



MTK Newsletter Volume 2 Issue 1 The Future Starts Here

Newsletter Highlights

October 4, 2024

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Message from the School Principal Beginnings...

New Year, New

I am so pleased to send the warmest welcome to this new academic year to the dearest MTK community, wishing us all the success in our always demanding endeavours.

We received encouraging results in the international and local examinations, which motivates us to keep aiming for higher standards. As our mission clearly states, we are an “international centre of excellence within an Azerbaijani context...”, therefore our role as a school community to enhance the learning of relevant content, to cultivate life-long skills and to improve our communication abilities will be more visible in the planning and teaching practices. The development of academic English is as important as the proper development of an academic Azerbaijani both in the international and the national curriculum streams.

The pathway towards the Council of International Schools accreditation requires to improve our school systems, and to change our mindsets for a better understanding and adaptation to a dynamic and globalized world. The promotion of a rigorous Child Protection and Safeguard policy, the implementation of a student counsellor program, the active participation of the students’ council, the partnership with TES to support a continuous professional development in our staff and the exploration of innovative practices will constitute the route in which MTK will consistently approach the challenges of the education for the 21st century. Thank you for your immense confidence in our leadership and pedagogical approach.

Sincerely,

Nelson Urrego, PhD

School Principal

Preschool Aliyeva Preschool Stage Leader

By Ms. Adila

1. Welcome to the first day of Preschool 2024-25!

We kicked off the new academic year with a vibrant and joyous celebration! As our little learners arrived, they were greeted with cheerful songs and lively dances that filled the air with excitement. Our dedicated staff welcomed each child with warm smiles, helping them feel right at home. To add to the festivities, we invited talented clowns who brought laughter and joy to the day. The colourful performances captivated the children, creating a fun and engaging atmosphere that made everyone smile. Parents shared their delight in seeing their children so happy and enthusiastic about returning to preschool. It was heartwarming to witness families reconnecting and celebrating the beginning of this new school year together. We're thrilled to embark on this wonderful journey of learning, growth, and exploration with all our preschoolers! Here's to a fantastic 2024-2025 academic year!



2. Preschool Assembly: Class Rules

We are excited to share that on Friday, September 13, our preschool children participated in an engaging assembly dedicated to class rules. During this event, the children learned about the importance of behaviour in the classroom, how to follow instructions, and the role that rules play in creating a positive learning environment.

The assembly was a wonderful opportunity for our little ones to understand and discuss these essential concepts, helping to set a foundation for their classroom experiences.



3. Encouraging Positive Behaviour

On September 20, our Transition Group students engaged in an insightful session focused on understanding good and bad behavior. The children participated in a variety of interactive activities designed to explore these concepts in a fun and meaningful way. Through role-playing and group discussions, students learned the importance of kindness, respect, and making positive choices. The activities encouraged them to think critically about their actions and how they affect others. It was a wonderful opportunity for our young learners to develop their social skills and enhance their understanding of appropriate behaviour. We're proud of their enthusiasm and participation in this important topic!



4. Outdoor Learning Fun!

We recently had an exciting lesson in the playground, where our preschoolers had a fantastic time learning and exploring! The children engaged in various competitions and games, all while discovering the wonders of nature. It was a joyful experience filled with fun and valuable lessons, fostering both curiosity and teamwork. We can't wait for more outdoor adventures in the future!

Primary

Rasulova Primary Stage Leader

By Ms. Zulfiyya

1. Welcome Back to a New School Year!

What an exciting way to start the new 2024-25 school year! Our Grade 1s were delighted to start their adventure into Primary with dances, celebrations and the traditional ringing of the bell. The bell ringing ceremony is a long-standing tradition, symbolizing each child's educational journey from Grade 1 until they graduate High School. Some of our Grade 5 students presented their warm welcome to Grade 1s and gave them some wise words of advice as the school year begins.



2. Primary Assembly: Starting Strong Together!

The first assembly was an inspiring start, blending learning with fun as students shared stories, completed tasks, and expressed their perspectives on the topics discussed. This week's assembly encouraged students to be brave, embrace challenges, and believe in themselves, recognizing that mistakes are part of learning. Grades 1 through 5 engaged by sharing stories, completing tasks, and reaching Math and Science goals. The fun, supportive environment empowered them to express themselves, and they eagerly await future assemblies, especially those shared with their parents.

3. Grade 1 Orientation Day: A Warm Welcome to Our Youngest Learners

Our Grade 1s had an engaging Orientation Day! As they enter the Primary Section, our teachers were ready with smiles, warm wishes, and positive attitudes to help greet our new learners. Orientation Day is an important part of a child's education as it allows them to understand routines, expectations, and the daily classroom schedule.



