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Rock Challenge

The Rock Challenge was an amazing experience for all students and teachers who participated in it; it was on 2nd of May at Gems World Academy. It was our first year to participate in such an event. We have been practicing for about 3 months.

We had a team of over 75 people including performers, make up crew and back stage crew.

There were about 5 schools in the Rock Challenge including Victoria International School of Sharjah (VISS), American Academy, for Girls, Wellington, Gems World Academy and the English College.

We won the spirit award. Hopefully next year we will get a 1st prize plus a spirit award.

Elle Giles
Performing Arts Teacher



The Spirit of Rock Challenge

Parents and Friends Group

Parents and Friends Group held its first meeting on June 7th Sunday and formed a temporary committee.

A second meeting will be held on 17th June Wednesday at 10:30 am. Morning tea will be provided.

Dates for Your Diary

***Thursday June 18th** -
Celebration of Learning - Junior School- Upper Wavy Room.

***Thursday July 2nd** -
Last Day of 2008-2009 school year.

***Sunday August 23rd** -
Starting date of the 2009-2010 school year - formal classes (Grade 11- 12 - 13).

***Sunday August 30th** -
Starting date of 2009-2010 school year - formal classes (ELC/KG to Grade 10).

School Canteen



The canteen will be running as normal throughout the summer time table. The canteen has 3 NEW flavours of fresh juice; Lemonade, Red grape, Berry Cocktail, 1.5Dhs each.

Junior School

The Junior School canteen is operating on an order only basis, student must have their order in the day before. The next Special Food Day for the Junior School will be Tuesday 16th of June. The special food will be pasta and a drink at the cost of 10 Dhs.

Middle/Senior School

On the 18th of June the Middle/Senior School will be having a Special Food Day. The special food will be pizza at the cost of 5 Dhs. There will be 3 types of pizza; Meat Lovers, Margarita, and Vegetarian.

Jodi Lamshed
Canteen Manager

From the Principal

*The School Magazine is on its way to the printer and will be distributed to students in two weeks time. Under the leadership of Tim Rahilly the Magazine Committee have done a great job in capturing the memories of the 2008/2009 school year at VISS. I'm sure students and parents alike will treasure the magazine for years to come. Special thanks to Mr Tim for this excellent contribution.

*Teachers are now busy preparing reports for second semester. As previously advised the last assessable work for the year will be completed on Thursday 19 June. However students will continue learning programs till the end of the school year. This does not apply to senior students whose programs are on a southern hemisphere school year.

*Our summer class timings are now well in place. The reduced break times have been welcomed by most with the earlier end of the day for students which allows them to be home earlier. In the breaks activities for students are being focused indoors. Thanks to Mr Les and many other supporting teachers for making indoor games including chess and table tennis available for students.

A House Competition in the Junior School multi-purpose hall has again generated enthusiastic participation of students.

*Staffing arrangements for 2009/2010 have almost been completed. At this stage new teachers have accepted appointments to join VISS in August. Full details, including the name of the Executive Principal, will be made public soon.

Yours in Learning

Rob Blachford
Foundation Principal
Victoria International School of Sharjah

Feature Teacher

Les Rauert



Les Rauert came to VISS in July 2007 after a broad range of experiences in teaching and sport management and organisation. He has teaching and sports science qualifications from Melbourne University and the University of Western Australia.

Starting his career as a PE teacher in Victoria, Mr Les then taught in Darwin, in Australia's Northern Territory, becoming a Principal Education Officer with responsibilities in Health, PE and school sport.

He then was appointed to the role of National Executive Director of *School Sport Australia*, based in Canberra, overseeing Australia's school sport program during which time he helped start *Aussie Sports*, a modified sports program for children. During this time he presented papers at International Conferences on school sport.

He returned to teaching and to Victoria, teaching at several schools including Carey and Xavier, and marrying Ms Jan before coming to Sharjah.

Les has a passion for children's sport and keenly awaits the completion of the VISS Community Centre.

Les teachers Grade 1 and 2 PE, manages the House and Inter-school sport program, the *After School Activities* and *Community Activities* programs and currently co-ordinates the VISS Student Leadership program.

Les Rauert
Manager of Community and Sport Development



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Junior School News

Kinder Transition to Grade 1

The Kinder children have been visiting the Junior School to prepare them for the transition to Grade One next year.

As part of this process we have been attending the assemblies, going to classes and playing outside in the yard. We do this to ensure the children will feel at ease about moving to another part of the school and so that the teachers in the Junior School get to know your child. Today (31 May) the KGC children spent a lesson in the Art room with Ms. Badia.

Ms. Badia helped the children make colorful fish and butterflies. The children all worked very hard and enjoyed their time.

Ezzat: "I made a fish, it was great".
Amna: "I made a colorful butterfly using the paper".
Adel: "Ms. Badia was nice, I liked her room".

Veronica Martin
KGC Teacher



Middle School News

Areas of Study for Term 4

In **Humanities**, Grades 6 and 7 have been focusing their learning on the **geography** of Australia and the UAE, the natural features of the land, and the impact of people on the changing environment. Their inquiry involves identifying and defining the different types of landforms in each country and discovering how the land affects the lifestyles of the inhabitants and what responsibility people have in protecting the environment.

In **English**, the focus is on **Reports** as a text type and students will examine the life of a historical or contemporary individual as the basis of their inquiry and report writing.

Both grades continue the excellent work they have been doing in their **guided reading** rotations and now, having completed all the required reading strategies, put their knowledge into action by committing to and promoting, an environmental issue of their choice.

Science sees the students completing their work on the human body and begin chemical science where they look at:

- Chemical reactions
- Designing their own simple experiments
- Investigating the contribution Australian and other scientists have made to improve or change science knowledge and people's lives.

ICT and Cross – age tutoring

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) introduces a new era of schooling for the 21st century. This requires that students be skilled in the use of communications technology, working in a collaborative team environment and having the capacity to lead by coaching and mentoring. To this end we have introduced innovative strategies such as blogging, into our Middle Years curriculum. Both Grades 6A and 6B have been working with 9B students to learn how to create gmail addresses and blogs. The 9B students acted as instructors and assisted the Grade 6 students in acquiring the skills necessary to write a book review and post their reviews onto blogs. This occurred over a series of lessons and gives both grades an authentic purpose for their work as well as the chance to share it with a wider

audience than just their grade. In addition to enhancing the value of learning by accessing a real world wide audience, students learn to use ICT appropriately in a world where communication is technology driven.

Carlene Matthews
Learning Leader, Grades 6-7

