

INNOVATIONS

The Sheikh Zayed Private Academy for Girls

May/June 2017

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

The school year will shortly draw to a close with the last official day for students Thursday 22 June at 12:30pm. Students have completed their end of year assessments and reports will be sent home on the afternoon of Tuesday 20 June or may be collected from the Main Reception from Wednesday onwards.

We are constantly reviewing and refining our learning program to ensure we continue to offer a holistic program to ensure students continue to increase rigor, and develop the skills and concepts required now and for their future. Students have been provided a rich diversity of learning opportunities this year - in the classroom, during home room and assemblies, when interacting with friends, and through involvement in various events or competitions.

We continue to honor our commitment to ensure our graduates are college and career ready and are prepared to be competitive globally. Our Grade 12 class of 57 students recently celebrated the end of their Secondary education with their family, friends and teachers. Our graduates have accepted places at various universities throughout the UAE with six students from this year's graduating class accepting place at universities abroad.

I would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank the staff who show their commitment to your children's learning each and every school day. Many will leave us this year to either return home or to take up a new professional challenge elsewhere and I am sure you join us in wishing them every success for their future endeavors. Later in this newsletter students have acknowledged how individual members of staff have helped them to learn and what they will miss about their teachers who are leaving the academy this year.

I would particularly like to acknowledge two long serving members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) who are leaving SZPAG this year to return to their respective home countries.

Ms. Patricia has worked tirelessly, leading the Elementary School for four years before setting up the new Student Achievement Team this year. Her breadth and depth of experience and commitment to the wellbeing of both students and staff will be sorely missed. Ms. Nkecha who is currently working in the UAE will join SLT in August and we are confident she will lead the Student Achievement team, building on the excellent work commenced this year.

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Ms. Debbie has ensured our Early Childhood program has gone from strength to strength during her six years at the academy. Debbie has led her division with commitment and a genuine passion for Early Years education, ensuring our youngest students feel safe and secure and are building foundational skills through a play based program. Ms. Helen a highly experienced Early Childhood educator from New Zealand will take on this leadership role in August.

This is also my last year at SZPAG and I look forward to additional time with family as I embark on a 12 month sabbatical. It has been a privilege to serve as the head of The Sheikh Zayed Private Academy for Girls. I will take with me extremely fond memories of our students and a genuine pride in the commitment shown by my colleagues, GEMS and AAEL to ensure that SZPAG continues to focus on learning to ensure we go from strength to strength. I trust the wonderful partnerships we have developed with so many of our parents will continue as Ms. Janet DesJardins takes on the role of Principal in August.

To all in our community we wish you a safe and well deserved holiday. For those leaving us this year, both students and staff, we wish you 'Maa Al Salamah'. We trust you will take with you many fond memories of the academy and we wish you every happiness and success in whatever the future holds.

Shukran

Ms. Lisa Hewitt

Principal



News from Early Childhood

KG2EH has been reading the story of the Three Billy Goats Gruff in class. The students were asked to make a boat out of recycled materials that could float the three goats across the river. The students completed investigations to come up with some innovative ideas. We tested our boats during recess to see if they met the challenge. Some students went back to improve their boats to make them float better or faster.



NEWS FROM ELEMENTARY

Innovation simply defined is coming up with new ways to look at and approach existing situations. Teachers are called upon to be innovators each and every day. They wear many hats and create strategies to enhance academics, student well-being, and work toward exemplifying the school mission and vision. This issue is dedicated to the teachers that are moving on to new challenges at the end of the school year but have left their indelible mark as evidenced with our student quotes. Please enjoy hearing our student voice as they each proclaim what they appreciated most about their leaving teacher. Certainly these teachers will be missed but not forgotten.

We would be remiss if we didn't mention another huge accomplishment, the creation of our first ever SZPAG Girls' Choir. The biggest innovative feat regarding the choir was finding the time for a large group of girls to consistently practice. Ms. Brenda handled this by having the girls come during lunch to eat and then work on their music pieces two times a week, once for those interested in singing and another for those wanting to learn to play an instrument. Arabic and English teachers worked together to support this group both in the music room and from their own classrooms. The girls had several times to perform for their peers, their parents, and then most notably, twenty-one of the girls performed at the High School graduation. There are no words to express the feelings we had while watching these beautiful young ladies shine that evening. The addition of the Girls' Choir to our repertoire of innovative practices is just one more reason that makes The Sheikh Zayed Private Academy for Girls an amazing place to attend.

