

HISTORY OF LWIS-USL

VOLUME I | ISSUE 1

THE USL JOURNEY



Universal School of Lebanon

Universal School of Lebanon (USL) opened its doors in September of 1999, starting out with 32 students and an ambition to be an international school unique in North Lebanon. The school was initially managed by School Development Consultants (SDC) and later became part of the Learner's World International Schools (LWIS) Network. LWIS-USL strives for a partnership between staff, students and parents in an inclusive environment that values quality education. The school has always been committed to developing the abilities of all students, honoring their different learning styles, individual differences, and cultural backgrounds in order to ensure a personalized educational service.

LWIS-USL believes that continuous improvement and meeting or exceeding international standards are a must. In 2004, the school began to seek accreditation from

the New England Association of schools and Colleges (NEASC) and was awarded accreditation in 2009. Since that time the process of self-improvement continued, hosting a Five Year Visit in 2014 and a Preparatory Visit in 2017. In the meantime (and since then), many staff members served on NEASC visiting teams to accredit other schools. In 2018 LWIS-USL hosted a second Visiting Team (VT) and was awarded re-accreditation.

LWIS-USL received authorization to deliver the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IB-DP) in December 2019. The IB-DP started being implemented in September of this year and new plans are being undertaken to expand the premises in order to provide more rooms and more facilities to accommodate for this new program.

Christmas Market

The countdown to Christmas has begun, and the Senior Elves have been planning a Jolly send off for the children. They have been preparing for this day for weeks, and thus, it has finally dawned: The Christmas Market!

The scene was set: two tents, the first filled to the brim with delicious sweets and the other with mouthwatering salts. The children roared at the sight of this feast, knowing they would return home with a belly almost as big as Santa's. While some ate, others hung out below, where there was a secret hideout riddled with games. Tic tac toe broke bonds, which were then rekindled in pin the nose on Rudolph. The kids giggled and smiled as they ran around the court, trying to choose what to play next.

At one point, however, time seemed to stop. The sound was heard across the school, and everyone (even the big high schoolers) left their classes in a hurry. Look and behold: SANTA!

The jingle bells echoed through the halls, announcing his arrival. Despite his busy schedule, he couldn't say no to visiting USL's angels. Mrs. Clause came, too! They were followed by a group of carolers who spread the holiday cheers.

After a long and magical day, the kids (covered in frosting) said goodbye to Santa and his elves. They were eager to see what they would get in a couple of days' time, and of course, feed him some of their delicious cookies in return. So get your houses set and turn your fireplaces off because Santa Clause has come to town.

Salwa Karroum
Grade 12



Middle School Spirit Week



While everyone else was out and about, it is said there were whispers from the underground. The echoing cheers and songs from above almost drowned them out, but merriment had never spoken so loud. The scheme was up: the Middle Schoolers had their own plan, and it was going to be spiritacular! They dedicated a whole week to keeping the Christmas Spirit alive, and they obviously didn't disappoint! Each day was more of a blast than the last: some came in wearing hats and were covered in red while others showed up as they rolled out of their beds. A few came confused with their pants on their heads, but no need to fear because others had on wacky clothes instead! It all came down to a week very well spent, with memorable experiences that will catch up with them on the road ahead. With everyone united in Holiday Cheers, school was out, and Christmas was here!

Salwa Karroum
Grade 12

LWIS- USL Carolers Spreading a Cheer Around Villages.

When the LWIS-USL students choir walked through the streets of Mina singing “Jingle Bells” and “We wish you a Merry Christmas”, their voices replaced the noises of the city.

People stood at their windows or at the entrance of their shops watching them spread joy and happiness. As they reached the narrow old street that led to the House of the Elderly, the angelic sound of their singing filled the hearts and spirits of the old people with love and affection.

The picture was not different in the streets of Batroun where people went out of their shops and gave them a cheer. “I don’t know them, but they look happy singing in the streets,” one person said.

Chekka was a totally different experience. The Choir took the stage with hundreds of people in the audience. They felt proud as they savored their moments of fame with TVs and cameras taking shots of their performance.

In Kousba and Amioun, students, parents, friends and people passing by joined the choir that turned to a big, cheerful family. LWIS-USL carolers spread a blissful cheer.

The last stop was Miziara. Santa Claus was the highlight of that visit. The choir were thrilled to get figgy pudding, and they made sure not to leave before getting a lot of it.



