

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Back to School Edition: Fall 2020



Executive Director's Message



Dear UNIS Community,

It is incredible that we are in our fifth week of hybrid learning. Through the comprehensive planning of the administration and the wonderful efforts of our teachers implementing this new learning model, we have been able to provide instruction to our students that is truly something to be proud of.

We know there is no substitute for full person to person instruction, but given the pandemic and all that we have faced, we are confident that our live streaming hybrid teaching platform is meeting the needs of our students.

This UNIS magazine highlights the start of the new school year. You will see the hard work that went into our opening as well as get a chance to meet and see our new faculty and staff.

You will be privy to a look inside the classroom and see the work of the student council regarding the virtual club fair where students have the opportunity to experience clubs they may join during the year.

Finally, we have included the names of our Board of Trustees as well as a message from our Board Chair, Catherine Pollard, who is welcoming the community back to school on behalf of the entire Board.

I hope you enjoy this edition!

Best,

Dan



Message from the Board Chair



Dear friends in the UNIS community,

Never could we have imagined a year ago how our daily lives and usual assumptions would be toppled by a global pandemic! So much has changed, but these new times have also offered moments of deep reflection and gratitude for what we have and what we can achieve together.

The UNIS community has demonstrated extraordinary resilience. The Board thanks Dan for his steady and committed leadership, but also all the teachers, staff, students and parents who have all stepped up to enable a successful reopening of the School. We all know this will not be easy, but I am hopeful that the determination and positive spirit I have seen so far will continue.

This summer we also saw a heightened recognition of systemic racism in this country as well as around the world. We also heard painful accounts of incidents of racism and marginalization within our own UNIS community. Such behavior is unacceptable. At UNIS, we should be advocates for anti-racism and all the ideals embedded in the UN Charter, including the dignity and worth of every human being. The Board of Trustees and senior leadership at UNIS are wholly committed to this goal and are taking action accordingly.

The connection with the UN is at the core of UNIS, something we have emphasized in our new strategic plan which is close to being finalized. We were encouraged by the feedback received from so many of you, and look forward to sharing the plan in the near future.

On behalf of the Board, I welcome everyone to this new academic year, and look forward to our work ahead.

Catherine Pollard
Chair
UNIS Board of Trustees

Board of Trustees 2020-2021

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the fulfillment of the mission of UNIS and for policies relating to the conduct and management of the affairs of the School. Members of the Board are appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Board is composed of eighteen Trustees. The School also recognizes members of the UNIS Community, the United Nations and the Member States and Observers of the United Nations as Honorary Trustees of UNIS.

Catherine Pollard , Board Chair

Ambassador Burhan Gafoor

Joan W. McDonald

Caryn Groce

Ambassador Dr. Mohammed Al-Hassan

Fernando Gutierrez Eddy

Agnes Bamuwamye

Alla Liberman

Anita Batisti

Stephen Margetts

Maaïke de Langen

Roberto Pagan

Pierre Alexandre de Looz

Carol Sirou

Lena Dissin

Udai Tambar

Felipe Dorregaray

Yvonne Tsang

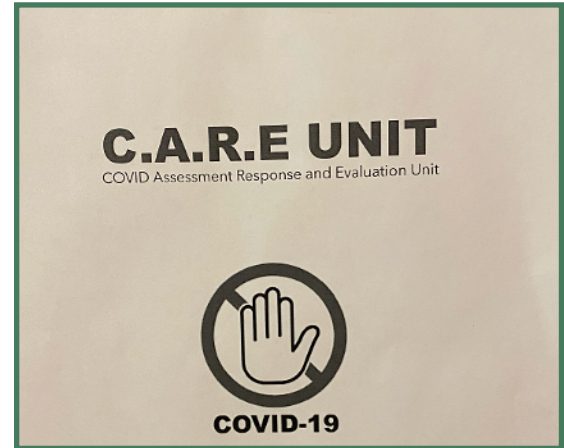
First Day of School



COVID-19 Health Protocols

We have reimagined many of our spaces throughout both campuses in order to allow for COVID-19 prevention and protocols.

