

H.M. Queen Rania Abdullah of Jordan visits ACS, Amman, Jordan

by **Nancy Habib,
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On February 13, 2008 H.M. Queen Rania of Jordan sat on cushions under a student-made Bedouin tent, adorned with their

artwork and poetry about Jordan. Her Majesty was surrounded by our eager and curious second-grade reporters, who asked the Queen questions, which she graciously answered.

This visit by Her Majesty, the world's youngest queen, was

prompted by a birthday card the students had sent her with an invitation to visit. The letter also told her about the 2nd grade curriculum that includes the study of Jordan. Her Majesty accepted the invitation but we kept it a secret from the children.

From October to February, the palace was in touch with us planning this once-in-a-lifetime event. The children's questions were sent to the palace and during her visit, Her Majesty answered them one by one, addressing each child personally. Their questions focused on her as a woman, wife, mother, and

responsibilities as Queen. Her 50-minute visit culminated with group photos and handshakes.

Nancy Habib and Mary Ford are 2nd grade teachers. Susanne El-Hadeed is a teaching assistant.



ISB to go cashless in October

Vertical Payment Solutions Pte Ltd has announced that its Smart Card technology has been implemented into the **International School of Bangkok (ISB)**. This school is the first one in Thailand to integrate the CAMPUS cashless payment application into the identity cards carried by staff and students. This CAMPUS system is being deployed by Vertical Payment Solutions Pte Ltd to provide multi-application card solutions including identification and cashless payment for transactions within the school campus, for students, staff and parents.

This system allows students, staff and parents to conveniently purchase food at the canteen, uniform and stationery, pay for excursions, photocopies, prints, ki-

osk purchases, online account top up, track attendance, and work with existing libraries infrastructures. ISB will become a totally cashless school in October 2008.

The final piece in the cashless jigsaw was the introduction of a new kiosk module that allows temporary visitors to the school to purchase a bar-coded voucher from the kiosk that can be scanned at the POS for cashless purchases. The value of the voucher diminishes with each purchase and can be topped up at the kiosk cash acceptor as required.

The Campus smart card is a contactless card with a smart chip which stores the cardholder's personal information and provides access to a cash value that can be topped up using online payment

gateways that are integrated into the Campus Online web page or from cash acceptors build into the Campus onsite kiosks.

ISB has recently taken the concept of Smartcards to its fullest by introducing a completely cashless campus in October 2008, "Vertical Payment Solutions Pte Ltd is a leading player in the Campus Card market and their products complements very well our requirements for a completely cashless school," says International School of Bangkok Director of Information Technology, Mr Stephen Lehmann.

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