



### ...Coming Up...

#### National Day

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

#### Scholastic Orders

Book order due November 15th.

#### Student Elections

Student council elections will take place November 13th.

#### MAP Reports

MAP parent workshops will be held Wednesday, November 16th. Uncollected MAP reports will be issued Thursday, November 17th.

#### National Day

Teachers and staff are working hard to prepare for this year's National Day celebrations, which will be held Tuesday, November 29th. More information to follow.

## Message from the Principal...

As we enter November our thoughts are turning to some of the most important occasions in the year.

Last Thursday, we celebrated Flag Day. We achieved something extraordinary by involving every student and every member of staff in a spectacular celebration, all at the same time. You may be wondering what we did, as nothing appeared on our Instagram site and nothing has been reported in this Newsletter. Well, be patient. All will be revealed soon!

The next big event is, of course, National Day and we are busy with preparations to make this another great occasion at SZPAB. Please keep reading your e-mails and other messages from the school to keep posted about what will be happening.

Later this week, we are holding workshops for parents of students in GR 2-8 to explain MAP testing. We hope you will be able to attend. You will be issued with your child's Term 1 MAP test result sheet at the workshop.

This week we welcomed parents of KG2 students to their celebration of work. Thank you to the parents for turning out in such great numbers. We were delighted by your support.

Keep supporting your school ! We will keep doing our best !

Mr John

## To Remember...

### iPad Forms

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

### SZPAB is a nut-free school

Please ensure your child does not bring any foods with nuts.

### My Learning

Look at your child's My Learning page for class information, including homework and newsletters.

### Staying organized

Please help your child stay organized by making sure he or she is only bringing what he needs to school.

## Digital and Innovative Learning: Update

There have been lots of exciting things happening here at school in the past two weeks. All classes have been working on filming short videos to add to our interactive timeline of the UAE, which we are preparing for National Day. Some students have been using the green screen room, while others have visited important places in the city.

Many classes have been enjoying using the LEGO rooms to support their learning in different subjects. In English, LEGO has supported their work on narrative writing and in Science the students will be using LEGO machines to better understand the concept of force.

In class, students are using iPads in lots of different ways. In Art, Ms Christina has been using the Artsonia app to allow students to build their own picture galleries. In Maths, French, Arabic and homeroom, lots of students have been enjoying using the Kahoot quiz app to test their understanding.

We are still distributing iPads in Grades 3 to 8. Over 420 students now have these. If you have paid for your child's iPad please make sure you return the iPad User Agreement, if you have not already done so. If you have not yet paid for the iPad, please contact the accounts department.



### Instagram

The school has an Instagram account to document some of the great things happening at school. Please join us at [szpa.boys](https://www.instagram.com/szpa.boys).



### My Learning

Parents should have received letters this week explaining how to access our virtual learning platform 'My Learning'. This is a great way for you to read class newsletters, check to see what homework has been set for your child and also find resources to support your child's learning at home.

## MAP Reports & Workshops

We have recently completed our first cycle of MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) tests for students in Grades 2 - 8. We look forward to welcoming you to a Parent Workshop on Wednesday, November 16, which will explain what the test assesses and how to read the report. Reports will be available for collection at the workshop. If you are unable to attend your child will bring the report home on Thursday, November 17.



Reading

The times of the workshop are 8:00am - 9:00am; 1:45pm - 2:45pm; and 5:00pm - 6:00pm. The content of the workshops will be the same. Please attend the workshop most convenient for you.



### Developing the Language of Learning at Home

All our students are learning through a 2<sup>nd</sup> language and to acquire the academic English they need to fully understand the curriculum is a big job. Remember when your children were learning to speak Arabic? Their first conversations were social; talking about what they need, what they want, and what they like. Learning to speak a 2<sup>nd</sup> language, regardless of how old you are, begins in the same way.

Academic English, however, is very different to day-to-day, social English. Academic language develops later, takes much longer and is essential if students are to fully access the curriculum, and become strong, independent learners, ready to contribute to a knowledge-based economy.

Parents have expressed concerns about how to support their children with this at home and, if you are not fully confident in your own English language skills, you may not be sure where to start. Here is one short, simple strategy you can use today which can help your child develop his language of learning.

