

SPOTS



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 18 Issue 19 / June 12, 2016

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Congratulations to the Class of 2016

Our best wishes for a bright future. We are very proud of you!



MONTH AT A GLANCE (K-12 All School Event; PS = Primary School; ES = Elementary School; MS = Middle School; HS = High School; DAAPA; MESAC/EAC)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	WEEKEND
JUNE, 2016					
12 PS/ES Day 3 MS/HS Day 5	13 PS/ES Day 4 MS/HS Day 6	14 PS/ES Day 5 MS/HS Day 7	15 PS/ES Day 6 MS/HS Day 8	16 PS/ES Day 7 MS/HS Day 1	17 18
Ramadan timings in effect. 8:30 am – 1:30 pm All Grades					
	HS Ramadan Food Drive / PS Bookfair / ES Bookfair				
		HS Locker Clean-out	HS Exams		
				Grade 8 Completion Ceremony 12:15pm 7:00 pm Grade 8 Dance DAA Auditorium	
19 PS/ES Day 8 MS/HS Day 2	20 PS/ES Day 9 MS/HS Day 3	21 PS/ES Day 10 MS/HS Day 4	22 PS/ES Day 1 MS/HS Day 5	23 PS/ES Day 2 MS/HS Day 6	24 25
HS Exams / MS June Week					
ES Student Council Ramadan Food Drive	ES Student Council Ramadan Food Drive		Grade 5 Completion Ceremony 9:00am DAA Aud. Doors open at 8:30am	ES White Shirt Dress Down Day	
26 PS/ES Day 3 MS/HS Day 7	27 PS/ES Day 4 MS/HS Day 8	28	29	30	1 2
	MS MOGA Last Day of School 12:00 Dismissal				

GEMS - DUBAI AMERICAN ACADEMY

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ALL SCHOOL NEWS

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENTS' OFFICE

Dear DAA Families,

It has been a terrific school year and the finish line is in sight! We've passed several more important annual traditions in the past two weeks, including our High School Graduation, and we're looking forward to the Grade 8 Completion Ceremony and the Grade 5 Graduation very soon. Exams begin in the high school this week, while culminating projects, units, and assessments are happening across the school. As this is our last full edition of SPOTS for the year, I would like to remind or alert parents to several important matters.

DAA will be a construction zone over most of the summer. We have projects scheduled to begin June 28, the day after school ends for students. While some projects will be delayed till our longer, two-week breaks next year, we have others that will be finished by the time our students start school again on August 28. For your convenience, below follows a list of key dates between our return to school in August and the commencement of our winter break on December 15.

Thursday, August 25	New Student Orientation: HS – 9:30; MS – 10:30; ES – 11:30; & PS – 12:30
Sunday, August 28	First day of school for students in Grades 1-12
Monday, August 29	First day of school for KG1 and KG2 students
September 11-13	* Arafat Day and Eid Al Adha (school closure only if announced by KHDA)
Tuesday, September 20	Professional Learning Day – faculty in attendance; no school for students
Sunday, October 2	* Islamic New Year (school closure only if announced by KHDA)
Tuesday, October 11	Professional Learning Day – faculty in attendance; no school for students
Wednesday-Thursday, October 19-20	Parent-Teacher Conferences: PS and ES <i>only</i>
Sunday, October 30	** Diwali, GEMS-announced half-day holiday; school dismissal at 12:00 pm
Wednesday-Thursday, November 16-17	Parent-Teachers Conferences November 16: MS only November 17: MS and HS
Thursday, November 24	Thanksgiving (no school)
Wednesday, November 30	* Martyrs Day (school closure only if announced by KHDA)
Thursday, December 1	PS and ES: End of Trimester 1
Friday - Saturday, December 2-3	* UAE National Day; any school closures related to this holiday will become official only when announced by KHDA
Sunday, December 4	PS and ES: Start of Trimester 2
Monday, December 12	* Prophet Mohammed's Birthday (PBUH) (school closure only if announced by KHDA)
Thursday, December 15	Beginning of Winter Holiday; school dismissal at 12:00pm

ALL SCHOOL NEWS, continued

We had a brilliant HS Graduation on Thursday, June 2. I would like to congratulate Scott Schaffner and his entire team on a terrific ceremony. I was so impressed by the speeches given by our valedictorian and salutatorian this year that I requested permission from Sizhuo Liu and Siddharth Ramachandran to include the texts of their speeches in this edition of SPOTS. I think many of you who have younger children will be impressed as I was with Sizhuo's and Siddharth's maturity and insight.