The COVID Assessment Response and Evaluation Unit (CARE Unit) is on the first floor and is separate from classrooms, as well as the nurses office. If a student presents COVID symptoms, they are able to isolate in these rooms in order to prevent the spread of COVID.



The third floor library in the Manhattan campus has been rearranged to accommodate social distancing during free periods.

COVID-19 Health Protocols



The library in Queens now functions as a hybrid classroom. Each desk is six feet apart with a trifold divider on each and students livestream in to join their classmates.



Lunch now looks a bit different, but is still filled with plenty of laughter! All school lunches are preordered and individually packaged. The parking lot has been transformed into a tented cafeteria. The traditional cafeteria has a strict capacity and only allows for two students per table.



Spotlight: Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion



Judith King-Calnek has been a member of the UNIS community since 1994. During that time she has served as teacher (TH Anthropology, Theory of Knowledge, History, and MS Humanities), head of department (Humanities), President of Staff Association, and UNIS parent. This fall, Judith became the school's first Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Judith holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Education and Anthropology from Teachers College Columbia University, two master's degrees (Curriculum and Teaching; Anthropology and Education) from the same institution, and a BA from Pomona College. She has taught at Manhattanville College and in Brazil, and has conducted extensive research in Brazil and the U.S. focusing on the intersection(s) of race/color, education and citizenship. She is also an IB examiner for social and cultural anthropology. Prior to joining UNIS, Judith was part of a consulting team that managed a workforce initiative with an emphasis on diversity in the workplace at a manufacturing company in Connecticut.

In addition to her work in school settings, Judith has worked for over 30 years as a radio programmer and producer of Brazilian music and jazz, for which she has received numerous commendations.

Spotlight: Dr. Judith King-Calnek

What are you most looking forward to in your new position?

"I am looking forward to many things in this new position and it's difficult to identify just one superlative. I will say though, I am thrilled that I will be working with the full spectrum of the UNIS community. For many years I have had the good fortune to work most closely with our students, who are the heart of our school, and of course I've worked with a wide variety of faculty, staff and administrators. One of the things that I love about the director of diversity, equity & inclusion position is that as part of my job I can reach out to alumni, parents, and board members in a more purposeful way, and engage with them in new areas of collaboration."

What is something you would like the UNIS community to know?

"I would like the UNIS community to know that diversity, equity and inclusion are our collective work. We have a wonderful school and community, but we have a lot of work to do in this area and it can only be done with concentrated effort. There will be uncomfortable conversations and moments, as in any relationship, but they will be followed by satisfying and rewarding growth and a deeper understanding of ourselves as individuals and as a community. Additionally, we should all be cognizant of the fact that the need to address these issues is nothing new. Calls for diverse people to be included (in school and society) in equitable ways have gone unnoticed and/or unaddressed for a long time, which is why recent voices have had to speak up so loudly in order to be heard. This is true here at UNIS, in New York City, around the world, and on countless digital and virtual platforms as witnessed in recent months. I think of the adage *think globally, act locally*, and it is clear that there is an urgent need to act now, and to act here at UNIS. I look forward to questions, comments and ideas for collaboration with our community members. Please stop by (virtually and/or physically) and share your thoughts and concerns with me as we embark on this work together."

Spotlight: Director of Human Resources



Debora Belfield

Debora Belfield holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from William Paterson University, a Master of Arts Degree from Caldwell University in Educational Leadership and currently enrolled in a doctorate program at Nebraska Methodist College for Educational Leadership and Healthcare.

Debora brings to the position more than 22 years of experience managing the multifaceted functions of human resources in an educational environment. Her administrative experience consists of a variety of HR skills giving her a diverse background in both urban and suburban public-school districts. Debora started her career in education taking on many roles within the Business Department for public schools before moving into her career as an HR professional. She started as an Assistant Director of Human Resources and later became Director of Human Resources/Affirmative Action Officer; a role she held in New Jersey public schools for the past 15 years.

Debora takes pride in her humanistic approach to the profession of human resources and is most fulfilled by helping others be the best version of themselves. Through caring collaboration and open communications, Debora believes that we can shape a better world!

