

UNIS PARENTS ASSOCIATION
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THE UNIS PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Goals: The following are the goals of the UNIS Parents Association (the “**UNIS PA**”)

- Engage with UNIS families to increase interest in and understanding of the function of the UNIS PA. All UNIS families are members of the UNIS PA.
- Encourage and organize family and community volunteer opportunities by promoting programs and social activities that heighten school and international community spirit and promote humanitarian efforts.
- Represent UNIS families and act as a conduit to raise awareness around community-wide questions or concerns, as well as improving communication channels within the parent community and between parents and the school.
- Raise and distribute UNIS PA funds in a purposeful manner to support school-wide programs and enhance the education of our children.
- Support school fundraising and outreach efforts which enhance school programs and initiatives.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The workings of the UNIS PA are carried out by the Executive Committee of the Parents Association (“**ExComm**”).

Composition by Role: The 2019-2020 ExComm was made up as follows:

- Eight officers elected by the parents;
- Six school coordinators for the Manhattan campus (two for the Junior School, two for the Middle School and two for the Tutorial House) - appointed jointly by the ExComm and the relevant school principals;
- The appointed coordinators of the Cultural Events Committee, Arts Committee, Bridge2UN Committee, New2UNIS Committee; Social Responsibility Committee and the UNIS Athletics Association (“**UAA**”); and
- The President of the Queens PA.

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Individual Composition: Individual members of the 2019-2020 ExComm were:

- **Amanda Dubois**, President
- **Shipra Das**, Co-Vice President
- **Dilshad Marolia**, Co-Vice President
- **Amy Cohen**, Co-Finance Coordinator
- **Ivana Krizanic**, Co-Finance Coordinator & MS Coordinator
- **Monique Navarro**, Co-Finance Coordinator
- **Angela Tolosa**, Co-Secretary
- **Natica Wilson**, Co-Secretary
- **Denise DeBono** JS Coordinator
- **Nadine Lemm**, JS Coordinator
- **Helen Stephan**, MS Coordinator
- **Flavia Campi**, TH Coordinator
- **Laura Blau**, TH Coordinator
- **Devika Gopal Agge**, Arts Committee Co-Chair
- **Charul Gopal**, Arts Committee Co-Chair
- **Magda Vakil**, Arts Committee Co-Chair
- **Maija Tippiana**, Bridge2UN Co-Chair
- **Hong Xiao**, Bridge2UN Co-Chair
- **Irina Ivleva**, Cultural Events Committee Co-Chair
- **Jinhwa Jo**, Cultural Events Committee Co-Chair
- **Maricruz Setien**, Cultural Events Committee Co-Chair
- **Denise Gatpoh**, New2UNIS Co-Chair
- **Nilima Parker**, New2UNIS Co-Chair
- **Karen Weissmann**, Social Responsibility Committee Co-Chair
- **Magda Torres**, Social Responsibility Committee Co-Chair
- **Kay Kuzbari**, UAA Co-Chair
- **Demetrios Mihailidis**, UAA Co-Chair
- **Caroline Moses**, UAA Co-Chair (took on this role in May 2020)
- **Ariela Frieder**, Queens PA President



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QUEENS PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Composition: In addition to Ariela Frieder, Queens PA President, the officers of the Queens PA included:

- **Maciek Was**, Co-Vice President
- **Sasha LeGeros**, Co-Vice President
- **Avril Bunbury-Thomas**, Secretary
- **Syed Baksh**, Finance Coordinator



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UNIS PA SCHOOL COORDINATORS

Mission and Role:

- The JS, MS and TH Coordinators work to bridge the families and the principals, teachers and staff to create a trusting community.
- The role of the Junior School, Middle School and Tutorial House Coordinators is to keep parents up-to-date on news, events and changes in their particular division. The school coordinators plan monthly meetings bringing together the individual class parents and the JS, MS or TH leadership. The meetings address pertinent issues and concerns of the community.
- In addition, the School Coordinators, along with the parent representatives from each grade level, arrange and support events that are both school wide and specific to each division. Each month the JS, MS and TH hold coffee mornings on topics that are age appropriate and of interest to the parents in each division.

