

# INNOVATIONS

The Sheikh Zayed Private Academy for Girls

November / December 2017

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families of The Sheikh Zayed Private Academy for Girls,

November has gone quickly, and we have been very busy at school. Our month started off with Flag Day, continued with learning and ongoing assessments, field trips, and concluded with our National Day celebration. I would like to thank all staff and parents who have contributed to the positive school experiences of the students. We couldn't do it without you!

Early in the month, we had a team of inspectors come from GEMS education to evaluate our school on an internal inspection review. Their initial feedback was positive about our students, school and school community. A report will be shared to provide us with advice about teaching and learning, and other areas across the school. I will be happy to share our results when they are received.

In December, we had end of term exams for students, and a re-accreditation visit from The Council of International Schools and The New England Association of Schools and Colleges. This visit from the international accreditors involved an in-depth review of our policies, procedures, teaching, learning, and learning principles. We are pleased to be completing this process again as it outlines our growth and development from the last visit, until now. Suggestions for ongoing improvement will be provided. Following this inspection, our team will enter into a cycle of self-study whereby we examine our practice at school on every level. I look forward to sharing our school story with the visitors, and of course the results with our school community when they are received.

Thank you to the parents who attended our last Coffee with the Principal event held on December 12, 2017 in the theatre. A presentation was made from our Arabic department about mandated changes to our Arabic curriculum this year.

Thank you for your ongoing support in your child's learning journey and of us at school in our efforts to provide the best quality education for your children. Best wishes for a lovely and restful break. School will resume on Sunday, January 7, 2018.

Sincerely,

Janet DesJardins

Principal / CEO

The Sheikh Zayed Private Academy for Girls

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## NEWS FROM ELEMENTARY

Yee-Haw! The students of KG2 saddled-up at the Royal Stables this month. We learned about where horses live, what they eat, and how to take care of these large pets. This trip linked perfectly with our first Science topic "Sharing the Planet", which involved researching the differences and similarities between plants, animals and humans. We have learned that horses need food, water, shelter and care... just like us! Some classes were lucky enough to meet Ahmed, the veterinarian at the Royal Stables, who showed us how he takes care of horses when they are sick. On our tour, we met a very special pony named pop-eye and explored the farrier's workshop... did you know that horses wear shoes on their feet like we do? Each of our classes got a horseshoe to take back to school. After touring the stables, farrier's workshop and paddocks, we were able to ride our own ponies. When we got back to school we wrote about our four-legged adventures with our teachers. We really enjoyed our time at the Royal Stables and look forward to learning and writing about our next field trip.



### Little World Science Field Trip

Grade 3 students took a very exciting trip to Little World at Nation Towers this month. The focus of our trip was Inherited Traits which is our current Science topic. Students were broken up into different groups and completed 4 different activities.

The first activity was students created their own bar graphs to compare various traits they have such as a straight hair line or a curly hair line. They talked about how we inherit these kinds of things from our parents. After they created their bar graphs they went into a green room and took a picture of themselves and added themselves to their graphs!

The second activity we did was to understand what kind of taster we were. We used blue food dye on our tongues and then a microscope to figure out if we had super taste buds! Ask your student to show you have to do this at home!

The third activity was yoga. We were able to see how we can be twisty and bendy just like DNA! Students practiced balancing and controlling their breathing during this time.

Finally, students were able to be in the maker space area of Little World. Here they created bath bombs, drew pictures, played with starfish, and built different structures using plastic pipes.

We had a great time being explorers as we learned at the same time!



## NEWS FROM SECONDARY

Dear Parents,

November was a busy month for the students at SZPAG with National Day and Final Examinations just around the corner. The secondary school has been in a process of reforming assessment practices, and I want to thank all of you for attending the Principal's Coffee morning to discuss the steps we are taking to enhance teaching and learning and drive standards forward and the Arabic curriculum presentation.

In this month's newsletter, the mathematics department would like to give you a brief overview of what they have been focusing on in recent weeks.

### Mathematics Department

This year the math department has been working on integrating technology into their classes in order to utilize student iPads and laptops. We are very excited to become an Apple certified school and use this technology! We have been doing scavenger hunts with QR codes, Kahoot quizzes, Quizzlets, Khan Academy, and Desmos activities in high school.



Grade 11 received an invitation from ADEK to go on a field trip to the Dubai Aviation exhibition. The girls said "During this trip, we learned a lot about aviation and how a plane works. We learned about the engines, the history, and the basic aerodynamics of aviation. We learned that we will eventually be going to Mars in the year 2025. We also learned about the Falcon 9 jet and how they are working on a rocket to fly from place to place on Earth. We learned how an engine works and how crucial math and physics are to develop this technology. Part of the UAE's vision is to be one of the leading countries in aviation (especially with women)!". The girls enjoyed the field trip immensely and learned about how integral math is with all of our lives.



بمناسبة ذكرى المولد النبوي- أعاده الله على الأمة الإسلامية جمعاء بالخير والبركة- قامت طالباتنا في القسم الإعدادي والثانوي بالاحتفال بهذه المناسبة من خلال كتابة رسائل معبرة عن محبتهم للرسول صلى الله عليه وسلم، بالإضافة إلى قيام مجموعة أخرى منهن بعمل مسابقة ثقافية على شكل برنامج إذاعي حيث طرحن على الطالبات أسئلة حول السيرة النبوية، تضمنت أسئلة عن مواقف للنبي صلى الله عليه وسلم يُقْتدى بها وما يعرفه من صفاته الشريفة، ووزعن الهدايا على الفائزات. كما قمن بتوزيع بطاقات تتضمن معلومات عن النبي محمد صلى الله عليه وسلم، وأخرى عن بعض السنن النبوية وكيفية تطبيقها. وكل عام وأنتم جميعا بخير



SZPAG 46th National Day !

