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Highlight of the Issue

SABIS® Expansion

The SABIS® School Network is pleased to announce the expansion of its network in the 2005-2006 academic year, including new schools in Lebanon and the US.

SABIS® International School - Adma: Situated in the beautiful hills of Adma, Lebanon, the new purpose-built school is housed on a spacious ~75,000 square meter campus. The state-of-the-art facilities will include science and computer laboratories, a performance hall, and extensive sports facilities including a semi-Olympic swimming pool, an indoor basketball/tennis court and a soccer field.

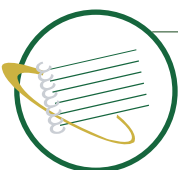


<http://www.sabis.net>

Now available online

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

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.



The KG Department will be housed in an independent unit with its own indoor swimming pool, a multi-purpose indoor gymnasium, and a special KG car track. A unique IT-related feature at the school will be the Computer-Based-Integrated-Learning and Testing Center (CBILT).



In its first year of operation, *SIS-Adma* will initially accept students in the infants and primary classes. Registration is already under way.

For more information on *SIS-Adma*, please visit www.sisadma-sabis.net.

SABIS® International Charter School of Pine Grove – LA: Located in St. Helena Parish in Pine Grove, LA, *the SABIS® International Charter School of Pine Grove* is scheduled to open in the fall of 2005 with approximately 430 students in Kindergarten to Grade 6. The school will expand by one additional grade level in each subsequent year until *SICSPG* reaches Grade 12 with approximately 800 students.

The Pine Grove Board of Directors has purchased a beautiful 47-acre site at 42957 Highway 16, Pine Grove, LA, a site which has already been cleared for the custom construction of the brand new school which *SABIS®* has been hired to manage and operate.

SICSPG will provide students and parents in the St. Helena Parish, one of the lowest performing school districts in Louisiana, with an educational alternative and a means for a better future. *SICSPG* will implement the *SABIS®* Educational System, a system of education which will offer its students a high-quality, college-preparatory education emphasizing a well-balanced body of knowledge in a well-structured education environment. This system of education will establish a lifelong interest in learning and will help challenge the boundaries of individual student potential.

For more information on *SICSPG*, please visit www.sicspg-sabis.net.

Holyoke Community Charter School, MA: *The Holyoke Community Charter School* will open in September 2005 with ~625 students in grades K-7 and has plans to add Grade 8 and expand to 700 students the following year. The school will be located at 2200 Northampton Street in Holyoke,

Massachusetts and will provide a learning environment based on a comprehensive curriculum following the SABIS® Educational System. This system of education will stress the acquisition of life-skills and strengthen the students' ethical, moral, and civic values.

For more information on *HCCS*, please visit www.hccs-sabis.net.

SABIS® Regional Event

SLO Training for the Levant Schools

Student Life Coordinators from the SABIS® schools in the Levant area participated in Student Life Training from January 5-8th, 2005 in Lebanon. Held at the mother school in Choueifat, Lebanon, the training was led by Mr. Roger Soweid, SABIS® Student Life Consultant, and incorporated advanced Student Life concepts as well as the sharing of best practices.

SLC's as well as Directors from *ISC-Choueifat*, *ISC-Koura*, *ISC-Amman*, and *ISC-Damascus* participated in sessions including the following:

- Student Life Architecture
- Event Planning
- Use of Timelines for Planned Events
- Planning AMS Tutoring and Retakes
- SL's role as Peace Makers, Catalysts, and Problem Solvers
- Leadership
- The Power of Positive Thinking
- The *Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens*
- Setting Goals and Action Plans for our Schools



The week-long training also included an opportunity for SLC's to meet with Mr. R. Bistany, SABIS® Director General, who shared his vision of the SABIS® SLO™, its guiding principles, and its crucial importance in SABIS® schools.

For more information about the SABIS® Student Life Organization™, please e-mail slo@sabis.net.

Academics

The SABIS® Reading program - A Solution for Reading

Reading is one of the most important life skills children acquire. An unlimited world of experiences and knowledge opens for children as they learn to read and expands with every day. Educators worldwide have attempted to develop different methods to teach children to read and have experienced limited success in establishing one single method as a definitive model. While educators continue to debate the merits of one approach over another, kindergarten and lower primary students in SABIS® schools worldwide are learning to read through the SABIS® Reading Program.

