





MTK Newsletter Volume 2 Issue 3 The Future Starts Here

**Newsletter Highlights
2024**

December 25,

1. Message from the School Principal by Mr. Nelson Urrego, School Principal
2. Preschool by Ms. Adila Aliyeva, Head of Preschool
3. Primary School by Ms. Zulfiya Rasulova, Head of Primary
4. Secondary School by Mr. Atabay Gulyev, Head of Secondary
5. Anti-Bullying Week at MTK, Zulfiya Rasulova, Head of Primary
6. What should be considered when studying abroad? Aysel Aliyeva, University Counsellor

7. Our Commitment to UNESCO ASPnet and Global Education, Aynur Mammadova, UNESCO ASPnet Coordinator
8. Exhibition entitled "Let's Unite for a Green World" by Tunzala Mammadova (Geography teacher) and Jala Ismayilova (Physics teacher)
9. The Green Zone at COP29 Captures the Interest of the students of the Modern Education Complex named in Honour of Heydar Aliyev, Tunzala Mammadova, Geography teacher
10. The School Years of National Leader Heydar Aliyev, Leyla Huseynova, Humanities Coordinator
11. Colombian Literature and Azerbaijani Youth: First Colombian Literary Forum, Fidan Baylarova, Assistant to the School Principal
12. Profile: Meet our Pastoral Care Coordinator Mr. Ramiro Londoño. Interviewed by Mr. Nelson Urrego
13.  Calling All Creative Minds!  Design a Mural for Our Science Department! By Simone Blake, Science Coordinator
14. Grades 8i1 and 8i2 students' trip to Balakhany Industrial Park, Ilham Abdullayev, 8i1 student
15. Breathing Life into Learning: Posters on the Respiratory System, Suri Huseynova, 7i2 student
16. COP29 with the view of volunteers, Akif Mammadyarov, 9r1 student
17. Exam Stress: How to identify and manage it, Zahrakhanim Gasimova, 12i student
18. Reading books, by Ailin Myrzakhan, 9i1 student
19. "Of Wolves and Guilt", story by Miras Bekzatuly, 10i student

Message from the School Principal, Mr. Nelson Urrego

Dear parents and MTK community,

As the Winter break approaches, we wish to extend our gratitude for all the hard work students have put into their academic duties during the first semester. Remember that our children's success is only possible with the combined and articulated effort from parents, teachers and students. The school has been actively cultivating this collaboration and throughout the student counsellor departments we have been developed parent orientation sessions and

workshops about a variety of relevant topics. We are planning to continue this invaluable strategy with the participation of school senior leaders and experts and discuss with our families aspects like child protection, career orientation, health and safe, study habits, appropriate use of devices and screen time monitoring, among others.

We are convinced that a fluent and sincere communication is necessary to foster our school values and enhancing the school mission and vision. Our homeroom teachers, subject educators, stage leaders, student counsellors, school principal, chief executive officer and administrative staff are always willing to receive your feedback and constructive observations.

We kindly invite you to let us know your concerns by using the official school email:

infomtk@mtk.edu.az or directly to the specific stage leader:

Preschool: adila.aliyeva@mtk.edu.az

Primary: zulfiya.rasulova@mtk.edu.az

Secondary: atabay.guliyev@mtk.edu.az

Our administrators will provide a prompt response to your concerns or recommendations.

On the other hand, representatives from the Council of International Schools (CIS) will be visiting our school to confirm our commitment with our purpose and direction, high quality education, the cultivation of global citizenship, the promotion of wellbeing, safeguarding and child protection policies, and our alignment with their code of ethics and the spirit of the UN Convention on the Right of the Child (1990). We are confident that after this confirmation visit, MTK will be granted the CIS membership which represents a notable reward for our community's growth.

Our school's leaders and teachers have been working very hard to implement relevant policies, restructure our school organization and systems to meet not only the most demanding international standards in education, but also to respond our compromise to educate our children in the Azerbaijani centre of excellence that MTK represents.

On behalf of our School Board, our CEO Mr. Tural Abbasov and the executive leadership team we wish you a restful time during this well-deserved Winter break.

Sincerely,

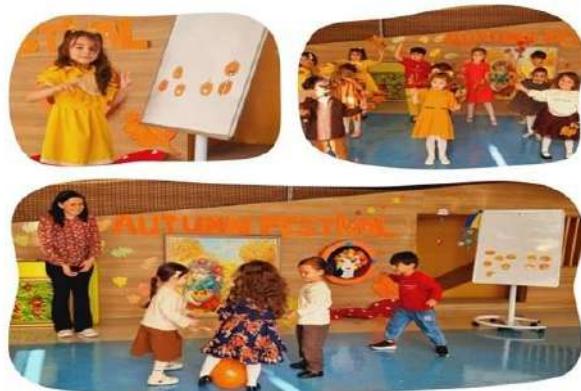
Dr. Nelson Urrego

School Principal

Preschool, by Ms. Adila Aliyeva Preschool Stage Leader

1. Autumn Festival Celebration

On November 2, our Preschool held a delightful **Autumn Festival** filled with joy and creativity. The event was a wonderful opportunity for our young learners to showcase their talents through songs, dances, and crafts inspired by the beauty of the autumn season. The Preschool was beautifully decorated, reflecting the vibrant colours of fall, and the children, along with their teachers, worked hard to make the celebration a memorable one. It was a heartwarming day filled with laughter, learning, and festive spirit!



2. Empowering Emotional Growth in Reception Groups

We are delighted to share that our Preschool Counsellor, **Leyla Mamiyeva**, recently conducted engaging and impactful training sessions with both Reception groups. The topic, "*Feel and Deal*", focused on helping children understand and manage their emotions effectively. Through interactive exercises and activities, the children learned valuable techniques to regulate their behaviour based on their emotional state. They also explored real-life scenarios, such as sharing toys and building team spirit, which fostered collaboration and empathy among peers. These sessions are a vital part of our commitment to nurturing emotional intelligence and social skills in our young learners. A big thank you to Ms. Leyla for her dedication and creativity in supporting the holistic development of our students!



3. A Vibrant Trip to the Neon Art Museum

The Transition group recently enjoyed an exciting excursion to the **Neon Art Museum**, where they explored the captivating world of neon light art. Surrounded by vibrant lights and creative masterpieces, the children discovered fascinating details about this unique art form. The visit not only enriched their understanding of art but also sparked their curiosity and creativity. It was a memorable experience that deepened their appreciation for the beauty of artistic expression!



4. Insightful Discussion on Parent-Child Relationships

Preschool Counsellor Ms. Leyla Mamiyeva recently held an engaging discussion with parents on the topic of Parent-Child relationships. The conversation focused on the critical role parents play in their children's development, effective communication techniques, and fostering healthy relationships within the family. During the session, Ms. Leyla shared valuable advice on understanding children's emotional and psychological needs and building open, sincere connections with them. Parents actively participated by sharing their perspectives, gaining practical insights, and exchanging experiences. The discussion was an enriching opportunity to strengthen the bond between parents and children, paving the way for a nurturing and supportive environment at home.



5. Celebrating the Autumn Season with Fun and Learning

During the week dedicated to the autumn season, children engaged in a variety of exciting, season-themed activities. As part of the festival, they visited other classrooms to complete tasks specially prepared for them. Each classroom offered unique activities centered around different topics. The children had a wonderful time exploring, learning, and having fun. This event not only enriched their knowledge but also fostered a spirit of collaboration and sharing among them, making it a truly memorable and meaningful experience.



6. Raising Awareness Through Conversation

Our SEND Coordinator, Ms. Nurlana Ismayilova, led an insightful discussion with the children on the topic of *"Mindfulness."* During the session, she explained the importance of understanding and managing their own emotions and thoughts consciously. Ms. Nurlana also taught the children how to be attentive to the feelings and needs of others, fostering empathy and understanding. This meaningful conversation proved to be a valuable opportunity for enhancing the children's emotional and social skills, helping them grow into more compassionate and self-aware individuals.



7. Promoting Good Hygiene Practices

Preschool Doctor Gulshan Musayeva conducted an informative session with the children, highlighting essential hygiene principles vital for personal cleanliness and health. These included washing hands, brushing teeth twice a day, taking regular showers, and wearing clean clothes. The importance of proper handwashing, especially before and after meals and after using the restroom, was emphasized. Alongside body hygiene, Ms. Gulshan also stressed the significance of maintaining a healthy diet and getting adequate sleep to support overall well-being. These practices are crucial for helping children stay healthy and protect themselves from infections, fostering lifelong habits for good health.



8. Celebrating Odd Socks Day as Part of Anti-Bullying Week

As part of Anti-Bullying Week, we celebrated *Odd Socks Day* at our Preschool. On this special day, children wore mismatched socks to embrace and celebrate individuality. The event also served as a platform for meaningful discussions about bullying. During these conversations, children learned about what bullying is, how to prevent it, and the importance of valuing differences. They also shared their thoughts on empathy and the necessity of respecting others. The day provided a valuable experience for the children, encouraging them to accept diversity and stand against bullying while fostering kindness and mutual respect.



9. Parent-Teacher Meetings with EYFS and Transition Groups

We recently held successful Parent-Teacher Meetings with the parents of our EYFS and Transition groups. These meetings provided an excellent opportunity for parents and teachers to come together, discuss the children's progress, and share insights on how to support their continued development. We appreciate the collaboration and open communication, which plays a key role in fostering a positive learning environment for our young learners. Thank you to all the parents who participated!



10. Assembly on Empathy – Transition 1

An Assembly focusing on the importance of empathy was organized for the children in our Preschool. The event aimed to teach the children essential social skills, such as understanding others' feelings and responding to them with sensitivity. Santa Claus and the Grinch were special guests at the Assembly, using their contrasting behaviours to convey powerful lessons about empathy and compassion. Santa Claus, as a symbol of joy and kindness, highlighted the importance of generosity and care, while the Grinch demonstrated how understanding others' feelings helped him transform his previously unkind behaviour. This interactive approach effectively illustrated the significance of empathy, leaving the children with a meaningful and practical understanding of this essential value.



Primary School, by Ms. Zulfiya Rasulova Primary Stage Leader

1. Grade 2's Blooming Creativity: An integrated learning experience

Last week, our Grade 2 students participated in an exciting integrated project combining Science, English, Social Studies, and Art. This hands-on experience encouraged creativity and cross-subject learning.