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UNIS PA SCHOOL COORDINATORS: JUNIOR SCHOOL COORDINATORS

Junior School Events:

- JS Coordinators facilitated five Parent Coffee panels with the JS principal, faculty and staff. Themes included literacy, design & engineering, an introduction to the responsive classroom, and guidelines for keeping students healthy.
- JS Coordinators supported the school by running parts of the Orientation for New JS Families, the Cardboard Challenge, UN Day Celebration, Photo Day, Parent-Teacher Conferences, Winter Concerts and a JS Talent Show.
- Toy Sale: Gently used toys were donated by JS families and purchased by JS students as a fundraising event. Unsold toys were stored for later donation.
- Friendship Day Bake & Flower Sale: JS families donated home-baked and store-bought goods and sold them as a fundraising event.
- Book Fair: A virtual book fair is planned for early June.
- Parent/Faculty Social: JS parents and faculty mingled in the UNIS cafeteria following Back to School Night.
- Service & Learning Efforts included Trick or Treat for UNICEF, and JS students set up an information table on the Australian wildfires during the Toy and Bake sale to raise funds for bushfire relief organizations.
- JS Coordinators supported the JS/MS production of Matilda by running a concession stand with proceeds benefiting the JS Theater Department.
- Minutes from JS Class Parents and UNIS leadership were shared with the broader parent community.
- JS actively supported "Greening the Blue" initiative by eliminating many paper related items, and the use of plastic was reduced by eliminating individual plastic wrapping of baked goods and flowers sold at events.

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UNIS PA SCHOOL COORDINATORS: MIDDLE SCHOOL COORDINATORS

Middle School Coordinators:

- MS Coordinators welcomed new UNIS families at the New Family Orientation in late August, 2019.
- MS Coordinators organized the MS Curriculum night and parent/faculty social in September 2019.
- MS Coordinators facilitated monthly parent coffees that focused on a variety of key middle school issues of interest to parents.
- MS Coordinators held Advisory Representative meetings as needed which provided a forum for discussions on any topic that the representatives wanted to address. This helped reinforce community spirit and incorporate the voices of a large number of MS families.
- MS Coordinators sponsored grade-wide events including ice skating at Winterland Rink for M3 and M4, a scavenger hunt for M1 students and Games Day for M2 students.
- MS Coordinators assisted with organizing volunteers and logistical support and refreshments for in-school student events including UN Day celebration in October 2019, and the JS/MS Musical in March 2020.

UNIS PA SCHOOL COORDINATORS: TUTORIAL HOUSE COORDINATORS

Tutorial House Coordinators Events:

- TH Coordinators held monthly TH Grade Representative Meetings with the TH leadership team to provide an open forum for discussions.
- TH Coordinators welcomed new UNIS families at the New Family Orientation in late August 2019.
- TH Coordinators met monthly with leaders of the College Office to discuss issues related to communications between the parents and the College Office.
- TH Coordinators facilitated monthly parent TH coffees that focused on issues concerning the health and well-being of TH students that are of interest to the parents.
- TH Coordinators assisted with organizing volunteers and logistical support and refreshments for in-school student events including US Day, UN World Philosophy Day, Young Alumni Panel and the Human Rights Conference.
- TH Coordinators facilitated the purchase of sweatshirts for all T4 students and T4 faculty as well.
- TH coordinators facilitated the funds to cover the partial costs of the T4 sweatshirts & yearbook shipping.



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- TH coordinators facilitated the funding of the Kickstart program for the College Office (an enhancement tool for students).

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QUEENS PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Mission:

- The Queens PA representatives and Class Parents keep Queens parents informed of school developments and events throughout the year.

Queens PA Events: This past year, the Queens PA representatives and Class Parents worked together on the following events:

- Welcome Back Picnic
- Annual UN Day International Potluck Luncheon
- Annual Junior School Halloween Party
- Annual Winter Craft and Bake Sale
- Annual Book Fair
- Middle School dances
- School assemblies
- Junior School Carnival
- Holiday and Teacher and Staff Appreciation Luncheons
- Fundraiser to sponsor J4 camping trip and M4 Washington D.C. trip

Committee Participation

- Members of the Queens PA and parent body served on the CIS Committees.

