



Volume 9 - January 15th

...Coming Up...

Student Progress Meetings

Student progress meetings will be held January 17-18th. There will be an early dismissal Tuesday at 12:30.

Coffee & Conversation

Our next parent Coffee & Conversation and parent workshops will be held January 26th.

School Open House

The week of February 5th we will have an open house for new parents and families. More details to follow.

ECA registration will begin Sunday.

This term, ECA registration will take place online. You will receive an email on Sunday January 15th. Click on the link and follow the steps to register your child. Please note that all clubs will fill up quickly and we will then use a waiting list. We will confirm your child's place by email, or phone you if there is a problem with your application.

Message from the Principal...

Dear Parents;

I would like to wish all parents a happy and prosperous 2017 and to let you know that I have been delighted with the positive way in which our wonderful students have approached the first week of 2017 at SZPAB.

Our school is flourishing and, as well as our focus on academic improvement, we are looking forward to a busy Term 2 in many other ways. Our Sports Days will soon be announced, as well as our first swimming competitions and a group of older students will be going to Austria for the first ever SZPA Ski Trip, in March.

I am delighted to inform you that we have also begun the process of becoming a fully accredited American Curriculum school and this week we were given 'Eligibility Status' by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). The NEASC accreditor was very impressed by the parents and students he met with and commented that the school felt far more established than a school that only been opened 4 terms ago.

I have also been delighted by the parent response to our survey with over 90% of parents agreeing or 'strongly' agreeing about every category in the survey.

We will only become an even better school with your support and I am very happy that your support can be counted on.

John Conway
Principal

Coming Up...

Read With Your Child

Early years (KG1-Grade 1) parents are invited again to come read to your child's homeroom students on Thursday, January 19th. 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 your child's homeroom teacher.

Early Years Workshop

Early years will hold its third parent workshop Wednesday January 25th. We will provide further details closer to the date. Make sure to save the date on your calendar!

Coffee & Conversation Workshops

Following our monthly parent Coffee and Conversation we will be holding workshops intended to help you with your child's learning. These will focus on supporting your child at home, and the meaning and importance of homework.

Digital Learning Update

iPads

If you purchased a school iPad in December, these will be delivered in school very soon. They will be assigned to students as soon as possible after they arrive.



Coding is here!

This term Grades 6 to 8 will be exploring the world of coding! The classes will be learning how to code for themselves, using the Apple Swift programming language, which is used by professionals to build many of today's most popular apps.

Understanding coding is a very useful skill. Code powers virtually everything around us. When you turn your car on, code lets your key talk to the engine. When you want pizza, code places your online order. And when you use your favorite apps, code lets you send a message and share a photo.

Over the next few months, the students will be working with the digital learning coaches to understand the key concepts needed to code and also try some coding challenges.

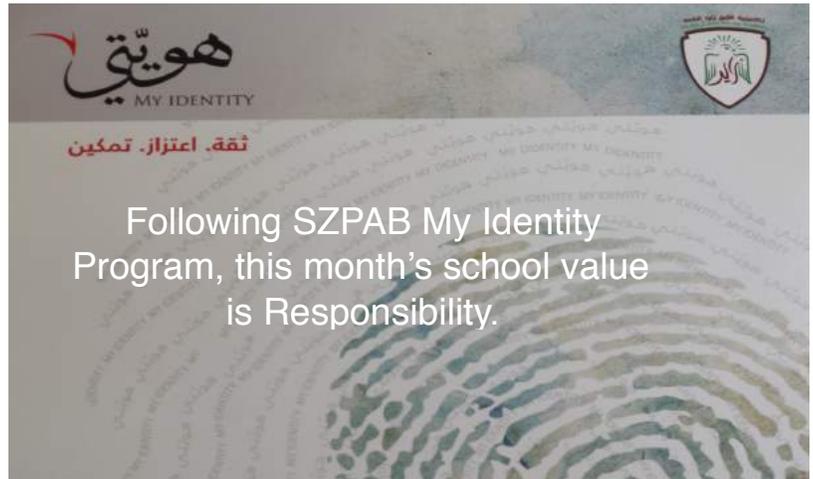
Student Digital Leaders - Grade 4 to 8

This week in assemblies, I have been telling the students in Grades 4-8 about an exciting leadership opportunity. Two students in every grade will have the chance to become Digital Leaders, supporting both students and teachers in digital learning. The roles will involve: testing and reviewing new apps and equipment; delivering training and sharing their skills with staff and students; leading presentations in assemblies; and many other responsibilities.



School Open House

The week of February 5th, SZPAB will hold an Open House Week to encourage applications from parents of children who are not currently enrolled at our school. This will give them a chance to see the great learning experiences that take place every day at SZPAB. If you know of anyone interested, please let them know. Sessions will be held from 9am to 10:30am all five days, with time for a tour and question period. Interested families must contact Nidaa at reception in order to book a space.



SZPAB Volunteers

SZPAB spent a month fundraising for the Red Crescent, collecting donations from families across the school.

'Gifted and Talented' International Math competition

Last trimester thirteen boys from the 'Gifted and Talented' program participated in an International Math competition conducted by the University of Waterloo, Canada. Our boys competed against students from China, India, America and England to be rated amongst the strongest mathematicians in the world. The competition was separated into two parts, completed over two hours.

All our students did their best but special recognition must be awarded to Abdullah Shams from 6A who rated within the top twenty-five percent of participants. Ahmed Al Mansoori also performed well. Well done to all those who participated. This was our first attempt and we will look to do even better next year.



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