



Miras International School Newsletter

Newsletter 1

October 16, 2015

Autumn Edition

Message from the Secondary School Principal

Hello! It is my great pleasure to welcome you back to MIRAS as we embark on an exciting 2015-16 school year! We begin the year with our biggest IBDP class in history, with 16 students. The word is out that the Diploma Programme is the best in the world and MIRAS

Please join me in welcoming our new teachers to the MIRAS learning community.

Julie Grignard, English
Melinda Tondeur, French
Ryan Tan, Business Management, Economics and MUN Supervisor
Kimberly Novak, Biology and Sciences
Binoy Sinha, Mathematics
Wassim Ahmad, Chemistry and Sciences
Kairenkenova Gulnur, Sciences and Physics
Ilasheva Gaukhar, Sciences and Geography
Ongarbayev Samat, Mathematics
Tanabayeva Aizhan, Sciences, Biology and Chemistry
Raisov Daulet, History and Humanities
Gubaidullin, Timur, Russian
Dokuchayev Andrey, Military Training

In the 6th and 7th grades we have continued our 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.

Term 1 reports will be issued to students on October 16, during 8th period and all students are expected to attend all lessons up until the holiday which begins on Monday October 19 and lasts until students return to school on Monday October 26. Please make a concerted effort to have your child in school every day of the scheduled Academic Calendar. This year we have assessments scheduled before and after each break and students who are not in attendance will not be allowed to make up these assessments.



Miras Administration has been working to review and amend the **student dress code**. It is expected that all students wear the school uniform as detailed below:

Girls

Plain, white, classic shirt or blouse (with collar and sleeves, no colors or patterns)
Tartan Skirt* or Grey or black classic trousers* (skirt should be near knee length; not more than 10 cm above the knee.

Blue Jacket*, Blue woolen jumper*, or sleeveless jumper*,
Only black or skin-colored tights or single-colored short socks may be worn
Single colored black shoes.

Boys

Plain white classic shirt (with collar and sleeves, no colors or patterns)
Grey or black classic trousers*

Blue Jacket*, Blue woolen jumper* or sleeveless jumper*
Single color, plain, gray or black socks which match the trousers.
Single colored black shoes

Students in grades 9-12 may wear a tie if they choose. It must be plain (no colors or patterns) and Black or Navy (dark) Blue.

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

Note: If a doctor has recommended the use of special shoes (e.g. orthopedic shoes or softer material) these must also be single colored black.

*these items are the atelier made items.

Already the students are busy with school activities both inside and outside the building including CAS and service projects, ArtPoint Festival, Student Council, boys' football/soccer, girls' soccer, The University admissions Fai, darts club, MUN (Model United Nations), advanced computer club, Kazakhstan Languages Week, and much more!
Thank you for supporting MIRAS 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.

Sincerely,

James Lothschutz, Secondary Principal

James@almaty.miras.kz

Message from the Primary School Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Teachers,

Welcome to an exciting 2015 – 2016 academic year at Miras International School as we settle into our newly refurbished Primary School Building. I am very pleased to be here as your new Primary School Principal. I am originally from Victoria, Australia and have been in education for almost forty years. As both a teacher and administrator, my experiences include Australia, Minnesota in the USA as an exchange teacher and administrator, Dubai in the UAE and now Almaty, Kazakhstan.

I would like to welcome back all previous staff and many new staff who have now joined the Miras International School community:

Ludmilla Smorodina as our Grade 1A Home Room Leader
Galina Sokolova as our Grade 1B Home Room Leader
Raushan Duisenbekova as our Grade 1 C Home Room Leader
Khristine Carre as our Grade 1D Home Room Leader
Larissa Zelentsova as our Grade 1F Home Room Leader
Andrew Clark as our Grade 2D Home Room Leader

Susan Negus as a Grade 2 English Additional Language Teacher
Marcella Bahniuk as a Grade 3 and Grade 5 English Additional Language Teacher
Marina Lotorova as a Grade 3 English Additional Language Teacher

Gulzhan Domayeva as a Kazakh Additional Language Teacher
Sandugash Molzhigitova as a Kazakh Additional Language Teacher
Albina Naurzybayeva as a Kazakh Additional Language Teacher

Yelena Gracheva as an Art Teacher
Zhadyra Tolepbek as a Teaching Assistant
Asemgul Zhumazhanova as a Teaching Assistant
Raushan Kurtibayeva as a Teaching Assistant

Arailym Korabayeva as our Office Secretary
Nazym Oman as our Office Secretary

Aliya Alimkhan as a Kazakh Additional Language Teacher for children in pre-school and kindergarten and
Gulmira Kapanora as a second school psychologist.