4. Meeting with Parents: Building Partnerships for Success

MTK strives to engage parents in the education process and build consistent communication between teachers, parents, and the school. This school year, MTK held parent meetings to help build that critical partnership for student success. Parents were invited to come and meet with their child's Homeroom Teacher and Subject Teachers, as well as learn about the learning expectations and curriculum that will be happening during the school year.



5. Teacher Training Sessions: Two Weeks of Focus on Preparedness

While class started on September 2, our teachers started preparing two weeks earlier to make the new school year a success. During this time, teachers collaborated with their grade or subject teams to discuss curriculum plan and themes, decorate classrooms and display boards, and learn about education applications and technology in the classroom. Our teachers also had engaging professional development

workshops on important topics like differentiation in lessons and activities, as well as child protection and safeguarding. These workshops gave our teachers that creative spark to think about ways to improve student engagement and assessment to achieve more success and provide more meaningful opportunities for students.



Grade 5 Students' Visit the Second Alley of Honor

On September 24, our Grade 5 students had the honor of visiting the Second Alley of Honor, where they paid tribute to the national heroes who played pivotal roles in shaping our country's history and securing its independence. This meaningful visit provided a valuable educational experience, encouraging students to reflect on the significance of patriotism, sacrifice, and the enduring legacy of those who have contributed to our nation's future. It was a profound moment that will leave a lasting impression on their sense of national pride and respect for our heritage.



Meet Our New Primary Student Contributors!

This year, we are excited to announce that our Grade 4 and 5 students have joined our primary team to contribute to the school newsletter! Their participation will help bring fresh perspectives and creativity to each edition.

For this edition, we are proud to feature the contributions of three talented students. In future editions, more of our young writers will have the chance to participate, ensuring we have a rotating team of student voices representing our primary section.

Meet our primary student newsletter team and stay tuned for their wonderful contributions throughout the year!



Peace Day

"Peace Day" is an international day celebrated every year on September 21st. It is a day when people all around the world come together to reflect on peace and promote it. Our school joined this celebration. The students study in a peaceful and friendly environment at our school.

To raise awareness for a peaceful world, the students from Grades 1 to 5 made flags on "Peace Day," September 21. They hung their flags in the Peace Garden. They really enjoyed "Peace Day."

Asma Abbasli, Solomia Pasenko, Valida Hajiyeva

Grade 5 students

Secondary Atabay Guliyev Secondary Stage Leader

By Mr.

First Day, 2024-2025 School Year

The first day of the 2024-2025 school year was quite memorable and energizing, ready to start up a new journey of learning, growth, and opportunities.

We look back to last year when we celebrated the sterling performance of students, from good exam results to successful projects. Warm congratulations were offered to our graduates now embarked on university studies, and we wished them continued success in this next phase of their education.

This special day was dedicated to the welcome of our new 6th graders who expressed enthusiasm and curiosity about this new school transition to secondary, and also to have a guidance for such an important step. We also introduced new teachers who bring fresh vision and vigour into teaching in the school.

All the time, we emphasized that unity and collaboration are all that mattered. We are all in this together-students, teachers, parents-to establish a setting that nurtures growth for all, both academically and individually. With new projects on the horizon, we look forward to the exciting possibilities ahead.















Highlights from September's Secondary Assemblies

These assemblies have given our students some valuable insights and reflections on which to found their work this academic year. We started with reviewing the school rules, important in maintaining a safe, respectful environment that is conducive to productivity. These rules help all students make a positive contribution toward developing a welcoming school community.

We also discussed school policies and further celebrated National Music Day, dedicated to Azerbaijan's legendary composer, Uzeyir Hajibeyli. As a respectful motion toward his genius, students and staff had the opportunity to listen to several of his timeless masterpieces, which shaped Azerbaijan's cultural and musical landscape. It was that certain moment in life when everybody got the chance to share and give recognition to the beauty and meaningfulness of his works, and how relevant he has been to our nation's artistic heritage.

We were able to pay our respects to the memories of martyrs who fell in the Second Karabakh War, the September 2022 border clashes, and the September 2023 anti-terror operations. These commemorations were a touching expression of remembrance for those who sacrificed their lives for the safety and sovereignty of our country. In these assemblies, we reflected upon acts of bravery and courage from those who lost their lives, thus instilling deep patriotism and respect in our students.

Assemblies held in September have reminded us of our commitment towards the building of a school culture of responsibility, creativity, and national pride; it helps students grow academically and as responsible and respectful citizens.