UNIS Fund

- For the last few years, Queens parents achieved high levels participation in the UNIS Fund, thanks to the leadership of our co-chairs and a corps of UNIS Fund Ambassadors from each class.
- The Queens PA looks forward to matching this achievement in the next academic year as well.

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COMMITTEES OF THE UNIS PA: THE ARTS COMMITTEE

Mission:

- The Arts Committee supports the work of UNIS Film, Music, Theater and Visual Arts and its students and faculty across all schools.

This past year the Arts Committee's work included:

- Organizing parent volunteers to assist with and chaperone events and field trips.
- Working closely to support the UNIS Arts Director and Music Department on UNIS's participation in Carnegie Hall Festival of Orchestras.
- Supporting the Visual Arts department, particularly the IB Art teachers, to organize the IB final artwork exhibit in a gallery in Soho on March 12th. As in past years, the Arts Committee was planning to host the reception on opening night. Although the exhibit was all ready and set up, the event unfortunately had to be canceled due to COVID-19.
- Liaising with the NY International Children's Film Festival in its school partnership program with NY schools which gives back to UNIS \$3 per ticket bought by UNIS families. This year UNIS families purchased 134 tickets, and raised \$402. Due to the impact of COVID-19 on small non-profits such as NYICFF and our long term partnership with this organization, we have decided to donate back these funds this year.

From March 9th, when school moved online due to COVID-19, the Arts Committee continued to work with the Arts Director and the different Arts departments to provide virtual masters classes, workshops and performances to enhance student experiences, as follows:

- Masterclass with songwriting artist for voice students
- 2 Workshops for IB Theater and M3 Drama
- Workshop for IB Art Students
- Theater Workshop with Clown Artist
- Out of Bounds Circus Show for JS/MS

The Arts Committee also covered the bulk of the cost of shipping of the 2020 Yearbooks to all UNIS students. The Yearbook is a great memento for each UNIS student, given that each year there are students graduating and others moving. It was considered very important to ensure that every student received their copy at the end of the school year.



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Lastly, the Arts Committee would like to thank Ms. Louise Wales for her dedication to the UNIS Visual Arts Department and all for her work as student advisor, TOK teacher, and the Yearbook Club Faculty Advisor as well as for being the “official” photographer at the school.

The Arts Committee looks forward to continuing to support the Arts at UNIS.

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COMMITTEES OF THE UNIS PA: THE BRIDGE TO THE UN COMMITTEE (“BRIDGE2UN”)

Mission:

The Bridge2UN Committee was formed in the 2013-2014 academic year to strengthen the ties between UNIS and UN. The mission has evolved to better align with the UNIS central priorities over the past few years. Since 2018, the Committee has been focused on institutionalizing, building and leveraging stronger academic links between UN and UNIS through curriculum enrichment for students and teachers’ professional development by:

- Presenting opportunities for UNIS students to engage through speakers, workshops and events in global issues that the UN focuses on.
- Increasing exposure of UNIS students to professional opportunities and careers in development and humanitarian work.
- Supporting knowledge sharing between UN subject experts and UNIS faculty on topics related to the UN and UN’s work.

Activities:

The Bridge2UN Committee conducted the following activities in the 2019-2020 academic year:

- Continued discussions with the UNIS academic team on mapping the UN links in UNIS curriculum.
- Developed a concrete roadmap showing UN-UNIS academic partnership priorities for various grades across three schools.
- Co-developed the T2 Advisory Lecture Series on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the UNIS academic team and the Tut House, and invited five seasoned experts from the UN Secretariat, UNDP, UNICEF and UNWomen to speak to T2 students about SDGs, climate change, inequalities and human development, water and sanitation, and gender equality.
- Supported Junior School’s World Cultural Heritages project and invited an UNESCO expert to speak to the J4 students.
- Started building a core team of UN institutional and subject experts around UNIS key academic priorities.

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COMMITTEES OF THE UNIS PA: THE CULTURAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

This past year, the Cultural Events Committee worked on organizing two major cultural celebrations: the Morocco at UNIS Event and the International Food & Fun Fair.

