



UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MAGAZINE

SPRING 2019 EDITION





EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It has been a pleasure to call UNIS my work home for the past year. It seems like just yesterday that I walked through the doors for the first time as the Executive Director with the same anticipation as a kindergarten student starting a new adventure. Ten months later I can report it has been everything I could have hoped for and more.

The Board of Directors has been a critical partner in my work to make UNIS the best educational institution possible. I am blessed with a thoughtful, engaged Board leadership team and Board of Trustees who are always focused on doing what is best for our students.

It is clear the faculty, staff, and administration are a committed group of professionals who care deeply for our students. The ethos of educating the whole child is central to their work and the environment of caring and connectedness to the students is far from an accident.

Our parents and their passion for our school is exceptional. Whether it is the Food Fair, the Diwali Celebrations or the countless activities they either lead or participate in we know that their involvement makes us better as school.

And finally I have learned in no uncertain way that the students are the lifeblood of the school. Their energy, enthusiasm, views on our world, and true desire to be active members of our community is what makes coming to work each and every day so special.

Thank you to all for making my first year so memorable.

Have a great summer.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



This year has been a good one for UNIS and for the Board of Trustees, with Dr. Dan Brenner taking up his responsibilities with energy and commitment as Executive Director. The new excitement in the School is palpable and is reflected amongst the whole community – faculty, students, parents and trustees. With his strong knowledge of curriculum and management, Dr. Brenner has undertaken an overall review of the organization of the School both academically and administratively, which will surely bring many benefits.

The School, along with the Board, is looking at the long-term goal to upgrade the school building in order to have physical spaces that propel the mission of the School – providing a dynamic and innovative learning environment for the students – in a more efficient and sustainable manner. This will be a major focus of the Board going forward.

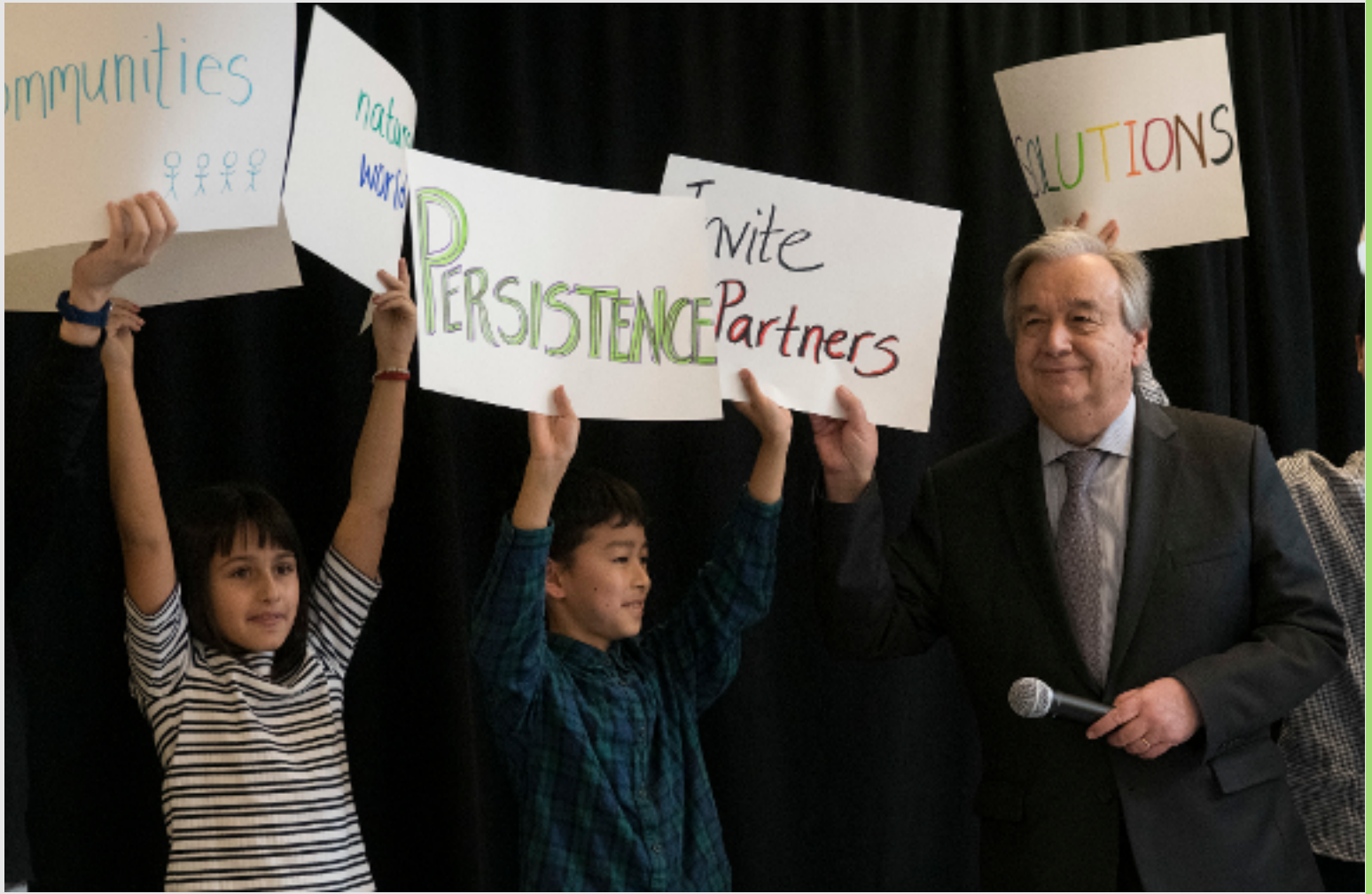
In March 2019 the UNIS-UN 43rd Annual International Student Conference was held in the General Assembly Hall, on the theme of the world's water crisis. The debates centered around industrialized countries and their responsibility and climate migration and the threat to worldwide political stability. This student-led conference is always inspiring, as it shows the intelligence and power of young people in grappling with the major issues of today.

