



DECEMBER 2017 & JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

**Semester One Exam Days -December 14th, 17th, 18, 19, and 20th, 2017 -Regular School Hours will be in Effect
Last Day of School before the Winter Break—Wednesday December 20th, 2017
First Day of Semester Two— Tuesday January 2nd, 2018**

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

*December 14 to
20—Semester 1
exams*

*December 17th—
Parent Advisory
Committee
Meeting*

*December 20th
will be the last
day for students*

***December 21 will
be a make up
exam day, not a
regular school
day***

*December 22,
2017 to January
1, 2018 Winter
Break*

*January 2, 2018
first day of
school for term 3*

*January 21st—
Parent Advisory
Committee
Meeting*

*January 25, 2018
to February 3rd
Mid Year Vaca-
tion*

Semester One Exams

Semester one exams are being held before Christmas this year to facilitate subject review and the Ministry Arabic Exam schedule. Semester one exam days are scheduled for December 14, 17, 18, 19, 20. December 21st has been scheduled as a day to accommodate students who have missed exams. Only students who are required to write a missed exam are to attend school on this day. Exams schedules will be sent home with students and will be posted on the school website. Note that computer and second language exams will be held in class before December 14th. Exams will be administered in the time block of 8:00 am-10:30 am. Classes will then be held each day until 2:30 pm to review the next day's exams as well as provide revision classes for the upcoming Ministry Exams. Wednesday December 20th will be the last day of school for most students. Only students who have to complete a make up exam will be expected to come to school on December 21st. Student busing will not be provided to students who will be completing a make up exam. Please note the schedule for Arabic, Arabic Social Studies and Religion will be shared the week of Dec. 17th by the stage administrators in a separate notice.

Requests for Bus Change at the End of the Day

From time to time, the transportation department will receive a request from a parent for a student to ride a bus that is other than the one they normally take at the end of the day. Please note these requests are not usually accommodated due to student safety and available seating on the requested bus. During times when a 'special' circumstance arises, then a change of bus at the end of the day will be considered. Notifications for such requests should come to the transportation department **the day before** the change is to take place. Once again,

changing buses is not a practice the school encourages. Requests for bus changes are to address 'special' situations that may arise in the family.

Student Presentations at DAIS

Grade 8 TED—XD—Led by Mr. Amr, Middle School English teacher. On Tuesday December 5th, our grade 8 students gave a series of TED—XD (ideas worth spreading) talks. Delivering their speeches in the DAIS auditorium to an audience composed of high school students, a number of topics were addressed. Staged similarly to the TEDx talks seen on YouTube, individual students demonstrated skills related to public speaking and persuasive delivery. Some of the topics included "individual beauty is not just a physical characteristic"; "schools of the past and today"; and "being different does not make you less". Each individual presentation, lasting 7 to 10 minutes, was delivered using a personal experience to help deepen the impact of the presentation. Overall the speeches were very powerful and demonstrated excellent reflective thought on the behalf of our students. Please refer to the school Facebook page for pictures of this event.

Dover Days— Breaking News— Led by Ms. Rania our middle school English teacher. Students in grades 6 and 7 on December 6th and 7th presented before parents. Staged in the school auditorium, students used a news reporter's format to present a cross curricular activity. During the presentation, a couple of news anchors hosted and introduced topics. Stories were presented by individual students who presented for approximately 5 minutes. These individual stories highlighted topics related to the arts, music, sports, history, the environment and current news. Video was used to enhance the presentations. The 25 parents who came to the presentation were very impressed with the overall event.

Please Note

The last day of school for all students is December 20th, 2017. Only those students who need to complete a make up exam will be required to attend school on December 21st. School busing will not be provided on December 21st .

Social Studies Drama— Led by Ms. Hoda Zaki. Students in grade 7A,7C and 8C demonstrated their learning through drama presentations. On December 6th, grade 7C gave a presentation on the “Black Death of the Middle Ages” and 8C gave a presentation on “Alexander the Great”. On December 7th, grade 7A also completed a play in the auditorium. Their topic was the “History of West Africa”. All three presentations were viewed by approximately 25 parents who expressed their appreciation of the great work completed by our students.

