BACK TO SCHOOL

United Nations International School

FALL 2021
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear UNIS Community,

As is always the case at the beginning of each year, it is energizing to see our campuses buzzing with enthusiasm. As we conclude our first month of school the enthusiasm continues. Our halls and classrooms are filled with students and we have also been able to welcome back parents, alumni, and members of the greater UNIS community after nearly a year and a half of only virtual interactions. Our athletic programs are thriving as are our many extracurricular activities, and field trips.

Last year taught us many things including that we must remain vigilant with our testing protocols to keep the community safe. But it also taught us that we can incorporate distant learning in ways we might have only dreamed of prior to the pandemic.

Our greatest priority today is to provide all UNIS students with the opportunity to learn in person. We have administered nearly 3600 tests since the beginning of the school year with only two positive results. It is a testament that our protocols are working and that there is no spread of the virus on the UNIS campus.

In this edition of our magazine you will find a welcome letter from the Chair of our Board of Trustees, information on the Board, a bit of an insight into each division, and many smiling faces! I hope you enjoy it and look forward to seeing many of you throughout the school year on the UNIS campus!

Best,

Dan
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dear members of the UNIS community,

On behalf of the whole Board of Trustees, I would like to welcome you back to UNIS for the new school year. More than ever before, this year will require adjustments and new protocols to get used to, but we are all excited to know that the halls of UNIS are again filled with voices, movement, conversation and learning.

I am very pleased to introduce our new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for UNIS, Ms. Lisa Buttenheim. Currently serving as Assistant Secretary-General for Support Operations in the UN Secretariat, Ms. Buttenheim has a career spanning over 35 years in the UN, having served at both Headquarters and in the field. She is deeply committed to the ideals and principles of the UN, and I am confident she will be an asset to UNIS and the Board.

We are also delighted to welcome four new trustees to the Board: Mauricio Barberi, Bruno Lazard, Etienne Locoh and Roser Salavert. I encourage you to read more about their background on the UNIS website, under “Governance” [unis.org/about-unis/governance].

As is customary, the Board “kicked off” the school year with a Retreat, a time for joint reflection and re-commitment. We were reminded of the purpose and role of the Board: to look at the longer-term goals and ensure that the School stays true to its mission for future generations. In this vein, we continue to examine the long-term financial sustainability of UNIS, with a view to keeping tuition manageable, particularly for UN families. An overall review of the financial picture is also being done in the context of preparing for the Capital Plan, which, as I mentioned in my June message, has huge strategic importance for UNIS to excel in future years.

I congratulate all members of the UNIS community – faculty, staff, students, parents, and of course the Administration – for the flexibility, perseverance, and commitment you have shown in what has been extraordinarily challenging times. With the reopening now successfully behind us, I wish you a rewarding and joyful school year ahead!

Sincerely,

Catherine Pollard
Chair, UNIS Board of Trustees
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.

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<th>Catherine Pollard, Chair of the Board of Trustees</th>
<th>Lisa Buttenheim, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for UNIS</th>
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<td>Ambassador Dr. Mohamed Al-Hassan, Trustee</td>
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<td>Mauricio Barberi, Trustee</td>
<td>Maaike de Langen, Trustee</td>
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<td>Pierre Alexandre de Looz, Chair of the Buildings, Grounds &amp; Security Committee</td>
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<td>Felipe Dorregaray, Vice-Chair</td>
<td>Caryn Groce, Vice-Chair</td>
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<td>Fernando Gutierrez Eddy, Chair of Advancement Committee</td>
<td>Bruno Lazard, Trustee</td>
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<td>Alla Liberman, Treasurer and Chair of Finance &amp; Audit Committee</td>
<td>Etienne Locoh, Trustee</td>
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<td>Stephen Margetts, Chair of Strategic Planning Committee</td>
<td>Roberto Pagan, Trustee</td>
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<td>Roser Salavert, Chair of Academic Policy Committee</td>
<td>Udal Tambar, Vice-Chair and Co-Chair of the Health &amp; Safety Committee</td>
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WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

We are happy to welcome five new members to the Board of Trustees. As mentioned by Ms. Pollard in her welcome message, the Board has "kicked off" for the 2021-2022 school year.

Lisa Buttenheim

Etienne Locoh

Mauricio Barberi

Roser Salavert

Bruno Lazard

As mentioned by Ms. Pollard in her welcome message, the Board has "kicked off" for the 2021-2022 school year.

Lisa Buttenheim

Etienne Locoh

Mauricio Barberi

Roser Salavert

Bruno Lazard
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

The First Day of School is always one of our favorites of the year. All of UNIS buzzes with excitement. Please enjoy these First Day moments from both campuses.
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
QUEENS
COVID PROTOCOLS

**Mask Policy**
All individuals must wear a mask at all times while on campus, regardless of vaccination status.
Masks may be removed while eating and drinking, and distancing occurs.

**Learning Model**
If you have opted-in for remote learning for your student, there is a commitment to stay through the end of the marking period.
Students may not go back and forth between remote and in-person learning, with the exception of students who are in quarantine due to contact tracing.
On Nov. 1st, Jan. 24th, and April 11th, students may return to in-person learning.