In Art, students decorated flowerpots, showcasing vibrant designs and personal touches. During Science, they planted seeds or small plants in their pots, learning about plant care and growth. In English, they wrote clear, instructional texts on planting and caring for plants, improving their writing skills. Finally, in Social Studies, they discussed the essential role plants play in our environment.

This project not only taught valuable lessons about plants but also fostered creativity, teamwork, and responsibility. A big thank-you to families for providing materials and supporting this success.







2. 4th Grades Visit to the Alley of Honor: A Lesson in Patriotism and History

The students of 4th Grades recently visited the Alley of Honor to pay their respects to the national leader of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev. This educational trip aimed to instill a sense of patriotism and a deeper understanding of the significant contributions made by Heydar Aliyev to the nation.

During the visit, the students observed a moment of silence at his resting place, reflecting on his dedication to the progress and prosperity of Azerbaijan. Teachers accompanying the group provided insights into Heydar Aliyev's life, his leadership, and his lasting legacy in shaping modern Azerbaijan.

The serene atmosphere of the Alley of Honor and the well-maintained grounds offered the students a meaningful experience. It was a day filled with learning and reflection, leaving the students with a profound respect for their country's history and its remarkable leaders.



3. Thanksgiving Celebration: A day of gratitude and togetherness

We celebrated Thanksgiving Day in the teachers' room, and it turned out to be a wonderful gathering. Each teacher brought a homemade dish, filling the room with the delicious aromas of

various meals and desserts. The table was beautifully arranged with traditional Thanksgiving dishes like roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, salads, pies, and other delightful treats. Everyone took turns expressing what they were thankful for, creating a heartfelt and uplifting atmosphere. As we enjoyed the meal together, we shared stories, laughter, and moments of joy, strengthening the bonds within our team.

The event was not only about the food but also about the sense of togetherness. It reminded us of the importance of appreciation and the support we offer one another as colleagues. The celebration ended with smiles, full hearts, and a promise to continue the tradition in the years to come.



4. Fun Race Activity by Grade 3: Teamwork and Joy

Recently, the Grade 3 students participated in an exciting and energetic sport competition, filled with fun and friendly competition. The event, which took place on the school grounds, was designed to promote teamwork, physical fitness, and most importantly, fun!

The students were divided into teams, and each team competed in a series of fun races, including relay races, sack races, and three-legged races. Laughter filled the air as the students cheered for one another, showing great enthusiasm and teamwork throughout the competition.



5. Promoting Creativity and Love for the Azerbaijani Language

In order to form creative thinking in students and enrich their vocabulary, Azerbaijani language activities have been organized in various corners of our school. Students and teaching staff test their knowledge by answering the "Question of the Week" and get acquainted with new facts. Aphorisms, significant days and questions that are updated every week are placed in this corner. The "Word Search" corner increases students' enthusiasm for learning and creates an opportunity to consolidate their knowledge. Students increase their vocabulary and have fun by finding words appropriate to the topic. These activities, organized by our Azerbaijani language teachers *Gunay Salimova* and *Khumar Alirzayeva* are regularly updated and have a positive impact on the educational process. These activities also aim to increase students' love and interest in the Azerbaijani language.





6. Assembly Organized by Grade 4B: Inspiring Action for Our Planet

Grade P4B students gathered for an enlightening and impactful

Assembly centered around the critical issue of climate change. The purpose of this assembly was to raise awareness among young minds about the ongoing environmental challenges and inspire them to take action in their daily lives to protect the planet.





7. Grade 3B's Visit to Baku Zoological Park

In order to increase the students' interest in the animal world and further consolidate the theoretical knowledge they have learned, an excursion to Baku Zoological Park was organized. The students saw the animals living in the Zoological Park and gained extensive information about them. This provided them with the opportunity to see and experience what they had learned in absentia in textbooks. The students exchanged views on the protection of animals and their lifestyle. This helped the children understand the importance of ecological culture. The excursion became a memorable and pleasant memory in the students' memory.



8. Enhancing Literacy Skills with Reading Eggs platform: Teacher Training Session

The teachers recently attended a meeting with a representative from the Reading Eggs platform, followed by a coaching session. During the meeting, the representative shared valuable insights about the importance of Reading Eggs in enhancing students' literacy skills. The coaching session provided teachers with practical guidance on how to effectively integrate Reading Eggs into their teaching methods. This platform, known for its engaging and interactive approach, helps students develop essential reading and comprehension skills through a variety of fun and educational activities.





9. P1A and P1D classes' trip to Neon Art museum

The museum trip organized for students held significant importance in creating both an educational and creative environment. Firstly, participants explored various rooms of the museum, where they became acquainted with the displayed artworks. The neon-lit exhibition hall not only created a unique atmosphere but also enhanced the appeal of the showcased art pieces.

During the second phase of the event, students participated in workshops held on A4-sized paper. They were given the freedom to choose their own topics, allowing each participant to work on a different art piece. This initiative aimed to foster their creative potential and unveil their individual talents.

At the end of the competition-style event, a special gift was awarded to the student who provided the most accurate answer. This approach played a vital role in fostering a spirit of competition among students while also boosting their motivation.



10. Memorable School Trips Through the Eyes of Grade 5C

Our school organizes trips for students, teachers, and staff every academic year. We visit many different locations such as museums, historical places and more. We enjoy every trip. We travel by school buses where we can sometimes eat our snacks (but not always). While traveling, we talk with our classmates and friends, sharing stories and having fun, which makes the journey more enjoyable.

After every trip we get unforgettable memories. For example, when we visited Gobustan, everyone was interested in the history of the ancient citizens of Azerbaijan. Another time we explored the International Music and Art Museum, where the guide told us many fascinating facts and stories about art and music.

Our impressions of these school trips are always fantastic. Each time we visit a new place we enjoy it.

By Ayadil and Ibrahim from 5C

11. BBBS project - Building Bridges of Support

MTK is proud to launch the Big Brother Big Sister (BBBS) Mentoring Programme, designed to foster strong connections between mentors and mentees while promoting emotional well-being and inclusivity. This initiative equips our primary students with the necessary skills to support their peers, build positive relationships, and grow as empathetic leaders.

So far, our mentors have actively participated in three dynamic workshops:

- ***Mentee Awareness Workshop*** (29th November): Led by Ms. Fatima and Ms. Nigar, students explored the essence of mentoring, practised empathy, and embraced diversity through role-playing scenarios.
- ***Child Safety Workshop*** (6th December): With guidance from Ms. Aytan, students learned to prioritise physical safety and created safety rules to ensure their mentees thrive in a secure environment.
- Effective Communication (13th December): Facilitated by Ms. Javahir and Ms. Sevinj, this session focused on using “I” statements, interpreting nonverbal cues and team-building exercises.
- Looking ahead, we have an exciting lineup of workshops that will further enhance our students’ communication skills, conflict resolution awareness, and understanding of confidentiality:
- ***Conflict Resolution*** (18th December): Students will identify emotions, brainstorm peaceful solutions, and role-play conflict mediation scenarios.
- ***Confidentiality and Boundaries*** (10th January): This session will focus on the importance of respecting personal space, maintaining trust, and understanding boundaries in mentoring relationships.
- ***Overall Mentorship Workshop*** (31st January): The programme will conclude with mentors reflecting on their experiences, creating a mentor pledge and embark on their new journey of meeting their mentees!

Through these workshops, our students are developing leadership skills, fostering emotional resilience, and building a nurturing school environment. We look forward to seeing our mentors and mentees continue to thrive and make meaningful connections.

Thank you for your support in this transformative journey!







12. P1B and P1C Classes' Visit the Neon Art Museum

On December 6th, the students of Class 1C and 1B had a wonderful opportunity to visit the Neon Art Museum. This trip provided the young learners with a unique and colorful experience, allowing them to explore the fascinating world of neon art.

The students were warmly welcomed by a friendly guide who introduced them to the history and techniques of neon art. They learned that neon lights are created using special gases and are used to produce bright, glowing signs and artworks. The guide also explained how neon art has evolved over time and why it is now considered a form of contemporary art.





13. P2B and P2D classes' trip to Idea Animal Care center

On December 11th, the Grade 2B and 2D students visited the IDEA Animal Care Center for an exciting and educational field trip. The children had the chance to play with cats and dogs, learning hands-on how to care for them and understand their needs. Through guided activities, they discovered the importance of kindness and responsibility toward animals. The trip was both fun and informative, leaving the students with wonderful memories and valuable lessons about animal care.









14. Healthy Cooking Activity with 5A Students

On December 13th, the students of Class 5A engaged in an exciting activity centered around the theme of healthy cooking. With the participation of their parents, they prepared cookies while considering all the key aspects of a healthy lifestyle.

Through this activity, the students gained a deeper understanding of the essential foods needed for a healthy lifestyle. The event also fostered interactive engagement between students and parents, resulting in a truly memorable and enjoyable experience.





15. Class 4B's New Year-Themed Cookie Design Activity with Parents

On December 12th, the students of Class 4B, together with their parents, took part in a delightful and creative activity where they designed and baked cookies with a New Year theme. This hands-on experience provided a wonderful opportunity for students and parents to collaborate, bond, and celebrate the holiday season through a fun and engaging activity.

The students and their parents worked together to create cookies in a variety of New Year-themed designs and as a result, they incredibly enjoyed this collaborative activity.





16. P4A class New Year Eco Bag Art with Parents

On December 13, the students of Class 4A participated in an unforgettable creative activity with their parents. The project, titled "New Year Eco Bag Art," aimed to enhance the students' creative thinking skills and raise awareness about environmental conservation.

During the activity, the students worked on nature-friendly, reusable bags. They designed and decorated the bags with bright colors and various New Year-themed illustrations. The involvement of parents added a special liveliness to the event, as both students and parents shared interesting ideas and collaborated together.





Secondary School, by Mr. Atabay Gulyev Secondary Stage Leader

1. Consultation through ASPNet on the Initiative on the evolving right to education

Grade 8-10i students engaged in a structured dialogue to share perspectives on the evolving right to education. The aim of the project was to actively engage students in a discussion about the right to education, focusing on global challenges, and explore potential solutions through a collaborative project. The students discussed the key themes (Vulnerable groups; Digitalization, Climate change and education), wrote essays and worked collaboratively to make presentations. At the end, the students' works were sent to UNESCO's right to education department.





