



## NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2018

### Parent Conference Day

Thursday November 22nd, 2018—(8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

**Please Note Students do not attend school on the Parent Conference Day**

#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

November 4th – Term2 Begins

November 18th – Parent Advisory Council Meeting –

November 18th – 22nd – School Book Fair

November 20th – Prophet's Birthday – Holiday

November 21st – Port Said vs. DAIS – Soccer Tournament

November 22nd – Parent Conference Day - note students do not attend school on this day

November 25th – MAP Testing begins

#### Revised Purpose and Direction

##### **Purpose**

Educating for Success in a Changing World

##### **Direction**

DAIS guides students to achieve success based on high academic standards through a culture of integrity and diversity. Upon graduation, our students are ready for an ever changing world.

Diversity

Achievement

Integrity

Success

The Purpose and Direction is supported by the following guiding principles.

**Our Guiding Principles** - Children learn best:

In a safe, respectful and supportive environment where they feel valued and know that their teachers have confidence in their ability to learn.

In a challenging environment where they are inspired to do their best, to apply themselves to their studies, to take responsible risks and to strive for continual improvement.

When their teachers address their individual needs, thereby acknowledging that people have different kinds of minds, learn in different ways and progress at different rates.

When they are actively engaged and when their teachers employ a wide repertoire of teaching and learning strategies.

When they receive meaningful and timely feedback on what they do well and how they can improve.

When parents, students and teachers work together in a positive partnership

When they make connections, apply their knowledge and utilize higher level thinking skills.

In a well-prepared and resource-rich environment that integrates information technologies.

Every five years the school is required, due to the accreditation process, to review our Purpose and Direction Statement. This review has taken place over the last eight months. Input has been received by parents, students and teachers. The outcome of these consultations

did not result in a great change in our current document. Language has been simplified and shortened to assist our stakeholders in remembering the key points emphasized in the statement. It is important to note that at DAIS, we believe providing our students with the ability to successfully address change is a key element to their future success.

#### **Parent Advisory Council**

The council was provided a copy of the revised Purpose and Direction for the school. Our Purpose and Direction is revised every five years. Discussion also took place concerning the partnership with Laurier University. Professors will be returning to DAIS in March 2019 for follow up professional development sessions with our teachers. Conversation concerning the classroom unit planning process also occurred. Issues related to school fees were also addressed. The next meeting will take place on November 18th, 2018.

#### **Halloween Activities**

As in past years, the focus of our DAIS Halloween events have been to support the needs of those who are not as fortunate. The day continues to be a filled with colorful costumes. KG and Elementary students come dressed as witches, ghosts and a variety of their favorite characters. However instead of 'trick or treating' for themselves, students fundraised for others.

**Kindergarten**—worked with the local Shorouk Charity Group. Using a theme of "Lanterns for Literacy" KG parents donated clothes to the cause. On October 31, students traveled through the school "trick or treating" for pocket change. This fundraising drive through the school raised 7310 Le for literacy. We would like to extend a special thank you to Ms. Tracy Sidki, Ms. Rim Hassan and Ms. Mona Maher from the Shorouk Charity Group for supporting our special day.



### **Halloween Activities Cont.**

**Elementary**— Under the banner of “*Scare for Hope*”, the elementary students paraded through the halls of the school. Costumes were shared along with a request to donate to those in need. Both staff and students were generous with their donations. Parents can also send in donations with their children next week; the closing date will be November 8th. 2018

**Middle School**— Enjoyed a fun filled afternoon of events organized by our senior students. Thanks to the organizational efforts of the following senior students Zeina Rostom, Maniem Shaaban, Jamila Khalil, Habiba Ashraf, Salma Arafa and Mariam Ewais. Joumana Rashed and Ahmed Sharkawy also provided support to the organizing committee. Events included a number of games and a fashion show highlighting the various customs worn by our students. Feedback from the middle school students indicated the afternoon activities were very enjoyable and successful.

**High School**—on Thursday November 1st, a high school dance took place. Organized by our senior students and supported by our school staff, the dance took place between 6:00 pm and 10:00 pm. The theme for the evening was “*The Purge*”. Participants came dressed in various costumes that highlighted the theme. The evening activity hosted over two hundred students. We extend a special thank you to our student and staff organizers for their efforts in creating a very successful event. A special salute is provided to all the staff members who supported this student event. A number of teachers, security guards, administrative staff and senior administration members arrived at 5:30 p.m. and stayed well past 11:00 p.m. until the last students were safely returning home. We thank them for their dedication and commitment to our students!

### **Parent Conference—Thursday November 22nd 2018**

**Hours— 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

### **Special Note—Students do not attend school on this day**

Did you know that parental involvement is a strong predictor of academic success? Teachers want you to attend conferences and be involved in your children’s school lives. This is an exciting opportunity for both you and the teacher! To make the most of this opportunity, here are 10 important questions to ask during a parent teacher conference.

**1)** How do you best prefer to communicate with me? **2)** What do you see as my child’s strengths? **3)** What do you think are the academic challenges for my child? **4)** What would you do if my child were struggling academically with something? **5)** How is my child doing socially? **6)** How do you support students in their social development? For example, how do you address challenges that happen at during break periods? **7)** Is my child on grade level for reading? What about math, science and writing? **8)** How does the school handle standardized testing and prepare for those tests? **9)** Can we talk more about your homework policy and how my child is doing with homework? **10)** What can I do at home to support what you’re doing in the classroom?

If you are concerned about something, start with a positive comment first such as, “Thank you for taking the time to meet with me today.” Then use an “I message” such as, “I’m concerned,” to bring up the topic. Also, be sure to tell the teacher what you’re doing at home to solve the problem. That will show your intent to work with the teacher to find the best solution for your child. Above all, remember to keep your conference friendly and positive. Just like the old adage says, you’ll catch more flies with honey than vinegar. Be positive and solution-oriented. You and your child’s teacher can be a strong team of support for your child. Make this first meeting a helpful stepping-stone in a successful parent-school partnership.

### **Book Fair—November 18th to 22nd, 2018**

This is a great opportunity to purchase age appropriate and high interest books for your children. The book fair will be located in our front lobby and be open for sales through the each school day. It will also be open to parents during the Parent Conference Day.

### **Student Safety**

Student safety is always a number one priority for DAIS. All staff members take this priority with a high degree of importance. As our school continues to grow, there has been a rising concern of the morning drop off and the afternoon pick up of students. The flow of vehicles and people in the area is increasing. This increased traffic flow has made the area very congested during these periods during the day. As a response to this issue, the school has assigned two staff members to assist with the flow of traffic and the movement students in the area. We ask your support by respecting these staff members as they stop vehicles to allow students to safely cross the road. In turn, they will be preventing students and adults from crossing to allow for the safe flow of traffic. The safety of all our community members can never be understated. We thank all parents and drivers who are responsible for transporting our students to school for respecting this new procedure .

### **MAP—Testing—Gr.3 to Gr. 9—Week of Nov. 25th, 2018**

This testing is very important for providing a clear diagnosis in language and mathematics. The data is used for determining next steps for individual students, grades and school planning. This academic year, MAP testing will be included in the grade book assessment. It is very important that all students approach this testing with their utmost attention.



### **School Photos**

**Please send your children ready for pictures on these following dates:**

November 5—Pre K; Kg 1; Kg 2

November 7—Gr. 6; Gr. 7

November 8—Gr.8; Gr.9; Gr.10; Gr.11

November 11—Gr.1; Gr.2; Gr.3

November 12—Gr. 4; Gr.5