

INNOVATIONS

Sheikh Zayed Private Academy for Girls

April 2016

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

As a community we continue to strive towards our core purpose 'Honoring the past. Educating for the Future'.

One of our core values at SZPAG is to promote respect, responsibility, belonging and caring. When I speak with students, parents and staff, it is clearly apparent that there is great respect for Sheikh Zayed and admiration for his vision for education, and it is an honor to be a member of this school community which bears his name.

It is also evident that the traditions and values that you pass on to your children means there is genuine pride in the culture and heritage of the UAE as highlighted in the many celebrations that have occurred on campus this year.

We know as both parents and educators the importance of role modelling and it was wonderful to see many parents able to attend the recent parent conferences, Secondary School forum, or part of our new literacy parent volunteers in Elementary. Your support of your child's education through attendance at various school events, shows them that you place great value on their education.

Together the school, in partnership with you the parents, are educating young people for their future and it is part of growing up that they will also make mistakes occasionally. Therefore, at school some students may choose not to follow our Code of Conduct on occasion. While we appreciate that children and young adolescents may test boundaries, it is the learning that occurs as a result of their decisions that is the important life lesson.

Students are regularly reminded that all choices have consequences. If I choose to apply myself fully at school through regular attendance and commitment to my studies, I will learn to the best of my ability. However, if I choose not to attend classes or to disrespect rules there will also be a consequence that I will have to accept as the result of the choices I made.

We know that 'actions speak louder than words'. As the role models for our children we must all continually reflect on whether our behavior is role-modelling what we expect of the young people in our care. How do we react when something or someone disappoints us? The way we show respect towards others is critical if we want our young people to learn from us and to show the respect that all deserve.

We encourage all parents to regularly speak with their child about their learning, reinforcing what they are doing well and reminding them of our expectations when they may disappoint us with the choices they are making.

We appreciate your support and look forward to continuing to work with you as partners in your child's learning.

Kind regards

Ms. Lisa Hewitt

Principal

In This Issue

- Principal's message
- Elementary News
- Secondary-Belief in a "Growth Mindset"
- Arabic-Reading

This month I have shared a very well known poem by American writer and family counselor Dorothy Nolte, which highlights the importance of role-modelling.

CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE

If a child lives with criticism,
he learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility,
he learns to fight.

If a child lives with fear,
he learns to be apprehensive.

If a child lives with pity,
he learns to feel sorry for himself.

If a child lives with ridicule,
he learns to be shy.

If a child lives with jealousy,
he learns what envy is.

If a child lives with shame,
he learns to feel guilty.

If a child lives with encouragement,
he learns to be confident.

If a child lives with tolerance,
he learns to be patient.

If a child lives with praise,
he learns to be appreciative.

If a child lives with acceptance,
he learns to love.

If a child lives with approval,
he learns to like himself.

If a child lives with recognition,
he learns that it is good to have a goal.

If a child lives with sharing,
he learns about generosity.

If a child lives with honesty and fairness,
he learns what truth and justice are.

If a child lives with security,
he learns to have faith in himself and in those about him.

If a child lives with friendliness,
he learns that the world is a nice place in which to live.

If you live with serenity,
your child will live with peace of mind.

With what is your child living?

