



Miras International School Newsletter

Welcome Back

Dear parents,

This year Miras International School celebrates its 15th anniversary. Today in our school there are 642 students from 24 countries and an international team of teachers. The school has been accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (USA) and authorized for all IB programmes as well as has the status of an International Baccalaureate school. Our graduates receive the state-recognized education certificates and the internationally accepted IB MYP certificates and IB Diploma.

There will be re-accreditation of the school by CIS/NEASC. From November 8 to 14 a team of 11 specialists, administrators of different schools around the world and NEASC representatives will be working at our school. Good luck to all of us.

The development of the secondary school multilingual model is under way. In the primary and secondary schools students obtain extra support in learning English as a foreign language.

I would like to share joyful news: at the beginning of the school year there was a qualifying round of the international competition in mathematics. Our grade 6 student Aisha Dyussupova won it. She with a group of students will go to Bali for the next round of the competition and represent the Republic of Kazakhstan. Good luck, Aisha! In September our children showed themselves successfully at the international conference of UNESCO. Also the participation in international competitions on different subjects has been scheduled for the 1st semester.

We congratulate the new members of PTA and the Student Council. We wish you suc-

cessful work in this academic year. Let me express my deep gratitude to all parents for their cooperation and support of the school's positive image.

Kind regards,

Head of School

Irina Vlassyants

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Message from the Secondary School Principal

Hello and welcome back to Miras as we embark on an exciting 2014-15 school year!

It is my great pleasure to take over the position and responsibilities as MIS' Secondary Principal. I'm originally from Michigan in the USA where I earned my teaching certificate and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership. I've worked in education as a teacher and administrator for more than 23 years with IB experience in Indonesia, Ethiopia (twice) and now Almaty. Joining me as new community members are my son and daughter, wife Jerri, (teaching ESD/EAL in the primary) and several new secondary staff members as well:

- Phillip Dray , English and English A Head of Department.
- David Walsh, History, Humanities, Theory of Knowledge (TOK) and English.
- Sadvakasova Gulbaira, Kazak
- Alenova Kundyz, Math
- Aidaraliyeva Shahirizada, Math
- Dolgikh Stanislav, Science, Biology
- Kenesbek Zhadyra, Science
- Hakak Almira English B
- Kenevich Natalya Russian A

Please join me in welcoming them to the MIS learning community.

Interim reports will be issued to students on October 17, during 8th period and all students are expected to attend all lessons up

until the holiday which begins on Monday October 20 and lasts until students return to school on Monday October 27. Please make a concerted effort to have your child in school every day of the scheduled Academic Calendar.

In the 6th and 7th grades we have begun a new model, whereby able students in RTS and KTS take some of their classes (ICT, drama/music and Science) in another stream (RTS/ETS) as a means of strengthening language ability as well as transitioning to another stream. Some KTS students are making similar transitions in grades 9 and 11 in an effort to strengthen their ability to succeed on the UNT.

Already the students are busy with school activities both inside and outside the building including The Apple Action CAS and service project, Student Council, boys football/soccer, girls soccer, The University admissions Fair, the Alice in Wonderland IB project, badminton, MUN (Model United Nations), computer club, planning of the Hong Kong trip and much more!

Thank you for supporting MIS in helping your child grow and learn and please feel free to contact me or any of our staff if you have any questions or concerns.

James Lothschutz,

Secondary Principal

James@almaty.miras.kz



"It is my great pleasure to take over the position and responsibilities as MIS' Secondary Principal. "

Message from the Primary School Principal

Welcome to our 2014 – 2015 academic year at Miras International School. I hope you and your families have all had an enjoyable summer and your children are ready for their next stage of learning.

There are some changes in the Primary School this year. We have renamed our BE English of instruction classes, to D, so we are now in line with our Secondary School. We have started a new Grade 1 class, 1F. This means we have three Russian of instruction classes, 1A, 1B, 1F, one Kazakh of instruction class, 1C and one English of instruction class 1/2D in Grade One.

We welcome the following staff members to Miras International School.:

- Adam Huggins as our Grade 3D Home Room Leader,
- Bonnie Minor as the grade 1/2D Home Room Leader,
- Jerri Lothschutz who will teach Grade 5 English and work in our English Support Department,
- Linda Mae as our Grade 5D Home Room Leader,
- Yelena Anissimova as the Grade 1F Home Room Leader,
- Asel Almisheva as the Grade 4B Home Room Leader,
- Kuatbek Bazarbekov who is teaching Kazakh in Preschool, Kindergarten and Grade 5, and
- Mubarak Rozieva who is teaching PE and Dance in Preschool and Kindergarten.

