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## Headline News

### SABIS® Celebrates 130 Years of Empowering Future Generations

This year, SABIS® is celebrating its 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To mark this special milestone, the SABIS® Board hosted a gala dinner at the Phoenicia Hotel in Lebanon on July 8, 2016, for SABIS® Network school directors, honored guests, and VIPs. Under the theme of “130 Years of Empowering Future Generations,” the event was a tribute to SABIS®’s legacy of empowering generations of students with a solid education that prepares them for the challenges that lie ahead.

Over 600 guests were warmly welcomed by SABIS® Co-founders Leila Saad and Ralph Bistany as well as SABIS® Board members. The evening opened with the Lebanese National Anthem, followed by speeches from SABIS® Co-founder Mrs. Leila Saad, the Lebanese Minister of Education and Higher Education His Excellency Mr. Elias Bou Saab, and SABIS® President Mr. Carl Bistany. Guests then enjoyed a short video compilation of testimonials from alumni around the world and were captivated by a live performance of the popular song “We are the World” sung by 24 students aged 7-13 from SABIS® Network schools in Lebanon. As the evening progressed, guests enjoyed an enchanting night full of live music and entertainment.

The celebration was rounded off by a cake cutting ceremony in honor of the organization’s 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary. During the evening, SABIS® Co-Founder Mr. Ralph Bistany also announced that SABIS® School El-Metn, a tuition-free, private school in Lebanon which is fully funded by the SABIS® Foundation, will henceforth be renamed the Leila C. Saad SABIS® School El-Metn in honor of Leila Saad’s ongoing dedication and commitment to the success of the school.



*Pictured from left to right: Ghassan Kansou, Victor Saad, Mahdi Kansou, Leila Saad, Carl Bistany, Serge Bakhos, Joe Achkar, George Saad*

“Empowering Future Generations” was also the theme of the organization’s annual Directors’ Meeting. The meeting, which is held in a different city each year, took place in Lebanon from July 3-9, 2016, to mark the occasion of the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary and brought together close to 100 SABIS® Network school directors, SABIS® Board members, and senior SABIS® staff from around the world. The meetings provided attendees with an opportunity to learn about the latest network developments, engage in reflection of the past year, and hear about areas of focus for the year ahead.



*20<sup>th</sup> Annual SABIS® Directors’ Meeting attendees pose for a group photo at the International School of Choueifat in Choueifat, Lebanon*

For more information about SABIS®, visit [sabis.net](http://sabis.net). To view pictures from the 130<sup>th</sup> gala celebration, visit our [Facebook](#) page.

## SABIS® Network Poised for Expansion

In today’s world, parents are becoming increasingly discerning, looking to give their children the best education possible and thereby a head-start in life. With over 130 years of experience in delivering an outstanding education that prepares students to achieve success in a changing world, SABIS® Network schools are a popular choice among discerning parents, and as such the global network continues to grow.

In the 2016-17 academic year, the International School of Choueifat – Ajman, located in the emirate of Ajman, U.A.E., will join the SABIS® Network of schools. ISC-Ajman will be the twelfth SABIS® Network school in the U.A.E. and the first in Ajman. Situated on a 70,000 square meter campus, the purpose-built school will be equipped with state-of-the-art facilities including spacious classrooms, science and computer laboratories, and a performance hall, as well as extensive sports facilities. In its first year of operation, ISC-Ajman will welcome students from Kindergarten to Grade 6. Additional grade levels will be added in each subsequent year of the school’s operation until the school reaches a full K-12 offering.

Also in the U.A.E. and driven by growing demand from the community for additional places, Ruwais Private School will be moving to a new, purpose-built campus situated on a 60,000 square meter site in September 2016. Located in the center of Ruwais Housing Complex, approximately 250 km west of the capital Abu Dhabi, the school will be able to accommodate approximately 4,000 students.

The SABIS® International School – Yas Island (SIS-Yas Island) located on Yas Island in Dubai, U.A.E., will be moving into Phase



*A rendering of the full SIS-Yas Island campus*

2 of construction, which includes the completion of the full school campus. This phase will include the completion of science and computer laboratories, a performance hall, semi-Olympic-sized swimming pool, indoor/outdoor basketball and tennis courts, Olympic soccer field with a running track, cafeteria, and library.

In the Americas, construction on the SABIS® International School – Costa Verde (SIS-Costa Verde) campus began in May 2016. Located on a campus of 57,000 square meters within the Costa Verde Community Development Project, the school is set to open its doors in September 2017. In its first stage, the state-of-the-art campus will include Kindergarten and Lower School academic buildings, a Kindergarten playground including a car track, Lower School playground, gymnasium, and an Olympic-sized soccer pitch with a 400m running track. As the school community grows, the campus will be expanded to include additional academic buildings, playgrounds for older students, extensive sports facilities, and a 500-seat auditorium.



*Local wildlife discovered during construction in Panama is carefully handled and relocated in the wild*

Further south, in São Paulo, Brazil, design and construction documents are being drawn up for the SABIS® Escola Internacional – Campinas. Construction is scheduled to commence in September 2017 and the school is scheduled to open in March 2018 in line with the southern hemisphere school year calendar.

Across the Atlantic, in Nairobi, Kenya, design drawings are currently in the final phase for SABIS® International School – Nairobi. Construction is expected to begin in October 2016. Phase 1 construction on the 80,000 square meter plot of land will include an administration building, Kindergarten and Lower School buildings, as well as a gymnasium. The school is expected to open its doors in September 2017.

