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## Highlights of the Issue

### U.S. Directors' Meeting Celebrates SABIS® Success Stories

For the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the annual U.S. Directors' meeting shed light on the issues that constitute the foundation of the SABIS® world, most notably academics, self-development, and life preparation. These issues and many more were tackled from November 20 to 22, 2008, with school directors and administrators from SABIS® U.S. schools, as well as SABIS® corporate staff.

In welcoming the attendees, Mr. Carl Bistany, SABIS® President, reiterated the importance of ensuring solid foundations within SABIS®, previously voiced by Mrs. Leila Saad, SABIS® Chairperson, during the annual SABIS® worldwide Directors' Meeting in July. Mr. Bistany took the opportunity to outline future challenges while stressing areas of traditional strength.

As is the case every year, attendees were kept abreast of a myriad of issues, such as academics, IT, HR and SABIS Talent, finance, business development, Student Life and student management, and special education. Academic expectations for AY 08-09, school survey results, and student recruitment and marketing were also on the agenda. A training workshop on "Developing Others," organized by Development Dimensions International (DDI), closed the three-day meeting.



The meeting events included a pre-holiday season dinner with the directors, the U.S. SABIS® corporate team, and the faculty, staff, and Parent Connection Board Members of The International School of Minnesota. During the evening's festivities, Mr. Bistany honored a number of U.S. schools for their academic accomplishments. Three of the schools honored achieved Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP): the International Academy of Flint, Milestone SABIS® Academy of New Orleans, and the International Academy of Saginaw. Additionally, ISM was recognized for having exceeded national AP Scholar averages again. Mr. Bistany recognized that all these accomplishments were made possible in part due to the efforts of the SABIS® Academic Development team headed by Mr. George Saad. "Through your efforts

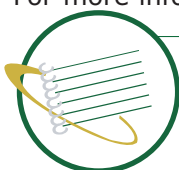
to avoid complacency, you will help all our students to achieve their full potential and prepare them for life," stated Mr. Bistany.

The meeting provided attendees with the motivation to continue to work toward strengthening the foundations of SABIS® in order to enable students to achieve their full potential.

For more information about SABIS®, visit [www.sabis.net](http://www.sabis.net).

Now available online

For more information on employment or alumni news within the SABIS® School Network, access our websites: <http://www.sabis.net>, <http://www.sabiscareers.com>, <http://www.iscalumni.com>



## Two SABIS® Schools Ranked among the Best High Schools in America



The SABIS® International Charter School (SICS) in Springfield, Massachusetts, and the International Academy of Flint (IAF), located in Flint, Michigan, were recently ranked among the top 10% of high schools in the United States by *U.S. News & World Report*.

The "2009 Best High Schools in America" rating was the outcome of thorough analysis conducted by School Evaluation Services, a K-12 data research and analysis business run by Standard & Poor's, using data from the 2007-2008 school year. The study encompassed more than 21,000 public high schools in 48 states.



One of the evaluation criteria was that a great high school must be able to produce measurable academic outcomes to show that the school successfully educates its student body across a range of performance indicators. SICS and IAF both met the above evaluation criteria, among others, consistently outperforming their local district schools at almost every grade level and sending 100% of their graduates to college.

Both SICS and IAF earned medals, which were used to indicate the various categories of distinction, in the study. SICS received a 'silver medal' ranking and was one of only three charter schools in Massachusetts to receive a ranking of this level. This ranking placed SICS as a member of a select group of top charter schools in the nation, as only 28 charter schools in the U.S. earned a gold or silver rating. For IAF, the 2009 ranking came on the heels of its placement on the "2008 Best High Schools in America" list. The school received its second consecutive "Bronze medal" and was the only high school in Genesee County, Michigan, recognized with this level of distinction.

SICS and IAF are K-12 schools that are part of the global SABIS® School Network, which operates in 15 countries and serves close to 50,000 students. IAF and SICS both implement the SABIS® Educational System and provide their student body with a high-quality educational experience in a safe environment.

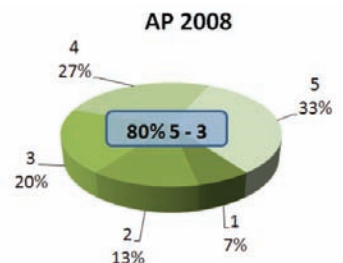
For more information about SICS, IAF, or SABIS®, visit [www.sics-sabis.net](http://www.sics-sabis.net), [www.iaf-sabis.net](http://www.iaf-sabis.net) or [www.sabis.net](http://www.sabis.net).

