

INNOVATIONS

The Sheikh Zayed Private Academy for Girls

October 2017

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families of The Sheikh Zayed Private Academy for Girls,

We have had a busy month at school with many learning opportunities, special events, and field trips happening. Thank you to all parents for their ongoing support. This week our mid-term results are being shared regarding the efforts of your children. Thank you for your attendance at these important parent teacher meetings.

October has brought to us many wonderful opportunities. Students have participated in ongoing assessments like the CAT4 test, MAP testing, and PSAT. Well done to all participants for their sustained efforts and successful outcomes.

Congratulations goes out to two of our High School students who competed in a reading challenge in Dubai. Both competitors earned a medal and certificate. Well done girls!

Earlier in the month, we held a World Skills Day event hosting 30 delegates from Hong Kong. The experience was an opportunity to share the UAE culture, and fabulous work of our students with our visitors. The delegates were students ages 16-22 years old participating in the World Skills event held here in Abu Dhabi. They were very impressed by the work and efforts of our students. SZPAG students also attended World Skills events in the city, and showcased student work at the event.

The Duke of Edinburgh award program has begun for this academic year. Students participated in a kick-off camping event held at the school.

I would like to invite you to our next 'Coffee with the Principal' event on November 7, 2017 at 8:00 am. The meeting will be held in the theatre as we had a wonderful response for our last meeting and require more space to support all of our parents. An IT workshop will be provided commencing at 8:30 am regarding the 1:1 iPad program being offered at school. I look forward to seeing you all again very soon.

Looking into November, we will commence the first of four inspections this year. GEMS, our managing company, will spend two days in our school observing and assessing our practice. We are excited to welcome the invigilators and receive feedback.

Sincerely,

Janet DesJardins

Principal / CEO

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NEWS FROM ELEMENTARY

Ready, Set, Go!

Students in grade 5 designed and engineered race cars for the F1 in Schools Challenge at Yas Marina Circuit (YMC)!

To prepare for this event, students worked in teams holding responsibilities of: team manager, graphic designer, manufacturing engineer, and resource manager. This project taught students how to collaborate better with one another while choosing a team name, designing a logo, a t-shirt and engineering a race car. Students also practiced public speaking skills during their group presentations about team's challenges and accomplishments.

During their trip YMC, students raced CO₂ (carbon dioxide) powered F1 cars they made on a 20m race track. As part of the racing statistics, each student registered their reaction time – which is how quickly they pushed a button to release the car, and how fast their car went down the track. These results were then compared to that of Lewis Hamilton's! (Some girls were actually very close to his!!!) Winners were acknowledged with a certificate and poster from YMC for the fastest reaction time, the fastest car, and the fastest average per team.

After racing their cars, students went on a tour of YMC. They were able to sit in an F1 car, see behind the scenes areas where cars are kept before the race, visit the official control room, hold trophies and have their photo taken while standing on the winner's podium. Finally, students took a ride on the F1 track where they were able to see and hear the roar of an actual F1 race car engine, and meet a professional driver! They definitely enjoyed themselves and had a great time. What a great way to start the year!



Grade 1 News

One way of thinking about math is to compare it to cooking. You can use the prescribed method, or recipe, to solve the problem, but a true chef will know what ingredients to use and why the recipe works. Over the past couple of years, US common core standards have moved from using a recipe to get a problem to having the students think about what they are doing when they are solving math problems.

Grade 1 has adopted an inquiry based math curriculum which involves lots of games, activities and puzzles that help children think about math in different ways. Our calendar time lets us practice math daily, and one new integration, number talks, helps students talk about their thinking. This new method has been backed by new research done on early childhood/elementary students in recent years.

During number talks students solve a problem mentally, early finishers may even try to solve the problem using a different method, or three different methods. Then students share their thinking as the teacher draws what the student shared. This activity shows children that math can be thought of in many different ways, but can still have the same answer.

This innovative practice will hopefully help our firsties develop better number sense and problem solving. It also helps them verbalize their thinking when it comes to mathematics, making them true mathematicians. SZPAG will be raising a generation of math chefs!

You can learn more about Number talks here: goo.gl/jkAWN7



NEWS FROM SECONDARY

Dear Parents,

We have reached the middle of Term 1 already this year and I wanted to update you on a few areas in the Secondary School. Over the last six weeks of learning, students have completed the first unit of work and interim reports have just gone out outlining your daughter's progress so far this academic year. Thank you to so many of you for attending the Progress Afternoons, and I hope you found it informative and enjoyable meeting with the teachers and staff at SZPAG.

This month, we are showcasing the English department, please read on to find out what your daughter has been doing in her English classes.