I wish you all tremendous summer holidays. For those families who will not be returning to Dubai and DAA, I wish you the best. For those of you who will be returning, I look forward to working with you again in the next school year. Thank you all for your continued support!

Kind Regards,
Jim Hardin
Superintendent / CEO

Valedictorian Address by Sizhuo Liu

Families, faculty, distinguished guests, and Class of 2016, good evening.

I would like to first extend my gratitude to all the teachers and administrators for working so hard to make us enjoy tonight's ceremony and for giving me this extraordinary honor to deliver my speech. I'd also like to thank my parents and my brother for having to deal with my mood swings and breakdowns, especially during these last two years, and for their encouragement during the difficult times when I completely doubted myself. You've done more than I've ever deserved, and I would never have made it to this stage without your support.

This afternoon, as I was getting ready for the ceremony, it hit me hard that today is the day: we are finally graduating. I can still remember my first year at DAA as an 8th grader, a time when I struggled to express myself because of language difficulties, when I needed my ELL teacher by my side to help me understand the lectures in science class, when many people thought that I wouldn't even make it through that first year. And now here I am, fortunate enough to represent my class and speak on stage tonight. But I'm not the only one who's been through this: I know that throughout high school, every single person wearing a blue gown has faced and overcome some kind of obstacle that they should be proud of themselves for, whether it's scoring a point at a sport game or avoiding late-night procrastination during exam periods. It is these challenges over the years that make us who we are today and allow us to better prepare ourselves for the more difficult path lying ahead. And so I want to take a moment to recall our collective past at DAA, the shared memories that transformed us from relatively innocent middle schoolers to mature adults.

To me, our high school experience can be best described as the chapters of a novel. In it, every page records those trivial yet memorable moments that we will never forget: the days not so long ago when we tried to avoid Mr. Starr in the hallway because our Extended Essay documents only had the titles written down...three weeks after the deadline, when we walked out of the IB physics exam having no idea what just happened and ready to sign the petition, when we watched the multitude of waterfalls INSIDE the building on rainy days and wondered if the school was ever gonna fix the ceilings, when English class taught us that life is about choices and we are entitled to make the wrong ones, but thankfully, Ms. Codita made sure that we still made the right ones...most of the time. Flipping through these pages, you'll see that over the past few years, our class has bonded in the remembrance of the atrium spotlights we've all watched, the subjects we've all loved, or...just loved to hate, and the fire drills we've all appreciated because they totally happened at the "perfect timing."

After all, we are a special class: uniquely sculpted, we come together as one of the most diverse and accomplished group of people I've ever seen. There are graduates on this stage who are top photographers, artists, or athletes. There are others who absolutely kill math, physics, history and other hard-core IB classes. But the real question that we have to ask ourselves tonight is: what are we going to do with the skills that we've earned from high school? In what ways are we going to continue writing the sequel of our high school lives? After tonight, we will step into the more difficult world of college and job search, no longer restricted by the school dress code or mom and dad's 10pm curfew. With this freedom comes the responsibility of choices: we alone determine how our talents are bestowed upon the world, to either further our passion and utilize our skills for something meaningful or indulge ourselves in the momentary approvals and never move forward. Ultimately, we are the authors who create the stories that shape our lives.

ALL SCHOOL NEWS, continued

And so finally, to my fellow graduates, as you embark on the next stage of your lives, I urge you to do what you love and to explore the different options that the world has to offer. The millions of opportunities and temptations around might give us a hard time, but always keep in mind the impacts that our actions will make on others and remember to choose wisely. Before I end my speech, I want to let you know that you have been the most wonderful group of people I've ever met. As calm as I try to be standing here, I have to admit that it is still heartbreaking to have to say this goodbye. I cannot feel more proud to be part of this class, because as far as I remember, most of you sitting here have done something in the past that brightened my day. You might not remember as this could have been as small as a smile in the hallway or a sweet happy birthday message on Facebook, but it's exactly these little moments that made my last five years as unforgettable as it is – and I'm really grateful for that. I will miss you all, and I hope that this bond we've created as a class can last a lifetime.

