

# END OF YEAR MAGAZINE 2021-2022

United Nations International School



# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear UNIS Community,

It is hard to believe that the 2021-2022 school year has come to a close.

The end of the school year is always filled with excitement and anticipation for the summer months, but this year it is bittersweet as we have much to celebrate but we also say goodbye to our Queens campus. Change is always difficult, but we are so glad so many of our UNIS Queens families and colleagues will be joining us in Manhattan next year. We wish only the best to those leaving. Please know you will always be part of the UNIS family.

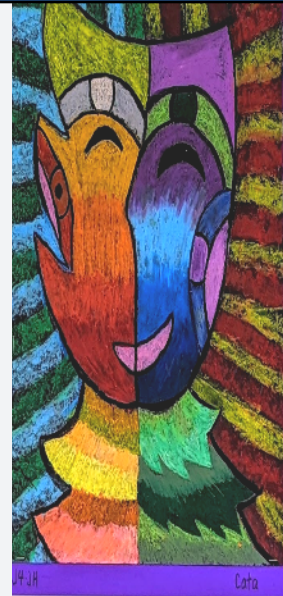
In the subject of change, please also join me in thanking Ms. Catherine Pollard for her five years of service as the Chair of the UNIS Board of Trustees. Ms. Pollard has worked tirelessly over the past five years to lead us into our 75th year. It has been an absolute pleasure working alongside her and I know the entire UNIS community sends their good wishes as you close this chapter.

And while change is key to growth, this year we also happily welcomed back many cherished traditions that had been on pause due to the pandemic. Last month, families, faculty, and staff gathered in the General Assembly of the United Nations as we cheerfully watched as the Class of 2022 received their diplomas. The International Food and Fun Fair returned to campus with great anticipation and joy. Field trips resumed and our students once again had the opportunity to learn outside their classrooms.

It has been another wonderful year at UNIS. I wish you all a fantastic summer and look forward to seeing you in the Fall.

Best,

Dan



Junior School student artwork.



# THANK YOU TO THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MS. CATHERINE POLLARD



Above Photo: Ms. Pollard delivers a speech at the General Assembly at UNIS Graduation; Left Photo (from left to right): Former SRSG for UNIS, Joan McDonald; UNIS Board Chair, Catherine Pollard; H.E. António Guterres, Secretary-General; and UNIS Executive Director, Dr. Dan Brenner at UNIS; Right Photo: Ms. Pollard with Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, the former Executive Director of UN Women for a Fireside Chat at UNIS.

# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

01

## Multi Purpose Room

Construction continues.

02

## Engage with architects for 3rd and 4th floors

Beginning planning stages. Established focus groups for providing necessary information.

03

## Front entrance

Beautification project for the front entrance of the School.

04

## Playground

Redesigned using recyclable materials.

05

## Roof

Refurbishment of athletic surfaces and roof.

## Phase 1. Multi Purpose Room (MPR)

4,000 SQ FT addition

Current status of MPR



Future, opening for 2022-2023 school year



# DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

The student-led Equity and Inclusion Board (EIB) has completed and installed UNIS' newest piece of art. The painting "Black Lives Matter" is based on artwork by Brooklyn based French artist Quentin Monge. The students received permission from the artist and it was recreated by Rokhaya Ndiaye, Afomiya Kassie, Sarrah Taheraly, Ma-Sadio Faye, Sumita Lacey, Nina Ranjan, Eve Geissmann and David Sobola with Ms. Colette Murphy supervising the artistic process. Next time you are on the first floor, be sure to pause and observe the beautiful project.



In celebration of International Women's Day, the UNIS PA DEI Committee led the #BreakTheBias campaign at UNIS and highlighted UNIS Women in Leadership who work daily to #breakthebias.



(From left to right) Kim Bruno, Director of Arts; Dr. Jennifer Amos, Chief Academic Officer; Sochenda Samreth, Director of Curriculum and Instructions

"Together, let's work to #BreakTheBias and push forward in creating equal opportunities for women and girls."



Debora Belfield,  
Director of Human  
Resources

"Break the Bias and inspire women to continue to be an active force in shaping A Better World."



Michelle  
Fredj-Bertrand,  
Director of School  
Events & Rental  
Management

"See me, hear me,  
respect me for me."