Additionally, SABIS® is poised to open schools in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia (Khobar), and Kazakhstan as early as September 2017. If you are interested in learning about SABIS® Network schools opening in your region, follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



## SABIS® STARS Showcases Student Creativity

On April 22 and 23, 2016, 600 students from the SABIS® Network participated in the SABIS® STARS (SLO® Talent & Academic RegionalS) educational contest at the International School of Choueifat – Dubai in the U.A.E. The biennial event brought together students from 28 SABIS® Network schools from 12 countries to meet and compete in events that are designed to challenge them in academics and beyond.



SABIS® STARS 2016 participants

The event was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and showcase the many ways students in SABIS® Network schools are encouraged to explore and develop their talents, interests, and creativity. Active participation categories of competition included advertising, Arabic poetry – reciting, debate, science fair, public speaking, spelling bee, painting (senior students), and “Our World – Our Concern,” an event in which schools prepared awareness campaigns to be carried out within their community to address a problem they have identified. The competition also included “passive” categories for which students did not travel to the official event. Passive categories included painting (junior students), creative writing, and photography.

All participating SABIS® Network schools had their share of victory. ISC-Sharjah took home first place trophies in three categories including junior painting, senior science fair, and “Our World – Our Concern.” ISC-Choueifat and ISC-Lahore went home with two first place trophies each in photography and junior science fair and public speaking and advertising, respectively. Abdulaziz International School Al-Sulaimaniah, ISC-Cairo, ISC-6 October, the SIS-Adma, and ISC-Dubai Investments Park took first place, respectively, in the remaining competitions including Arabic poetry, spelling bee, senior painting, debate, and creative writing.

The event was a huge success, with students from SABIS® Network schools treating the audience to an outstanding showcase of skill, talent, creativity, and wit. Competition was fierce and

the judges, who included selected parents and professionals from the community, were impressed by the participants’ work, camaraderie, and sportsmanship.

*“SABIS® STARS provides opportunities for students to explore ideas, develop confidence, and articulate opinions. It allows them to showcase their knowledge, talent, and creativity; develop networking skills; improve teamwork abilities; and widen their cultural enrichment,”* said Mr. Victor Saad, SABIS® Vice President, during the closing ceremony. *“From public speaking to Arabic poetry recital, photography, live painting, debate, and the science fair, the skills that were displayed here in the last two days were nothing short of spectacular!”*



Live painting participant demonstrates her creativity



ISC-Lahore students present their advertising campaign at SABIS® STARS

SABIS® STARS is one of a number of international events that are held in order to bring together students from SABIS® Network schools around the world to compete in a positive, healthy, and inspiring environment. This year, thanks to the hard work and dedication of participating students, schools, parents, and the community, the event was an all-round success.

For more information about SABIS® STARS 2016, visit the official Facebook page at [facebook.com/SABISSTARS](https://facebook.com/SABISSTARS).

## SABIS® International Charter School Ranked among Best in U.S.

In the spring of each year, *U.S. News and World Report*, a respected news and information service, issues its ranking of the “Best High Schools” in America. In compiling the 2016 list, the publication evaluated over 28,000 schools first to determine eligibility and then to rank them nationally based on their performance on state assessments and how well they prepare students for college. Placing in the top 12 percent of the ca. 19,900 eligible high schools studied, the SABIS® International Charter School in Springfield, Massachusetts, earned a place on the “Best High Schools” list and was awarded a silver medal for its academic performance for the seventh consecutive year.

In determining eligibility and ranking for the 2016 list, *U.S. News and World Report* worked with research firm RTI International. The rankings were calculated based on four factors: First, a determination was made to establish whether or not each school’s students were performing better than statistically expected for students in that state. Second, schools were assessed based on whether or not their disadvantaged students – black, Hispanic and low-income – were outperforming disadvantaged students in the state. Third, schools had to show a minimum graduation rate of 68 percent, (based on the Every Student Succeeds Act, schools that have a graduation rate below 68 percent must receive additional state resources). And fourth, schools were assigned a College Readiness Index (CPI) based on their AP® or IB participation rate – the number of 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students in the 2014-2015 academic year who took at least one AP® or IB test before or during their senior year, divided by the number of 12<sup>th</sup>-graders – and how well the students did on those tests.

SICS is a school that currently enrolls 1,574 students in Kindergarten through Grade 12. The school’s student body is comprised of 71 percent minority students. Fifty-four (54) percent of SICS students are from economically-disadvantaged families. Ninety-eight (98) percent of the school’s students are proficient in English and 92 percent are proficient in mathematics. The school’s graduation rate stands at an impressive 98 percent, and the 108 students in the SICS graduating Class of 2016 earned \$12.8 million in scholarships.

Commenting on the rankings, Mr. George Saad, SABIS® Vice President of U.S. Operations said, “We are very proud to have SABIS® International Charter School included on this prestigious list once again and are committed to challenging our students and helping them all achieve their full potential – in the classroom and in pursuit of their talents and dreams in college and beyond.”

Like all schools within the global SABIS® Network, SICS implements the SABIS® Educational System™, an enriching program that provides students with solid academic tools that help them achieve outstanding academic results.

For more information about the SABIS® International Charter School, visit [sics.sabis.net](http://sics.sabis.net). Click [here](#) to view the school’s *U.S. News and World Report* ranking.

## SABIS® Represented at Global Education Conferences

As a leading education management organization that is committed to changing the world through education, SABIS® regularly participates in education conferences held around the world. These conferences give SABIS® the opportunity to share its experience and perspective with others, promote the proven SABIS® Educational System™, and stay up-to-date with

the latest developments in the field. Several important education conferences were attended by a variety of individuals on the SABIS® team over the past few months.