Good luck, and congratulations Class of 2016. We made it through. Thank you.

Salutatorian Address by Siddharth Ramachandran

Ladies, Gentlemen, Parents, Friends and faculty, good evening.

Tonight we celebrate the graduation of Dubai American Academy's class of 2016

It is my honour to be this class's salutatorian. To better explain what a salutatorian is, I turned to urbandictionary.com. A Salutatorian is, "the person who just missed being valedictorian by a few GPA points, a very miserable person indeed. Second place is the first loser."

But on a more serious note, we are gathered today to celebrate, to express gratitude and to grieve.

We are of course gathered here to celebrate, with pride, the successful accomplishment of our schooling career. Through Kindergarten, through elementary, middle and high school, we finally stand at the top rung of the school ladder. Ready to take that leap into the next stage of our academic journey.

We are gathered here to express gratitude for the nurture and care which we have received from our families and our teachers at DAA. We are here to offer thanks for the opportunity we have, to pursue a higher education and realize our potential.

And lastly, we are gathered here to grieve. At the passing of childhood and adolescence, at the loss of innocence and simplicity in our lives. As we become adults, our lives and our world will become much more complicated than what it was when we were here at DAA.

But while we celebrate, express gratitude and grieve, this would also be a good time to think about what we would like to offer, going forward. What is that unique footprint which we would like to leave in this world?

I am very proud to say that DAA has prepared us incredibly well to play our part in this world honorably. Grounded in the rigorous intellectual traditions of the IB Diploma, and nurtured with the compassionate values of "The Culture of Kindness", DAA has equipped us with the right skills which we need, to leave our mark.

Each one of us may choose a different path. Some may choose Economics and Business, others' Biology and Medicine. Yet others, History and the Social Sciences and some more may choose Engineering and Computer science.

No one path is more or less important. They are all relevant they are just different ways of understanding our world.

Class of 2016, as we embark on our new paths going forward, let us use this opportunity wisely.

I urge us all to be the best and brightest (in whichever field we choose), but not only for ourselves, but also for the community around us. Let us have ambition, hunger and greed, but let us infuse it with empathy, compassion and kindness. Let us focus not only on ourselves but on everyone in our community too. Let Creativity, Action and Service continue to be a part of our lives forever. Because if we do this, then it means we may have left DAA, but DAA has never left us.

To end with a quote regularly delivered by a passionate philosopher, enthusiastic conspiracy theorist and occasional business and economics professor Mr Liam Greenbank, 'goodluck, goodbye and godbless'.



DAAPA NEWS

DAAPA (DAA Parents Association) is an active parent association dedicated to enriching the lives of DAA students and community, promoting cooperation between DAA parents, staff and administration and spreading the "culture of kindness" that is at the core of DAA's values. All parents/guardians of DAA students are *automatically* members of DAAPA.

DAAPA GENERAL ELECTIONS

The DAAPA Family includes all of the parents of DAA students! However, there is a group of parents who plan activities and events for the school community outside of the academic curriculum. These parent volunteer to be elected for specific jobs within the Executive and Standing Committees, so that planning and implementation of events such as the International Food Festival, the Teacher Appreciation lunch, the Winter Wonderland, the Pumpkin Patch, Movie Nights, Grade 5 and Grade 8 Completions plus many other grade-level events, can provide added fun for the DAA community. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet other parents and work alongside each other to provide extra-curricular fun for DAA students, teachers, and parents.

The following positions are open and ready to be filled by YOU when we return after the summer break!

Executive Committee Positions

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Financial Operations Coordinator
- Primary School Vice President
- Elementary School Vice President
- Middle School Vice President
- High School Vice President
- Hospitality/Food and Beverage Coordinator
- Publications and PR
- IFF Chair

Standing Committee Positions

- Elementary School Communications Coordinator
- Middle School Communications Coordinator
- High School Communications Coordinator
- Leopard's Den Chairperson
- Friends of Fine Arts Chairperson
- Pizza Day Coordinator
- Booster Club Chairperson
- Homeroom Parent Coordinator
- Photographer

If you would like to know more about any of these positions, please inquire via email to samarh-02@hotmail.com

DAAPA NEWS, continued

DAAPA IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL



Thank you to the parent volunteers that came to decorate the middle school commons area for the art and technology week. Please stop by to see the beautiful exhibition of middle school student's creations.