The SABIS® Reading Program, a program based on a traditional phonics approach to reading, has evolved out of decades of practice and has benefited from worldwide application in schools in the SABIS® School Network. The SABIS® Reading Program identifies essential components of focus in kindergarten and at each subsequent grade level in the lower primary. These components work together to provide students with a solid foundation of reading skills upon which a lifetime of reading can be built.



Essential components of the SABIS® Reading Program in kindergarten, a foundation for reading and language development, include phonics instruction, phonics support, and guided reading. For students in kindergarten, the SABIS® Reading Program introduces students to letter shape, formation, and sound recognition. Through this program, students learn the twenty-six letters and the sounds that accompany each one. Each week students are immersed in a minimum of one new letter which is actively taught through books, songs, and plays. The SABIS® Phonics workbooks provide further practice and reinforcement.

"I'm amazed at the ease with which my child has learned to read with SABIS®. We used to read to our daughter every night. Now we are the ones read to!" -
SABIS® Parent

The SABIS® Reading Program in kindergarten is rounded out with a component of guided reading. Guided readers are used in small-group instructional settings in which each child has a copy of the same book being discussed. Punctuation, capitalization, picture clues, and sounding out new words are all taught through the guided readers. Guided readers help students to apply their phonics foundation to new words and to start on the path to becoming avid readers.

The first grade of the lower primary continues developing the essential components of phonics instruction, application, and reading as part of the SABIS® Reading Program. Phonics concepts are reinforced in a review of the alphabet before being expanded on with new and more complex letter blends and digraphs. Students' reading confidence gets a boost in grade 1 through the use of the SABIS® Readers which use children's familiarity with fairy tales to practice reading aloud skills and build vocabulary. The SABIS® Readers are used to model intonation, expression, fluency, and pronunciation as well as to explore previewing, predicting, and discussion skills. Additionally, SABIS® Readers are used to teach vocabulary with students defining the word, illustrating it through drawing, acting out the word, clapping its syllables, and more.

“The SABIS® Readers in grade 1 are great motivators for the kids whose faces light up when they see they can read and understand their very own book.” - **SABIS® Teacher**

Additionally, SABIS® students from an early age further develop their reading skills through other readers and anthologies. Various programs help expose students to the wider practice of reading for pleasure while developing fluency and comprehension skills.

The reading foundation laid in SABIS® schools in kindergarten and the first grade forms a solid base that is built upon in the remainder of the lower primary. The essential components of phonics instruction, application of concepts through exercises, and reading continue through the lower primary.

In the lower primary, students’ phonetic understanding expands as they apply their foundation of skills to the task of learning new words and strategies not only in English lessons, but across the curriculum. A comprehensive program involving SABIS® Readers helps students become comfortable, confident readers. Teacher-modeled reading, partner reading, and group choral reading continue to strengthen pronunciation, intonation, fluency, and expression. Class readers, whether from the SABIS® series or a supplementary series, are used to introduce comprehension skills and also serve as a springboard for discussion on story structure – setting, characters, plot, resolution.

“By utilizing the essentials of the program – the best teaching techniques, carefully prepared materials, and a structured phonics program – our students develop the skills necessary to establish themselves as avid readers in school and in life.” - **SABIS® Director, SICS Springfield**

As the age-old debate continues about the most effective ways to teaching reading, students following the SABIS® Reading Program are acquiring the skills needed to open the door to an unlimited world of experiences and knowledge through reading.

For more information about the SABIS® Educational System, please e-mail info@sabis.net.

Testimonial

“ We will miss *the ISF Internationale Schule Frankfurt-Rhein-Main*. If you ever consider opening a SABIS® school in the Washington, DC area, please contact us. The SABIS® Educational System is run by select people who care about their profession... ”

Parent of a former ISF student, Germany



4th Annual SABIS® Regional Tournament, Doha 2005

Over the weekend of Friday, March 25th and Saturday, March 26th, *ISC-Doha* hosted the 4th Annual SABIS® Regional Sports Tournament. This yearly event succeeded again in bringing together SABIS® schools from Egypt, Syria, Oman, UAE, Jordan, Lebanon, and Qatar to compete against each other and against selected schools in Doha.



It was an incredible action-packed, record-breaking two days full of personal and team-achievement, excitement, triumph, and, most importantly, fun!

Students from SABIS® schools all over the Middle East came together in the true athletic spirit to compete in swimming, sprint, basketball, and football competitions.



Undoubtedly, the climax of the two-day event was the finals. These thrilling games showcased all the speed, skill, and talent of the competitors. The finals were the culmination of a sporting event that will remain a pleasant memory as one which forged new links of friendship and competitive spirit.

