

April 9, 2016

**NATIONAL ORTHODOX SCHOOL**

**ISSUE IV**

**EVOLVE:  
STUDENT AFFAIRS  
NEWSLETTER**



# EVOLVE: STUDENTS AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

Issue IV



## A RECENT SUCCESS

*Our recent success prompted us to broaden our intellect and kick off the newsletter on social media platforms, which gathered breathtaking response.*

*Our current issue mainly talks about the amazing achievements done by the school to maintain unprecedented athletic victories, local symposiums, another appearance for Humans of NOS, unique travels and gaining recognition across coasts and borders.*

## WELCOME TO ISSUE IV!

*After three wonderful issues with non-stop positive feedback, we bring to you...the fourth issue!*

### Q: What is 'Evolve'?

Evolve is a student affairs newsletter, run by the students with the help of the school to create a new and unique first-ever project. We are committed to keep everyone a National Orthodox School and beyond aware of the ongoing stories and achievements.

### Q: How many members are there in Evolve?

The number of members in Evolve is currently 26. We are composed of an editor-in-chief, president, heads, deputies, journalists, photographers, interviews, designers, and more.

### Q: Where can I find the previous issues? And how did it perform?

You can locate the previous issues in previous e-mails sent, one for each month. The third issue received an enormous and phenomenal response by many students, teachers and parents alike. The feedback was extremely remarkable, which is prompting us to continue the flow. We are evermore thankful and grateful for its success, and those who contributed.

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*With one another, we will aim for the highest of mountains,  
and never to encounter the lowest of achievements*

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## A MESSAGE FROM MS. MAY

Dear all,

This is our fourth issue of the 2015-2016 school campaign. It was really a great pleasure to hear the feedback from the students, parents and teachers. We have fully empowered our beloved students to publish this newsletter and supported them all through the way.





## From NOSMUN to Europe!

Walking away from NOSMUN '16 was inevitably difficult to digest. The success which shined upon us came to a close. However, as a door closes, a new one opens filled with many opportunities.

Run by Saif Hijazeen, the head of international affairs and Natalie Barakat, deputy head of international affairs, the school was lucky to have been admitted the chance to go to Europe and attend international conferences.

Accompanied by teacher Tamara Katami, the MUN director, and Mr. Daoud Dababneh, thirteen students composed of ninth and eleventh graders travelled to Genoa, Italy, to attend GeMUN '16.

A few weeks after that journey, fourteen students from 9-12 grades, accompanied by Ms. Duaa Al Daboubi and Mr. Pascal Matarweh, flew to Dublin, Ireland, to attend SAIMUN '16.

Currently, various seniors, alongside Mr. Elie Nino and Ms. Tamara Katami, are in Haarlem, Netherlands, debating in HMUN '16.

### Genoa

The 13 students, accompanied by Ms. Tamara and Mr. Daoud, travelled to two Italian cities, Genoa and Rome, over the course of 9 days. The trip took place from the 24th of February till the 3rd of March.



The first four days of the trip were spent in the lovely Genoa, where the students took part in the Genoa Model United Nations conference whilst representing the NOSMUN club. Outside the conference, the days spent in Genoa were delightful, for they were filled with walks down its beautiful streets, the many visits to Christopher Columbus' house, the moments of silence spent in its magnificent churches, and the fun-filled visit to the aquarium along with the newly established obsession with penguins and seals.

On the fifth day of the trip, the group travelled from Genoa to Rome, a city so exquisite and historical, they couldn't help but love. They couldn't help but get dazzled by how picturesque the churches in Rome were, or the spectacular Colosseum, or the gorgeous Trevi fountain. As for the Vatican City, it was where most of the sixth day was spent. The castles, chapels, churches and streets were all of pure elegance for the students.

It was safe to say that the students' expectations exceeded, as they had a remarkably wonderful time.



### Dublin

17 days after the closing of the Genoa 2016 trip came the opening of the school's first-ever travel to Ireland. On the 20th of March, the school's MUN club sent its second delegation to an international conference on a journey to challenge the Saint Andrews International Model United Nations conference in the city of Dun Laoghaire, a city next to the heart of Ireland: Dublin City.