It was great to catch up with so many parents at our grade level meetings in September. The teachers were able to show that students of the same grade level worked towards the same learning expectations regardless of their language of instruction. Parents were able to meet their child's Home Room Leader and discuss many issues.

I will continue having the Principal's Coffee Mornings on the last Thursday of every month at 8:10 in the small cafeteria next to the Atrium. You are all very welcome to join me. . Please come along and discuss your questions, concerns, ideas and the workshops you would like to be planned in the Primary School this year.

The first Principal's Coffee Morning was held on Thursday 25th September. I was joined by parents from Preschool to Grade 5. A lively discussion of issues took place. Please join me at the next Principal's Coffee Morning on Thursday 27th October.

The Kindergarten to Grade 5 open morning will be on Wednesday 8th October. The Preschool open morning will be on Wednesday 15th October. Information will be sent out closer to this time.

Further information is on our website <http://www.miras.kz>

Kind regards

Trish Scott

Primary School Principal

Phone: +7 (727) 227 69 42 (ext 121)

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“There are some changes in the Primary School this year.”

Development of Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills in the Primary School



The Primary Years Programme (PYP) is committed to the development of an internationally minded life-long learner. It provides the students with many opportunities for engaging and exciting inquiries about the self, other people and the environment. The Programme seeks a balance between its five essential elements: knowledge, concepts, skills, attitudes and action.

During the last two academic years the primary school teachers have been working on more comprehensive and age-appropriate sets of ATL skills for each grade level which allow for consistent and continuous development of social, research, thinking, communication and self-management skills. This work also enables teachers to better monitor, assess and plan further activities for students more efficiently. The students reflect on and assess themselves against specific skills and set short and long-term goals.

Within the first term of this academic year the teachers have been discussing and collecting strategies and tools for the development of ATL skills in the Primary School. The list of strategies and tools will be collated and shared with the school community in Term Two.

Nadezhda Kim
PYP Coordinator

“The programme seeks a balance between its five essential elements: knowledge, concepts, skills, attitudes and action. “

MYP The Next Chapter

Dear Parents,



As you may be aware, the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme has undergone recent changes. The goals of these changes include making the MYP more streamlined, homogenous, and easily understood.

Additionally, The Next Chapter will bring the MYP more closely into line with the PYP and Diploma Programmes, enabling greater continuity across the IB continuum and facilitating the step up into IB Diploma.

- **Removal of the Areas of Interaction, to be replaced by the Global contexts;**
- **Revision of the unit and vertical planning processes.**

Some of the changes include:

- **An updated IB Learner Profile, representing more diversity (while maintaining the same ten traits);**
- **Revision of all subject guides;**
- **Revision and streamlining of subject objectives and assessment criteria;**

This year MYP teachers are going to be involved in the process of updating all required documents as per the requirement of

NEXT CHAPTER MYP.

Best regards,
Anna Mashura
Sanjeev Kumar

DP News



The start of the year has witnessed many exciting developments for DP at the Miras International School. We have a larger Grade 11 – 12 student enrollment this year. We are also welcoming two new students into DP from the International School of Almaty. Together, they make up a strong base of IB candidates for the school. They have already taken part in a number of interesting events in September (see activities section).

We also would like to welcome our new DP teachers:

- Philip Dray (English A),
- David Walsh (History, TOK),
- Tatyana Shadrina (Russian B), and
- Ian Riddel (Guidance counselor and G12 homeroom teacher).

The students have already started the DP preparatory courses in August. At the prep courses, the students learned the basics of the programme logistics and worked on developing essential skills to have a successful start of their DP.

This year the following DP subjects start with a new curriculum: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Economics, and Art. The teachers who teach these subjects have either been to an appropriate workshop or will attend one in the near future.

A great start of the year and good luck to our students in the coming year!

Igor Guralnik

Miras Almaty DP coordinator

School Dress Code, Electronic Pass, and PE Kit

As per the Student Code of Conduct, students are required to follow the school dress code, electronic pass, and PE kits requirements as stated below:

Dress Code

The Mission and Philosophy of Miras International School are oriented to harmonious development of educated students responsible, respectful and able to cooperate with others. Dress code of Miras International School students should meet the safety and health standards and promote the learning process.

Girls

Tartan Skirt*

Blue Jacket*

Blue woolen waistcoat (sleeveless jumper)*

Blue woolen jumper*

This must be accompanied by **single-colored black or dark brown shoes** and a white shirt or blouse (plain with no colours or patterns).

