (AUD), a top-ranking university in the U.A.E., is the latest university to be added to the SABIS® Alumni Global Association (SAGA) University Application module. AUD joins a long list of universities in the region that accept online applications through SAGA.

Students who are preparing to graduate from SABIS® Network schools can access the SAGA University Application module at their convenience and apply directly to a growing list of universities. The module seeks to simplify the sometimes daunting university application process by linking application deadlines and requirements for each school to each applicant. In applying to a university, students complete the necessary application forms and then activate an automated request process for any necessary letters of recommendation or transcripts. The module also facilitates the timely delivery of required information through alerts targeting both the student and the school’s university advisor, registrar, or other relevant staff member.

University admission requirements often vary from one university to the next. However, with the SAGA University Application module, the process has become seamless for each student, greatly reducing mistakes or delays in the application process.

“We’re making the lives of our graduates easier. Students can sit down and apply to as many universities as they want. The minute the student applies, the school’s university advisor is alerted and prepares the other documents as needed,” Dr. Zahi Ramadan Operations Director of Higher Education for SABIS® Educational Services explained. *“The university receives a complete file in one transmission and the student is notified by E-mail once his/her university application has been sent in. This process saves the school and university time and effort. It’s a win-win situation.”*

In Lebanon, numerous top-ranking universities – Beirut Arab University, Haigazian University, Holy Spirit University of Kaslik, Notre Dame University, the American University of Beirut (AUB), the Lebanese American University (LAU), and the University of Balamand – are already part of the SAGA University Application module.

Since its official launch in the fall of 2013, the SAGA University Application module has been used by hundreds of students and contributed to their successful admission to the universities of their choice. For more information about SAGA, visit saga.sabis.net.

Feature School

The International School of Minnesota Residential Hall

Nestled in a beautiful, wooded area in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, The International School of Minnesota (ISM) is a private, independent, non-sectarian day and boarding school. A member of the global SABIS® Network, ISM first opened its doors in September of 1986 and currently caters to approximately 400 students in Pre-school through Grade 12. The school, which has always had a multi-cultural student body, recently expanded to include a new, purpose-built residential hall that gives more students from around the world the chance to avail themselves of ISM's high-quality, college-preparatory education.



The ISM residential hall

Consistently ranked among the "Most Challenging Schools in America" and currently ranked 1st in Minnesota among all schools by *The Washington Post*, ISM attracts a diverse, international student body. Although in the past some families arranged for their children to live with host families so that they could attend ISM as day students, the school decided it was time to add a residential facility and offer students the option to study and live on campus. ISM School Director, Ms. Christi Seiple-Cole, explains: "Interest from a number of international students, domestic students from other parts of the country, and even students from other SABIS® Network schools were among the reasons we decided to build a new residential facility on campus." The residential facility opened its doors at the onset of the 2014-15 academic year and can accommodate up to 32 boarding students. There are currently 20 students who call ISM their home during the school year.



Students enjoy a day out at the Minnehaha Regional Park

The ISM residential facility is located on the north-east side of a 55-acre campus that provides an ideal backdrop for a unique educational experience. The campus, which includes protected wetlands and a lake, is also home to wild turkeys, whitetail deer, and other wildlife indigenous to Minnesota. As the leaves

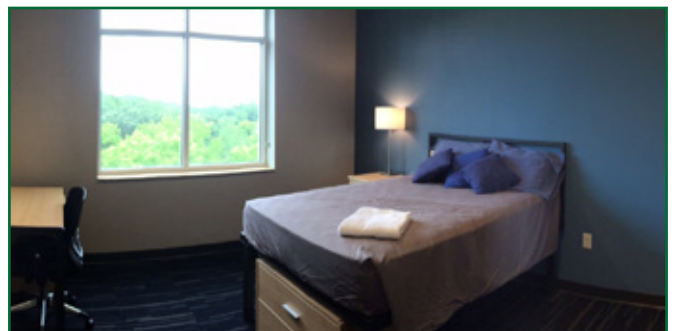
turn red and purple in fall, students enjoy the brisk weather playing sports outside. Winter is a magical time in Minnesota and students enjoy ice skating on the frozen lake and building snowmen. In spring, students enjoy hiking, picnicking, and swimming in the many lakes in the state. "We took off our shoes and walked barefoot in the sand. We then had lunch and ice-cream before heading back. You can't ask for much better than that," said one ISM student in residence. In addition to the great outdoors, Minnesota also offers many other attractions and popular activities include excursions to Mall of America, the largest indoor mall in the U.S. complete with four floors of shopping, an amusement park, and aquarium.