The grade 8 completion ceremony is fast approaching and we are asking for some volunteers to help make this day memorable for our kids. We need help for 3 shifts below on Thursday June 16:

- **Shift 1: 8.30am - 10.30am** We need 10 moms to help prepare the gift boxes for our 8th graders, and decorate the cafeteria.
- **Shift 2: 10.30am - 12.30pm** We need 4 moms to carry on and finish the work.
- **Shift 3: 1pm-2pm** We need about 6 moms to help hand out gift boxes to the grade 8 students after the graduation ceremony is finished.

Can you please email stayintouchwithdaams@gmail.com to let us know if you are able to help and your preferred shift. Thank you in advance!

With kind thanks and regards,
Stephanie Nooren and Alzeta Strazimiri,
DAAPA Middle School Team

DAAPA IN THE HIGH SCHOOL

As we wrap up the school year, we would like to take this opportunity to thank a number of people for making this year special. We hope that new friendships have been built and that new approaches to handling our precious teenagers and to coping with High School have been established.

We would like to start by thanking the Grade 9 parent representatives, Rolla Hamade, Beverly Constantinou and Sally Ghattas, for welcoming the Freshmen parents into High School, for inviting Hale Education Group to introduce college information and expectations and for organizing a couple of fun, well-attended coffee mornings.

The Grade 10 parent representatives, Jacqueline Smith and Nicole Kubbinga, two dynamic ladies, invited Mrs Russell to a meeting introducing the Sophomore parents to the IB requirements. They also invited Hale Education Group to discuss college applications and organized some coffee mornings in nice places in Dubai.

The Junior parents were very lucky to have Margot Veraart and Marilou Courtot as Grade 11 parent representatives. At the beginning of the year, these incredible ladies, in cooperation with IVY Options, organized a meeting to present the timelines and action points that need to be achieved by students and parents throughout the IB years. The highly informative session covered the CAS program and was attended by Mrs. Russell, who presented a very interesting workshop on how universities look at and approach college applications.

Last but not least, our Grade 12 parent representatives, Perna Van de Steur and Sally Ghattas, did an outstanding job of organizing a snack or breakfast for the Seniors on a monthly basis. The highlight of the Senior Appreciation snacks was the amazing BBQ that Perna and Sally organized in cooperation with the High School administration.

DAAPA NEWS, continued

We would like to extend our gratitude to people that have supported the numerous DAAPA events. We'd like to start with Margot Veraart for donating a share of her profits on Pink Day and to Crumbs for sponsoring cupcakes for the same cause. We would also like to thank our Grand sponsor PEPSICO for the very generous offer of beverages and snacks for several High School events throughout the year. We are also very grateful to those companies that supported our annual IFF - GLAD, MOLINI JEWELLERS, FIT REPUBLIC, AVANT, SANTA FE, PLAY & LEARN NURSERY, JAFFERJEES and LIGHTHOUSE ARABIA.

Finally, a huge thank you goes out to all you PARENTS for your contributions of apple pies for the Thanksgiving Lunch, for your contributions towards the teacher appreciation lunch and for attending our events - your participation and positive energy helped make this a very special year for the DAA community!

And last but not least we would like to thank personally all the past DAAPA ladies that were there for us to advise us, to correct us and to share their experience with us. Thank you Rolla, Sally, Nicole, Michelle, Marilou, Marissa, and Beverly.

Have a lovely summer.
The DAAPA High School Committee
Enish Asrese, Connie Hara



PRIMARY POINTS (Kindergarten 1 - Grade 2) *Make sure to read the corresponding DAAPA NEWS section of this issue of SPOTS for all the latest Primary School parent sponsored events!*

FROM THE PS PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear PS Parents,

Thank you for adjusting your schedules to accommodate our Ramadan hours. The students have been really great about adapting to the new schedule. It's great to see their huge smiles as they arrive each day ready to learn. We are in the final stretch, so it is especially heartwarming to see that the students are still excited about learning!

