



Welcome from the Executive Director

Welcome to the first edition of The UNIS Magazine. Our hope is that we can provide the UNIS community with interesting information about who we are and the exciting activities that take place each and every day in our school. In my first few months it has become crystal clear that there is much to be proud of. The work inside and outside of the classrooms, in our performing arts spaces and on the athletic area is truly impressive.

What I am most enthusiastic about which really can't be seen is a *feeling* that permeates the building. After much thought, I believe the word that best describes it is "connectedness." Students are connected to each other, to their teachers and to the mission of the school. It is undeniable, it is special, it is unique. Our wish with this Magazine is to give the reader a window in to our community and to share the connectedness beyond the walls of our school. Enjoy!

-Dan Brenner, Ph.D



Message from the Board Chair

Dear Friends,

My name is Catherine Pollard and I am the Chair of the UNIS Board of Trustees. This is something I do on top of my regular job, which is Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Services at the United Nations. Since I became involved with the Board, I have come to learn what a wonderful institution UNIS is, and I feel privileged to have a role in supporting it.

Many of you may wonder "so what does the Board really do?" Well, to put it simply, we are part of the governance of the School and what is unique, as compared with other private schools, is that all trustees are appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Our role is not to get involved in the day-to-day operations of the School, but to look at long-range and strategic issues and make sure the School delivers on its promise to provide an excellent international education. The work of the Board is already underway this year, tackling issues such as the budget, attaining the goals of the School's strategic plan, coming up with a long-term plan for improving in the School's infrastructure and facilities, as well as looking at several academic issues. It is also the Board's desire to find ways to improve communication with other School constituencies, each having a distinct and valuable role in making the School as strong as it can be.

Today, as we look around us and see a turbulent world, with acts of violence and intolerance seemingly proliferating, I find that the UNIS mission becomes even more relevant. As an institution for learning, it is also where we every day want to echo the ideals of the United Nations, so that each student in his or her own way can contribute to making the world a better place: more peaceful, compassionate and sustainable. As I prepare to chair our next Board meeting, this is what I will keep foremost in my mind. – Catherine Pollard







UN Day:

A Day Like No Other

UN day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. With the ratification of this founding document, the United Nations officially came into being. At UNIS, UN Day is a day to celebrate our community, share our diversity, cultures and heritage; a day to truly value the relationship of the school and the UN, and to recognize the important work that the UN accomplishes every day around the world. This year we embraced the same theme as the UN—"greening the blue"—and created a fun-filled day of celebration, meaningful workshops and activities, and an opportunity for our community to make a pledge to take care of our environment.

The Junior School conducted its traditional parade of nations and international brunch followed by an assembly with New York Department of Sanitation to learn how to recycle and take care of our environment.

In the Middle School students began their day with an international brunch in their homerooms. The goal was Zero Waste meals, and to measure our success, the UNIS Parents Sustainability Group weighed compost, waste and recycled materials.

The Tut House Student Council ran an assembly that included two personal statements of why UN Day is so important at UNIS, a tribute to Kofi Annan, and a cultural showcase. Tut House students were invited to participate in 28 different workshops and partnered with Junior School students to collaborate on a school-wide art project.



UNIS Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is the governing body of the school. The 18 member board is composed of nine representatives from the UN and nine non-UN members. The Board Chair, Catherine Pollard, as well as all of the trustees, are appointed by the Secretary General We are fortunate to have a dedicated position of Special Representative of the Secretary General for UNIS held by Ms. Joan McDonald, UNIS Parent of Alumni, which ensures a strong relationship between the school and the UN.

Each trustee generously volunteers their time at monthly meetings and on subcommittees of the Board including, The Executive Committee; Finance and Audit; Buildings, Grounds and Security; Strategic Planning; Academic Policy,;Health and Safety; Advancement Committee; and the Trustees Committee.

The UNIS MISSION

Under the auspices of the United Nations and guided by its ideals, UNIS provides an inclusive and diverse learning environment in which rigorous international programs foster academic excellence, innovation, creativity and cross-cultural communication to educate and inspire its students to become an active force in shaping a better world: peaceful, compassionate and sustainable.



Advancement: The Challenges Ahead



Each year UNIS raises money for its Annual Fund. There are typically events and requests for donations that occur throughout the year. Each dollar raised goes directly toward offsetting expenditures and ultimately toward helping to minimize increases in tuition. We are truly grateful for every dollar raised regardless of the size of donation.