## SABIS® Records Outstanding External Exam Results for 2008

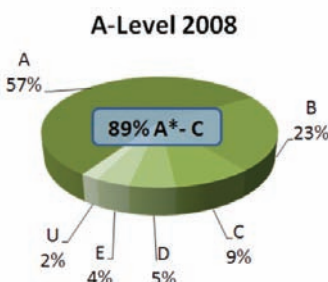


Outstanding scores on external exams seem to be a yearly feat for SABIS® students and are paving the way for their entry into competitive universities around the world. Through these scores, SABIS® students are proving that they have developed the knowledge and skills needed to reach very high academic standards, a feat that is all the more remarkable considering that SABIS® schools are not academically selective. The criterion for acceptance into SABIS® schools is the willingness to put in the effort to achieve full potential, not high 'innate' ability. Through the challenging curriculum and frequent assessment inherent in the SABIS® Educational System, any learning 'gaps,' however acquired, are immediately identified and students are given the needed support to achieve academic excellence.

Among the external exams that SABIS® students take every year are the American-based Advanced Placement® (AP®) exams. Administered by the College Board, the AP® is offered across 26 subject areas, including mathematics, physics, biology, and literature, among others, and is designed to help students qualify for further study or advanced placement at universities and colleges worldwide.

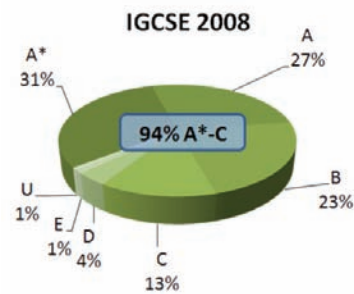


Over the years, SABIS® students have recorded impressive results on AP® exams, which have earned them AP® Scholar awards on several occasions. These stellar results continued in 2008 as 80% of SABIS® students earned marks of 3-5 on AP exams.



Other external exams taken by SABIS® students in grades 11, 12, and 13 are the British Advanced Supplementary and Advanced Level (AS/AL) exams. Study and examination at A Level give students in-depth knowledge that prepares them for success in higher education and later employment. On these exams, SABIS® students were able to stand out with their top scores and earn High Achiever Certificates. In 2008 in particular, 89% of SABIS® students earned cashed-in marks of A-C on A Level exams.

In addition, many SABIS® students in grades 7-11 who have completed the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) program sit for IGCSE exams. More than 2,000 schools across the world, including several SABIS® schools, teach the Cambridge IGCSE and prepare students for the examination. IGCSE results for 2008 across the SABIS® School Network were outstanding with 94% of students earning marks of A\* - C with A\* as the top mark.



The above figures corroborate the fact that the SABIS® Educational System is well-geared to prepare students for a variety of national external exams. Regardless of the grade level at which exams are taken, the SABIS® curricula and educational approach provide a solid foundation that enables students to earn top results and stand out in the college admission process and beyond.

For more information about the SABIS®, visit [www.sabis.net](http://www.sabis.net).

## ISC-Lahore Student's French Poem Receives First Prize



*"Jour après jour, tu as révélé ta beauté ainsi que tes imperfections  
Et je me suis sentie plus à l'aise avec toi;  
Ta tristesse s'est finalement ouverte à moi  
Désormais, Paris, tu brilles de toutes tes couleurs"*

With an excerpt from this beautifully written poem, ISC-Lahore Grade 12 student Aliya Noshahi amazed her teachers and peers who gathered in the school auditorium to listen to her passionate interpretation of her summer visit to Paris. In fact, her poem not only received praise from her school community but also the jury of the French Poetry Contest hosted by the Aitcheson College in Lahore, Pakistan. Aliya was awarded the first prize out of participants from six prominent local schools.



Aliya, who has a Pakistani father and an American mother, neither of whom speaks French, was nevertheless able, with the help of the international SABIS® Educational System implemented at ISC-Lahore, to acquire remarkable French language proficiency. Her own dedication and that of her teachers helped her to hone her French writing skills and won her the prestigious prize for the second year in a row.

