



# **UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MAGAZINE**

**Winter Edition 2019**



## Executive Director's Message

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**This picture with Secretary-General António Guterres is symbolic of the relationship UNIS enjoys with the UN. We are undeniably the school of the United Nations and this can be seen and felt each and every day. 50% of our families have a direct affiliation to the UN, with an additional 30% of our families having at least one parent who holds a passport from outside of the US. International experiences are plentiful with UNIS Model UN hosted on campus, UNIS-UN held in the General Assembly Hall, countless visits from Ambassadors including this year from Ireland, Qatar, Spain and South Korea, the celebration of UN Day and Diwali, and many other events that support our mission of providing a rich international education that supports the ideals of the United Nations.**

**Please enjoy this Winter edition of our Magazine which features just a sampling of the multiculturalism that our children and staff are exposed to.**





## Message from the Board Chair

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The Board of Trustees, the Special Representative of the SG for UNIS (SRSG) and I have been working to improve our communication with the UNIS Honorary Trustees and to strengthen the ties between them and UNIS.

The UNIS Honorary Trustees are Permanent Representatives/Ambassadors to the United Nations who meet one or more of the criteria – that is, an Ambassador with a child or children in school, have more than ten of its citizens enrolled in the school, or provide language sponsorship/or financial contribution to UNIS.

Ambassador Marie Chatardová, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations and Honorary Trustee, hosted a dinner with the SRSG and myself to introduce Dr. Dan Brenner to the UNIS Honorary Trustees. It was a lovely evening with warm hospitality and a wonderful musical performance by UNIS students.

Ambassador Burhan Gafoor, Permanent Representative of Singapore and Board Trustee, held a reception for members of the Board, the UNIS Senior School Leadership and Honorary Trustees, which gave everyone the opportunity to interact, relax and discuss UNIS.

At the UNIS Model UN Conference, Ambassador Geraldine Patricia Byrne Nason, Permanent Representative of Ireland and Honorary Trustee, gave the opening remarks and took questions from the student delegates who came from schools all over the tri-state area.

The Portuguese Ambassador Mr. Francisco Duarte Lopes and Brazilian Ambassador Mr. Maura Vieira and Honorary Trustees signed a Protocol of Cooperation with UNIS to sponsor Portuguese as a language in the after school programme.

Together we organized for Dr. Dan Brenner to meet the Secretary-General. Dr. Brenner had the opportunity to introduce himself to the SG, tell him a little about UNIS and his ideas and invite the SG to visit UNIS. As you can see there is much going on as we reinforce our relationship with the UN!

# Track Program Builds Culture of Excellence

The Track and Field and Cross Country Programs at UNIS are alive and well. The program, thanks in part to a highly dedicated and talented staff, is producing high-caliber athletes who go on to compete at all divisions of universities and colleges from around the world. UNIS has recently produced athletes who have qualified and competed at the New York State Association of Independent Schools Indoor and Outdoor Championships, and who have gone on to represent New York City at New York State Championships.

One of the keys to the program's recent success can be attributed to the significant upgrades made to the school fitness center two years ago.

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## Joan McDonald: Special Representative of the SG

Joan McDonald has over 35 years experience working in the United Nations in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Namibia, managing diverse operations – facilities, renovations, procurement, travel, information technology, recruitment and business continuity to name a few. She has also been involved in change management throughout her UN career.

Joan was appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General for UNIS on 1 October 2017 and her main function is to serve as the liaison between the school and the UN, and the Member States who serve as Honorary Trustees, coordination of UNIS events at the UN and to serve on the Board of Trustees and various Board Committees

She has been a longstanding member of the UNIS community initially serving in 2001 as a member of the Executive, Strategic Planning, Buildings & Grounds, Development Committees and Secretary of the Board.

In addition, Joan is the proud parent of a UNIS alumnus who graduated in 2009.



**Joan McDonald: In her second year as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General**



# Recess at Queens: A Child's Right?

Dear J2 Students,

I think children should definitely have less recess time during the school day! Right now kids get two recesses a day! Why do they need so many? I think there are good reasons why it should be reduced to just one!