Commemoration Visit to the Second Alley of Honor

This month, our students and teachers paid a heartfelt visit to the Second Alley of Honor to honor the memory of the martyrs who fought for the safety and sovereignty of Azerbaijan. The visit served as a powerful reminder of the bravery and selflessness demonstrated by those who defended Azerbaijan's freedom and sovereignty.

During their visit, students took ample time for the ultimate sacrifices that the martyrs gave. Walking down the Alley, every gravestone and memorial reminded the heroes of what they had left behind. Later, students laid flowers in the graveyards and maintained moments of silence for the fallen.







International Green STEAM Azerbaijan Festival: Getting Ready

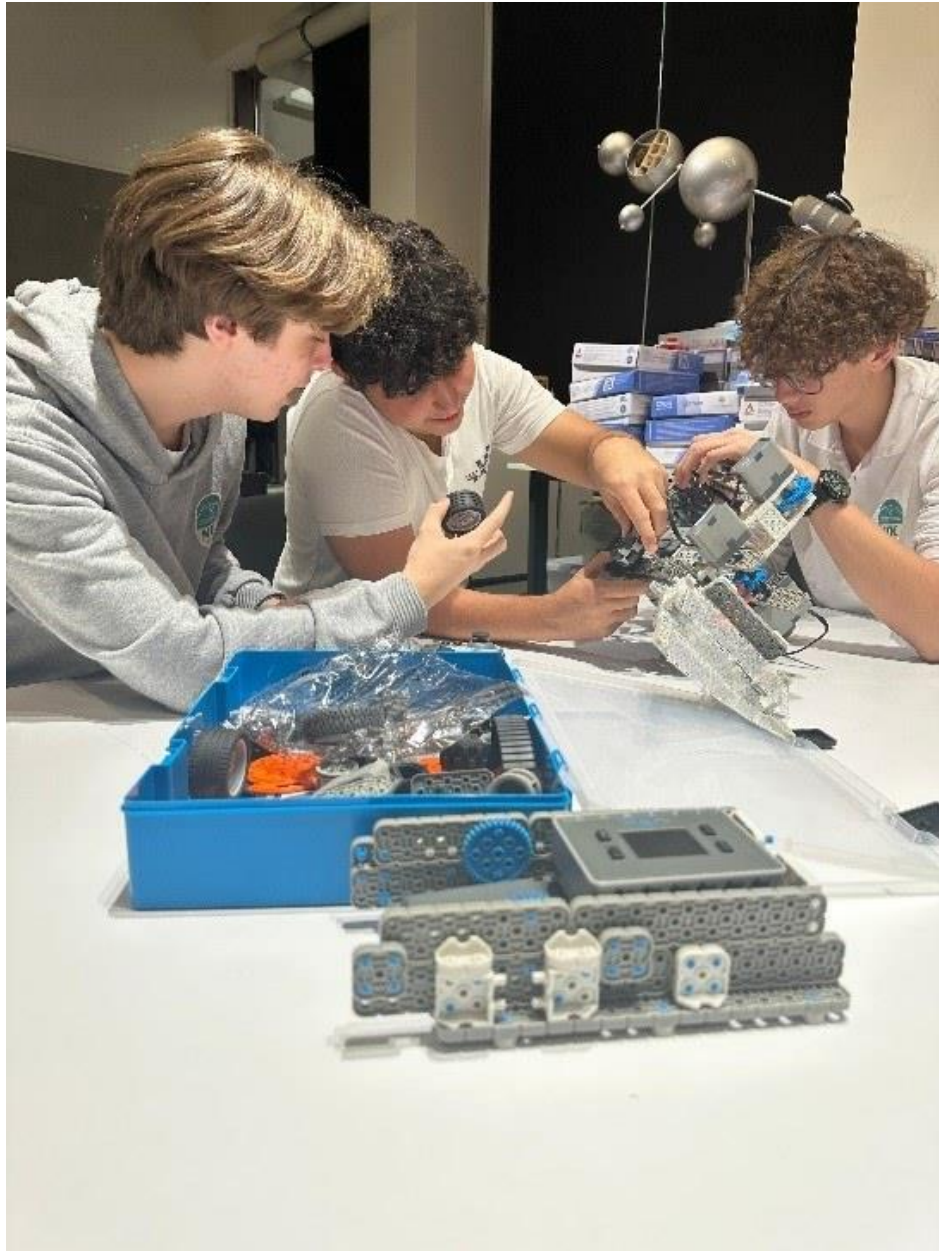
On October 24-25, with the support of the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Baku Expo Center will host the International Green STEAM Azerbaijan Festival. The festival has been organized by the STEAM Azerbaijan project in order to expand the application of education based on STEAM in the country, to develop 21st-century skills, and to reveal creative talents among students. It also extends support to the 29th session of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, COP 29, and embraces 2024 as the "Year of Solidarity for a Green World." This festival inspires innovative solutions to sustain water use, alternative energy, and environmental health by implementing a STEAM-based approach. It is a great pleasure for us to announce the presence of students at such a prestigious event from the Modern Education Complex. Participants in the H2 Grand Prix PRO-one of the most competitive categories. Please them (they are all Grade 11i students): Ali Aliyev, Adnan Jabbarov, Hashim Sadigov and Davud Kazimov.