In April 2016, the CADE 2016 Conferencia Anual de Ejecutivos (Annual Executive Conference) took place in Panama. The annual conference, which is organized by APEDE, Asociación Panameña de Ejecutivos de Empresa, focused on opportunities and challenges as well as resource and skill development in support of the upcoming opening of the >2X expansion of the Panama Canal. SABIS®’s Jose Afonso, Director of U.S. Business Development, attended the conference and participated as a panelist in a discussion that dealt with public education reform and improvement. Afonso outlined SABIS®’s 20+-year track record of success in the U.S. public charter school market and fielded questions from the audience, which included the Minister of Education, Ms. Marcela Paredes de Vazquez. The CADE conference was also attended by Mr. Udo Schulz, SABIS® Senior Vice President of International Business Development, and Mr. Rubén Márquez, SABIS® Panama Project Manager, who is overseeing the start-up of the SABIS® International School – Costa Verde in 2017.

*“Panama is a small but very visible and strategically-located country essential for our network’s expansion into Latin America,” said Schulz. “SABIS®’s presence at the premier executive conference in the country is vital to spreading the message of how a first class, private, SABIS® college-preparatory school can contribute to the economic development of the country.”*



*Pictured from left to right: Rubén Márquez, SABIS® Project Manager – Panama, Marcela Paredes de Vazquez, Panama Minister of Education, and Jose Afonso, Director SABIS® U.S. Business Development*

SABIS® was also represented at the 2016 ASU-GSV Summit held in San Diego, California, from April 18-20, 2016. Among the most high-profile education conferences held annually, the ASU-GSV Summit is an education technology conference attended by over 4,000 education entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, and executives. SABIS® participated in the summit as a member of the Innovation Advisory Council, a group of organizations that advocates on behalf of the for-profit, private sector. SABIS® Vice President of U.S. Operations, Mr. George Saad, joined Jose Afonso and other Innovation Advisory Council members in presenting a variety of sessions to highlight the benefits of for-profit, private sector education management.





SABIS® Vice President of U.S. Operations, Mr. George Saad (second from the left), during panel discussion at the 2016 ASU-GSV Summit

In April 2016 representatives from SABIS® also attended the biennial **International Finance Corporation (IFC) Private Education Conference**. Held in Hong Kong, China, on April 25 and 26, 2016, this conference welcomed 400 global thought leaders in public and private education for the purpose of exploring the role of business partnerships in promoting the impact and sustainability of education. The conference, which was attended by Mr. Ayham Ayche, SABIS® Business Development Manager, and Mrs. Amy Wesley, SABIS® Corporate Director of Marketing and Communications, provided an ideal backdrop for the promotion of *Last Bell: breaking the gridlock in education reform*, a book co-authored by SABIS® President Carl Bistany about the importance of engaging the private sector in raising public education standards.

In June 2016, SABIS® attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Education Innovation Africa conference held in Nairobi, Kenya. The conference focused on improving private sector participation in delivering sustainable educational programs in sub-Saharan Africa. The conference explored the roles of private capital, leadership, and technology in improving public, private, and social education across the African continent. Speakers at the conference included leaders from the global education industry. The conference keynote panel included Carl Bistany, President of SABIS®, and Harry Patrinos, Head of Education at the World Bank, as they examined ways that the private and public sectors could work together to deliver basic, affordable universal education. Other speakers included Mark DeSario, founder and CEO of Investbridge Capital, which is one of three founding members of Africa Crest Education (ACE), a consortium that includes SABIS®, Investbridge Capital, and Centum, Kenya’s largest publicly listed investment company. DeSario discussed his views on how to invest in education in Africa and explained how ACE is positioned to invest in Africa for the long term with a focus on providing quality education through the SABIS® Educational System™.

*“The conference created a lot of buzz around the SABIS® model, which is coming to sub-Saharan Africa for the first time, initially at the SABIS® International School – Nairobi (targeted to open in 2017), but with more schools in the pipeline in several cities,”* said SABIS®’s Ayham Ayche, who was in attendance. *“Our peers were certainly excited by SABIS®’s clear desire to make a difference and our commitment to becoming part of the fabric in the communities we wish to serve.”*

To find out more information about the SABIS® International School – Costa Verde in Panama, visit [siscostaverde.sabis.net](http://siscostaverde.sabis.net). To learn about SABIS®’s expansion plans in Africa, visit [africa.sabis.net](http://africa.sabis.net).

## SIS UK Changes Name to Ashwicke Hall School

As of the start of the 2016-17 academic year, the SABIS International School, Bath, UK (SIS UK) will be operating under the new name of Ashwicke Hall School, Bath, UK. The name change has been made to reflect the rich heritage and history of the Ashwicke Estate, which has been home to a SABIS® Network school since 1983.

With the new name comes a new logo that depicts the iconic turret on the front corner of the main building, which is on the registry of historically significant buildings in the U.K.



**ASHWICKE HALL SCHOOL**  
Bath, UK

The name change heralds a new era for the school, which will continue to implement the high-quality SABIS® Educational System™ and help all students achieve their full potential. Ashwicke Hall School is a co-educational day and boarding school for 11 to 18 year olds. The school offers a full-year academic program in addition to the popular SABIS® Study Abroad Program and hosts the SABIS® Educational Summer Camp.

For information about all the programs offered at Ashwicke Hall School, visit [ashwickehallschool.sabis.net](http://ashwickehallschool.sabis.net) or follow the school on [facebook.com/ashwickehall](https://www.facebook.com/ashwickehall).

