

أكاديمية الشيخ زايد الخاصة للبنين

THE SHEIKH ZAYED PRIVATE ACADEMY FOR BOYS

## Newsletter

Volume 5 - October 30th, 2016



### ...Coming Up...

#### CAT Testing

CAT Testing will begin this week for Grades 4, 6 and 8.

#### TALA Testing

TALA Language Assessments will begin Monday October 31st.

#### Flag Day

Flag Day celebrations will take place November 3rd.

#### Student Elections

Student council elections will take place November 13th.

#### MAP Reports

Map reports will be issued November 14th. A workshop to help parents understand MAP results will be held November 15th.

## Message from the Principal...

Dear Parents;

We are now two months into the school year and it has been a very positive start to the term.

In the last two weeks alone we have enjoyed our iPad Workshop for Parents, our Reading Workshops for Parents in KG and Grade 1, our Character Day for all students and our Coffee and Conversation event. The last of these has provided us with many good ideas, shared by parents, about how we can continue to find ways to improve the things we do to make SZPAB a really great school.

The launch of our one-to-one iPad programme has been superb, with nearly all students now in possession of their device. We have also enjoyed two very successful trips to the Zoo (KG) and the Al Najah Exhibition (Grade 8).

None of this would be possible without the amazing staff at SZPAB and the great support of our parents. Thank you for your contribution to our school community.



John Conway  
Principal / CEO

## To Remember...

### iPad Forms

Please remember to return your iPad forms if you have not done so already.

### Scholastic Book Orders

Book order due November 2nd.



## UAE National Day Art Contest

SZPAB will be holding an art contest to celebrate the U.A.E.'s 45<sup>th</sup> National Day. We need artwork that reflects U.A.E. heritage, culture and pride. The best artwork will be displayed in the reception area for everyone to see. Only original artwork that reflects National Day pride will be accepted.

Grades 1 to 3 can turn in artwork to homeroom teachers. Grades 4 to 8 can deliver their work to Miss Christina's classroom between 7:30am-8:00am and 3:00-3:15pm. Please make sure your name, grade and homeroom teacher's name is on artwork. Students can upload their work to Artsonia under National Day Contest. The last day to hand in submissions is Thursday November 17<sup>th</sup>. Winners and prizes will be announced on SZPAB's National Day Celebration. Please contact [Christina.schweitzer@zayedacademyboys.ae](mailto:Christina.schweitzer@zayedacademyboys.ae) with any questions.

#### Artwork that is accepted:

- 2-D work: paintings, drawings, coloring, scratch art, original photography
- 3-D work: sculptures, dioramas, weavings, etc.

[www.zayedacademy.ae/boys](http://www.zayedacademy.ae/boys)  
[www.gemseducation.com](http://www.gemseducation.com)

## One-to-One iPad Program Update

Lots of students have been receiving their iPads over the past two weeks and now over 380 students in Grades 3 to 8 have their own iPad. Teachers and students have been having lots of fun trying out new ways of using the iPads in lessons to make learning come alive! We are very excited about the opportunities this programme has given us. We will continue to keep you updated about some of the innovative things classes have been engaged in.

Students have been told by teachers about the behavior we expect of them when using their iPads. It is very important that teacher's instructions are followed, so that the iPads remain a support to learning rather than a distraction. If you have not returned the iPad Agreement to your child's homeroom teacher, please do so as we cannot give out the iPads until we have received this form. If you are yet to pay for your child's iPad, please contact accounts.



**THIS SCHOOL IS A**



We are in the process of becoming a nut-free zone. We are doing our best to inform our community of this. However, we cannot guarantee children will not have foods that contain nuts. For this reasons please remind your children not to share food.

### **TALA Arabic Testing**

Native Arabic students in Grades 3 and 8 will be taking the Tala Language Assessment next week in reading and writing.

TALA provides a standards-based measure of Arabic reading and writing proficiency for native Arabic speakers. TALA is computer-based and provides an adaptive test to assess each student's individual ability level. We will run TALA for reading and writing. This assessment needs no preparation. As parents, you can support your child gaining better marks in Tala Language Assessments by:

- Encouraging the use of Tala Language Assessments revision websites. We recommend <https://www.dropbox.com/s/6iayuax76lmzk53/TALA%20Vocab%20Tutorial%20640x460.mp4?dl=0>
- Discussing the tests with your child and encouraging them to make sure they do their best and answer every question.

For further information, please contact Mrs. Mona El-Saleh, Head of Arabic Department.

