



MTK Newsletter Volume 2 Issue 4 The Future Starts Here

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January 31, 2024

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Message from the School Principal, Mr. Nelson Urrego

Dear MTK Community,

One of the most rewarding experiences as a school principal happens when our students' agency exceeds our expectations. Last week, a group of students and school leaders and teachers launched a very engaging compost project at the Autism Center aiming to create innovative pathways for recycling organic material and to utilize it as an invaluable fertilizer for soil plants. We were honored by the participation of the UN Resident Coordinator who praised our students for cultivating sustainable initiatives and for motivating environmental awareness in our community and for fostering an inclusion-innovative partnership with the center.

With a staggering increase in the amount of waste produced in Azerbaijan year after year it is our responsibility as educators and mentors for the new generations to decisively support the development of initiatives that project a more sustainable world.

Did you know that 28% of the waste deposited in landfills can be composted? Did you know that soil with compost added to it can hold 2.5 times more water than traditional soil, reducing the amount of water needed? Actually, if everybody composted in the US, that would be equivalent to removing 7.8 million cars from the road.

As the school principal, I can't express enough how proud I am of our students (led by the amazing and highly committed Ms. Aynur Mammadova) who have been sharing with the community the benefits of an already successful compost project. An innovation that has transcended Baku and even reached remote regions of our country, such as Karabakh.

It has been a busy month and a very optimistic start of 2025. On behalf of our CEO, Mr. Tural Abbasov, our CFO, Mr. Mehman Babayev and the school leadership team, we wish to express our gratitude for your unwavering support. The academic quality of the school is visibly thanks to your continuous feedback and collaboration, our international accreditation process is progressing positively, and our students are increasingly empowered to display the MTK values and demonstrate its strong mission and vision.

The future is here,

Nelson Urrego, PhD

School Principal

Preschool, by Ms. Adila Aliyeva Preschool Stage Leader

1. Assembly on "Respect"

As part of our Mission and Vision to cultivate core values and foster a culture of respect and understanding, we organized an Assembly on January 10, 2025, dedicated to the theme of "Respect." During the session, teachers spoke with the children about the importance of respect and its vital role in building positive and harmonious relationships. The students actively participated in engaging and interactive tasks designed to deepen their understanding of mutual respect. Through these activities, the children not only explored the significance of respect but also discussed practical ways to embody this value in their daily lives. This assembly was a meaningful step in reinforcing our commitment to nurturing compassionate, empathetic, and responsible individuals who can contribute positively to society.



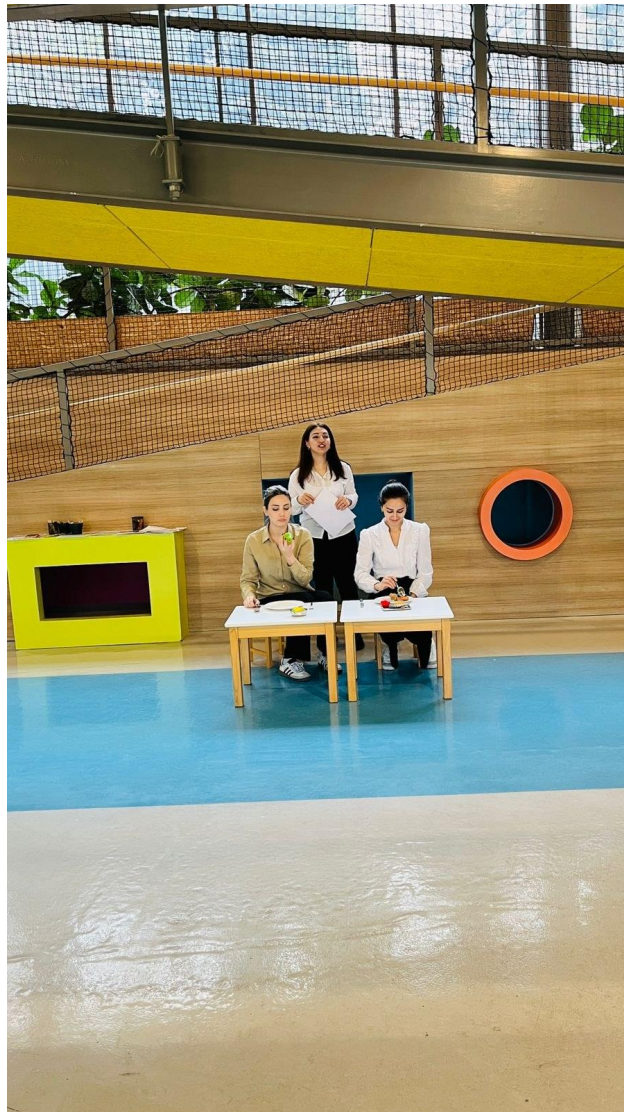




2. Session with Transition Group Students on Daily Routines

On January 17, 2025, Ms. Aygun conducted a session with the Transition group students focused on the topic of "Daily Routines." She used engaging role-play scenarios to explain the concept in an enjoyable and interactive way. The session was highly engaging and productive. The students learned about the importance and benefits of following daily routines, gaining valuable insights into how routines contribute to structure and discipline in their lives. This session aligns with our commitment to fostering essential life skills and supporting the holistic development of our students.







3. “The Little Red Hen” Story Reenactment

On January 17, 2025, Ms. Turkana and Ms. Gunel organized a delightful reenactment of the story “*The Little Red Hen*”. Together with the children, they brought the story to life by acting out the roles of its characters. This activity not only encouraged creativity and teamwork but also made storytelling an enjoyable learning process for the children. Such events support our mission to foster creativity and collaboration while building confidence and communication skills in our students.