In colder weather, **only black, white, navy (dark) blue or skin color tights** may be worn.

*these items are the atelier made items.

Boys

Grey classic trousers*

Blue Jacket*

Blue woolen waistcoat (sleeveless jumper)*

Blue woolen jumper*

This must be accompanied by **single-colored black or brown shoes** and a white classic shirt (plain with no colors or patterns).

For all students in cold weather students must change their outside boots for inside black shoes before lessons.

*these items are the atelier made items.

Appropriate attire for PE, dance and swimming classes:

PE class: appropriate sport footwear, shorts/tracksuit, T-shirt

(house t-shirt if the student has been issued one).

• **Swimming class:** swimsuit/ swimming trunks, swimming cap

Dance class: shorts/skirt/ gymnastics suit, dance shoes

On non-uniform days students must adhere to the usual dress code as per the code of conduct.

If a doctor has recommended the use of special shoes (e.g. softer material) these must also be black.

Electronic passes

The electronic passes system was introduced to improve safety standards and antiterrorist protection. Each school student, teacher and employee must have his/her pass card on them for registration of their presence in the Miras School grounds. A free pass card is given to students only once. If a pass is lost, it can be re-issued after a fee is paid to the school Accounts Department.

It is STRICTLY prohibited to give a pass card to a third person.

Those who are late for study or work must only enter through the central doors of the school.



Alla Kurbanova, Dean of Students

Miras in Wonderland

An interesting interdisciplinary project in Miras DP G11

Miras Diploma Programme students have experienced a new interdisciplinary project – ALICE IN MIRASLAND. It was based on the immortal books by Lewes Carroll **Alice in Wonderland** and **Through the Looking Glass**. The objectives were for the students to develop their ATL skills - research, communication, presentation, and teamwork.



The project itself lasted one week though the preparations commenced a week earlier. The project week witnessed various events centered around the theme of the books. Through the week there were questions/answers competition for grades 6-12, and picture and costume competitions. The school was decorated with famous quotations from the books in three languages.

The project culminated on Friday as a proper atmosphere was created in the morning with the Disney cartoon about Alice playing on the big TV in the Atrium accompanied by the soundtrack of the famous Russian audio show created back in the 70s. Many students came dressed up as the characters from the books: Mad Hatters, White Rabbits, Red Queen, and, certainly, a few Alices. Miras miraculously transformed into the Wonderland!

The main event of the project was the presentations by the DP students of G11. The topics included symmetry, logic, word-play, and physics inconsistencies.

Teachers of different subjects have been involved in the preparation and the supervision of the project Elena (Russian A Literature), Igor (Math SL/HL), Anna (Physics SL/HL), Dana (Chemistry SL/HL), Bolsyn (Art). Olga and Aigul provided musical and decoration support.

It was a wonderful opportunity for the whole school to be immersed in an atmosphere of a fairy-tale and to support the seniors. For DP G11 students it was their first encounter with research work and an integrated project at the DP level. Certainly, other projects will be more traditionally academic and perhaps with less of a fairy-tale in them, but all participants enjoyed working and more importantly **enjoyed learning** on the project. We want to wish our DP students joy in their further studies and to see strong results in their work. Best of luck in the new academic year!

Anna Mashura, MYP Coordinator,
Physics teacher

Elena Vladimirova, SS Vice-Principal,
Russian A teacher

Igor Guralnik, DP Coordinator,
Physics and Math teacher



CAS - Apple Action



IBDP Students recently took part in the **Apple Action** turning fallen apples into delicious apple crumble. They mixed the ingredients, peeled and chopped the apples, baked the crumble and produced custard. The finished product was successfully sold to students and staff raising 28,000 Tenge which will be donated to the orphanage in the form of desperately needed sports equipment.

“The [apple crumble] was successfully sold to students and staff raising 28,000 tenge which will be donated...”

Thank you to ALL the staff and students involved in this relevant and worthwhile project.

Sanjeev Kumar, CAS Coordinator



ALMATY PRIVATE SCHOOL 2014-2015 FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Below are the results of the football tournament:

Young Boys:	Miras 3	ISA 1
Young Boys:	Miras 5	MKNO 1
Senior Boys:	Miras 5	Mariyam 1

Emal Kamalludin scored 5 goals he is the top scorer of the tournament at the moment

We wish Miras football team good luck for their upcoming games!!!

PE Department



The Miras Girls Football team fought to a tough 0-0 draw in their first game against last year's champion ISA. Come out and support our teams in the coming weeks.