1. *Sit with him* after school for 10 minutes
2. *Identify* a concept your child is beginning to understand in Math, Science or any subject and say **"Teach me!"** YOU become the student and he will be your teacher.
3. *Choose* a **concept word**, "hypothesis" or "quotient" for example, and ask him to *explain* what it means.
4. Perhaps he will need to use Arabic to do this, or maybe he will need a dictionary. That is OK! *Together* you can practice using Academic English to talk *about* learning.

For more information, please contact EAL Coordinator Magz Bray at [margaret.Bray@zayedacademyboys.ae](mailto:margaret.Bray@zayedacademyboys.ae)

## Why Do Teachers Assign Homework?

Homework reinforces skills, concepts and information learned in class. It helps children develop good habits and attitudes. Homework teaches children to work independently and develop self-discipline, at the same time encourages taking initiative and responsibility for completing a task. Assignments provide some children with their first chance to manage time and meet deadlines. But most importantly, homework allows parents to have an active role in their child's education and to evaluate their progress. It can be important to help children set up homework routine. You can help with this by:

- **Setting a Regular Time:** Regular time for homework helps children finish assignments. After school activities are very important for your child physical and social development, BUT homework must be a high priority.
- **Picking a Place:** A study area should have lots of light and be fairly quiet. Your child may enjoy decorating a special study corner. A plant, a brightly colored container to hold pencils, or some favorite artwork taped to the walls can make study time more pleasant.
- **Removing Distractions:** Turn off the television and discourage social telephone calls during homework time. A call to a classmate about an assignment may, however, be helpful. Some children work well with quiet background music, but loud noise from radio can be a distraction.
- **Providing Resources:** A child needs to have appropriate supplies (e.g.: pencils, pens, erasers, pencil sharpener, ruler, writing papers, dictionary) nearby when studying. This avoids frequent reasons to get up and get distracted.

## Grade 8 Field Trip

Students in Grade 8 attended the NAJAH Exhibition in Abu Dhabi. This exhibition gave students an opportunity to find out about higher education opportunities



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

## Early Years Thank You

Thank you for making our first "Come Read to Me" event successful for KG1-Gr.1! We had 23 parents participate and are hoping for many more to come in our next 'come read to me' which will be on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> 2016 from 12:00-12:30. Make sure to save the date on your calendar and contact your child's homeroom teacher for further information.

  
EDUCATION



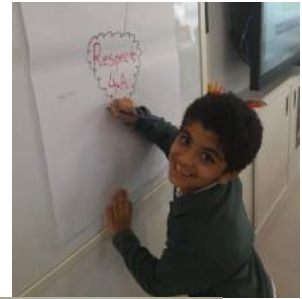
## My Identity Program

My Identity is a core program at SZPAB. It was created through the initiative of Her Highness Sheikha Shamsa Bint Hamadan bin Mohammed Al Nahyan to promote the personal and social development; and national identity of our students.

During the month of October, students focused on the value of Respect through conversations, activities and assemblies.

The value for both November and December is National Identity.

هويتى  
MY IDENTITY



## KG2 Celebration of Learning

KG2 had a successful first Celebration of Learning this past Thursday! More than 70 parents were in attendance to take part in closing the unit "My Community." Students performed songs and read books, took a photo journey of the learning and progress that happened in the first eight weeks of school, played educational games, and then reflected on their portfolio work with their parents. This event will happen at the end of each unit of study and we would love to have more parents share this special experience with their child.

KG1 parents are invited to the KG1 Celebration of Learning on this Thursday November 17, 2016 at 8:15 in their child's classroom. We look forward to seeing you there!



## Last Week at SZPAB...

Student Learning  
The KG students enjoying their learning



## Gifted and Talented

The students selected for the SZPAB 'Gifted and Talented' program had the opportunity to go to New York University, Abu Dhabi to participate in a 'Persuasive Speaking' workshop on the Sunday evening of October 31st. The course is designed to promote "self-awareness, team building, conflict resolution and design thinking" but for the SZPAB boys it was a chance to make friends and challenge themselves to be the best leaders they can be. Next month the team will be participating at the University in the brother program on Leadership.