### **CAT Testing**

Next week, students in Grades 4, 6 and 8 will be taking CAT tests. The Cognitive Ability Tests (CAT) tests enable the school to assess students in a way that does not depend on their language skills and will provide useful data on the ability range within each section and grade. These are not academic tests, but used instead test students' ability to think and reason. We will use these to identify support programs and to give us important information for those students who have high intelligence but have difficulty with their English levels.

If you require more information about the tests or what will be expected of students, please contact your child's Home Room Teacher, Mr Rhys (Head of Elementary) or Mr Paul (Head of Secondary Teaching and Learning), who are over-seeing the management of CAT and MAP tests across the school.

## Arabic Reading Website

Students can now access [ireadarabic.com](http://ireadarabic.com) in Arabic class, a program that gives students access to hundreds Arabic e-books. [ireadarabic.com](http://ireadarabic.com) is a reading platform that uses a scientific leveled reading approach, with books from some of the best Arab children's publishers. The books are beautifully illustrated and contain voice audio features to further their listening comprehension skills.



Children can **read**, **listen**, and **answer** questions about what they have read. The quizzes along the way show the progress that your child is making. Your child can also record their reading and send it to their teacher who can then assess it for fluency and accuracy. Follow your child's progress by logging in using their account and you will know what they have read and how many missions they have left. We encourage you to use this portal several times a week in an effort to improve Arabic fluency and reading.



### Come Read to Us!

We would like to invite KG1-Grade 1 parents to come read to your child's class on Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016. It can be a story related to the current unit or a choice of your own either in English or Arabic. If you don't have a book, feel free to borrow a book from the classroom. KG timings are from 12:00-12:30 and Grade 1 from 12:15-12:45. If you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail Ms. Mona, Parent Engagement Coordinator at, [mona.khan@zayedacademyboys.ae](mailto:mona.khan@zayedacademyboys.ae).

Ms. Mona,

 SCHOLASTIC

## Scholastic

SZPAB now has a Scholastic Book Club! Once a month, students will bring home a flyer with a variety of books they can purchase. Parents can follow the link <https://world-shop.scholastic.co.uk/schools/sheikh-zayed-private-acad-for> to purchase books under The Sheikh Zayed Private Academy for Boys account online. The books will be delivered directly to the school. For every order the students purchase the school will receive points towards purchasing more books for the school library.

Due date for this month's orders is November 2nd.

[www.zayedacademy.ae/boys](http://www.zayedacademy.ae/boys)  
[www.gemseducation.com](http://www.gemseducation.com)

  
EDUCATION

## Sleep

Sleep plays a vital role in good health and well-being throughout your life. Getting enough quality sleep at the right times can help protect your mental health, physical health, quality of life, and safety.

During sleep, your body is working to support healthy brain function and maintain your physical health. In children and teens, sleep also helps support growth and development and helps the brain work properly. While you're sleeping, your brain is preparing for the next day. It's forming new pathways to help you learn and remember information.

Sleep improves learning, whether you're learning math or how to play the piano, it also helps enhance your learning and problem-solving skills. Sleep also helps you pay attention, make decisions, and be creative.

Studies also show that sleep deficiency alters activity in some parts of the brain. If you're sleep deficient, you may have trouble making decisions, solving problems, controlling your emotions and behavior, and coping with change.

Children and teens who are sleep deficient may have problems getting along with others. They may feel angry and impulsive, have mood swings, feel sad or depressed, or lack motivation. They also may have problems paying attention, and they may get lower grades and feel stressed.

1. Maintain a regular and consistent sleep schedule
2. Have a bedtime routine every night
3. Children should have the same sleeping environment every night. It should be cool, quiet and dark and without any electronics

### Number of sleeping hours required:

3 - 5 years = 11 - 13 hours

6 - 13 years = 9 - 11 hours

14 - 18 years = 8 - 10 hours



## Staying Organized

Some students are coming to and from school with a packed backpack, which can strain their back and make it more difficult for them to stay organized.

SZPAB is currently encouraging children to stay organized: to bring only the materials they need that day, and to leave unnecessary books in classrooms and lockers.

You can help with this by discussing the next day's classes with your child, and helping him or her choose only necessary materials to bring to school. If you have any questions about what should and should not go to school every day, please contact your child's teacher.



## Last Week at SZPAB...

### Character Day

Students across the school dressed up as their favorite character from a book!



### At the Zoo

Grade 2 went to the zoo this week.



### Student Work

Students across the school engaged in great learning this week.