Ms. Tracie Hamilton

Head of Elementary



Students quotes for leaving teachers

What my teacher has taught me:

Ms Gina KG1 GC

Fatima: She teach me not to go to the water without an apron.

Annabel: We read new reading books and point to the words.

Ms Megan KG1 MS

Abdulla: Homework and drawing and colouring

Shaikha: She teaches us to count animals.

Ms Christine KG1 CS

Shamsa: Writing about our holidays

Meera K: Ms Christine teach us Fry words and to know letters.

Ms Arwa G1 AJ

Fatima: I like to learn about Math with Ms Arwa, because it helps me know about time.

Mahra: I liked learning about halves and quarters.


Ms Narelle G1 NJ

Zainab: Ms Narelle taught us about countries. Australia is a continent.

Mohammed Ali: Clocks. I learned that the big hand is for the minutes and the small hand is for the hour.

“Ms Suyapa is a good listener and always helps me solve my problems. I love her.”

A teacher takes
a *Hand*, opens
a *Mind* and
touches a *Heart*



Students quotes for leaving teachers

Grade 2:

2CS: “ Ms. Carrie has helped me in math. When I struggle she comes straight to me and helps me understand the topic. She helps me organize my writing by modeling how it should look on my paper. Ms. Carrie is a fun, helpful and kind teacher. I will miss Ms. Carrie a lot. I sometimes feel like she is my mother.” -Sheikha A.

2KS: “Ms. Kate helps us understand everything she teaches us. She explains the meaning of words, so that we can understand new words. Ms. Kate works with us in small groups, and one-on-one, to help us understand topics. I love how she helps me learn so many new things. I will miss Ms. Kate!”- Mahra

2GN: “Ms. Grace helped me learn very well. She was here almost everyday to teach us. She taught us how to read carefully, how to put full stops in our writing, and she makes science lessons very fun. Ms. Grace is very nice, and is very confident in the tasks that she does.”- Moza

Grade 3:

3JR: “Ms. Jo has taught us strategies in reading to help us become better readers. She has us read Raz-Kids at home. Ms. Jo helps us with our writing by teaching us the “CUPS” strategy, and how to write a persuasive piece of writing using the “OREO” strategy. She is the best teacher and we will miss her.”- Maitha and Alrayan

Grade 4:

4LE: “Ms. Lara is very kind and she helps guide us to the correct understanding of a topic. Ms. Lara also laughs a lot with us, and she is a great teacher. I have learned a lot in her class this year and have gotten very high grades. Our class will miss Ms. Lara a lot!”- Sara

4LG: “Ms. Laurie explains a topic and how to master the topic. She has also taught us how to be independent learners. Ms. Laurie also gives us rewards for our good behavior. We will miss her!”- Fatima

Grade 5:

5EB: “Ms. Erin helped us solve problems all year long. If a topic was hard she would teach it in a way that we can understand. Ms. Erin makes lessons fun and engaging. Ms. Erin is a very kind, funny, helpful and smart teacher. She teaches everything very well and in a way that all students understand. We will all miss Ms. Erin next year.”- Afra

5NL: “Ms. Nicole makes learning fun. Whenever we get stuck on a topic she helps us understand. Ms. Nicole is a very helpful teacher. If someone doesn't understand a topic she will change the assignment so they can understand the topic better. Ms. Nicole is fun, funny and a very kind teacher. We will all miss her.”-Noora

STUDENT LEADERSHIP
The Student Representative Council

The Student Council is run during ECA time and provides students the opportunity to develop leadership skills while representing the students of the Secondary School. Students are elected by their peers through a process that involved writing and presenting a speech outlining why they felt they were the best candidate to represent their Homeroom at the SRC. Below is an article written by the student body detailing their achievements this academic year.

Both the middle school and high school student council at SZPAG we got the opportunity to participate in many school events and hold different responsibilities. We were part of the jury committee who was in charge of choosing the best Door Decoration on UAE National Day Celebrations. In addition, we played a great role with the informing our homerooms about the events, dress code, and booth organizations.