2. Victory is Yours, Homeland!

It has been four years since our glorious victory in the Patriotic War. This triumph, this joy, was brought to us by the foresight and purposeful policies of our Commander-in-Chief, the courage of our victorious army, and the national unity of our people, as ancient as history itself.

In just 44 days, the Azerbaijani Army demonstrated unparalleled skill in complex combat conditions, leaving the world in awe and writing a proud chapter in the heroic history of our nation.

On November 6, 2024, at the Heydar Aliyev Modern Education Complex, we once again reflected on the historic journey that led us to our magnificent victory during the Assembly.

The event, organized through the collaborative efforts of 8th and 9th-grade students and their homeroom teachers (8A – Lala Karimova, 8R1 – Aynur Khalilova, 8R2 – Vafa Huseynzade), commenced with opening remarks by hosts Malak Babayeva and David Aliyev.

This was followed by a heartfelt patriotic performance by students (Anar Oruc, Ayxan Adigozalov, Omer Gasimzade, Murad Hashimzade, and Ibrahim Veliev), which captivated everyone's attention. The event continued with a presentation of a documentary film depicting the heroic journey and victory of the Azerbaijani Army.

The highlight of the event was the participation of our high esteemed guests—veterans of the Patriotic War, who shared their impressions of the victory. Among them were: Badal Huseynli, Deputy Director for Educational Affairs at School No. 221; Ali Abbasov, Azerbaijani Language and Literature teacher at School No. 180 named after Azer Namazov; Asim Rasulov, Informatics teacher at Modern Education Complex named in honour of Heydar Aliyev; Fuad Mammadov, History teacher at the Modern Education Complex named in honour of Heydar Aliyev; and Sadiq Hasanov, member of the Security Service at the Modern Education Complex named in honour of Heydar Aliyev.

The heartfelt speeches of our Teacher Heroes, the true architects of our victory, were met with great interest and excitement.

The event concluded with remarks by the Executive Director of the Modern Education Complex named in honour of Heydar Aliyev, Mr. Tural Abbasov.

Author: Aynur Khalilova Azerbaijani language teacher

3. Future Begins Here – A Play Dedicated to Victory Day

When I was a student, I used to perform in school plays. As the years passed, and I advanced through the grades, I began writing scripts and directing those performances myself. Yet, every event and every play left me with an unshakable feeling of sorrow, a hidden ache in my soul.

The root of all the scripts I wrote back then was defeat. My plays lacked true endings. This pained me deeply. Being young, I thought perhaps I wasn't good at writing or staging plays, and that's why the endings felt weak, lifeless, or dark. Over time, I realized the truth—I was writing from the perspective of the defeated. And when the issue remains unresolved, one cannot accept defeat. That's why the endings were always incomplete, drifting in emptiness.

As an artist, I yearned for triumphant, victorious performances. The time finally came. With the determination of our Supreme Commander and the bravery of our army, we achieved victory. At last, we began telling stories filled with triumph.

"The Future Starts Here" | Victory Day

When writing the script for our play dedicated to Victory Day at the Modern Education Complex named after Heydar Aliyev, we reflected deeply. For the fourth year, we were telling stories of victory. This time, however, we sought a new perspective—thanks to Mr. Tural's suggestion, we embarked on a journey into the future, imagining the future of Karabakh.

The plot revolves around a conversation between a professor at Karabakh University and his students. Ahmed teacher (played by Mr. Atabey) asks his students (portrayed by Malak Babayeva, Inci Mammadli from 8A, Eldar Hasanov from 9A, and Koroglu Rahimli from 9R1)

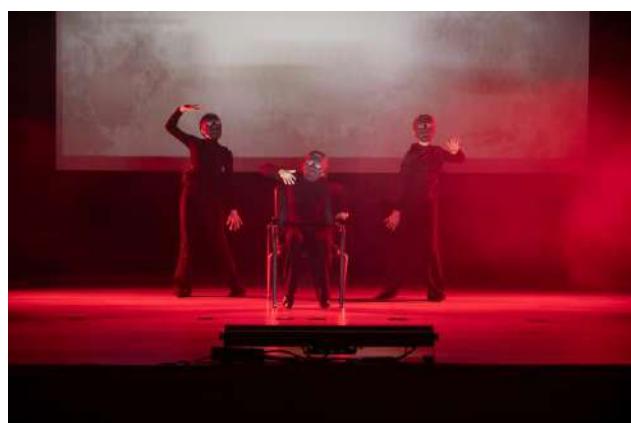
about their dreams and goals. They talk about using the education they received at Karabakh University to establish spaceports and medical facilities to cure terminal illnesses in Karabakh. Their dreams come to life on stage through the contemporary choreography brought to life by Ms. Turan.

For me, the pinnacle of the play was the students who aspired to become an artist and a poet, proposing to use “living statue” techniques in the future to honor and introduce our martyrs to the world. When writing the poem and staging the scene, my heart was pounding with excitement. It turned out even better than I had hoped. I could feel how deeply the audience was moved when they encountered the living statues representing our martyrs on stage. Their applause confirmed this impact.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to bringing this play to life.

Author: Parviz Seyidli, Drama coordinator







4. An Artistic Tribute to Victory Day

Our school's ART department undertook a meaningful and special project in honor of Victory Day. Students created impactful works of art using the **agamograph** technique to commemorate the cherished memory of our martyrs.

The **agamograph** technique is a unique art form that combines two distinct images in one piece. This method allows viewers to observe different visuals from varying angles. As part of the project, students blended the portraits of martyrs with the locations where they made the ultimate sacrifice, creating artworks that are both visually striking and emotionally powerful.

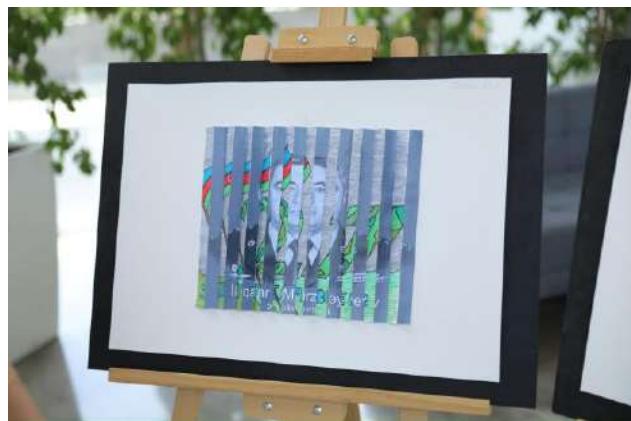
These works were exhibited in the school foyer, where they garnered significant interest and appreciation from teachers, students, and staff. The project was not only an artistic achievement but also a profound expression of national values and a means of fostering patriotism among the younger generation.

On behalf of the school administration and community, we extend our gratitude to the ART department's teachers and to all the students who participated in this initiative. This project once again demonstrated the powerful role of art in expressing national pride and patriotic feelings.

We honor the memory of our martyrs and wish peace and prosperity for our homeland!

Author: Alasgar Asadov **STEAM and Art Coordinator**







5. The Joy of Victory: A Creative Approach with Modern Technology

Senior students organized an engaging interactive zone titled "**The Joy of Victory – Through Modern Technology**" to celebrate Victory Day. This initiative, carried out in collaboration with the STEAM department, offered visitors a unique experience blending creativity and advanced technology.

In this zone, visitors had the opportunity to express their "joy of victory" by designing three-dimensional models using **Tinkercad** software. With the support of students, the created 3D models were then printed using a 3D printer. In the next step, participants moved to another station where they worked alongside students to paint and finalize their printed models. This activity not only highlighted technological innovation but also encouraged creativity and collaboration.

The project served as a platform for applying technological knowledge while fostering teamwork, initiative, and a sense of national pride among students. Through their efforts, the STEAM department and students created a memorable and meaningful tribute to Victory Day.

The school administration highly appreciates this initiative and extends its gratitude to the STEAM department and all participating students. This project stands as a shining example of how modern technology can be used to celebrate and honor our national holidays and values.

Author: Alasgar Asadov **STEAM and Art Coordinator**



6. Heydar Aliyev Through the Eyes of Students

Students at our school have prepared a special corner dedicated to the commemoration of national leader Heydar Aliyev. Organized by the **STEAM** and **ART** departments, this project provided students with an opportunity to approach our national heritage in a creative and meaningful way.

The most striking feature of this corner is the 3D perspective used in the portraits of Heydar Aliyev. **Three-dimensional design techniques** add depth and a realistic visual effect to artistic works. By employing this technique, students went beyond traditional visual arts, merging technology and creativity to deliver a more impactful presentation.

The works displayed in this corner showcase a modern and innovative approach to honoring Heydar Aliyev's memory. These handmade creations by students attracted the attention of visitors and were highly appreciated by the school community.

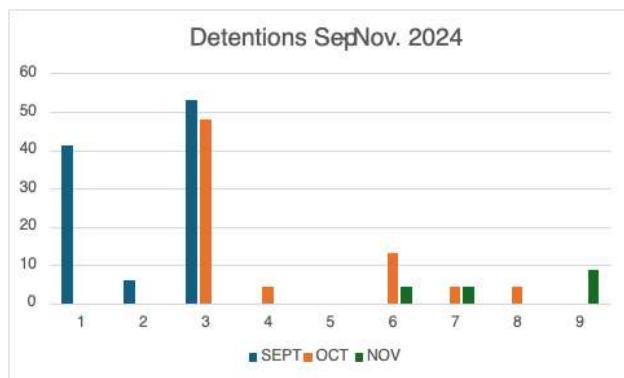
The primary aim of this project was to commemorate Heydar Aliyev's rich legacy while emphasizing the importance of national values among the younger generation. Events like this allow students to showcase their creativity and express their respect for historical figures.

This initiative serves as a reminder of Heydar Aliyev's lasting impact, fostering a stronger connection between the younger generation and our national heritage.