**SABIS®**

*Your gateway to an opportunity of a lifetime and lasting friendship*

**ASHWICKE HALL SCHOOL  
BATH, UK FULL YEAR  
ABROAD PROGRAM**  
Open to SABIS® Network students in Grades 7-12 (levels I-N)  
(Non-SABIS® Network students are welcome to apply)

**ASHWICKE HALL SCHOOL  
BATH, UK STUDY  
ABROAD PROGRAM**  
Open to SABIS® Network students in levels I, J, & K  
Terms 1, 2, 3 (one or two terms)  
Academic Year 2016-17

For more information  
[ashwickehallschool.sabis.net](http://ashwickehallschool.sabis.net)  
AshwickeHall

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[sabis.net](http://sabis.net)

## Academics

### SABIS® Regional Center Conferences Ensure Delivery of High-Quality Education

As an organization that has an active presence in 20 countries on five continents, SABIS® places great importance on delivering a high-quality education to all students. To ensure quality across borders, SABIS® Network schools are supported by four Regional Centers located in the U.S., Cairo, the Levant (countries in the eastern Mediterranean), and the Gulf.



*Participants at the Regional Center conference for the Levant pose for a group photo at SABIS® Educational Services in Lebanon*

To facilitate the role of regional centers in supporting network schools, the SABIS® Academic Development Department holds annual conferences for each region. In Cairo, Egypt, 40 participants met for a two-day conference on April 8 and 9, 2016. On April 15, 2016, SABIS® hosted a conference for the Regional Center in the Levant region, of which 45 staff members met at SABIS® Educational Services in Adma, Lebanon, for a full day of meetings and break-out sessions. On April 25 and 26, 2016, SABIS® held a conference for the Gulf Regional Center



*Participants from the U.S. Regional Center pose for a group photo in Lebanon*

in the U.A.E. At all three conferences, participants discussed curriculum updates, exam preparation and management, and content challenges. Additional sessions focused on the revision of tools and techniques to enhance the learning experience for students, and methods of enhancing communication between SABIS® and the regional centers. The agenda also included a review of changes in external exams including British Advanced Levels and the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) as well as the integration of the French Baccalaureate into a number of schools. Last, but not least, participants reviewed the operation of SABIS® proprietary tools and products including SABIS® E-books, PrePList, and the SABIS® Integrated Learning System (ILS).

Participant feedback from the conferences was extremely positive. "I really enjoyed the conference. It was one of the best conferences that I have ever attended. Discussing the new curriculum items with the SABIS® team helped me better understand what is happening on the ground," said one participant from the U.A.E. Regional Center.

In addition to the aforementioned conferences, SABIS® also holds two academic conferences each year for the academic team from the U.S. Regional Center. The first conference is typically held in October in Lebanon. The second is held in March at the SABIS® Educational Systems, INC. office in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, U.S. These bi-annual conferences serve as a strategic opportunity for the SABIS® Academic Development Department and U.S. Regional Center teams to discuss student and school performance, review preparations for the ever-evolving state examinations, and exchange ideas on new opportunities to enhance students' educational experiences.

### SABIS® Expands Book Series

The SABIS® Book Series, which includes over 2,000 titles across all grade levels, is developed to dovetail with the SABIS® curriculum to ensure an effective and efficient learning process for students enrolled in SABIS® Network schools. In preparation for the 2016-17 academic year, 139 new and 111 revised titles are ready to be launched in the subjects of Arabic, computing, economics, English, math, science, and Spanish. These titles will be used by SABIS® Network schools around the global network and will serve students in Pre-school through Grade 13.

For Panama alone, SABIS® has developed 36 new titles in both English and Spanish in preparation for the opening of the SABIS® International School – Costa Verde in Panama in September 2017.

SABIS® also revamped the ACE Mathematics Series to align the books with the new curriculum standards. Additionally, Arabic language titles and workbooks were developed to continue the Arabic Reader series for students in different levels. Additionally, SABIS® is poised to launch an entirely new series of materials including picture books used by teachers as storytelling tools for Pre-school classes in Lebanon and Saudi Arabia.

All revisions and additions to the SABIS® Book Series facilitate an efficient learning process and assist students in the acquisition of a solid foundation of knowledge and skills.

For more information about the SABIS® Book Series, visit [sabis.net](http://sabis.net). To stay up-to-date with the latest SABIS® Network news, follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



*A selection of new titles that will be launched in the 2016-17 academic year*



## SABIS® IT Department Delivering Top Quality Products through SCRUM

In SABIS® Network schools, Information Technology (IT) is leveraged for the purpose of enhancing the learning process and ensuring utmost efficiency. IT tools and systems, nearly all of which are developed specifically by SABIS®, are a part of every aspect of life in SABIS® Network schools.

Behind the scenes, a team of 90+ IT professionals develops and deploys relevant, modern, and useful software, tools, and applications that help schools foster a positive learning environment, keep parents well-informed about their children's academic performance and involvement in life at school, and enhance students' learning experience.

In order to streamline the development and deployment process among a team of such size while ensuring the highest product quality, the SABIS® IT Department in Adma, Lebanon, implements the SCRUM methodology for managing software delivery since 2013. A subset of "Agile" software development, where requirements and solutions evolve through collaboration between self-organizing cross-functional teams, SCRUM is one of the most broadly used methodologies for software development management around the world. It is a lightweight process framework that allows organizations to deliver working software more frequently, allowing them to adjust smoothly to rapidly-changing requirements and produce a product that meets evolving business goals.

Unlike the classic top-down process, the SCRUM methodology does not need to wait for a product to go through the entire production phase before being tested and deployed. Instead, the software development process is broken down into "slices" and each slice goes through the entire process, including testing, before moving on to the next stage.

There are numerous benefits to SCRUM project management. From an organizational perspective, it increases the quality of deliverables, copes better with change, provides better estimates while spending less time creating them, and allows for more control of the project schedule and state. From an end-user perspective, SCRUM ensures that new software and technology introduced is user-friendly, glitch-free, and fully functional.

*"Ultimately, the SABIS® IT Department adopted this management style in order to support our goal of delivering top-quality software, applications, and products specifically designed to meet the requirements and needs of students, teachers, parents, directors, and Academic Quality Controllers around the world,"* said Mr. Elie Dagher, SABIS® Director – Software Development.

