

UNIS PARENTS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020-2021

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 or initiatives.
- 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 2020-2021 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; Diversity Equity and Inclusion 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
- **Angela Tolosa**, Co-Vice President
- **Dilshad Marolia**, Co-Vice President
- **Fiorella Polo**, Co-Finance Coordinator
- **Wendy Lau**, Co-Finance Coordinator
- **Marie Libeson**, Co-Secretary
- **Mai Ton**, Co-Secretary
- **Erin Russell**, JS Coordinator
- **Jen Fiorese**, JS Coordinator
- **Melissa Hernandez**, JS Coordinator
- **Vesna Golic**, MS Coordinator
- **Helen Stephan**, MS Coordinator
- **Flavia Campi**, TH Coordinator
- **Shipra Das**, TH Coordinator
- **Devika Gopal Agge**, Arts Committee Co-Chair
- **Magda Vakil**, Arts Committee Co-Chair
- **Hong Xiao**, Bridge2UN Co-Chair, MS Coordinator
- **Irina Ivleva**, Cultural Events Committee Co-Chair
- **Jinhwa Jo**, Cultural Events Committee Co-Chair
- **Maricruz Setien**, Cultural Events Committee Co-Chair
- **Cynthia Muffuh**, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Co-Chair
- **Lamson Lam**, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Co-Chair
- **Denise Gatphoh**, New2UNIS Co-Chair
- **Nilima Parker**, New2UNIS Co-Chair
- **Abhilasha Mahan**, Social Responsibility Committee Co-Chair
- **Magda Torres**, Social Responsibility Committee Co-Chair
- **Anke Jacobs**, UAA Co-Chair
- **Caroline Moses**, UAA Co-Chair
- **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 open dialogue and foster a sense of partnership.
- 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 organized grade-specific welcome virtual socials at the beginning of the school year and set up grade-specific What'sApp chat groups.
- Parent Coffees: The JS Coordinators worked with the administration to conduct 6 Parent Coffees throughout the school year. Topics included Technology at Home, Parent-Teacher Conferences and Physical Education and Fitness, JS Distance Learning, Math & ELA curriculum, Report Cards, Student Led Conferences, and Year in Review
- Parenting Workshops: The PA funded Parenting Workshops for the JS parents. Mindful Parenting During Times of Collective Stress was a 6-part parent virtual workshop series led by Rachel Henes.
- Talent Show: The JS Coordinators worked with the administration to organize and collect submissions for a virtual talent show, with 58 students participating.
- Book Fair: The JS Coordinators, along with other JS Parents, organized a virtual Book Fair and Author's Readings.
- Energizer Cards: During this unusual year the JS Coordinators recognized it was important to thank the JS teachers going above and beyond to bring some amount of normalcy to our children. We collected feedback of gratitude and thanks from parents and shared this teacher-specific feedback with every homeroom and specialist JS teacher through an e-card as a surprise "Thank You".
- Faculty Lunch: JS Coordinators worked with the administration to support the end-of-year faculty lunch.
- J4 Graduation: Supported J4 graduation related activities including the J4 hoodies, J4 class yearbook, and day of graduation support.
- End of Year Feedback: JS Coordinators assisted the administration in collecting feedback from parents on the school year with a focus on which things should be repeated the following year.



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UNIS PA SCHOOL COORDINATORS: MIDDLE SCHOOL COORDINATORS

Middle School Coordinators:

- Welcomed new UNIS families at the New Family Orientation in late August, 2020.
- Organized the MS Curriculum Night and parent/faculty virtual social in September 2020.
- Facilitated monthly parent coffees that focused on a variety of key middle school issues of interest to parents. Jointly with MS administration, the Parent Coordinators organized a series of Mindful Parenting sessions with consultant Rachel Henes, attended by large groups of interested parents.
- 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. Held virtual and in-person Class Parents socials.
- Sponsored grade-wide events including Games Day for M1 and M2 students.
- Assisted with organizing volunteers and logistical support and refreshments for student events including UN Day celebration in October 2020.
- Supported J4 Jump Up Day and welcomed parents of J4 students to the MS parent community.
- Helped match newly arrived families with mentors throughout the school year.
- Provided M4 Graduation Hoodies which were presents for M4 students.
- Supported this years' virtual Book Fair by keeping our community regularly informed and reminded to participate.

