



The School Buzz



News & Updates

Oman's National Day – Celebrating 50 Glorious Years

On November 18, 2020, we gathered in spirit to parade our esteemed flag all across the nation and recall the glories of our past and what's yet to come. Over the past 50 years, the Sultanate of Oman has witnessed change for the better, which has brought to its people the glory and brilliance they carry with them today.

The greatest advancements ever experienced by this nation fell upon us during the reign of His Late Majesty, Sultan Qaboos, May His Soul Rest in Peace. In a world that witnessed countless threats to global order, he preserved Oman's unfaltering peace, protecting its people in every way. It is a privilege like no other to be able to say we have been brought up by such a remarkable leader, who to many of us, had been a father figure too. An epitome of kindness and sophistication to follow after is just one of the many ways we could recall His Late Majesty.

As we hold the treasures of our past in our hearts, we turn to our bright future. His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq shall undoubtedly carry on the great legacy left behind by his predecessor. On the November 18, Sultan Haitham

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delivered his speech celebrating the nation's 50th Anniversary, discussing Oman's achievements as well as addressing and praising its loyal citizens, and more. The Sultan celebrated both past and present as he stated, "We pray to the Almighty Allah to have mercy on the soul of the late Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, to reward him plentifully, and to enable us to follow his footsteps in establishing the next stage of development in a manner that meets the aspirations of the citizens of this dear homeland and reflects the gloriousness of its history, hoping for a brighter future to unveil, God willing."

As we progress further into the age of information and advancement, we confidently place our faith in Sultan Haitham, whose efforts to maximize Oman's potential become evident with every passing day. He leads a nation upheld by its youth who study diligently, its labor force that works earnestly, and its citizens who serve their blessed country to their greatest abilities. Amidst the challenges we face, it is the unity and stability projected by him that keep us determined. We, a nation of diversity and unmatched generosity, shall thus leave our extraordinary imprint on the world, forevermore.



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Virtual Celebrations of Oman's 50th National Day

Over the last 20 years, ISC-Muscat celebrated Oman's National Day widely with its students and staff. This year, however, the festivity has been disrupted by the novel coronavirus pandemic. Nonetheless, ISC-Muscat live-streamed the event celebration on its social media channels, to bring some cheer amid the pandemic. ISC-Muscat students filmed a show and prepared a documentary, which were released on the National Day.

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ISC-Muscat would like to congratulate His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq Al Said and all the wonderful Omani nationals on this very special occasion, and reaffirm our commitment to the country and its committee. With faith, good will, and dedication, Oman's glory will continue to shine!.

International Day of Women and Girls in Science

By Aya Al Sabahi

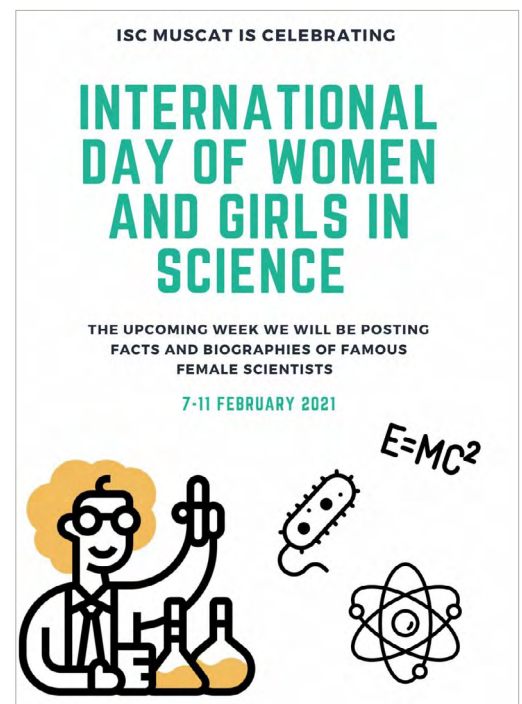
Women in science all over the world play a vital role in society today. They continue to achieve, aspire, and inspire. In celebration of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, ISC-Muscat asked current students, alumni, and the first female wireline engineer in the GCC "Why science?" in hopes of offering girls and women exclusive insight that would push them to be on their own journey of self-discovery. The participants gave encouraging advice to the younger generation, mentioning how rewarding pursuing the sciences will be. Their stories are not only of success, but also of change and hope for an ever-improving world.