Being the first and only Jordanian MUN club, which had 14 representatives, to venture to SAIMUN; the delegates were filled with hope and excitement for the conference held in the Royal Marine Hotel, where they stayed. The school did an outstanding job in the conference, and received recognition in the closing ceremony.

After working effectively and efficiently, whilst managing to balance work with research, the end-result was presented as it was due. Our very own member of Evolve, Rafaella Karadsheh, fantastically won and achieved the distinguished delegate award in the Ecology and Environment committee, whilst representing D.R Congo. An extremely stupendous honor to behold. Whereas another Evolve member had recognition, as Majd Muna outperformed his fellow ECOSOC delegates to present his resolution on patents and perform a speech in the General Assembly amongst over 700 other delegates, where his lasting quotes are currently displayed on the SAIMUN website. Huge achievements, indeed.



Late-night walks, positioning near the sea in tuxedos, movie premiers, athletic activities such as football, American football and Frisbee, the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the restaurant Nandos and utter ‘Cheeky Nandos’, among others, were some highlights of the memorable trip.

## Haarlem

Currently underway, numerous seniors, alongside Mr. Elie Nino and Ms. Tamara Katami, are in Haarlem, Netherlands, debating in HMUN ‘16. The seniors, as part of their last ever school MUN trip across borders, are attempting to have the time of their lives. Perhaps as predicted, they are.



The group are also travelling to Amsterdam, to view the capital of Netherlands.

\*More information about the Haarlem trip will be given in the fifth issue.

## Annual Book Fair

The National Orthodox School welcomed its students, parents, teachers, administrators and guests of all ages to the home of education itself, our main school library.

Starting on the 23rd of March with a welcoming opening ceremony, the book-fair introduced this year’s keynote speaker, Taghreed Najjar. Mrs. Najjar shared some of her life experiences and the struggle she went through before becoming a successful children’s books writer. Apart from the inspirational speech, directed by Miss Maram Abul-Hija was a play performed by a group of enthusiastic fourth graders which mainly focused on the importance of reading nowadays.

When entering the library, different book sections were noticeable, such as: Fictional and non-fictional stories, poetry, autobiographies, religious books, kids’ books,

and passions, allowing each individual to explore and further develop themselves through this event.

The event went on for four days, ending on a Saturday giving whoever was busy with their work on a normal week-day the chance to check out the book-fair, especially that it was the parent-teacher meeting, meaning that parents were most likely going to be at school, regardless.

All in all, holding such a book-fair encourages this generation to recognize the value of books and teaches them to forever keep those artistically-written words alive.

## Intel Competition

We would like to congratulate our 10th grade student, Yousef Abul-Leil for his qualification for the global INTEL competition after winning the final project contest held by the ministry of education for his creation of a device that is able to safely teach students about nuclear radiation.



The idea came to Yousef when he was watching a group of IG students perform some experiments on nuclear radiation. He couldn’t help but notice that what they were doing required special safety gears and equipment that weren’t present. Moreover, He started doing some research on this topic finding out more about where this radiation could come from and created the Nuclear Waste Auto Detector. “It might be surprising how everyday uses can be classified as nuclear wastes; from banana peels to smoke detectors. These wastes are being dumped in land fields causing harm to all living organisms. My device is able to detect these wastes and dispose them correctly.” said Yousef.

He hopes that in the future the nuclear waste Auto Detector can be used in airports where it should be advisable to check for radioactive substances coming into and out of countries. If greatly developed, it can even help in recycling plants!

Considering how brilliant this device is, Abul-Leil said that it was unexpected to hear his name being called out, stating that he only entered the competition in the first place to see what it is. But with a little bit of encouragement from the physics lab technician Mr. Odeh Hindeleh and Miss Samar Saeed, he was<sup>4</sup> able to emerge evermore victorious.



## Sports Section

The school has a rich history in athletics and sports, and is known to have many students excel in each respective sport, both locally and internationally. This past month was another performance and display of the school's sports programs, and how outstanding they are.