4. Workshop for Nursery 1 and 2 Parents

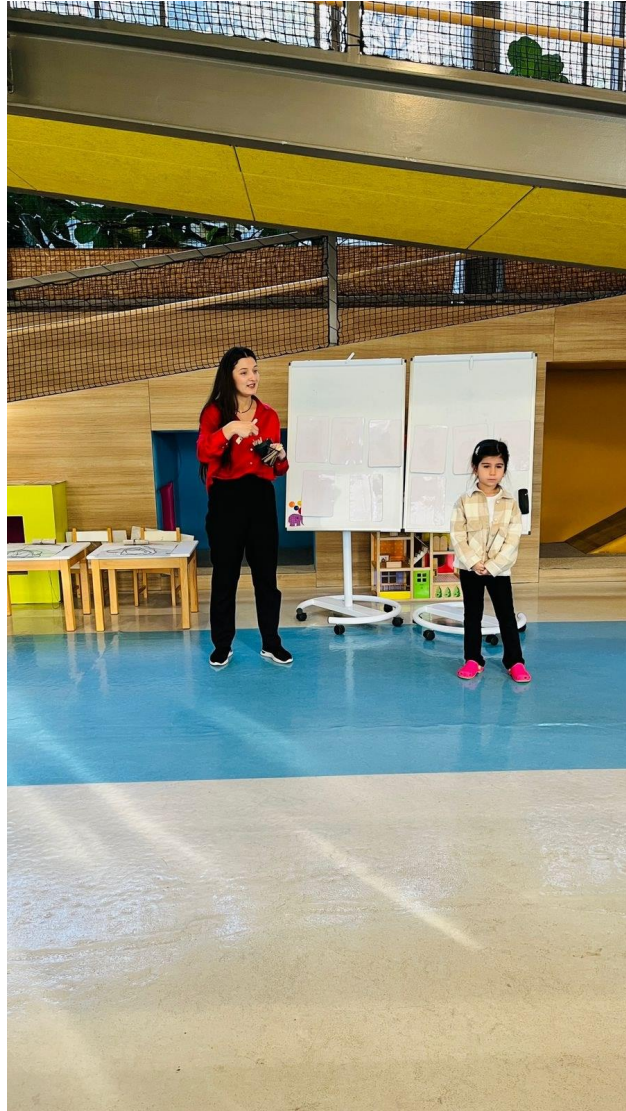
Our Preschool Counsellor, Leyla Mamiyeva, recently conducted an engaging and informative workshop for the parents of children in Nursery 1 and 2. The session focused on understanding how to create an environment that fosters the development of a healthy personality and independence in young children. Drawing on Erik Erikson's theory of psychosocial development, Ms. Mamiyeva shared valuable insights and practical strategies for supporting children during these crucial early stages. The workshop was well-received by parents, who appreciated the opportunity to discuss and learn more about fostering their child's growth and independence.

5. Magic Games with Transition group children

On Friday, January 24th, the Transition groups showcased exciting and engaging games. Under the guidance of Ms. Gamar Tahmazova and Ms. Parvin Nasirli, the children participated in fun and creative activities, allowing them to both enjoy themselves and develop new skills. The games were designed to enhance social abilities and create a joyful learning experience. This event also strengthened the children's teamwork and collaboration skills.







6. Self-Harm Awareness Seminar

A seminar on self-harm was held at the Preschool, where teachers engaged in in-depth discussions on this important topic. Ms. Leyla Mamiyeva provided particularly insightful recommendations, addressing both the psychological and physical impacts of self-harm. She

also shared effective strategies to help individuals better understand themselves and cope with negative emotions. This seminar served as a valuable opportunity to raise awareness, prevent self-harm, and promote mental well-being.



7. Fun Races with EYFS group children

On Friday, the Nursery group children participated in an exciting gathering filled with fun and engaging games. They eagerly took part in various competitions, enjoying themselves while also developing their teamwork and collaboration skills. This event provided a great opportunity for social interaction and strengthened their sense of team spirit. The games also stimulated both their physical and cognitive abilities, making the experience both enjoyable and beneficial.







Primary School, by Ms. Zulfiya Rasulova Primary Stage Leader

1. Starting Macro tests for 1st Semester (14-29th of January)

Starting from January 14, the Macro testing process has begun in the Primary section. These exams, which run until January 29, aim to assess students' knowledge gained during the first semester.

2. P2D Cupcake Decoration for Marble Reward – 17th of January

The students of P2D have worked hard to earn their marbles, demonstrating dedication and teamwork throughout the term. As a reward for their collective effort, they will enjoy a fun and creative activity – decorating their own cupcakes!

This event not only serves as a celebration of their success but also encourages creativity and a sense of accomplishment. Congratulations to the P2D class for their well-deserved reward!





3. STEAM: Young Minds Build Bridges - A Competition of Creativity and Collaboration

On January 14 and 21, STEAM teachers organized an engaging and educational “Bridge-Building Competition” for 3rd and 4th-grade students. The purpose of this event was to enhance students’ hands-on skills, foster creativity and encourage innovative problem-solving within limited time and resources.

Through this activity, students were challenged to think critically and apply their knowledge in a practical, fun, and interactive way. Moreover, the competition provided a valuable opportunity for students to develop teamwork and collaboration skills. Events like these not only nurture essential life skills but also spark curiosity and confidence in young learners, helping them prepare for future challenges.

We are proud of all participants for their hard work and innovative designs!







4. Debate Registration Open for 5th Graders

The registration process for the 5th Grade Debate program has officially begun! This exciting opportunity allows students to develop their critical thinking, public speaking, and teamwork skills in a supportive and engaging environment. Students are encouraged to sign up and become part of this enriching experience, where they can voice their ideas, learn to articulate their arguments, and grow their confidence.



5. P5B Cinema Day: A Marble Reward Celebration

The students of P5B have successfully earned their marbles and celebrated their achievement with a special Cinema Day. This well-deserved reward was filled with fun and excitement as the class enjoyed a movie together. This activity not only recognized their hard work and positive behavior but also provided a wonderful opportunity for the students to relax and bond as a class. Well done, P5B, for your fantastic efforts!





6. Karaoke Day in Assembly for Primary Classes

On January 6th, all Primary classes gathered for a fun-filled Karaoke Day during the assembly. The event was packed with energy and excitement as students took turns showcasing their singing talents and cheering for their peers. This joyful activity brought the Primary community together, encouraging confidence, creativity, and a love for music. It was a fantastic way to celebrate teamwork and create lasting memories. Well done to all the participants!



7. P5A Favorite Snack Day: A Marble Reward Celebration

On January 8th, the students of P5A celebrated their hard-earned marbles with a delightful Favorite Snack Day. Each student brought their favorite treats to share, creating a joyful and tasty atmosphere in the classroom. This special reward not only recognized their achievements but also fostered a sense of community and camaraderie among classmates. Great job, P5A, for your outstanding efforts!

8. P3B Pyjama Day: A Cozy Marble Reward

On January 9th, P3B celebrated their marble reward with a cozy and fun-filled Pyjama Day. Students came to school dressed in their favorite pajamas, creating a relaxed and cheerful atmosphere throughout the day. This special celebration recognized their hard work and teamwork while providing a unique and memorable experience. Well done, P3B, for earning this delightful reward!