Further, Hasan Aliyev and Huseyn Abdullayev will show their robotics skills in the ROBOT-Lego competition.

Sincerely,

Mr. Alasgar Asadov

STEAM coordinator







Upcoming Exams and Their Role in Student Development

As you know, during the academic year, various exams are regularly held in the Modern Education Complex named after Heydar Aliyev in order to monitor the learning outcomes of our students and the dynamics of the development of their academic knowledge. The subject teachers organize the Micro Summative Assessments, the administration organizes the Macro Summative Assessments, and starting from the new academic year, the Mock State Exams (In-School Assessment Tests) will be conducted. The progress will be tracked and discussed with the students. These exams help our students to develop a number of skills:

- Checking the level of knowledge: the assessment evaluates students' current knowledge in certain subjects, determines how well they have mastered the subject and which areas they need to improve.

- Promoting learning: exams encourage students to study and learn regularly. It helps students consolidate their knowledge and develop their learning skills.
- Increasing the sense of responsibility: preparing for exams develops students' sense of responsibility and proper time management skills. They understand that they have to reach a certain goal within certain time.
- Adapting to stress and pressure: exams teach students how to handle stressful situations and make decisions under pressure. These skills are useful in the future in work and personal life.
- Sense of success and self-confidence: as students succeed in exams, self-confidence increases and students become more confident in their knowledge and skills. This increases their academic motivation.

When handled correctly, exams are an important tool that supports not only students' academic knowledge, but also their personal development. Dear parents, taking all this into consideration, please ensure that your children are involved in the exams during the exam times. Thank you in advance.

Note: The first Mock State Exam is scheduled for October 11, 2024.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sahiba Allahyarli

Deputy of Secondary stage leader on the National Curriculum, Olympiad Coordinator, Examination Coordinator for the National Curriculum

November Session of IGCSE, AS, and A-Level Cambridge Exams

Into the coming November session of the IGCSE, AS, and A-Level Cambridge exams, we are pleased to announce that the set dates stretch **from 7th October to 7th November, 2024**. The period is very important because our students are about to show what they have acquired in their year of study.

We want to wish that all the confidence and determination our students may take this exam. Let your hard work and dedication pay off in this big milestone of academics.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ilaha Mahmudova

Cambridge Exams Officer

Summer Program in World Heritage Architecture Bath By Ms. Natavan Gojayeve Language and Learning Support Coordinator

This summer our students had an incredible opportunity to attend a dynamic two-week summer program in Bath city in the UK, a city which is built for pleasure and relaxation. The program combined content integrated language classes with a large variety of engaging activities offering students enrichment and fun. Students were accommodated at the lush campus of the Bath Spa University and enjoyed the all-day-outings.

Bath is a compact, visitor-friendly city with a diverse range of museums and galleries, and finest shops and eateries. With so much to discover, the destination lived up to the students' expectations from the program and left them amazed by the stunning countryside and attractions.

Through interactive lessons students improved their language skills while exploring global topics. Workshops dedicated to media literacy, critical thinking, creativity and cultural awareness allowed our students to grow academically and socially in a vibrant university setting.

There were plenty of activities beyond the city, too, with the thrilling opportunity to watch a high-profile Manchester United and Manchester city football match in the Wembley stadium immersing themselves in excitement of English football. In addition, students embarked on educational excursions to Oxford, Bristol and London. These visits allowed them to explore iconic historical landmarks which complemented their academic and language studies.

Moreover, our students formed lasting friendships and meaningful relationships and connections. Through collaborative classes, social events and evening hangouts the students made enduring bonds with one another.

So the story goes on...

Now we are launching the school integration program in a charming coastal town Eastbourne. Students attend the classes in Willingdon Community School and experience the real British schooling.

We look forward to welcoming more students in future programs and excited to support their growth and development in years to come.