UNIS PA SCHOOL COORDINATORS: TUTORIAL HOUSE COORDINATORS

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Tutorial House Coordinators Events:

- TH Coordinators welcomed new UNIS families at the New Family Orientation in late August 2020
- TH Coordinators facilitated monthly parent TH coffees that focused on issues concerning the health, well-being and academic progress of TH students who spent the vast majority of the year in partial or full remote learning.
- TH Coordinators held monthly TH Grade Representative Meetings with the TH leadership team to provide an open forum for discussing all the key topics bubbling up in the parent community.
- TH Coordinators met monthly with leaders of the College Office to discuss issues related to communications between the parents and the College Office. Topics were frequently geared towards the special conditions faced by our T4s applying to colleges during the pandemic.
- TH Coordinators assisted with organizing volunteers for the Young Alumni Panel.
- TH Coordinators facilitated the purchase of sweatshirts for all T4 students and T4 faculty.
- TH coordinators facilitated the funding of the Kickstart program for the College Office (an enhancement tool for students). In addition, they partnered with the College Office to fund a talk by New York Times Bestselling author of *The Price You Pay for College*, Ron Lieber.

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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 was severely limited due to COVID 19 restrictions on gatherings and live performances. We coordinated to have Kim Bruno (Director of Arts) present at both the December PA Meeting on Curriculum and at the final PA Meeting in June to preview Arts return next year.

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 2020 - 2021 academic year:

- Continued discussions with the UNIS academic team on mapping the UN links in UNIS curriculum.
- Revised a concrete roadmap showing UN-UNIS academic partnership priorities for various grades across three schools.
- Assisted identifying and linking with the school speakers from UN Women to present to TUT House students within curriculum unit on SDG 5: Gender Equality
- Link TUT House college counselors with potential speakers from UNHCR and UN families alumni students
- Continued building a core team of UN institutional and subject experts around UNIS key academic priorities.
- Prepared survey of Bridge2UN for consultations with stakeholders for planning of future work

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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 Calpulli Conectado — Mexican dance virtual event and the virtual International Food & Fun Fair.

Calpulli Conectado 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 January 23, 2021, we celebrated the rich and versatile dance culture of Mexico. An interactive online program by the award winning Calpulli Mexican dance company brought together over 100 participants. This live family oriented event enabled the UNIS community to immerse into diverse dances of Mexican regions and to learn a vital repertoire with engaging background information. Each program participant was part of the raffle, the winner of which received a \$100.00 gift card to the renowned Michelin starred Mexican restaurant Casa Enrique.

International Food & Fun Fair

- This year's International Food and Fun Fair (IFFF) happened all over the map of New York City! Our second year of virtual IFFF invited everyone to share their favorite restaurants and grocery/specialty stores where authentic foods could be sampled and purchased. With over 200 recommendations from the UNIS students, parents, administration, faculty and staff, we were able to support local businesses in these challenging times and to share with each other our beloved food destinations in the city.
- All UNIS members can visit the [map](#) and enjoy the recommendations from the school community. Building the map would not be possible without technical support and leadership of MS Technical Integrator Mr. Lee Bruner, who for two years in a row suggested creative solutions on how to run IFFF virtually.
- This year's IFFF also came to the UNIS classrooms, where M1 students contributed to building the interactive food map in their advisory class and participated in "Food, Glorious Food!" art project with help of Ms. Kim Bruno, Director of Arts.
- The last but not the least, favorite IFFF Raffle was back with an amazing selection of prizes for all ages.