Author: Alasgar Asadov **STEAM and Art Coordinator**

7. Enhancing Student Behavior: A Journey of Growth and Discipline at MTK Baku

At MTK, we take pride in fostering an environment where discipline and personal growth go hand in hand. This fall, from September to November, we have witnessed remarkable progress in student behavior, highlighted by a **36% average reduction in detentions**. This improvement is a testament to our community's commitment to understanding and applying the school's principles of responsibility, reflection, and growth.



| TYPE OF ACTION | |
|----------------|---|
| 1 | no homework |
| 2 | Tardiness |
| 3 | Misbehave in class |
| 4 | Being in not authorized school areas or misbehave in other areas than classroom |
| 5 | Disrespect the teacher |
| 6 | Disrespect a student |
| 7 | cheating in test |
| 8 | Misusing Tech |
| 9 | other |

The Impact of the Three R's: Response, Reflect, and Reparation

Central to our discipline policy is the implementation of the Three R's:

1. Response: Encouraging students to take immediate accountability for their actions. Disciplinary actions
2. Reflect: Providing opportunities for introspection to understand the impact of their behavior. Reflection
3. Reparation: Guiding students to make amends and rebuild trust within the community. This structured approach has empowered students to internalize the importance of their actions, fostering a more harmonious environment in classrooms, hallways, and communal spaces. Reparation. **Student Council: A Governance by and for the Students** Another milestone this term was the successful formation of our Student Council, an initiative driven by students for students. This body serves as a voice for the student community, setting clear goals to enhance coexistence and contribute to the institution's growth. The council's objectives include:
 - Promoting respect and collaboration among peers.
 - Designing and implementing projects that benefit the school community.
 - Acting as role models to inspire a positive culture across all grades. Their efforts will result in noticeable improvements in teamwork and student leadership, further enriching our school ethos.

Looking Forward

The progress we have achieved is a reflection of the collective effort of our staff, students, and parents. As we move forward, we remain dedicated to:

- Expanding the influence of the Student Council.
- Enhancing the implementation of the Three R's framework.
- Celebrating milestones that reinforce our values of respect, reflection, and community growth. As the Modern Educational Complex Named After Heydar Aliyev, every step we take together strengthens our commitment to nurturing a learning environment that prioritizes character and collaboration. Let us continue this journey with renewed energy and purpose!

Author: Ramiro Londoño, Pastoral Coordinator for Secondary

8. A Visit to the Alley of Honor

Honoring the Legacy of Heydar Aliyev: A Visit to the Alley of Honor

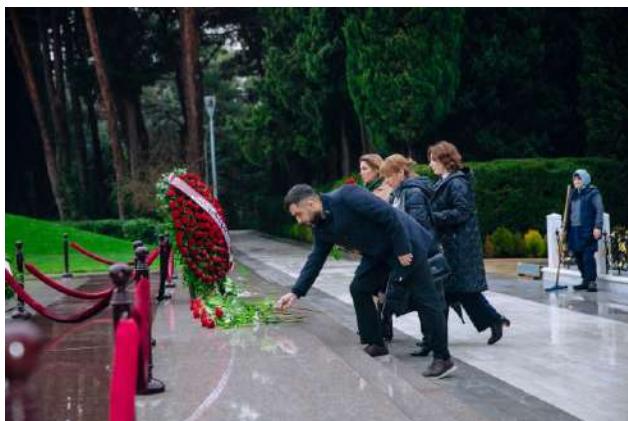
In remembrance of the National Leader Heydar Aliyev, our students recently had the profound opportunity to visit his grave at the Alley of Honor. This visit was a meaningful journey that allowed our students to reflect on the enduring legacy of a leader who played a pivotal role in shaping the history and future of Azerbaijan.

As part of our school's commitment to fostering a deep sense of national pride and respect for our heritage, this visit served as a reminder of Heydar Aliyev's invaluable contributions to the country's development and unity. Standing by the resting place of the great leader, our students paid their respects, laying flowers in his honor and observing a moment of silence.

The experience left a lasting impression, reinforcing the values of dedication, perseverance, and patriotism that Heydar Aliyev embodied throughout his life. Our students returned with a renewed sense of responsibility to contribute positively to their community and uphold the principles that the National Leader championed.

At the Modern Educational Complex named in honour of Heydar Aliyev, we believe that connecting with our nation's history is vital for shaping the leaders of tomorrow. Visits like these deepen students' understanding of the past and inspire them to play an active role in building the future.

We extend our gratitude to all staff members and coordinators who facilitated this memorable visit and to our students for approaching the occasion with the reverence it deserves.







9. Training Sessions Held for the Azerbaijani National Satellite Innovation Competition

On December 16, 2024, training sessions officially began in connection with the launch of the Azerbaijani National Satellite Innovation Competition project. This project was organized by Azercosmos, and representatives from IDEIA Space traveled to Azerbaijan to conduct a 5-day training program for facilitator teachers. The training sessions, held from December 16-20, 2024, provided teachers with theoretical and practical knowledge in space technologies.

The primary goal of the training was to equip teachers with in-depth knowledge about the design, construction, and management of PocketQube pico-satellites. Using this knowledge, facilitator teachers taught students the fundamentals of space technologies, satellite construction, management, and programming. Facilitators also learned satellite mechanisms during the project preparation phase and became closely involved in designing space missions.

The training sessions went beyond theoretical knowledge and provided teachers with hands-on experience. This played a crucial role in the students' education, fostering their creative thinking and problem-solving skills. Teachers with advanced knowledge in space technologies applied more effective teaching methods to guide their students.

Representing the school, Aytel Asadova and Sabina Malikzada participated in these training sessions. They utilized the knowledge and experience gained to further enhance the educational process for students.

In the Azerbaijani National Satellite Innovation Competition, the winning teams' most significant task is to complete the design and assembly of the PocketQube pico-satellite. This satellite will be launched into low Earth orbit via the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. The winning team members will lead this process and oversee the satellite's launch into space.

At the end of the training, the winning team members will have the chance to apply the knowledge and skills they gained to other satellite projects.



10. Secondary School Assembly: "Battle of Wits" Quiz Show Celebrates Diversity and Knowledge

December 4, 2024 — The secondary school was filled with excitement and energy as students gathered for the much-anticipated **"Battle of Wits" Quiz Show**, an assembly designed to celebrate cultural diversity, the power of languages, and global understanding.

A Warm Welcome and Purposeful Competition

The event kicked off with a warm and enthusiastic welcome from the presenter **Irem Baysinop**, who set the tone for an engaging experience filled with fun, learning, and friendly competition. The primary objective of the quiz was to ignite curiosity and emphasize the rich diversity of the world's languages and cultures.

Meet the Teams

Six talented teams participated in the event, each showcasing their teamwork, quick thinking, and passion for learning about cultures from around the world:

- 1. Fact Fighters**
- 2. Genius Knights**
- 3. Sharp Minds**
- 4. Wise Warriors**
- 5. Quizzards**
- 6. Bright Stars**

A total of 36 students took part, making the event not only an exciting competition but also a celebration of collective intellectual curiosity.

Event Highlights

The quiz unfolded in multiple rounds, with each featuring intriguing and thought-provoking questions related to world languages, cultural traditions, and global knowledge. The participants impressed the audience with their wide-ranging general knowledge and quick wits.

In addition to the quiz, a special performance added a heartfelt touch to the event. A beautiful song, capturing the essence of unity and diversity, was performed by **Khumar Jafarli**, who left the audience inspired by the power of music in bringing people together. Students **Tatiana Petrilova, Gabil Karimli, Eltun Khalilov, Eldar Guliyev** and **Umishzhan Jayirbek** shared their valuable insights about languages and language learning.

Acknowledgments and Results

As the event drew to a close, the audience was reminded of the tremendous effort that went into making the quiz show a success. **MFL Coordinator Ms. Aida Hasanova** and **Language and Learning Support Coordinator Ms. Natavan Gojayeva** were both recognized for their meticulous planning and dedication in organizing the event. **The Head of the Secondary Department, Mr. Atabay Guliyev**, also extended sincere thanks to the coordinators for their unwavering commitment and hard work.

After an exciting final round, the winning team was announced to enthusiastic applause. All participants were celebrated for their brilliant performances, and each student was awarded a token gift in recognition of their effort and enthusiasm.

A Memorable Success

The "Battle of Wits" Quiz Show proved to be more than just a competition—it was a celebration of knowledge, cultural appreciation, and the spirit of learning. Congratulations to all who participated, and a special thank you to the organizers for making the event a memorable success!

Author: Natavan Gojayeva, LLS coordinator







11. Volleyball Championship in MTK: Honoring Heydar Aliyev

From November 26th, MTK is hosting a volleyball championship among 8th to 11th grades dedicated to the day of memory of Heydar Aliyev. The event serves as an exciting platform to engage students in sports while commemorating a significant historical figure.

Objectives of the Championship:

1. To popularize volleyball among students.
2. To promote health and physical development.
3. To provide meaningful leisure activities.
4. To identify and celebrate the strongest teams.

The tournament has already showcased thrilling matches, with each team leaving a unique impression. Here are some highlights:

- **8r1 Team:** Aleksandra Grubina stood out as a key player, often saving her team at critical moments.
- **8r2 Team:** David Aliyev's strategic and tactful gameplay was the hallmark of this team.
- **8a Team:** Their remarkable victory against the physically strong but less coordinated 9a team (2-1) demonstrated admirable concentration and teamwork.
- **8i1 Team:** Players Artem Sleptsov and Timur Tulumen were notable for their powerful serves and aggressive attacks.
- **8i2 Team:** Nuray Huseynova and Tatyana Perfilova, the main outside hitters, showcased impressive skills, contributing significantly to their team's performance.
- **9r1 Team:** Known for their exceptional coordination, this team consistently delivers captivating games.
- **9i Team:** Effective communication among players enabled brilliant gameplay.
- **10r Team:** Demonstrating a strong attack and excellent teamwork, this team is a formidable competitor.
- **11i Team:** With unwavering mutual support, players like Yeqor Sleptsov and Sofya Guliyeva excelled in structuring the game effectively.

The championship not only fosters competitive spirit but also strengthens camaraderie and physical fitness among students. As matches continue, we eagerly anticipate discovering which team will emerge as the ultimate champion of this memorable event.









12. Study Abroad Info Sessions

On November 26, our complex hosted another study abroad information session. This time, we were honored to welcome Arina Kalina, the International Student Recruitment Senior Specialist at Koç University. The meeting proved to be highly productive.

During the session, students received comprehensive information about the various academic programs, as well as admission procedures, tuition costs, scholarship opportunities, and vibrant campus life offered by the university.

Koç University, based in Istanbul, is a renowned institution for higher education. Known for its innovative teaching methods and focus on personal growth, the university offers its students an exceptional, globally recognized education.