The World's Top Universities at MTK!

Aliyeva University Counselor

By Ms. Aysel

On October 10, our complex will host an education fair with representatives from some of the leading universities worldwide. More than 20 universities are expected to participate, offering our students the chance to engage directly with university representatives. They will have the opportunity to receive detailed information about various programs that match their interests, as well as information about bachelor's degrees, Foundation programs, scholarship opportunities (both full and partial), tuition costs, discounts, and program benefits. The fair is open to all Grades 9-12 and their parents.

The following universities will be officially represented at the Fair on October 10, 2024:

- University of Portsmouth, UK
- St Andrew's College, Cambridge Summer Camps / The UK
- Kaplan International Pathways / International
- EU Business School / Spain, Switzerland, Germany
- Middlesex University / The UK
- CBS International Business School / Germany
- University of Glasgow / The UK
- Florida International University / The USA
- Queen Mary University of London / The UK
- University of Wollongong / Australia, Dubai
- University of Cambridge Summer Research Programs / The UK
- University of Bedfordshire / The UK
- Heriot - Watt University / The UK and Dubai
- University of Worcester / The UK
- Webster University / The USA
- GEDU Global - Schiller International University / The UK
- University of Essex / The UK
- London South Bank University / The UK
- University of Alberta / Canada
- University of Leeds / The UK
- Constructor University Bremen / Germany

- Universidad Europea de Madrid / Spain
- Middlesex University / The UAE
- University of Hertfordshire / The UK
- Fenerbahce University / Turkiye
- Izmir University of Economics / Turkiye

HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR 2024



Date: 10 October

Time: 09:30

Venue: MTK Sport Hall

Universities attending

- | | |
|--|---|
| ✠ St Andrew's College,
Cambridge Summer Camps | ✠ Webster University |
| ✠ Kaplan International Pathways | ✠ GEDU Global,
Schiller International University |
| ✠ EU Business School | ✠ University of Essex |
| ✠ Middlesex University | ✠ London South Bank University |
| ✠ CBS International Business School | ✠ University of Alberta |
| ✠ University of Glasgow | ✠ University of Leeds |
| ✠ Florida International University | ✠ Constructor University Bremen |
| ✠ Queen Mary University of London | ✠ Universidad Europea de Madrid |
| ✠ University of Wollongong | ✠ Middlesex University |
| ✠ University of Cambridge,
Summer Research Programs | ✠ University of Hertfordshire |
| ✠ University of Bedfordshire | ✠ Fenerbahce University |
| ✠ Heriot - Watt University | ✠ Izmir University of Economics |
| ✠ University of Worcester | ✠ University of Portsmouth |

Find
Your
Place

Formation of Healthy Lifestyle in Schoolchildren Bakhishova School Pediatrician

By Ms. Leyla

Health is not only the absence of disease, but also the presence of complete physical, psychological and social well-being and an important indicator of biological characteristics, family relations, upbringing, and the quality of the environment. The school period is the most intensive growth and development stage for children. The habits they acquire during this period continue throughout their lives, which is why it is very important to form healthy lifestyle habits specifically during the school period.

A healthy lifestyle for school-aged children includes age-appropriate balanced nutrition, daily fluid intake, physical activity, a proper sleep schedule, maintaining personal hygiene, and minimizing screen exposure. A school-aged student should consume an age-appropriate amount of protein, fat, and carbohydrates throughout the day. The menu must include fruits and vegetables. It is recommended to minimize the consumption of fast and processed foods as much as possible.

A proper sleep routine is important for a student's active functioning throughout the day. Insomnia (lack of sleep) causes students to feel lethargic and tired, which lowers their ability to concentrate on lessons. Watching short videos or playing computer games at least two hours before bedtime negatively affects their sleep rhythm. Drinking a glass of warm water after waking up in the morning is very beneficial for digestive function. Consuming chocolate or any sweets on an empty stomach in the morning can disrupt your eating schedule and reduce your appetite throughout the day.

In recent times, a sedentary lifestyle among students has led to the development of serious conditions like obesity. To prevent this, physical activity must be a part of children's daily routines. Spending at least 3 hours outdoors, either walking or playing games, is essential for both their physical and mental well-being. Every parent wants their child to excel academically, and as a result, students are often enrolled in extracurricular activities in addition to school. However, this can lead to excessive overload during the day and a decrease in their ability to absorb information.