For Charity Day, we met during student council weekly meeting and discussed the plan we have to inform our homerooms about such as the assigned locations, booth setup, and guiding visitors on Charity Day events. We are proud of ourselves and classmates because we met our target and raised more than 1,000,00 AED for the family our school is taking care of.

We also played a major role in ensuring that International Day Celebrations were successful and everyone enjoyed their time. As a council, we organized countries, homerooms, booths, and set up/clean up.

Finally, as a council we organized a teacher appreciation event where students wrote positive, encouraging notes as well as thank you notes to teachers. Teachers were given an envelope with all of the messages of thanks and praise, and it truly made their day! We really enjoyed this year as we participated in many successful events and wish to continue making everyone in our school happy.

Have an enjoyable break and I look forward to seeing all on September 10th.

Ms. Gayle Marshall

Head of Secondary



ECA PROGRAM

Dear Parents,

As 2016-17 academic year comes to a close we would like to celebrate the Extracurricular achievements of our students here at SZPAG.

Sheikh Zayed Private Academy for Girls provides a wide variety of extra-curricular activities (ECA) to our students. We offer many supplementary educational programs in both Arabic and English subjects. Our teachers focus on giving students the opportunity to explore core academic subjects with a focus on STEAM, which represents Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math. In addition, there are programs which offer additional study support, community service opportunities, and educational leadership roles.

Many after school activities offer cross curricular credit and experience that develop our student minds, bodies, and brains all at once. Students have had the chance to travel, debate with students from around the world, utilize planning skills to attend self-reliant camping and hiking trips, compete against other students in sports contests, write, draw, create jewelry and other pieces of fine art, and fundraise to support charitable causes and campaigns.

This year the ECA program expanded by offering activities that evolved across the K-12 spectrum by developing solid staff collaboration and organization. This allowed students with identified specific interests to have the opportunity to continue exploring and expanding their knowledge base of preferred interests, such as Art and Design I for Early Childhood students, Art and Design II for Elementary students, and Art and Design III for Secondary students. Teachers blended their service this year across the schools to share their talents and experiences with students of all ages, not just the age group they teach.

This has strengthened the service delivery and increased participation in all activities school wide. Finally, the ECA program added the new Teacher Assistant program for High School students. This offers our students experience supervising and leading younger age students under the guidance of an experienced teacher. It also provides community service hours towards graduation. This portion of the program has resulted in a spike in participation from our Secondary students, and has allowed them to contribute to their school community in a positive and productive way.

In the Early Childhood and Elementary buildings, the most popular clubs have been Relaxation Techniques and Innovators Club. These clubs boast of registrations of nearly 100 students in the terms they are offered. Relaxation Techniques is offered at three levels, Relaxation Techniques I for Early Childhood students, Relaxation Techniques II for Elementary students, and Relaxation Techniques III for Secondary Students. This program is focused on healthy activities and exercises to assist in destressing and relaxing after the long school day. Innovators Club is also offered at Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary levels. These students participate in mentally challenging high level critical thinking activities and culminate by participating in a city wide competition.

ECA are offered three days a week at SZPAG and require parental permission to attend. Students can switch clubs every term to take full advantage of the variety of activities we offer. We are proud to continue to provide educational excellence beyond the classroom with the plethora of programs offered by our outstanding staff. We look forward to continued evolution and growth of such innovative and academically rewarding clubs for years to come.

Ms Lucia

ECA coordinator



نحو عطلة صيفية مثمرة

أولياء الأمور الكرام

أهنتكم أولاً بشهر رمضان الكريم، أعاده الله علينا وعلى الأمة الإسلامية جمعاء باليمن والبركة. وأتمنى لطلبتنا الأعزاء مع قرب نهاية العام الدراسي التوفيق والنجاح الدائم.