On Friday, 31 May 2019 I had the great pleasure of attending my second UNIS Graduation as Chair, watching the faculty and students march in and listening to the music, singing, and the speeches. I consider it a big honour for me to welcome the students and to hand them their diplomas. That these 116 graduates come from 48 countries, and speak 31 languages signals the unique character of our School, and seeing the students in their national costumes honoring their heritage illustrated this in a most beautiful way

We also had Ambassadors attending the graduation who are UNIS Honorary Trustees, some are also parents of graduating students, or supporters of the UNIS language programmes, along with many families and friends.

I wish everyone in the UNIS community a wonderful Summer.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL VISITS UNIS



On April 12th, we welcomed H.E. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, to UNIS. Our M1 Honors Choir and Middle School Environmental Club members were invited to join the Junior School Assembly featuring the Secretary General's visit. The student choir delighted the Secretary General with their voices. Two M4 members of the Environmental Club delivered speeches on the importance of sustainability practices while other members of the Club raised signs in the air promoting change. The students presented the S-G with a welcome gift on behalf of the Middle School.

The S-G shared his hope for a more sustainable world and celebrated our students'

achievements in their efforts toward *Greening the Blue*.

He then invited students to ask any questions.

"What can we do to help the United Nations and its 17 sustainable goals?"

Without hesitation, the Secretary-General invites everyone to:

- Behave
- Tell others to behave
- Take action

And in order for anyone to behave, we all need to comprehend, mentally grasp, the impact we have on our ecosystem and on our planet. It is not about complying with authority. It is about understanding the urgency and the way we can each save our planet and make the right choice.

Following the JS and MS assembly, Mr. António Guterres participated in a special T3-T4 student assembly. He offered insight about his personal journey thus far, his current role, and that of the United Nations. He spoke about his current involvement with several international affairs, answered a range of questions from students, and provided guidance about how as individuals and members of society, we can continue to move forward and help create a better world.

"One step ahead to achieving the UN goal 17. If we all pitch in, we can green the blue by using the 3 R's [reduce, reuse, recycle]."

