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## Performing Arts

### Rock Challenge 2010

“Hello” to all parents and students, After the success of last year’s performance, ‘Global Dreamer’, I am pleased to announce that VISS will be participating in the 2010 Junior Rock Challenge Dubai.

The Rock Challenge is a chance for schools to take part in a performing arts spectacular. While the result is a professional event, staged in Dubai’s top venues, the Rock challenge is about having fun while making healthy lifestyle choices.

The Junior Rock Challenge, one of the biggest dance and drama competitions between schools, will be held in April or May 2010.

At this stage it will be open to children in Grades 4 to 8 (up to 12yrs). Senior students will be involved as a part of the creative production team.

Students will receive a detailed letter outlining the event in the coming weeks. Until then Please check the Website:

[www.globalrockchallenge.com.au](http://www.globalrockchallenge.com.au) for more details.

**Elle Giles**  
Performing Arts Teacher

## Sports Activities

House and Interschool sporting competitions are ready to resume and new House leaders are about to be elected at VISS.

An interschool table tennis competition among schools of the Emirates International Schools Sports Association will be held at VISS late in October for Boys and Girls 16 years and under, and 14 years and under. Competitions are being held at recess and lunchtimes to select the VISS teams.

Dodge ball, Basketball and Football House competitions are about to commence.

House meetings will be held next week to elect captains and Vice-Captains.

**Les Rauert**  
Manager of Community and Sport Development



## School Canteen

### What’s New at Canteen

The canteen for the Junior School is in full operation, with some new items on the menu. The canteen menu can be found on the school web site under the tab “school news letter”-Notices. Junior School students must order one day in advance, please see the table below.

Order day	Delivery day
Sunday	Monday
Monday	Tuesday
Tuesday	Wednesday
Wednesday	Thursday
Thursday	Sunday

The order must be written on an envelope, sealed with the **correct amount of money** placed inside. Please note that **NO** change will be given. The following information should be written clearly on the outside of the envelope

- Students name
- Home group
- Date of delivery
- Items to be ordered including quantity and prices
- Total amount of money in the envelope

Please see your home group teacher for envelopes or you can get them from the Junior School reception.

**Jodi Lamshed**  
Canteen Manager

## From the Principal ‘s Desk

The past week at VISS has been one of significant increased activity as the school resumed the full educational program following the Eid break and reduced hours for the first month of school. Information evenings were held for parents with students enrolled in the Junior and Middle schools. (Dates have also been set for meetings with parents of the ELC and senior students). In this context, I would like to thank the parents who attended and the staff who organised the evenings, as they proved to be most informative and well received by all.

These evenings provided me with my first real opportunity to meet parents, discuss matters of common interest, receive feedback on the performance of our school generally, but in particular how our school might best meet the needs of our students. In essence your expectations, not surprisingly, were centred on the school meeting the educational, social, emotional and spiritual needs of your children, our students, and to ensure their safety and security whilst in our care.

As a school we are very conscious of our responsibilities in regard to these matters and take seriously all decisions that impact on our students and their education.

In order to realise our vision of ‘*personal excellence within a global lifelong learning community*’ we must be driven by an underlying philosophy of *continuous improvement* where we are constantly looking through a critical lens that provides clarity and direction for the way forward. In this column, over the course of the next few months, I will endeavour to provide information and evidence of this approach.

VISS has now been established for two years during which time many policies and practices have been introduced in order to give effect to the operation of the school. Included in these have been policies and practices that ensure the safety and security of our students whilst in our care.

In this context, would parents please note the following:

1. Student information – in the course of the next few days you will receive a copy of all administrative information held on file as it relates to your child/ren. It is important that you read and note any changes to contact information or any other relevant details and return it school. In case of an emergency the school **must** have all current contact details.
2. Student Safety - external gates are now locked during school hours to ensure that access to the school can

only be gained through the administration and ELC areas. In deciding on these changes consideration has been given to the wide ranging, even disparate views within our community. The safety and security of students overrides any personal inconvenience that may be experienced by parents or others accessing the school during school hours. The School would be derelict in its duty of care if it did not act to address a potential **safety and security** problem.

Put simply, our school will continue to do all that is possible to protect our students from any **potential risk of accident while in our care**.

**Gordon Pratt**  
Executive Principal

The School will remain closed from November 26<sup>th</sup> to December 5<sup>th</sup> inclusive, on account of Eid Al-Adha and UAE National Day Celebrations.