For more information about the use of technology in the SABIS® Network, visit [sabis.net](http://sabis.net).

## SLO® Prefects Go the Extra Mile

In line with SABIS®'s core value of making a difference, students across the global network are encouraged to be active in their school and local communities. Most notably is the effort that has been made by students through the SABIS Student Life Organization® (SLO®) to address issues in their communities that they feel strongly about.

This year, SABIS® STARS (SLO® Talent & Academic RegionalS ), a biennial educational competition designed to celebrate and showcase the many ways students are encouraged to explore and develop their talents, recognized the hard work and effort made by students to make a difference in their communities. With the introduction of a new category of competition called "Our World – Our Concern," SABIS® STARS encouraged students to identify a problem existing in their community, do in-depth research, create an awareness campaign, and then present their work.

Teams of SLO® students embraced "Our World – Our Concern" and organized impressive campaigns that addressed issues such as cyber-bullying, the downside of social media, the global water crisis, rapid climate change, and the preservation of cultural heritage.

SLO® prefects from ISC-Sharjah in the U.A.E. put great effort into building awareness on cyber-bullying. The students approached their project in three parts starting at the school and ending in the emirate's busiest streets. Prefects started with a 14-day social media campaign informing their followers about how to recognize and stop cyber-bullying. The SLO® at the school also held a full-blown campaign on campus with presentations and flyers and posters delivering an anti-bullying message. Following on their campaign's success on campus, SLO® prefects took their cause to the streets, where they spread awareness on cyber-bullying through brief discussions and interviews with passersby.

The "Our World – Our Concern" team from ISC-Koura in Lebanon focused their project on the preservation of cultural heritage. The prefects at ISC-Koura conducted a survey to determine whether or not the value of cultural heritage fades over generations. Based on the survey results, SLO® prefects designed a school-wide campaign for students at all grade levels. The campaign included decorating the school with posters and crafts that represented different parts of Lebanon. A variety of activities for all ages to enjoy including cedar tree planting, storytelling, and writing competitions. SLO® also organized a Lebanese week in which they held an only-Lebanese bake sale for students to enjoy and a "tarbouch" event, in which students learned about traditional clothing. Going above and beyond, the team reached out to Lebanese citizens living abroad and had them film themselves singing the national anthem to remind them of their roots.



*ISC-Koura prefects plant a cedar tree with students from KG 3, Class of 2031*

Teams of SLO® prefects throughout the network appreciated the opportunity to showcase their outreach projects at SABIS® STARS, but their work was driven by a much larger interest in making a difference in their communities. This is especially evident in the “Decatur Water, Art and You” (WAY) project, which involved students from the Lowell Collegiate Charter School (LCCS), a SABIS® Network charter school in Lowell, Massachusetts. LCCS students joined others in their community to work on the Decatur WAY project, a community service project that transformed a rundown alley into a safe place where people can stroll and enjoy artwork created by Lowell students including those from LCCS.

Upon completion of the Decatur WAY project, a special event was organized and included speeches and a special musical performance by LCCS children. Student participation in this community project, which took approximately five years to complete, was significant in strengthening students’ confidence and motivation in making a difference in their community and beyond. To read more about the art walk and watch LCCS students’ performance, visit [sab.is/PIBRYK](http://sab.is/PIBRYK).

In addition to providing an outstanding education, SABIS® Network schools around the world focus on educating students on the importance of actively making a difference in their communities. By developing a sense of responsibility for others and their societies, students in SABIS® Network schools grow into young adults who are socially aware and ready to make valuable contributions to their communities.

If you would like to read more about SLO® activities across the network, visit [slonews.sabis.net](http://slonews.sabis.net).

## SAGA

### Alumni Benefit from SABIS® Alumni Global Association Membership

The SABIS® Alumni Global Association (SAGA) unites all graduates from schools in the global SABIS® Network. It currently has 7,500 registered alumni worldwide and is growing rapidly. With the number of registered members increasing by 30% annually, new and existing members are enjoying the many benefits offered by SAGA.

SAGA members have the chance to connect with people from all over the globe. They can stay connected through SAGA’s specialized mobile application, which notifies them about nearby SAGA members. Through this application, members who are new to a country can get advice on a range of topics including

employment or business opportunities from members who reside there.

SAGA also brings its members together on a regular basis through social events such as lunch gatherings, outdoor activities, and gala dinners. These events present opportunities for members and their families to meet and reminisce about school days or form new friendships. In addition, SAGA members, according to their chapters, benefit from discounts and deals at local restaurants and shops.

On a professional level, SAGA offers specialized development seminars exclusively for alumni who are seeking to improve their professional presence in the sector they work in. SAGA also shares new positions opening within the global SABIS® Network. Further, SAGA is currently working to incorporate vacancies at organizations outside of SABIS®, thus giving alumni exposure to a broader range of employment opportunities.

SAGA’s mission is to create a dynamic, global forum that provides opportunities for SABIS® Network school alumni to connect with each other. Its objectives are to provide graduates with a platform to maintain ties to their respective SABIS® Network schools and to offer opportunities for socializing, networking, and career growth.

To learn more about SAGA, go to [saga.sabis.net](http://saga.sabis.net) or follow SAGA on Facebook at [facebook.com/SABISalumni](https://facebook.com/SABISalumni).

## HR

### SABIS® Educational Services Hosts Job Fairs

With an active presence in 20 countries on five continents, the SABIS® Network currently includes over 8,000 individuals working in schools or SABIS® corporate offices. In an effort to source a greater number of skilled, qualified, driven individuals, the Human Resources (HR) Department at SABIS® Educational Services (SES) in Lebanon recently hosted their own job fairs at SABIS® Network schools in the region. The SABIS® HR team welcomed hundreds of guests to the International School of Choueifat in Amman, Jordan, on January 30 and 31, 2016, and SABIS® International School – Adma in Lebanon, on April 8 and 9, 2016.