Therefore, in order to foster a healthy lifestyle and good habits in students, their daily schedule should balance both education and leisure time equally. From a young age, the examples set by parents in the family shape their children's future behavior, attitude towards themselves and their health, and overall lifestyle. Thus, parents should adhere to principles of a healthy lifestyle themselves and serve as role models for their children. Love, care, sincere relationships with parents, and positive communication within the family are fundamental to children's mental health.









Profile: Meet our Dance Teacher Ms. Turan Abdullayeva Interviewed by Mr. Nelson Urrego



NU-Good day Ms. Turan, how are you? Many thanks for accepting this invitation to connect and allowing the MTK community to know more about you.

TA- Good day, Mr. Nelson. I also thank you for your invitation. It is a great honour for me to work as a teacher-choreographer in the MTK community for a long time.

NU-It's hard to find an activity so exciting and engaging as dancing. How did you decide to become a Dance teacher?

TA- Since my family has a great passion for music and the arts, I began engaging in professional dance at a young age as a soloist in the " Benovshe" dance ensemble. For this reason, I completed my education at the Baku Choreography School, learning from well-known teachers and choreographers, including National Artists of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Their commitment to presenting the intricacies of national and world folk dances during lessons sparked a deep interest in me. From a young age, I envisioned myself as a professional, someone who loves their art, just like my teachers. These dreams and aspirations became a reality thanks to my supportive parents. Currently, I take pride in my teaching profession.

NU-Thanks Ms. Turan. Why do you think it is so important to keep Arts alive (particularly the Dance class) in a school environment?

TA- I believe that art is very important for personal development. Dance classes provide a unique means for children to express themselves and convey their emotions through body language. Dance also teaches teamwork, discipline, and responsibility. Discovering the boundaries of their bodies while moving and seeing their own potential is a very valuable experience for children.

NU-Thanks Ms. Turan. Your energy and enthusiasm are always noticed in school events. What are the aspects of your teaching practice that you enjoy the most?

TA- For me, the most important aspect is that my students can confidently and professionally showcase their capabilities on stage. It is truly inspiring to see them mastering movements during the lesson process and increasing their self-confidence. At the same time, the friendships and unity that develop among students can play a significant role in their future lives as they learn to work together as a team.

NU-Your choreographies are always imaginative and expressive, please walk us through the creative process of putting together a balanced choreography for a school presentation. I suppose it depends on the grade level?

TA- Yes, that is completely true. It is important to adapt the choreography to the age group and, most importantly, to the talents of the students. For preschool children, the movements should be simpler and more fun so that they can enjoy the teacher and the lesson process. For primary school students, the nuances of world folk dances are introduced, allowing them to perform more freely on stage. For secondary school students, the movements become more technically complex and require greater emotional depth. It is essential to consider both aspects to create a balance: both technique and creative expression.





NU-The dancing choreography in the last graduation ceremony was highly appreciated. The grace, synchrony and harmony were truly remarkable. The enthusiasm you transmitted to our graduates was visible. Was it difficult to say goodbye to them?

TA- Yes, it truly is difficult to say goodbye. This is because I have prepared and presented dance performances with these students from preschool up to their final graduation ceremony at the secondary level. Whenever I prepare performances with my students for graduation ceremonies, it is impactful for me to recall the years spent with them and the fond memories we created together. At the same time, knowing that they are moving on to a new phase and believing that they will achieve success in their lives fills me with pride.

NU-That is very interesting and touching, Ms. Turan. Speaking of cohorts, are nowadays children as shy about dancing as they were in our generation?

TA- I believe that some children may be hesitant to dance at first. However, in my long-term experience, sensing the child's needs, providing the right guidance, and offering support allows them to feel confident on stage during the lesson process and in the future. I would say that the most important task of a professional teacher-choreographer is to understand the student.

NU-Personally, what is your favourite type of music to listen to? And what is your favourite type of music for dancing?

TA- For me, as a choreographer, all types of music are perfect. As an example, I would like to mention my dance titled "Echoes of the Century," which I choreographed for the first time in Azerbaijan, performed by the teachers and students of MTK, during an event dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev.

[Echoes of the Century](#)

Through the musical rhythms and hand compositions used in the dance, I aimed to convey to the audience my emotions towards the music, my inner spirit, and my profession. Music is connected to my state of mind and mood. The music that resonates closest to my soul is our national music. This connection gave rise to the dance composition "Khari Bulbul," which I choreographed for a state-level event dedicated to MTK's 20th anniversary. My greatest current aspiration is to present the "Khari Bulbul" dance composition to the audience in Shusha, at Jidir Duzu. This would be a great honour for me.

[Khari Bulbul](#)

NU-Do you have any anecdotes you would like to share as a teacher?