### Basketball

The NOS's basketball team for males participated in a tournament organized by the Rosary School of Marj-Al Hamam, and came away victorious with the grand prize.



The team was managed by coach Nayef Asfour, and consisted two members of Evolve : Majd Muna and Kareem Goussous. The team in total included Hanna Juha, Omar Fakhoury, Abdullah Madi, Antoine Mounayer, Zeid Abedrabbo, Jad Hamati, Ahmad Kabariti, Ra'ed Battikhi, Samir Nino and Zeid Khoury.

After beating the likes of De La Salle Frere and Terrasanta , the team qualified to the final of the tournament and went up against the hosting side: The Rosary School. The team brought home a significant win in that match with a score of 56-29. The final took place on Saturday, March 19th.

Congratulations, boys! More to come!

### Handball

In this past month, from 12th to 14th of March to be specific, P.E teacher Mr. Maen Mazahreh took part in a course for training in the sport of handball, organized by the Ministry of Education and the Jordanian Handball Association, respectively.

The course mainly focused on the tactical and practical aspects of the game, being given and taught by a professional Qatari trainer who was brought to supervise upon the course.

Mr. Maen took the course and ended passing a test put by the managers of the course to ensure the capability of the participants.

Congratulations to our teacher, and hoping for many achievements of this sort to come!



### Inner School

#### P.E

The school takes great care of sports and fitness in a variety of ways, one of which include having activity programs made apart from P.E classes to help the attendants of this educational institution.

The sports administration, lead by Mr. Ayoub Batarseh, organizes leagues of various sports during recesses for the stu-

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## Inner School P.E

### (Continuation)

Another football league also took place this past month for grade eight students, which was supervised upon by P.E coaches Ma'en Mazahreh and Khaled Dakhl-Allah, respectively.



However, such programs are not only for older students,

but for the younger ones as well. Over the days of the past month, Ms. Reem Mazahreh, the P.E teacher, and Mr. Ayoub organized a workout course for the first graders, which develops and focuses on all muscles.



## Visit To The Elderly Home

Miss Suha Nassar, the religion teacher, decided to take Grade 9D consisting of 29 students to visit an old age home in Ashrafeyeh on the 29th of March, 2016. The class was accompanied by Miss Anoud Haddadin, Miss Zaha Nino, Miss Asjan.Salameh, and Miss Zeina Asad.



The class managed to collect enough money to buy essentials from the supermarket and a blanket for each one of them.

As they entered, they were welcomed by 9 warm-hearted women, who showed passion and warmth via kisses and hugs. The students went and sat next to each one, and listened to many soulful stories. They were able to hold interesting conversations with them and learn about their past. They then made coffee and enjoyed having cake with them.

Bringing the love for partying, they started to sing for them and were able to convince some to even dance with them.

Fulfilling joy to such exquisite souls was no doubt a marvelous feeling. Not only did they do well to the elderly but they also learned history!

## Michel Sindaha Contest For Creative Writing

In the second year running for the new and unique competition in the name of the remarkable Michel Sindaha, the former head of the Orthodox Educational Society, many outstanding students received awards for their unparalleled art of writing in display. The competition mainly sees students from each grade and department submit their own writing about a separate topic of their choice, and witness the best ones being given recognition on such a stage.



Following a breathtaking speech by Mr. Michel's son, Nader Sindaha, and songs, theatrical performances, the awards were given.

The awards were divided into two Short story and article/letter.

The short story first place awards were given to a total of seven students, ranging from various departments. In first place for the 1-3 grade department came Zain Danhash, Christian Khoury, and Karam Danhash. In first place for the 4-5 grade department was Anoud Marji. Whereas first place for 6-8 was awarded to Sandra Shawish and Tala Abu Zulof. As for 9-12, Wasan Khawaja got the honors.

The article/letter first place awards, on the other hand, were given to a total of three students. First place for 4-8 was delivered to Hamzah Al Ta'ee and Nora Issa. In 9-12, it was given to Raghd Massarweh.