Throughout the year, ISM organizes a number of events to ensure that residential students are well-integrated into the ISM community and feel a sense of belonging. As it can be a student's first experience living away from home, ISM does everything it can to ensure that the experience is a happy one. At the start of the academic year, the ISM SLO® team organized a Homecoming Dance at the residential hall, where all ISM students, day and boarding, socialized and danced to the tunes of a local, popular DJ. When Halloween came around, the residence hall was filled with decorations and students screamed and squealed during their favorite scary movies. Thanksgiving was yet another fun evening with ISM School Director, Ms. Seiple-Cole, bringing in a very special Thanksgiving meal she shared with the students before they all started decorating for the holidays.



A welcoming space for students to call home

Residence hall supervisors, who live on site with the boarding students, also create a welcoming, safe, and supportive community. "Our residential students rely on us to be their support system in a way that most of our day students probably couldn't imagine," said one of the two residence hall supervisors at ISM. "At ISM, there is a real sense of community; we are teachers, students, and administrators who know each other well, and we are all looking out for each other's best interests. It is so rewarding when I hear students say that they've made a home here at ISM," said Peter Welle, Academic Quality Controller at ISM.



Spacious and bright accommodation

As the ISM residential facility comes to the end of its first year in operation, there is no doubt that it has been a truly rewarding, enriching, and life-changing experience for all those who called ISM their home this year. Here are some of the things students in residence had to say:

"Living on campus is very different from living at home. I have become very close to my friends because we live and go to school together." – Nick Lan, ISM Junior from China

"Since living on campus, I have noticed a big improvement in my organizational skills plus a huge amount of improvement in my reaction to real life problems by myself." – Juan Andreu, ISM Sophomore from Spain

"I love the fact that I no longer have to wake up super early to commute to school. Our residence hall supervisors are awesome. They are caring and teach us valuable life skills. I have even learned how to vacuum and do laundry!" – Simon Luo, ISM Junior from China

"The best part of living on campus is that I have made lifelong friends." – Bola Koleosho, ISM Senior, Nigerian-American

The ISM residential facility has much to offer students -a world-class SABIS® education, idyllic setting, supportive and caring community, lifelong friendships, and an opportunity to explore and enjoy living and studying in North America. If you would like to learn more about the school, visit ism.sabis.net

If you would like to receive information about enrollment as a day or boarding student in the 2015-16 academic year, call +1 952 918 1800 or send an E-mail to admissions@ism.sabis.net.

Alumnus in the Spotlight

Samir Selman, ISC-Choueifat, Class of 2004



Samir Selman

Samir Selman is a talented and successful young man. From his school desk at the International School of Choueifat (ISC-Choueifat) in Choueifat, Lebanon, to a senior position in one of the world's leading social media companies, this is Samir's story of success.

Samir Selman joined ISC-Choueifat as a tenth grader in 2001. The rigorous science program at the school appealed to his interest in math and physics and motivated him to rise to the challenge. Drawing on his strong academic record, Samir became

very involved in SLO® study groups and peer tutoring and was committed to helping others achieve their full potential. Through his support of fellow students, Samir also learned the value of teamwork and developed his leadership skills. He believes that his experiences at ISC-Choueifat contributed to the successes he enjoyed later on in life. *"ISC-Choueifat prepared me for university through the advanced math and physics material we learned. It also helped me develop my leadership skills. ISC-Choueifat offers a great culture that sets a motivated student up for success."*

Samir graduated from ISC-Choueifat in June of 2004. He was accepted to the American University of Beirut (AUB) in Lebanon, where he obtained a bachelor's degree in computer and communications engineering, consistently ranking among the top students in his program. After completing his degree at AUB, Samir moved to the U.S. to complete a research internship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). This experience opened the door to a fully-funded merit scholarship to pursue a master's degree at Stanford University, which he maintained with high grades while balancing an internship at Microsoft®. Upon graduating from Stanford, Samir secured a full-time position at Microsoft® as a software engineer. Three and a half years later, he joined Twitter and is now is a Technical Lead, running the Twitter Commerce Engineering Team. He also runs his own online security consulting company, which advises top commercial and private clients on how to make sure that their systems are safe from online sabotage.