We have also had several changes to the structure in the Primary School this year. As our enrolments have increased, the English of instruction class in Grade 1/2 is now two separate classes; Grade 1D and Grade 2D. We now have Grade 2F and 5B so we now also have three Russian of instruction classes; 2A, 2B & 2F at Grade 2 and two at the Grade 5 level; 5A and 5B.

It was wonderful to catch up with many parents at our Grade Level Parent Orientation Meetings. I know we were all waiting for this opportunity and I am sure you were delighted and impressed by the teaching and learning that is already evident throughout the classrooms. The

teachers provided an overview of the curriculum expectations and goals that students of the same grade level are working towards, regardless of their language of instruction. It was also be an opportunity for parents to meet up with their child's Home Room Leader and discuss other issues.

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

The first Principal's Coffee Morning was held earlier this month. I was joined by parents from Preschool to Grade 5. If you have the time, please join me at the next Principal's Coffee Morning on Thursday 29th October 2015.

The Kindergarten to Grade 5 'Open Morning' will be on Wednesday 11th November. The Pre-school 'Open Morning' will be on Thursday 12th November. Information will be sent out closer to this time.

Kind Regards

Annia Dear,
Primary School Principal,
Phone: +7 (727) 227 69 42 (ext 121)
Email: annia_d@almaty.miras.kz



First Bell

The school year started with the usual bang on September 1st. The Miras school community welcomes back students and parents to the 2015-2016 school year.



PYP News:

PYP Corner

One of my parents, Mr. Sendilkumar, visited the grade 3D's on Monday, 28th September. He is working at an oil company here in Kazakhstan. As the grade 3's unit of inquiry is Sharing the Planet and our lines of inquiry includes finite resources, he explained the story of oil to them:

offshore and onshore drilling

how flammable crude oil is

the process through which crude oil is purified

what the companies do to minimize air and water pollution

the big global business of transporting and delivering crude oil

Adelaide



MYP News:

Personal Projects

Grade 10 students are now working on their personal projects for the 2015-2016 school. They should have met with their Personal Project (PP) supervisors by now. Several students begun their work during the summer. Below is the PP timeline for this academic year:

Personal Project Timeline 2015 – 2016		
Step:	Key Dates:	What is happening:
1	April 30, 2015.	Information session for Grade 9 parents .
	May 6, 2015.	Workshop for Grade 9 students .
	May 15, 2015.	Grade 9 students to submit proposals to PP Coordinator during homeroom time.
	Before May 20, 2015.	Grade 9 students to receive confirmation about topic. Personal Project supervisors assigned to students.
	Before September 4, 2015.	Meeting 1.
2	Before October 16, 2015.	Meeting 2.
3	Before October 30, 2015.	Meeting 3.
4	November 13, 2015	First draft of report due.
5	Before November 20, 2015.	Meeting 4.
6	December 11, 2015.	Students to submit final outcome / product to supervisors.
	January 15, 2016.	Meeting 5: Second draft of report due. Evaluate the outcome / product against specifications for success.
	January 28, 2016.	Meeting 6: Hand in the final report (2 copies) and Process Journal to PP supervisor.
7	February, 2016.	PERSONAL PROJECT EXHIBITION.

**Personal Project Exhibition:
Jan. 28, 2016 at 16:30**

DP News

From the DP Coordinator

Miras DP has been gaining momentum and is in full gear now. With a big class of 16 students in G11 and 8 in G12, Miras DP now counts 24 kids – a record for many years. There have already been several “DP developments” so far – the DP preparatory courses for G11 where the students get ready for DP with some basic studies like writing a lab report, learning to use Graphic calculators, developing good self-management habits, etc. During the start of the year the students are allowed to attend different classes to see which subjects they prefer to do. This “grace period” will soon be over and they will continue in a chosen pattern. Many DP students took part in the Art Point event presenting the best of Miras to a wider community.

As a DP routine, G11 have had a good start in their CAS programme and Extended Essay preparation. A wide use of ManageBac is an excellent tool to be organized as well as to improve one’s ATL skills related to technology.

Another interesting DP feature of this year is a relatively high number of students taking on-line course. We have 4 students who have undertaken the challenge and we wish them every luck.

Altogether, great start and let’s keep up with the good work!