**Vaccinations**
All UNIS faculty and staff are vaccinated.
Any adults who enter campus must be vaccinated.
Eligible students (ages 12+) are recommended to get vaccinated, however at this time we have not mandated the vaccine for our student population. This is subject to change.

**COVID Testing**
UNIS continues to pool test our faculty, staff, and student populations.
A portion of the community will be tested weekly.
Schedules and more information are sent from our Director of Security, Ernest Lentini (elentini@unis.org) or our Director of Nursing, Marissa Rivera (mrivera@unis.org).
If we identify a positive case, contact tracing will occur and individuals may have to quarantine.
Per NY State Guidelines a close contact in schools is now defined for students as being less than 3 feet from a person who tested positive, who was also not masked.
This rule does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting as they should continue to socially distance 6 feet apart from students whenever possible.
COVID PROTOCOLS CONTINUED

UNIS Domestic Travel Requirements
Quarantine periods for domestic travelers entering the state are no longer required. However, if you are symptomatic you must follow the CDC recommendations seen below:

- Get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after travel AND stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel.
  - Even if you test negative, stay home and self-quarantine for the full 7 days.
  - If your test is positive, isolate yourself to protect others from getting infected.
- If you don’t get tested, stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.
- Avoid being around people who are at increased risk for severe illness for 14 days, whether you get tested or not.
- Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms.

UNIS International Travel Requirements

For the fully Vaccinated:

- No quarantine necessary if asymptomatic
- Must get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after travel.
- Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms.

For Unvaccinated:

- Get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after travel AND stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel.
  - Even if you test negative, stay home and self-quarantine for the full 7 days.
  - If your test is positive, isolate yourself to protect others from getting infected.
- If you don’t get tested, stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.
- Avoid being around people who are at increased risk for severe illness for 14 days, whether you get tested or not.
- Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms.
NEW FACULTY & STAFF!

Amer Abu-Houran  
Tutorial House, Mathematics

Giovanna DiPolo  
Teaching Assistant

Ana Belen Ares de Francisco  
Modern Language Department, Spanish

Nathan Estep  
Junior School, Permanent Substitute

Michael Arnon  
Middle School, Permanent Substitute

Amy Flindt  
Tutorial House, Science

Paulina Bemporad  
Junior School, Homeroom

Ljubinka Kampanellaris  
Junior School, Permanent Substitute

Shardae Bonaparte  
College Office, Administrative Assistant

Daniel Longoria  
Economics & Humanities

Enrique Carrion Campos  
Modern Language Department, Spanish

Laura Ann Longoria  
Tutorial House, Mathematics
NEW FACULTY & STAFF!

Madeline McBroom
Queens, Musical/Theater

Jaya Ramchandani
Tutorial House, Science

Sinead Murray
Middle School Math, Science & Advisory

Megan Roberts
Middle School Learning Specialist

Junko Nishimoto
Modern Language Department, Japanese

Megha Sharma
Middle School, Mathematics & Advisory

Barbara Peabody
School Nurse

James Whyte
Queens, Physical Education & Health

Heather Phan
Middle School, Science

Amilcar Barnett, Physical Education

Simon Bell, Tutorial House, IB Theatre & English

Daniel Falcone, Queens, Middle School, Humanities

Nehad Soliman, Junior School, French

Justine Szarek, Queens, French & Spanish
THE RETURN OF A WEEK WITHOUT WALLS

Last week, our Tutorial House was able to successfully complete their Week without Walls. Despite some unexpected weather, our students were engaged and enjoyed time outside the classroom.

T1s went to Camp Mariah where they enjoyed games, challenges, and bonding activities.

T2s canoed across the Delaware River Gap, spending time with one another on the water while improving their canoeing skills.

T3s and T4 stayed on campus for a series of IB Bonding activities. T4s shared their wisdom and experience with T3s, and both grades followed a series of mini workshops. Afterwards, T4s headed to Club Getaway for more bonding and various challenge activities.
Our youngest learners are excited to be back in school and are already back in the swing of things! During their first assembly of the year, our newest students were introduced to the IB Learner Profiles, while returning students were reacquainted with the profiles. Each week, the Junior School reflects on one Learner Profile.
A LOOK INTO THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Middle School is bustling with excitement. Students have participated in Climate Week NYC, learned about how books unite us during Banned Books week, and are currently celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. Students are enjoying STEM challenges, creating artwork, and moving during their PE classes.
During our second week of school, the Queens Campus exhibited their flexibility and resiliency once more as the campus was affected by the heavy storm a few weeks ago. That has not slowed our students down. All are hard at work, and have even created a new Student Council and have begun working together with faculty.
As always, our Tutorial House students have jumped right back into their academics and extracurriculars. Students and advisors are finding safe and creative ways to enjoy experiences outside the classroom, including a T2 Trip to The Public's Shakespeare in the Park for "Black Theatre Night." We love to see our students creating, thinking, and leading throughout and outside of campus.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, October 22
UN Day Celebration at UNIS

Sunday, October 24
UN Day

Monday, October 25
UN Day Observed - UNIS Closed

Tuesday, October 26 - Friday, October 29
October Break, No Classes

November 10 - 12
Parent-Teacher Conferences

Wednesday, November 24 - Friday, November 26
Thanksgiving Break - UNIS Closed

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