أطفالنا مرآة تعكس ما يعيشونه

إن كان طفلك يعيش مع انتقادات دائمة..
سيتعلم كيف يُدين غيره

إن كان طفلك يعيش في مخاصمة..
سيعلم كيف يقاتل بعنف

إن عرف طفلك معنى الخوف..
سيتعلم كيف يعيش مهموماً

إن عاملت طفلك بشفقة ..
سيتعلم كيف يشعر بالأسى تجاه نفسه

إن عاش الطفل يشعر بأن الجميع يسخر منه..
سيتعلم كيف يعيش بخجل

إن عرف الطفل معنى الغيرة..
سيتعلم كيف يحسد

إن عاش طفلك يشعر بالعار...
سيتعلم معنى الشعور بالذنب

ولكن..
إن عاش الطفل محيطاً بتشجيع ما حوله له..
سيتعلم كيف يكون واثقاً من نفسه

إن عاش طفلك يعرف ما معنى التسامح..
سيتعلم كيف يكون صبوراً

إن كان الطفل يتلقى إطلاءات..
سيقيم ما معنى التقدير

إن عاش طفلك معنى الاستحسان..
سيتعلم كيف يحب الآخرين

وإن تعود طفلك على تقبل الآخرين له..
سيتعلم كيف يُعجب بتصرفاته

إن تعلم طفلك منك كيف يصل إلى إدراك الحياة..
سيتعلم كيف يحدد أهدافه

إن عاش الطفل محباً للمشاركة..
سيتعلم معنى الكرم

إن عاش الطفل في ظلال الصدق والعدل ..
سيتعلم معنى الحقيقة والعدالة

إن أحس الطفل بألفة ما حوله له ..
سيشعر بمدى جمال عالمه المحيط به

وإن عاش الطفل بطمأنينة...
سيتعلم كيف يعيش صافٍ الذهن

أنت.. كيف تختار لحياة ابنك أن تكون

ELEMENTARY NEWS

Dear SZPAG Parents

I hope you all enjoyed a restful and engaging break with your children. I missed them!

April's My Identity value is My Family. We are celebrating and honoring our home, school and community families and the positive contributions we make. The student learner profile characteristic is CONNECTED, as we show how we link ideas and learning together.

Our library has been undergoing a beautiful transition. We are now fully carpeted with covered seats to match our fabulous reading trees. Our storyland trees take us to storyland adventures and help our imaginations to thrive. We are thankful that SZPAG cherishes reading and encourages all of our students to become passionate readers!

Ms. Patricia Elmer

Head of Elementary



Celebration Assembly

Students in secondary hosted an assembly to celebrate student achievement in non-academic areas of the school. Present at the assembly was the Principal, Ms Lisa Teachers and Students.



Students presented success stories in the following areas: Model United Nations, Achieve 3000, Duke of Edinburgh, Community support: Helping Hands and Red Crescent, Student Council, International Day and the recent Arabic Poetry competition.



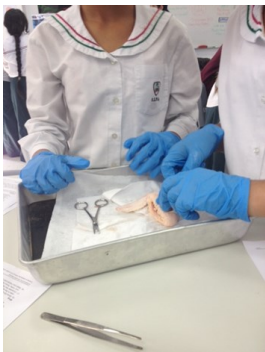
Students shared the experiences, which demonstrated not only determination to succeed but also true collaboration and citizenship. The following students took part in the assembly:

Aysha Al Romaiithi 12Z, Alia Al Zaabi 11Z, Fatema Al Romaiithi 9S, Zeena Al Qassem, 6S, Maya Sidani, 11S, Nabaha Ali Abdale, 11S, Mariam Shehi, 10S, Heba Sattar 10S, Zain Zreik, 7P, Leen Hasan 9S, Mahra I Shehhi, 10S, Fatima Al Kendi, 12S, Afra Al Mutawa 10Z, Amna Al Shamsi, 12Z, Zeena Al Qassem, 6S, Fatima Faissal, 10S,

A big congratulations to all the participants and all the other students who have made steps to reach their goals this year.

Middle Grades Science

In Grade 6, students have begun the Water unit. They began by learning about the molecular structure of water and water's unique properties. They completed an inquiry-based activity designed to test the cohesion and surface tension of water when another "mystery liquid" is introduced. Students will also be learning about the different states in which we find water, how water is distributed on Earth and the processes included within the water cycle. As an initiative to integrate and show support across the grades, the Grade 12 Physics class will be coming in to the Grade 6 classes to teach and present on Weather and Climate.



In Grade 7 Life Science, students are currently learning about the Human Body. They have completed the Skeletal System and are now learning about the Muscular system. This week they will be learning through inquiry about both systems by completing a "Chicken Wing" Lab and examining the muscles, tendons, ligaments in muscles within a chicken wing. The next systems they will be studying include the Cardiovascular, Respiratory and Digestive Systems. Following the Human Body Unit, the students will be studying Genetic Inheritance and Evolution for the remainder of the term.

