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## Highlights of the Issue



### 8<sup>th</sup> SABIS<sup>®</sup> Regional Tournament Brings 1,000+ Academic Athletes Together

Two SABIS<sup>®</sup> schools in Lebanon—SABIS<sup>®</sup> International School-Adma and the International School of Choueifat-Choueifat—recently coordinated to host the 8<sup>th</sup> SABIS<sup>®</sup> Regional Tournament. This year's tournament brought together more than 1,000 SABIS<sup>®</sup> Academic Athletes from 23 SABIS<sup>®</sup> schools across 13 countries including Germany, Pakistan, Romania, and the United Arab Emirates, among many others.



SABIS<sup>®</sup> Academic Athletes Participating in a Soccer Match

The sporting event, held on April 8-9, 2011, was kicked off with an elaborate opening ceremony. "It was truly a grand occasion where all the teams marched onto the field accompanied by the music of the Lebanese Military Marching Band," said an SIS-Adma parent. After the procession, Lebanon's Minister of Youth and Sports, Dr. Ali Abdallah, gave the opening speech in which he stressed the important role of the SABIS<sup>®</sup> School Network in providing high-quality education worldwide.



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

SABIS® Vice President, Mr. Victor Saad, also made an opening statement and emphasized that participating in the tournament was not about winning a trophy. *"Playing sports is primarily a competition...This means there will always be winners and losers, but it is not only about winning or losing. It is also about participation; it is about team spirit; it is about learning to win with humility and learning to lose with grace,"* said Mr. Saad in his speech.



SABIS® Academic Athlete Competing in a Track and Field Event

The speeches were followed by inspiring performances from the three SABIS® schools in Lebanon. SIS-Adma students showed off their voices with a song; ISC-Choueifat students awed the crowd with a traditional Lebanese *dabke* dance; and the International School of Choueifat-Koura students dazzled the audience with a solo vocalist performance and a contemporary dance.

Immediately following the opening ceremony, the new SIS-Adma Olympic-sized track and field was officially inaugurated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, and then the competitions commenced. The SABIS® Academic Athletes who spent months preparing for the tournament enthusiastically demonstrated their athletic talents in several sporting events ranging from relay races and swimming to basketball and soccer.

The 23 participating SABIS® schools had their share of students who won medals—gold, silver, and bronze. Most notably, ISF Internationale Schule Frankfurt-Rhein-Main took home a total of five gold medals in swimming and sprint; the International School of Choueifat-Cairo left with five gold medals in swimming and sprint, with the rest of the swimming and sprint gold medals shared between the International School of Choueifat-Amman and the King Abdul Aziz International School in Saudi Arabia, leaving the gold medals in long jump to the International School of Choueifat-Lahore and ISC-Amman. Additionally, the tournament participants set an impressive eleven records in the history of the SABIS® Regional Tournament, with new records in swimming, long jump, and sprint competitions.

The two-day sporting function attracted many local and international spectators who came to support the students and enjoy the competition and the entertaining atmosphere. *"I was impressed by the students who competed with passion yet always displayed genuine sportsmanship. Despite it being a competitive atmosphere, most students, if not all, left the tournament with a new circle of friends from around the world. It was very inspiring!"* said an ISC-Choueifat parent.



SABIS® Academic Athletes Competing in a Swimming Event

The high degree of organization during the tournament was supported by dozens of student prefects who eagerly contributed to the two-days of programming. *"They were everywhere you looked. The prefects were in every football and basketball court, at the information desk, welcoming the parents, and even helping in the cafeteria. Each team had a prefect shadowing their every move, so that no team was left confused or ignored,"* commented

ISC-Choueifat Student Life Coordinator, Ms. Zeina Abou Zelof. *"It was a fun and also an educational experience for them. Prefects learned responsibility, teamwork, and motivation. They also gained new friends from all over the world and got to spend a day laughing and helping others,"* she added.



One of the Winning Teams Celebrating with Mr. Carl Bistany and Mr. Victor Saad

The tournament's closing ceremony included the singing of the Lebanese national anthem and a speech by SABIS® President, Mr. Carl Bistany, who provided words of praise to all students for their high levels of sportsmanship and efforts during the tournament. He also thanked Mr. Saad, who spearheaded the concept of the Regional Tournament and organized the behind-the-scenes preparation for the event. Following Mr. Bistany's address, medals and trophies were awarded.

In parallel with SABIS®'s mission to provide students with the knowledge, experiences, and skills to excel in college and beyond, the 8<sup>th</sup> SABIS® Regional Tournament allowed SABIS® Academic Athletes to meet and compete in a friendly atmosphere and to explore and realize individual aspirations and athletic potential.

## U.S. Education Advocate Holds Town Hall Meetings at SABIS® Schools

Two U.S. SABIS® schools recently welcomed Ms. Michelle Rhee, former chancellor of Washington D.C. public schools and respected education expert, to their campuses. Peachtree Hope Charter School (PHCS), located in Atlanta, Georgia, and the International Academy of Flint (IAF), in Flint, Michigan, each played host to Ms. Rhee, who conducted both states' first Town Hall Parents' Meetings and facilitated a discussion about improving U.S. education standards.



Ms. Michelle Rhee with IAF staff

The Town Hall Parents' Meetings at PHCS and IAF were organized with a goal of discussing the future of education within each state the schools serve. As founder and CEO of national grassroots movement Students First ([www.studentsfirst.org](http://www.studentsfirst.org)), Ms. Rhee weighed in on a number of key topics including improving education, educational choice and equity, and high teacher standards.