-Reaction of Junior School students, Zoe Strehmeyer & Renee Sharapov, to the S-G's visit



A FIRESIDE CHAT WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL



On April 1st, H.E. Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, and former Minister of Environment of Nigeria, participated in a panel discussion for M4 and T1 students, moderated by UNIS Board Chair Catherine Pollard. Other participants in the panel included:

Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti (Brazil), Under-Secretary-General, Chef de Cabinet, Executive Office of the Secretary-General, and former UN Permanent Representative of Brazil

Phumzile Gloria Mlambo-Ngcuka (South Africa), Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, UN-Women

Atul Khare (India), Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support.

Along with T1 students, M4 students took part in an assembly with honoured guests from the UN, including our own Board of Trustees

President, Catherine Pollard, Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly Affairs and Conference Management. Ms. Catherine Pollard moderated a discussion among her colleagues and our students about the challenges faced in the past, present and future. The discussion focused on how our knowledge and skills gained from our experience, in our own particular time and place, can be harnessed for the common good. If we realize the opportunity for improvement in the smallest of actions, we can begin to make larger change in our communities and world. UNIS students have an understanding of this already; it was valuable and inspiring for them to hear from people who have brought their own desire and ability to make change to the global stage.



"We get the ambition from the Global Goals, but actions happen on the ground and the voices of young people make the real difference." -Amina Mohammed

PARTY AT THE PARK!

This year UNIS hosted its annual fundraiser, "Party at the Park - Sustaining UNIS" at the Park Restaurant on April 11th. Parents, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of UNIS came together to show their support for our school and to raise funds for green education and greening our campuses. This year, we launched a school-wide theme *Greening the Blue* and the Green Teams and Environmental teams of each school along with the parent sustainability group and Flik have been making substantial efforts to raise awareness of the condition of our planet and take action to ensure the future of our environment.

The event raised ~\$120,000 which will be used for:

- A hydroponic herb garden for Manhattan;
- Recycling machines for Queens;
- green initiative education for all grades encompassing field trips, comprehensive scholarly green experiences and hand on environmental education, on site guest speakers and support for green curriculum;
- and augmentation of Manhattan and Queens greenhouses and gardening facilities.



INTERNATIONAL FUN & FOOD FAIR



The annual International Food & Fun Fair is the biggest Parents Association sponsored community building and fundraising event. It included students and families Pre-K to T4 from both the Manhattan and Queens campuses. With approximately 1,500 guests plus volunteers, and foods from more than 100 countries it was a huge success. It was only possible with the support of parent, student, teacher and staff volunteers.

This year, the fun-filled event was held on Saturday, May 4th and featured a smorgasbord of food, arts & crafts, outdoor games, raffle, dancing, photo booth, TH Clubs Showcase, Tennis Fest, Flower Arrangements Sale and PE Uniform Thrift Shop.

The event was co-chaired by the Cultural Events Committee with the help of three overall parent co-chairs, 12 committees (Arts & Crafts, Dance Floor, Flowers and Decoration, Food, Graphics, Outdoor Games, PE Uniform Thrift Shop, Raffle, Sustainability, Ticketing, UNIS Clubs and Volunteers) and 17 committee co-chairs.



AROUND THE WORLD AT UNIS

This season we have had numerous cultural events take place at UNIS, taking us around the world without leaving NYC! Here are a few highlights from the past few months.



Harumatsuri, Japanese Spring Festival: The 25th Northeast Council of Teachers of Japanese (NECTJ) Harumatsuri took place on March 18th and offered professional Japanese performances, cultural booths, various contests, and a talent show for more than 500 students of Japanese from NY and NJ. NECTJ Harumatsuri is an annual Japanese Spring festival that has been hosted by the NECTJ since 1994. Through Harumatsuri, the students not only experience Japanese culture but also interact with performers, volunteers, and make new friends in Japanese.

Master Class with Critically Acclaimed International Artist:

Award winning and critically acclaimed Canadian trumpet player, Ingrid Jensen, held a master class with our jazz students and performed with them on Jazz Night.