SECONDARY NEWS

Belief in a "Growth Mindset"

Congratulations for a successful beginning of Term 3. Students are on the road to success as they work towards completion of the 2015-2016 Academic Year. Learning can change our lives. When students and educators have a "growth mindset" they believe that competency and skills can be developed and strengthened over time. Knowledge will increase as educational opportunities and experiences are expanded. Students and adults alike can take charge of their learning and look towards greater success in all realms of their education. Supporting a "growth mindset" benefits all. Wishing everyone a successful Term 3.

Dr. Judy Khaloui,
Head of Secondary

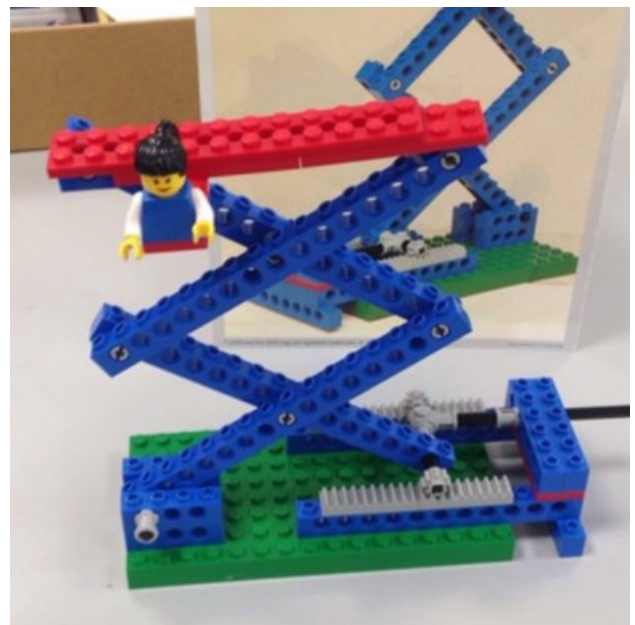
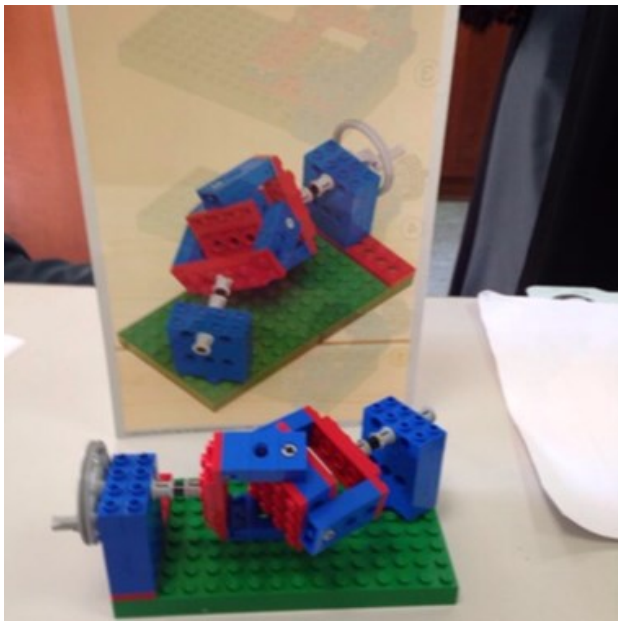
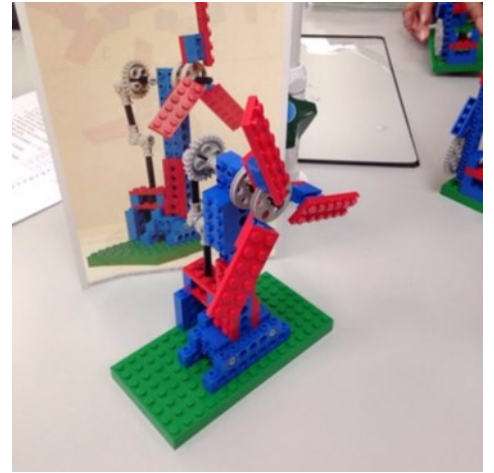


