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Senior School News

Greeting to One and All

Ramadan Kareem to all.

Welcome back to all students and staff for the 2009 -2010 school year. The year is off to a flying start with the Senior School already hard at work for two weeks. I would especially like to welcome the new staff and students that have joined us over the last month. It has been very pleasing to see a number of new enrolments into the senior school with students coming from school all over Sharjah, Dubai and internationally.

Staff new to the Senior School includes:

- Khalid Al Amasy - Arabic and Islamic
- Helen Carson - Chemistry
- Theresa Gate - Accounting
- Les Rauert - Health and Human Development
- Cassandra Crevola - Information Technology
- Hedia Kadous - Mathematics
- Reem Al Ashek - French

Over the coming months the Senior School staff look to working hard to maximise the learning opportunities and develop pathways for each student in the Senior School. If you have any questions or queries regarding the Senior School please contact me on 06 577 1999.

In celebration for the holy month of

Ramadan our Arabic and Islamic teachers will be conducting Ramadan cultural quizzes throughout the month, there will be prizes for the winners who will be announced at the end of the Holy month.

Craig Lamshed
Principal Senior School

Shaping up Careers

Dear Parents,
At V.I.S.S we are currently implementing a Work Experience program and anticipate that it will be formalised in order for our current Grade 11 students to have work placements for either one or two weeks in the latter part of 2009.

As the Careers manager at V.I.S.S, I would like to invite parents to assist us with the implementation of the program by offering a placement for one of our students at your work place or business. Work Experience programs has shown that there is real potential for the practical training experience to complement VCE studies and to help students improve performance in their VCE due to increased awareness of the application and relevance of their learning.

Our students are interested in a range of career pathways; teaching, medicine, philosophy, animal health,

community welfare, journalism, media, personal fitness coaching to name a few.

I would appreciate any feedback or proposal that would assist our efforts to involve our students in the Work Experience program.

Please contact me at school, fill out the coupon below or alternatively by e-mail rubio.valda@viss.ae or mobile on 050-1081830.

Valda Rubio
Assistant Student Manager
Senior School

COUPON				
Name	:	:	:	:
Business	:	:	:	:
Contact details	:	:	:	:
Mob	:	:	:	:
Fax	:	:	:	:

From the Principal

At the outset of the academic year 2009/10, I would like to say how delighted I am to have taken up the position of Executive Principal. This is truly a wonderful school! As we commence the third year of our operation, I have great confidence in the school's ability to deliver a quality educational program for our students.

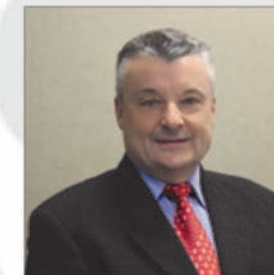
My appointment comes at a time when the school is growing, facilities are reaching completion and much, that was intended for students by way of additional programs will come to fruition over the next few months.

In respect of my appointment, I am delighted to be offered this opportunity to lead our school through this next stage in its development. As an educator with some 40 years of experience and with a significant background in school leadership, to come to VISS at this time is both exciting and challenging.

Until recently, I was the Principal of Brighton Primary School (Melbourne, Australia), a position that I held for the past 11 years. During this time, I led the school through a process of accreditation as an International School and its authorisation to enable the International Baccalaureate (IB) program to be taught.

Our year at VISS has commenced well with many students returning

from an extended holiday and a number of students who are attending VISS for the first time. I extend a warm welcome to all and specifically to those who are new to VISS. I do trust that your time will be enjoyable, productive and ultimately highly successful. The academic year has begun well with programs underway and students engaged in learning.



Registration procedures have been much smoother this year and to this end I would like to express my appreciation to Noel Creece and the admin team for the preparatory work done over the holiday period. Whilst a significant number of students have now enrolled there are however, a number of parents yet to finalise this process. I do understand that the coincidence of the opening of the school and the month of Ramadan has been difficult for some parents; however, your cooperation in completing the process would be of great assistance to our planning and program development.

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On a disappointing note, it is my duty to inform you that our outstanding Middle School Principal, Noel Creece will be returning to Australia at the end of the month. Noel has gained a position as

Principal of Lara Lake Primary School (Melbourne), which he joins in early October. Albeit that I have been here briefly, I know he will be sorely missed at VISS. As a founding member of the Principal team at VISS, his contribution over the past two years to the development of our school has been enormous. Noel is a person of high integrity, who has worked hard to ensure that the students for whom he is responsible have been given the best opportunity to develop their individual skills and abilities. I am confident that I speak on behalf of our community, Noel, in expressing our appreciation of your contribution to VISS, and in passing on our very best wishes for your future!