Backpacks: During the summer, as you shop for your child's new backpack, here are a few tips that will be helpful to keep in mind to ensure it is sized correctly for your child and comfortable to pack around.

- Look for a backpack with wide, padded shoulder straps that will sit comfortably on your child, with the knapsack centered on his or her back. Wider straps will help with weight distribution and will help prevent shoulder pain.
- The school bag should be as wide as a child's back and not hang more than a few centimeters below the waist.
- The days of textbooks are gone, so really it just needs to accommodate a folder, 5 or more classroom library books, and possibly a sweatshirt and snack/lunch box.
- Many students choose to pack their swim gear separately when they have swimming, so you may want to have a conversation with your child to determine whether or not those items will be needing to fit in the bag as well.
- A backpack should weigh less than 10 percent of your child's weight, so around 4kg for a 40kg child.

Book Fair Reminder

The spring Bookworm Book Fair is almost here!

Location: ES/PS Conference Room /Dates: June 13 – 16

- Monday, June 13 10:30am - 1:30pm
- Tuesday, June 14 8:30am - 1:30pm
- Wednesday, June 15 8:30am - 1:30pm
- Thursday, June 16 8:30am - 1:30pm

Upcoming Events:

June 13-16	Book Fair
June 27	Last Day of School (12:00 Dismissal)



ELEMENTARY ESSENTIALS (Grades 3-5) *Make sure to read the corresponding DAAPA NEWS section of this issue of SPOTS for all the latest Elementary School parent sponsored events!*

FROM THE ES PRINCIPAL'S DESK

ES Yearbook Orders: ONLY LIMITED NUMBERS OF COPIES LEFT!

It's that time of year to order your 2015 - 16 DAA ES Yearbook!!! To reserve your copy please return the **order form** (sent home with your student) **AND 100AED to the ES office**. Please note, this yearbook will only include classes and activities of Grades 3, 4, and 5 and will be distributed the last week of school.

Ramadan School Hours: From the first day of Ramadan, the school hours will be as listed below. Thank you for your accommodation of these adjusted hours.

Morning

- 8:00 a.m. Playground open
- 8:15 a.m. Hall ropes released - all students go to class
- 8:30 a.m. Period 1 Begins

Afternoon

- 1:25 p.m. Hall ropes released
- 1:30 p.m. End of school day
- 1:45 p.m. Busses leave campus
- 2:00 p.m. Teachers leave campus

Book Fair: The spring Bookworm Book Fair is almost here!

Location: ES Conference Room / Dates: June 13 – 16

- Monday, June 13 10:30am - 1:30pm
- Tuesday, June 14 8:30am - 1:30pm
- Wednesday, June 15 8:30am - 1:30pm
- Thursday, June 16 8:30am - 1:30pm

Ramadan Food Drive: Student Council and third grade have partnered with the Red Crescent to collect Iftar food items. During the holy month of Ramadan there are many families in Dubai that cannot afford to have Iftar or Suhour. We are hosting a food drive for Ramadan to collect the following food items:

- Rice
- Chickpeas
- Lentils
- Pasta
- Flour
- Sugar Packets
- Bottles of cooking oil
- Margarine
- Tomato Sauce
- Dates

We ask that you bring these items to your homeroom class on Sunday June 19th and Monday June 20th. After this day, student council members will bring items to the conference room and grade 3 will organize foods into packages. Please be advised that we are unable to accept food that is not sealed, in its original package or expired.

Thank you and Ramadan Kareem.

Dress Down Day, June 23rd: The final ES dress down day will be on June 23rd. This will be a white t-shirt day. This day was created to make everybody feel like a somebody by writing kind messages to each other at the end of the year. On this day students should wear a white t-shirt and ask friends and teachers to sign their shirts. At the end of the day students will have a reminder of the many friends they have made this year.