Next year's Regional Tournament will hopefully include even more participating countries and an even wider range of activities.

The Bobby Charlton Soccer School (BCSS) Visits ISC-Cairo

The International School of Choueifat – Cairo hosted the famous Bobby Charlton Soccer School (BCSS) for a series of coaching sessions. Almost 140 students enrolled for specialist training from the BCSS's UEFA/FA qualified coaches from England and Egypt.

It was Sir Bobby Charlton who started the soccer school.



Some of the younger students warm up under the watchful eye of their coaches

A former Manchester United player and member of the England team, Charlton helped his team win the 1966 World Cup. His school has trained many of today's top players including David Beckham.

Students from *ISC-Cairo* flooded the sports fields and enjoyed their training sessions.

For more information on *ISC-Cairo*, please visit www.isccairo-sabis.net.

Student Life at ISC-Al Ain

Maintaining the strong academic tradition inherent to all schools in the SABIS® School Network has been the focus of the SABIS® Student Life Organization™ at the *International School of Choueifat – Al Ain*. This year the Academic Prefects helped sixth grade students study mathematics. The extra support from the SABIS® SLO™ helped raise the performance of *the ISC-Al Ain* students. Among all the SABIS® schools in the Gulf area, *ISC-Al Ain* students had the highest math average, the top class average in both math exams so far, and the highest class average on the latest exams.



Through Student Life, students at *ISC-Al Ain* have also been involved in the management of school and classroom discipline. Several meetings were held with students from grades five to twelve early in the school year to discuss how the prefects could be most effective in ensuring that the school and classroom environment contributed to the learning process. These meetings held between the students and school administration allowed the students to present their ideas on how they could contribute to a positive school environment.

The strong academic program at *ISC-Al Ain* is complemented by a sports activities program. This year the *ISC- Al Ain* volleyball team participated in the Inter-Choueifat competitions in Sharjah and Abu Dhabi. The senior boys' team placed third overall, but scored the same number of points as the overall winners, and the senior girls' team had the Most Valuable Player of the tournament, Anam Khan, who is also Head Prefect. The Sports Department of the SABIS® Student Life Organisation™ has been busy organizing competitions against local schools after study hours and on weekends. The most recent soccer match against one of the neighboring schools resulted in a 5-5 draw.

For more information on *ISC-Al Ain*, please visit www.iscalain-sabis.net.

ISF Egg-drop Contest

Ninth grade students at *the ISF Internationale Schule Frankfurt-Rhein-Main* have been putting their physics knowledge to use in an egg-drop contest. Theories of gravity and velocity are being applied in a contest in which raw chicken eggs are dropped from a minimum height of ten meters – and have to survive the landing unharmed.

ISF students were given specific guidelines prior to the contest's first round. The apparatuses could not exceed 1m³, all apparatuses had to be dropped only by team members, and no special landing surfaces beneath the drop zone could be used.

Teams of 9th graders set out to study the possibilities, construct theories, and create designs. One apparatus was comprised of a small box holding the egg affixed to a balloon. Another group devised a foam cushion construction with a little pocket inside to insure the safety of the egg.

Over twenty different teams participated in the first round of the contest held on February 15th, 2005. Eggs were dropped from heights of two, five, and ten meters. Fourteen out of twenty eggs survived! The contest now moves into the second round with drops from an even greater height.

For more information on *ISF*, please visit www.isf-net.de.

IAF Student-Athlete Receives Special Recognition

At the *Lansing Christian Holiday Classic Basketball Tournament* in Michigan, *IAF* sophomore Elvin Caldwell was named to the All-Tournament team by a vote of varsity basketball coaches. Elvin played incredibly well during the tournament, averaging thirteen points per game and playing outstanding defense. An opposing coach stated that "Elvin was the hardest player we have faced this year." Elvin, who is actively involved in the SABIS® Student Life Organization™ at *IAF*, attended the *Student Life Training Camp* in MN during the summer of 2004 and is the Deputy Head Prefect for Activities for the 2004-2005 academic year. Moreover, Elvin maintains a 3.0 GPA despite his active involvement in school and church activities.

For more information on *IAF*, please visit www.iaf-sabis.net.

Acts of Kindness at the SABIS® Pre-school in Somerville

The *SABIS® Pre-School in Somerville, Massachusetts* celebrated the month of January by committing *random acts of kindness* within the school and in the local community.