TA-Yes, I can share. Towards the end of the dance lessons for preschool and primary school children, I arrange them in a circle and, under lively music, give each student the freedom to show their own performance. During this process, one of my students demonstrated a few movements with an interesting and quick technique. Although it made us laugh, that movement caught my attention, and I decided to add it to the choreography of the "Madagascar" dance, which I prepared for the "International Children's Day" event. I have no regrets because, as a choreographer, I always strive to bring something new.

NU-Ms. Turan, thank you very much for your time, and congratulations on your hard and appreciated work.

TA- Thank you as well. It was a pleasure for me to have this conversation with you. I wish success to every member of the MTK community.

Mistakes (a poem) **Agbason Grade 10i student**

By Emmanuel

Mistakes

made no matter what road we take

made even though we know what's at stake

when life seems to be more than just give and take

What is real

What is fake

Is this fate, is it fate

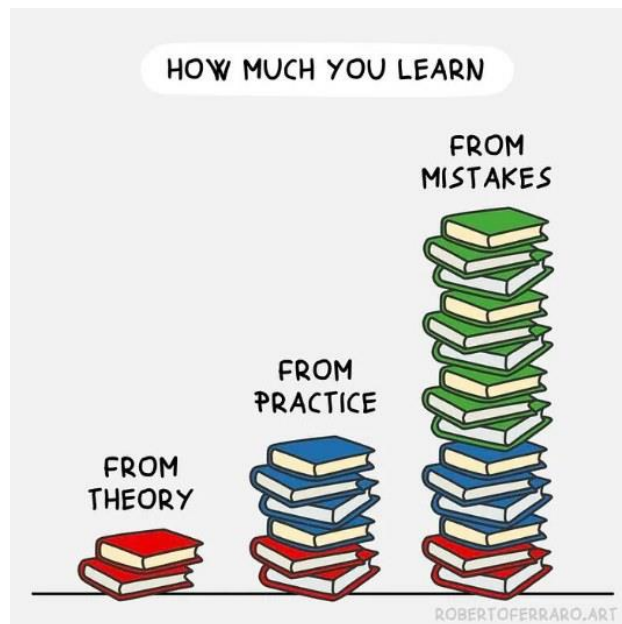
To ask this question I have come to hate

Because it means that I have no choice

That life has taken the Reins by force

Then what will all my efforts worth

the time I put in, the hours I worked
Is this how Life Will Go
forced to go according to the flow
will I ever defy fate
What if it's too late
What if the choice isn't mine to make
But were the decisions ever mine to take
Do i really have to resign myself to this thing called fate
These are questions I always ask myself
But the answers never come
Because this is fate we talk about, can be fought but never overcome



Linkin Park Reunite with New Singer (a blog post) by Duru Asiliskender Grade 9i2 student

After a seven-year hiatus from making music following the loss of legendary vocalist and frontman Chester Bennington, Linkin Park has finally announced their new album, "From Zero."

The album, which was teased after a 100-hour countdown, will be released on November 15th.

While this is significant news for their fanbase, some fans claim that their new vocalist, Emily Armstrong, does not have the vocal range and flexibility that Chester had. While she may not have the same vocal

capabilities, LP's comeback isn't and was never going to have the same sound as their old work, as this is a new start for the band, from zero. The band members are obviously happy with this decision, and hating Emily won't be helping us get back Chester. The band obviously does not want to dwell on the past, as it was a painful time for the members, the music industry and music lovers all around the globe.

The band marked the beginning of their new era with Emily with a live performance debut of their latest single "The Emptiness Machine", which will be the first track in the new album. Along with the album, they have also announced a world tour, which will have 6 shows.

Rest in peace Chester (1976-2017), he was literally one of the best vocalist and the kindest musicians out there.

P.S. Me personally I don't mind Emily being their new vocalist. Of course, she's not going to be at Chester's level, and even if she was it's not like she's trying to copy him. She is just the new vocalist, with her own techniques and unique sound. Also her band 'Dead Sara' is pretty good I really like it.



1 - <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/music/features/linkin-park-new-singer-emily-armstrong-tickets-bennington-b2616070.html>

Amazing World of Cabbage Butterflies

By Fatima Garibli, Grade 9i1 student

I have always found peace in nature. Its beautiful, its harmless and its breathtaking. Although I love all of nature, I find insects to be the most attractive and interesting part of our nature. They are tiny yet they play a huge role in our ecosystem. Butterflies, insects with vivid wings and unique patterns are my favourite types of insects. Therefore, I decided to write about a special species of butterflies called Cabbage Butterflies.