Morocco at UNIS Event

- Every year the Cultural Events Committee selects a country or a region and organizes an event to highlight different aspects of its culture, history and traditions. This enriches and deepens our understanding, appreciation and knowledge of our global community.
- On December 7, 2019 we celebrated Morocco at UNIS. This enchanted night was our chance to immerse into the unique Moroccan live music, traditional food, fashion show, souk (bazaar) and fun interactive activities for children and adults.
- This beautiful, sold out event for 250 guests was possible thanks to the support of parents, students and teacher volunteers. The PA was honored to partner with the Morocco Office of Tourism, which provided an amazing spread of incredible Moroccan food for the buffet dinner, and with the Royal Air Maroc, which provided two round-trip tickets to Casablanca for the raffle winners. His Excellency Mr. Adbelkader Jamoussi, Consul General of the Kingdom of Morocco, was in attendance at the event.

International Food & Fun Fair

- Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the International Food & Fun Fair (IFFF) was cancelled this year.
- However, thanks to the support from MS Tech Integrator Lee Bruner, a digital version of the International Food and Fun Fair was launched on April 18th, 2020 — the original date for the 2020 IFFF.
- This virtual event was designed to bring the UNIS community together in these challenging times. UNIS families were able to go online, post recipes from their home countries (from the heart or physical location), along with pictures or videos to share.
- Over 80 recipes from all over the world were pinned on the world map and became available to the broad school community.

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COMMITTEES OF THE UNIS PA: NEW2UNIS

Mission:

- New2UNIS is a parent meet-up group open to all parents both “new” and “old” to UNIS. It is organized by a group of parent volunteers through the UNIS PA. It is a great way to form new friendships across grade levels, ask and answer questions about UNIS as well as about life in New York.

Events:

- Each week New2UNIS plans events in and around New York City.
- In 2019-2020, we enjoyed private tours of Gracie Mansion, the NY Historical Society, the Tenement Museum, the Museum of Art & Design and the Museum of Chinese in America.
- We walked the Lower East Side on a graffiti tour; we visited the East River Compost Yard and we went hunting for ghosts in Greenwich Village.
- We danced to Bollywood tunes, we shopped for chocolates on Valentine's Day and we made cards for the homebound elderly in NYC.
- When COVID-19 hit the world, New@UNIS switched gears and brought the UNIS parent community together through Zoom webinars on nutrition, cooking and book clubs.
- We are going to close out the year with a virtual Talent Show for parents at UNIS.
- Details on past events can be found on the New2UNIS Facebook page (facebook.com/new2unis).

Funding:

- New2UNIS events are entirely self-funded by asking participants to individually pay for the cost of each event.
- Nonetheless, the UNIS PA contributed \$1,000 for 2018-2019 New2UNIS events. We used that money to offset the costs of the Welcome Breakfast in September and the Holiday Lunch in December.

Participating:

- If you are interested in hearing more about us and receiving notice of our events, please email us at new2unis@unis.org and include your full name and preferred email address.



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COMMITTEES OF THE UNIS PA: UNIS ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION (“UAA”)

Mission:

- The UAA is dedicated to the support of the Athletics Program at UNIS (junior/varsity teams, after school sports, weekend sports, and any other athletic activities).
- All parents are members of the UAA.

2019-2020 Accomplishments:

- The UNIS Athletic Department, the Athletes and the UAA were heading for another tremendous and successful year. The Fall and Winter seasons were completed and went very well. Due to the Coronavirus, the Spring Sports Season was cancelled. Many of the activities and ceremonies that were to be held at the end of the year have been postponed.
- At the end of last year Mr. Duncan Davison left the A.D. position and the Athletics Department is now under the leadership of Athletic Director Mr. Guy Evans.
- This year the Athletics Department and the PE departments have been separated into two entities. As Director, Mr. Guy Evans is Head of the entire Athletics Department which includes the UNIS Interscholastic teams, the After-School Sports Program (“ASSP”), Weekend Sports and a Strength and Conditioning Program.
- Mr. Evans, together with great support from Mr. Evangelos Apergis, the Assistant Athletics Director and the Athletics Trainer, and Mr. Deven Herbert have continued to improve UNIS Athletics through:
 - Well thought out planning and guiding principles;
 - A UNIS Athletics Mission Statement aligned with the School’s Mission Statement;
 - A quality After-School Sports Program for the JS and MS grades;
 - Coaching improvements as well as health and safety improvements;
 - Continued focus on the strength and conditioning program;
 - New opportunities for UNIS students to play and develop in various sports, and
 - Continued emphasis on the UNIS Athlete being “Fully Committed.”