On December 4, Martin White, the official representative of University College London (UCL), one of the most prestigious universities in England, met with senior students in our complex. The students actively participated in the session and received detailed information about the university's foundation and undergraduate programs, as well as other opportunities offered by the university, and found answers to their questions.

Founded in 1826, University College London is the third oldest university in England.

Author: Aysel Aliyeva, University Counsellor





Anti-Bullying Week at MTK, Zulfiya Rasulova, Primary Stage Leader

Earlier last month, from November 4th to 7th, our complex celebrated Anti-Bullying Week, a meaningful event that brought together students, teachers, and staff. This year's theme, "Respect," served as a powerful reminder of the importance of treating others with kindness and understanding, shaping the tone of the entire week.

The week was filled with engaging activities designed to foster a supportive and inclusive environment. Interactive student assemblies provided a platform for open discussions about bullying, allowing students to share ideas and learn strategies for creating a more respectful school culture. In addition, PSHE and wellbeing lessons focused on anti-bullying strategies, teaching pupils the value of empathy, active listening, and respecting personal boundaries. These lessons played a crucial role in helping students develop the skills needed to navigate relationships with compassion and understanding.

Adding a creative dimension to the week, a mini art exhibition showcased students' talents and perspectives on the topic of bullying. The artwork provided a poignant look at the issue through the eyes of young people, drawing attention and sparking meaningful conversations.

Meanwhile, the colorful and lively Weird Socks Day stood out as a highlight of the week. Students and staff alike donned mismatched socks, celebrating individuality and diversity in a fun and uplifting way.

As a school community, we hope that everyone, regardless of their circumstances, feels respected and valued. This week served as a reminder that respect for others begins with self-respect and understanding. The success of Anti-Bullying Week was a testament to the collective effort of everyone involved, and we are deeply grateful to all who participated and contributed to creating a warm and supportive atmosphere in our school.







What should be considered when studying abroad? Aysel Aliyeva, University Counsellor

Choosing the right university and major is one of the most important decisions for students and parents. This choice plays a crucial role shaping students' future professional careers after graduation. There are several key factors when selecting a university, which will be discussed in this article.

1. Choosing a Country

Before selecting a university, it is important to decide on the country where you want to study. Each country has its specific admission requirements, tuition fees, language requirements, and living conditions. For instance, countries such as: the USA, Canada, and the UK are renowned for their highly ranked universities and quality education, but studying and living in these countries may not be affordable to everyone. Therefore, it is crucial to review the rules and conditions of each country when making your decision. Choosing a foreign university close to your home country can help reduce travel expenses and save time. Additionally, you should consider costs such as rent, food, transportation, and similar expenses and select a country that aligns with your budget.

2. University Rankings

When studying abroad, one of the most important factors to consider is the ranking of the university you choose and the recognition of its diploma in your home country after graduation. Therefore, it is recommended to research the position of your chosen university in ranking lists compiled by international ranking agencies in advance.

Rankings help identify the university you want to attend and simplify the decision-making process. It is also recommended to check the rankings of universities in your chosen field of study beforehand. University rankings can be reviewed on the following websites below:

- [Times Higher Education World University Rankings](https://www.timeshighereducation.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings)
- [QS World University Rankings](https://www qs.com/world-university-rankings)

3. Tuition Fees

Tuition fees and living expenses vary depending on the country and university. It is recommended to research about the tuition fees and living expenses of universities in advance. For example, while tuition fees in countries such as the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom tend to be relatively higher, countries such as Germany, the Czech Republic, and Poland offer more affordable study options.

4. Visa Application Process

Young people intending to live and work abroad should familiarize themselves with the information about the migration of the chosen country beforehand. The visa procedure rules of each country are different; therefore, it is recommended to refer to official sources before applying for a visa.



1 - <https://www.abroadadvise.com/study-abroad-from-nepal/>

Our Commitment to UNESCO ASPnet and Global Education, Aynur Mammadova, UNESCO ASPnet Coordinator

At MTK School, we are proud members of the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet), an international initiative that fosters global citizenship, peace, and sustainable development in educational institutions around the world. For over last 5 years, our school has actively participated in UNESCO ASPnet events, competitions, and projects, aiming to empower students to become informed, responsible, and engaged global citizens.

Through our collaboration with UNESCO ASPnet, MTK School is committed to providing an inclusive and internationally-minded education. This means integrating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into our curriculum, especially those focused on Quality Education

(SDG 4) and Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11). Our students are encouraged to take action on these goals, raising awareness and fostering positive change within and beyond our school community.

This year, our MTK Student Ambassadors will play a central role in leading SDG-related projects. These ambassadors will work with peers to develop initiatives like the Compost Project for environmental sustainability and inclusive projects that strengthen connections with local centers such as the Autism Center.

Through these actions, they help raise awareness about global challenges, support our community, and develop valuable skills in leadership, empathy, and collaborative problem-solving.

By supporting our students as they engage with global issues and take concrete actions, MTK is helping shape the next generation of changemakers. Our vision is to build a culture where students feel empowered to contribute to a sustainable and inclusive future.







Exhibition entitled "Let's Unite for a Green World" by Tunzala Mammadova (Geography teacher) and Jala Ismayilova (Physics teacher)

As part of the **"Year of Solidarity for a Green World"** initiative, a remarkable exhibition titled **"Let's Unite for a Green World"** was held. This event was organized by the Geography Teacher Tunzala Mammadova, and Physics Teacher Jala Ismayilova.

The initiative stems from the decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, designating 2024 as the "Year of Solidarity for a Green World." The decree emphasizes one of Azerbaijan's five national priorities for social-economic development by 2030: creating a **"clean environment and a country of green growth."** In line with this vision, significant efforts are being made to rehabilitate the environment, expand greenery, and efficiently utilize water resources and sustainable energy sources. The liberated territories of Karabakh and Eastern Zangazur, as well as the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, have been declared green energy zones, incorporating innovative approaches such as **"smart cities"** and **"smart villages"** to restore ecosystems and develop green energy.

Hosting the prestigious **COP29 UN Climate Change Conference** in Azerbaijan highlights the country's contribution to environmental protection and combating climate change on national, regional, and global levels.

Acknowledging these priorities, the Modern Educational Complex named in Honour of Heydar Aliyev has undertaken several initiatives with students. On November 6, a special exhibition was organized by Geography Teacher Tunzalə Mammadova and Physics Teacher Jala Ismayilova. Students from grades 6 to 9 displayed their creative projects and handmade exhibits under the

theme of COP29 "Year of Solidarity for a Green World." The exhibition was met with great enthusiasm by the school community.

Students also presented extensive information about renewable and alternative energy sources, initiatives undertaken in Azerbaijan, and projects planned for the liberated territories, including the implementation of "smart city" and "smart village" concepts.

These educational initiatives aim to raise awareness among students about the vital role every individual play in addressing climate change. Emphasis was placed on energy efficiency, water conservation, waste reduction, recycling, and the importance of sustainable practices in daily life.









The Green Zone at COP29 Captures the Interest of the students of the Modern Education Complex named in Honour of Heydar Aliyev, Tunzala Mammadova, Geography teacher

The Green Zone is a unique space that brings together a diverse audience, including representatives from government and private sectors, media professionals, scientists, youth, local communities, and citizens, fostering interaction and collaboration.

Organized and managed by the COP29 Presidency, the Green Zone serves as a dynamic platform for participants to share their perspectives. It is a hub for discussions, panels, and demonstrations focused on showcasing current innovations and exploring potential solutions to combat climate change.

The conceptual aim of the Green Zone, under the leadership of the COP29 Presidency, is to establish vital collaborative relationships among government entities and all key stakeholders in addressing climate change challenges.

As part of the COP29 Climate Conference held in Baku from November 11 to 22, students from grades 9, 10, and 11 of the Modern Education Complex named in Honour of Heydar Aliyev actively participated in the Green Zone, becoming part of the global climate action movement. They explored a section of the 36,000-square-meter exhibition area, learning about alternative and renewable energy sources, as well as the initiatives undertaken in this field within Azerbaijan. The students gained valuable insights into Azerbaijan's "green pledges," its transition to a green economy, and its commitment to becoming a green energy supplier—one of the key priorities of the country's economic policy.

Additionally, the students attended the award ceremony of the Climate Science Olympiad, an event supported by the Global Olympiad Center, further enriching their experience at this significant international event.







The School Years of National Leader Heydar Aliyev, Leyla Huseynova, Humanities Coordinator

Heydar Aliyev, the national leader of the Azerbaijani people and the founder of the independent Azerbaijani state, is one of the most prominent figures in the nation's history. Certain historical

personalities have the unique ability to shape history itself, and Heydar Aliyev was one such leader whose purposeful actions influenced the course of 20th-century history. Whether during the Soviet era or in the years of independence, Heydar Aliyev dedicated his life to safeguarding the history, language, and traditions of his people against external influences. His life and work stand as a testament to selflessness, and his legacy is embodied in today's independent Azerbaijan. Truly, Heydar Aliyev was a leader devoted to his people and the preservation of national sovereignty—a saviour in every sense.

This article aims to share fascinating moments from the childhood of this remarkable personality and visionary leader, Heydar Aliyev.

What was Heydar Aliyev like as a student, a future world political genius, during his school years? What were his interests? Why was he often compared to a general? And what debates did his teachers have about his future?

Heydar Aliyev received his secondary education at School No. 1 in Nakhchivan City. This international school was located in a single-story building with a podium, previously the home of a wealthy family forced to leave due to Bolshevik oppression.

Education at the school was conducted in three languages: Azerbaijani, Russian, and Armenian. Heydar Aliyev studied in the Azerbaijani section but frequently interacted with his peers in the Russian section, eventually becoming fluent in Russian. His avid reading habits played a significant role in his language acquisition and intellectual growth. Initially focused on Azerbaijani literature, he later developed an interest in Russian-language books, enriching the family bookshelves with his collection. Among the works he brought home was Goethe's *Faust*, which captivated him so much that his younger brother also attempted to read it, though he found it too challenging to finish.

One day, Heydar Aliyev attended school wearing his father's railway uniform coat. By then, he was a tall senior student, and the coat suited him perfectly. A classmate remarked, "You look just like a general," and from that day forward, his peers affectionately referred to him as "General."