The staff created a 'Heart of Kindness' that was displayed in the school's foyer. Each time a child exhibited a thoughtful or kind behavior toward another person, they were awarded a heart to add to the display. Children were recognized for their acts of kindness in school and at home, giving parents an opportunity to participate. This activity not only supported the theme for the month, but also reinforced concepts taught in the curriculum.

As a school, *the SABIS® Pre-school* shared its acts of kindness with several organizations within the community. The staff involved collected non-perishable food items throughout the holiday season to donate to a local food pantry. The children helped sort and box the food for delivery. The children also donated books to the branch of the public library where they regularly attended *the Pre-School 'Story Hour'*. In addition, the children made gifts for some of the residents at a local assisted-living facility that they had visited in the fall.



Overall, themes of sharing, kindness, and friendship were discussed and explored in the classroom. The children became eager to help each other and, as a result, continue to display their 'Heart of Kindness', reaching new goals each month.

For more information on the *SABIS® Pre-school*, please visit www.sabispreschool.net.

Feature School

The International School of Minnesota (ISM)



For 20 years, *ISM* has been providing its students with a world-class education through the SABIS® Educational System. Located on Bryant Lake in Eden Prairie, MN, a twenty-minute drive from downtown Minneapolis, *ISM* was established in 1985 and moved to its 55-acre lakefront campus in 1987. Providing high-quality education for its students over the past 20 years, *ISM* is proud to have carved out a niche for itself in a state known for its focus on education in both the public and private sectors.



Internationalism

ISM students and staff come from all over the world. While 70% of *ISM* families are from Minnesota and other parts of the US, 30% comes from various corners of the world. Forty different national flags fly in the links of the *ISM* building and represent *ISM*'s international staff and student body.



Academics

True to SABIS®' reputation of providing its students with a high-quality, college-preparatory education, *ISM* students enjoy the benefits of a solid education. In the spring of 2004, 98% of *ISM* students in the 12th grade took the College Board's Advanced Placement Exams in sixteen different subjects with 50% of *ISM* students earning the distinction of AP® Scholar. Two of the *ISM* students recognized by the College Board were named as National AP® Scholars. Each took ten exams and earned averages of 4.6 and 4.8 out of a maximum of 5.0.



World Language

For the past 20 years, students at *ISM* have been taking one period of World Language – either French or Spanish – per school day beginning at the preschool level. A program that covers all aspects of a foreign language – culture, history, literature – World Language at *ISM* opens up a world of experience to the students.

During Spring Break in March 2005, *ISM* students traveled to France and to Mexico on the first leg of an exchange program that will see *ISM* families playing host to visiting students later in the spring. *ISM* students at both the upper and lower school level will also take part in Concordia Language Villages in northern Minnesota where they can practice and improve their foreign language skills.

The world of experience open to *ISM* students through the World Language program extends to participation in the *National Spanish Exam* and *Le Grand Concourse*. In these two national contests, sponsored by the *American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese* and by the *American Association of Teachers of French*, *ISM* students compete against students from other schools in Minnesota and from the entire US. Each year *ISM* students rank as both state and national champions.

Performing Arts

Concert Choir: The **ISM** Concert Choir and their Director, Mrs. Everitt, received a superior rating at the *Minnesota State High School League Choir Contest* held on February 24th, 2005 in the **ISM** Performing Arts Center. Out of the eighteen choirs in the region, eight received a superior rating. It was also **ISM's** first time to host the event, earning high praise for its facility and hospitality from visiting school directors.

Art Exhibits: "Eye-to-Eye" is a striking new art exhibit on display in the foyer of the **ISM** Performing Arts Center and the result of over five months of effort by **ISM** artists in grades four through ten.

20th Anniversary Doors of ISM: The creativity and talent of **ISM** students from pre-school through grade twelve is currently being directed toward a new art project under the guidance of **ISM** art teachers and artist-in-residence, John Acosta. The unveiling of this project is planned for April 2005 in celebration of **ISM's** 20th anniversary year.

Cultural Events

In celebration of its internationalism, students at **ISM** have spent the 2004-2005 academic year learning about some of the many cultures found among its students and staff. With events designed to share both knowledge and experience, the **ISM** community of students, teachers, and parents has enjoyed the wonders of the German market and the beauty of Laotian fashion and poetry so far this year.