First of all, children come to school to learn, not play! We should be using absolutely all the time we have to learn and time is very precious. We shouldn't be wasting time with recess; we should be using it to learn more.

Another reason to have fewer recesses is that it would mean less falling out and arguing amongst children. When children play they often get into arguments and fall out. Kids get upset and angry with other kids so less recess time would mean less falling out!

Finally, if we have fewer recesses less children would get sick! During winter it can be cold and wet and when we go outside there's more chance of getting sick. Sick kids miss school so don't you think it's better to have less recesses and less sickness?

I think it's clear that it's a much better idea to have only one recess a day so children can learn more, get along better and get sick less!

Yours,

Ms. Bourne

To the left is a letter from MS. Bourne, J2 teacher, and below is one student's response demonstrating persuasive writing skills. What do you think?

Dear Ms. Bourne,

I think everybody should have the daily two recesses.

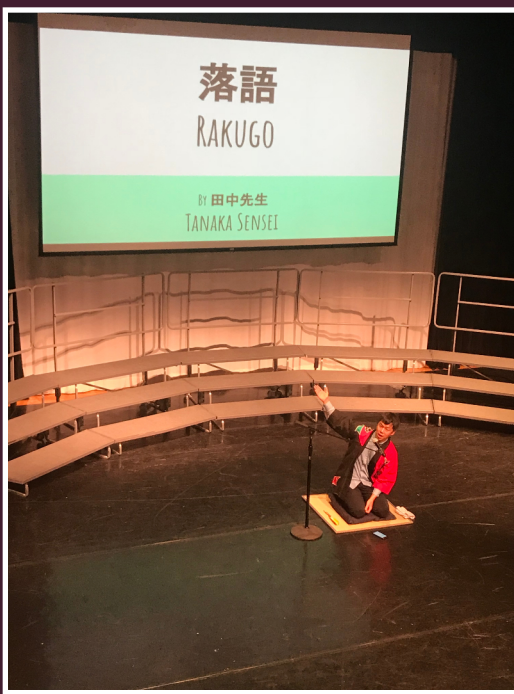
First of all children should get their exercise. It's healthy!

Next, when it is cold, rainy, or snowy we have recess in the gym. It's not cold or wet in the gym!

Furthermore, playing and exercise is a right! Who in UNs would disagree to a UN right?

Finally if nobody had recess, everybody would be bored from learning all day.

So I think that it's clear that everybody should have playtime, you won't disagree to a UN right, nobody will get bored, everybody can be healthy, and, anyway, have recess in the gym.



## Rakugo, Mochi and Calligraphy

Masahiro Tanaka, a UNIS Japanese teacher, demonstrated Japanese Rakugo "sit down" comedy for M1 students. This is one of the two recent experiential opportunities for our Japanese students who also made traditional mochi rice in class and practiced their calligraphy skills.

## UNIS Cafeteria Makes Changes

We are greening the blue in the UNIS café. More reusable plates and flatware are now in use. All disposable flatware is plant based and 100% compostable as well as all disposable water cups. All of our hand fruits (apples, oranges, pears and bananas) are now organic every day. We are also experimenting with non-plastic water containers to replace the current water bottles.

## Human Rights Conference January 10 & 11



The 21st Annual Student Human Rights Conference focused on the theme of "Defending Women's Rights: Gender Justice." Keynote speaker Marta Martinez-Martinez from UNHCR shared her documentary and experience with Gender Injustice in Uganda.

Day two at the UN, Camelyn Malalis, NYC Commissioner for Human Rights, challenged the students to suggest solutions for both local and global governments. Students continued the discussion with panelists Amol Pandit of FeMENists, Janai Smith, a youth advocate, and Nazeefa Hossein from Womankind.





## **Model UN Features Ambassador Byrne Nason from Ireland and Over 400 Participants**

UNISMUNC V had its fifth annual Model United Nations Conference hosted at UNIS, with keynote speaker H.E. Geraldine Byrne Nason, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the UN.