Teachers and classmates alike recalled Heydar Aliyev as a meticulous student. He was always well-dressed, with crisp suits and spotless, ironed shirts. His calm demeanour made him a natural mediator during disputes among peers, resolving conflicts with wisdom and patience.

Heydar Aliyev excelled in military training classes, where his precision and skill stood out. His instructor, Akim Abbasov, who later achieved fame as a major general in World War II, once told him, "You have a bright future. You will become a general." Heydar Aliyev also loved sports, frequently representing his technical school in city competitions.

In addition to his many talents, he had a passion for drawing. In 1999, during a visit to the Momine Khatun Mausoleum in Nakhchivan—a masterpiece by 12th-century architect Ajami Abubakr—he reminisced about his school days:

“I remember walking around this area during my youth. Back then, I loved to draw and dreamed of becoming an artist. Although I didn’t understand architecture at the time, my drawings often featured beautiful landscapes, such as Mount Hacha and other landmarks in Nakhchivan. I made several sketches of the Momine Khatun Mausoleum. Sadly, when I left for Baku, then Leningrad and Moscow, all my books and drawings were scattered and lost. It’s a regret I carry. Among those were some excellent watercolour pieces.”

Heydar Aliyev’s extraordinary intellect, sense of responsibility, and ambition distinguished him from his peers. His early dreams of becoming an artist, architect, or teacher evolved into even greater aspirations. History revealed the monumental achievements awaiting him, as he emerged as a saviour for his people. Today, the Republic of Azerbaijan, established under his leadership, stands as a beacon in the Caucasus and a light to the world.





Colombian Literature and Azerbaijani Youth: First Colombian Literary Forum, Fidan Baylarova, Assistant to the School Principal

On December 10, 2024, the Modern Educational Complex named in Honour of Heydar Aliyev (MTK) hosted a remarkable literary event, welcoming distinguished representatives of Colombian literature. This event, dedicated to the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Colombia, was specifically organized for secondary school students under the title "Colombian Literature in Dialogue with Azerbaijani Youth."

Among the participants of the event were poet, essayist, and translator Lauren Mendenueta, historian and writer Carlos Alfredo Betancourt, cultural organizer and publishing consultant Martín Gómez, as well as the Ambassador of Colombia to the Republic of Azerbaijan Luis Fernando Cuartas Ayala, and the Counselor at the Embassy of Colombia in Azerbaijan Andres

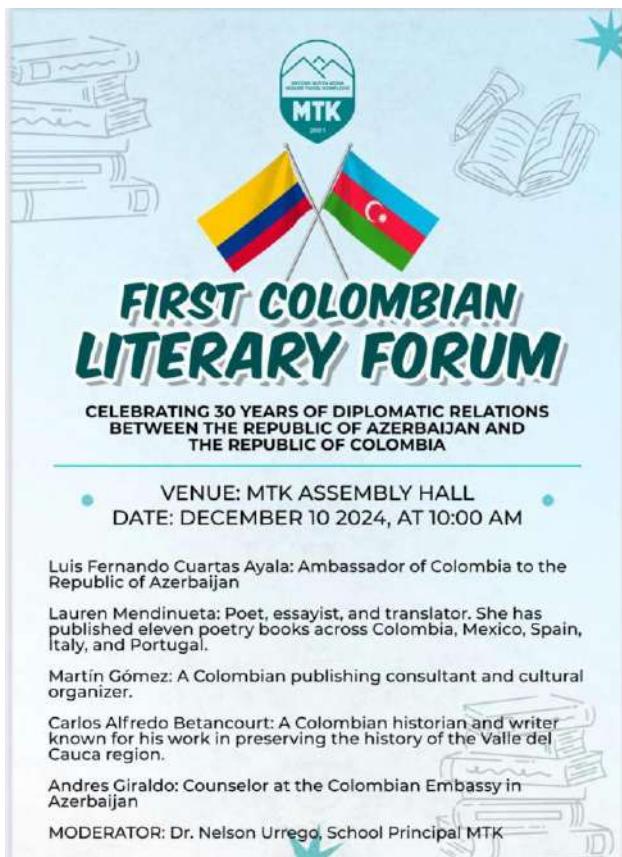
Felipe Giraldo. The main objective of the event was to introduce Colombian literature to Azerbaijani youth and build a bridge between these two cultures.

Throughout the event, students asked questions about topics that interested them, engaging in dialogues with the guests. These interactive discussions deepened their love for literature and opened new learning perspectives. The guests shared their inspiring stories with the audience and also touched upon important issues such as Azerbaijani culture, reading habits among youth, and the universality of literature.

After the event, the guests, along with the school principal Nelson Urrego and chief executive officer Tural Abbasov, toured the complex and shared their positive impressions. Lauren Mendumeta donated her book to the MTK library, making the space even more valuable for literature enthusiasts.

This event was crucial in creating a dialogue between Colombian and Azerbaijani cultures, further emphasizing that literature is a powerful tool for bringing nations closer together. It is undeniable that the increase of such international cultural exchanges in the future will provide valuable learning opportunities for both students and teachers.







Profile: Meet our Pastoral Care Coordinator Mr. Ramiro Londoño. Interviewed by Mr. Nelson Urrego

Mr. Ramiro Londoño is a Colombian educator. He joined the MTK staff team as the mathematics department coordinator and pastoral coordinator for Secondary and mathematics teacher in High School.

NU: Hola Mr. Ramiro, thank you very much for accepting our invitation to connect and learn more about you. The MTK Newsletter readers are always curious to learn more about our new staff members. Tell us about your first impressions from our school.

RL: My first impression was on the day of my first application interview, and it was enough to know that this was the place where I wanted to teach. From the moment I entered the school, I was greeted warmly, and the people I interacted with were completely open and kind to me.

Additionally, during my time here, I've experienced an excellent atmosphere created not only by the teachers and staff but also by the students. Above all, the respect I've felt has been fundamental. As an expat teacher, this is essential for me.

NU: What made you fall in love about Azerbaijan and its culture?

RL: When the opportunity to come to Baku appeared in my life, it was a complete surprise. I soon discovered there was a special reason behind it: mutual learning. Experiencing Azerbaijan's rich culture, history, and traditions has allowed me to grow both personally and professionally. The warmth of its people and their deep sense of hospitality made me feel at home, even so far from my own country.

Are there similarities between the Colombian and the Azerbaijani cultures?

RL: Absolutely! Both cultures share a strong emphasis on family values and hospitality. In Colombia, we pride ourselves on making guests feel welcome, just like Azerbaijanis do. Another similarity is the importance of traditions and celebrations, which bring people together and highlight the richness of our respective heritages. These cultural characteristics have made it easier for me to adapt and truly appreciate life here in Azerbaijan.

NU: Let us know a little bit more about your journey in education. How did you become a teacher?

RL: I'll try to summarize it. While studying engineering, I had my first experience with teaching at the age of 16 when I became a tutor in Mathematics and Physics at the university. I supported both first-year and final-year students, and that's when I realized how much I enjoyed teaching.

Even though I worked as an engineer, I continued teaching as a parallel job. At the right moment, I decided to fully dedicate myself to education. Before coming to Baku, I was working as a university calculus teacher and the Head of the Mathematics Department at an international school in Bogotá, Colombia.

So, I chose to become a teacher because, for me, teaching is not just about providing academic support—it's about training students with the tools they need to succeed in life and society.

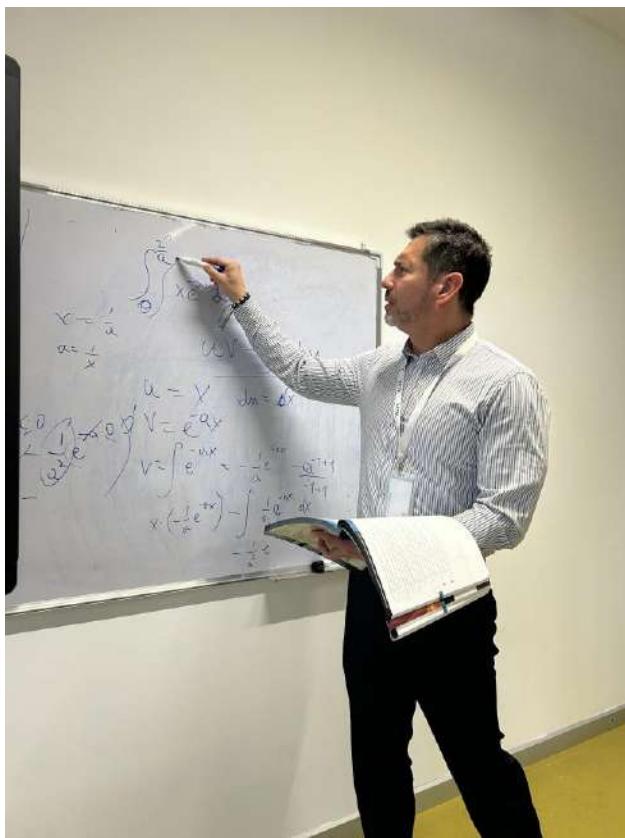
NU: Thank you. How is teaching in Colombia different than teaching in Azerbaijan? Do both countries have similar challenges in education?

RL: Teaching in Colombia and Azerbaijan offers unique experiences related to cultural, social, and educational contexts. In Colombia, classrooms often show highly dynamic and interactive environment, where students are encouraged to voice their opinions and participate actively. The Colombian system places a strong emphasis on creativity and adaptability due to the diverse socio-economic backgrounds of students. In Azerbaijan, there is a noticeable emphasis on discipline, tradition, and respect within the classroom, which creates a structured learning environment. The relationship between students and teachers tends to be more formal, and the educational framework strongly values academic rigor and achievement. In Colombia our educational system is designed for the students to learn working on projects and in Azerbaijan, students are studying and being trained to present standardized tests and aim to their professional development, different styles in teaching.

Do both countries have similar challenges in education?

Yes, both countries face some comparable challenges, such as: **Bridging Educational Gaps, Globalization in education, Engaging Students, Teacher Training and Development.** But you

know, when I'm in the classroom I just feel like there's no difference in kids, kids are kids in every part of this world.



NU: As a Mathematics teacher and coordinator, what are your impressions about the level of mathematics in School?

RL: First, I want to express my gratitude for the opportunity to be part of the mathematics team and contribute to helping students improve every day in this subject.

