



...Dates To
Remember...

World Happiness Day

World Happiness Day will be celebrated on March 20th in Early Years.

Celebration of Learning

KG will have their Celebration of Learning March 21st.

Bookwork Book Fair

The Bookworm Book Fair will take place March 11th to the 15th. Students and parents are welcome.

Ataya

Ataya celebrations will take place Thursday March 15th.

Spring Holiday

The last day of school before the Spring Holiday will be March 22nd. Classes will resume April 8th.

Message from the Principal...

Dear Parents,

I am sure many of you will have seen the wonderful images on Instagram and Facebook of our superb Sports Days.

The Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium was the perfect venue for our older boys, while our younger students had great fun at their sports days at school. As an inclusive school, we are keen that as many of our students participate as possible, irrespective of their ability, and that was the case. Days like these bring our whole community together and I was delighted that so many parents came to watch. It seems some parents would like to have joined in... Maybe next year!

This week is another big one at SZPAB. Ataya Day will be held on Thursday for the whole school, and we hope to raise record amounts of cash to support the families of children with genetically inherited visual impairment in Mauritania. This is important, not only from the charitable perspective, but also in raising our students' awareness of those in need in other parts of the world.

Examinations begin this week for our older students. We have been delighted by the parental support for our 'no exam leave' strategy at both SZPA schools. We know that this is not the usual pattern for some schools in Abu Dhabi, but we are very pleased that our families trust the expertise of those leading our schools in striving for better attainment for our students.

As always, I wish to thank parents for continuing to support our school as it goes from strength to strength. Without you, this would not be possible.

Yours in education,
John Conway

Important Notice: Secondary Exam Leave

Teaching During Exam Periods

At the Sheikh Zayed Private Academies, we practice the highest standards with the highest academic expectations of students.

As with most schools, at the end of every term, from Grade 6 upwards, students sit examinations that contribute to their final grade on their ESIS Report. We take these end of term examinations very seriously.

Exam Leave

In many schools in Abu Dhabi, there is a practice of sending students home after their exam, with the expectation that they will study independently. In our view, this is not a practice that is supportive of our students' best interests. The SZPAs will not follow this practice and will not permit exam leave until students are in Grade 12.

There is no evidence at all that sending children home after exams produces improved grades. In fact, in many countries, worldwide, the practice of providing exam leave is being phased out. The prime reason for this change is that it is understood that the majority of students do not possess the independent learning skills necessary to work effectively at home, without teacher supervision. When students stay in school, they spend time with the teachers that teach them and who wrote the exam paper. For this reason, students are prepared much more thoroughly in school than they would be by a tutor or by working alone.

Once exams are completed on any given day, students will continue with revision for forthcoming exams or commence work on new units.

High Professional Standards

SZPA teachers have the highest professional standards and are prepared to correct examination papers and write reports after school hours, rather than lose vital curriculum time with students, as is sometimes the practice elsewhere.

Examination evidence based on MAP data and our own assessments, indicates outstanding progress for SZPA students across all age ranges. With this in mind, we believe parents should feel assured that we are acting in the best interests of students.

Yours in education
John Conway

March 2018							My Identity Theme: Communication											
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	11	11-15	11-15	13	19	20	20	21	21	22	25	
				1	2	3												
4	5	6	7	8	9	10												
11	12	13	14	15	16	17												
18	19	20	21	22	23	24												
25	26	27	28	29	30	31												

Digital Update: GEMS Innovation Leaders Network Meeting

Grade 9 students Khalifa Al Shamsi, Abdulrahman Al Thani and Ali Al Qubaisi accompanied Ms Courtenay to the GEMS Innovation Leaders Meeting at GAA on Wednesday March 7th.

At this meeting they discussed how GEMS schools could continue to embed a culture of creativity and innovation. The boys did fantastically well, and offered very good opinions and suggestions at the meeting. They spent time networking with school leaders from other schools and were able to put forward a student perspective.

One student said that they appreciated the opportunity to help shape the future of innovation in our schools. The boys represented the school well, and Ms. Courtney was very proud of how they conducted themselves.





Night of the Arts

Sheikh Zayed Private Academy for Boys

May 1st
6-7:30 pm

Come and join us for a Night of the Arts! Watch live performances by students and local musicians. Check out the students artwork, coding and design skills in our SZPAB Gallery!

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and ParentPoint!

Remember to follow up on ParentPoint, Instagram and Facebook. Click the QR code to see our newly-launched Facebook page.



Bookworm Book Fair is back!

Join us this week at school for the Bookworm Book Fair, where students can purchase all their favorites series and books.





SZPAB Sports Days

Have a look at some of the great moments during this year's SZPAB Sports Days.



www.zayedacademy.ae/boys
www.gemseducation.com