UAA Support:

The UAA have supported Guy, Evangelos and Deven in these initiatives over the academic year by:

- Attending regular meetings with the UNIS Athletics Department and Teams.
- Continuing to fund and support Photographer at some of the UNIS competitive games.

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- Supporting a College Office/UNIS PA event for UNIS students interested in playing a sport in College.
- Initiating, supporting and organizing the Athletics Departments Tut House athlete/parent sports awards dinner.
- Support Professional Development Seminars for Coaches.
- Final year of supporting the JS & MS Sports Days including funding and parent volunteer help.
- Organized a Family Fun event in conjunction with the Alumni Association to see a New York Yankees Baseball Game.

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COMMITTEES OF THE UNIS PA: THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE

Mission

- To organize and promote parent-run activities related to service learning, sustainability and social justice; and support students and faculty who wish to address such community needs as a class, as part of a club or individually.

Parent Sustainability Group

- Worked with the administration to set up and support a waste audit of the UNIS cafeteria operations by Zero Waste consultant, Common Ground Compost. Organized 30 parent volunteers to help with the audit, keep costs down and learn about our waste stream.
- Expanded zero waste guidelines and helped implement them and numerous PA and School Events, including UN Day, the Cardboard Challenge, Staff Appreciation Day, the International Food & Fun Fair and various bake sales and concession stands.
- Rescued all leftover food from Events such as the Staff Appreciation Lunch and donated all of it to Moravian House.
- Ran a Halloween Costume Swap and planned a PE Clothing resale for IFFF.
- Arranged for purchase of reusable items, such as cutlery and serving utensils and rental of reusable cups, to be used at school events to eliminate waste. Coordinated with cafeteria staff, PA and administration on proper usage and storage of these items.
- Offered waste sorting training to every MS class, and all MS faculty
- Submitted report to NYSAR3 to demonstrate how our grant funds were used for waste audit.
- Bi-weekly meetings with Green Team teachers from each division, and our administrative contact, Pascal Vallet.
- Continued the Green Guide Program (with the Green Team) to train students to help their classmates sort their trays properly after eating lunch with the goal of reducing the amount of cafeteria waste going to landfill.
- Submitted requests to the administration to train all staff who manage waste bins.
- Engaged students to advocate for maintaining funding for Community Compost Programs in NYC.

Annual Food and Toiletry Drive

- Student and parent volunteers were involved from all three divisions.
- Donated over 4000 lbs of food to City Harvest, that fed about 200 people for a week!
- Collected toiletries to fill 100 gift bags that were packed, decorated and handed out by UNIS students at the Community of Hope Homeless Outreach Soup Kitchen.

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- 30+ UNIS parents and students spent the day working at the Soup Kitchen to serve lunch and hand out toiletry bags during their holiday meal.
- Hosted JS classes and student council visits to the drive where teachers discussed food insecurity in NYC.

Annual Book Drive

- Worked again with Reach Out and Read at Children of Bellevue Hospital.
- Arranged for Claudia Aristy, Program Director for RoR to speak to the JS student council.
- Worked with MS Librarian to engage MS Library Club to promote the drive, create informative signage on literacy, and volunteer to collect and pack boxes of books.
- Engaged TH Literacy Clubs as volunteers to deliver the books to Bellevue and get a brief tour of the facility to understand how the books are being used.
- Engaged JS student council as volunteers to decorate book marks and write encouraging notes in multiple languages to the future recipients of the books.
- JS, MS, TH students, along with parent volunteers helped with sorting, packing and delivering books.
- Delivered 68 boxes of books in total to Children of Bellevue's RoR program, including 1453 Junior School-aged books, 421 Middle School-aged Books, 501 Baby Books and 327 Foreign Language Books!

WINGS WorldQuest

- Engaged close to 20 TH students to research and write biographies of women scientists and explorers who were granted awards by the nonprofit organization, WINGS WorldQuest. The bios will be displayed on the WINGS website.