9. P2A and P4A Movie Day: A Marble Reward Celebration

On January 10th, P2A and P4A students enjoyed a special Movie Day as a reward for earning their marbles. Both classes gathered together to watch a fun and exciting movie, relaxing and celebrating their hard work and positive behavior. This enjoyable experience gave students the opportunity to unwind while recognizing their efforts. Congratulations to P2A and P4A for earning this fantastic reward!



10. P5C Pizza Day: A Marble Reward Celebration

On January 14th, the students of P5C celebrated their marble reward with a delicious Pizza Day. The class gathered to enjoy a variety of pizzas, sharing this tasty treat as a recognition of their hard work and positive behavior. This fun and rewarding experience not only celebrated their achievements but also provided a great opportunity for students to bond and enjoy a well-deserved break. Well done, P5C!

11. P4C Donut Decoration: A Marble Reward Celebration

On January 15th, P4C students were rewarded with a fun Donut Decoration activity after earning their marbles. The class had a blast decorating their own donuts with a variety of colorful toppings and sweet treats. This enjoyable and creative activity not only recognized their achievements but also allowed the students to have fun while bonding with their classmates. Congratulations, P4C, for earning such a sweet reward!







12. P1A Class Tea Party with Parents

On January 16th, P1A students hosted a delightful tea party with their parents. This special event brought together families and students for an afternoon of warm conversations, delicious treats, and a sense of community. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to showcase their hospitality skills while strengthening the bond between the class and their families. A big thank you to all the parents who joined in making this event so memorable!



13. P3D Trip IDEA Animal Care Centre

On January 17th, P3D students visited the Animal Care Centre as part of their educational program aimed at fostering compassion and understanding for animals. During the visit, students learned about the importance of animal welfare and how the center works to care for and protect animals in need. They had the opportunity to see firsthand the various animals being rehabilitated, including injured or abandoned ones. The experience not only taught the students about animal care but also emphasized the significance of responsible pet ownership and conservation efforts. It was an enriching outing that encouraged empathy and responsibility towards all living creatures.







14. Fun Race Tournament for Grade 4

The Grade 4 Fun Race Tournament, organized by the Physical Education department, was held recently to encourage teamwork, sportsmanship, and physical fitness. Students participated in a variety of exciting races, from sprints to obstacle courses, creating an atmosphere of friendly competition. The event was designed to engage students in fun and active challenges, helping them develop both their athletic skills and their ability to work together as a team. It was a day filled with laughter, cheering, and encouragement, as students gave their best efforts in each race. The Fun Race Tournament was a wonderful success, leaving everyone energized and motivated to stay active and healthy.



15. Big Brother Big Sister Mentor Training: A Journey Begins

The Big Brother Big Sister mentor training equipped mentors with essential tools for their new roles. Ms. Gunay and Ms. Vusala led a dynamic session on *Conflict Resolution*, where participants identified emotions, brainstormed peaceful solutions, and practised conflict mediation through role-play. Mr. Scott and Ms. Narmina's session on *Confidentiality and Boundaries* emphasised the importance of respecting personal space, building trust, and understanding boundaries in mentoring relationships. The programme concluded with a heartfelt *Closing Ceremony* hosted by Ms. Sabrina. Mentors reflected on their experiences, received their mentee assignments, and were introduced to journaling as a way to document their journey. With excitement and purpose, they are now ready to meet their mentees and make a meaningful impact!









16. P5B and P4C Visit to Alley of Martyrs

On January 17, 2025, students of grades 5B and 4C from the Heydar Aliyev Modern Education Complex, along with their homeroom teachers and several other educators, visited the Alley of Martyrs as part of the commemoration events dedicated to the 20th of January tragedy. The students laid bouquets of flowers at the graves of the martyrs and paid their respects to their memory. They stood in silence and offered prayers in front of the "Eternal Flame" monument. Throughout the event, a sense of solemnity and attentiveness among the students was noticeable, reflecting their interest in understanding the essence and importance of the historical event.



17. A Journey of Mentorship and Growth

This is a group project that was mainly organized by Ms. Shakeelah and Ms. Sabrina. Some 5th graders and most 4th graders were a part of this project as “big sisters” and “big brothers”. All students were trained for many months by their teachers to be prepared to communicate with their mentees. Everyone learnt lots of life skills. We worked on group projects during our weekly meetings to ensure we understood the topic and were prepared.

HONORABLE MENTIONS TO OUR MENTEES:

- Khumar (mentor)
- Mahir from 1C
- Kamola (mentor)
- Gunel from 3C, Seljan from 2A
- Inji (mentor)
- Leyla from 3C, Hamid from 2B

OUR FEELINGS

Inji: I was happy when we finally received our mentees' names. Although I haven't met them yet, I know they are great kids.

Kamola: I felt happy for knowing my mentees. I waited for this moment since this project started. I hope I will be a good mentor to them.

Khumar: I feel very happy for knowing my mentees. Even though I've met him, I still don't know much about him. I am very glad to be a part of this project.

By: 5B students Khumar, Kamola and Inji



Secondary School, by Mr. Atabay Guliyev Secondary Stage Leader

1. Honouring the Martyrs of Black January

On January 13, 2025, our Secondary School held a special assembly to honor the martyrs and heroes of Black January. The event was a poignant reminder of the bravery and sacrifice of the Azerbaijani people during the tragic events of January 1990. Students had the opportunity to watch the thought-provoking documentary film [*Born on January 20*](#), which highlighted the heroism of Azerbaijani seafarers during that time. Directed by Honored Art Worker Elkhan Jafarov, the film's screenplay was based on archival research and personal accounts from witnesses and experts.

After the screening, Ms. Leyla Huseynova led a reflective discussion, posing insightful questions that encouraged students to think deeply about the significance of that day in Azerbaijan's history. The assembly provided a meaningful platform for students to learn about the courage of those who stood for freedom and justice, inspiring the next generation to remember and honor their legacy.

2. 7i1, 7i2, and 7i3 Students Pay Tribute at the Alley of Martyrs

On January 17, 2025, Secondary School's 7i1, 7i2, and 7i3 students visited the Alley of Martyrs to honor the memory of the January 20, 1990 martyrs who sacrificed their lives for Azerbaijan's independence. Accompanied by their teachers and members of the leadership team, students placed carnations on the graves as a symbol of gratitude and remembrance. This meaningful visit served as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made for the nation's independence and unity, fostering a deep sense of national pride among our students. It was a reflective and educational experience, reinforcing the values of respect, patriotism, and collective memory in our school community.