أبناؤنا والتراث

لبنان في عُيون أبنائه

إِحْتَقَلَ كُلٌّ مِنْ تِلَامِذَةِ صَفِّي الرَّابِعِ وَالْخَامِسِ مِنْ صَفُوفِ الْحَلَقَةِ الثَّانِيَةِ مِنَ التَّعْلِيمِ الْأَسَاسِيِّ فِي مَدْرَسَةِ LWIS- Koura USL بِنَشَاطٍ وَطَنِيٍّ ، وَذَلِكَ بَعْدَ أَنْ اخْتَارُوا الْعَمَلَ عَلَى مُجَسِّمٍ يَرْمُزُ إِلَى أَصَالَةِ لُبْنَانَ وَتَارِيخِهِ الْمُتَجَدِّدِ فِي الشَّرْقِ .

مَعًا عَمِلْنَا عَلَى تَجْسِيدِ أَهَمِّ مَعَالِمِهِ السِّيَاحِيَّةِ مِنْ قِلَاعٍ وَأَمَاكِنَ أَثَرِيَّةٍ تَحْفَظُ بَيْنَ حِجَارَتِهَا حَضَارَاتٍ مَرَّتْ فِي بِلَدِنَا ، فَتَرَكَتْ خَلْفَهَا بَصَمَاتٍ سَاهَمَتْ فِي حَاضِرِنَا وَبَشَّرَتْ بِمُسْتَقْبَلِنَا .

مَعًا عَبَرْنَا بِأَلَةِ الزَّمَنِ إِلَى مَاضٍ يُشِيرُفُنَا وَتَارِيخٍ بِهِ نَعْتَزُّ وَنَفْتَخِرُ .

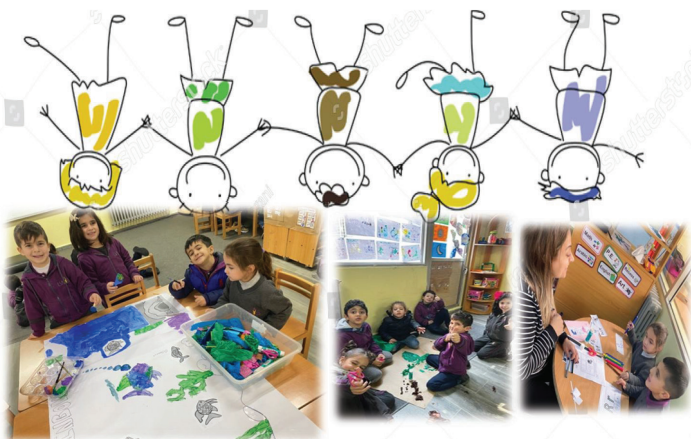
فَعَلَى سَاحِلِ الْبَحْرِ الْأَبْيَضِ الْمُتَوَسِّطِ تَجَوَّلْنَا بِالسُّفُنِ الَّتِي مَخَرَتْ غُبَابَ الْبَحْرِ مَحْمَلَةً حُرُوفَ الْأَبْجَدِيَّةِ إِلَى الْعَالَمِ أَجْمَعِ . ، وَتَحْتَ جَانِحِ طَائِرِ الْفَنِيْقِ تَغْنِينَا .

مَعًا حَلَمْنَا بِبِلَادٍ خُدُودُهُ السَّمَاءُ ، وَشَعْبُهُ لَا يَعْرِفُ الْمُسْتَحِيلَ .

مَعًا رَسَمْنَا خُطُوطَ الْمُسْتَقْبَلِ وَأَنْشَدْنَا :

"كُلُّنَا لِلْوَطَنِ لِلْعُلَى لِلْعِلْمِ
كُلُّنَا لِلْوَطَنِ "





OUR KG3 CLASSES CELEBRATED FRIENDSHIP!



KG3 Celebrating Friendship in their Own Special Way



WE READ, PLAYED AND EXPERIMENTED TOGETHER.



AND FINALLY WE HAD A FUN PICNIC IN THE SUN.



Now is All: From Qatar to LWIS-USL

Soccer fans have waited more than four years for what they believe to be the world's biggest tournament: the World Cup. On November 20, 2022, thirty-two teams from across the globe met in Qatar to determine which country takes home the World Cup trophy. More than one billion people tuned in to the 2018 World

Cup final, and this year's tournament was no different; it was closely followed by many LWIS-USL learners!

For the first time in its history, the World Cup was held in the Middle East and in the winter, due to Qatar's scorching temperatures in the summer.

Qatar is the smallest country to ever host the World Cup, so all eight stadiums that held the tournaments were within an hour drive of one another. Fans from all around the world traveled to watch the matches in person.

The World Cup was a great opportunity to tie in academic skills, global learning, and students' interests.

The LWIS USL high school students brought the world cup into the school premises. They worked in groups to plan their own World Cup event. A mini tournament was arranged. Every country in the World Cup had a team of students representing it with flying colors. The students competed against each other, and they had a blast.