ELEMENTARY ESSENTIALS, continued

FROM THE ES PRINCIPAL'S DESK, continued

Grade 5 Completion Ceremony: The Grade 5 Completion Ceremony will be on **Wednesday, June 22nd** for all Grade 5 students. Parents of Grade 5 students are invited to join the ceremony beginning at **9:00am in the auditorium (doors open at 8:30am)**. The dress for for Grade 5 students on this special occasion will be 'smart': collared shirts and dress pants for boys; modest dresses/skirts for girls (no bare shoulders), dressy sandals or shoes. **Students will be dismissed with their families following the ceremony.**

Shopping for school shoes over the summer?: If you are planning to shop for shoes over the summer for your Elementary School student, please remember that students need to wear mostly black or mostly white school shoes or sneakers. Other colored sneakers or soccer shoes can be worn for PE, but must be brought to school in a bag and not worn during the rest of the school day. Also note that **only the DAA sweaters or sweatshirts are approved for in school.**

Report Cards: Report Cards will be emailed home on Wednesday, June 26th. Please ensure that all textbooks and library books have returned to avoid having your report card held.

Last day of school: Monday, June 27th at 12pm.

Have a great week ahead!
 Roberta Wiens and Kit Wilding

FROM THE COUNSELOR:

TIPS TO PREVENT SUMMER BRAIN

DRAIN

- Think of your summer vacation as a teachable moment and use opportunities to get your kids reading, doing math, learning geography without them even realizing it. If you plan to travel let kids go online to one of the travel sites to help ³research² the journey to and from the vacation site as well as interesting places to visit around the vacation site. Find things for kids to measure or add up, talk about the weather or the oceans these activities may help exercise young minds.
- Make sure your child is reading. Research shows that children who are not reading will lose many of the skills and information gained during the school year. Lisel Rosenthal suggests organizing a book club for kids. It is a great way to foster a love of reading and get kids talking about books. Utilize the public libraries, take kids to bookstores and allow them to choose books they would like to read for fun.
- Museums, the zoo, aquarium, planetarium, concerts and parks also provide opportunities for learning while having fun. Have kids keep a journal (writing skills) of their activities and perhaps e-mail friends and relatives about what they are doing.
- Build or bake. When kids build or bake they learn about reading directions and measuring and it is good for their self-esteem when they create and share the finished product.

KEEP IT BALANCED AND KEEP IT FUN

It is probably a good time now to think of how to keep these young brains stimulated and bodies moving over the summer vacation. Keep it simple, fun and exciting. But don't forget that summer is also for relaxing, playing, taking time off and just being a kid.



MIDDLE SCHOOL MESSAGES (Grades 6-8) *Make sure to read the corresponding DAAPA NEWS section of this issue of SPOTS for all the latest Middle School parent sponsored events!*

FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL OFFICE

Thank you parents!

As this is the final full version of Spots, on behalf of the Middle School staff, I would like to thank our parents and students for supporting all aspects of our program throughout the year. We look forward to welcoming our incoming 6th graders in the fall and seeing our returning 7th and 8th grade students after a well deserved summer break. We will sincerely miss all families that are leaving DAA and wish you nothing but the best as you transition to a new community. We also would like to wish the future class of 2020 all the best as they transition to high school!

Yearbook Signing:

We are planning to hand out Middle School yearbooks late next week and as always, students will be provided with an opportunity to sign each other's books during the school day.

Final Reporting:

We kindly ask parents to check in with your Middle Schooler to see if there are any outstanding books due to the library. In addition, as students return texts to the TRC, we often find that some items are missing. Our Semester 2 reports will be emailed out on June 27th as long as all books/texts have been returned to the library and TRC. Students are encouraged to check carefully to ensure that accounts are clear.

June Week:

The middle school has been planning a special week for our students from June 19th to June 23rd. Our traditional classes will be replaced with an option of unique 'Life Skills Classes'. Students will be introduced to all offerings on Sunday, June 19th and will sign up for classes such as Typing, Introduction to Law, How to Change a Tire, Life Guard Training and much-much more! If interested in athletics, they should wear their PE kit. If interested in pool activities, they should bring along a bathing suit. Once they have signed up for courses on the Sunday, they will be given further instructions on dress requirements.

Eye Love Art Show:

Thank you to all those parents that helped set up the Eye Love Art Show and to Ms. Eversteyn and Ms. Ruby for your work with the students this year. A special thank you to our talented art students! It was an amazing display!

Clothes Drive:

One of the activities for June Week will be a clothes drive where students will organize and pack gently used clothes to give away to those in need. If you have some gently used clothes that you would like to donate, please bring to the middle school office. (Please do not include undergarments or shoes). All clothes should be cleaned before donation.