3. Semester 1 Exam Session Successfully Concludes

The Secondary School Semester 1 exam session took place from January 16 to 30, marking a significant milestone in our academic calendar. These exams serve as a valuable opportunity for students to demonstrate their understanding of key concepts covered throughout the semester. Beyond assessing academic progress, the exams aim to foster essential skills such as time management, critical thinking, and effective study habits. We commend our students for their dedication and effort during this period and thank our teachers for their unwavering support.

The results will guide further learning, ensuring continued growth and success in the upcoming semester.

4. Assembly on "Respect and Unity"

On January 22 Mr. Ramiro Londono and Ms. Fatima led an inspiring Secondary Assembly on the topic of "Respect and Unity". This event highlighted the importance of collaboration and mutual respect, fostering a sense of unity within our school community. Our recent activity on the theme "Respect and Unity" brought together secondary school students for an engaging and thoughtful session. The event focused on fostering mutual respect and understanding among peers, emphasizing the importance of inclusivity and kindness in building a supportive school community. Students participated in discussions and group activities that highlighted how respect can strengthen relationships and create a harmonious environment. The activity empowered students to become active allies in fostering a culture of respect, equality, and understanding. By the end of the event, students were inspired to create more united and compassionate environment both in and outside the classroom.









5. The Presentation by Azercosmos Representatives at the Heydar Aliyev Modern Education Complex Was Met with Great Enthusiasm

On January 8, 2025, the team from the COSMIC Academy, operating under Azercosmos, visited the Heydar Aliyev Modern Education Complex. The event drew over 400 participants, including teachers and students, who were introduced to the activities and educational-scientific projects of the COSMIC Academy through an extensive presentation.

During the event, information was shared about several internationally significant projects being implemented in the country. Highlights included:

- **International Space Olympics:** This competition, involving 600 students, aims to enhance students' knowledge in science and technology.
- **Azerbaijan National Satellite Innovation Contest:** Engaging 480 students, this project seeks to encourage youth to explore the field of space technologies.
- **APRSAF-30 International Space Poster Competition:** In this creative contest, 30 students present their innovative ideas through art.

The presentations emphasized various aspects of the COSMIC Academy's activities and highlighted the role of these projects in supporting the development of science. Detailed information about the Space Camp Turkey project was also provided, sparking discussions among students. These discussions focused on the opportunities the project creates for Azerbaijani students and the international experiences they could gain.

These international projects are organized by Azercosmos in collaboration with esteemed partners, including the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF), the Brazilian Space Agency (AEB), the Turkish Space Agency, and other local and international entities.

This event plays a crucial role in fostering students' interest in science, introducing them to future technologies, and engaging them in international scientific research projects. Azercosmos plans to continue organizing such initiatives to further ignite the youth's passion for space sciences.



STEAM Lessons with Classes 6i3 and 6i4: Technology and Creativity Together, by Alasgar Asadov and Aytel Asadova (STEAM teachers)

Classes 6i3 and 6i4 of Heydar Aliyev Modern Education Complex combined the power of technology with their creativity this week in their STEAM lessons, working on innovative projects. Using Boson Inventor Kit blocks, students created two exciting projects: **a flashlight** and **a walking robot**.

Both classes worked in groups during different lesson stages and raced against time to complete the projects. These tasks not only allowed students to delve deeper into the Boson Inventor Kit but also helped them develop essential skills such as time management, design, and brainstorming.

What is the Boson Inventor Kit?

The Boson Inventor Kit is a set of educational electronic blocks. With its modular design, this kit offers students an excellent opportunity to learn the basics of technology and build electronic devices. Each block performs a specific function. Students use these blocks to understand electrical circuits, experiment with sensors and motors, and create their own projects.

The 6i4 class explored light sources, electricity, and circuits to create a **flashlight**. The 6i3 class advanced in robotics by designing a **walking robot**. They learned how to control motors to make their robots move and implemented their own creative solutions.

These lessons not only teach students about technology but also foster teamwork, problem-solving, and creative thinking skills.





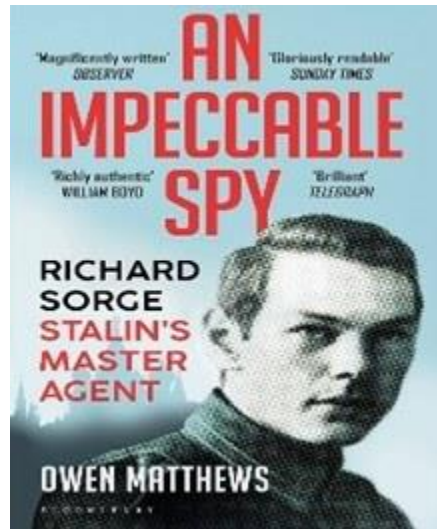


An Impeccable (Baku) Spy, by Mark David, History teacher and Humanities Coordinator

In 2019, a British historian and author, Owen Matthews, published *An Impeccable Spy: Richard Sorge, Stalin's Master Agent*. In the book, Matthews narrates Sorge's personal history and draws on a wealth of declassified Soviet documents and testimonials to tell the riveting story of the man Ian Fleming, author of the James Bond books, described as "the most formidable spy in history."

The story of this man, who came very close to changing the history of World War Two, is closely linked to Baku and, if only geographically, to MTK School. Richard Sorge was born in Sabunchu on 4th October 1895. His father, Adolf Sorge, was a German engineer who worked in the Baku oil fields and his mother, Nina Kobeleva, was Russian. Richard spent his early childhood in Baku, and he claimed the city remained dear to him until his death. When he was three years old his family moved to Germany where he attended school, earning the nickname of 'Prime Minister' because of his academic abilities, which were far beyond what was expected of someone of his age. He joined the Imperial German Army in 1914 and was wounded twice during the First

World War, the second time involving him losing three fingers and breaking both legs, which left him with a limp for the rest of his life.



Over the course of his convalescence from his serious injuries, Sorge studied philosophy and economics at universities in Keil, Berlin and Hamburg and it during his studies that he became a member of the German Communist Party. He received his doctorate in political science from Hamburg in 1919, but then lost jobs as a teacher and a miner due to his political views. The main turning-point in his life came in the early 1920s when he was recruited as a Soviet agent, posing as a journalist. He also married his wife Christine in 1921, who said meeting him was like experiencing a 'stroke of lightning'. In 1924, Sorge and his wife moved to Moscow where he joined the International Liaison Department of Comintern. In 1929, when Stalin moved to power, he joined the Red Army's military intelligence department, a job he retained for the rest of his life. Until 1932, Sorge spent time as an agent in Britain, Germany, where he enlisted in the Nazi Party, and China.