Cabbage butterflies (*Pieris rapae*), known as cabbage worms in their caterpillar stage, are found all around the world in temperate climates.

Habitat

Cabbage butterflies are found in a variety of habitats. They can be found in almost any type of open space, including meadows, bogs, forests, fields and open spaces.

Physical description

Cabbage worms, the larval form of cabbage butterflies, are up to 35 mm in length. These caterpillars have a green velvety appearance. Adult butterflies have a wingspan that ranges from 4,5 cm to 6,5 cm. Cabbage butterflies have white wings tipped in black.

Lifespan/Longevity

Cabbage butterflies live from 3 to 6 weeks, depending on the weather. About 3 weeks of their lifespans are spent as adults.

Behavior

Cabbage butterflies are active during the day. They fly from spring until September, but they have shorter active seasons farther north and longer active seasons in the south.

Ecosystem roles

Cabbage worms and cabbage butterflies, despite being different life stages of the same creature, have very different environmental roles. Cabbage worms can negatively impact their ecosystems by wounding or killing plants through their ravenous feeding. Cabbage butterflies feed on only the nectar of plants without destroying the foliage. Additionally, cabbage butterflies are important pollinators of crop plants, such as cabbage.

Development

Before transforming into cabbage butterflies, cabbage worms mature for about 15 days. In this developmental stage, the larvae go through four molts and five instars. Chrysalises formed on feeding plants or adjacent trash give rise to pupae. The chrysalises are 19–20 mm long and can be grey, green, yellow, or brown in hue. The duration of metamorphosis ranges from 11 days to several weeks. Late-season cabbage worms have the ability to hibernate in their chrysalises before emerging.

Source:

ADW (Animal Diversity Web): *Pieris rapae*

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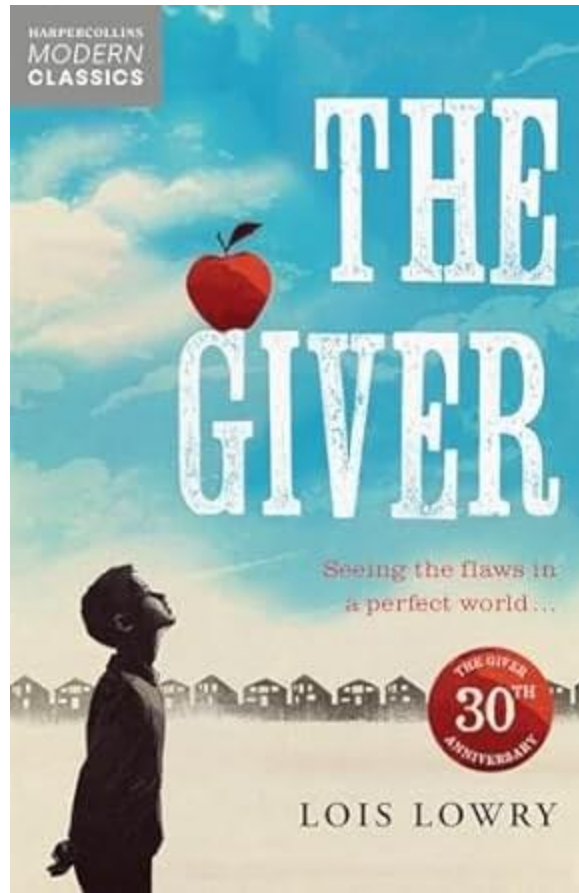
The Giver by Louis Lowry (a book review)

By Irem Baysinop, Grade 9i1 student

Recently, our class started reading the famous novel "The Giver" by Lois Lowry. We have read only the first six paragraphs of this novel so far, but the setting and the mysterious atmosphere of this story have already managed to draw our attention.

Since we have read only the first six chapters of the beginning of The Giver, the story begins by describing Jonas's (the protagonist) uneasiness about an important event in his community. The society Jonas lives in is highly controlled and organized; everything seems in order, people seem to have no problems at all, yet there is an overwhelming feeling that something is off. With this brief look at the story, we already seem to sense that the overall themes of this novel are control and conformity.

Reading The Giver is not only a fun task but it is also extremely beneficial. This book includes deep themes like memory, individuality, and society, which will help us improve our critical thinking and lead to meaningful and challenging discussions in class. Additionally, finding out the plot allows us to explore the concepts such as formation of a character, setting, and foreshadowing which are important in good reading comprehension. We are so excited to continue reading and dig deeper into the world of "The Giver"! We will be sure to update you once we get further into this book.



Thank you for reading!



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