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VISS Parents Association News

It is hard to believe we are in Mid-November already. It has been a busy year since my arrival at VISS in January 2009. Before we know it, 2010 will be here.

Last Week we held our first evening meeting for the Parents Association as many parents had requested this, but unfortunately only a few turned up. We did proceed with the meeting and had an informal chat with Gordon Pratt and the parents who attended. It is important for a Parent association to be part of school; the key to the success of a group like this is YOU, the parents. It is a relaxed forum where we are able to discuss any issues, events or ideas for our children or the VISS community. Please come along and be a part of the continual growth and development of our school.

The following day, we had a Coffee morning at Al Qasba. This was a lovely morning with a great turn up of parents, many from ELC and Junior school. Some mentioned it would be good for some Middle school parents to be there so they can also chat to them. We had a lovely time and enjoyed the chance to meet new people. We will try to organize monthly social get togethers. As many parents in our community have busy office timings we will arrange

evening events such as our meetings which are followed by supper. A lunch is being organized by Hejah Hindi and myself on December 10th (Thursday) at Sharjah Ladies Club. This is an all inclusive buffet at AED75 per head. This is open to all Mothers, grandmothers and friends of VISS community, (please note this is a ladies only function). A separate letter will follow.

The Read-a-Thon, I mentioned in the last few notices, will now run next year in 2010 from mid January. Information will be given to the students after the winter break. Please support this initiative, whilst it is a fund raising event, the primary focus is to get students reading!

Gordon has kindly offered the Parents Association a permanent room to work from in the Senior School campus. Now that we have this room, we will use it well for meetings, social events, and any creative activities we plan in the future. If you have any ideas of something to offer such as Arabic classes, Quilting or craft groups, to use as class social rooms etc., please let me know.

The next scheduled meeting is on December 15th. If possible, I would like some feedback as to whether a morning or evening meeting is preferable. Please indicate your preference by emailing me directly at parents@viss.ae. It is scheduled to be a morning meeting. I have had many problems with my emails over

the last few months and I have responded to all emails that I have received. I will ALWAYS respond to your emails. If you have not heard from me it could be due to these technical problems. Please email again and I will respond. If you would like to speak to me directly please contact the school. To all families celebrating Eid I wish you a safe and happy celebration.

To our Emirati Families, Happy National Day.

Julie Howell
President
VISS Parents Association

Dates for Your Diary

***Thursday November 19th** -
Celebration of Learning – Whole School

***Thursday November 19th** -
Information session for ELC Parents 1:30 pm

***Wednesday November 25th** -
UAE National Day/ WS Celebration

***Thursday November 26th -
Saturday December 5th**
Eid Al-Adha and UAE National Day break

***Friday December 18th - Sunday
January 3rd**
School break

***Monday January 4th, 2010**
School will resume.

From the Principal 's Desk

Gardens of Hope

Last week, several of our Grade 4 and 5 students were chosen to read to the owner of our school, His Highness Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, at the opening of the Sharjah Book Fair. Junior and Middle School VISS students have been involved in a project of illustrating stories written by children from Gaza about their war experiences. Kalimat Publishing owner, Sheikha Bodur Al Qasimi, chose quite a number of the VISS illustrations for publication in the book *Gardens of Hope*, a charity project. Congratulations to the children who had their illustrations published, and to Ms Ghada on her initiative to involve the school in this project. Thank you also to Ms Valda and Ms Maree for their contribution in supporting students with their artwork. These experiences give students the opportunity to develop empathy and respect in line with our school values.



Developing Parent teacher partnerships

It has been a delight to see so many parents attend the class morning and afternoon teas in the Junior School. These occasions provide opportunities for parents to meet and develop social connections with other parents in their child's grade level. The sessions were organised by the Grade 1-5 teachers. Volunteers from each of these Grade level parent groups will continue to provide opportunities for our parent community in liaison with the Parent's Association.