In 1933, following another spell in Germany, where Joseph Goebbels attended his farewell dinner, he travelled to Japan and worked as a reporter for the German newspaper *Frankfurter Zeitung* (see Sorge's Japanese press pass). However, he was really building a Soviet spy network in Japan under the code-name 'Ramsay'. This he quickly did, while still being welcomed at events in the German Embassy in Tokyo, aided by his gaining fluency in the Japanese language. Sorge began to pass Japanese information to the Germans and vice-versa, while sending all information to the Soviet Union. In 1941, Sorge passed on the date of the 20th of June for the German invasion of the Soviet Union, after he was told of Operation Barbarossa by a German officer at the embassy. Unfortunately, his frequent warnings were ignored by Stalin and other Soviet leaders and many millions of people died as a result.

Richard Sorge was finally arrested by the Japanese police on 14th October 1941 and incarcerated in Sugamo Prison in Tokyo. The Soviet Union, not yet at war with Japan, denied all knowledge of him and even arrested his wife, Christine, and sent her to a Gulag, where she died in 1943. Sorge admitted his guilt to the Japanese on condition that others connected to him would be left alone, which was agreed to. After a series of trials, Sorge was hanged at Sugamo on 7th November 1944, after more than three years in a prison cell. His body was not cremated, as usually happens in Japan, because of wartime fuel shortages, but buried in mass grave in Zoshigaya Cemetery. His skeleton was exhumed in 1949 and Richard Sorge, from Baku, now has a marked grave. His memorial, of course, sits opposite MTK School in a park that's also named after him.



第 46 號

氏 名 Richard Sorge
 新聞社名 Frankfurter
 Zeitung

自 己 一八九五年四月十日
 生 日
 住 所 東京市麻布区長崎町三丁目
 事 務 所 東京市麻布区長崎町三丁目
 通 信 社 名 フランクフルト ツァイン
 通 信 社 名 フランクフルト ツァイン

有 限 公 司 情 報 局
 情 報 局
 情 報 局

昭和六年七月四日

有効期間
 昭和六年七月四日
 昭和六年七月四日

昭和六年七月四日





MTK International School Has Launched SDG Student Ambassadors Program, Aynur Mammadova, UNESCO ASPnet Coordinator

At MTK International School, we are committed to fostering not only academic excellence but also a sense of responsibility and leadership among our students. Aligned with this commitment, we are excited to introduce the MTK SDG Student Ambassadors Program, designed to empower students from grades 1 through 11 to become champions of sustainable development.

The Importance of Responsibility from a Young Age

Research from Harvard University has consistently shown the value of assigning responsibilities to children from an early age. These studies indicate that participation in tasks and chores cultivates self-worth, confidence, a strong work ethic, and empathy – all essential traits for future success and well-being.

At MTK International School, we integrate these principles by providing students with responsibilities that extend beyond academics. For example, in the composting project, students are responsible for collecting food scraps, adding them to the compost bins, regularly monitoring and mixing the compost, and ultimately producing nutrient-rich fertilizer. This hands-on involvement not only teaches them about sustainable practices but also instills a sense of ownership and accountability.

Program Overview

The MTK SDG Student Ambassadors Program aims to raise awareness and promote action toward a greener future, cultivating a culture of responsibility within both the school and the broader community. Through this initiative, students will engage in activities that support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), fostering a deeper understanding of global challenges and the importance of sustainable practices.

First Meeting Highlights

In our first meeting, we focused on introducing the roles and responsibilities of the SDG Student Ambassadors. To make the SDGs more tangible, ambassadors were tasked with printing and displaying the SDG icons in their classrooms, ensuring daily visibility and reinforcement of these critical goals.

Second Meeting Highlights

During the second meeting, we emphasized the importance of professionalism in the ambassadors' endeavors. We are pleased to announce that our students will receive training from United Nations representatives, equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively advocate for sustainable development. Following their training, these ambassadors will, in turn, educate their classmates, fostering a school-wide commitment to sustainability. Students were provided with policy documents outlining their duties and the expectations of the program.

We would like to extend our gratitude to 11th-grade SDG Student Ambassadors' Leader Deniz Tagiyeva and her Deputy Zahra for their diligent efforts in collaborating with us to complete the documentation for secondary student ambassadors and deputy ambassadors list, as well as for their participation on professional training day on December 20th 2024.

Official Commencement in January

We are excited to announce that, starting January, the SDG Student Ambassadors have officially commenced their duties. Their initiatives include leading various projects aimed at promoting sustainability and environmental awareness within the school community and beyond.

Meet the MTK SDG Student Ambassadors!







Azerbaijan National Satellite Innovation Competition Kicks Off, by Alasgar Asadov, STEAM and ICT Coordinator

On January 22, 2025, from 12:00 to 13:00, our school participated in the official online opening ceremony of the Azerbaijan National Satellite Innovation Competition with our students. The event highlighted the competition's importance, mission, and stages.

The ceremony began with a welcome speech by Imran Mukhtarov, Head of the SPACE Academy of Azercosmos. He emphasized the significance of inspiring youth to engage in space technologies, fostering innovative ideas, and strengthening Azerbaijan's position in the satellite industry.

The opening speeches featured remarks from Fidan Najafova (Head of the Department of the Preschool and General Education Agency), Nigar Hasanova (Head of Division of the Education Institute of the Republic of Azerbaijan), and Leonardo Souza (CEO of Brazil's IDEA Space Company). They highlighted the opportunities this competition provides for young talents in education and career development. Additionally, a video message from Paolo Gessini, Director of Intelligence and New Business at the Brazilian Space Agency, captivated the participants.

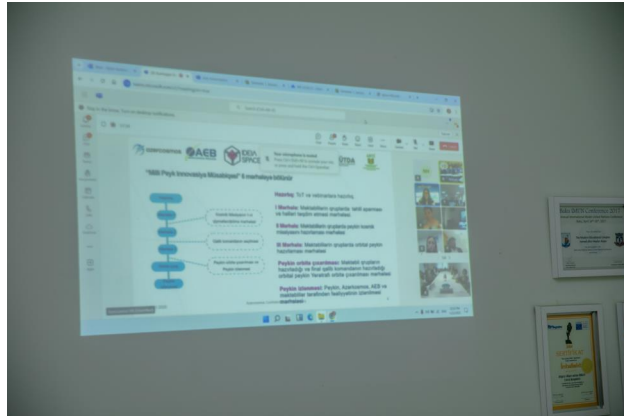
At the end of the event, Imran Mukhtarov presented the mission, vision, stages, and structure of the Azerbaijan National Satellite Innovation Competition. The ceremony concluded with a general online family photo.