Sports

ISM's 2005 High School Sailing Team: On February 25th, 2005, **ISM** launched their new High School Sailing Team. As part of this new initiative, **ISM** named Gordy Bowers, Executive Director of the *Lake Minnetonka Sailing School (LMSS)* (www.lakeminnetonkasailingschool.org) as the Head Coach for the **ISM** team. Bowers is a world-class sailing competitor whose coaching experience includes the US Olympic Yachting Team, the Pan American Games, and the Goodwill Games and whose personal victories include many US championships in racing and skippering. "The LMSS is proud to partner with **ISM** and is looking forward to providing high-quality coaching to the **ISM** team," commented Bowers.



ISM Basketball: On February 3rd, 2005 for the third year in a row, **ISM** Huskies basketball teams at the junior varsity and varsity levels played at the Target Center, the home court of the *National Basketball Association (NBA) Minnesota Timberwolves*.





Fans decked out in maroon and grey enjoyed five games resulting in three *ISM* victories.

Shaped by the committed efforts and achievements of *ISM* staff, students, and parents, *ISM* has been providing a world-class SABIS® education for the past twenty years. Happy 20th Anniversary *ISM*!

For more information on *ISM*, please visit www.ism-sabis.net.

Testimonial

“ My husband and I are very proud of our daughter.. *ISC-AD* prepared her very well for her SAT I and II exams and has given her an academic edge over students from all over the world. She has been at the school since kindergarten, and we thank the school for preparing her for a successful university education and a prosperous life. ”

Parent of an *ISC-AD* student, UAE

Alumnus in the Spotlight

ISC-Dubai

The path taken by Mr. Alessandro Papa through his SABIS® education was an unusual one, taking him to SABIS® schools on two different continents. Mr. Papa joined *the International School of Choueifat - Dubai* in the summer of 1994. He attended an intensive summer math program and had the opportunity to “*form friendships that persist to this day*”. Mr. Papa chose the science track program and became head of the Environmental Department of the SABIS® Student Life Organization™ in 1997. In 1998, he became co-Head Prefect of the SABIS® SLO™. In addition, he performed the role of editor of the school’s newsletter and yearbook.



Mr. Papa’s path through school changed directions in the summer of 1999 when his parents had to return to Italy a year before he could complete the A-Level program. It is then that the school offered him the opportunity and a partial scholarship to conclude his school studies at *the International School of Choueifat – Bath (no longer operative)*. If it had not been for this act of generosity, successfully completing the A-Level and university applications would have been far more difficult. Thanks to thorough preparation and continuous education with SABIS®, at his interviews in Cambridge University, he reported to being able to answer the questions with far greater ease than would have otherwise been possible because of the breadth and scope of the science classes taught at *ISC-Dubai*. “*One of the advanced physics topics covered in Grade 12 came up during one of my Cambridge interviews, allowing me to tackle it with confidence,*” he recalls.

After getting four A's at A-Level (including one of the top five scores in the Physics A-Level), Mr. Papa was admitted to Corpus Christi College in Cambridge to study engineering. In his first two years, he

obtained first-class exam results and coped brilliantly with exam stress, something he learnt at *ISC-Dubai* and *ISC-Bath*. The solid foundation in mathematics also played an instrumental role in his success.

In his third year in university, Mr. Papa was offered a Masters fellowship at MIT, where he started his specialization in structural engineering and obtained a GPA of 4.0. He returned to Cambridge for his fourth and final year, where he pursued a thesis sponsored by NASA in the mechanics of solar-sail propulsion. He graduated with distinction with a Masters of Engineering and a university prize for the theory of structures.

The ability to cope with heavy workloads that he learnt at *ISC-Dubai* and *ISC-Bath* allowed him to successfully manage the pressures of Cambridge and MIT and strike the right balance between work and play while enjoying the university experience. *"The skills I learned during my time with SABIS® are relevant and useful, even today."* Although offered a place in MIT's PhD program, Mr. Papa is currently working in New York City as an analyst in an investment strategy group of a major Wall Street bank.

Testimonial

“ Even though my children were attending schools within walking distance from our house, which made it practical for everyone, I was not happy. My wife and I were worried because our children were not learning adequately, and we felt they were not utilizing their potential. At this point my wife and I agreed to transfer our children to *SIS* which was twelve miles away. I had done research and decided that *SIS* had much higher expectations of its students...My children have been in the school since it opened in 2001 and have progressed well over the years...Once they adapted to the SABIS® curriculum, they did extremely well. Both my wife and I are very glad that we made the decision to transfer our children to SABIS® *International School*... ”

Parent of *SIS* students, Arizona, US

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



MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE SABIS® SCHOOL NETWORK

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