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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. This year was extraordinary, in that we could not meet in person for most of it, but we found a way!
- When Covid hit the world, New2UNIS ‘Zoomed’ onto a virtual meeting place, where connections were made and our community thrived.
- New2UNIS organised 34 events in 2020-21. Eight of these events were parent-led walks around New York City. (The High Line, Central Park North & South, Roosevelt Island, DUMBO, 9/11 Memorial & Battery Park, NY Botanical Gardens, UES Mansions). Thanks to our parent guides Marie Libeson, Shweta Ganesh Kumar, Julie Phillipson, Elizabeth Hafter, Ali Hoffman, Mukhayyo Burhanova for curating very interesting experiences.
- New2UNIS began the year with a **NYC Living Webinar** for new families. Thanks to our speakers Julie Phillipson, Devika Gopal Agge, Ali Hoffman & Karen Weissman.
- New2UNIS organised zoom workshops on aromatherapy, meditation, beer tasting, pattern art and terrace gardening.
- Our parents took a docent-led virtual tour of Gracie Mansion.
- For the first time, a very well-attended online Trivia Night was organised for UNIS families. Thanks to our quiz masters Marie Libeson & Shweta Ganesh Kumar.
- A Zoom Thanksgiving cooking class was made possible, thanks to our chefs - Michelle Bertrand, Amanda Dubois, Elizabeth Hafter, Karen Weissman and Serena Koh.
- We listened to lectures from Alexander Lamont (furniture designer), Sagiri Dayal (jeweler), Dimple Chibbar (artist), Magda Vakil (potter), Ziya Tarapore (artist) and Sasha Singh (cookie decorator) as they shared their craft with us.
- NEW2UNIS partnered with the SRC to visit Harlem Grown. We also collaborated with the newly formed PA DEI Committee on a book club meeting during AAPI awareness month.
- We designed 300 Valentine’s Day cards with Muslim Volunteers for NY (MV4NY). The cards were delivered to home-bound seniors in the city by City Harvest, along with their meals. In addition,

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we were able to raise **\$500 for City Harvest**, from generous donations made by participants on our parent-led walks.

- The Book Club and Film Club met every alternate month. Invigorating discussions were had on the readings and viewings.
- We closed out the year with a Talent Show for families at UNIS. The event had an overwhelming response and we received 45 entries. The judges did not find it easy to decide the winners amidst all the great talent at the school. Thanks to our judges Michelle Bertrand, Devika Gopal Agge & Angela Tolosa.
- Details on past events can be found on the New2UNIS Facebook page ([facebook.com/new2unis](https://www.facebook.com/new2unis)).
- New2UNIS is now also on Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/new2unis/>). Do follow us!

Funding:

- New2UNIS events are entirely self-funded by asking participants to individually pay for the cost of each event.
- The UNIS PA budgets \$1,000 for New2UNIS events annually. Part of this amount was used for the prizes that were given to the winners of the Talent Show, this year.

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.

2020-2021 Accomplishments:

- 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.
- While the Fall and Winter sports seasons were cancelled due to the Coronavirus, Mr. Evans and Mr. Apergis developed safe, outdoor, after-school activities to give students the opportunity to stay active and in shape.
- 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 online meetings with the UNIS Athletics Department.
- Supporting a College Office/UNIS PA event for UNIS students interested in playing a sport in College.
- Support Professional Development Seminars for Coaches.



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- There were fewer UAA activities and ceremonies held in 2020 because there were no in-person gatherings or sports season due to Covid.
- At the end of the school year Mr. Guy Evans left the A.D. position and the Athletics Department is under the leadership of Athletic Director Mr. Daniel O'Connor. UAA Co-Chair Caroline Moses was on the search committee for the new A.D.

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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:

- Did a Zoom presentation in February about how to live more sustainably in NYC through easy practices.
- Did a Zoom presentation about Sustainability at UNIS in May in which we talked about our pre-pandemic initiatives (including the waste audit), challenges during Covid and what we expect to see in the next few years. The MS and TH Environmental Clubs also shared what they had been working on. It was a good opportunity to connect with the larger community and attract more volunteers.
- The MS Principal reached out to the SRC to make a MS school wide online presentation to raise awareness of the Virtual Food Drive in December.
- Met with Corey to find ways to optimize new materials used to pack food in the cafeteria.
- Met regularly with Green Teachers in all divisions to find out ways to move forward once green initiatives normalize at Unis.
- Met with Dr. King-Calnek to discuss ways in which we can collaborate with DEI through a speaker that will discuss environmental justice/intersectional environmentalism.
- Met on several occasions with Dan Brenner to convey the need to have paid personnel overseeing sustainability practices at Unis. This effort resulted in the hiring of Sustainability Coordinators for each division and Queens.
- Organized a trip to “Harlem Grown” - a sustainable, small scale, vertical Farm - in conjunction with New2UNIS - it was a sold out event.
- Contributed to the Virtual Food Fair at UNIS.