Our school's team will actively participate in this competition, contributing to the future development of Azerbaijan's space industry. Each stage of the competition will play a vital role in enhancing the students' innovative skills and paving the way for future successes.

Special thanks to our facilitators, Aytel Asadova and Sabina Malikzada, for their support during this event.







9i1 Students Visit Azerbaijan National Library Named After M. F. Akhundov, 9i1 student Hasan Aliyev

Last week we visited the National Library named after Mirza Fatali Akhundov, and it was a memorable experience. From the moment we arrived, we were welcomed with a guided tour that gave us a glimpse into the incredible world of books and knowledge stored there.

We explored the spacious reading halls and learned how the library operates. Anyone aged 16 or above can register with the library free of charge, gaining access to millions of books. While the books can't be taken home, you can request them anytime to read in the library. The registration also provides free use of the library's computers, which is really helpful for research or studying.

One of the highlights was seeing books donated by Heydar Aliyev himself, which added a special touch to the visit. We were also shown religious texts and other literary treasures that are centuries old, offering a reminder of how valuable and timeless knowledge can be.

Toward the end of our visit, we had a brief reading session where we chose books to read quietly. It was inspiring to sit in such a cultural space, surrounded by history and knowledge. This trip truly showed us the importance of libraries in preserving and sharing wisdom.









The Role of Books in My Life, 8a student Inji Mammadova

First of all, we all know that reading is important for everyone throughout our lives. I believe that a knowledgeable speech, fluent speaking ability, and the ability to express one's thoughts stem from books. A person who does not read books cannot achieve such qualities.

I started reading books at the age of seven. At first, I had no interest in reading, and my parents did not force me to do so. However, I began to notice how the books I read started to influence my speech, and I decided to read more. Now, speaking fluently in Azerbaijani has become one of the qualities I like most about myself. I was afraid that if I ever stopped reading, my speech ability might regress. Books help me expand my vocabulary, write essays, and express my thoughts accurately. This skill not only benefits me in language lessons but also helps me successfully complete assignments in other subjects. At any time, I can easily find a topic to talk about when communicating with others.

I recommend reading books to all students. By reading more, you can easily talk about any character from a literary work or discuss a common book you've both read with the person in front of you. Additionally, you will be quick-witted in any situation.

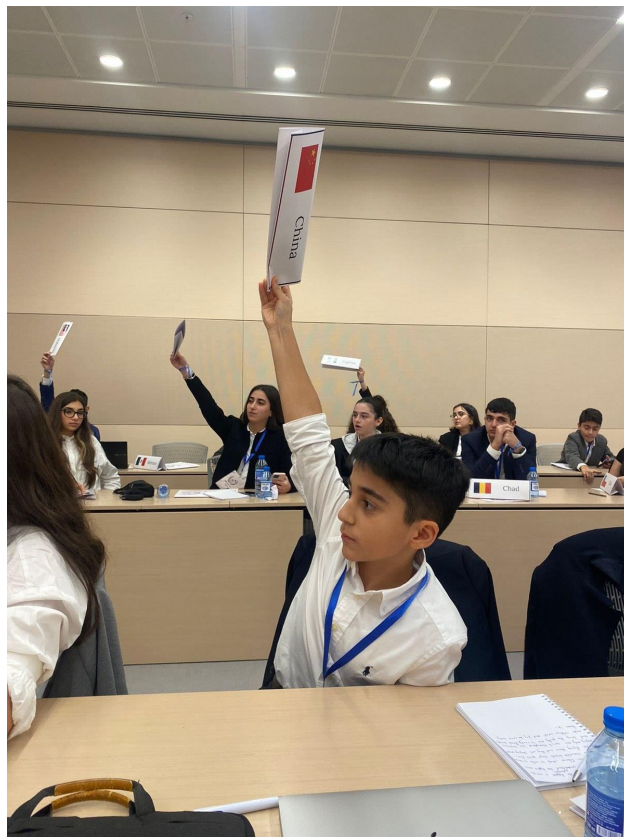
I believe the benefits of books are endless. I recommend starting to read books at a young age. It is also possible to start from scratch in this endeavor.



MUN Experience at ADA School: Debates on Global Issues and Diplomatic Skills, 8i1 student Nazrin Asgarzade

The MUN at ADA School began with an opening speech introducing everyone and outlining the schedule. In the first committee session, delegates delivered opening speeches, presenting their country's stance on topics like women's rights and child labor in the chocolate industry. Some delegates were in the UN Women committee, discussing gender equality, while others represented countries in UNSC or UNGA. After a coffee break, the sessions continued with debates on motions, where delegates fought for their countries to earn points through resolutions. The debates were intense, with each delegate working to defend their position and negotiate with others. The next day, the committees continued refining resolutions, and the event concluded with a closing ceremony, recognizing the winners for their diplomatic skills. The entire experience was a great opportunity for delegates to engage in meaningful discussions and understand global issues more deeply. It was a very encouraging experience for us.

















Reading Hour Based on the Motifs of the Film "Taghiyev: Oil", 6i1 students Ayla Rzazade and Sudaba Ali

On 17 January, a reading hour based on the motifs of the film "*Taghiyev: Oil*" was held in our complex's library. Our literature teacher, Ms. Mujgan, assigned the role of the teacher to us—Tunjay, Amal, Sudaba, and Ayla. We divided the tasks among ourselves to manage the reading session efficiently.

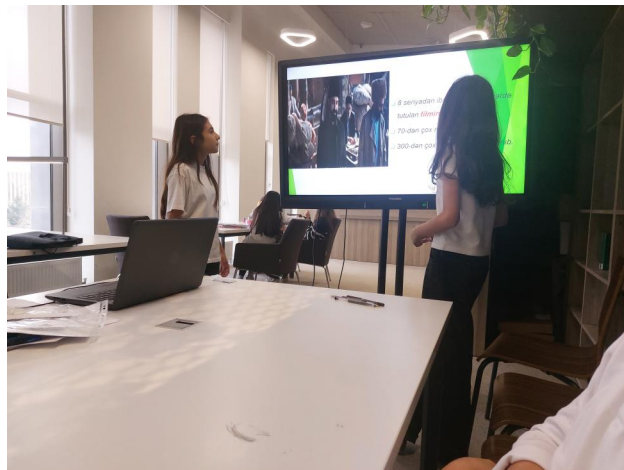
The lesson was initiated by Tunjay. Using the BiBÖ chart (Know-Want to Know-Learned), he asked questions about what we already knew about Taghiyev, what we learned from the film, and what we would like to know in the future. Some of the students' thoughts were very interesting, such as: "*Nothing—neither wealth nor possessions—are more important than family.*" According to them, the reason for Taghiyev's wife's illness and death was that he devoted too much time to his work and could not spend enough time with her.