SABIS® V.P. of U.S. Operations, Mr. George Saad, attended the Georgia Town Hall Parents' Meeting at PHCS and commented: *"Ms. Rhee represents the collective voice of all those who believe that our children deserve a world-class education. We are very encouraged by her work and efforts."* Having attended the Michigan Town Hall Parents' Meeting at IAF, Ms. Melissa Vincent, IAF Middle School Academic Quality Controller (AQC), said, *"Ms. Rhee shared her impressive ideas and discussed the importance of placing students first and recognizing their right to a good education."* She added, *"We were pleased to welcome Ms. Rhee to our school."*

IAF parent, Ms. Mary Lynn Barbee said, *"I love Ms. Rhee's approach to education—no nonsense and making sure students' needs are the main reasons for education reform."* PHCS Director,

Ms. Kendra Shipmon commented, "As a new charter school in the state, Peachtree Hope recognizes the crucial role it plays in providing Georgia students with a solid academic foundation that drastically improves their future. Having Ms. Rhee conduct the meeting and provide her insight really motivates us to continue our efforts!"



Ms. Michelle Rhee Facilitating Michigan's Town Hall Parents' Meeting

PHCS and IAF, like the seven other SABIS® charter schools across the U.S., are providing a world-class education to the students they serve.

A solid foundation in mathematics, English, and world languages—SABIS® core subjects—coupled with the knowledge, experiences, and skills provided by the comprehensive SABIS® Educational System contributes to raising education standards and prepares students to go on to succeed in college and beyond.

For more information about Peachtree Hope Charter School or the International Academy of Flint, visit [www.peachtreehope-sabis.net](http://www.peachtreehope-sabis.net) or [www.iaf-sabis.net](http://www.iaf-sabis.net), respectively.

## SABIS® Gives Back



Children at the Palm Tree Orphanage

SABIS® students around the world are actively engaged in practicing social responsibility by championing causes and supporting those less fortunate. This spirit of giving back is one that is also modeled and promoted by SABIS® on a corporate level. To this end, SABIS® has recently been engaged in service efforts to make a difference in students' lives in Southeast Asia and Africa.

As publishers of the SABIS® Book Series, SABIS® works on writing and updating over 1,400 titles. Books are revised on an annual basis, necessitating the discontinuation of some titles. Seeking to

distribute the stock of SABIS® books which have undergone revision, SABIS® set out to share these resources with deserving students around the world.

At the beginning of the 2010-11 academic year, SABIS® donated nearly 14,000 textbooks to the Palm Tree Orphanage located in Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia. With 160 orphaned children between the ages of 4 to 18 and limited resources, the Palm Tree Orphanage welcomed the SABIS® English and math textbooks.

"As Cambodia continues to climb out of dire economic and social hardships, the generous donations from the SABIS® family have given these children the gift of education and a reason to look forward as we turn the calendar to 2011," said a staff member from the Palm Tree Foundation in a letter to SABIS®.

SABIS® Corporate Business Manager, Mr. Ryan Meek, helped coordinate the book donation and commented: "The textbook donation was greatly needed as the orphanage's inventory of educational materials was in severe need of replacement and limited to only a few items."

He added, "Today the orphanage has successfully integrated the textbooks into their daily curriculum with resounding results. The children, teachers, and administrators continue to send their praise about the welcome addition of the books."

Additionally, SABIS® is giving back to Klipfontein Primary School, a small farm school, located in Kenton-on-Sea in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. Most recently, SABIS® sent the school more than 3,600 English and math textbooks to serve its students, who predominately come from low income families working on the surrounding farms.

In a letter to SABIS®, Ms. Rose Calmeyer-Leach of Klipfontein Primary School expressed her appreciation, "I must say I nearly fainted when I saw how many wonderful books you had sent us! You have been more than generous and we can't thank you enough... We now look forward to a great year of teaching English to these very disadvantaged pupils." Ms. Calmeyer-Leach added, "I love teaching with them [SABIS® books]. I just wish we could put the whole SABIS® system into our South African education program. It would make an enormous difference!"



Palm Tree Orphanage Children Posing with a Poster Thanking SABIS®

Through SABIS®'s book donations, the Palm Tree Orphanage and Klipfontein Primary School are able to provide their students with a higher quality of education and a brighter future. SABIS® is committed to making a difference and continually seeks additional ways in which the organization and its network schools can support local and international causes.

## SABIS® Organizes Bi-Annual Academic Conference

In line with SABIS®'s goal of providing its students with rich curriculum relevant to a rapidly changing world, the SABIS® Academic Development team recently met at their Bi-Annual Academic Conference to review and develop curriculum. Held March 7-10, 2011, at SABIS® Educational Systems, Inc. in Minnesota, U.S., the conference brought together more than 25 employees from SABIS®'s global English, mathematics, and science teams.

With the current academic year coming to a close and the upcoming one quickly approaching, the SABIS® Academic Development team reflected on the year's challenges and successes and planned for the coming academic year. SABIS® Director-Academic Operations, Dr. Restom Kassem, led the conference along with SABIS® Academic Development Director, Mr. Ghassan Kansou, and commented: "In the course of four days we were able to cover several crucial topics revolving around SABIS®'s Academic Development Department including plans for improvement based on what has transpired so far this academic year in the U.S. SABIS® schools and how we can better meet our schools' needs."



SABIS® Team Members at the Bi-Annual Academic Conference

The first day of the conference provided attendees a chance to discuss their objectives, review the latest updates to school operations, and outline the challenges that lay ahead. During

the following two days, conference participants benefitted from day-long breakout sessions according to their academic subject. In these sessions, teams went over pacing charts, assessments, program updates, and books, among others.

Remarking on his involvement in the conference, Dr. Kassem said, *"In order to be able to live by our core value of continually seeking improvement, it is important that we take full advantage of conferences such as this one. I believe all participants benefitted tremendously and it has put us all on the same page."*

Echoing Dr. Kassem, SABIS® Production Coordinator-English, Ms. Sarah Obeid, commented on the advantages of participating in the conference, *"Personally, by hearing colleagues' thoughts on the team's progress, sharing my own ideas for the upcoming academic year, and defining our objectives, I better understand the many components of developing the SABIS® curriculum and really looking forward to reaching our goals for the next year!"* Another conference participant said, *"After four days of working closely together with members of my team, I have come away from the conference with strengthened relationships that have helped me to become a more effective team player."*



Academic Conference Attendees from Lebanon

Highlighting the importance of such conferences, Mr. Kansou stated, *"The Academic Development team is committed to ensuring that the SABIS® curriculum is appropriate for all schools in the network...and customized to the needs of the different regions. It is through conferences like these that we ensure that these needs are met and that the SABIS® Books and resources are helping students to reach their full potential."*

The SABIS® Academic Development Department is responsible for continuously reviewing, updating, and developing the curriculum to ensure that it remains dynamic, comprehensive, and relevant. A critical review of the curriculum is ongoing so that SABIS® can continue to offer a high-quality education that is suited to the needs of a rapidly changing, global society.