New to UNIS

welcome

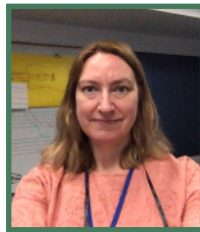
Rime Abdel Nabi
TH Arabic



Yisi Cao
MS/TH Chinese



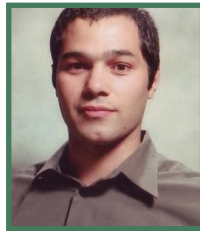
Karen Andrews
Queens Music



Jamie Dougherty
TH Math



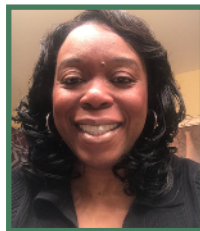
Olivier Bakowicz
MS/TH French



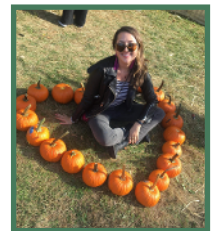
Leah Elsted
Queens MS Humanities



Debora Belfield
Director of Human Resources



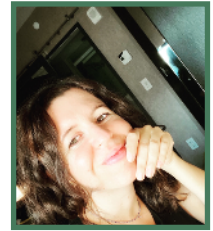
Helen Fentress
ELL



Florine Braud St. Rome
MS/TH French



Veronica Francisco-
Parache
MS Spanish



Madison Burgess
TH IB Visual Arts



Jessica Garcia
TH Mathematics



New to UNIS

welcome

Aubrey Hector
MS Science & Advisor



Minjeong "Christie" Kim
MS Science and Math



Zehra Imam
MS Humanities



Tanja Liebing-Zivanovic
MS/TH German



Sarah Jahries
Associate Director of
College Counseling



Gail Margulis
MS Mathematics Specialist



Jill Kaufman
JS Homeroom



Pablo Melendi-Vazquez
MS/TH Spanish



Helmut Kehlenbeck
MS/TH German



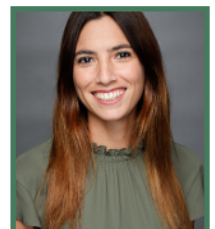
Carlos Mojica
Director of Technology



Molida Khuon
JS French



Noemi Montero Rodriguez
JS Spanish



New to UNIS

welcome

Juan Sironi
Laboratory Specialist



Karen Hayungs
TH Science

Abdul-Qadir Islam
TH Humanities/TOK

Janine Pelegano
JS ELL

Glenn Pollack
Queens Psychologist

Daniel Rubert Sanchez
MS/TH Spanish

Gabrielle Samboy
MS/TH Library Specialist

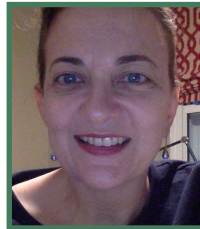
Sharanya Sethuram
JS Science

David Summers
Queens MS English

Ryo Yamaguchi