Gordon Pratt
Executive Principal

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Junior School News

Unity in Diversity

This week our Junior School students and staff returned refreshed from the summer break, having travelled to a vast number of countries, visiting family and friends and/or enhancing their understandings of our wonderful world.

We certainly live in an upwardly mobile world, and whilst it makes life more complex, with students from more than forty differing countries at our school, we are fortunate to have our own global community. We welcome all new staff members and VISS families.

In the first three weeks before the Eid Al Fitr break, we devote time to settling students into their classrooms, getting to know their new classmates, exploring their differences and their similarities and appreciating the diversity in our community.

Each class teacher works with the students in their grade to develop a happy and stimulating learning community, establishing routines and rules and exploring the school values, *Diversity, Excellence, Learning for All* and *Integrity*. The teaching and learning focus is

on literacy and numeracy, and assessing students for learning. Individual Learning Plans are developed for each child and as well as programs that cater for the range of learning needs. We look forward to an exciting year of learning.

Jan Senior
Principal Junior School

ELC News

Unique Learning Experience

The Early Learning Centre is always a lively educational setting and this year has been no exception with six three year old groups and five four year old groups starting this week. We provide a play based education and socialisation program for children before they commence school.

Parents are the child's first teachers, being there as the child learns to talk, walk and explore the world by watching, copying and questioning. This learning continues as the teachers support children to explore their many questions together.

Our Early Learning Centre has adopted the Reggio Emilia approach. This is an educational philosophy which allows

children to explore and discover their interests in a supportive and enriching environment.

It is through this type of program that children will develop life skills to allow for continued learning, deep thinking and curiosity. The best learning takes place when the children feel safe, secure and comfortable in familiar surroundings. Our students are supported by well educated, specially trained, caring and encouraging staff members.

We would like to welcome the new families and staff members that have joined the Early Learning Centre this year.

Janice Burke
Manager Early Learning Centre



Middle School News

Goodbye and Best Wishes

Ramadan Kareem to all students and families. This is my farewell newsletter as Principal of Middle School as you will read below. It was great to see all the smiling, happy faces return to school on Monday last week. There were many new students at the assembly held last Tuesday which brought the team together for the first time. Students were freshly presented in full school uniform and they looked very smart. I trust this will set the tone for the rest of the year and I thank parents for their support of our goals.

The start of the year is always filled with optimism about the good things to come. The fact that the beginning of the school year coincided with the Holy Month of Ramadan is a fantastic thing. It brings the school together and gives us the chance to celebrate the diversity of our student population.

As well as welcoming new students and families to the school, I would like to acknowledge the influx of new teachers.

The Middle School welcomes the

following staff:

Ms. Cassandra Crevola – French, Media and Information Technology Teacher
Mr. Mark Innes – Technology Teacher
Ms. Helen Carson – Science Teacher
Ms. Hediah Kadous – Science and Maths Teacher
Ms. Jan O'Brien – Grade 6 Teacher
Mr. Christian Crevola – Grade 6 Teacher
Ms. Theresa Gate – Grade 7 Teacher
Ms. Hanadi – Arabic Teacher

The Leading Teachers in the Middle School are Mr. Ryan McNeil (Grade 6/7 Learning Leader); Ms. Chris Paynter (Grade 8-10 Learning Leader); Ms. Rajas Govender (Teacher Coach/Inquiry) and Ms. Viv Foley (Teacher Coach). These fine professionals form the core of leadership that brings the teaching and learning together in our area. Mr. Ryan is new to the team, having shifted from the Junior School over the summer. We welcome him into the fold and know that he brings an energy and knowledge that will be an asset to the group.

This is also a sad occasion for me as I bid farewell to the entire VISS community. I have gained a position as Principal of a school in Victoria. It begins on October 5th. I fly out of Sharjah for the last time in late September/early October.

I would like to sincerely thank all staff, students and parents for their incredibly friendly and kind treatment of me over the last 2½ years. I have always felt appreciated and respected. The chance for me and my two children to live and respect life in a Muslim country has opened up our eyes to the real world not necessarily portrayed accurately in the West. It has been my deep privilege to know you and I am very sad to be leaving. I will miss you all very much.

God bless and may life be good to you and your precious children. They meant so much to me....

Noel Creece
Principal Middle School

School Canteen

Canteen Facility

The canteen is open during the month of Ramadan for middle/senior school students. After Ramadan the canteen will be open at the Junior school.

Jodi Lamshed
Canteen Manager