Performance by Russian Artist:

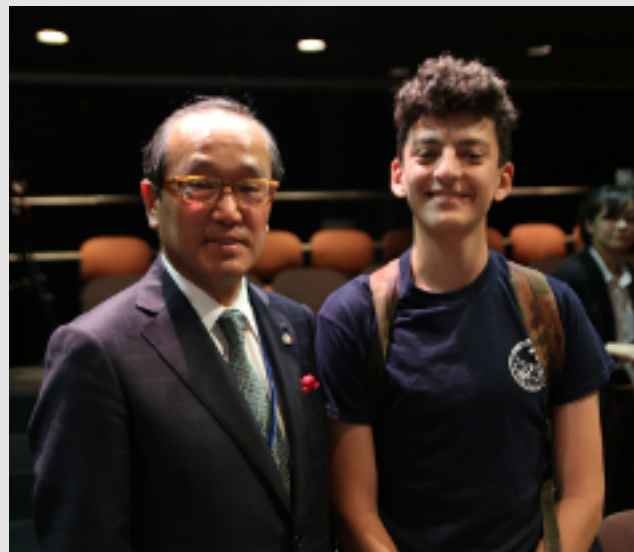
Teen artist, Sofia Fisenko, who represented Russia in the 2016 Junior Eurovision in Malta, gave a live performance to Middle School and Tutorial House students. Sofia was accompanied by Dmitry Polyanskiy, Deputy Representative of the Russian Federation at the UN.

Did you know?

Our **MS Honors Choir** performed at the International Mother Language Day Celebration at the United Nations. Our students performed for special guests of the Bangladeshi mission. International Mother Language Day focuses on preserving the differences in cultures and languages that foster tolerance and respect for others.



MS Honors Choir performs at the UN on International Mother Language Day.



Visit from Mayor of Hiroshima: On April 30th, the Mayor of Hiroshima, Kazumi Matsui (who is also the Secretary-General of the global Mayors for Peace organization) visited UNIS, accompanied by a few Japanese high school students. The Mayor spoke to a T3 Assembly regarding the importance of civil society, peace initiatives, and nuclear disarmament, before participating to a panel discussion with T2 students. The visiting students also gave mini-presentations about Hiroshima, the A-bomb's effects on the Japanese people, and underlined the importance of reducing or eliminating the nuclear arsenals on a global scale.



Discussion with ACLU Director:

Jeffrey Robinson, Director of the ACLU Trone Center for Justice and Equality. He met with and discussed Global Politics and Humanities with IB Global Politics classes. Mr. Robinson is a nationally recognized trial attorney and a respected teacher of trial advocacy.



Arabic Language Program: Representatives from the Country of Oman met with Dr. Brenner and provided a generous donation for our Arabic Language Program.



UNIS International Arts Festival: The International Festival of Arts is a three-week celebration of our community's vibrant artistry and our cultural diversity. A team of Tutorial House students select the theme each year and they co-produce the programming with the Theatre Department. The theme for 2019 was *Truth*.

The collaborative spirit of UNIS is on full display during the festival as students, staff, parents, and teachers share music, dance, film and visual arts in a variety of languages and traditions.

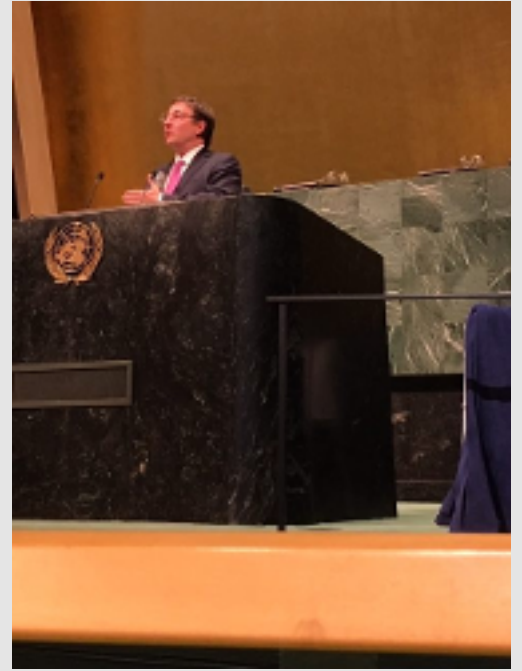
UNIS-UN: RIPPLE EFFECT, THE WATER CRISIS