My impressions of the level of mathematics at the school are very positive. The school has a strong foundation in logical problem-solving and mathematical procedures. Additionally, students achieve good results in standardized tests and, most importantly, they enjoy mathematics—a significant advantage for fostering long-term engagement with the subject.

In terms of areas for improvement, as a team, we recognize the need to further enhance the results of standardized tests to raise the overall average. It's also essential to strengthen students' reading and comprehension skills, particularly when tackling word problems. This will ensure that they are prepared to apply mathematics as a practical tool for solving real-world problems.

As the Mathematics Coordinator, I can confidently say that we have a solid foundation and great potential to work with, and I am excited to see how we can continue to grow and excel together as a team.

NU: In your role as our pastoral coordinator, what strengths have you noticed in our students' attitudes and what challenges we have ahead?

RL: As Pastoral Coordinator, I've observed many positive attributes in our students' attitudes. One of the greatest strengths is their sense of community and willingness to support one another in addition to respect differences. However, challenges remain as we strive to nurture a more disciplined and self-reflective mindset among students. Some areas for growth include helping students manage conflicts constructively and ensuring consistency in following school rules and expectations. Another challenge is supporting students to develop greater resilience and responsibility, particularly in facing academic and personal challenges.

Moving forward, fostering a balance between freedom and accountability will be key. By continuing to emphasize values such as the *Three Rs*—Response, Reflect, and Reparation—we can guide students toward becoming self-aware, respectful, and socially responsible individuals.

NU: What improvements have you noticed in our secondary students' conduct recently?

RL: This fall, from September to November, we have witnessed remarkable progress in student behavior, highlighted by a **36% average reduction in detentions**. This improvement is a testament to our community's commitment to understanding and applying the school's principles of responsibility, reflection, and growth. Also, students have realized the importance of being on time for classes and the high respect for the school.

NU: Why is it important to promote core values like respect in the recent generations?

How to cultivate respect? (maybe talk about the role of parents too)

RL: Promoting core values like respect in recent generations is crucial for building harmonious and productive societies. In today's globalized world, young people encounter diverse cultures, opinions, and perspectives daily. Respect forms the foundation for understanding and collaboration, enabling them to thrive in such a globalized environment. It fosters empathy, reduces conflicts, and cultivates meaningful relationships, all of which are essential for personal and professional success. In addition, I gotta say that family is a core help in the values learning process because, it is the first example that a person has and a good reinforcement of the education receive at school, coherence is the key process.

NU: Apart from family, what do you miss the most from your home country, and how do you cope with homesickness?

RL: As you said, I miss my family but I really miss my Colombian food, even, food from here is delicious, there are some product you don't have here, so that's what I miss the most and to cope with homesickness, first I got a cat, his name is Kal-el, and he is one (1) year and half already, so he is my company and I'm lucky that here in Baku there are Latinos, so we have a group and when we meet we try to do some things without Latino Flow

NU: Our Latin American DNA is colorful and passionate about football, music and dance (among other areas), any plans or suggestions to promote a better understanding of this culture in our school? A salsa club, hahaha?

RL: A salsa club or merengue club would be the best idea, hehehe, or a movie club. I think that maybe here at school we could have a day on which we could show something from each person's culture, like music, food or dance. On Wednesdays I have a Spanish club with some primary students and it feels so good to listen to them learning words and sentences in Spanish.

NU: Mr. Ramiro, thank you very much for your time. It has been a pleasure having this chat with you.

RL: thank you for the invitation and most of all, for the opportunity of being part of this institution where I have found beautiful people and environment.

Calling All Creative Minds! Design a Mural for Our Science Department! Simone Blake, Science Coordinator

Unleash your creativity and showcase your artistic skills by designing a mural based on our Science Department Motto:

"Knowledge is endless; never stop learning."

Your design could inspire generations of students and become a centerpiece of our school's celebration of science!

Competition Details:

- **Who can participate?** All learners (Primary and Secondary)—individually or in groups.
- **Submission limit:** Only one entry per individual or group.
- **Theme:** Incorporate the motto "**Knowledge is endless; never stop learning**" in your design.
- **Prizes:**
 -  **Winner:** Grand prize + mural displayed in the labs!
 -  **1st Runner-Up:** Special prize and recognition!
 -  **Selected Submissions:** Displayed around the school!

Special Feature:

The winning design will take center stage at our labs **and** feature during our **International Science Day Celebration on 28th February 2025!**

Key Dates:

- **Submission Deadline:** Friday, 17th January 2025.
- **Winners Announced:** Early February 2025.

How to Submit:

Hand in your designs to Mrs. Simone Blake (Bio In) in the Secondary Science or email a digital copy to MS Teams, link: [Science Conference 24-25 | Science Motto competition | Microsoft Teams](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/channel/19%3a9f843a2a7a2a4a8a8a8a8a8a8a8a8a8/Science%20Conference%2024-25%20%7c%20Science%20Motto%20competition%20%7c%20Microsoft%20Teams)

Let your imagination soar and inspire our school community! 

Start designing today—because knowledge and creativity are truly endless!

NB. The motto "Knowledge is endless; never stop learning." should be kept in English in all submissions.

Grades 8i1 and 8i2 students' trip to Balakhany Industrial Park, Ilham Abdullayev, 8i1 student

On the date of 29.11.2024 our class 8i1 and 8i2 students visited the Balakhani Industrial Park. The idea of the trip was to make the students understand how plastic and other materials are being recycled and which technology is used for it. We saw a lot of giant machines which recycle a lot of materials every day. We saw how plastic is cleaned and then is cut into very small pieces which could be used again for a different material or item. Each plastic is being cleaned around 3 times before each recycling process. After the clean the machines crop the plastic into small pieces. We also saw some things which are used in our daily bases and how they were made. Some things like cardboard, paper, cake box, etc. We saw how hard the work of the workers there is. It was a big factory. People there were kind and helpful. They showed and explained us all the main information there. They also showed us how the machines and the technology worked and how hard it is. It was not allowed to touch any of the machines because it could be really dangerous. All of us really enjoyed the trip.







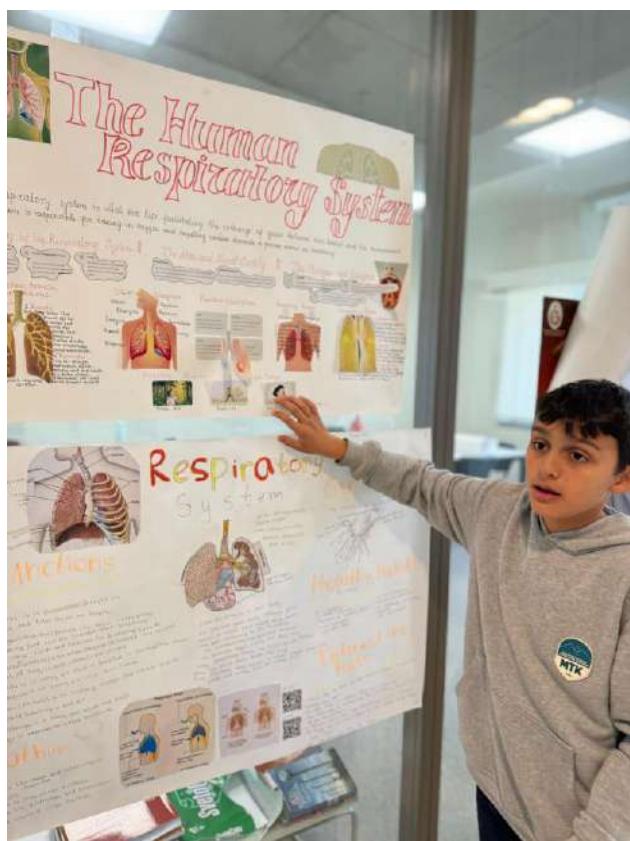
Breathing Life into Learning: Posters on the Respiratory System, Suri Huseynova, 7i2 student

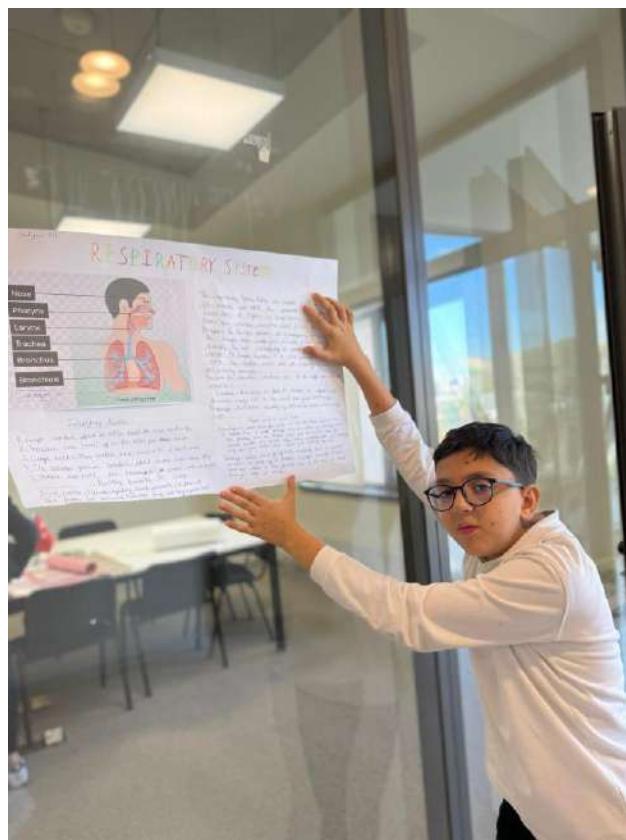
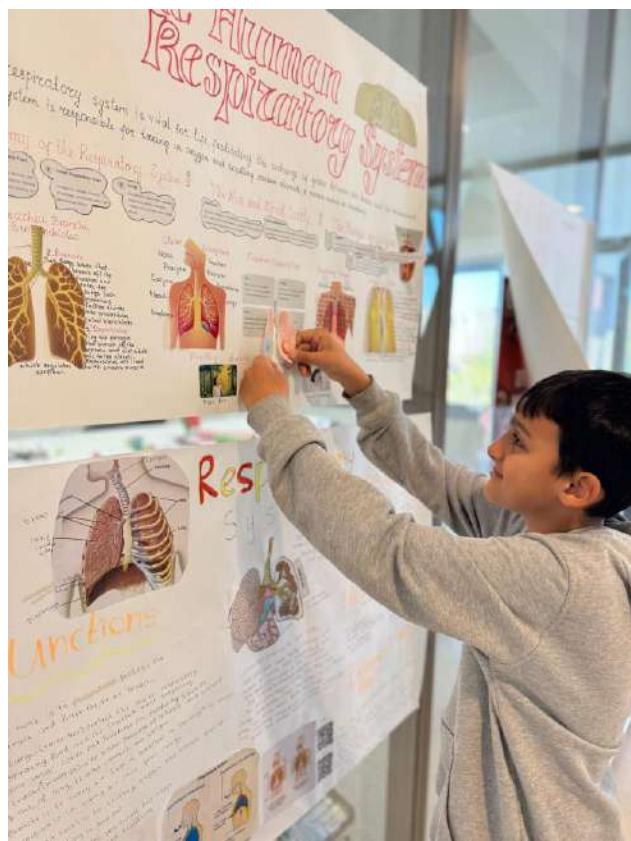
In our recent Biology class, our hardworking students from 7i1 and 7i2 have recently been working a lot on some beautiful, colorful posters about the 'Human Respiratory System. This collaborative effort allowed each of us to dive deeper into how our bodies breathe while also expressing our creativity too! In this article, we will help everyone learn about how our lungs work and why they are important.