For more information about SABIS®'s curriculum, visit <http://tiny.cc/db3b1>.



ISC-Damascus Team Members at the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner

### ISC-Damascus Celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The 2010-11 academic year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> year of operation of the International School of Choueifat-Damascus in Syria. To commemorate its first decade of successful operation, the school and its community of students, staff, parents, and supporters planned a range of events from a grand dinner to a tree planting ceremony.

The school, which opened in 2001, held the first of its celebrations, an anniversary dinner, on Teacher's Day in

March 2011. The dinner attracted nearly 300 supporters including ISC-Damascus staff members and their spouses as well as SABIS® representatives and community members.

On hand to present speeches and honor ISC-Damascus, Mrs. Leila Saad, SABIS® Chairperson, and Mr. Victor Saad, SABIS® Vice President, offered praise and encouragement to the school's staff and community. *"It was a memorable evening that brought us, the ISC-Damascus family, together to celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary,"* said an ISC-Damascus English teacher. Reflecting on

what the school has accomplished, she added, "Looking back over ten years, I can see the extent of our achievement, and I know that we are ready for the challenge of the next ten years. While I am proud of our self-motivated, high achievers, what really inspires me is the contribution that the SABIS® Educational System makes to help under-achievers realize their potential."



ISC-Damascus Students Participating in the Tree Planting Ceremony

Also organized in March 2011 to honor the school's 10-year milestone, ISC-Damascus students and staff participated in a tree planting project, which was organized by the Student Life Social Responsibility Department. A group of 80 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students planted 200 olive trees near Damascus. "It was a glorious event where students gave back, while learning to appreciate Mother Nature," commented ISC-Damascus Student Life Coordinator, Mr. Abdullah Idilbi. ISC-Damascus Academic Quality Controller (AQC) for grades 10-12, Mr. Hovnan Keshishian,

added, "It has been 10 years since ISC-Damascus was inaugurated, and since then it has established itself as a shining and ever-developing beacon of education. Not only has it promoted and maintained a very high and pioneering standard in education, but also in student personality and independence development, as well as instilling the spirit, drive, and appreciation for community service."

Enthusiasm for having reached the 10-year mark was also shared by students. "After having studied at ISC-Damascus for 10 years, it gives me great pleasure to have been around to witness our 10-year anniversary. With every passing year the school community has grown stronger, and I look back now on the time with great pride, and indeed nostalgia, to see how far we have progressed not only as a school, but also as members of the SABIS® family," stated Youssef Tayara, an ISC-Damascus 10<sup>th</sup> grader.

Anniversary celebrations will continue through the end of the 2010-11 academic year in honor of ISC-Damascus's impressive progress and ongoing achievements.

For more information on the International School of Choueifat-Damascus, visit [www.iscdamas-sabis.net](http://www.iscdamas-sabis.net).

## Announcement



**SABIS®**  
**Educational Summer Camp 2011**

**Location**  
SABIS® International School-UK  
Bath, England

**Non-Academic Offerings**

**Sports & Activities**  
Basketball, volleyball, indoor and outdoor soccer, squash, tennis, swimming, trampolining, badminton, hockey, athletics, aerobics, judo, cycling, table tennis, horse riding, bowling, computer, auto mechanics, woodwork, and handicrafts.

**Available to SABIS® and non-SABIS® students 11 to 18 years old**

**Academic Offerings**  
Enrichment and remedial courses in mathematics, English, and other languages.

**Cultural Excursions**  
Organized visits to scientific, historical, archaeological, and art museums as well as fun fairs, and amusement parks.

**Duration**  
5 weeks 11 July to 12 August  
3 weeks 11 July to 29 July

**125 Years**  
1886 - 2011  
SABIS® School Network  
[www.sabis.net](http://www.sabis.net)  
[www.sisuk-sabis.net/SummerCamp](http://www.sisuk-sabis.net/SummerCamp)

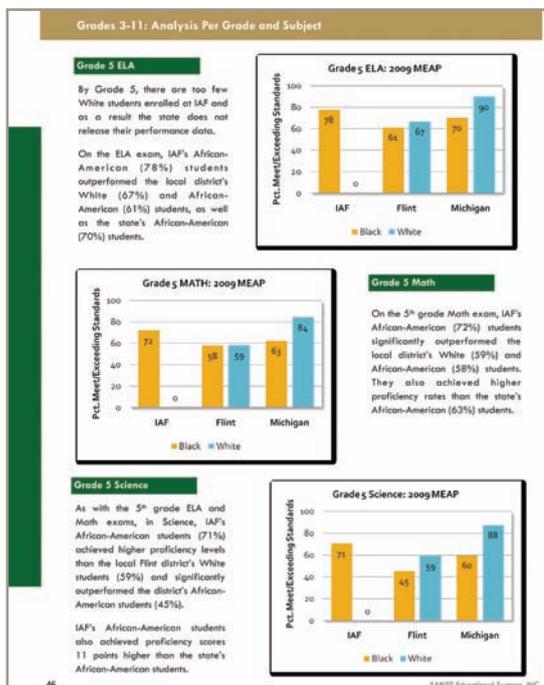
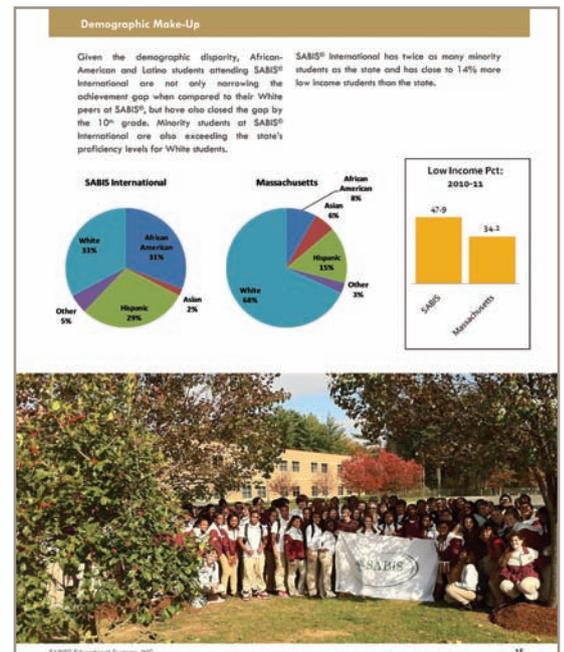


