

INNOVATIONS

The Sheikh Zayed Private Academy for Girls

January 2018

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families of The Sheikh Zayed Private Academy for Girls,

Happy New Year everyone! I hope that you had a restful, well-deserved break! Students have returned to their routines and delved deeply into their learning. We are so proud of their efforts! Thank you to the parents who attended our last Coffee with the Principal event held on January 16, 2018 in the theatre. A presentation was made from our Arabic department about mandated changes to our Arabic curriculum this year, as well as a workshop on iPad safety for parents of students in grades 3-5 who are now receiving their own personal iPads. This past term we have achieved 94% of our staff being certified Apple Teachers. What an incredible commitment to your children's learning!

I am proud to share that we have received the results from our CIS / NEASC inspection held in December 2017. We have passed to the next level in the accreditation process which is a School Self Study lasting 18 months long. This study will involve an intense focus on what we are doing at school, the reasoning behind our actions, and the impact on teaching and learning. Everything will be tied together in preparation for our follow up accreditation visit scheduled in October 2019. Many thanks to the parents, students and staff who partook in those meetings.

Recently we held discussions at the Senior Leadership Team level of the school to determine the necessity of maintaining certain rules we have for our students. Some of the rules have been found to be sound, whereas with others, we would like to have our thinking evolve. The following changes will be made to our rules effective immediately.

Jewelry- Students will be allowed to wear simple jewelry with their uniform. Large or expensive items are not allowed. When a student chooses to wear jewelry with their uniform, they are responsible for maintaining its safety. The school accepts no responsibility for lost or missing items.

Fitbits- Students are allowed to wear Fitbits.

Apple / Smart Watches- Students are not allowed to wear smart watches to school.

Uniform- We will commence having 'house days' whereby students will be allowed to 'dress outside' of the regular school uniform. Parents and students will be notified in advance of these days.

Exam Weeks- Students in middle school and high school are writing exams several times a year. We are losing at least 96 hours of instructional time when students are leaving school after writing one exam. In the interest of providing your children with the best possible education, students will now be required to stay at school following their exams to continue with learning.

Thank you for your support in these matters. It is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Janet DesJardins

Principal / CEO

The Sheikh Zayed Private Academy for Girls

NEWS FROM ELEMENTARY

- Grade 2 had a very fun project in Math. We are working on solving word problems. Students had to create different change-to-more or change-to-less number stories as a team. Each person on the team took 1 number story and created a drawing to match their number story. Students also wrote an explanation of how they would solve their problem.
- Once this part was complete, students made a drawing on the ipads to show their number story in Notes. We took a screenshot of this drawing to use in iMovie.
- Each team then compiled all of their drawings into an iMovie presentation. Students also had the opportunity to complete a voice-over to read and explain their number story and drawing. It was a very creative and innovative way of solving word problems. We hope to do more fun lessons like this in Term 2.
- In Math, we were learning about 3D shapes. Students had to follow step by step instructions to create a 3D pyramid using straws. It was difficult but everyone persisted and succeeded in making a 3D pyramid.
- Grade 2 also went on a Field Trip to Little Worlds. Here we got to make bouncy balls in a fun Science Experiment, create pictures on the computer using a green screen and students got to role play as teachers, nurses, bus drivers and many more things. It was a fantastic Field trip to use our imagination.



Foggy Weather!



Dear parents,

A warm welcome back and Happy New Year! We hope you all had a wonderful winter break. We have had a busy start to Term 2 with reports going home, parent conferences, and our one-to-one iPad program starting in Grades 3-5.

The one-to-one iPad program roll out has been very successful! Students in Grades 3-5 have been using their iPads throughout their lessons, in all subject areas. The use of iPads in the classroom furthers their learning by allowing students to take more risks, think more critically, and become more independent learners. When we go into classrooms we see students creating new ways to show their learning, they are collaborating with their peers, doing research, teaching others, and are fully engaged in our challenging curriculum.

Thank you for your continued support, and we are looking forward to a successful Term 2!

NEWS FROM SECONDARY

Grade 12

As a reminder and as part of the graduation requirements at SZPAG, our students are required to take the SAT and score no less than 400 on their Math section of the test. Our school opens as a test center to administer the test on May 5, 2018. We advise all grade 12 students, who have not yet taken the test, to take it on May 5 since it will be the final test session for this academic year.

Grade 11 students are advised to take it on May 5 as well to ensure they have met this part of their graduation requirements. Registering for the SAT now will give them the opportunity to gain some SAT test experience and a chance to improve their mark if they want to take it again during their senior year.

Students can sign up for the SAT test by registering on the College Board website: <https://www.collegeboard.org>

For more information on registration and the test content you can contact:

Miss Taghreed (Academic Student Advisor) Taghreed.Badawi@zayedacademy.ac.ae

Miss Catherine (Math teacher / SAT test administrator) Catherine.Khouja@zayedacademy.ac.ae

The SAT logo is displayed in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on a solid blue rectangular background. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located at the top right of the letter 'T'.

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the January edition of the Secondary Newsletter. This month we would like to feature the Physical Education department and the array of exciting and innovative practices taking place.