Since last April, the student executive committee and the USG of Committees, Femke Teunissen (T4), worked tirelessly to organize a smooth conference. UNISMUNC V was an important milestone for the club as it was the largest conference hosted to date with over 400 attendees from 26 schools all over the East Coast. In attendance were Director Dr. Dan Brenner, Under Secretary-General and UNIS Board Chair Catherine Pollard and Special Representative to the Secretary-General Joan McDonald. Delegates participated in eight committees discussing topics from Peacekeeping in Ukraine to Sexual and Reproductive Rights. This year they also hosted a Joint Crisis Conference on the Second Punic War between Rome and Carthage.

**Need to Contact a  
Principal?**

**Junior School:  
Pascal Vallet 212-584-3061**

**Middle School:  
Elaine Kelly 212-584-3014**

**Tut House:  
Antoine Delaitre  
212-584-3148**

**Queens:  
Barbara Kennedy  
212-584-3106**



## **Mother & Child**

Have you seen the bronze sculpture *Mother & Child*, by acclaimed artist Jan Yoors in the garden on the 2nd floor of the Manhattan Campus?

Mr. Yoors was a parent at UNIS in the 1970s and 1980s during the time his children were students. His sculpture *Mother & Child* was created in 1972 and has graced the garden for as long as we can remember.

Mr. Yoors was a Flemish-American artist, photographer, painter, sculptor, filmmaker and tapestry creator. He was also celebrated for his best-selling memoir, *The Gypsies*, of his life as a gypsy.



**PARTY  
AT  
THE PARK**

**SUSTAINING UNIS**

**THE PARK RESTAURANT**  
118 TENTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

**APRIL 11, 2019  
6:30 - 10:30PM**

**PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS  
DONATE AND SPONSOR**

[www.unis2019.givesmart.com](http://www.unis2019.givesmart.com)

[fundraiser@unis.org](mailto:fundraiser@unis.org)

**We hope you will join us for this year's annual gala fundraiser, *Party at the Park: Sustaining UNIS*, Thursday, 11 April, 2019. Register, donate, bid and buy tickets at [www.unis2019.givesmart.com](http://www.unis2019.givesmart.com). 30% of your ticket purchases will be a direct donation to the UNIS Fund.**



# UNIS Early Decision Results--2019

Bard College

Binghamton University

Case Western Reserve

DePaul University

Drexel University

Emerson College

Fordham University

George Mason University

Goucher College

Maryland Institute College  
of Art

Northeastern University

Penn State University

Rutgers University

School of Art Inst. of  
Chicago

SUNY Albany

The Catholic University of  
Amer

College of Wooster

Tulane University

SUNY Buffalo

Indiana University

University Of Mass.  
--Amherst

University of San  
Francisco

University of Wisconsin

Ursinus College

Wheaton College

Pace University

Babson College

Barnard College

Cornell University  
NYU

Duke University

Macalester College

Oberlin College

Occidental College

Skidmore College

George Washington  
University

Tufts University

University of Miami

Washington Univ. in St.  
Louis

Hult International Bus.  
School

## UNIS Visits the UN for Tsunami Discussion

T3 and T4 students attended a joint IOC/UNESCO and UNISDR High Level Panel Discussion of the World Tsunami Awareness Day at UN Headquarters. Students were able to share their own views in the prevention of natural disasters with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for the Disaster Risk Reduction, Ms. Mizutori, the Mayor of Rikuzentakata, and a tsunami survivor.





## Queens Art Links to Curriculum

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner is a classic ballad full of fantasy, mystery and adventure. Marna Chester, a New York State sculptor offered an in-school workshop where students created a life-sized paper sculpture of the winged creature from the poem. The three day workshop supplemented lessons in English, humanities, art and music.

*Pencil drawings  
created by our  
talented art  
students in  
Queens.  
Displayed at the  
Queens Campus.*







## Did You Know?

In 1977 a gold disk engraved with images and sounds from earth was attached to the NASA Voyager I probe. The photo above of our UNIS students was included on the disk which is now traveling beyond the reaches of our solar system!