Parent Information Evening

Children like their parents to be involved with the School and support their learning. On Tuesday evening a large group of parents from Grade 1 and the ELC attended a Literacy and Numeracy Information Evening conducted by Ms Linden, Ms Joanne, Ms Jess, Ms Gay and Ms Hayley, our Grade 1 teachers. The parents were

given the opportunity to develop an understanding of the teaching methodology used at VISS, and how and why, the opportunity to explore and discover enhances the students learning.



Celebration of Learning in the Junior School

We look forward to seeing you all at the Celebration of Learning on Thursday November 19th. The focus of our inquiry unit this term has been on Expression through the Arts. The Junior School has an assembly in the Lower Floor Wavy Room starting promptly at 11.00 am with musical items, followed by performances in the classrooms at 11.45 am – 12.30 noon. Please bring along a small healthy lunch to share with your own child after this event. Middle School celebration of Learning will follow at 1:35pm - 2:55 pm.

Jan Senior
Principal Junior School



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Early Learning Centre News

Cooking with parents

The KGB-2 children have been very lucky and had two mothers come into class and cook with the children. One day we made fresh pizzas and the next week we made hot-dogs in dough.

In both experiences, the children helped and learnt about mathematical skills such as pouring, stirring, rolling and measuring in a fun and exciting way. The children watched as Ahmed's mother rolled out the pizza dough and covered it with cheese, mushrooms and tomatoes. Abdulkareem's mother helped the children roll out some dough and place small hot dogs on it. The food was then cooked in the ELC oven and the smell permeated throughout the whole ELC building, exciting all our taste buds. Bartoul set the classroom tables up and as a group we enjoyed eating our healthy food. KG2B would like to thank the parents for giving us their time as it adds another dimension to the children's learning in a fun and informal way.

Veronica Martin KG 2B Teacher



Senior Schools News

Excursion to D.S.N.C

In English we have been reading "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time". It is about a boy who suffers from autism, so we went on an excursion to the Dubai Special Needs Centre.

We met the Student Coordinator, Ms Shirley, of the D.S.N.C and she told us facts about the people with autism.

In the beginning I was interested, but after actually seeing people with autism or any other disability I started feeling sad and depressed because they are not like us. They don't live like we do and they don't do things we do. But I was happy for them because they had such caring and loving people, and because they had friends they would talk to, basically they are like a family now.

The students there were happy when they saw us, especially the little kids, and we were happy to see them as well. In total it was a great experience for me to meet and understand students my age with mental and physical disabilities.

Saad Ramadan GR 11B Student

The Dubai Special Needs Centre has a variety of facilities like a gym, basketball court, swimming pool, trampoline, soft play area, vocational courses and even a 'snoozelroom' for the students. The teachers are specially qualified and every one of these students have dreams and hopes that they hope to achieve one day. The teachers work really hard in this centre to help them to achieve it and they believe that nothing is impossible.

The most inspiring thing for me about this visit was that even though they have a disability they have smiles on their faces, they are friendly and they just want to be loved by everyone! 'Together for a better future' is their motto.

Nelize Strydom GR 11B Student



Junior School Canteen News

On Thursday the grade 1-2 had a pizza day. This day was a great success. In the coming months we will have more special food days for the Grade 1-2.

The Junior School canteen is open on Monday and Wednesdays, Grade 3-5 students can bring money and buy directly from the canteen. The menu includes a selection of sandwiches, pizza, muffins, fresh fruit, juices and milk.

We are looking for parent volunteers to help in the Junior School canteen for a couple of hours per week. If you are interested in helping out please leave your name and phone number at the front office and I will call you back. On Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday Junior school students can order lunch orders as normal.

Canteen news

As of the 6th December mini pizzas and mini fatayers will be 3Dhs each, you will no longer be able to buy 2 for 5 Dhs. The middle/senior school canteen have a range of small muffins 4Dhs, vanilla, blue berry and chocolate chip.

Thank you

Jodi Lamshed Canteen Manager