Reflecting on his alma mater, Samir comments: *"ISC-Choueifat provided me with a very strong academic background and helped me build my analytical skills. This continues to pay off."*

On April 30, 2015, Samir appeared on "Talk of the Town," one of the top-rated talk-shows in the Middle East, to talk about his experience working in Silicon Valley, his vision for Lebanon as a technical hub in the Middle East, and the global phenomenon of computer hacking. To watch the full episode, [click here](#).

Samir Selman is one of over 22,500 alumni in the SABIS® Network. We wish Samir the best of luck and are eager to hear about what his future holds.

"ISC-Choueifat provided me with a very strong academic background and helped me build my analytical skills. This continues to pay off."

– Samir Selman, Technical Lead, Twitter



SABIS® is a global education network that operates on 4 continents serviced through three independent corporations headquartered in the U.S., Lebanon, and the U.A.E. Schools in the SABIS® Network operate in 16 countries and educate close to 65,000 students.

Based on a proven, proprietary system, SABIS® Network schools provide students with a top-quality education that prepares them to meet the challenges of a changing world.

Members of the SABIS® Network

NORTH AMERICA PRIVATE SCHOOLS: The International School of Minnesota - Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.A. | **CHARTER SCHOOLS:** SABIS® International School - Phoenix, Arizona, U.S.A. | Linwood Public Charter School - Shreveport, Louisiana, U.S.A. | Holyoke Community Charter School - Holyoke, Massachusetts, U.S.A. | Lowell Collegiate Charter School - Lowell, Massachusetts, U.S.A. | SABIS® International Charter School - Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A. | International Preparatory Academy - Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A. | International Academy of Flint - Flint, Michigan, U.S.A. | Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy - Lansing, Michigan, U.S.A. | International Academy of Saginaw - Saginaw, Michigan, U.S.A. | International Academy of Trenton - New Jersey, U.S.A. | Mt. Auburn International Academy - Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.A. | **LICENSED SCHOOLS:** BelovED Community Charter School - Jersey City, New Jersey, U.S.A. | **EUROPE PRIVATE SCHOOLS:** SABIS International School U.K. - Bath, England | ISF Internationale Schule Frankfurt-Rhein-Main - Frankfurt, Germany | **LICENSED SCHOOLS:** International School on the Rhine - Neuss, Germany | Cambridge School of Bucharest - Bucharest, Romania | **NORTH AFRICA PRIVATE SCHOOLS:** The International School of Choueifat - Cairo, Egypt | The International School of Choueifat - City of 6 October, Egypt | **ASIA PRIVATE SCHOOLS:** The International School of Choueifat - Lahore, Pakistan | **MIDDLE EAST REGION PRIVATE SCHOOLS:** The International School of Choueifat - Manama, Bahrain | The International School of Choueifat - Amman, Jordan | The International School of Choueifat - Dream City, Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq | The International School of Choueifat - Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq | The International School of Choueifat - Suleimaniah, Kurdistan, Iraq | SABIS® International School - Adma, Lebanon | The International School of Choueifat - Choueifat, Lebanon | SABIS® School El-Metn - Dhour El-Choueir, Lebanon | The International School of Choueifat - Koura, Lebanon | The International School of Choueifat - Muscat, Oman | The International School of Choueifat - Doha, Qatar | Jeddah Private International School - Jeddah, Saudi Arabia | Riyadh Private International School - Al Wadi, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | Riyadh Private International School - Sulaimaniah, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | The International School of Choueifat - Damascus, Syria | The International School of Choueifat - Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Abu Dhabi Khalifa City "A", U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Al Ain, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Dubai, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Dubai Investments Park - Dubai, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Ras Al Khaimah, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Sharjah, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Umm Al Quwain, U.A.E. | **PPP SCHOOLS:** 7 Schools - Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq | Military High School - Madinat Zayed, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | Ruwais Private School - Ruwais, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | Military High School - Al Ain, U.A.E. | **UNIVERSITY:** SABIS® University - Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq

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