We all teamed up in groups, got our resources from our art room overflowing with gorgeous supplies we all love, and got to work! By working together on this project, our class gained deeper understanding of the respiratory system's vital role in overall health. This fun process also taught us more about our nose, pharynx, larynx, trachea, bronchi and lungs.

This system is essential for life, so we all need to know about it. After all, if you feel out of breath, just remember: Why did the lung refuse to play cards? Because it was afraid of getting a "Bad breath!" Haha, no? only me laughing then.







COP29 with the view of volunteers, Akif Mammadyarov 9r1 grade student

Dear friends, I am Akif Mammadyarov, a student of class 9r1 at our Complex. I would like to share my impressions about my participation in COP29. When I learned that such a significant international conference was being held in our country, I dreamed of participating as a citizen, and my dream came true.

I participated as a volunteer in the workforce team at COP29. As volunteers, we assisted in registering conference participants, staff, and other volunteers, ensuring that everyone present felt comfortable and valued during their participation. Our volunteer team played a significant role in the organization of the conference.

I would like to note that the area where I volunteered was called the “Green Zone.” Interesting stands and projects were presented there. Hearing positive feedback from participants about the organization of the conference, our country, and our city made me feel proud as a citizen. The emotions I experienced reminded me once again of our National Leader's words: *“I am proud to be Azerbaijani!”*

Participating in this event provided us with great advantages for our personal development and future goals. I am extremely proud to have participated in such a significant international conference and to have represented my country.



Exam Stress: How to identify and manage it, Zahrakanim Gasimova,

12i student

Examination session is often the most nerve-wracking period for students, especially when moving to more advanced academic levels. Understanding the symptoms of exam stress can help deal with them effectively and reduce impact.

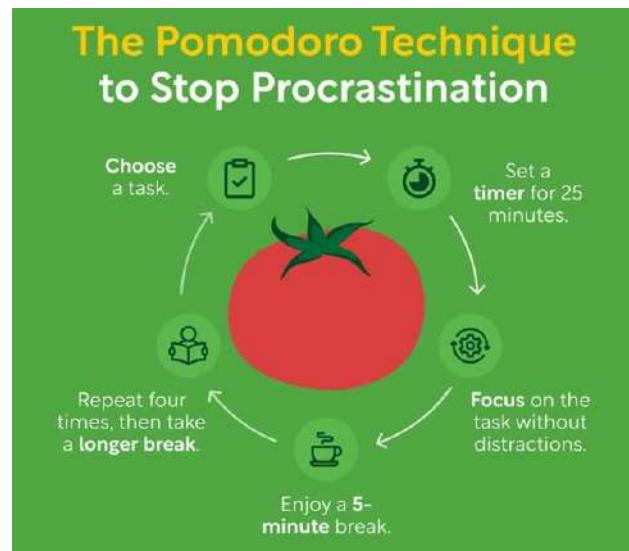
Recognizing symptoms

One of the major signs of stress is the constant feeling of worry. The pressure of preparing for multiple subjects as well as having to keep up with the deadlines can lead to ongoing concern. This can become overwhelming, making it difficult to handle. Another symptom is difficulty sleeping. Students find themselves staying up late to study, depriving themselves of sleep, which reduces their performance and productivity. Furthermore, overthinking exam can lead to physical indicators of stress, like headaches, which makes it challenging to stay focused and prepare for the tests.

How to manage the stress

After identifying the symptoms, it is crucial to get a handle on them. Reaching out for help can make a world of difference. Counselors can provide strategies like relaxation techniques and mindfulness meditation to help students approach exams more calmly. Furthermore, prioritizing self-care is vital. Getting enough sleep and engaging in physical activity can improve overall mood. Aim for 7-8 hours of sleep per night and avoid screens at least an hour before sleep. Finally, preparing a balanced study schedule, consisting of breaks can boost productiveness and lighten the load of a heavy workload. One of the most prominent study methods is Pomodoro Technique. It involves studying in focused 25-minute intervals, followed by a 5-minute break. After 4 sessions, a longer break of 15-30 minute is recommended. Another tactic is the Feynman Technique, named after physicist Richard Feynman, is a way of learning by teaching. Try explaining a topic in simple terms out loud as if teaching it to someone who is unfamiliar with the subject. This can solidify your knowledge and understanding.

In conclusion, while exam stress is natural and inevitable part of academic life, identifying the symptoms and choosing an effective strategy to manage can ease the exam preparation without sacrificing mental wellbeing.



2 - <https://bharatividyapeethonline.com/what-is-the-pomodoro-technique/>

Reading books, by Ailin Myrzakhan, 9i1 student

What was the last book you read? Most students will name school coursebooks that teachers *make* them read. Well I would like to encourage you to read for your own entertainment!

Imagine a whole new world, the perspective of the main character, and so many more adventures. You can get all of that from a book of fiction! Fictional literature is a series of imaginary events. Approximately 80% of people world wide prefer reading fiction to nonfiction. I myself prefer this kind of literature, so I highly recommend giving fictional books a try. There are many genres you could read, the most popular being; fantasy, science fiction, horror, thriller and romance.

However, if you feel like this is not something that interests you, don't worry! Introducing: nonfiction! Many people read about real, factual, true events. For example; biography, history, true crime and psychology. These types of books are not only entertaining but educational! Widen your knowledge on things you enjoy. Doesn't matter whether you are fond of cooking, journalism, nature or history, you'll be able to find a book to your liking!

Optional:

(Don't just sit around on your phone, reading isn't solely about education! Majority of movies are based off of books, and most do not capture the significance of the original! With reading you'll know every tiny yet important detail of your favorite movie that was not put on screen! Books, also, provoke a lot more emotions than most movies, which is one of my favorite reasons for choosing a book over a movie.)

Now, you may be asking “Where can I get a book?”, well obviously the answer is in a library! Our school has an abundance of books. During your free time, like at lunch, head to the third floor near the teachers’ lounge and there you’ll find the school library. If you’re not sure where to find it just ask any teacher! Once you enter, you’ll be able to take a look at a variety of different books. Also, I would like to note that this year we have plenty of new books to come about!

As soon as you pick, make your way to the counter by the entrance to check out your book. There are no deadlines so you don’t have to hurry, just sit back and relax with a book in your hands! And trust me, putting down a good book can almost be an impossible act to do!



“Of Wolves and Guilt”, story by Miras Bekzatuly, 10i student

“Dad, why is it so dark under your eyes?”

“Dad, why is your beard so long?”

Not a chance was given to Omar to answer his kids' endless questions. The atmosphere was filled with joy, laughter and the smell of a freshly prepared dinner.

His children didn't seem to stop, ask him all types of questions, when suddenly silence drowned the sound and jaunty childish faces grew old, wrinkly and hostile:

"Dad, why did you escape the prison" inquired the prison guardian...

In the state of confusion and dread, Omar attempted to grasp all the air there is, but vainly failed, managing to blow our some petty coughs. A dream, he thought. Fifth this week.

Still startled, panting, he looked around and saw nothing but darkness. As his eyes adapted and pupils expanded, gloomy forest started to emerge before his eyes and he recalled what had happened.

The tall skinny trees looked over Omar like silent judges, their branches twisting in the faint moonlight. The forest was alive with subtle sounds - branches creaking, leaves rustling, and distant noises of wildlife. He had no idea where he was or where he should head, but the fear of capture was far greater than the unknown dangers of the forest.

His heart pounded as he strode forward, his feet sinking into the damp earth. The air was thick and cold, filled with the scent of wood and fog. Omar wiped the sweat from his brow, trying to shake off the content of the dream. The guilt cling to him like spider's web.

A sudden crack pierced the air, followed by a low growl. Omar froze. His body remained immobile as he slowly turned his head toward the sound. There, in the distance, a pair of glowing eyes glowered back at him. A wolf, slender and hungry, crept toward him. Its yellow eyes locked onto his, and Omar's heart dropped.

Panic seized him.

"I can't outrun it. No, not in this terrain".

The wolf edged closer, baring its sharpened teeth. Omar scanned his surroundings, frantically searching for something - anything - to defend himself. His hands found a large, jagged branch, and he gripped it tight with both hands.

The wolf lunged. Omar swung the branch with all his might, striking the creature across its jaw. It whined in pain but didn't retreat. Desperation filled him as the wolf circled back around for another attack, its growl vibrating through the forest and Omar's chest. This was it - either he fought or he embraced death.

But just as the wolf prepared to strike again, a loud whistle echoed through the trees. The wolf stopped, ears like two Beefeaters, then fled into the darkness. Omar stood there, out of breath, confused and alarmed.

Footsteps and a barn of light followed the whistle. Some voices were coming closer. One of them seemed familiar:

“Dad, why did you escape the prison?“.

Not until he realised who it was, did he feel great relief. Voice that haunted him in dreams now was more akin to a lullaby. Whether his heart found solace by being saved from jaws of the wolf or jaws of the guilt, he approached the guardians, whose heaven-like flashlight guided and made path for him, with a smile.



3 - <https://www.turningart.com/art/wolves-in-the-forest-by-daniel-eskridge>



4 - 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.

A million thanks to Mr. Tural Abbasov, our CEO for his vote of confidence and remarkable support!