UNIS-UN is a student run conference with the goal of providing an intellectually enriching experience for their peers from around the world. The goal is to promote globalism and cross cultural exchange. For the past 42 years, the UNIS-UN conference has been held in the General Assembly Hall at the United Nations Headquarters. Students invite expert speakers and students from 5 continents to engage with a contemporary global issue.

This year's conference topic was *Ripple Effect: The Water Crisis*. As water is central to the wellbeing of our people and planet, the conference attendees examined and discussed the role of water in relation to sustainability and geopolitics. The two central debates were, *industrialized countries have a greater responsibility for sustainable development*, and *climate migration will be the biggest threat to world wide political stability*.





This year's conference was led by UNIS Co-Chairs, Noella Kalasa and Sophia Duff. Speakers included: Galila Gray, Charity Water and UNIS Class of 2010; Wolfram Schlenker, Columbia Professor and SIPA Center on Global Energy Policy; Fiona Ward, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Specialist at UNICEF; Andrew Hudson, Head of Water and Oceans Governance Programme; Seath M. Siegel, author of *Let There*

Be Water: Israel's Solution for a Water-Starved World; and Zaria Forman, Climate Change Artist.

Congratulations to our UNIS team on holding another thought-provoking, successful conference!

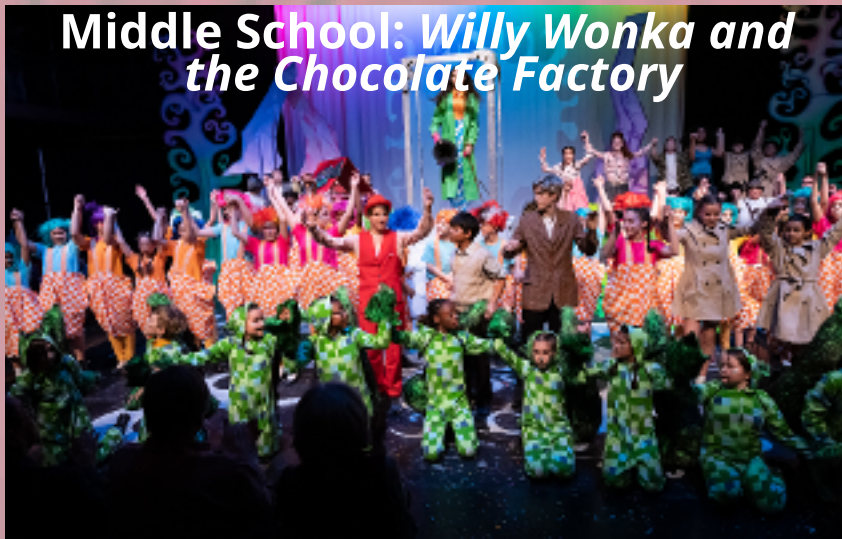
MUSICALS

Junior School: *Flat Stanley*



Congratulations to the cast and crew members on the fantastic performances of *Flat Stanley*, *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, and *Grease*! Thank you to all those who volunteered to make these events possible.

Middle School: *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*



Tutorial House: *Grease*



CONCERTS

This season we had numerous concerts performed by our talented students, faculty, and parents, including:

For the Love of Music Faculty Concert featuring UNIS Music Faculty to raise funds for California Wildfire Victims;

How Can I Keep from Singing UNIS Choral Festival featuring J3/J4 Chorus, M1 Chorus, MS Honors Choir, Senior Chorus, Chamber Ensemble, and UNIS Mother's Choir;

Queens MS Spring Concert;

M2 Concert;

TH String Camerata and TH Jazz Band Concert;

TH Wind Ensemble, MS Jazz Band, and M4 Band Concert;

UNIS Jazz Night with special guest Ingrid Jensen, MS Jazz Band, TH Jazz Band, TH String Camerata and UNIS Faculty Jazz Band,

and over 40 private lesson recitals!