لقد كان هذا العام الدراسي حافلاً بالعديد من الإنجازات والنجاحات التربوية والتعليمية التي حققها أبناؤنا الطلبة على مدار العام. إنجازات ما كان لها أن تتحقق لولا توفيق الله أولاً ومن ثم تضافر جهود كل القائمين على العملية التعليمية من إدارة، ومعلمات، وأولياء أمور وطلبة. فجزيل الشكر والتقدير لكل من ساهم وقدم وشارك لتحقيق هذه النجاحات، متمنية لهذه المسيرة المثمرة الاستمرار. فعلى الصعيد الأكاديمي تكللت جهود طالبات الصف الثاني عشر بالنجاح، وحققن نتائج متميزة في مادتي اللغة العربية والتربية الإسلامية، حيث تجاوز المعدل العام للطالبات في امتحان نهاية العام الدراسي نسبة 85%. وعلى الصعيد الإنساني والخيري، حصلت طالبات برنامج الأيادي المعطاءة على المركز الأول في مسابقة عون للخدمة المجتمعية، كما وصلت طالبتين من طالباتنا إلى المرحلة النهائية من مسابقة تحدي القراءة، هذا بالإضافة إلى حصول طالبة من المرحلة العليا على مقعد في برنامج نموذج الأمم المتحدة لتمثل القسم العربي لأول مرة.

وقد كانت هذه الإنجازات دليلاً قوياً على الأثر الإيجابي للشراكة القائمة بين ولي الأمر والمدرسة، والتي أسهمت بتحقيق هذه الثمار. وأكرر الشكر لأولياء الأمور على تواصلهم ودعمهم المستمر للمدرسة.

كما أشكر المعلمات ذوات الكفاءة والمهنية اللواتي حرصن على دعم وتوجيه وإرشاد الطالبات للوصول إلى هدفهن وتحقيق طموحاتهن. فالأكاديمية حريصة دوماً على استقطاب والحفاظ على هذه الكفاءات التي تعمل بجد لضمان توفير احتياجات الطالبة، ومع هذا يحزنني مع نهاية العام الدراسي أن نودع زميلة لنا أسهمت في تعليم طالباتنا وحظيت باحترام وتقدير الجميع من مدرسة، وأولياء أمور وطلبة. الأستاذة ليلي الرفاعي التي قررت مغادرتنا هذا العام، متمنين لها النجاح في رحلتها القادمة.

كما يسرني مع قرب نهاية هذا العام الدراسي أن أتمنى لطلبتنا عطلة صيفية مريحة، راجية أن يواصلوا مسيرة العمل خلال العطلة للاستعداد للعام القادم. فلتكن العطلة فرصة للعب والراحة والتسلية، ووسيلة لاستثمار الطاقة فيما ينفع. إن الحياة خطوات تمر سريعاً، وتحتاج إلى عزائم وهم قوية للوصول إلى المجد، وتحقيق الآمال والأحلام.

وكل عام وأنتم بخير، وكل عام ومسيره البناء مستمرة معاً.

أميرة صلاح

رئيسة القسم العربي

Some Note Worthy Students' Achievements

Duke of Edinburgh 2016-2017

Students completed the adventurous journey for the Bronze certificate

Fatima Ahmed AL Busaeedi Fatema Ali Kaddas Al Romaithi

Maitha Daham Mazrouei Reem Al Muhairi

Shahad Hamwi Leen Al Yammahi

Salama Saif Al Mehairbi Mariam Al Shehhi

Noor Eatamadi Lana Saleh

Mothawi Ballaith Hind Omar Al Weswasi



Interschool Basketball competition

This year the PE department coordinated an interschool Basketball tournament which included teams from 6 schools in Abu Dhabi. The SZPAG team made great efforts and succeeded in securing 2nd Place.



Mayar Al Hammadi Grade 4 was awarded

The Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak Award for excellence 2017 for The Sheikh Zayed Private Academy for Boys

Fatima Faisal Al Bussaidi (Grade 11)

The Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak Award for Excellence 2017 for The Sheikh Zayed Private Academy for Girls

Valedictorian 2017

Congratulations to Maha Jasim Mohamed Obaid Al Zaabi who achieved an overall score of 95%, the highest grade in Grade 12 this year



Grade 12 Students accepted into

universities abroad

Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada

Nabiha Ali Abdale

La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia

Leyan Helal El Saadi

Tokai University, Tokyo, Japan

Mariam Mohamed Al Muhairi & Mariam Rashed Al Marar

Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom

May Turki Aldakhil

Leeds University, West Yorkshire, United Kingdom

Asma Fo'ad Jaffal

Surrey University, Guildford, United Kingdom

Shamma Hamdan AlShkeili