## SABIS® Schools Close the Achievement Gap

Since 1886, SABIS® has been driven to make a difference worldwide by providing a high-quality education that meets the demands of a rapidly changing, global society. Across the global SABIS® School Network through the SABIS® Educational System, students from a wide variety of ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to achieve success.

The effectiveness of the SABIS® Educational System in meeting a wide variety of student needs is clearly demonstrated in two SABIS® U.S. charter schools. In a report entitled *Closing the Achievement Gap: The SABIS® Story*, outcomes in two large K-12 charter schools in the U.S., SABIS® International Charter School (SICS) in Springfield, Massachusetts, and the International Academy of Flint (IAF) in Flint, Michigan, are presented.

With a total combined enrollment of nearly 2,800 students, of which 76% are considered minorities, these two SABIS® schools are dramatically raising the standard of education in the communities they serve by consistently narrowing the achievement gap.



Using the results of 35 Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) and Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) exams administered to SICS and IAF students in grades 3-11 during the 2009-10 academic year, these two SABIS® schools, combined, closed the gap between African-American and Caucasian students on 13 of the 35 tests (37%). Furthermore, the state exam results indicate that the schools significantly narrowed the gap between African-American and Caucasian students at their respective schools, in comparison to their states, on 20 of the 35 tests (57%). **Therefore, on 94% of the tests, these two charter schools either closed the gap completely or had narrower gaps than the states in which they operate.**

*"By using the proven SABIS® instructional methods, curriculum, and weekly assessment system, these two large public charter schools are going against the grain and demonstrating that all students can achieve high expectations,"* said SABIS® V.P. of U.S. Operations, Mr. George Saad. *"They're dispelling the myth that some students cannot learn and proving that larger class sizes and a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum, along with weekly exams to assess learning, are effective in helping students rise to the challenge."*

In addition to narrowing the ethnic achievement gap, the report's results indicate that SICS and IAF were also successful in narrowing the gap between economically-disadvantaged

students and their more privileged peers. At SICS, the socioeconomic gap average is 12% in comparison to a gap of 32% in the state. At IAF, the school's economically-disadvantaged students outperform the state's on 12 of 14 exams.

SICS and IAF, like the seven other SABIS® U.S. charter schools, implement the proven SABIS® Educational System. Regular assessment, high expectations for student performance and behavior, and involvement in the school through Student Life all contribute to the success of these schools at closing the achievement gap and preparing students for a bright future.

For more information about SABIS® and the schools mentioned visit [www.sabis.net](http://www.sabis.net), [www.iaf-sabis.net](http://www.iaf-sabis.net), or [www.sics-sabis.net](http://www.sics-sabis.net). To download *Closing the Achievement Gap: The SABIS® Story*, please visit <http://tiny.cc/yx78k>.

## Testimonials

“ My experience at Linwood Public Charter School has been great! I am very impressed with the academic progress that my son has shown for the past two school terms. He has improved in many areas...I feel that the method of learning at LPCS is a new system that was absent for so long. Let's keep the SABIS® system around because I know it could benefit our kids in so many ways.”

**Ms. Sherena Dallas**  
LPCS Parent

## IT News



### SABIS® Teams Up with Hewlett-Packard

SABIS® recently partnered with IT giant Hewlett-Packard (HP) to improve efficiency at its schools in the Middle East and North Africa.

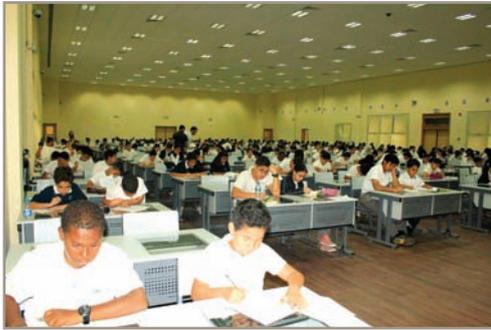


SABIS® Students Using Thin Client Computers

With dozens of SABIS® schools in the Middle East and North Africa, SABIS® specifically sought out an IT solution that would enable the computer assessment process to be more reliable and efficient. Through the organization's new agreement with HP, SABIS® is reaching this goal and has begun deploying HP thin clients, computing devices that enable IT efficiency at a lower cost.

Thin clients are small solid-state devices that connect over a network to a server where most of the processing takes place. SABIS®'s utilization of this technology allows for more secure storage of data and applications on its servers as thin clients have no hard drive. Plus, without a hard drive, fan, or other moving parts, SABIS® computers with thin clients use much less power and have an extended lifespan. Moreover, thin clients require lower maintenance costs as software application updates, virus scanning, and patches can be carried out on the server. This savings can in turn help SABIS® fulfill its Core Purpose of providing students with an outstanding education at a reasonable cost.