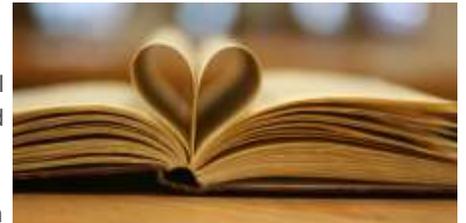
Yours Sincerely,

Gayle Marshall

Head of Secondary

The joys of reading!

As well as reading their own books for pleasure at the beginning of each English lesson, all students are enjoying a class novel for Units 1 and 2. Each grade is studying a different text and learning about characterisation, writer intentions and structure.



In grade 6, we are reading 'The Dreamer,' a novel based on the true story of a Chilean artist. Growing up with a stutter and a weak body in a strict household, Neftali finds it hard to fit in. He turns for comfort to reading and daydreaming, letting his imagination soar. Will he be able to find his confidence? Will he be able to achieve his dreams? We will have to keep reading and see...

In grade 7, students are exploring 'The Island of the Blue Dolphin.' A lot has happened to Karana, shipwrecked on this lonely isle. What skills will she have to learn to survive? Will she ever leave the island? Keep your fingers crossed that all goes well for Karana!

In grade 8, we are following the journey of Manjiro in 'Heart of a Samurai.' A poor fisherboy lost at sea in a storm, Manjiro is rescued by the "barbarian" crew of the John Howland. How will his experiences change him? Will he ever get to see his family again back in Japan? We will sail with him and see...

In grade 9, students are reading 'Wonder.' Born with physical deformities, August has a hard time fitting in. We have joined August and his sister as they learn to cope and to thrive despite the difficulties faced.

In grade 10, we are learning about 'Stargirl.' Stargirl is different. Very different. And these differences create a lot of drama at Mica High School. Will Stargirl be accepted by the other students? Or will her unique personality and strange behavior cause her a lot of problems? I know many students are hoping that she will finally be accepted...

In grade 11, we are studying 'Jane Eyre.' A classic novel, we are taken into the world of 19th century England and the life of the penniless orphan, Jane. Brought up with harsh treatment and little affection, will Jane finally find happiness? Or will disaster strike? Surely Jane deserves some luck after Lowood...

In grade 12, we have gone all the way back to the 18th century with 'Pride and Prejudice.' Born into a family where the estate will be left to a cousin, the Bennet sisters are in need of good marriages to assure their future comfort. We follow Elizabeth as she grows up in a world where family position and reputation are more important than happiness and wonder how this determined woman will fare...

Reading for pleasure is so important. It supports students' learning across the curriculum, helping to develop ideas, imagination and thinking skills as well as consolidating understanding of sentencing and punctuation. The more our students do the better!

زيارة طالبات الأكاديمية لمركز تنمية القدرات لذوي الاحتياجات الخاصة

حرصا من أكاديمية الشيخ زايد الخاصة للبنات على تعزيز روح التعاون والتكافل والاحترام في نفوس الطلبة، ودعم جهود الدولة الجبارة في مساعدة أصحاب الهمم على التغلب على متاعب الحياة ومصاعبها، وإيماننا بما وهبه الله تعالى لهم من إصرار وعزيمة ومثابرة تساعدهم على النجاح، قام فريق برنامج الأيادي المعطاءة بزيارة مركز تنمية القدرات لذوي الاحتياجات الخاصة بهدف دعم ومشاركة طلاب المركز في أنشطة مختلفة تتوعت ما بين القراءة والألعاب وإعادة التدوير، مع تقديم بعض الهدايا الرمزية لهم.

حظيت هذه الزيارة بترحيب وتقدير إدارة المركز والطلبة حيث أكدت هذه المبادرة على أهمية الدمج ما بين أصحاب الهمم وطلاب المدرسة. كما تركت أثرا إيجابيا في نفوس طالباتنا وإصرارا أكبر على دعم هذه الفئة.

فريق برنامج الأيادي المعطاءة



مشاركة طالبات من الصف الحادي عشر في مسابقة المهارات العالمية word skills

حرصا من أكاديمية الشيخ زايد الخاصة للبنات على تعزيز الابتكار والإبداع في نفوس الطالبات، وإتاحة الفرصة لهن لعرض مهارتهن، قامت طالبات من الصف الحادي عشر بالمشاركة في مسابقة المهارات العالمية والذي أقيم في أرض المعارض وذلك من خلال تقديمهن لمشروع عن " زيارة مكان له مكانة دينية أو تاريخية" في مادة التربية الإسلامية .

اختارت الطالبات قصر الحصن كمكان يحظى بأهمية تاريخية كبيرة في دولة الإمارات وقمن بتصميمه باستخدام برنامج Minecraft بحيث يحظى المشاهد على فرصة للتجول في أنحاء القصر مع تقديم نبذة مختصرة عن مكانة هذا المعلم في تعزيز التراث والثقافة في إمارة أبوظبي. لاقى مشروع الطالبات إعجابا كبيرا من الحضور.