ATHLETICS SPRING RECAP

On May 20th, an incredible 32 student-athletes represented UNIS at the Gotham Games, arguably the most prestigious middle school track event for NYC-area private schools. It was fitting end to another action-packed Athletics season, a campaign that featured tremendous developments across the program.

Our Boys Varsity Tennis team, for example, finished a remarkable 2nd in the New York City Athletic League (NYCAL) Post-Season Championships. The Girls Varsity Softball team narrowly missed a berth in the NYCAL Finals, falling by the slimmest of margins in a dramatic semi-final contest on 5/7. Both the Middle School Baseball and Softball teams showed excellent growth with several impressive wins, while our Middle School Tennis (record participation), Varsity Track (strong representation at NYCAL Championships), and Varsity Volleyball teams also made UNIS proud.

On an individual level, Alexandre Maes, Stephanie Durkin and Frances Wang-LaVallee were named as 'All-League' in their respective sports, and in

total, over 200 UNIS students participated in a spring athletic activity. As ever, an experienced staff of qualified coaches provided leadership and guidance for our students, including former Team USA athlete Gay Hemphill, the Middle School Softball Head Coach.

Finally, this season marked the end of Duncan Davison's tenure at UNIS. As Athletic Director for the past seven years, Mr. Davison spearheaded many important elements of UNIS' Athletics program, including the development of new sports (including Tennis), a focus on strength and conditioning, and a partnership with the Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA). Perhaps most impressive of these accomplishments was his success in gaining UNIS acceptance to the NYCAL in 2014.

"While I am sad to be leaving UNIS," reflects Mr. Davison, "I feel extremely confident that the Athletics department is in good hands under Mr. Evans and Mr. Apergis. I wish our student-athletes and the school community all the best for the future, and wish to thank them for all the support. Go UNIS!"





Sacha Maes after winning the Boys Varsity Singles Mayor's Cup Championships.

Did you know?

The New York Junior Tennis and Learning Mayor's Cup is the premier event for scholastic tennis players in New York City. With 16 different events and more than 800 participants from public and private elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools, the NYJTL Mayor's Cup provides the perfect opportunity for New York City's scholastic tennis players to showcase their on-court talents on a stage fit for Grand Slam Champions.

This year's Mayor's Cup turned out to be the largest. Our very own **Sacha Maes**, T1, won the Boys Varsity Singles Mayor's Cup Championships!

TRAVELING THE GLOBE



Nepal:

A group of T3 students completed their annual tradition this spring break, volunteering their time to travel to Nepal. Students prepared for the initiative by attending weekly sessions all year in preparation, where they studied the people, traditions, and history of the mountainous country sandwiched between India and China,



while also fundraising for a clean water system. Students spent the first half of the trip engaging with local schoolchildren, teaching them English, and in exchange learning about cultural festivals such as Holi. During the second portion of the trip, students explored historical sites and learned about the natural environment of Nepal.



Vietnam:

Since its inaugural trip in the Spring of 2014, the UNIS NY and UNIS Hanoi Exchange Program has been growing and improving with each year. The 2019 program included 15 T1s from UNIS NY and 14 Grade 9 and 10 UNIS Hanoi. Students visited the Museum of Ethnology, Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum, and took part on an informative and



delicious street food tour. Students then took an overnight train trip to the north in SaPa, where they experienced meaningful service learning projects with UNIS Hanoi students at two local schools. The trip was made complete with a scavenger hunt in the Old Quarters in Hanoi, and then a day trip to Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage.