"Aliya's mastery of French is exceptional. She is a true hard worker and a pure talent. Aliya is a shining example of a "product" of the SABIS® system – 14 years of education at ISC-Lahore brought the student to a success and offered excellent prospects for the future," commented ISC-Lahore School Director Mounir Geha.

Upon reading the poem, SABIS® French Department Head, Regine Caufriez, concurred, "This young Pakistani student is endowed with real poetic skills. She used personification to convey her opinion as in a one-on-one dialogue. I was impressed by her syntactic and technical writing ability."

ISC-Lahore is an independent, co-educational day school that currently serves 1459 students from Kindergarten 1 to Grade 10, plus Grade 12. As a member of the SABIS® School Network, ISC-Lahore seeks to foster a lifelong interest in learning and prepares students for success in college and beyond.

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For more information about ISC-Lahore, visit [www.isclahore-sabis.net](http://www.isclahore-sabis.net).

## Testimonials

“I am the first to admit that without the solid mathematical foundation I received in Choueifat, I would not be amongst the top mathematicians here at Boston College. My thoughts go immediately to the SABIS® system and its contribution to this achievement.”

**Rabih Geha – ISC-Lahore Graduate**

## Creative Team Enhances SABIS® Global Image



SABIS® is a global education management organization dedicated to remaining at the forefront of the industry. To ensure the best possible education experience for all SABIS® students, SABIS® has made important investments in a variety of different areas of its comprehensive education management structure including IT, human resource and talent management, and curriculum and books development to list a few. Recently, SABIS® added a new department to its repertoire – SABIS® Creative, a department with the mission of strengthening the SABIS® brand and image through professional graphics, multimedia, and web development, thereby enhancing the SABIS® experience for all students and stakeholders.

The in-house SABIS® Creative team is comprised of a group of skilled individuals with extensive experience in graphic design and multimedia. These individuals work to come up with innovative, creative solutions to develop insightful visual communication that enhances the SABIS® image. Some of their most recent projects have encompassed print material, website design, and interactive CDs used to illustrate SABIS® IT products such as Integrated Testing and Learning.



The efforts of the SABIS® Creative team have also helped enhance annual SABIS® school and corporate events such as the Regional Sports Tournament, summer camps, the Student Life Training Camp, teacher recruitment, and the annual SABIS® worldwide Directors' Meeting.

With the global growth of the SABIS® School Network, the SABIS® Creative team is committed to drawing up creative solutions and concepts in order to enhance the SABIS® educational experience for all students and stakeholders.

## SABIS® Trainer Certified to Facilitate The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People Training



True to its mission to provide a high-quality education for a changing world, SABIS® has continuously advocated efficiency on the school and corporate levels. In the classroom, efficiency permeates all aspects of the SABIS® Educational System and is translated in the high academic standards achieved by SABIS® graduates around the world. On the corporate front, efficiency is reflected in the successful management and operation of schools around the world for the past 120+ years.

As part of this ongoing constant emphasis on efficiency as a key tool for academic and corporate success, SABIS® conducts regular training for its staff and school faculty network-wide. One training workshop that has become a coveted addition to the annual calendar is *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, and it has been successfully presented in corporate meetings, teacher trainings, and Student Life training camps.



Mr. Roger Soweid presenting the training at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual SABIS® Directors' Meeting.

One of the top-selling business books of all time by Stephen R. Covey, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, has been developed into a training workshop that addresses concepts on leadership and individual effectiveness. In addition to being used by a large number of successful businesses, the training can now be provided by certified on-site facilitators who teach its content and adapt it to each organization's needs.

In this respect, SABIS® Student Life and Student Management Consultant, Mr. Roger Soweid, recently became certified within SABIS® to facilitate *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* training for SABIS® schools' faculty and staff. Mr. Soweid trained all SABIS® school directors during the Directors' Meeting in Vienna, Austria, and dozens of student prefects in attendance at the Student Life Training Camp in Cairo, Egypt. He also ran the training session for the teachers of the International School of Choueifat – Koura.

Down to a person, attendees of the training sessions responded positively and were highly impressed with Mr. Soweid's enthusiasm and skill as a motivational trainer.