Grade 8 Completion Ceremony:

Our soon to be Middle School graduates are looking forward to their completion ceremony on Thursday, June 16th at 12:15 in the DAA Auditorium. For the first time ever, we are going to be able to live stream this event. Please go to www.gemsdaa.com to retrieve the link.

Sincere thanks to our Grade 8 parents for all of the planning and organization that has gone into this event. Grade 8 students are invited back at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday for their very own final dance!



Student Body President 2016-17:

We had three brave students stand up in front of all grade 6 and 7 students to speak and explain why they would make a great President for next year. They all did an amazing job and spoke with confidence! Congratulations to Emir Yucedag, Rita Dahi and Ameer Amdani,

MIDDLE SCHOOL MESSAGES, continued

Theatre Festival:

We want to congratulate and thank all the students for the amazing performances and Ms. Thompson for the direction. A huge thank you to parents, teachers and friends that came to support the effort.

The MS drama program is purposefully designed to allow students the opportunity to shine on and off stage during the end of each semester's Theatre Festival. This semester was no different. Students learned skills in directing, production management, stage management, costumes, makeup, props and set, puppetry, mime, lights and sound design/operation, house management, public relations and media, script writing, lines memorization, and stage acting techniques. The life lessons of responsibility, confidence, diligence and so much more are learned through the process, either knowingly or unknowingly to the learners. This festival brought meaningful collaboration of Drama students with ELL students who were given an opportunity to showcase their English speaking skills. Drama students also collaborated with Art students to coordinate our first attempt at a puppet show. Our audiences combined students, staff, parents, and administration who gave the thespians a real life experience of achieving success and feeling pride.



A scene from Masks of Various Colors (6G)



8th grade students setting up the lights



A scene from Three Kings by 6G



8th Graders posing as Living Statues in the Commons before their performance.



6G ELL and Drama Collaboration on Diary of a Wimpy Kid



6G performing Romeo the Toad and Juliette the Frog Puppet Show



A scene from 7A's Faded Lights written by Celina Norrman and Eun (Evy) Hwangbo

Warmest Regards,
MS Admin
Joan Wiens and Luke Spencer



HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS (Grades 9-12) *Make sure to read the corresponding DAAPA NEWS section of this issue of SPOTS for all the latest High School parent sponsored events!*

FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE

What just happened.....?

* SchoolArt



Match Stick Heads: Students took molds of their own faces using mod rock, this was then placed on top of a balloon, which they continued to mod rock around making a life like representation of a head. Students created a base using card and tape, adding the mod rock head to the top. they then used the mod rock to create a mold around the neck giving the impression of a burnt match. Students then added paint to replicate the appearance of a match. you can see when displayed together, these make quite an impact!



Foreshortened Objects: Students studied the method of foreshortening, "to reduce or distort in order to convey the illusion of three-dimensional space as perceived by the human eye: often done according to the rules of perspective", while looking at still life objects. Students took a series of photographs covering this method, choosing one of their images to use as a final piece. Going on to enlarge the image and paint in acrylic.

* CEO of Dubai Cares comes to DAA

Last Sunday, the CEO of Dubai Cares, H.E. Tariq Al Gurg, spoke to DAA students about the history and work of Dubai Cares. Dubai Cares is the main charity for which DAA students raise funds and awareness.

H. E. Al Gurg spoke about the number of educational initiatives that they funded throughout the world and the important work they do in helping to ensure that every child less fortunate gets a basic education.



The event was organized by Raagini Sarkar (Grade 11) who has set up a club called DAA Grassroots to help raise awareness of the work of local charities and provide students an opportunity to get involved themselves.

The President of the DAA's Dubai Cares club, Youssef Bouhadiba (Grade 12, now alumni) received a certificate signed by H.E. Al Gurg in recognition of all the work he has done while a student at DAA. It was presented by the High School Assistant Principal earlier in the week.

HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS, continued

What's new.....?

* New look for DAA athletes

**HOT
OFF
THE
PRESS**

DAA was founded in 1997. So were our vintage Athletics Tracksuits! While they lasted and served an important purpose we are pleased to announce that the 2016-2017 Academic School year will bring a positive change.

The NEW Athletics Sports Jacket:

Available to all Season 1, 2 & 3 Middle School, Junior Varsity and Varsity Student-Athlete.