2014 MIS Football Schedule



Girls Schedule

Date	Event	Time	Location
Wed. Sept 30	Game vs ISA	3:30-5:00	MIS Field
Thurs. Oct 2	Game vs Tien Shan-2	4:30-5:00	MIS Field
Fri. Oct. 3	Game vs Tien Shan 1	4:30-6:00	MIS Field
Mon. Oct. 6	Game vs AIS	4:30-6:00	MIS Field



Boys Schedule

Date	Event	Time	Location
Thurs. Sept. 23	Game SB vs Tien Shan 1	5:00-6:30	MIS Field
Tues. Sept. 30	Game YB vs Tamos	3:30-5:00	MIS Field
Tues. Sept. 30	Game SB vs KAU	5:00-6:30	MIS Field
Thurs. Oct. 2	Game YB vs Arkemed	5:30-7:00	MIS Field
Thurs. Oct. 2	Game SB vs Arkemed	5:00-6:30	MIS Field

Note: SB=Senior Boys, YB= Young boys (MS) Soccer/Football 2014



October 2014

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Schedule of Events

- ♦ October 4—Kurban Ait
- ♦ October 17—End of First Term (students receive T1 reports)
- ♦ October 20-24—Autumn Break
- ♦ October 27—Beginning of Second Term
- ♦ October 31—Halloween



School Clubs

In September, teachers organized the first school clubs for the year. This year's clubs include the following:

- Advanced Computer Club
- Art Club
- Dance Club
- French Club
- MUN Club
- Music Drama Club
- Pi Club
- Swimming Club
- And many more



Students should sign up with the club leaders. Each homeroom has a club handbook listing which clubs will be available for the year.

Model United Nations (MISMUN)

Coming off a successful 2014 MISMUN event, the MISMUN Club is already starting preparations for the 2015 MISMUN conference. MISMUN 2014, had roughly 140 delegates from three different cities and 16 different schools and universities. It was the largest MISMUN by number of delegates and students and included schools from Almaty, Astana and Shymkent.

This school year MISMUN 2015 hope to add more delegates from a larger number of schools from across Kazakhstan. Miras continues to work closely with the United Nations in helping prepare delegates for the next MISMUN conference. David Liu, MISMUN Coordinator



David Liu, MISMUN Coordinator

First Bell Ceremony

On September 1st, Miras International School celebrated the Annual "First Bell" ceremony, the official start to the 2014-2015 school year. The weather was perfect as new and returning students, staff, parents and guests alike were recognized and celebrated as contributors to another productive and exciting school year!



From the Student Guidance Counselor

From the Counselor:

My role in the school covers a diverse range of responsibilities: university admissions, pastoral care, career advice, parent liaison, teacher and more. My office is located on the ground floor of the new building room 134, near the IB Coordinator's office. and .

The first issue I wish to highlight is the need for students to have a proficiency in English qualification a requirement B for study in the United Kingdom, the United States of America, New Zealand and Australia.

Students from all non-English speaking countries are required to prove proficiency in English, and universities maintain the right to test applicants. Ideally this qualification should be obtained **towards the end of year 11** as both tests scores are valid for two years.

Possession of successful results on IELTS, TOEFL or another legitimate international test of English Proficiency is a requirement for study in the United Kingdom and the USA for most International students.

In some instances this requirement is waived for a score of 5 (of 7) on IB English A HL or 6 (of 7) on English A SL

Applying to the USA

US colleges and universities require that all their applicants take one or more standardized tests. These tests usually include the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language), and the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) or ACT test. Although the PSAT is not a required admissions test, it is highly recommended that students take it in year 10 as preparation for the SAT test in year 11.

What is IELTS?

IELTS, the International English Language Testing System, is designed to assess the language ability of candidates who need to study or work where English is the language of communication.

IELTS is jointly managed by the University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations (Cambridge ESOL), British Council and IDP: IELTS Australia. IELTS conforms to the highest international standards of language assessment. IELTS is recognised by universities and employers in many countries, including Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the UK and the USA. It is also recognised by professional bodies, immigration authorities and other government agencies.

Please feel free to email, or call to set up an appointment to come and discuss any of your concerns with me.

Ian Riddel, School Guidance Counselor

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Mission Statement:

Miras International School, Almaty integrates International Baccalaureate standards and practices with the best elements of the Kazakhstani education programme to offer students a quality education in a choice of three languages. The School greater purpose is to equip students to lead constructive and fulfilling lives, to appreciate and respect a diverse range of cultures and to have a sense of service and responsibility towards the world community.

New School Website: <http://www.miras.kz>