MS/TH Japanese



Laura Yoshida
Queens Teaching Assistant



Hannah Zuberman-Leibman
MS/HS Health



Nadeem Akhter
Assistant Director of Technology

Lonappan Chakkalakal Vareed
TH Science

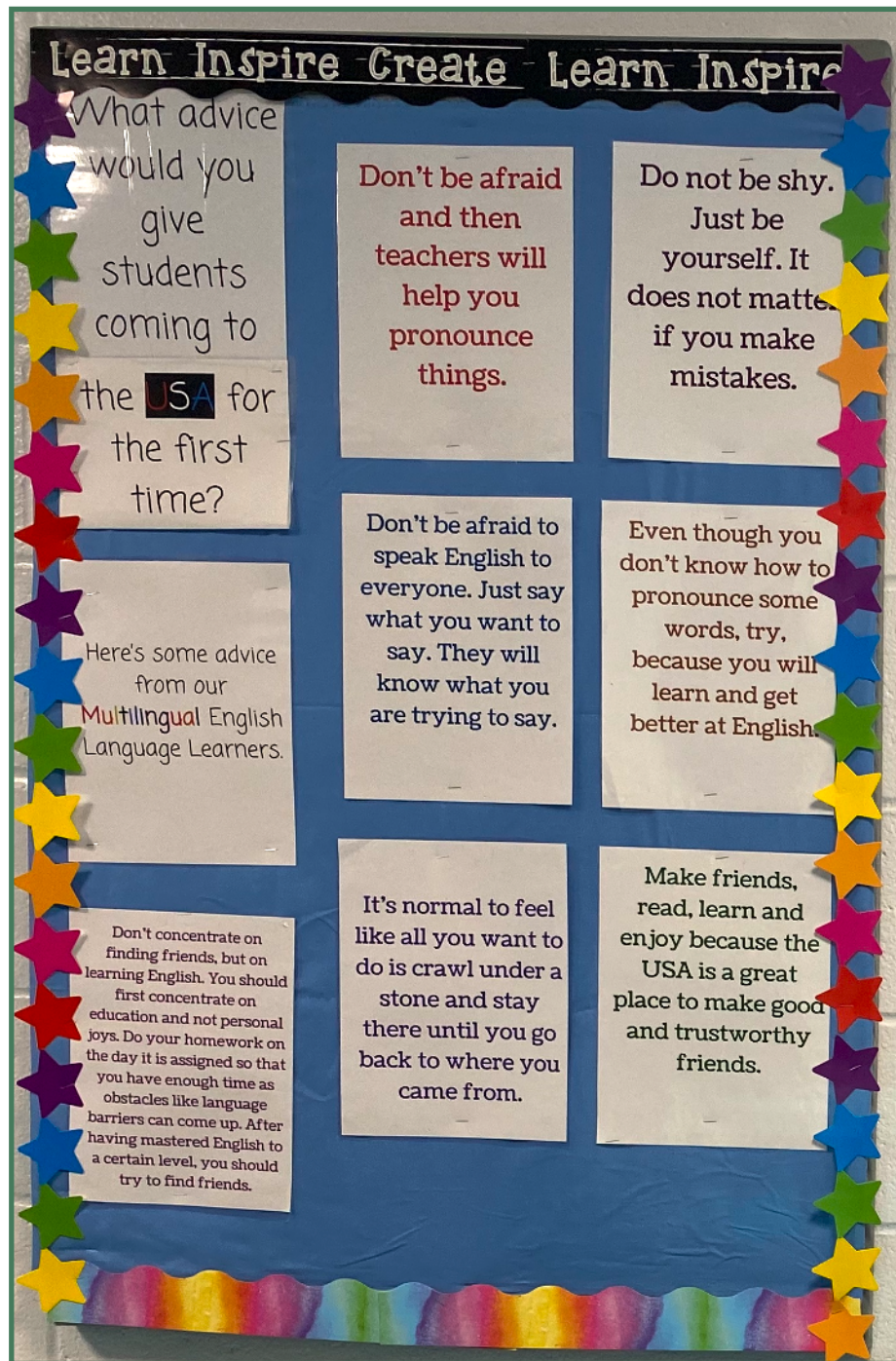
Fabian Gonzalez
Queens Spanish

What's Happening Inside UNIS?

In Mr. Smith and Mr. Gregory's TH classes last semester students worked on drawings in response to COVID and the BLM movement as a way express themselves and to learn digital and traditional media. This project allowed a blending of the UN's SDGs, a seamless integration with technology, and highlighting the student voice. Students were excited to learn their work would be hung up around the school at the start of this school year. Both students and teachers used this project to think positively about the future during a difficult and dark period.



Inside the Classroom



Outside of the English Language Learners room, Mrs. Matos Abdallah has posted a bulletin board full of advice for new English learners. The advice is from previous students, and is full of heartfelt feedback and recommendations based on their personal experiences for when students come to the USA for the first time.

Inside the Classroom

At UNIS Queens, Mr. Schmid's Middle Schoolers have been doing Samba School (Samba is the music of Brazil)! The students have been working hard in the back lawn and loving every minute! In keeping the spirit of music alive they are working on a pre-recorded segment for our virtual United Nations International Day Celebration!