Kindergarten Field Games Day

December 7th, the Kindergarten department hosted a Field Games Day. Eight classes composed of 120 students from Pre- K, KG 1 and KG 2 participated in the events. We are proud to report that just over 90 parents participated in the activities. The event began at 8:30 a.m. and ran through until 10:30 a.m. Games included musical chairs, pulling ropes, popping balloons, car racing, bowling, jumping balloons and potato sack races. The strong contribution of our senior students to the events ensured the success of the festival. We extend a warm thank you to all the high school students who assisted with the activities. A ‘tip of the hat’ is also extended to our P.E. staff and our Kindergarten teachers for their efforts in planning this successful event. Finally, a special thank you is extended to Captain Ali, P.E Supervisor and Ms. Rania Bahgat, V.P. Kindergarten Department for the leadership they provided throughout the day. Parents are encouraged to visit our school Facebook page to view pictures of this special event.

Parent Advisory Council

The Parent Advisory Council met on November 26th and discussed a number of issues. The meeting began with Ms. Rania Bahgat, V.P. for the Kindergarten Department, providing a presentation concerning the Kindergarten program. It was stressed that the program is based on the Common Core Curriculum and Virginia State Standards. Specialty teachers related to the second language program (German or French), Art, Music, Arabic, Religion and Physical Education are employed to ensure quality programing. Ms. Rania noted in her talk that kindergarten children are regularly exposed to activity based learning. Direct teaching and center based learning is also used throughout the program. The use of manipulatives to support learning is a regular classroom practice. Ms. Rania stressed that new learning is always ‘scaffolded’ on the students’ current knowledge

and skills. When students demonstrate gaps in learning, the teacher works closely with their co-teachers to provide the necessary support for individual or small group review. Numeracy and Literacy are of primary importance as they represent the two major skill areas necessary for new learning to be built upon. It was noted that character development is also a major life skill that is being taught and modelled through daily lessons. When students are drawn into conflict situations, the kindergarten staff ensure these personal issues are addressed quickly. Safety is a primary priority. However, it was also stressed that personal conflicts provide opportunities for reflection and citizenship building. Staff always discuss choices with students. Reflecting on positive and negative choices help children to develop the skills necessary to become a happy productive citizen. After the presentation, Ms. Rania addressed questions related to: the use of technology in the classroom, how teacher evaluation takes place and the procedures employed to ensure student safety. After the presentation, updates were provided concerning the upcoming exam schedule. It was noted that Arabic exams will take place the week after the winter break. Arabic, Arabic Social Studies and Religion revision will take place during the December regular school exam schedule. Parents were asked if they prefer “Parent Conferences” during the week or on Saturdays. There was majority support for the “Parent Conference Days” continuing on designated Saturdays. This will ensure that most working parents will have the opportunity to be available for these important student meetings. Parents also received some information on the Professional Development Day planned for February 2017. Visiting Faculty of Education professors from Sir Wilfrid Laurier University will focus on topics related to Google Docs ,strategies to strengthen literacy in the classroom and peer coaching. The Kindergarten department will be receiving specialized in-service that will stretch over the two days of professional development.

Advisory Committee Members and Contact Information

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Advisory Committee—Next Meeting Dates:

December 17th , 2017

January 21st, 2017

Dispensing of Medication to Students—Change in School Policy

At DAIS, we are constantly reviewing our school policies to ensure our practices are up to date and safe. Recently there was a review of our policy concerning the dispensing of medication to students. There are a number of students who attend DAIS who receive medication on a regular basis. Others may be taking medication over a short period of time to address a particular health issue. In all cases, it is important to ensure that the medication is dispensed in an appropriate manner. The privacy of the student is also a concern. To ensure these issues are being addressed, all medication will be administered in our clinic by our medical staff. Teachers and co-teachers will no longer be providing this service to students. **Parents who wish to have their child(ren) receive medication at school must complete a permission form.** This form may be requested through the stage supervisor.