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UNIS PA ACTIVITIES

ExComm Meetings

- The ExComm held fourteen meetings during the academic year, either in person or by phone conference and were facilitated by the UNIS PA President.
- Minutes of the ExComm meetings are kept in the UNIS PA Google drive.

Parent Association Meetings

- The UNIS PA held eight open monthly meetings for all parents.
- The meetings provided a forum for discussions with UNIS leadership and representatives of the Board of Trustees, presentations on new initiatives and different topics pertinent to parents as well as reports and updates from school coordinators and the UNIS PA Committee Chairs.
- Materials presented and minutes of the meetings are posted on the UNIS PA webpage.

Highlights of Work Undertaken:

- ExComm continued to work to increase transparency and improve two-way communication with UNIS families.
- ExComm facilitated discussions with the senior leadership to clarify the school's vision and priorities for the year. Besides organizing two conversations with the Executive Director, ExComm also hosted school-wide meetings on the overall school curriculum, Modern Language curriculum, Support Services, the Athletics program and the Arts program.
- ExComm is working with the UNIS leadership team to use monies raised from UNIS PA events to fund key components of the yearbook distribution to students during the 2020 pandemic.
- ExComm provided funds for guest artists to enhance the Arts Curriculum (visual arts, theater arts) as well as an original virtual Circus Performance for the Junior School and Middle School in May.
- ExComm partnered with UNIS Administration to help families navigate topics relating to UNIS' pandemic response: effective online program delivery, consistent but fair evaluation of students, after school language programs and other activities and IB related changes.
- ExComm also facilitated two Town Halls during the Covid-19 pandemic to address issues specific to the pandemic and parent concerns. Topics covered included school tuition, reimbursement for certain other expenses such as meal plan and music lessons, extending the school year and prospects for student return to campus. Questions were taken from parents and issues were covered in detail.
- ExComm members participated in the interviews related to CIS Accreditation.

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- ExComm members participated in the interviews related to the JS Assistant Principal.

UNIS PA SPONSORED EVENTS: UN DAY CELEBRATION

- Each year, UNIS celebrates UN Day, the anniversary of the entry into force of the UN charter. This day is very special at UNIS and includes traditions such as the parade of nations and international shared meals.
- Students were invited to dress in cultural wear that represents their background. UNIS families donated food that was significant from their family backgrounds to create an international breakfast in each grade/division.
- The UNIS PA continued its focus on a Zero Waste Principle. All food donations were packaged in reusable containers and almost all cutlery and crockery came from and went back to student homes. In this way, ExComm focused on “Greening the Blue”, bringing the opportunity to reflect on sustainable practices and what it means for a UNIS student to be a responsible Global Citizen.

UNIS PA SPONSORED EVENTS: STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCH:

- The UNIS PA sponsors an annual luncheon to thank all UNIS faculty, support staff, and administrators for their work on behalf of our children.
- Dozens of parents donated food and staffed the very successful event on March 6th 2020 in the faculty lounge.
- As with UN Day, every effort was made by parents to bring food donations in recyclable or reusable containers. All cutlery and plates were compostable and tablecloths were reusable.
- With the help of two faculty members, the UNIS PA was able to donate leftovers to a shelter in the neighborhood, serving as a model for future leftover food donations at PA events.

UNIS PA SPONSORED ACTIONS: END-OF-THE-YEAR STAFF GIFTS

- The UNIS PA gives every teacher, academic support staff and school staff member a gift on behalf of all parents at the end of the year.

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- This year, the gift was in the form of electronic Amazon gift cards for all full and part-time staff and for non-payroll support staff (cafeteria and maintenance) and custom calendars for the leadership team and directors.

UNIS PA VOLUNTEERS: PARENT VOLUNTEERS AND UNIS STAFF AND FACULTY

- Dozens of parents volunteered their time as class parents and grade coordinators, and hundreds more spent many hours planning, executing, and supporting all the activities and events sponsored by the UNIS PA.
- Faculty, staff and administrators also worked closely with the UNIS PA to make each of the aforementioned activities, and many more, a success.
- The Executive Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed their time and efforts to helping the UNIS PA support our school in this past 2019-2020 academic year.