Annual Food Drive

- Student and parent volunteers were involved from all three divisions.

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- The UNIS Community donated over 4000 lbs of food to City Harvest - this was an incredible feat, considering that this is the same amount of food we donated last year, in pre-Covid times - in spite of Covid Closures of school during collection week, rain, carrying of heavy school. Bags, quarantined classes, and alternate days of attendance for half the school!
- In addition to the physical food drive, we also had a division wide Virtual Food Drive - We put the students at the heart of raising funds for hungry New Yorkers, by doing any sport, dance, making art, music, cooking, baking, etc.
- UNIS Community raised \$4,871 through the Virtual Food Drive.
- These **generous donations came at a critical time, and helped City Harvest to feed more than 17,500 New Yorkers in need—truly an incredible impact!**
- The SRC also collected and donated an additional 70 pounds of food from the UNIS Cafeteria to the Grand Central Neighborhood City Harvest agencies, helping to avoid food waste in our system.
- The SRC also collected over 100 leftover pies from the school and donated them to three homeless shelters in Manhattan - avoiding food wastage.
- The New2UNIS Committee collected \$501 over the last six months for the City Harvest Efforts of the SRC - we are very thankful to them.

Annual Toiletries Drive:

- 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.

Annual Book Drive:

- Worked again with Reach Out and Read Program (RoR) at Children of Bellevue Hospital.
- This Year, RoR was not able to take in physical books that are gently used.
- To overcome this hurdle, the SRC partnered with the Virtual MS Book Fair and JS Book Fair Committees to collect donations as part of the Virtual UNIS Book Fairs.
- The Donations will be used to purchase new children's books for this wonderful program.



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- The UNIS Community donated \$542.40 towards this cause.

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COMMITTEES OF THE UNIS PA: THE DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

Mission Statement

- The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee was formed during the 2020-2021 academic year to collaborate on efforts across the school community in support of the fundamental UNIS principle that acknowledging, understanding, respecting and accepting diverse beliefs, ethnicities, cultures, and lifestyles are critical underpinnings of a successful education. This committee will work vigorously towards equal access for all community members to participate fully in the life of the school, particularly to better involve Black American families at the school and to bring to light current events related to racism in the U.S. and globally.

- The committee focused on building an inclusive parent community life by leveraging intercultural and interracial dialogue among UNIS families and opportunities for personal development by:
 - Presenting opportunities for UNIS families to learn and explore the historical underpinnings and most current issues of race and racism in the U.S. through speakers, workshops and events both at the school and in the larger NYC community;
 - Serving families of color by creating specific opportunities for support and connections as they would like to see develop at the school;
 - Increasing exposure of UNIS students to professional opportunities and careers in development and humanitarian work that promote diversity, equity and inclusion;
 - Coordinating with PA and its committees to ensure that DEI principles are integrated into all PA initiatives
 - Supporting knowledge sharing between DEI experts and UNIS faculty on topics related to supporting anti-racism efforts and anti-racism curriculum.

Being the first year for the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee, our aim has been to draw attention and awareness to the area of diversity, equity and inclusion and how it affects the UNIS community whilst at the same time identifying areas in which the committee could support the needs of families. We did that by working in collaboration with as many aspects of the UNIS community - parents, students, alumni and the school administration through the office of the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Dr. Judith King-Calnek. Our work has taken the form of events and meetings to build community and spread knowledge, collaboration to foster partnerships and communication to spread the word.