To look at where the future is headed, we must embrace the past and find inspiration from the women that lead their respective fields. It is not often that we think of the research and dedication it took from the scientists to reach where we are today. There are many women with great achievements that have shaped the world around us; Dorothy Hodgkin, a chemist who is considered a founder of X-ray crystallography and who discovered insulin's 3D structure, which helped kickstart research and breakthroughs in diabetes; Marie Curie, a physicist and chemist who devoted her life to the sciences, and whose extensive research in radioactivity stood as groundwork that greatly contributed to finding cancer treatments; and Ada Lovelace, a mathematician who was the first to recognize that a computer may be capable far beyond sole calculations, and who is known as the first-ever computer programmer.

To pursue science is truly to pursue something stimulating and meaningful – something that will truly impact the world.

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Education in the 21st Century

By Zain Abu Kuhail & Salma Darwiche

With the continuous progression of technology in these modern times, the world has witnessed great innovation and evolution in the field of education. This noted innovation has allowed education systems to be nurtured into providing optimum delivery of knowledge and skills to students all over the world. It has brought upon new methods of teaching, intended to raise productivity and efficiency.

These innovations also make room for students to adapt to the inevitable changes and inconsistency of today's situation amid the COVID-19 crisis. Modern technology has allowed adaptability in the sense that it has provided the necessary equipment and tools to permit the continual pursuit of education regardless of the obvious obstacles along the way.

However, at times, educators may need to call on their creativity in order to deliver to their students the best possible learning experience they can receive. This creativity has been displayed in an inspiring account of a Mexican teacher who turned her truck into a mobile classroom to continue teaching her students on the autism spectrum who were unable to adapt to electronic learning. This is an optimum example to show the importance of the pursuit of education regardless of these hard times and how students have efficiently adapted to these fast changes.

During such times, we stop to consider how we find ourselves a part of this change. As students at ISC-Muscat, this curiosity is answered every day, as innovative education is all around us and we have been able to easily adapt to fully online as well as hybrid learning and testing. In fact, the SABIS[®] Student Life Organization (SLO) has not fallen short of selecting E-Creativity & Support as its theme of the year, as we now understand the need for that more than ever before. SABIS[®] has truly managed to prove that it is in fact about Education for a Changing World[®].

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Online, on Campus, or Hybrid – The Learning Never Stops

ISC-Muscat and SABIS® have a long-standing commitment to research and development of new technologies designed with the student in mind. As a result, our students have meaningful experiences with modern, up-to-date methods and technologies used to improve and enrich their day-to-day learning experience, enhance their academic performance, and challenge the boundaries of traditional learning environments.



Despite the current pandemic and subsequent disruption, and regardless of their physical location, ISC-Muscat students are continuing their education without missing a beat. Thanks to highly developed E-learning solutions, a structured and systematic approach, and incomparable learning habits, SABIS® students have adapted rapidly to a changing world, and the learning has never stopped!

Welcoming Back the KG

By Zain Abu Kuhail

Current times have no doubt been unusual, especially for the kindergarten students, who take their first steps into formal education. It goes without saying that their novel experience at school has been hindered and interrupted



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by the current pandemic. However, our prefects in the SABIS® SLO at school have been doing their best to give the youngest students a memorable and educational experience despite the challenges faced.

A prime example of this would be the plays that were performed by our seniors with the intent of welcoming the KG students back to school. Our senior prefects in the Activity Department had visited classes in both KG 1 and KG 2 and performed a little, socially distanced play to amuse the students and to provide them with some wisdom and advice. In this play, our prefects dressed up to resemble certain characters; a doctor, two fairies, and a monkey mascot and visited all classes in KG 1 and KG 2. They gave the students an engaging experience that involved a game where the students had to identify parts of their body playfully, such as their nose or ears. They also played a game where the students had to guess the fruit or vegetable they were being shown. This is where the moral of the play is revealed; healthy eating. This without a doubt is very important, and our prefects had successfully delivered this message in an educational yet fun way.