SABIS® Regional IT Operations Manager for Operations and Support, Mr. Nabil Feghali, initiated and supported the thin client project at the schools and commented: *"With the thin client solution in place, SABIS® is quickly realizing the benefits. Not only was the capital outlay for the devices less expensive than it would have been for traditional PCs, but the maintenance and management costs are far less, saving the schools a considerable amount of money."* He continued, *"Thin clients are making life easier for the IT team, reducing costs, and improving reliability and performance."*



SABIS® Students in a ITL® Hall that Employs Thin Client Computers

*"SABIS®'s move to HP thin client computing was a response to the constant increase in licensing and maintenance costs of PC and desktop-based solutions,"* commented Mr. Serge Bakhos, SABIS® Group Vice President, Information Technology, Creative Designs, and Books Publishing. *"The new thin client approach delivers Desktop Virtualization Infrastructure software that allows SABIS® to lower costs by centralizing SABIS Integrated Testing and Learning® (ITL®) and computer lab applications and Operating Systems onto one or more central servers. As a result, they can be easily managed and upgraded for the entire user base, instead of being managed on individual desktop systems,"* he continued.

SABIS® is the first HP educational customer to use HP thin client devices, HP servers, and HP management console units to build virtualization solutions and efficiently implement SABIS® software applications. SABIS®'s "virtualized" PCs, which are found in schools' ITL® and computer labs, have the full power of a PC in terms of functionality, graphical capabilities, and processing.

By employing HP thin clients to reduce costs on hardware and licensing, increase security during exams, and create more space in the computer labs, the SABIS® IT Department is upholding the organization's Core Purpose of providing high-quality education at a reasonable cost. Moreover, the SABIS®-HP agreement helps keep SABIS® at the forefront of educational technology, allowing the organization to continue to provide innovative software and services to its global network of schools and students.

## HR News



### SABIS® Revamps Teacher Training Programs



In line with its core values of always improving and never becoming complacent, SABIS® has recently updated its teacher orientation program and is developing new workshops for continuous training opportunities.

Through the SABIS® Professional Development Institute, new and returning teachers from around the global network are receiving universal training. The two-week program—which includes one week solely for new teachers and the following week for both new and veteran teachers—provides new teachers with the fundamentals including general information about SABIS®, its philosophy, the SABIS® Educational System, and background on the school relevant to the teacher, among many other topics. *"By employing an organization-wide teacher training program, SABIS® ensures a smooth integration into the organization's team and maintains consistency among its staff...And for*

returning teachers it is both a refresher and chance to learn about what's new at the corporate and school level and an opportunity for them to share their knowledge with the newcomers," said SABIS® Corporate Operations Director, Mr. Johnny Harb.

The updated training program began in August 2010, and with the next academic year fast approaching, the SABIS® Professional Development Institute team is carefully putting together the 2011-12 program. "It is a very detailed process as we need to make sure that it includes all the new things implemented and created at SABIS® during the past year. Our mission is to make it as up-to-date and comprehensive as possible to ensure that all teachers will be ready for the new school year," commented Mr. Harb.

The institute is also developing new soft skills training workshops which range from effective teamwork to stress management workshops. "With eight different soft skills workshops, such as resolving conflict, time management, presentation skills, staff members have the opportunity to develop their skill sets so they can be more effective and productive in their role," stated Mr. Harb. The SABIS® Professional Development Institute aims to make the soft skills workshops available during the upcoming academic year.

The updated training program and soft skills workshops will continue to provide SABIS®'s team of new and returning teachers and related employees with the knowledge and resources to uphold the organization's high standards across the global SABIS® School Network.

## Testimonials

“ Today is the happiest day of my life; Omar got accepted to Columbia University in New York, School of Engineering...Omar believes, and we share with him the same belief, that the school teachers, the studying, and the exams prepared him to sit for the SAT exams and achieve the high score that allowed him to be admitted to a prestigious school like Columbia University.

Omar spent 10 years of his academic career in the International School of Choueifat-Cairo, which enriched his mind, soul, and body. ”

**Ms. Fatma Moubarak and  
Mr. Mahmoud Arafa  
ISC-Cairo Parents**

## SABIS Student Life Organization® News



ISF Students Contributing to the Habitat for Humanity Project

### ISF Students Participate in Overseas Habitat for Humanity Project

Thirteen students from ISF Internationale Schule Frankfurt-Rhein-Main in Frankfurt, Germany, recently put their winter break to good use and participated in a Habitat for Humanity project in Gliwice, Poland.

The students, in grades 11-12, began planning their project five months earlier, back in September 2010, when they decided to forgo a typical winter break for an alternative one where they would give back by assisting in the renovation of a building for use as a shelter for homeless women

and children in Poland. Remarkably within five months, ISF students raised more than \$14,000 (EUR 10,000) to cover most of the expenses of their trip as well as a material and supply donation to Habitat for Humanity.



ISF Team of Students and Their SLC Who Took Part in the Service Project

The Habitat for Humanity project involved turning a large, 100-year-old building into a women's shelter. ISF students along with a Habitat for Humanity team renovated 88 window panes over the course of five days. *"The students were sanding and stripping paint, among many other tough tasks. I was extremely pleased with their contribution to the project,"* commented ISF Student Life Coordinator, Ms. Eve Yildiz, who accompanied the students on their trip. *"The time spent on the building site proved to be a feat of mental perseverance and personal motivation for the group,"* she added.

Commenting on his will to follow through on the Habitat for Humanity project despite the taxing work, ISF 11<sup>th</sup> grader, Joo Hyung Park said, *"I'm proud to know that the project we worked on will turn out to be a shelter for women. That kept me motivated when I was working,"* Ms. Yildiz added, *"The cause touched all the ISF team members and provided them with necessary motivation for the five days of work."*



ISF Student Working on a Window Pane

In addition to playing an important role in the Habitat for Humanity project, ISF students gained new friendships through their service. *"One of the best things I felt was camaraderie. I think that we've all grown together to become friends with people we really didn't know at the school,"* stated Evan Martin, a Grade 11 student at ISF.

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing safe and secure housing for people in need around the world with the help of volunteers. The organization provides hands-on experience in which project participants first spend months raising money for materials and travel, then, alongside the families and organizations involved, help build a safe and secure home.