Next, Sudaba provided detailed information about the filming process. Ayla then divided the students into groups and assigned each group two questions related to the film. After completing the task, each group presented their work. Together with our teacher, we shared our opinions on the group activities.

Taghiyev's hard work, perseverance, and refusal to give up were the key reasons for his success in life.

We are eagerly looking forward to the next episode of the film!







Child at Heart: Society's Rebel, 10i student Emmanuel Agbason

I am fine.

I am good

no, I'm fine.

I have told this lie so much that it feels true.

It is now a defense mechanism to hide all that I have been through

To hell with my subconscious what does it know?

Does it get to judge me just because it follows me wherever I go?

OK you know what I've been through

OK you know my pain

But what did you do to prevent that?

All you do is to remind me that I'm not OK or maybe I want to be OK

why can't I just pretend

why can't I be normal?

Why can't I play house?

And who gets to say what normal is.

It's just a standard set by someone powerful that I have to meet.

Well, thank you for trying to educate me but I'm a weirdo

A child at heart, and a Marxist mind

And with this in mind, I have come to ask is my conscience really mine or was it put in me by someone else?



1 - <https://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/effective-classroom-management/how-are-you-doing-today-a-survey-for-starting-each-class/>

Review of the film "Taghiyev: Oil", 9i1 student Elbar Aliyev

On December 13, 2023, 6th and 9th grade students went to the Azerbaijan Cinema together with our teachers to watch the film "*Taghiyev - Oil*."

The film was about the life and work of Haji Zeynalabdin Taghiyev, one of Azerbaijan's most renowned philanthropists and an oil magnate. In the movie, Taghiyev and his workers were trying to extract oil from the ground, but they faced failure time and again. His workers were dissatisfied with the situation. They had grown tired of returning home hungry and thirsty every day, losing hope due to the lack of wages.

One day, when the workers demanded their monthly salaries, Taghiyev asked them to wait for three more days. He promised that if oil did not emerge within that time, he would let them all go free. The workers decided to trust him. Two days passed, but there was still no oil. However, on the third day, oil started gushing out like rain. Everyone was overjoyed, especially Taghiyev... It was an unforgettable moment for him—the turning point of his life.

The main idea of the film "*Taghiyev - Oil*" is that a person should not listen to negative opinions from others. If you have confidence in yourself, you will always succeed!



9i1 and 9i2 Students' Visit to Balakhani Industrial Park, 9i1 student Ailin Mirzakhani

December 17, 2024, was a memorable day for the Grade 9i students as we visited Balakhany Industrial Park, one of the key industries supporting the Azerbaijani economy. The park plays a vital role in attracting investors and entrepreneurs by creating favorable conditions for investment and production. The visit was organized by our Economics and Business Studies teacher, Nargiz Babayeva. Throughout the excursion, our Grade 9i Homeroom Teacher and English Language teacher, Gunay Gojali, and History teacher, Mark David, accompanied us, sharing their valuable knowledge and experiences along the way.

An eco-industrial complex in Azerbaijan. Positioned near a landfill and Waste-to-Energy Plant. The goal was to learn more about recycling and sustainability. We were explained by the guide how the waste converts into reusable materials and energy. That are then used by businesses, who invest in green industries. Then, we got to see the peculiar and fascinating things found in landfills by the workers in Balakhany Industrial Park. There were all sorts of things from silly souvenirs, coins, books to even daggers!

Next, we were shown a part of the park where they reuse paper. In the place, there were a lot equipment, and we saw a lot of wrappers and papers we use in our daily lives! For example, food packaging and poster boards. Afterwards, we followed the guide to the factory where we could look at the plastic that would soon be recycled! There were tons of bags, stuffed with recycled plastic pieces. And we even got to touch it with our own hands!

Soon the trip was over. We learned a lot about Balakhany Industrial Park and about its impact on reducing environmental harm. It was a great opportunity to witness all of it in action and I hope we have more trips like this!







Profile: Meet our Deputy School Principal Mrs. Sahiba Allahyarli.

Interviewed by Mr. Nelson Urrego

In this edition we have a very special guest. Ms. Sahiba Allahyarli has recently appointed as deputy school principal keeping her valuable support with the incommensurate understanding of the Azerbaijani system of education and the impeccable participation of our school in different academic competitions.

NU-Ms. Sahiba, thank you very much for accepting this invitation and allowing our readers to know you better. And congratulations on your new appointment as deputy principal. Ms. Sahiba, you are a dear friend and a very appreciated member of the school. I remember when I arrived at the school nearly a year ago. You have always been very welcoming and helped me to re-set my forgotten Azerbaijani language skills. What is your secret to cultivate so positive relationships with the community?

SA- Thank you for your invitation to the interview, your sincere congratulations, and your kind words! Being appointed to this position is both a great responsibility and an honorable opportunity for me. It is a privilege to work alongside esteemed colleagues like you and to achieve success together. The efforts and contributions of each of us are an integral part of our collective success.

For me, building genuine and honest relationships with people is extremely important. When we truly value others and listen to them sincerely, it fosters mutual respect and trust. In relationships, it is not only about what we say but also about how we listen and support one another. I believe the key to positive relationships lies in sincerity, respect, and mutual understanding.

NU-(follow up comment) What made you become an educator, and for how long have you been a teacher?

SA- I have always felt a strong desire to share knowledge, contribute to shaping new generations, and guide them toward their future. This passion led me to the field of education, and I decided to pursue a career as a teacher. Teaching is not just a profession; it is a mission. It requires continuous learning, growth, and openness to new ideas, and I deeply appreciate every lesson this profession has taught me.

I began my teaching career 24 years ago, and this long journey in education has allowed me to grow not only as an educator but also as a leader. Over the years, I have expanded my experience in education and my pedagogical approaches to a broader perspective.

NU- (follow up comment) What makes our school special to you?

SA- The fact that our school was established on the initiative of the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev and bears his name holds a special significance. The Modern Educational Complex named in Honour of Heydar Aliyev is one of the most prestigious and leading schools in our country.

Our complex stands out in many ways. It offers a highly advanced environment equipped with the latest technologies and enriched with digital learning tools. International collaboration and future opportunities, modern and innovative teaching methods, as well as a professional and experienced teaching staff, are among the key strengths of our school.