# ARTS FESTIVAL: GIVING VOICES

The UNIS Performing and Visual Arts Department put on a two-week, school wide arts festival titled *Giving Voice*. The festival served as a celebration of the arts at UNIS and showcased our talented artists in their many crafts.

The festival transformed the first floor of the school into an art exhibit and disguised many of our other school spaces into theatres and concert halls with the

numerous outstanding performances.

Multiple workshops were offered for both students and adults ranging from watercolor painting to virtual reality. It was wonderful to celebrate the arts at UNIS. In the words of Kurt Vonnegut Jr, "The primary benefit of practicing any art, whether well or badly, is that it enables one's soul to grow."



# INTERNATIONAL FOOD & FUN FAIR 2022

The return of the International Food and Fun Fair this May was a wonderful success that celebrated the multicultural UNIS community. The day was quite memorable as it was filled with foods from around the world, laughter, and community. It was our first community wide event back on campus and it showcased the spirit of UNIS and the happiness in togetherness. Thank you to the parents, faculty, and staff who worked tirelessly to ensure the event was a success.



# FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS



**Name:** Paco Barba-Morán

**Position at UNIS:** Director of Modern Languages

**Places lived:** Spain, England, and the United States

**Languages Spoken:** English, Spanish, and I'm working hard on my French

**What makes a "good day" at school?**

Seeing smiley students around and a conversation with one of them that makes me laugh. It's not difficult to get one of those in the Junior School!

**What accomplishments fill you with pride from this year?**

As a personal and professional goal for this year, I'm about to complete a one-year course to become a Concept-Based Curriculum and Instruction Consultant from Dr. Erickson and Lanning's Institute. As for the MLD, all of the many accomplishments my colleagues have achieved as a Department, particularly the use of standard-based assessments in the Tut House.

**How do you spend your summer breaks?**

Travelling non-stop! That's my passion! Spain's mainland, the Canary Islands, Ibiza and

Greece on my list this year!

**What are you looking forward to for the next school year?**

Real normalcy: no masks, no antigen tests, field trips, trips abroad, camps and a thousand activities outside the school's walls with students, as we used to have.



**Name:** Joseph Braccino

**Position(s) at UNIS:** Tut House English Teacher

TH DEI Co-Coordinator

Tut House Drama Director, *Twelfth Night* (2020) & *Peter and the Starcatcher* (2021)

**Fun Fact:**

I co-host the weekly comic book and nerd culture podcast, *Talking Comics*, which is about to celebrate its 11th year on the air and over 550 episodes! Available wherever you get your podcasts.

**Why do you love working at UNIS?**

All the interesting people who do so many interesting things and are from so many interesting places--I am constantly learning from both my fellow teachers as well as my students!



# ATHLETICS CORNER

The UNIS athletics department had a successful and busy year with sports back in full swing! Congratulations to all of our Queens and Manhattan Middle School teams, our Junior Varsity teams, and our Varsity teams on their dedication to their sports, their determination in competition, and their successful seasons.

Additionally, a special congratulations to our two UNIS seniors who will officially continue to compete at the university level. Nayesha Krishna will swim at Hunter College and Sacha Maes will play tennis at Tufts University.

Lastly, we are excited to announce a new athletics and physical education logo. The logo was overwhelmingly selected by students, faculty, and staff. Go unicorns!



# JUNIOR SCHOOL: MANHATTAN LANDMARKS

Junior School students and faculty created an outstanding model of Manhattan's landmarks. The model was created and designed by J1 students and features: the Brooklyn Bridge, Grand Central Station, Rockefeller Center, The U.N, Madison Square Garden, The Statue of Liberty,

Washington Square Park, The Freedom Tower, Empire State Building, Radio City Hall, The Chrysler Building, Times Square, Central Park, and of course – UNIS! This grade wide collaborative project was planned, designed and built by our J1 learners.