Given the success of the project and the wealth of meaningful experiences the students gained by taking part in it, ISF hopes to coordinate many more Habitat for Humanity projects for its students.

For more information on ISF Internationale Schule Frankfurt-Rhein-Main or to access a video featuring the students' community service work in Poland, visit [www.isf-net.de](http://www.isf-net.de) and <http://tiny.cc/6n7yl>, respectively.

**ISC-Choueifat Holds Four-Day Academic Event**

Students in grades 10-12 from the International School of Choueifat-Choueifat recently engaged in a competitive, four-day academic event. Entitled *Beautiful Minds*, the event was organized by the school's Student Life Organization with the aim of providing a stimulating, intellectual activity for students, while reinforcing information taught in class.



ISC-Choueifat Students Engaged in the Beautiful Minds Event

Testing students on material covered in class and general knowledge, the *Beautiful Minds* competition had participants battling time and fellow students to achieve the right answer and be the first to hit the buzzer. Over the course of three days, the competition became progressively harder as students were eliminated.

*"The students were first grouped according to grade and had to answer questions based on their school curriculum to advance to the Grand Finale,"* commented ISC-Choueifat Student Life Coordinator, Ms. Zeina Abou Zelof. *"The three-day preliminaries were intense as students eagerly competed to become student representatives for their grade so they could enter the Grand Finale!"*



A Student Emceeing the *Beautiful Minds* Event



*Beautiful Minds* Student Judges

The top scorers from each grade level made it to the Grand Finale round on the fourth day. Those students battled it out for the first place position of each grade level and those who were successful were awarded prizes from ISC-Choueifat's school director for their efforts. *"To say that this year's Beautiful Minds competition was 'good' would be an understatement,"* commented Ms. Abou Zelof. *"The energy in the assembly hall was infectious and everyone got into the spirit of the competition."*

For more information about the International School of Choueifat-Choueifat, visit [www.iscleb-sabis.net](http://www.iscleb-sabis.net).

## SICS Students Recognized at 71<sup>st</sup> Model Congress



SICS Students at the 71<sup>st</sup> Model Congress

SABIS® students with a passion for politics and debate recently had a chance to take part in a unique role-playing simulation of the United States Congress. Sixteen students from the SABIS® International Charter School (SICS) were selected by the school's SABIS Student Life Organization® to participate in the 71<sup>st</sup> Model Congress held at the American International College in Springfield, Massachusetts.

As a popular annual event attracting students from the New England area and New York, the competition was slated to be a demanding one that required thorough preparation. *"These students took their participation in Model Congress very seriously,"* said

SICS Director, Ms. Karen Reuter. *"Several weeks before the competition, students began meeting once a week during the Student Life activity periods to practice debate, go over parliamentary procedures, and write legislation. They also met in groups outside of school to prepare themselves for the competition."*

The preparation paid off and SICS students successfully debated among the 300 students in grades 9-12 who participated in the event. Out of a total of 12 awards given out at the

competition, SICS won six awards, including the prestigious Outstanding Delegation Award won by Davonte Johnson, Chelsea Orefice, Brandon Santiago, and Hannah Sullivan. Furthermore, all 16 of SICS's participants were awarded the Team Spirit Award, plus four SICS students, Danielle Lessard, Davonte Johnson, Brandon Santiago, and Hannah Sullivan, won Honorable Mention.



SICS Students Recognized with Outstanding Delegation Award

*"It is not very often that you get to experience fast-paced excitement in an academic setting. Model Congress is like a sport: adrenaline is high, the competition is fierce, and it allows participants an opportunity to display their skills in a way they can feel proud of,"* commented Danielle Lessard, a third-year presenting delegate and Vice President of SICS's Model Congress Team. Also a delegate for the third year running, Brandon Santiago stated, *"Model Congress is a lens that allows you to see into your future and what you want to do for yourself, your community, and your nation."*

Like all SLO™ activities—whether on campus or facilitated through external events off-campus—the competition provided students with a rich educational experience. *"Model Congress provided SICS students with an insight into government and allowed students to practice and become comfortable with formal public speaking. Moreover, they learned to respect and cooperate effectively with their fellow delegates and accept defeat gracefully,"* added SICS history teacher, Mr. Dean Berry.

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

## ISC-Doha Students Participate in Computer Science Workshop



ISC-Doha Students Engaged in CS4Qatar Workshop Activity

Several students from the International School of Choueifat-Doha (ISC-Doha) recently participated in Carnegie Mellon University's *CS4Qatar Workshop*. Organized by the university's School of Computer Science, the two-day workshop provided ISC-Doha students with a unique opportunity to join more than 120 students from 30 high schools in Qatar to learn about the field of computer science.

Twelve ISC-Doha participants from grades 11-12 were exposed to subjects revolving around technology and computer science, all taught in an interactive manner involving discussions and exercises. The first session focused on computer science-related puzzles, allowing students to practice problem-solving skills and develop computational thinking skills. The second session concentrated on programming, with visual and interactive methods to help students understand the concepts. The final session involved robotics, where the latest artificial intelligence concepts and technology were discussed and then students were challenged to program a robot to complete a complex task.

Commenting on what he and his classmates gained by attending the workshop, ISC-Doha 11<sup>th</sup> grader, Ali Ibrahim said, *"We have learned a lot during the two-day workshop. We learned how to work as a team. We learned how to program a robot, how to program software, and*

how to solve hard algorithms. Teams of four students were gathered to work on programming a robot, so everyone had the chance to do it." Another ISC-Doha student stated, "The two-day course was very educational and beneficial for us...it was fun learning about how important computers are to everyone. I hope I participate in the event next year."



ISC-Doha Students Prepare for a CS4Qatar Workshop Exercise

ISC-Doha Secondary Academic Quality Controller (AQC), Ms. Maha Abu Shaban, facilitated the school's participation in the workshop and was pleased with the students' involvement. "Well done to our students who participated in CS4Qatar. Enthusiastic and always eager to learn more, our students represented ISC-Doha admirably and one of our students even won the problem-solving puzzle competition against 16 other students," stated Ms. Abu Shaban.