NU-I am sure you have interesting anecdotes from many experiences in MTK. Could you please share a rewarding experience?

SA- Of course, I have many memories, but I would love to share the most cherished one with you.

The year was 2001... It was my first day at school as a teacher. It was not only the grand opening of the complex but also the beginning of my journey in education. As I was preparing for my lesson in the classroom, I felt a mix of emotions—excitement, anticipation... Suddenly, I sensed a commotion in the hallway. A few seconds later, the classroom door opened, and standing before me was the great leader of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev. Accompanying him were official guests and the school administration.

I was overwhelmed with emotion. He looked around the classroom, gazed warmly at the students, and addressed them with a kind and sincere smile. His voice was calm yet filled with confidence. He engaged in a conversation with the students, patiently listening to their dreams and thoughts about the future. There was a visible sense of joy and pride in their eyes.

Then, Heydar Aliyev's gaze turned to me. He approached, greeted me, and asked how I felt as a young teacher. Struggling to contain my excitement, I shared that I was taking my first steps in this honorable profession and that working with children brought me immense happiness. He

smiled and emphasized the great importance of education and the teaching profession. He gave his blessing to me and all the students.

His words and encouragement became a guiding light in my career, helping me stay on the right path and constantly inspiring me. His sincerity, love for people, and deep appreciation for education fueled my passion for this profession even more.

That day, I didn't just teach my first lesson as a teacher—I also learned a lesson that would stay with me for a lifetime: the power of education and love for humanity is truly the greatest force in society.





NU-What are the major challenges that modern teachers have nowadays?

SA- I believe that the challenges teachers face in the modern era are related to the development of education and the demands of a changing society. One of these challenges is adapting to the rapidly evolving technology and the need to enhance digital literacy. At the same time, keeping students' motivation high in the modern age is a significant challenge for teachers. Another difficulty is ensuring individualized attention in the classroom. Every class has students with different levels of knowledge and diverse learning styles. Effective communication with parents, societal expectations, and psychological pressures are also among the challenges teachers face today. Naturally, there are several effective ways to overcome these challenges. Teachers must continuously develop, master new teaching methods, and learn how to use technology efficiently.

NU-How do our families and students compare to other schools you have worked at in the past?

SA- This is a very interesting question. Over time, society develops, and naturally, it also influences the approaches of families and students. Families and students in the modern era are more modern, informed, and tech-savvy compared to the past. Nowadays, families closely monitor the quality of education and use the internet and other resources to better support their children's development. In the modern era, education is not limited to the information provided by teachers or books; students access more information through the internet, digital platforms, and various educational resources. This transforms them into more modern and innovative thinkers.

NU-How do you see our school in five years?

SA- Our school is one of the institutions that develops more each year and adapts to modern educational requirements, advancing towards excellence in education. In five years, I am confident that our school will be an institution enriched with technological and innovative approaches, achieving strong educational outcomes and leading society. At the same time, I see our school not only as one of the most advanced educational institutions in Azerbaijan but also as a prestigious school recognized internationally.

NU-One of the interesting aspects of the local culture is how resilient and perseverant Azeri people are. Certainly, the experience of different conflicts and challenges in your history has forged a strong but at the same time cordial character in them. How is this character present in our students and teachers?

SA- As a people who have gone through the difficult periods of our history, various conflicts, and challenges, we have always learned to be resilient and patient. This experience also manifests itself in the school environment because we not only teach academic knowledge but also strive to instill in our students the ability to face challenges in life, overcome them, and move forward.

The resilience and patience inherent in the culture of the Azerbaijani people is not just a value in our school; it forms the foundation of every activity, relationship, and teaching method. The principles of teamwork, mutual support, and overcoming difficulties together hold a unique place within our school community.

NU- Our dear school bears a remarkable name. How is the spirit of Heydar Aliyev present in our day to day educational practice?

SA- In 2001, Heydar Aliyev stated during the opening of our Complex: *"I greet the opening of this school with great joy because here, the rich cultural heritage, language, traditions, and national identity of the Azerbaijani people will be preserved and passed on to future generations. The main goal of the school's activities is to raise citizens who will contribute to the development of our country, ensuring that, along with modern scientific knowledge, they hold a deep respect for their nation and culture."*

Our school's educational environment, in line with Heydar Aliyev's legacy, provides an education that meets the highest standards of modern science and technology. At the same time, through the lessons and various events held at the school, students are instilled with national and spiritual values, patriotism, and an understanding of our people's culture, history, and rich heritage.

NU-Ms. Sahiba, any additional words to our community.

SA- Our school is not just an educational institution; it is also a family. In this family, each member, every student, and teacher has a special role. The strength and value of our school community stem from the responsibility each member takes on, mutual respect, and cooperation. As the MTK family, we will continue to prepare each student for a better future, nurturing individuals who will contribute to the development of society and become the leaders of tomorrow.

NU-Ms. Sahiba, you have been most generous with your time and consideration. I have learned a lot working shoulder to shoulder with you. Thank you for your remarkable contributions to our school's progress.

SA- You're very welcome! Your words are truly appreciated. The dedication and perseverance each of us shows in our respective fields contribute to the success of our school and make it an even stronger place. Learning from one another and offering support is the most beautiful part of this journey. Your professionalism and the value you bring to the school are highly deserving of praise. Your passion and determination inspire us all, positively influencing each of our efforts. I also thank you for taking the time and attention to contribute!



2 - and thank you very much to our Editors-in-chief Ms. Khadija Jafarova (Head of Cambridge Advanced Programme and English Coordinator), Mr. Nelson Urrego (School Principal), Fidan Baylarova (Content Designer), editorial committee (Stage Leaders), our contributors and everyone else who was involved either in translating or editing for their hard work and dedication.

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VISION 

MTK grows dedicated individuals with intercultural competence who manifest and foster their national heritage and universal values for a well-balanced life, successful career, and a peaceful world.

We are strongly committed to cultivating an educational landscape where students feel valued, connected, and supported by their peers, teachers, families and friends, and a wider community who believe in their potential, encourage their growth, and stand by them through every stage of life.

MISSION 

MTK is an international centre of excellence within an Azerbaijani context striving to educate well-rounded independent learners who are responsible, respectful, resourceful, responsive, and reflective and advocate for universal values with passion and confidence.

We provide a wide variety of disciplines and programmes designed to foster academic and intellectual growth, digital literacy, collaboration skills, physical health and social and emotional well-being in a safe environment.