ADVENTURERS

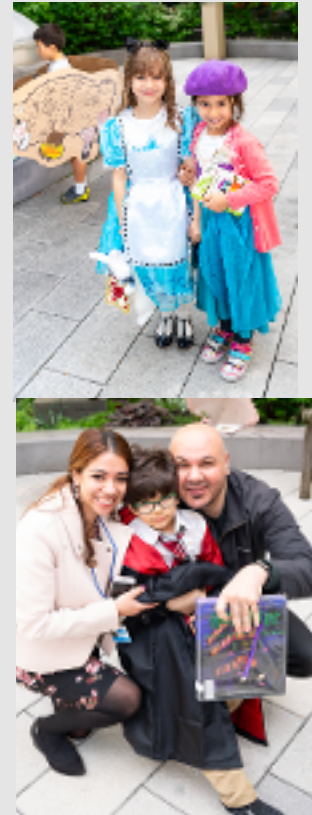


MS Camps & International Trips:

Middle School Camps began in the Fall when our M3 group headed to Club Getaway in Connecticut; our M2s were away at Camp Greenkill for 2 nights in mid-April, and our M1s were at Camp Mason from May 1st-3rd. M4 students traveled to Canada and Puerto Rico f

from April 28th - May 4th for a cultural and linguistic experience in their Language B area of study. The Camp experience is always a highlight of the Middle School years, and students make memories that last far beyond their time at UNIS.

JUNIOR SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



Our Junior School students had an exciting spring! On Tuesday, April 9th our JS Peacekeepers held a Peace Pole Ceremony in the 2nd floor Garden. It was organized by JS Music Teacher, Truike Boekholt (who has worked with our Peacekeepers throughout the year), in collaboration with JS Art Teacher, Anne Dohna. The idea of Peace Poles was first thought up by Masahisa Goi in 1955 in Japan. There are now Peace Poles in 200 countries, including the UN and now UNIS!

In keeping with this year UNIS theme: *Greening the Blue*, for every Peace Pole kit sold ten trees will be planted through “Trees for the Future” and we will receive a certificate when The World Peace Prayer Society receives an emailed photograph of our finished Peace Pole.

On Earth Day, the JS Library and the JS Science Department hosted children’s author Chelsea Clinton, who spoke about the importance of saving endangered animals and to introduce her latest book: *DON’T LET THEM DISAPPEAR: Twelve Endangered Species Across the Globe*.

In May, our JS students held a fantastic Story Book Parade, highlighting all of their favorite books and authors. Followed by our JS Author's Reading, where we celebrated our young writers.



MIDDLE SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



Our Middle School students also had a busy, exciting Spring! The M1 and M2 classes enthusiastically read, made purchases, and shared beloved or new Middle Grade titles with their peers. Many M3s and M4s also visited the Fair on their breaks to browse and buy books. This year marked the first year, the long-standing Junior School tradition extended into the Middle School, and we hope to continue this next school year.

From May 20th to 24th, the 50+ artistic creations from the Middle School Environmental Club's # Earth Love Media contest were on display in the UNIS lobby for all to see (and some to judge). This display of creative expression was the brainchild of the Middle School Environmental Club who

sponsored the event to raise awareness about the importance of caring for our planet as part of our collective goals around sustainability. Congratulations to the Environmental Club for their hard work and success!

The M4 scientists in Middle School presented research projects that were not only informative and interesting, but showed a deep level of investigation and inquiry. Learners reflected on and gave honest descriptions of their findings, including some of the successes and challenges they went through. Supported by the M4 science teachers, the students put on an engaging event that allowed everyone to learn together as a community.



QUEENS HIGHLIGHTS

At our Queens campus, the J4 students combined literature and music to present Zlateh the Goat, a short story by Isaac Bashevis Singer. The students played instruments, acted, sang, and danced as they told the story of a boy caught in a winter storm on his way to sell the family's goat.

The M4 Students went on a Sailing Adventure at the Water Front Club, Oyster Bay, in Nassau County, New York. The Sailing Activity was part of their Career Projects' Applications in Math class this year. Our sailors attended a full workshop on measuring wind angles, wind speed and buoyancy. Immediately after the hands-on workshop, the sailors headed to the pier and boarded a launch which transported them to the sailboats where they hoisted sails, directed and steered the sailboats and measured the wind angle and were precise and efficient! What an

amazing experience of applying the theoretical knowledge into practice outside the classroom!