"He is enthusiastic, inspiring, focused, and uses poignant examples from schools to make the training real. We were all eager to share what we learned with others and to have Mr. Soweid visit our schools to do further training," stated one SABIS® School Director.

During the training, participants learned how to take initiative, balance key priorities, improve interpersonal communication, leverage creative collaboration, and apply principles for achieving a balanced life. With plans underway for further training throughout the network, many other members of SABIS® schools will benefit from this training in the coming months.

## Students Spread a Positive Spirit at Mini Training Camps



Students had barely bid farewell at the first worldwide Student Life Training Camp in Cairo, Egypt, when they excitedly started planning to pass on the knowledge they acquired to the student body back at their schools. In fact, students from Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Germany, Lebanon, the USA, Pakistan, and the United Arab Emirates, to name a few, came up with the idea of a mini Student Life camp in their schools to train the students who were not in attendance at the camp in Egypt.



Participants in a Mini Training Camp

Building on the event-planning skills they had just learned and with the support of their Student Life Coordinators, SLO™ students drafted the agenda of the camps, sent out the invitations, and studied the different sessions to be presented. They also booked transportation, arranged for catering and refreshments, and ensured that all details had been covered to ensure each camp's success.

Some of the exciting presentations featured at the camp included leadership, team building, the *power of positive thinking*, overcoming your fear, time management, event planning and of course, in keeping with the SLO™ theme of the year, being proactive, among one of the *7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*.

Several of the different camps ended with lunches at local restaurants, where the students were treated to a delicious meal and a chance to reflect on what they had learned. As one of the students from ISC-Lahore, Pakistan stated: "I wholeheartedly believe that the mini-camp achieved its goal of altering the minds and ways of the student body. All those who attended will transfer the knowledge to everyone they come across, and I am sure they will exude positivism and optimism."



Participating students enjoy an outing at the close of the training

For more information about SABIS Student Life Organization®, visit [www.sabis.net](http://www.sabis.net).

## ISC-Abu Dhabi Students Recognized for Innovative Project



Sixty-three Student Life prefects from the International School of Choueifat – Abu Dhabi (ISC-AD) participated in the ETISALAT IDEA Annual Students Exhibition 2009 on January 2 and 3, 2009. IDEA is the Innovative Development Center for Educational Aptitude (IDEA), a non-profit, socio-voluntary organization focused on children.



ISC-AD representative receiving the award

Held under the patronage of H.E. Dr. Hanif Hassan, UAE Minister of Education, the exhibition provides students from all United Arab Emirates (UAE) schools with a unique opportunity to explore and showcase their creativity, talent, and innovation in science, technology, engineering, and general streams.

The 63 participating students were divided into groups of three, each of which demonstrated a project in engineering, science, universe, environment, and health sciences as well as a general stream in the presence of the Minister, dignitaries, visitors, and judges. During the closing ceremony, the winners were announced and **ISC-AD** came in third place among 21 participating schools. In addition, **ISC-AD** won the first place for the best innovative project, which revolved around a submarine.



The submarine project, put together by Rohan Varma, Mohannad Azar, and Tahnoon Taj, was developed according to a very basic design using various unorthodox, yet effective and low-cost components that are technologically viable in an innovative solution. The submarine had to fulfill several basic requirements: the ability to rise, submerge, and utilize controlled movement. Throughout the execution of the model, the objective was to make the miniature submarine out of recycled household items as much as possible.



Students involved in submarine project

Commenting on their win, the **ISC-AD** team stated: "In addition to knowledge of various physical concepts, this project taught us problem-solving skills, teamwork, and mechanical and engineering prowess. We figured how to obtain and sustain a positive workplace which encourages ingenuity and hard work. Additionally, we have each learned how to think and work like engineers, which will be hugely beneficial in our future endeavors."



**ISC-AD** is a member of the **SABIS®** School Network, which currently operates schools in 15 countries and serves close to 50,000 students. Students educated in **SABIS®**-operated schools benefit from a high-quality educational system that prepares them with skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

For more information about **ISC-AD**, visit [www.iscad-sabis.net](http://www.iscad-sabis.net).

**International School of ChouEIFat - Erbil**



The **International School of ChouEIFat – Erbil** was established as a result of the Kurdish Regional Government’s realization of the need to establish quality schools in the region in order to accommodate many families returning from abroad. Following two years of negotiations between **SABIS®** and the Kurdish Regional Government, the **International School of ChouEIFat - Erbil** opened in 2006 as an independent, co-educational day school.