Innovation in Physical Education

We have many innovative activities being created throughout the Physical Education department this year by implementing the use of Ipads and technology into the lessons.

Our aim is to continue to build our students' positive attitudes towards Physical Education through Innovation. One example was the FIFA Roadshow which came into the school in Term 1 with an interactive football roadshow, where students got the chance to test their football skills and challenge each other with lots of physically activity games.

In Term 2 we have a lot to look forward to. During February our annual Sports Days will be running from KG to Grade 12. There will be lots of competition throughout the Secondary School with each House challenging each other in a range of athletic activities in a bid to win the Sports Day trophy. We will be selecting Sports Captains for each House in the coming weeks for both Middle School and High School. These will be announced later this month.

In addition to this we have our first Duke of Edinburgh Award trip coming up. The students will be travelling to a new location in Kalba where they will have the opportunity to trek through the mountains whilst practicing their navigational and camping skills.

Soccer Club will commence this term to prepare students for the annual soccer tournament. Hopefully our soccer team will follow the success of our basketball term in Term 1, where both Middle School and High School teams came second place in the SZPAG league. Finally, we are running a variety of sporting activities this term, from a new swim club for the Elementary School students, and a new tennis club for the Grade 6, which is being run by our Grade 11 Sports Leaders and again our Grade 6 basketball team.



News from Arabic Department

شاركت طالبات الأكاديمية في فعاليات أسبوع أبو ظبي للاستدامة، وتم اختيار الطالبة فاطمة عبد الناصر من الصف العاشر، والطالبة ريم خالد الجراي من الصف الثاني عشر لتمثيل المدرسة كسفيرات للاستدامة في الملتقى الحضري للشباب .

وقد نال المشروع الذي قدمته الطالبة ريم خالد عن أثر استخدام الألواح الشمسية في المحافظة علي الطاقة استحسان اللجنة فتم اختيارها لتقديمه من ضمن العروض المتميزة في افتتاح أسبوع الاستدامة بحضور الشيخ محمد بن زايد حفظه الله ولي عهد أبو علما بأن موضوع الاستدامة يحظى ظبي ونائب القائد الأعلى للقوات المسلحة ورئيس المجلس التنفيذي لإمارة أبو ظبي . باهتمام كبير في المدرسة ويدعم بمشاريع متنوعة تطبقها الطالبات خلال حصص الدراسات الاجتماعية.



كما شاركت مجموعة من طالبات نادي الاستدامة في المدرسة في حفل تكريم المدارس المتميزة في برنامج جنود وبراعم تحت عنوان التحدي العالمي للمناخ وتم خلال الحفل إطلاق برنامج تحدي طاقة المستقبل

وقد نال العرض الذي قدمته طالبات المدرسة اعجاب الجميع. كما تحدثت الطالبات عن بعض المشاريع التي تم إنجازها في المدرسة من إعادة التدوير وتم تكريمهن بالحصول على كأس التميز





عام زايد- عام الخير والعطاء

إن لكل دولة رمزها الوطني، وقوتها التي تفخر بها على مر العصور. وكم نفخر نحن في أكاديمية الشيخ زايد الخاصة للبنات بأن تحمل مدرستنا اسم الشيخ زايد -رحمه الله- القائد الملهم والأب الروحي الذي ارتبط اسمه بكل معاني الخير والأمل والطموح والإرادة والعزيمة التي لا تقهر.

إننا في الأكاديمية حريصين كل الحرص على تربي أبنائنا على القيم والمبادئ التي ربانا عليها والدنا زايد -رحمه الله- وأن نغرس فيهم حب الوطن وحب العطاء والعمل بإخلاص، من خلال دمجهم في المجتمع، وإتاحة الفرص لهم للمشاركة في الفعاليات والمبادرات التي تعزز هذه القيم. فهناك فريق يكرس جهودا جبارة لدعم مشاريع الاستدامة وإعادة التدوير، وفريق يشارك في تحدي القراءة لدعم اللغة العربية، وآخر يعمل بجد ويخطط لدعم برنامج الأيادي المعطاءة. وهناك من يعمل على الابتكار والإبداع في مجال التكنولوجيا.

إننا نؤمن أن طلبتنا لديهم المهارات اللازمة للإبداع ولكنهم بحاجة للتوجيه والإرشاد والدعم. لذا نرجو أن تشاركونا في تعزيز هذه المهارات في نفوس أبنائكم وأن تعززوا ثقتهم بأنفسهم ليكونوا قادة الغد وبناءة المستقبل.

ودعما لهذا العام عام الخير، ومع اقتراب موعدنا السنوي مع اليوم الخيري، أرجو من أولياء الأمور دعمنا في تعزيز معنى التطوع والخدمة المجتمعية في نفوس الطلبة، وحثهم على المشاركة في هذا اليوم ليس من خلال التبرع المادي فقط ولكن من خلال استغلال مهاراتهم الإبداعية والابتكارية للتخطيط لأنشطة تعزز روح التطوع والتبرع في نفوسهم ونفوس زملائهم.



أميرة صلاح

مديرة القسم العربي