In addition to the Annual Fund, the school raises money specifically for Capital Projects which go directly toward supporting the infrastructure of our buildings. It is no surprise that the school which was opened in Manhattan in 1973, and a school which was acquired in Queens in 1983, would be in need of significant upgrades, as would any structure built 35 and 45 years ago.

To make a donation contact Sean Collins, at scollins@unis.org





Did You Know?

Mr. Howard Lindsay, UNIS
PE teacher, traveled to
Malaga, Spain to compete in
the World Masters Athletic
Championships. He won a
Silver medal in the Long
Jump as he represented the
Islands of Antigua and
Barbados competing against
the best athletes in the
world.

"Week Without Walls":

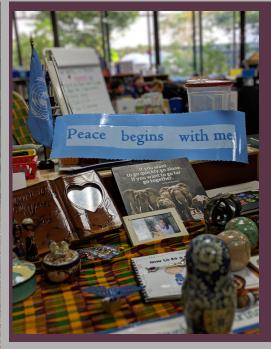
Tut House Learns Outside of the Classroom

For the second year running, all Tutorial House students took part in a special off-campus retreat program. The program provided a series of socializing and team bonding activities meant for new and returning students, faculty, staff and administration to start the year off strengthening our community values.

For over 25 years UNIS students have canoed and camped along the Delaware River. T2 students participated in this trip creating lasting memories that they will take with them well past graduation.

T1s participated in another Tut House tradition- spending quality time at Frost Valley YMCA. There they joined in team building exercises, explored nature and enjoyed the beautiful Catskill Mountains.

This year, T 3 students embarked on a course designed to introduce them to the IB program and T4 students continued on their successful paths toward graduation including a day trip to Jones Beach, where they tested the success of their science projects on the beach.



Junior School: Peace Table

The primary responsibility of the United Nations is the maintenance of international peace and security.

Walk into any UNIS Junior School classroom and you will find a Peace Table. "Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding."* The necessity to understand the concept of peace in order to achieve it is what led UNIS teacher Sheila Desmond, many years ago, to develop the idea of the Peace Table,. She was inspired by the table found in the Security Council at the United Nations.

Through education and strategies, students are given the tools to understand the origin of a conflict and empowered to find their own resolution with their peers. The presence of the Peace Table symbolizes the importance of understanding one another by sharing feelings and point of views. It is evidence that our students are trusted to make choices and, with teacher guidance, learn to solve their own disagreements and problems, and take responsibility for their actions.

*Albert Einstein



Middle School: Afghan Speaker Inspires Students with her Story

The Middle School had the distinct pleasure of welcoming guest speaker, Shabana Basij-Rasikh, Afghan educator, humanitarian and women's rights champion. She spoke to our M3 students about growing up in Afghanistan under the Taliban rule and the challenges and risks she faced on a daily basis to get an education. She discussed how she would dress up as a boy to attend classes in a secret school at a time when educating women was strictly forbidden.

We are grateful to one of our UNIS parents, Kirsten O'Reilly, who was able to facilitate and make this visit happen for our students. Shabana was able to make time to visit UNIS during a week of speaking engagements that also brought her to the United Nations. Shabana's story is inspiring and infused in our M3 students the desire to be actively involved in making the world a better place.



Tut House: Connections with the UN

One of the defining characteristics of UNIS is the close relationship between the school and the United Nations. This bond can be seen every day in school and was most recently observed when 40 students from T3 and T4 attended an address at UN Headquarters with H.E. Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran. It was a rare opportunity for our students to hear from one of the highest level officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran as he spoke and answered questions on the issue of "Multilateralism and the Iran Nuclear Deal."

In addition, Tut House students also heard from H.E. Miroslav Lajčák, former President of the General Assembly, who came to UNIS to explain the role of the Assembly and to answer student's questions. T3 students had the chance to engage in dialogue with Beatrice Fihn, Director of the International Center for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons and recipient of the 2017 Noble Peace Prize.

All of these these experiences give meaning to our school's mission, help foster academic excellence, international understanding and students ability to think critically.



IB Scores are Outstanding!

UNIS seniors took their IB exams last May and the results were particularly impressive! Of a class of 121 students, 110 (91%) prepared for the IB Diploma Program and the remaining 11 students were enrolled in the IB Course Program. 107 students (97%) successfully met the Program's requirements and obtained the IB Diploma including 28 students (26%) who received the Bilingual IB Diploma.