ISC-Erbil Campus

When it first opened its doors, the school welcomed 220 students in its temporary location. Today, in its third year of operation, **ISC-Erbil** boasts an enrollment of over 700 students in Pre-KG through Grade 7. During its first year in operation, the majority of the students enrolled were placed in Level C (KG2) for English as only a handful met the required **SABIS®** standards. After three years of implementing the **SABIS®** Accelerated English Program, 80% of the students are expected to be on par with the **SABIS®** international standards by the end of this year.

**Campus Facilities**

In September 2008, **ISC-Erbil** relocated to a new campus nestled in the foothills of the Safin Mountains just outside Erbil. The new, multi-million dollar campus, built to accommodate 2500 students, houses two swimming pools, an indoor sports hall, a theater, a cafeteria, state-of-the-art climate-controlled instructional facilities, and staff accommodation.



New campus inauguration ceremony

The inauguration of the new campus was held on December 4, 2008, in the presence of many prominent personalities, most notably Kurdistan Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani. Pride exuded from ISC-Erbil students who, acting as ambassadors, took the Prime Minister on a tour of the modern facility and briefed him about the school's academic program and activities.



Mr Bistany, SABIS® President, and Prime Minister Barzani touring the new campus

## Academics



ISC-Erbil students in a computer class

ISC-Erbil offers students of different races and nationalities the opportunity to establish a solid academic foundation through the implementation of the SABIS® Educational System. Rooted in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the SABIS® Educational System draws on a rigorous curriculum that is intended to give students not only a breadth of knowledge but also depth. The program is steeped in success and continues to provide the building blocks for students' future success.

## Student Life

The SABIS Student Life Organization® has been playing a pivotal role in providing both academic and extracurricular support to ISC-Erbil students. Starting in their first year at the school, students organized the Student Life Academy to provide extra academic support to students in areas that were identified as requiring attention. Subsequently, SLO™ members became Shadow Teachers™ and engaged their peers in one-on-one support and learning. In addition to academic support, the SLO™ launched several extracurricular programs, such as fun days, sports competitions, concerts, and talent shows, among others. Recently, the SLO™ invited local schools to play friendly basketball matches and has plans for a skiing trip during the spring break.



SLO™ prefects

In just three years, ISC-Erbil has been able to acquire an excellent reputation and make noticeable academic achievements. This impressive track record, in part, led the Kurdish government to lay the plans to establish another Choueifat school in the city of Suleimania and the SABIS® Teacher Training College. The success of ISC-Erbil as well as the promise of all the other SABIS® projects in Kurdistan reflects the potential of the SABIS® Educational System to transform education in Kurdistan and provide students with the key to a bright and successful future.

For more information about ISC-Erbil, visit [www.iscerbil-sabis.net](http://www.iscerbil-sabis.net).

## Testimonials

“To say it simply, my experience at SABIS® has been exceptional. The knowledge I gained, the skills I acquired, and not to mention the very special relationships I made with students, staff, and parents have allowed me to grow, develop, and become a more confident and professional person who knows what it means to succeed in today's workplace.”

**Maya Alam – ISC Choueifat Former AQC**



Graduate Mary Jo Pham

Mary Jo Pham is a SABIS® International Charter School (SICS) graduate who has been making headlines with her long list of achievements. From involvement in the "Viet-Am Summer Service Learning Program" to her win in the *Republican Newspaper* for best editorial, Pham has witnessed a busy and rewarding year.

Originally from Vietnam, Mary Jo Pham joined SICS when she was in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Throughout her school years, Pham benefited from the balance of academics and life preparation that the SABIS® education offered at SICS. She became a prefect in the Activities Department during her freshman year, helping with scheduling and new clubs, and was the youngest among five SLO™ leaders to go to the Student Life Leadership Training Camp, held in Minnesota that year. In her sophomore year, Pham became Deputy Head Prefect of the Activities Department. The following summer, she had the opportunity to attend the SLTC again as a rising junior and became the new Head Prefect. However, she soon had to relinquish that position as she had the rare opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. to serve as a U.S. House of Representatives Page.