Igor Guralnik



CAS News

MIRAS CAS TRIP

Friday October 2nd Grade 11 IB students of the Diploma Program attended CAS trip to the president's park. The main purpose of the trip was to bring the students together so they can know each other better, work together as a team and understand about collaboration and teamwork.

The trip went quite well. The weather was fantastic and so were the students. The class was split in two groups and each had a logo and a motto. Then the student competed to be the first to get Miras CAS flag (see the photo). It was fun!

Few words from the students about the trip

I am proud of myself! During this trip I gained really good experience in communicating and risk taking, as I interacted with my teammates and was leading and cheering up blue team, at the same time we have shown critical thinking with my group because we were intelligent enough to take a shortcut during running. I really enjoyed this trip and hoped that throughout the year our class spirit will get more and stronger and we will try our best to improve and help our community and society we live in!

Nurali Munbaev

The trip was great. The biggest challenge was to find our way around the park in order to find the shortest route to our destination. This was where the teamwork happened. There were several people in each of the teams that knew the park who helped and guide their own teams.

Barkin Eraslan

CAS Coordinator



Miras Sports News

Miras football cup 2015

Secondary school students are enjoying the football sessions during their PE lessons. Miras is organizing private school football tournament in which 15 teams are expected to compete.

Final games will be next week!! All the best MIRAS!!



Student Council News

At the last school dance, the Student Council held the **Miss and Mister Miras** competition. Students chose Tomiris as Miss Miras and Amrulla as Mister Miras.



University Fair

September is the month we traditionally have our university fair and this year we had twelve universities and colleges represented from the United Kingdom, Spain, Holland, Switzerland, Czechland, Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom, in addition to this the event was also saw Education USA and the British Council participating. Apart from our students another eight Almaty schools attended the fair.

As I wandered around two Latin phrases came to mind,

aut disce aut discede

and

ipsa scientia potestas est

Both were rather apt.

The event is an opportunity for students to gather information and ask questions about the opportunities available to them in further education.

This fair is a yearly event which `s success is due to the organizers and the enthusiasm and effort of the staff of our school without their contribution such events could not take place.

On another note two of last year`s Diploma students are now attending universities abroad.

Nuray Medeuova University of Edinburgh

Alina Shpakova London School of Economics

Ian Riddell



Art Point Festival

On September 18th, students took part in the Artpoint Festival sponsored by the British Council to promote the Miras International School's development of creative skills. Our students performed songs and dances, recited poetry in different languages and played a variety of musical instruments.

The presenter, a student in Grade 12IB, while speaking about our school drew visitors' attention to the mission and philosophy of Miras and main areas of the school educational structure.

One of the Grade 12IB students spoke about Miras's mission and philosophy and other main areas of the schools educational structure. The DP Coordinator Mr. Igor Guralnik told the guests about the benefits and features of the Diploma Program. There also was an exhibition of Miras students' art works. As a part of the annual Mereke Project, Grade 7B students organized another charity action during the performance. In addition, the audience had the opportunity to get their faces painted by Narmina Gunyasheva.



October, 2015

Schedule of Events

- ◆ Oct. 16th—End of Term 1, Report Cards Available
- ◆ Oct. 20th—Oct. 23rd—School holidays
- ◆ Oct. 26th—Start of 2nd Term
- ◆ Oct. 31st—Halloween

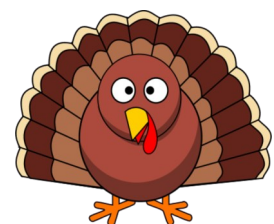


Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November, 2015

Schedule of Events

- ◆ Secondary School Parent-Teachers Conference TBA
- ◆ Nov. 7th—School Day
- ◆ Nov. 27th—Thanksgiving (US)



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
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29

**Miras
International School**

190 Al Farabi st., 050043,
Almaty Kazakhstan

Telephone:
+7 (727) 242 16 65;
+7 (727) 242 16 76;

secretary@almaty.miras.kz

Fax: +7 (727) 242 16 66



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.

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

The IB World, CIS/NEASC accredited, UNESCO associated school
Languages of instruction: Kazakh, English, Russian

MIRAS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
The Branch of Nursultan Nazarbaev Educational Foundation

+7 (727) 227-69-42
+7 (727) 242-16-65

Казахстан, г. Алматы,
п-кт. Аль Фараби, 190
@ secretary@almaty.miras.kz

Home For students For Parents Admissions About school Contacts

Ask a Question Future events Virtual Tour Comments

Welcome!

We are very pleased to welcome you to our school website. Miras has existed for almost 15 years. MIS has authorisation for three International Baccalaureate programmes. We are also accredited by the