As a member of the SABIS® School Network, ISC-Doha's seeks to provide students with opportunities to explore their interests, stretch the boundaries of their knowledge, and reach their full potential. Events such as this one provide ISC-Doha students with exposure to the rapidly-developing field of technology and the platform to apply their knowledge and skills in real life situations.

For more information on the International School of Choueifat-Doha, visit [www.iscdoha-sabis.net](http://www.iscdoha-sabis.net).

## Feature School



## SABIS® Public-Private Partnership Schools in Kurdistan



Sardam International School



Sarwaran International School



Fakhir Mergasori International School

SABIS® became involved in Kurdistan in 2006 as operator of the International School of Choueifat-Erbil. Two years after seeing students benefit from the SABIS® Educational System, in 2008 Kurdish leaders embarked on a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) project with SABIS® in order to bring those same benefits to Kurdish students attending public schools.

Today, three years later, SABIS® successfully operates three PPP schools in Kurdistan—Fakhir Mergasori International School in Erbil, Sardam International School in Duhok, and Sarwaran International School in Erbil. Combined, these three schools have an enrollment of more than 1,500 students in grades Kindergarten to Grade 4 and offer students a rich education that may not have been otherwise accessible to them.



Sardam International School Students Using the ITL® Application on Laptops

## Academics



Sarwaran International School  
Students Working on a Class Activity

Like their sister schools in Kurdistan—the International School of Choueifat-Erbil and the International School of Choueifat-Suleimaniah—and all other member schools of the SABIS® School Network, the three PPP schools provide Kurdish students with a high-quality education that has been developed and refined over a span of 125 years. By following the dynamic SABIS® Educational System, which blends comprehensive curriculum with innovative educational technology, PPP schools provide students with the knowledge, experiences, and skills necessary to excel in college and beyond.

Each year, the three schools have expanded by offering an additional grade level and, by doing so, they will all eventually serve students in grades K-12. Once the full K-12 program is in place, PPP students will have the opportunity to graduate with a high school diploma, with or without external exams and certificates, and the knowledge and skills required for successful admission to college or university.

The students enrolled in the PPP schools follow a curriculum that has been carefully tailored to accommodate both their future plans for university and the rapidly changing, global society. This includes studying mathematics and language—English, Kurdish, and Arabic—among other subjects.



Fakhir Mergasori International School  
Student Using the ITL® Application  
on a Laptop

In addition to providing a rich educational environment for their students, the PPP schools also provide a valuable opportunity for professional development for the staff and teachers in the schools. As part of the PPP project, Kurdistan Ministry of Education (MOE) teachers receive more than three years of supplementary training in the English language and the implementation of SABIS® teaching methods. *“Using SABIS® books specifically designed for the PPP teachers, incoming teachers are carefully trained so they can ensure student learning,”* said a PPP staff member. *“The purpose of the training is to reinforce MOE teachers’ ability and confidence in teaching in the English language and using the SABIS® system,”* he added.

## Achievements

Fakhir Mergasori International School has been in operation for three years, while Sardam International School and Sarwaran International School have each been running for two. Remarkably, given such a short period in operation, all three SABIS® PPP schools are showing significant results. *“In only its second year of operation, students who have never been educated in the English language are now speaking and communicating in English. Plus, Ministry of Education teachers conduct classes confidently, using and enforcing the English language,”* noted one SABIS® PPP staff member about Sarwaran International School.



Fakhir Mergasori International  
School Student Engages Her Class through  
Shadow Teaching

Furthermore, the success of the PPP schools is continuously demonstrated by their strong enrollment numbers. *“The PPP schools have been favored by*

many parents and the enrollment demand for the academic year 2010-2011 has overwhelmed the administration," commented a PPP staff member. "For instance, at Fakhir Mergasori the enrollment for the 2010-11 academic year for KG1 was set for 50 students. However, the school's administration was overwhelmed with nearly 1,200 applicants for KG1!"

## SLO™



Sardam International School  
KG2 Students Participate in a Teddy Bear Picnic Event

All students in the SABIS® PPP schools are encouraged to join the Student Life Organization (SLO™) and to play an active role in their education. By taking part in SLO™, students are provided with hands-on opportunities to get involved on campus, which can range from becoming prefects to participating in clubs, events, and extracurricular activities.

As such, the schools' SLO™ coordinates several events and activities throughout the year to provide students with educational and engaging opportunities. One recent event took place at Sarwaran International School when SLO™ students invited hearing-impaired students to attend the

school's art exhibition. "The visiting students were very happy to be with our prefects. They were so excited to see the exhibition and the school campus, as well as meet our prefects," commented Sarwaran International School Student Life Coordinator, Mr. Mahmoud Omar.

"The teachers and staff who accompanied the hearing-impaired students were amazed to see the prefects guiding their students, and even more amazed to see that Sarwaran could depend on prefects to help manage the event," added Mr. Omar. "They even asked if SLO™ members could visit their school and advise them on how they can manage the students inside and outside of classes."



Sarwaran International School Prefects Guiding Hearing-Impaired Students at the Art Exhibition

Like all SLO™ activities and events, students enjoyed their time and gained a meaningful experience. A Sarwaran International School staff member commented, "The prefects fostered new friendships, utilized leadership skills, learned about people different than themselves, and discovered that they have a social responsibility toward those students."

Given the schools' positive impact across Kurdistan and impressive progress in raising education standards, the SABIS® PPP schools will continue their efforts to provide first-rate education to the students they serve. SABIS® has plans to offer more students there with a rich education, and as such, will open additional schools in Kurdistan, with the next one—the International School of Choueifat-Duhok in northern Kurdistan—slated to open in the near future. SABIS® and all its schools in Kurdistan are committed to making a difference by developing world-class citizens who will become instrumental in shaping the region's future.



Grade 2 Students at Sardam International School's Fun Day Event

For more information about the Public-Private Partnership project in Kurdistan and the schools involved, visit [www.pppkurdistan-sabis.net](http://www.pppkurdistan-sabis.net).