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Accomplishments

Events

- Holocaust Remembrance Day
 - On January 27th - Holocaust Remembrance Day - , the DEI Committee, in collaboration with the *Museum of Jewish Heritage: A Living Memorial to the Holocaust*, invited Briona Brandman, a survivor of Auschwitz to come and speak to us about her time at Auschwitz. It was a powerful evening and the event was attended by parents, students and faculty.
- Black History Month
 - This was the first time the DEI Committee collaborated with the UNIS community. In celebration of *Black History Month* and *MLK Day*, we sent a call to action to every UNIS family in what we called the MLK@UNIS Campaign. Everyone was asked to reflect on the 3 questions below and submit a response as a video, poem, essay, song, piece of art or any other form. These contributions were put together into a video which was showed during a PA Meeting.
 1. What does MLK mean to you?
 2. How can UNIS realize his vision or live up to his teachings?
 3. What are you committing to do personally to make MLK's vision happen?
- International Women's Day
 - In celebration of IWD 2021 on March 8th, the DEI Committee in partnership and collaboration with the TUT House student Equity and Inclusion Board, hosted a Fireside Chat with Ms Amina J Mohammed, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Fireside Chat was moderated by Tut House students Rokhaya Ndiaye and Sophie Hafter.
- AAPI Heritage Month
 - *I am not a Virus: How to stop AAPI Hate and Address the Effects of Racism*. This was a panel discussion on Asian American Pacific Islander history and how to address the root causes of racism and xenophobia in our community and beyond. Parents also received a presentation about trauma-informed approaches and how to build resiliency to supporting them and their children. Panelists include Glenn Magpantay, Esq. of Hunter College, Wah Chen of LAAUNCH (Leading Asian Americans to Unite for Change), and Angela Tolosa, Esq. of NYC Criminal Justice Agency.
 - *The Roots of Anti-Asian Hate and the Japanese American Experience*: This was a virtual workshop in collaboration with the Japanese American National Museum's Education Unit. It explored the powerful artifacts, images, and documents found in JANM's collection, with a focus on the Japanese American experience.
- Pride Month
 - NYC Pride Tour. In celebration of Pride Month, the PA DEI Committee in collaboration with Pride NYC Tour offered the UNIS community a Pride Tour of New York City. The tour was open to parents, students and faculty.

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Collaborations

- Dr King Calnek & DEI Coordinators
 - As soon as the DEI Committee was created, the Co-Chairs quickly established a relationship with Dr. Judith King-Calnek, the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at UNIS. There is a weekly meeting between the Co-Chairs and Dr. King-Calnek.

- EIB
 - EIB Microaggressions Conference: Co-Chair Lamson Lam was invited to speak and run a session at the conference.
 - In addition to the aforementioned collaboration for International Women's Day, there is an ongoing collaboration with the EIB. The Co-Chairs have a standing invitation to the EIB meetings and have attended all since the formation of the DEI Committee.
 - The intention for 2020 - 2021 is to have even more collaboration and partnership with the EIB and provide support where we can both technical and financial.

- New2UNIS
 - For AAPI Heritage Month, the DEI Committee collaborated with New2UNIS through their Book Club. The book *Minor Feelings by Cathy Park Hong* was the final book of the year for the book club.
 - We plan on collaborating more with New2UNIS in the 2021 - 2021 academic year.

- Black at UNIS
 - The Co-Chairs have attended 4 meetings on the invitation of Black at UNIS. Members of Black at UNIS have also taken part in DEI Committee events such as the State of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at UNIS Round Table held in March 2021.
 - The DEI Committee intends to find more opportunities to actively work with Black at UNIS in the 2020 - 2021 academic year head.

Meetings

- State of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at UNIS Round Table
 - In March, the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee hosted a RoundTable discussion on the State of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at UNIS. The aim of the Round Table was to have an open and inclusive discussion with the UNIS community about the state of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion within our school. To dig deeper into the current state of DEI in our school, the challenges which we are currently facing, the historical context to these challenges, and the plans around making UNIS not only a more inclusive and diverse learning environment for all, but a school that truly embodies and is committed to the spirit of the United Nations Charter.
 - The RoundTable consisted of various stakeholders in our community including:
Dr. Dan Brenner, Dr. Judith King-Calnek (Director of Diversity Equity and

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Inclusion), **Mr. Lamson Lam** (PA DEI Committee Co-Chair), **Ms. Debora Belfield** (Director of Human Resources), **Ms. Lisa Moore** (Representative from Staff Association), a representatives from the Student Association Executive Committee, **Ms. Ma-Sadio Faye** (T2 student and Liaison to the Middle School from the Equity and Inclusion Board), and **Ms. Elke-Esmerelda Dikoume**, representative from Black at UNIS.