Financial prizes were given as an award for each winner, regardless whether or not the winner came in first, second, or third place. The ratio and distribution of the financial prizes for each place, however, was different.

The school is immensely proud to see many students come up with very special and outstanding writings, especially in such a prestigious contest.



## English Symposium

With its opening on March the 11<sup>th</sup>, The English symposium of 2016 was underway, where it was held in the NOS for another year. The symposium was a two-day event, supervised by the British Council. It primarily consisted of attendees from multiple schools in Amman, of which many gave lectures. The keynote speaker for this year's symposium was Mr. Reynold.

This year's symposium initiated with the welcoming of guests and the keynote speaker by Ms. May Goussous. Mr. Reynold commenced with his primary lecture, yielding attendees an overview of the occurrence in the symposium throughout. Teachers and visitors were sent to their respective locations, where they were decorated with inspirational quotes by famous public figures, to proceed with lectures.

Out of the many impressive lectures happening, one included Mr. Pascal, the IGCSE English teacher of the school. He described the way students must be taught to help keeping them indulged in their lessons, and defending its significance in the short-term and long-term view.

The symposium was also unique, not only in the area of improving the English language locally or teaching it, but to also bond many teachers of different backgrounds together. Sharing skills, giving advices,

## Visit To The Refugee Household

It's heartbreaking to see families, children, innocent individuals being forced to leave their homes because they are no longer safe. Our job as a country is to give a helping hand to those around us seeking a shelter. Jordan itself has accepted many refugees from Iraq and Syria and has established several camps to provide the refugees with essentials. But sadly, not every refugee has the chance to stay at camps with the best conditions. That's why our school decided to send its 9th graders along with clothes, toys, food to one of these less fortunate refugee homes.



## School Images Throughout The Month



providing inspirational tips and more are all vitally crucial for a better future for the English language locally.



## Humans of NOS

As expressed previously in the third issue; we have decided to start a new project inside this newsletter, called ‘Humans of NOS.’ We interview anyone affiliated in the school and get their uninterrupted opinions on certain subjects, and get their images taken.

At this current stage, we have published and posted eighteen interviews on Facebook on our Evolve page (more on that afterwards), with nearly each one reaching three thousand people through social media! The reaction to our new project has been

*“Being a man, I feel like it’s my duty to convince other men to be feminists, not only because it helps women get treated equally as men, whether in social, political or economic fields; they are no less of human beings than us men. But it also helps make our world a better place with more intelligent women given the chance to excel. My mother and sisters are women, and if I care so much about them, then I should fight for them as much as I do for myself.” -John Matarweh*

*“I’m trying to do as many crazy and fun things I can do before I’m out of here. Sure, all that stuff about learning and being responsible matters, but I’m still a child at heart and I’m leaving this place knowing that I did more than sit around a classroom for twelve years.” - Hanna Abu Judom*



*“I don’t really want to leave here. It’s (school) become like a second home to me. It’s formed this protected bubble that shielded us from all the big responsibilities and challenges growing up, which I think I’ll miss. There are definitely things I regret not doing, such as reconnecting with people I haven’t talked to in years or not making the most of all the experiences and staying home instead. I kept telling myself ‘you can do that tomorrow/next month/next year’ and here I am, about to graduate next month.*

*“I learnt that when you put a little bit of extra effort into something you enjoy doing, I think maybe you’ll surprise*

*I’m making the most out of the time I have left here, so I’m quite happy with that, but never make the same mistake I did.. Always make the most out of high school. I swear that they’ll be the best 4 years of your life as a teenager. You just need to let yourself run free sometimes.,*



amazing. We’ve handpicked some of the best quotes by the students, and they are mentioned below.