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STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Students Shine at Short Movie Competition

We are delighted to announce that ISC-Muscat students have won third place in a national short movie competition to raise awareness about COVID-19 in Oman.

Launched by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, and World Health Organization, the competition received two hundred entries from government, private, and international schools across the country.

The results were announced during a virtual ceremony for all participants, organized by the Ministry of Education. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the organizers and all participants for making this such a special event.

Congratulations to our finalists, Nasser Al Abri, Salma Darwiche, Waleed Al Rahbi, and Albaraa Al Busaidi for their outstanding contribution and efforts. We are so very proud!

Alumni in the Spotlight

Aviva Bhardwaj Class of 2019

I joined ISC-Muscat in 2012 and graduated in 2019. I am currently studying at McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada, and pursuing my degree in Honors Bachelor of Commerce. I've kept myself involved in different clubs at university, such as the Indian Students' Association as well as entrepreneurship and women in business clubs. On this continuous path of learning, I aim to study more about entrepreneurship and the principles of businesses in our economy, to be able to run a business someday in the near future.

SABIS® has taught me plenty of skills that have been a big part of climbing the ladder up to my goals, such as time management, organization, and communication skills. Having weekly exams was tiring yet highly beneficial, because it taught me about how to allocate sufficient time for each subject. Consequently, the SABIS® Student Life Organization (SLO) has always guided me and supported me to fulfill my dreams and ambitions, and it was another family I made at school. I truly miss the SLO, as it was through it that I discovered my interpersonal skills that have led to an open mindset with lots of positivity and leadership attributes.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the organizers and all participants for making this such a special event.



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SLO STORIES

SLO Job Fair

At ISC-Muscat, students' involvement in the SABIS® Student Life Organization (SLO) is highly encouraged and emphasized.

The amazing team of Deputy Head Prefects who represent the SLO's nine departments, along with the SLO Head Prefect, organized an event that gave students a chance to be part of the SLO team and join them in promoting not only academic excellence but also a positive and lively school environment.

The SLO Job Fair event catered to students both online and in person, and was carried out over a span of two weeks. In preparation for this event, the SLO department heads, along with their prefects, have taken from their time to harness their creativity and create posters that promoted their departments' tasks and roles and engaged the students' interests. Stands were set up on the school field, where prefects from each department were stationed to assist all interested students in joining a department. This job fair has given the students a chance to become a part of positive change both on the personal and school levels.

The job fair turned out to be a successful event as each department amassed a large amount of dedicated and hardworking students. Their experience in the SLO will no doubt empower them to flourish in their social life and be strong contributors to their community.

Tutoring Sessions

By Yazan Al Macki

Peer-to-peer tutoring sessions, which are organized by the Academic Department of the SABIS® SLO, allow prefects from different grades to help classmates in need of educational support. These sessions not only provide a valuable academic experience, but also foster a positive learning environment at school.

In an academic year filled with many obstacles, a transition to accommodate for the current circumstances was essential for tutoring sessions to be possible. Despite all the challenges, hard-working prefects persevered and successfully delivered sessions, both online and in person, to assist their fellow schoolmates. The SLO prefects, who dedicated some of their free time to tutor, have had a proven positive impact on students' abilities in core



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subjects such as English, math, and science. In addition to the educational aspect behind these sessions, they also allow the students' communication skills to thrive. Peer-to-peer tutoring sessions encourage social interaction and coordination, which is vital in building a student's character, thus enabling them to become contributing members of the school community.

Although current events are extremely unpredictable, the prefects at the Academic Department of the SLO remain prepared and driven to fulfill their academic mission at school.

Save Oman: A Social Responsibility Initiative

By Hamza Khan

As of 2021, the Sultanate of Oman took the strategic decision to ban the use of plastic bags, foreseeing the potential dangers that come along with them. Following in the Sultanate's footsteps, ISC-Muscat's Social Responsibility Department started an initiative consisting of multiple objectives to preserve the welfare of our beloved country, and in turn, our planet Earth.

