

EMIS

NEWSLETTER 2020

**In these times of isolations and quarantines, there is little keeping us connected.
We, here at EMIS, want to stay connected to you despite it all.**

Click on the photo below for a surprise Happy Holidays greeting from EMIS!



The Eastern Mediterranean International School (EMIS) is a unique international boarding high school in Israel with the mission to make education a force for peace and sustainability in the Middle East. Through a shared two-year educational and living experience, EMIS teaches values of respect, diversity and glocal citizenship.

EMIS students are 10th to 12th graders, aged 16-18 years, who come from over 45 different countries. Our student population includes 20% Israeli students, 20% Palestinian and other Arab students, and 60% international students, making EMIS a truly international learning experience.

EMIS is located in Hakfar Hayarak, a youth village and educational campus near Tel Aviv. Our students, whether local or international, have the opportunity to study the prestigious International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme, and also the opportunity to do a preparatory Pre-DP year.

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COVID-19 UPDATES

On behalf of everyone here at EMIS, we mourn the deaths of everyone lost in the pandemic and appreciate the efforts of all front-line workers in these trying times. Surrounded by times of uncertainty, EMIS had to end its academic year earlier than planned in March. We ensured that every student was taken care of - most returned home, some stayed back on campus and others stayed with host families. In August, despite all challenges and hurdles, EMIS succeeded in welcoming most of its old and new students on campus. We resumed with a hybrid mode of teaching to ensure that all students could continue their studies - both on and off campus. As of December, all our students are on campus safe and healthy. Classes are continuing as usual in person. Everyone is required to wear masks at all times and follow all COVID-19 regulations.



CULTURAL EVENTS

In line with our mission for peace and sustainability in the Middle East, we gave our lovely Israeli, Palestinian, Georgian, and Afghan students a platform to present their cultures to us through the Cultural Week. On "Olive Day", our Palestinian students invited us to press olives, appreciate their delicious food, visit their "museum" of artifacts, make gorgeous henna tattoos on our hands, and dance the Dabke!

On the Israeli cultural day, EMISers experienced the beauty of Israel's culture and tradition by participating in different interactive activities. We sang and danced together to ancient and modern Hebrew songs. And of course, we couldn't miss the delicious food that was made by our beloved Israeli friends. Thanks to them, we got to try a variety of Israeli snacks that brought us back to our childhood. Last but not least, we blessed a 13-year boy a sweet adulthood by bombarding him with sweets and candies - it was truly a balagan!



TRIPS AND EXCURSIONS

Our Pre DP and DP1 students went on a trip to the fields behind Hakfar Hayarak! After a long day of orienteering (navigating a terrain using a map and a compass to find specific places) and seeing the historical Afeka Caves, the students enjoyed a Poyke Pot meal and a bonfire.

Our DP2 Visual Arts students went on a trip to the central bus station and other neighbourhoods in Tel Aviv to spot some local graffiti and street art. They appreciated the art and made sketches that will inspire their art pieces in the future.



YOCOPAS AND THE DUAL NARRATIVE WORKSHOP

YOCOPAS is the Youth Organized Collaboration of Peace and Sustainability. Through workshops and a yearly conference, YOCOPAS brings young leaders and established speakers from Israel, Palestine, and from all over the world with the aim to learn from each other and to create a collaborative platform. With YOCOPAS, young people get the tools to actively create positive change towards peace and sustainability in the local communities. The vision is to create long-term projects and create a movement that inspires more young people.

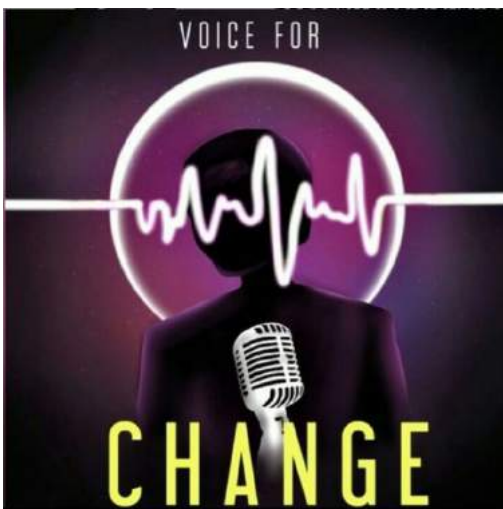
With Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Israel, EMIS is currently hosting the Dual Narrative Workshop series. Led by Israeli history Professor Naveh and Palestinian education expert Professor Adwan, the series is giving the diverse group of EMIS boarding students the opportunity to learn and discuss historical highlights of the conflict from a dual narrative perspective.



VOICES FOR CHANGE PODCAST

"The EMIS Voices for Change Podcast is a project born from the desire of three young people to engage their school community and to share the stories and passions that unite us in diversity. In a world more and more focused on the negative side of news, we want to give young people a place where they can feel free to be inspired by positive and inspirational topics, and messages. Together, we believe in the power of sharing, and the positive impact we can have on each other through our voice, the tool through which every change originates. Each episode on Spotify aims to interview a guest and put together multiple voices ready to give different points of view on a single topic. What is important to us is to be as pragmatic and practical as possible, we want to concretely demonstrate the challenges, the difficulties that are behind the realization of each project and dream, but also the results and the wonderful journey that can be traveled together. It is for this reason that we need you, to be inspired, and to reach as many people as possible. We believe in the power of stories and we are sure that yours could help us in this ambitious program."

- The EMIS Voices for Change Podcast



EMIS ALUMNI, WE MISS YOU!

Just over four years ago, the first cohort of students graduated EMIS and entered the real world empowered with the tools to make a change in the world around them. We are filled with a sense of pride when we hear the stories of our alumni creating a positive impact and truly living out the EMIS mission.

EMIS alumni, we miss you and we would love to re-connect. Despite how uncertain the world feels right now, we pray that we will get the chance to see you in person soon. We hope that you enjoyed reading this newsletter but just as much as we want you to know what is going on at EMIS, we want to know what is going on with your life.

Please fill in this form to update us on how you're doing so that we can share your stories like the two wonderful alumni on the next page: [EMIS Connected](#).

EMIS Connected

EMIS taught me so many things about myself. It helped me be more open and forward when meeting new people and really got me to break out of my shell. I got to voice my ideas and opinions in a new light, and I carry that confidence in my life even now. It also taught me to listen to people's stories, which I constantly try to do in my field of practice. I really feel like I became a better version of myself since EMIS. I'll always be thankful for the family I found there. I still talk regularly with the friends I made, and I even miss living with them and getting to see them everyday.

Andrée-Anne,
Quebec City, Canada



This July, I celebrated the completion of my Bachelor's in Earth, Energy and Sustainability from Leiden University College. My experience at EMIS has absolutely been the enabling factor for succeeding in my Bachelor's and beyond. On an academic level, the skills and knowledge acquired throughout the IB programme allowed me to have a very easy transition to university. On a personal and human level, the life lessons I learnt from experiences with my EMIS friends and staff have helped me to improve myself and try to better the lives of those around me.

Andrés Oliva,
Spain