The average subject score was 5.1 out of 7 and the average Diploma score was 32.6 out of 45 -both slightly higher than our 5 year averages, and significantly higher than the world results.

Score distribution showed that 35% of the students received a total diploma score of 35 points or more (out of 45), including 12 students with a score of 40 points or more. 42% of all of the grades on the IB exams were 6's and 7's (out of a 7 point scale).

The strong performance of our students is once again a testimony of their resilience and motivation, as much as it is owed to the quality of the preparation offered by our experienced and dedicated IB faculty. Bravo to the Class of 2018 and to all of those who helped to prepare them for their IB exams!

Yokohama Peace Messengers

In 1987, Yokohama won official recognition by the United Nations as a "Peace Messenger City" as a result of the city's deep history and involvement in international peace and exchange efforts. As one of the city's peace-related activities, students participate in an essay competition and the winners are designated "Yokohama Children Peace Messengers." This year there were four winners among over 200,000 candidates! The winners were Mai Kato, and Kaku Shimi, both in 9th grade and Mei Narihara and Chihaya Isohara, both in 6th grade. The speech contest winners wrote essays about understanding the role Japan played in WW2 so it can never be repeated; communicating with others starting at the local level to enhance relationships in the community; helping disadvantaged people and communities to help themselves and opening your heart and mind to others.

Since 1987, the Yokohama Children Peace Messengers travel to New York City in October and participate in a number of activities at UN Headquarters including a visit to UNICEF, meetings with the Japanese Ambassador, other UN Senior Officials and sometimes even the Secretary-General! Paired with our Japanese language students and shadowing them through a day of classes. During their visit, the Yokohama Children Peace Messengers shared their essays with UNIS Students and met with Director Dr. Dan Brenner and Head of the MLD. Mr. Paco Barba-Morán. Congratulations to these accomplished young ladies!

Fall Athletics

A huge congratulations to the Boys Junior Varsity Soccer team on their amazing undefeated season! The team won the NYCAL regular season competition and consolidated their dominance in winning the post-season championship defeating Lycée Français 2-0. Congratulations to Coach O'Connor and Coach Da Dilva on a memorable season!

The Boys Vasity Soccer team won the NYCAL regular season championships and secured a spot in the NYCAL post-season championship game after defeating Lycée Français 10-1. The boys played Columbia Prep in the championship game and dominated from the outset scoring two magnificent goals in the first five minutes. UNIS won with a final score of 5-1.

The Girls Varsity Soccer team placed second in the regular season championships after defeating Lycée Français 3-0 in the semi-final. Their season came to a close going down narrowly to Columbia Prep 0-1 in the post-season championship game. The team showed tremendous determination, teamwork and pure grit to go down so narrowly against a team that defeated them 5-1 and 5-0 during the regular season. Congratulations to the girls and Coach Lister and Coach Keating!

Important Dates

- Parent/Teacher Conferences:
- Thursday November 8, 2018 5:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, November 9, 2018 (No Classes)
- Monday, November 12, 2018 (No Classes)
- Thanksgiving:
- Wednesday, November 21 to Friday, November 23, 2018 (School Closed)
- Winter Break:
- Wednesday, December 19, 2018- Tuesday, January 1, 2019 (No Classes)
- Classes resume Wednesday, January 2, 2019



Queens Campus: UN Day, A Day of Celebration

The Queens Community came together for its annual UN Day Celebration on Friday, October 19. The Gym was standing room only as the classes and musical ensembles performed. The Middle School chorus, the faculty and Assistant Executive Director Sal Uy performed "What the World Needs Now". In attendance, as well as family and friends, was former UNIS parent, Dr. Neeta Jain, Democratic District Assembly Leader for District 26 and New York State Assemblyman for District 24 David Weprin. Following the assembly international luncheons were held in each of the classrooms with parents providing dishes from their respective home countries.







Did You Know?

PE teacher Taylor Quilty became an "IRONMAN" on September 29 swimming 2.4 miles, cycling 112 miles and running 26.2 miles. She finished in 13 hours and 32 minutes. Congratulations Taylor!

The Cardboard Challenge

On September 29, 2018, the Junior School held its sixth annual Cardboard Challenge. This event was originally inspired by "Caine's Arcade", a video arcade a child built from re-purposed cardboard from his father's auto parts shop. The UNIS event is a chance for children to use their imaginations to design and build, with support from adults. parents, teachers and students who help each other to think about ways they might incorporate "Greening the Blue" into their cardboard creations.