On a mission to deliver information about SABIS® and the benefits of working within the network, SES recruiters met with candidates, held five-minute face-to-face interviews, and distributed flyers, brochures, and branded giveaways such as pens, USB bracelets, bags, and more.

Job fairs have proven to be very valuable to SES recruiters, who are able to screen dozens of candidates in brief, face-to-face interviews, giving them a quick impression of the candidates. In the brief interviews, recruiters complete profile sheets on candidates while delivering information about SABIS®, SABIS® Network schools, and the recruitment process in a comfortable setting.

Beyond hosting their own job fairs, SES recruiters made an impression on thousands of students from top universities in Lebanon – including Notre Dame University, St. Joseph University, The American University of Beirut, University of Balamand, The Lebanese American University, and The Lebanese University – and those who attended a job fair hosted by Al Faisal University in Saudi Arabia.



Following each of the job fairs, the HR Department at SES noticed an increase in the number of professional résumés they receive. “Recruitment fairs have proven to be great way for us to gain exposure to local individuals who are interested in joining the SABIS® Network,” said Mira Abu Rustum, Regional HR Manager at SES. “With the right marketing and word of mouth, we usually get around 200-250 candidates, most of them ambitious, motivated applicants looking for a career and future with a respectable institution like SABIS®.”

Several job opportunities for part-time and full-time jobs as well as internships are available across the SABIS® Network. Among the openings are teaching and administrative positions in Azerbaijan, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the U.A.E. With the network expanding annually, new positions open regularly. To keep up with the latest vacancies in the SABIS® Network, visit [careers.sabis.net](http://careers.sabis.net).

## Feature School

### International School of Choueifat – Choueifat



*International School of Choueifat – Choueifat Campus*

Fondly known as the “SABIS® Mother School,” the International School of Choueifat in Choueifat, Lebanon, is celebrating a major milestone this year: its 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary! As the oldest school in the global SABIS® Network, ISC-Choueifat is where the story of SABIS® begins.

### History

The story of the International School of Choueifat begins in 1886. Founded by Tanios Saad and Louisa Proctor, the school was originally a school for girls set up in an abandoned silk factory in the village of Choueifat, Lebanon. At a time when village girls had little or no access to education outside the home, the village surprisingly embraced this revolutionary idea. In 1888, the school began to accept boys from the village in response to demand from the surrounding communities.

In 1942, Tanios Saad was ready to pass the torch to his son, Charles Saad. Imbued with a passion for education, like his father, Charles took the school to new heights. Soon after, in 1945, Charles Saad married Leila Baddoura, who became



*One of the oldest photographs of the staff and students, taken circa 1895*

the head mistress of the school. In 1954, Ralph Bistany joined the school, initially as a mathematics and physics teacher, completing the trifecta that would lead the school for the next 27 years.

Despite two world wars, political turmoil, foreign invasion, and the loss of Charles Saad in 1981, the International School of Choueifat persevered, grew, and prospered, continuing on its mission to provide an outstanding education and help all students achieve their full potential.

### ISC-Choueifat Today

Today, ISC-Choueifat welcomes close to 1,600 students in Kindergarten through Grade 12 on its picturesque, original campus nestled in the pine hills of Choueifat. In addition to providing a solid academic education that prepares students for success in college and beyond, ISC-Choueifat also offers students a rich array of activities, clubs, and sports that enriches and enhances their school life.

### Academics

Throughout its long history, ISC-Choueifat has built a successful track record and a reputation for excellence. ISC-Choueifat students have become known for having a solid academic foundation and the essential life skills needed to achieve success. Students are encouraged to take an active interest in their education as well as the education of their peers and are motivated to exceed their own expectations. “ISC-Choueifat has made me aware of my abilities, leading me to challenge myself and exceed my boundaries,” stated a current Grade 11 student.

The results of ISC-Choueifat students on external examinations are testament to the high-quality education being delivered at the school. Over the past six academic years, 50% of



*ISC-Choueifat students discovering the wonders of science*

students received an “Honorable” mention on the Lebanese Baccalaureate exams. Additionally, over 75% of students achieved a 4 or 5 in Advanced Placement® (AP®) exams and 95% of students received an A or B on British-based external examinations including IGCSEs and A Levels.

ISC-Choueifat students also have a long track record of excelling on SAT exams, a standardized test that plays a pivotal role in acceptance to many leading U.S. and international universities. This year, an ISC-Choueifat student joined 0.04% of students worldwide to receive a perfect score of 1600 on the SAT I.

Equipped with a solid education and outstanding performance on external exams, ISC-Choueifat students gain acceptance to leading universities in Lebanon and around the world. This year alone, ISC-Choueifat graduates have been accepted to The American University of Beirut (Lebanon), Yale University (U.S.), Cornell University (U.S.), The University of Oxford (U.K.), and Parsons School of Design (U.S.), among others.

### **Student Life at ISC-Choueifat**

ISC-Choueifat students enjoy an extremely active life at school. There are many clubs available that offer students countless opportunities to learn, discover, create, and have fun! ISC-Choueifat clubs include reading, drama, art, poetry, debate, French, Spanish, creative writing, debate, public speaking, Big Brother/Big Sister, Rubik’s cube, and chess.

Through the SABIS Student Life Organization® (SLO®), students also engage in numerous outreach and social responsibility projects, which encourage them to empathize with those who are less fortunate than themselves and help them develop a commitment to giving back to their community.