Inside the Classroom

In J1, Ms. Khuon's French Class has been working on a unit called "Peace begins with me." The class explored and discussed feelings and emotions. As a method to calm oneself when feeling nervous or upset, they made "squishies" and wrote instructions in French.

1.

Pour fabriquer une boule anti-stress...

Le matériel

de la farine

du film transparent

1 ballon de couleur claire



du sable

1 paire de ciseaux

1 feutre permanent

2.

La fabrication

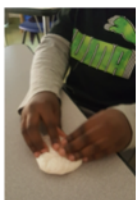


Tu prends le film transparent.
Tu mets de la farine dessus.



Tu prends le film transparent.
Tu mets du sable dessus.

3.



Tu fermes le film transparent et
tu fais une boule.



Tu coupes le bout du ballon.



Tu mets la boule dans le ballon.

4.

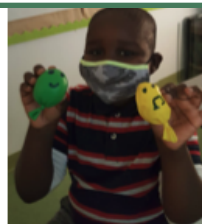


Tu fais un noeud avec le
ballon.



Tu dessines une émotion sur
le ballon et tu mets la
première lettre de ton
prénom.

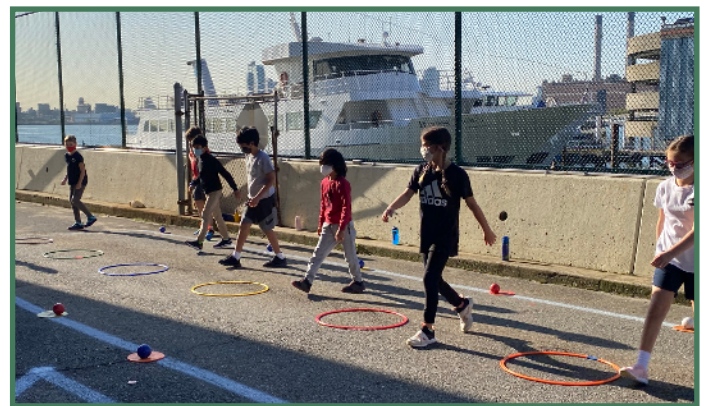
5.



Et voilà tu as fabriqué une
balle anti-stress.

Inside the Classroom

In Mr. De Rosa, Mr. Sale, and Ms. DerCola's PE classes, students have been staying active while social distancing. The students have been working on fundamental movements and motor skills. Specifically through activities focusing on balance, coordination, and optical challenges.



Virtual Club Fair

The Tutorial House Student Council and the Office of Student Activities ran the first ever Virtual Club Fair showcasing over 40 clubs and conferences open to TH students. The Club Fair ran for three days and allowed each club to give a pitch to interested members. If you're interested in learning more about any of these clubs, their mission statements, or watching student made introductory videos, please visit: unis.org/school-life/student-clubs-conferences/tuthouse



Mission Statement:

"The UNIS Science Team is a club dedicated to the expansion of scientific knowledge and personal enrichment at both a competitive and collaborative level. The purpose of this club is to provide a creative outlet for students interested in STEM to explore their scientific areas of interest outside of the classroom; by attending competitions, creating projects and cultivating a discussion based environment."

Recording...

Photography Club

By: Axel Petochi & Allegra Alexander

Recording...

Upcoming Events*

Saturday, October 24th: UN Day

Monday, October 26th: UN Day Observed (School Closed)

Tuesday, October 27th - Friday, October 30th:

October Break (No Classes)

Wednesday, November 25th-Friday November 27th:

Thanksgiving Break (School Closed)

*Please be sure to stay up to date on all UNIS communications as our future calendar dates and events may change.

Need to contact a Principal?

Junior School: Pascal Vallet

pvallet@unis.org | (212) 584-3061

Middle School: Elaine Kelly

ekelly@unis.org | (212) 584-3014

Tutorial House: Antoine Delaitre

adelaitre@unis.org | (212) 584-3148

Queens: Barbara Kennedy

bkennedy@unis.org | (212) 584-3106

#UNISProud. Please keep tagging us in your UNIS social media posts, so we can enjoy smiles (even behind the mask) like this one!