In summer 2008, having just completed her freshman year at Tufts University, Pham traveled to her motherland for the very first time as one of three participants in Volunteer In Asia's Viet-Am Summer Service Learning Program. As a volunteer, she taught English as a Second Language to young, middle school girls at-risk for human trafficking in the rural Mekong Delta area of Vietnam. While in Vietnam, she also ran a week-long workshop on American culture for English majors of sophomore and junior standing at An Giang University in Long Xuyen. "Both teaching experiences were exciting, thrilling, and quite inspirational. I told my young students stories about my family and my life as a college student in the U.S. -- many of them were inspired to go on to university," recounts Pham.

Most recently, Mary Jo Pham took first place in the recent 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Editorial Alliance Contest as part of *The Republican* newspaper. She won for her editorial, "Minions? No Way," in the personal opinion category.

With her educational experience at SICS and involvement in community service, Pham was well-prepared to join Tufts University in the fall of 2007. "My SLO™ experience and leadership training have absolutely made me a better person. The short poem from Ralph Waldo Emerson ("To laugh often and love much") and a popular SICS saying, "We're all in this together," have inspired me to do what I do today, that is continue to build my character so I may be a better person and focus on my international relations major at Tufts -- all for the ultimate goal of leaving this world a better place." Pham will be returning to Southeast Asia next summer to intern in the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.



SABIS® is an educational organization that manages K-12 coeducational schools worldwide. Today, the network comprises sixty-one schools spanning across four continents. Since the first school was founded in 1886, thousands of graduates have joined top cities in North America, Europe, Australia & the Middle East.

## MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE SABIS® SCHOOL NETWORK

The International School of Choueifat - **Choueifat, Lebanon** | The International School of Choueifat - **Sharjah, UAE** | The International School of Choueifat - **Abu Dhabi, UAE** | The International School of Choueifat - **Al Ain, UAE** | The International School of Minnesota - **Minneapolis, USA** | The International School of Choueifat - **Ras Al Khaimah, UAE** | The International School of Choueifat - **Lahore, Pakistan** | The International School of Choueifat - **Dubai, UAE** | The International School of Choueifat - **Umm Al Quwain, UAE** | The SABIS® International Charter School - **Springfield, Massachusetts, USA** | ISF Internationale Schule Frankfurt - **Rhein-Main, Germany** | The International School of Choueifat - **Cairo, Egypt** | The International School of Choueifat - **Koura, Lebanon** | The International School of Choueifat - **Amman, Jordan** | International Academy of Flint - **Michigan, USA** | King Abdul Aziz International School - **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (Associate Member)** | The International School of Choueifat - **Doha, Qatar** | The International School of Choueifat - **Damascus, Syria** | The SABIS® International School - **South Phoenix, Arizona, USA** | The International School of Choueifat - **Muscat, Oman** | Ruwais Private School - **Ruwais, Abu Dhabi, UAE** | Milestone SABIS® Academy of New Orleans - **New Orleans, Louisiana, USA** | Internationale Schule am Rhein - **Neuss, Germany** | The International School of Choueifat - **City of 6 October, Egypt** | Mt. Auburn International Academy - **Cincinnati, Ohio, USA** | The Holyoke Community Charter School - **Holyoke, Massachusetts, USA** | The International School of Choueifat - **Homs, Syria** | SABIS® International School - **Adma, Lebanon** | Cambridge School of Bucharest - **Bucharest, Romania (Licensed Member School)** | Brooklyn Ascend Charter School - **Brooklyn, New York, USA (Licensed Member School)** | Military High School - **Al Ain, UAE** | The International School of Choueifat - **Manama, Bahrain** | The International School of Choueifat - **Abu Dhabi Khalifa City "A", UAE** | The International School of Choueifat - **Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq** | SABIS® International School - **Bath, England** | 7 Schools - **Al Ghayathi, Western Region, Abu Dhabi, UAE** | 3 Schools - **Al Silaa, Western Region Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.** | 10 Schools - **Al Maqam, Al Ain Region, Abu Dhabi, UAE** | 4 Schools - **Al Khazna, Al Ain Region, Abu Dhabi, UAE** | International Academy of Saginaw - **Michigan, USA**

**Disclaimer:** As SABIS® is a global organization operating in several countries, English usage in the SABIS® newsletter may vary depending on the style used (U.S./ U.K.) in the region represented.