## Quote of the Fortnight

“All who have accomplished great things have had a great aim, have fixed their gaze on a goal which was high, one which sometimes seemed impossible.”

Orison Swett Marden

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## Junior School News

### Assessment is More Than Testing

Student learning is more than what can be measured by just one test or exam. Teachers see and know far more about a student's learning than one exam and a percentage or score can indicate. Assessment in VISS classrooms is happening every day and the teachers maintain records to document the growth of student learning.

### What do we assess?

#### Discipline based or Academic Learning

- Understanding of information across the subjects, with a stronger focus on English and Mathematics at the lower levels
- Procedural knowledge of the subject
- How to apply the learning to different areas
- Academic growth and attitudes.

#### Interdisciplinary Learning

- Communication skills
- Thinking skills and problem solving
- Information and Communication Technology skills (computers)
- Design creativity and technology (designing, creating and making).

#### Physical Personal, Social/Life long learning

- Health and Physical Education

- Social development and group skills
- Personal development, including work habits, self management and organizational skills
- Attitudes to learning
- Understanding of their local area and the world.

### How do teachers assess?

Teachers use a wide range of methods of assessment

- Listening, observing and recording how the child reads, solves a problem or completes a task
- Interviewing and conferencing with the students about their learning
- Giving the student guidelines (criteria) on what will be assessed and then talking through this with the child when they have completed the task
- Written and oral testing of the child
  - \* before they teach a concept to find out what the child already knows
  - \* testing after to check what they have learnt
- Writing and work samples such as journals, learning logs, power points
- Performances, demonstrations and exhibitions.

Jan Senior  
Principal Junior School



Ms Jessica busy with assessment test



Ms Gay reading with GR 1



Ms Janice reading with KG2

## Junior School SRC

We would like to congratulate the students from Grades 3, 4 and 5 who have been elected by their classmates as this semester's Student Representatives in the Junior School. They will be officially introduced and inducted during our JS Assembly on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> October. As student leaders they will take part in class meetings, Junior School assemblies and Whole School initiatives. Each SRC member will adopt a variety of roles and responsibilities which will help them develop leadership skills.

### Shelter Box Fundraising

Towards the end of last year, our SRC members from Junior, Middle and Senior School worked hard to raise funds for Shelter Box ([www.shelterbox.org](http://www.shelterbox.org)). The SRC sold ice-creams which were kindly donated by Nabil Kadami, Managing Director of Oasis Foods International. It was with his generosity and the wonderful support of Jodi Lamshed in the VISS canteen that helped us raise over two thousand dirhams for this cause. We will continue to support Shelter Box and other organisations throughout this year and look forward to developing the compassion and understanding of all our students here at VISS.

John Donaldson  
Junior School SRC

## Parents and Friends Association News

It was wonderful to meet many of you at the Information nights last week, and the Morning Tea held this past Sunday in the Senior School wavy room. Gordon and I enjoyed meeting many of you on these occasions.

The initial response to the Parents & Friends Association has been amazing and positive, with many parents looking forward to being a part of a strong and active parent body and a new chapter at VISS.

Several of you have spoken to me about some of the meeting times being in the evening to allow for working parents to attend. I am happy to look at this option and will advise of any changes through future correspondence. I will email all information through the school server and will have notifications posted on the VISS website.

Currently the VISS website is undergoing some transformation to allow for interactive use by parents. In recent weeks news and information relating to the school has been posted. I encourage you to use this website as an information source. Go to [www.viss.ae](http://www.viss.ae) then access Newsletters/Notices and Calendar information.

Our first meeting is on October 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am at the senior school campus. If

you have any comments or queries that you would like to raise and are unable to attend please email myself at: [parents@viss.ae](mailto:parents@viss.ae)  
Once again thank-you for your support and we look forward to an exciting new beginning at VISS.

Julie Howell,  
President Parent Association

## Dates for Your Diary

- \*Tuesday October 6<sup>th</sup> - Individual Learning Plan (ILP) Parent Interviews.
- \*Monday October 12<sup>th</sup> - Senior School information Evening - 6:00 pm, Middle School Curvy Room
- \*Tuesday October 13<sup>th</sup> -
- \*Friday October 30<sup>th</sup> - VCE Written Exams
- Friday October 30<sup>th</sup> - World Teacher's Day.
- \*Thursday November 5<sup>th</sup> - End of Term 1.
- \*Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup> - Start of Term 2.