"Save Oman" is one of the objectives of the Green Initiatives sub-department. It is an awareness campaign about the excess usage of water, plastics, and other finite resources. The SLO prefects have planned to make weekly virtual posters that can be seen on the school's social media pages, as well as other exciting projects in progress. The "Save Oman" initiative's central aim is to provide an interactive and more intuitive way to understand how the common resources used in several households consequently lead to the environmental issues we know today. In order to solve dilemmas like these, we need to improvise and inspire others to be eco-friendly and maintain a subtle balance to create a better tomorrow – and this is exactly what our prefects have been dedicating their efforts to!



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SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

A Star on the Rise

By Salma Darwiche

Many of us have talents and skills we enjoy, but few are those gifted with not only talent but the work ethic and ambition needed to excel at it too. This is the case of Nasih Al-Barwani, a senior student at ISC-Muscat, who has turned his admiration for playing golf into a career as he now plays for the Oman Golf National Team. Now sixteen, Nasih recalls having first begun focusing on golf when he was about nine years old, and the journey since has been an upward climb to expertise and success. However, this journey – which is still a long way to go – was not navigated without its hardships, as Nasih recalls his long days of practice and training. We had the opportunity to sit down with Nasih and ask him a few questions about his experience with golf, his inspirations, and his advice to fellow youth.

Who inspired you to play golf?

Growing up, I drew a lot of inspiration from Tiger Woods, one of the greatest golfers. Despite the numerous injuries and setbacks he faced, he never gave up and came back repeatedly to the hills to win tournaments.

How are you able to balance between playing golf and focusing on schoolwork?

Time management has definitely proven to be one of the key factors in balancing the two. Knowing the worth of your time, your priorities, and how to avoid procrastination is necessary.

What's a piece of advice you'd give to young people your age when it comes to pursuing their goals?

I would like to advise everyone to try and enjoy everything they do and to do their best, because one never knows what talents they truly possess until they try everything with the needed commitment.

Nasih has truly proven himself to not only be a skilled golfer but an inspirational figure for all those looking to pursue their ambitions. We wish him the best of luck as he continues on his journey of success and thank him for his promising words.



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A Look Back at the 11th Regional Tournament

By Salma Darwiche

Due to these unprecedented times affecting the world, what would've been the 13th SABIS[®] Regional Tournament was sadly postponed. We are reminded of the greatness of such an event with the 11th SABIS[®] Regional Tournament that was held in Oman, at ISC-Muscat's campus, producing unforgettable memories for everyone involved.

The three-day event took place from April 21 to 23, 2017, but preparation began much earlier with weeks of hard work and training put forth by the keen competitors from all participating schools in different fields, including football, swimming, basketball, and more. Furthermore, a large number of students across several grades at ISC-Muscat came together to decorate the school and practice performances they would put on to greet the other schools. When the time for the event came, their hard work proved fruitful as it was a breathtaking experience for many. The audience extended past students and staff to include parents, honorable members of the State Council, ambassadors, members of the Ministry of Education, heads of sports federations, representatives of the Omani Olympic Committee, as well as the Ministry of Sports Affairs. Up to 14 countries had been represented during the tournament by fierce by students, including Oman, the U.A.E., Syria, Bahrain, Egypt, Germany, Jordan, K.S.A., Lebanon, Qatar, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Kurdistan, and Romania.

When the time came to showcase their efforts, the students did not hold back as a staggering 10 new records were set, three in track and field and seven in swimming. The teams representing Oman won up to 7 medals: 4 gold, 2 silver, and 1 bronze. Furthermore, a student representing Oman in football won the title of Best Football Player under the age of 14.

Besides competing against one another, the students from different backgrounds made good friends with one another, united by their love for sports and eagerness to socialize in such a vibrant and welcoming setting. Like the 12th SABIS[®] Regional Tournament that followed in Bahrain, this event is undoubtedly a mesmerizing experience that will be resumed once the world completely recovers from the pandemic and safety is ensured for all.

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