High School Sciences

The Grade 9 Physics classes are in the process of creating a device that will reduce the impact force on an egg for their 'The Great Egg Drop' projects. The final egg drop date will be occurring in May and we will find out whose device has the ability to not 'crack' under the pressure. In Chemistry, students have been hard at work using their knowledge and skills from Term 2 to separate a MegaMix of substances. The students have worked together to plan and carry out their experiment. They will write up a report and discuss what worked well and what improvements they can recommend.

As mentioned earlier, the Grade 12 Physics students are taking on a very special teaching project. There is much excitement from both the 6th graders and the 12th graders for this teaching project. Grade 12 will be "teaching" a full class period to their assigned 6th grade class. The 12th grade girls have worked very hard to make the presentations colorful, interactive, and interesting for their class. They have researched weather and climate and aligned the vocabulary and concepts to the 6th grade NGSS curriculum. The presentations will be complete with activities and practice work designed for their specific 6th grade level class. This teaching project gives many advantages to both the grade 12 and grade 6 students.

The Grade 12 PI Physics class has been building machines to complete their understanding of how simple machines function together to form complex machines as part of their mechanical engineering section. Students were then challenged to use that knowledge to build original machines that solved certain problems.



قارئ اليوم قائد الغد

تعتبر القراءة منذ القدم من أهم وسائل التعلم الإنساني التي من خلالها يكتسب الإنسان العديد من المعارف والعلوم والأفكار، وهي التي تؤدي إلى تطوير الإنسان وتفتح أمامه آفاقاً جديدة كانت بعيدة عن متناوله. كما تعتبر القراءة من أكثر مصادر العلم والمعرفة وأوسعها، حيث حرصت الأمم المتبقظة على نشر العلم وتسهيل أسبابه، وجعلت مفتاح ذلك كله من خلال تشجيع القراءة والعمل على نشرها بين جميع فئات المجتمع.

والقراءة كانت ولا تزال من أهم وسائل نقل ثمرات العقل البشري وآدابه وفنونه ومنجزاته ومخترعاته، وهي الصفة التي تميز الشعوب المتقدمة التي تسعى دوماً للرفق والصدارة.

وفي العصر الحديث، دخلت القراءة في أنشطة الحياة اليومية لكل مواطن، فالقراءة هي السبيل الوحيد للإبداع والابتكار وتكوين المبدعين والمخترعين والأدباء والمفكرين، والأمم القارئة هي الأمم القائدة.

من هذا المنطلق انطلق مشروع "تحدي القراءة العربي" وهو أكبر مشروع عربي أطلقه صاحب السمو الشيخ محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم، نائب رئيس دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة رئيس مجلس الوزراء حاكم دبي، لتشجيع القراءة لدى الطلاب في العالم العربي عبر التزام أكثر من مليون طالب بالمشاركة بقراءة خمسين مليون كتاب خلال كل عام دراسي.

وصل عدد الطلبة المشاركين في مشروع تحدي القراءة العربي إلى 3.5 مليون طالب على مستوى دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة، يشكلون أكثر من 10% من إجمالي طلبة المدارس في العالم العربي.

ولقد شارك 60 طالبا وطالبة من جميع المراحل في أكاديمية الشيخ زايد الخاصة للبنات في المشروع، ممن أنهى قراءة 50 كتابا، وتأهل منهم 11 طالبا وطالبة للتصفيات الأولى والتي جرت في دبي يوم الخميس الموافق 28 إبريل 2016.

في القراءة غذاء للعقل وارتقاء بالفكر والقراءة تبنى الحضارات، فلنغرس في نفوس طلابنا حب القراءة منذ الصغر ونحثهم عليها ونكون قدوة لهم في الحرص على القراءة.