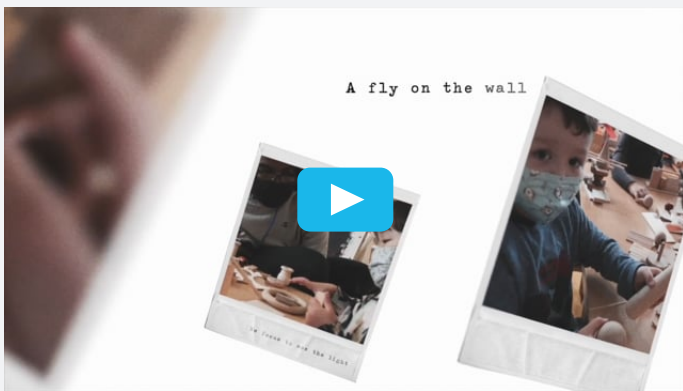
During their Unit of Inquiry, “Where Are We on The Map?” The J1 students unpacked the concepts that we shape the local environment, and the local environment shapes who we are and how we live. They also focused on three IB learner profiles throughout the project: inquirer, knowledgeable, and thinker.



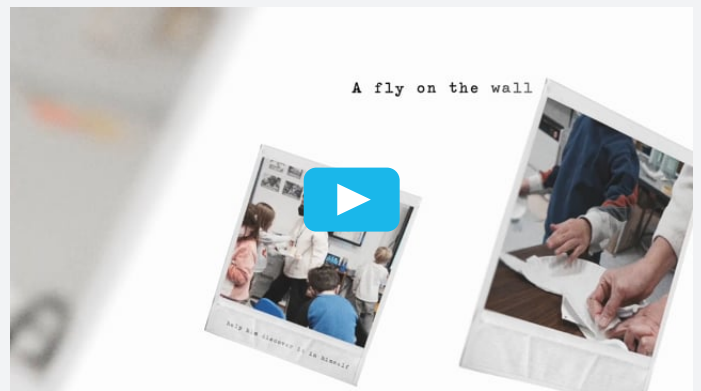
# A LOOK INTO THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Junior School Principal, Mr. Vallet, created the "A Fly on the Wall" series to share the experience inside JS classrooms. Each of the episodes focuses on different subjects and allows viewers to share in the joy of the dynamic Junior School experience. You can enjoy the episodes below.

## Episode 1: Pre-K



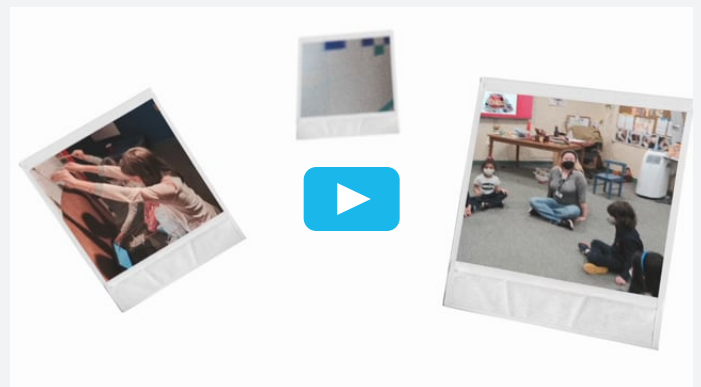
## Episode 2: Science and Design Engineering



## Episode 3: Yo Hablo Español, Je Parle Français



## Episode 4: This is Arts!



# JUNIOR SCHOOL: J4 GRADUATION

On June 9, we happily celebrated our J4 learners as they complete their Junior School journey and move into Middle School. The students, faculty, staff, and families joyfully reminisced on their time as Junior School students and looked forward to taking on the increased responsibilities of Middle School students. Each of the five classes had two student speakers who shared their favorite memories and

thanked their fellow classmates and teachers. The J4 teaching team collaborated on a speech which was delivered by Jessica Hiebl-McArdle, the Grade 4 Team Leader. An excerpt from the speech is included below.

*"...as new beginnings make you wonder about what the future will be like, we encourage you not to be so concerned with the outcome, but rather stay connected to the process and take that step forward, even if it means taking paths less traveled. You may not know how to do some things yet, but be reassured you have all it takes to achieve anything you care deeply about."*



# A LOOK INTO MIDDLE SCHOOL

SDG 15 focuses on Life on Land and the Middle School Environmental Club has tirelessly committed themselves to working to protect and promote our life on land. The students are keenly aware of the climate change emergency and have dedicated their time taking action. They completed their classroom plant project that spanned from the fall into the late spring. The students researched, propagated, planted, watered, prepared, and distributed plants to their teachers. Students did so as a way to acknowledge the lasting, negative effects of deforestation and provide their teachers with a fresh air.