Community service initiatives were implemented at all levels of the school in the 2016-17 academic year. ISC Grade 10 SLO® prefects visited a local public school, where they set up a new library for the school and donated over 400 books. They also spent time repairing the playground and painting its walls with multiple colors. ISC SLO® prefects in the Lower School Department taught first, second, and third graders the importance of giving back by helping the younger children design creative hats, which they donated to children in the Children’s Cancer Center of Lebanon. ISC Grade 11 SLO® Outreach prefects visited the elderly people in the “Hamlin Nursing Home,” where they spent the day getting to know some of the residents and appreciating their wisdom and life experiences.



*ISC-Choueifat students create a green wall on their Green Apple Day of Service*

In line with the school’s commitment of developing students’ respect and love for nature and the environment, the school organized a “Green Apple Day of Service” on October 10, 2015. The event involved the entire student body which enjoyed activities such as planting a vertical garden and presentations from Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) qualified engineers and professionals on water treatment and garbage landfills. At the end of the day, the students distributed bracelets to remind everyone of the ISC-Choueifat commitment to being eco-friendly and to working toward a sustainable community!

Through SLO®, ISC-Choueifat students also have exciting opportunities to express themselves artistically. The Poetry Night, which was held in February 2016, the Junior Talent Show and the Art Fair held in April 2016, as well as the stunning dance performance at the UNESCO Palace-Beirut were wonderful showcases for the students’ many talents!



*ISC-Choueifat students bring down the house at UNESCO Palace-Beirut*

This year, the school launched an anti-bullying awareness campaign, raising the awareness about the negative impact of bullying and how to create a welcoming and all-inclusive school environment for all. The SLO® also held a school-wide reading campaign, encouraging students of all ages to share their favorite book with their friends.

On an academic level, SLO® at ISC-Choueifat encourages and supports students academically through study groups, peer tutoring, and the Shadow Teacher® program in which students work a week ahead of their classmates and prepare to deliver lessons.



*An ISC-Choueifat peer tutor helps a friend prepare for the SAT*



## Sports

The sports program at ISC-Choueifat is an extremely rich and varied program that ensures students develop a healthy body as well as a healthy mind. There are numerous sports that encourage students to get active including basketball, soccer, street ball, handball, volleyball, track and field, badminton, and gymnastics.

Over its long history, ISC-Choueifat has been a perennial winner of national sports championships. This year, the ISC-Choueifat team won first place in the Lebanese championship for "Kids Athletics." The school's track and field team won 5 gold, 8 silver, and 2 bronze medals in the Lebanese championship for track and field. The girls' junior basketball team won the Lebanese Championship, and the girls' senior basketball team won second place in the Lebanese Championship for Schools. In gymnastics, the ISC-Choueifat school team brought home 1 gold medal, 1 silver, and 1 bronze medal in the Lebanese Championship for Gymnastics. The varsity soccer team won the Lebanese Championship for Schools. The senior varsity team for street ball won 1<sup>st</sup> place and the junior varsity street ball team won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Lebanese Championships.



*ISC-Choueifat girls' basketball team in action*

## ISC-Choueifat Alumni Association (ISCAA)

The bonds that are created between students and their school last long after graduation day. In fact, over the years, ISC-Choueifat alumni have maintained a close-knit community that brings together generations of graduates. Their slogan "linking generations" reflects their mission.

To celebrate the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ISC-Choueifat, the newly elected ISCAA Board hosted a "Back to School" fundraising dinner at the Le-Maillon restaurant at Sofil Center in Beirut, Lebanon, on the April 20, 2016. Over a three-course meal that was complemented by music, alumni from different generations gathered to catch up with old friends and reminisce about their school years. Throughout the event, the alumni were introduced to the members of the new ISCAA Board.

Toward the end of the event, alumni were invited to participate in a draw in order to raise funds which, along with gifts from several generous donors, will be used to support the first ISCAA scholarship program. This new program, which was announced during the event, will allow students to benefit from scholarships in the upcoming academic year 2016-2017.



*Former classmates pose for a photo*

## 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

To mark the occasion of the school's 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary, several events and celebrations have taken place throughout the year. On October 16, 2015, ISC-Choueifat celebrated "Founders' Day" with a ceremony held at the school that included speeches, musical performances by the school band, a buffet, and a lively performance of the "Dabke," a traditional Lebanese dance.

On March 18, 2016, ISC-Choueifat held a gala dinner for teachers hosted by the SABIS® Co-founders, Leila Saad and Ralph Bistany. The evening's celebrations included speeches, live entertainment including staff performances, a documentary celebrating the school's rich history and achievements, and a cake cutting ceremony. There were also awards given out to 35 ISC-Choueifat employees with 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years of service.



*Mrs. Leila Saad and Victor Saad (center) with SABIS® Lebanon directors cut ISC-Choueifat 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake*

Today, 130 years after opening, ISC-Choueifat stands as a symbol of pride for SABIS® and a symbol of promise for Lebanon. Generations of students have received a high-quality education at the school and built a solid foundation of skills to help ensure their future success. And backed by SABIS®'s enduring commitment to make a difference in the world through education, the International School of Choueifat will continue to empower students for generations to come.

For more information about ISC-Choueifat, visit [iscchoueifat.sabis.net](http://iscchoueifat.sabis.net). You can also follow them on [facebook.com/TheInternationalSchoolofChoueifat-Choueifat](https://www.facebook.com/TheInternationalSchoolofChoueifat-Choueifat).