Learners in elementary added their special touch as they did their research and created authentic flags and banners for their favorite teams.

Seniors '23 also hosted an exciting evening when they sponsored the semi-finals at Pizza Napoli where football fans from the LWIS-USL community gathered to cheer their teams.



LWIS-USL Learners Develop Acting Skills through Miming



Mime makes the invisible, visible
and the visible, invisible.

— Marcel Marceau —

PIC•COLLAGE

The Development of a Child's Mind Comes Through Creativity.



Cancer Awareness Project Insights

As part of the IB CAS program, which targets creativity, activity, and community, the IB learners took on a project that extended from early October to mid-November. The project's aim is to spread knowledge and awareness about breast cancer amongst the school's stakeholders. As our project progressed, we applied the three aspects of CAS to ultimately fulfill our goal.

How We Introduced the Project

To introduce the project, we created multitude posters to spread our message, using supportive mottos such as "think pink." In doing so, we were able to collectively brainstorm original and motivational phrases while taking initiatives to decorate and design our own posters. After displaying our posters throughout the high-school floor, we moved into creating pink ribbons, which symbolize breast cancer awareness, using hot glue and pins. We wanted an achievable yet efficient method to help us reach our goal, and in encouraging others to wear the ribbons, we were able to lure and include the student body in our project.

Cancer Awareness Fundraiser

Moving into the next phase of the project, the IB class intended to carry out a fundraiser with all proceeds to be donated to hospital patients battling breast cancer. We figured that hosting a bake sale would be a simple yet effective way to raise money. However, we did not anticipate the challenges to come. With our intention being to serve baked goods to the elementary, middle, and high school students, it was evident that there was a complication when we were sold out of food two hours into the bake sale. These issues mainly stemmed from lack of coordination and organization; they did not hinder the success of the event, though. We used the bake sale as an opportunity to sell the ribbons we had crafted, and the students pinned them on their shirts as a display of support. Overall, the bake sale was a learning experience that helped us grow, improve and ultimately make a considerable profit that was donated to a trustworthy organization.

Early Detection Saves Lives - Cancer Awareness Event

For the final stage of the project, we hosted an event for parents and teachers to educate them on various aspects of breast cancer, and to raise awareness about how early detection of breast cancer can save lives. To achieve this, we spent multiple hours in and outside of school collaborating on a digital presentation, and each one of us did his or her own research to create his or her designated slides. During this process, we utilized information from various credible resources, and we were able to recall and include detailed information taught in IB biology. Our event had two key attendees; a renowned oncologist and a breast cancer survivor, whom heart wrenching real life testimony still raises goose bumps till today.

Overall, the experience not only allowed us as students to expand our own knowledge on the topic, but it also gave us a chance

to extend it to others. Overall, this project was a great opportunity for everyone in the IB class to collaborate, learn new things, and strengthen our ties with each other while growing as individuals.

IB Learners Have a New Project Coming!

Currently, we are working on a new project to help reinforce recycling habits at LWIS-USL by encouraging students to recycle plastic bottles and paper. We have recently shared our goals with every classroom in every department of the school, and we have placed labeled, hand-painted bins throughout the school for students to recognize and use. We hope to incite our peers to work on maintaining a clean environment, and we look forward to raise awareness among students about significant matters in all future CAS projects to come.

By Sophie Mehio
IB



QUAND LES ÉLÈVES DE G10 DEVIENNENT CRÉATEURS DE MODE!

Chaque élève est le créateur d'une tenue originale en respectant l'occasion et la saison qui lui sont désignés.

Leur travail a été mis en valeur lors d'un défilé de mode en classe.

Les étudiants ont aussi bien présenté à l'oral leurs tenues vestimentaires branchées pour bien pratiquer le lexique du thème abordé en classe de FLE.

Alors, défilons!



Himaya at LWIS-USL: Raising Awareness Among Middle School Students

Himaya team members conducted multiple sessions with learners in the middle school department at LWIS-USL. The sessions' objectives are to raise awareness amongst adolescents, address their concerns, and provide the guidance they need in order to tackle a variety of situations they might be exposed to at their crucial age. Middle schoolers got answers to many questions that often cross their minds and confuse them in their teenage years. The sessions offered a general understanding of the major changes adolescents undergo both on the physical and the psychological levels which allowed them to gain a better perspective of their surroundings. This kind of pedagogical visits encourages young girls and boys to open up about themselves and equips them with the appropriate knowledge and the accurate advice they need for healthier growth and development.

A special *Thank You*
to “Boost Marketing Agency”,
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