In advisory, M2 students focused on the IB Learner Profile, Open Mindedness. The students discussed what it means to be open minded from their points of view and then collaborated to design their advisory doors to showcase their definitions of open mindedness. Enjoy some of the many vibrant, ingenious designs below.



M1 students celebrated the end of the year with a field trip to St. Vartan's Park. The students and their teachers were able to spend time together outside of the classroom, on the waterfront and in the tree lined park.



# MIDDLE SCHOOL: THE MUSICAL RETURNS

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" dazzled UNIS audiences on March 10th & 11th. One of the most enduring shows of all time, Joseph is a reimagining of the ancient tale of Joseph, his father Jacob, eleven brothers and the coat of many colors. Over 65 MS students participated in the cast, crew and design team to bring this musical to life. An extraordinary group of UNIS staff, parents and outside professionals added their artistic expertise and support to the production.

Joseph was hailed by all who attended as a magical true tour de force! Bravo to the entire Company for your passion and commitment to using your art as a catalyst to educate and bring life to the stories that need to be told.



# MIDDLE SCHOOL: M4 GRADUATION

The M4 graduation is always a special moment as our oldest Middle School learners prepare to transition into high school.

Middle School Assistant Principal, Ms. Perez, served as Master of Ceremonies in the joyous evening. The ceremony included a performance by M4 strings and a beautiful song by two vocalists. Multiple student speakers captivated the audience speaking on themes such as friendship,

seizing opportunities, and celebrating the adults in their lives. As one student put it, the M4 class acknowledges that COVID did not allow them to have a traditional Middle School experience, but “COVID has made us stronger, more resilient, and more connected.”

Congratulations to the M4 Class, we look forward to seeing you in the Tut House.



# TUTORIAL HOUSE: UNIS-UN

This year UNIS-UN held the 45th annual UNIS-UN Conference titled *A Food for Thought: A Sustainable Approach to Food Security* and was once again attended by students internationally. The conference was held in a hybrid format with UNIS students attending in person and visiting students attending virtually. The conference investigated possible approaches to a more sustainable future of food. The students and speakers investigated how economic inequality has

intensified the issues of food insecurity while they also explored how modern technologies can present new opportunities to cultivate food. The two-day conference featured keynote speakers, Seth Goldman, Co-founder of Eat the Change, PLNT Burger, ETC Impact, and Honest Tea; Abby Maxman, President and CEO of Oxfam America; and Mary-Ellen McGroarty, Representative and Country Director for the World Food Programme in Afghanistan.

Each year the UNIS-UN team puts on an outstanding, thought-provoking conference and this year was no different. Congratulations to the UNIS-UN team on a tremendous conference.





# TUTORIAL HOUSE: FIRST LIVE PERFORMANCE

In our first live theatre production since 2019, the cast and crew of the Tutorial House play performed "Peter and the Starcatcher." The Tony-award winning play upends the century-old story of how a miserable orphan comes to be the "boy who would not grow up," also known as Peter Pan. Our students performed twice for families, friends, and faculty. The production brought our theatre back to life with a boom! Congratulations to the cast and crew on a fantastic performance. If you were unable to attend, you may view a recording of the show here, using the passcode: PSC2021.



# TUTORIAL HOUSE: GRADUATION

Congratulations to the Class of 2022!

The UNIS graduation ceremony returned to the General Assembly Hall at the United Nations and it certainly did not disappoint. The joy in the air was palpable as well as the strong connection between UNIS and the UN.

H.E. Ambassador Burhan Gafoor, Permanent Representative of Singapore at the United Nations, former UNIS trustee, and parent of UNIS alumni delivered a

moving commencement speech to the Class of 2022 reminding them to keep the pillars of the UN with them in all that they do moving forward.

Student and faculty speakers then filed the room with laughter as the audience reminisced on their time at UNIS while they also looked forward to their futures. Student musicians performed magnificently as their voices and instruments filled the GA. And of course, the receiving of diplomas was met with great enthusiasm. The evening concluded with a reception in the Delegates Dining Hall. Congratulations to the UNIS Class of 2022, we wish you all the best in your future endeavors.