## Theatre Program Flourishes at UNIS

The Theatre Department has leapt into 2019 with energy and imagination with three fully staged musicals, a school wide international arts festival and an inaugural appearance at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

The MS production of *Willy Wonka* features over 100 students working tirelessly to design, build, rehearse and perform this zany show. Catch the show February 6- 9 at UNIS.

Tut House students are lacing up their saddle shoes and revving their engines in preparation for their upcoming production *Grease!* There will be a pep rally, a prom, swing dancing and pompoms galore! Save the dates of March 12-14 at UNIS.

In April, 80 Junior School students will explore what makes each of us extraordinary as they perform *Flat Stanley*. Featuring a rock and roll score, a magical bulletin board, singing pigeons, a robot dog and a whole lot more, this musical is a great show for all ages! See the show April 25-27 at UNIS.

Finally, following a competitive selection process, UNIS theatre students have been invited to perform at the 2019 Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Tut House students are creating a new play they will perform in Scotland this August!





## Junior School Holiday Concert

In the Junior School, while teaching the Arts, we ensure our students acquire the skills and techniques to create and to express themselves. Soft Skills such as creativity, confidence, problem-solving, perseverance, focus, non-verbal communication, ability to receive constructive feedback, collaboration, dedication, and accountability are all part of our focus. All of these skills were on full display during our winter concerts in December!

### Did You Know?

Art teacher Marc Smith was chosen as *Teach SDG's Global Ambassador* for 2019. He is one of a small group working to design curriculum and take inspiration from the UN SDG goals to help students achieve change in our world.





# Story Telling at the Middle School

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On Dec. 12, as part of a unit on storytelling in M1 theatre classes, Laura Simms, a professional storyteller and human rights activist, as well as a parent of an alum, performed for the students. She also visited classes to teach about storytelling focusing on the distinction between narrator and character.



## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- January 25: Alumni Reunion Boston
- February 6-9: MS Musical *Willy Wonka*
- February 8: Report Cards
- February 13: UNIS on Broadway -- *Network*
- February 18-20: No Classes
- February 25: State of the School Address
- March 7-8: UNIS-UN
- March 8: UNIS Art Exhibition
- March 12-14: TH Musical *Grease*
- March 13-15: Parent/Teacher Conferences
- March 28-29 : Spring Break
- April 11: Party at The Park Fundraiser
- April 25-27: JS Musical *Flat Stanley*
- April 28-May 4: M4 Language Immersion Program
- May 4: International Food and Family Fun Day



## *Ensemble Dream Wit'* Visits for International Day for Persons with Disabilities

Ensemble Dream Wit', a clarinet ensemble from Korea, shared their talent and love of music with our M1 students during their recent visit to New York. The group is composed of ten young men, musical prodigies with autism, who celebrate their artistry, quirky individualities, relationships with their beloved families and friends in music. While in New York, they participated in the UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

H.E. Mr. Chul-Joo Park, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, and UNIS parent, joined the M1 students for the performance at UNIS. He shared that one of the commitments of the Republic of Korea is to ensure the independent living and full participation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

The Dream Wit' ensemble performed traditional Korean pieces as well as American pop and delighted our M1 audience with their exceptional talent and energy. Through their music and performances, the Ensemble Dream Wit' helps people become more compassionate and understanding of the challenges faced by people with autism.





# UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

A large, abstract, white marble sculpture titled "Child" by Edwina Sandys. The sculpture is composed of several interconnected, rounded, and angular blocks of marble, creating a complex, organic form. It stands in front of a beige building with a security camera and a light fixture. The sculpture is surrounded by green bushes and a paved area.

## *Did You Know?*

*The Statue that welcomes you every day at UNIS is entitled "Child" and was first exhibited at the World Trade Center before its permanent installation at school in 1979. The artist is Edwina Sandys, granddaughter of Sir Winston Churchill.*