## Alumna in the Spotlight

### Ashley Hamilton, International Academy of Flint, Class of 2012



Ashley Hamilton, IAF, Class of 2012

Ashley Hamilton joined the International Academy of Flint (IAF), a SABIS® public charter school located in Flint, Michigan, in the U.S., as a Kindergarten student in 1999. Ashley recalls how as a young child she looked forward to coming to school every day thanks to the supportive teachers and staff. *"I loved that my school was such a tight-knit family,"* she said. *"I always felt that I had everyone in my corner."*

Throughout her years at IAF, Ashley was very involved in the SABIS Student Life Organization® (SLO®) at the school. Ashley held positions as Deputy Head Prefect of various departments and in her senior year was appointed as the Head Prefect. As a freshman in 2009, Ashley was selected to attend the SABIS® Student Life Training Camp, which took place in Cairo, Egypt, that year. Ashley strongly believes that the opportunity to travel to Egypt ignited in her a special interest in global affairs. She returned from the camp with a growing interest in pursuing a career in international relations. *"I believe that my experiences with SLO® played a large role in shaping me into the leader that I am today. It taught me important lessons about leadership, integrity and confidence that I still reference in my everyday life,"* commented Ashley.

Academically, Ashley was a focused and serious student who dedicated herself to her studies. In fact, in the 2009-10 academic year, when Ashley was in 10<sup>th</sup> Grade, she was named the *"Judge Marable Student of the Year"* in an annual, city-wide competition that is designed to bring positive recognition of the city's youth. Honorees in the program, which began in 2004, are chosen based on applications and essays written about their career goals.

Ashley graduated from IAF in 2012. Although she was on the waiting list for admission to Yale University, she decided to pursue a degree in International Studies at Spelman College, a four-year, women's liberal arts college located in Atlanta, Georgia. Founded in 1881, Spelman College holds the distinction of being one of America's oldest historically black colleges for women. Today, with her bachelor's degree in her hand, she has accepted the opportunity to work as an Education Volunteer with the Peace Corps. She will be stationed in Mozambique, where she will be teaching high school level English for two years.

*"I am very proud of the International Academy of Flint and the SABIS® Educational System™,"* Ashley said. *"So many [IAF] students go on to do wonderful, world-changing things with their lives, and it is a system that I will continue to advocate for. One day, when I complete my graduate studies, I hope to play a different role on the SABIS® team, perhaps as a Student Life Coordinator this time around!"*

We wish Ashley the best of luck and are confident that she will carry on the SABIS® legacy of making a difference in the world.

*"I loved that my school was such a tight-knit family. I always felt that I had everyone in my corner."*

— Ashley Hamilton, IAF, Class of 2012





*SABIS® is a global education network that has an active presence in 20 countries on five continents. Schools in the SABIS® Network operate in both the public and private sectors and educate over 70,000 students.*

*Based on a proven, proprietary system, SABIS® Network schools provide students with a top-quality education that prepares them to meet the challenges of a changing world.*

## *Members of the SABIS® Network*

**AMERICAS PRIVATE SCHOOLS:** The International School of Minnesota - Eden Prairie, Minnesota, U.S.A. | **CHARTER SCHOOLS:** SABIS® International School - Phoenix, Arizona, U.S.A. | Linwood Public Charter School - Shreveport, Louisiana, U.S.A. | Holyoke Community Charter School - Holyoke, Massachusetts, U.S.A. | Lowell Collegiate Charter School - Lowell, Massachusetts, U.S.A. | SABIS® International Charter School - Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A. | International Preparatory Academy - Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A. | International Academy of Flint - Flint, Michigan, U.S.A. | Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy - Lansing, Michigan, U.S.A. | International Academy of Saginaw - Saginaw, Michigan, U.S.A. | International Academy of Atlantic City Charter School - Pleasantville, New Jersey, U.S.A. | International Academy of Trenton - New Jersey, U.S.A. | Mt. Auburn International Academy - Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.A. | **LICENSED SCHOOLS:** BelovED Community Charter School - Jersey City, New Jersey, U.S.A. | Empowerment Academy - Jersey City, New Jersey, U.S.A. | **EUROPE PRIVATE SCHOOLS:** Ashwicke Hall School - Bath, England | ISF International School Frankfurt Rhein-Main - Frankfurt, Germany | **LICENSED SCHOOLS:** International School on the Rhine - Neuss, Germany | Cambridge School of Bucharest - Bucharest, Romania | **AFRICA PRIVATE SCHOOLS:** The International School of Choueifat - Cairo, Egypt | The International School of Choueifat - City of 6 October, Egypt | **ASIA PRIVATE SCHOOLS:** SABIS® SUN International School - Baku, Azerbaijan | The International School of Choueifat - Lahore, Pakistan | **MIDDLE EAST REGION PRIVATE SCHOOLS:** The International School of Choueifat - Manama, Bahrain | The International School of Choueifat - Amman, Jordan | The International School of Choueifat - Dream City, Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq | The International School of Choueifat - Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq | The International School of Choueifat - Suleimaniah, Kurdistan, Iraq | SABIS® International School - Adma, Lebanon | The International School of Choueifat - Choueifat, Lebanon | LEILA C. SAAD, SABIS® School El-Metn, Lebanon | The International School of Choueifat - Koura, Lebanon | The International School of Choueifat - Muscat, Oman | The International School of Choueifat - Doha, Qatar | Jeddah Private International School - Jeddah, Saudi Arabia | Abdulaziz International School - Al-Wadi, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | Abdulaziz International School - Al-Sulaimaniah, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | The International School of Choueifat - Damascus, Syria | The International School of Choueifat - Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Abu Dhabi Khalifa City, U.A.E. | SABIS® International School - Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Al Ain, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Dubai, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Dubai Investments Park - Dubai, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Ras Al Khaimah, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Sharjah, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Umm Al Quwain, U.A.E. | **PPP SCHOOLS:** 7 Schools - Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq | Military High School - Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | Ruwais Private School - Ruwais, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | Military High School - Madinat Zayed, Western Region, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | Military High School - Al Zaid, Mliha, Sharjah, U.A.E.

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