Congratulations  
to the 2022 U-Thant  
Award and Salvador  
Uy Scholarship  
winner:

Maya Mukherjee, T3



# CLASS OF 2022: WHERE ARE THEY HEADED?

Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Amherst College

Babson College

Babson College

Barnard College

Boston College

Boston University

Brown University

Carleton College

Case Western Reserve University

College of William & Mary

Concordia University

Connecticut College

Cornell University

Dickinson College

Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne

Elon University

Emory University

ESCP Europe Business School

Exeter University

Gap Year

Georgia Institute of Technology

Hamilton College

Harvey Mudd College

Haverford College

Hotel School The Hague

Howard University

Hunter College - CUNY

IE University - Madrid

Imperial College London

Ithaca College

King's College, U of London

Lehigh University

Manhattan College

McGill University

New York University

Northeastern University

Maastricht University

Pennsylvania State University

Pratt Institute

Princeton University

Professional School in Germany

Queen Mary U of London

Rochester Institute of Technology

Royal Holloway, U of London

San Diego State University

Santa Clara University

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

University of St. Andrews

# CLASS OF 2022: WHERE ARE THEY HEADED?

Skidmore College

St. Andrews

Stevens Institute of Technology

SUNY Stony Brook University

SUNY Buffalo

SUNY Oswego

SUNY University at Albany

Syracuse University

The New School

Tilburg University

Tufts University

Tulane University

University of Edinburgh

University College London

University of Amsterdam

University of British Columbia

University of California, Irvine

University of California, Los Angeles

University of California, San Diego

University of Cambridge

University of Chicago

University of Edinburgh

University of Glasgow

University of La Verne

University of Leiden

University of Massachusetts

University of Oxford

University of Pennsylvania

University of Pittsburgh

University of Richmond

University of Southern California

University of St. Andrews

University of Sussex

University of Sussex

University of Toronto

University of Twente

University of Washington

Virginia Tech

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Wake Forest University

Washington University St. Louis

Yale University

# BIDDING FAREWELL TO UNIS QUEENS

It is with heavy hearts that we bid farewell to the UNIS Queens campus in a few short days. In 1983, UNIS Queens moved to the Jamaica Estates location and the School made a profound impact on the lives of many students, faculty, staff, and families. Though this year was bittersweet, the UNIS Queens community, led by UNIS Queens Principal Barbara Kennedy continued to provide students with a uniquely UNIS education. In the winter, the student council hosted spirit week which once again concluded with the much loved UNIS Queens Winter Olympics. The participants collaborated, problem solved, and most importantly had fun!

The campus put on multiple superb concerts, both in the fall and in the Spring. It is always impressive to hear the talent of our student musicians.

Students went on multiple field trips, including one to the UN - this was their first trip back since COVID.

This Spring students opened their restaurants to raise money for UNICEF. As is tradition, the students worked extremely hard to make delicious meals and desserts. Also, the Queens student athletes received their UNIS Sports Awards - congratulations to all winners!

In May, a forever Queens favorite returned - May Day! The students performed their songs and dance with pride and joy. It is always such a joyous event that truly showcases the spirit of the campus.



# UNIS QUEENS: M4 GRADUATION

It was quite fitting that our final day as a community on the Queens campus was the M4 graduation.

The evening before, the JA-M3 classes had their own commencement ceremony as they too are transitioning to new beginnings. The evening was filled with spectacular student performances and many smiling faces.

This morning's M4 graduation is always

one of my favorite days on the campus as we celebrate the oldest learners as they transition to high school. Once again, student performers and speakers moved the audience as they performed and spoke with their hearts, reminiscing and celebrating their time at UNIS Queens. Congratulations on your M4 graduation, enjoy your well-deserved summer!



# UNIS QUEENS

Many UNIS community members gathered to say goodbye to the Queens campus. It was quite moving to see so many current and former students, faculty, staff and families come together to celebrate and commemorate the Queens campus.



# NEXT YEAR'S EVENTS

## **Tuesday, September 6**

First Day of School

## **Monday, October 4**

UN Day Observed - School Closed

## **Tues., October 25-Friday, October 28**

October Break

## **Wednesday, November 9 (evening), Thursday, November 10, Friday, November 11**

Parent Teacher Conferences

## **Wednesday, November 23 - Friday November 25**

Thanksgiving Break - School  
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



Enjoy your well  
deserved summer  
breaks. We will see  
you next year!