We also held our annual May Day celebration! Celebrating May Day is a tradition in the Queens campus that goes back to its beginnings. The JS students performed songs and dances, accompanied by Middle School musicians. The whole community turned out for this festive occasion and the highlight was the J4 May Pole Dance. The weaving of the ribbons of the May Pole, the grand conclusion, was completed by the J4 class as the senior JS class.

In May, our M3 class also had the opportunity to meet with and ask questions of U.S. Congresswoman Grace Meng. This was a great experience for our students!



TUTORIAL HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS



The spring is particularly exciting for our Tutorial House students, as our T4s prepare to move on beyond UNIS!

Model UN is one of the largest and most active clubs in the Tutorial House. Our students participated in several Model UN events in the region, and were recognized for the quality of their work by multiple awards during these conferences!



For the 4th consecutive year, IB Visual Art students showcased their art work at the Caelum Art Gallery in Chelsea, on March 7th: a large crowd came to enjoy the outstanding art pieces, and meet with our young and talented artists. This year's show was titled *Combobulated*.



Eighteen T3 students were recognized before a Tutorial House assembly on May 30th, for their outstanding contributions to the UNIS community! Our most prestigious student award was presented on May 31st, at the United Nations, to Won-Jae Chang (Class of 2020) for his extraordinary work and service to others. Our student athletes were also recognized for their participation to our various teams and for their sportsmanship!

The traditional Senior Boat ride took place on May 29th. While the weather was particularly inclement during the boat ride around

Manhattan, students, faculty and staff had a great time, and partied the evening away during the deluge, before saying hello to Lady Liberty.

And lastly, our graduation ceremony for the Class of 2019 took place on May 31st in the General Assembly Hall of the United Nations, and was followed by a reception in the Delegates Dining Room overlooking the East River. The Commencement Address was delivered by Colombian photographer and social activist Miguel Ángel Amórtegui. Student speakers included Kiran Wijesekera, Noella Kalasa and Qiyuan Shengni.



CONGRATS GRADS! WHERE ARE THEY HEADED?

Albright College	Gap Year	SciencesPo - Menton	University of California, Santa Cruz
American University of Paris	George Mason University	Skidmore College	University of Edinburgh
Babson College	George Washington University	Sophia University	University of Groningen
Bard College	IE University Madrid	Stony Brook University	University of Maryland
Bard College Berlin	Israeli Military	Syracuse University	University of Miami
Barnard College	King's College London	The New School	University of San Francisco
Bentley University	Kultusministerkonferenz	Trinity College Dublin	University of the Arts London
Carnegie Mellon	Lafayette College	Tufts University	University of Toronto
Case Western Reserve	Macalester College	Tulane University	University of Toronto, Mississauga
Colorado College	McGill University	Universidad de Navarra	Vassar College
Columbia University	Military Service/Israel	Universidad Europea de Madrid	Villanova University
Concordia University	Monash University	University at Buffalo (SUNY)	Wake Forest University
Cornell University	New York University	University College London	Washington University in St. Louis
CUNY - Baruch College	Northeastern University	University College Utrecht	Williams College
Delft University	NYU Shanghai	University of California, Berkeley	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Duke University	Oberlin College	University of California, Los Angeles	
Elon University	Occidental College		
Fondation Université Français en Arménie	Rhode Island School of Design		
Fordham University			

Did you know?

Timothy Lin (Class of 2018) is the first student in recorded UNIS history to obtain the perfect score of 45 points on the IB examinations in May 2018. He was presented with a letter from Dr Siva Kumari, Director General of the IB, during the graduation of the Class of 2019, at the United Nations.



Timothy (center) with Tut House Principal, Antoine Delaitre (left), and UNIS IB Coordinator, Luz Garcon (right), at the UN.

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!



Dates to Remember

First Day of School: **September 4th, 2019**

UN Day: **October 18th, 2019**

October Break: **October 21st - October 25th, 2019**

Parent Teacher Conferences: **November 6th, 2019** (5:00 pm-8:00 pm),
November 7th-November 8th 2019 (all day)

NEED TO CONTACT A PRINCIPAL?

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