- PA Meeting Anti-Bullying & Anti-Harassment Policies
 - Following ongoing discussions during the March and April Committee Monthly Meetings around the topic of bullying and harassment at UNIS and the concern that the issue was only pervasive across all divisions but that parents were not necessarily informed about the processes and procedures around this area, the Committee agreed that it was prudent to reach out to the Administration to ask for help on this area.
 - This resulted in the All PA Meeting in May focusing on the UNIS Anti-Bullying and Anti-Harassment Policies. The meeting was attended by **Dr. Dan Brenner**, **Dr. Amos**, **Antoine Delaitre** (TUT House Principal), **Elaine Kelly** (MS Principal), **Pascal Vallet** (JS Principal) and **Barbara Kennedy** (Director of Queens) and all 3 vice-Principals to discuss anti-bullying and anti-harassment policies and procedures and to review changes that have been put in place in the last year.

Communication / Newsletters

- Black History Month edition
- Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month edition

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UNIS PA ACTIVITIES

ExComm Meetings

- The ExComm held twelve meetings during the academic year, facilitated via Zoom 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 Webinar Zoom 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.
- Recordings of the meetings and materials presented are posted on the UNIS PA webpage.

Highlights of Work Undertaken:

- ExComm continues 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 webinars with the Executive Director, ExComm also hosted school-wide meetings on the overall school curriculum; a diversity, equity and inclusion roundtable; an anti Bullying and anti harassment presentation by all principals and assistant principals and Barbara Kennedy (head of Queens Campus); a presentation of the new strategic plan by Catherine Pollard (UNIS Board of Trustees Chair) and Maaïke de Langen (UNIS Board of Trustees) and a workshop on sustainable practices.
- 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 members participated in the interviews related to CIS Accreditation.
- ExComm members participated in the interviews related to the hiring of the Athletic Director.

UNIS PA SPONSORED EVENTS: UN DAY CELEBRATION

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- 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. The shared meals could not take place because of COVID 19 restrictions so the ExComm provided funds for special UN Day cupcakes for all students.

UNIS PA SPONSORED EVENTS: STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCH/TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY:

- The UNIS PA sponsored the annual luncheon to thank all UNIS faculty, support staff, and administrators for their work on behalf of our children on January 11, 2021. In the past Parents donated food but that was not possible due to COVID 19 restrictions so the ExComm worked with Flick Dining Services to provide a special hot lunch of either steak and shrimp or roasted butternut squash accompanied by couscous and vegetables with a special dessert.
- On May 4, 2021 in recognition of Teacher Appreciation Day, ExComm worked with Flick Dining Services to arrange special snack boxes for all administrators, faculty and staff.

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

UNIS PA VOLUNTEERS: PARENT VOLUNTEERS AND UNIS STAFF AND FACULTY

- Dozens of parents volunteered their time as class parents and grade coordinators, and many more spent many hours planning, executing, and supporting all the 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 webinars, and many more, a success.

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- 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 2020-2021 academic year.

UNIS PA FUNDING: ENTRANCE LANDSCAPING AND PLAYGROUND RENOVATION

- **ENTRANCE LANDSCAPING:** UNIS will subcontract a landscape architect to refresh and replace all plantings from the front gate to the current bike rack area behind the Admissions Office. The sea wall bordering the playground and current parking lot will also be refurbished and repainted. UNIS PA Executive Committee voted to contribute \$30,000 to the project in June 2021.
- **PLAYGROUND RENOVATION:** UNIS has engaged an architect and contractor to remove the existing playground structures and flooring. The playground structures and flooring will be completely renovated and replaced with new artificial turf and brand new structures. The structures will be designed and safety rated for 4-12 year olds, which will eliminate the need for the current fenced off area within the playground. UNIS PA Executive Committee voted to contribute \$30,000 to the project in June 2021.