### The International School of Minnesota Alumnus Omar Bushara



ISM Alumnus, Omar Bushara

Omar Bushara, a 12<sup>th</sup> grader from the International School of Minnesota (ISM), has long been interested in helping others. Having joined ISM as a Grade 2 student, his interest in giving back stems from his time spent at ISM where Omar says *"a concern for the welfare of others is promoted."*

Today, as he nears graduation in June 2011, Omar has pinpointed how he will fulfill his passion for helping others and has decided to pursue a career in medicine. *"Biology classes at ISM have been instrumental in increasing my interest in it,"* commented Omar. Having recently been accepted to study biology at several prestigious universities—including Harvard and Stanford—Omar is one step closer to achieving his dreams.

Omar's journey to reach his ambitious goals has involved several accomplishments over the years. Most recently, he was recognized for his impressive research entered into the Young Epidemiology Scholars (YES) Competition in 2010, where he was one of only 60 finalists chosen from among 639 applicants from across the United States who submitted research papers applying epidemiological methods of analysis to examine a population-based health problem. Choosing to study the relationship between milk allergies and calcium deficiency and the rate of bone fractures, Omar's recognition as a finalist in the YES Competition involved a trip to Washington, D.C., where he earned a \$2,000 scholarship for his research.

Additionally, Omar was recently recognized as an AP Scholar with Distinction, National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist, and has been on the school's Academic Honor Roll throughout high school. *"Omar is a very self-directed, bright young man. When he wants something, he goes for it,"* stated ISM Student Life Coordinator, Ms. Christy Hensely.

With a 4.0 GPA and a full load of courses—including APs—Omar still manages to give back to his school community. In fact, he has a wide range of interests and has played an active role on campus during his past 10+ years at ISM. Remarkably, Omar was responsible for launching ISM's first student-run online newspaper, *The Husky Herald*, coordinating a school-wide food drive, and serving as president of the school's National Honor Society, among many others.

At present, Omar is involved in several of ISM's extracurricular activities. *"I am the Deputy Head of Sports in Student Life; I play basketball, play the trombone in the school's band and orchestra; and I am the editor-in-chief of our school's student newspaper,"* said Omar. Commenting on Omar's presence on campus and his recent achievements, Ms. Hensley said, *"Omar works hard and manages to balance his academics, music,*

athletics, and leadership responsibilities in a way that many adults might envy." His dedication to his studies, while maintaining his campus responsibilities, has provided Omar with a solid foundation of skills on which to draw upon in college and beyond. "The rigorous classes over the years at ISM have really prepared me. In fact, many classes that I have taken at ISM have actually been college level classes, specifically, AP courses," said Omar. "Because of ISM, I'm about 3 years ahead of my public school counterparts in the subjects of math and world language," added Omar.

Commenting on what has contributed to his acceptance into the world's most competitive universities, Omar noted, "ISM makes it easier to have a more competitive college application. Taking tests at ISM every week has made doing well in standardized tests and AP exams easier."

Omar is "quite pleased and honored" about his college acceptances and is looking forward to university in the fall. Given his tenacity to achieve everything he sets out to do, it is clear that Omar will fulfill his academic and personal goals, which involve pursuing biology and philosophy majors in college and ultimately graduating from medical school.



SABIS® is a global education management organization that manages Pre-K and K-12 schools worldwide. The network is comprised of schools spanning four continents. Since the first school was founded in 1886, SABIS® has graduated thousands of students who have joined top universities around the world.

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

**MIDDLE EAST REGION:** The International School of Choueifat - Choueifat, Lebanon | The International School of Choueifat - Sharjah, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Al Ain, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Ras Al Khaimah, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Dubai, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Umm Al Quwain, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Koura, Lebanon | The International School of Choueifat - Amman, Jordan | King Abdul Aziz International School - Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | The International School of Choueifat - Doha, Qatar | The International School of Choueifat - Damascus, Syria | The International School of Choueifat - Ruwais, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Muscat, Oman | The International School of Choueifat - Homs, Syria | SABIS® International School - Adma, Lebanon | The International School of Choueifat - Manama, Bahrain | The International School of Choueifat - Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq | The International School of Choueifat - Abu Dhabi Khalifa City "A", U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Suleimaniah, Kurdistan, Iraq **PPP Schools:** Military High School - Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | 3 Schools - Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq | 16 Schools in Western Region (Al Ghayathi, Al Silaa, Bada'a Al Motawa'ah, Ruwais) - Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | 17 in Eastern Region (Al Maqam, Al Khazna, Al Khatm, Al Ain) - Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. **EGYPT:** The International School of Choueifat - Cairo, Egypt | The International School of Choueifat - City of 6 October, Egypt **PAKISTAN:** The International School of Choueifat - Lahore, Pakistan **NORTH AMERICA:** The International School of Minneapolis - Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.A. | SABIS® International Charter School - Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A. | International Academy of Flint - Flint, Michigan, U.S.A. | SABIS® International School - Phoenix, Arizona, U.S.A. | Milestone SABIS® Academy of New Orleans - New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S.A. | Holyoke Community Charter School - Holyoke, Massachusetts, U.S.A. | International Academy of Saginaw - Saginaw, Michigan, U.S.A. | Mt. Auburn International Academy - Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.A. | Linwood Public Charter School - Shreveport, Louisiana, U.S.A. | Peachtree Hope Charter School - Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A. | Brooklyn Ascend Charter School - Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A. (Licensed Member School) | Brownsville Ascend Charter School - Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A. (Licensed Member School) | Bushwick Ascend Charter School - Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A. (Licensed Member School) **UNITED KINGDOM:** SABIS® International School U.K. - Bath, England **GERMANY:** ISF Internationale Schule Frankfurt-Rhein-Main - Frankfurt, Germany | ISR Internationale Schule am Rhein in Neuss - Neuss, Germany **ROMANIA:** Cambridge School of Bucharest - Bucharest, Romania

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