*"I was afraid I wouldn't make any friends since it becomes harder to start from scratch at this age. But, when I came to this school I felt welcomed, then I realized that I made such close friends in a short period of time." Andrea Houry*

*"When it comes to writing, one should not just aim to impress others, especially when it's not coming from the heart. It will never work out. However, if the person writes to sketch in words what they feel and let it out, wonders come out of that. When it comes to successful writing, make sure that you're being honest to yourself and to your readers. I honestly couldn't have made it this year without my pen." Ghaida Al Saket*



*"So I watched a video about neutrality in this world and how it affects people. Some say that being neutral about certain cases is of no harm, but I happen to strongly disagree! Staying silent when people are suffering from unjust treatment and having their rights being taken away means you're not being neutral as much as you're teaming up with the wrong side.*

*When you're being neutral, you're being helpless by ignoring the main issue and actually adding up to it by not standing up for people who are weak and need a hand to tackle all the inequalities in this world along with the cynical minds that we sometimes have to deal with. So if you think you're not harming any-*



Across many interesting individual stories which bring upon a different perspective on numerous subjects, there is undoubtedly a mutual trait — an overflow of potential.

## Check Our Social Media Platforms!



A few months back, we launched a Facebook page titled 'Evolve: A National Orthodox School Newsletter'. Since then, it gained large popularity, reaching thousands of people, receiving hundreds of likes and tons of comments. Feedback via messages have also been delivered constantly, which gives us a sense of pleasure! The Facebook page really has been a project which worked out to perfection for us.

In the Facebook page, you can locate daily posts for 'Humans of NOS' or receive updates about school activities, and Evolve in general.

# EVOLVE



## Summary of All MUN Conferences 2015/2016

Conference Name	Conference Dates	Location	Best Delegates	Honorable Mentions
Ahliyya School for Girls Model United Nations	1/10-3/10	Kempinski Hotel - Amman	Sanad Zaqtan	Mohammad Al-Sheboul
Repton New English School Model United Nations (RNESMUN)	8/10-10/10	RNES campus	Tara Abboud / Mohammad Al-Sheboul	Haya Jawabreh
Amman Model United Nations (AMMUN)	28/10-2/11	Amman Bacca laureate School campus / Grand Hyatt Hotel - Amman		
German Jordanian University Model United Nations (GJUMUN)	5/11-7/11	GJU campus	Mohammad Al-Sheboul / Kamil Asali / Alex Abuzeid / Sanad	
Jordan Model United Nations (JOMUN)	11/11-15/11	Crowne Plaza Hotel - Dead Sea	Mohammad Al-Sheboul / Sanad Zaqtan / Qais Mouasher / Kareem Goussous / George Karmash	Raad Spasioti / Majd Muna / Zeid Hazboun / Kareem Sabanekh
International Academy Amman Model	26/11-29/11	IAA campus	Omar Fakhoury	Mohammad Al-Sheboul
National Orthodox School Model United Nations (NOSMUN)	28/1-30/1	Sheraton Hotel - Amman	Anton Naber / Alex Abuzeid / Karim Hattar / Majd Hazboun / Omar Fakhoury / Tara Abboud / Zaid Khoury	Mohammad Al-Sheboul / Zeid Hazboun / Maria Hamarneh / Mira Al-Hajhasan / Kareem Sabanekh / Yazeed Mashni / Majd Muna
King's Academy Model United Nations	18/2-20/2	King's Academy campus		
Mashrek Model Arab League (MMAL)	25/2-26/2	Mashrek campus		
Genoa Model United Nations (GeMUN)	25/2-27/2	Genoa - Italy		
Asriyya Model United Nations (AsriyyaMUN)	10/3-12/3	Kempinski Hotel - Amman		
Saint Andrew's International Model United Nations (SAIMUN)	21/3-24/3	Dun Laoghaire - Ireland	Rafaella Karadsheh	
Modern American School Model United Nations (MASMUN)	31/3-2/4	MAS campus	Kareem Goussous	Rani Haddadin / George Fazaa / Kareem Sabanekh
Haarlem Model United Nations (HMUN)	1/4-3/4	Haarlem - Netherlands	Rama Sabanekh	



## THE 'EVOLVE' TEAM!

We'd like to give a big thank you to all those who helped make this happen. The names of the current team, alongside the images on the left, who helped this work are written below:

- \*Aala'a Attari (Photographer)*
- \*Laith Mouasher (Photographer)*
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- \*Turki Mahaid (Writer)*
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