Required for MESAC participants. Athletes will be allowed to get their surname printed on the back.

Jackets are allowed to be worn with the school uniform during lessons and regular school days.

New jackets can be purchased from the Leopard's Den in September 2016. Priority will go to Season 1 Athletes.

Student-athletes are also required to wear grey slacks/pants when traveling to and from MESAC tournaments. See the examples below and make sure you are ready for the 2016-2107 Athletics Year.



OUT WITH THE OLD



IN WITH THE NEW



NEW CHANGES FOR 2016-2017

From 2016-2017 the High School will no longer allow any student to wear an old / pre 2016 sports team hoodies or sports warm up tops throughout the regular school day. Moving forward, teams will also no longer be allowed to 'design' their own team jacket/hoodie.

Other new exciting Leopards Den Options in 2016-2017:

- *** NEW DAA SCHOOL HOODIES!
- *** NEW DAA SPORTS BAGS!
- *** NEW TRAVEL SHIRTS FOR MESAC ATHLETES!



HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS, continued

* The introduction of Parchment for transcripts

DAA has partnered with Parchment to electronically send transcripts to locations all over the world – whether to a university, employer, or other organization. Whether you're applying to university, grad school, or your dream job, sending your official transcript is fast and efficient through our relationship with Parchment. There is a small fee payable to Parchment for this service, but the advantage of electronic transmittal means that the transcript will arrive at its destination quickly.

For more information about how to order and who should use this service, please see this information: http://gemsdaa.com/sites/default/files/parchment_info.pdf#overlay-context=

Note: For current DAA students applying to universities around the world, please add the universities you are applying to in Naviance. If you are applying to a university that accepts electronic submissions from Naviance, you do not need to order your transcript through Parchment. If you are applying to a university that does not accept electronic submissions from Naviance, please use this site to send your transcript directly to the university you are applying to.

The link to order transcripts electronically through Parchment has been added to the High School page under the "High School Links" section.

* MayWeek 2016 was very successful again this year. We have surveyed the students and have received excellent feedback. We would also value parent input. Please take a few moments to complete this short survey about May Week - https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1rdnFDrJpxRFTMFatcEez9pBrxsM0cVqDRH3INeyFV9U/viewform?edit_requested=true

What is about to happen.....?

HS Red Crescent Club Food Drive

Ramadan charitable activity is on this week, all students, teachers and families are invited to participate in this food collection.



Each family package should include (see picture left):

- Grains such as rice, chickpeas, beans, lentils and pasta;
- Sugar;
- Cooking oil or margarine;
- Tomato sauce
- You can also add dry dates

Dry/canned food donations of family sized portions, so that an entire underprivileged family can enjoy a full meal.

When should the packages be ready by?

- **Grade 11 in homerooms by Tuesday June 14th.**
- **Grade 9 & 10 in homerooms by Thursday June 16th.**

HS Red Crescent club representatives are going to collect the packages from each HS homeroom to be handled by UAE Red Crescent. Thank you for your generosity.

Other important dates:

- June 14 - Student locker clear-out
- June 15 - Semester exams for Grade 11 begin
- June 19 - Semester exams for Grades 9 and 10 begin

We wish you a happy and restful summer and safe traveling.

HS Admin Team

HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS, continued

END OF YEAR RETURN PROCEDURES FOR TRC MATERIALS – HIGH SCHOOL

Please follow these guidelines for the return of all TRC Resources at the end of year.

- o The last day for returning student books is on the exam day of the course.
- o All students will receive an exam permit to take the exam (this will mean that they have been to TRC to return their books and spoken with TRC staff.
- o All students are required to return the books/novels of the subject in which they will be taking their exam. So if they have two exams on the same day, they will have to come to the TRC twice to receive their exam passes and turn in books.
- o Lost/damaged books will have to be paid for by the student concerned. In case the book/resource is found, the money will be refunded. Report cards, diplomas and transfer certificates will be held until all accounts are cleared.

QUICK REFERENCE TO SEMESTER TWO EXAMS 2016

IB I Exams (Grade 11)

TIME	June 15	June 16	June 19	June 20	June 21	June 22	June 23
Classroom	Wed	Thurs	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs
8:30 -10:00	History ITGS	French	Psychology	Economics Biology 11/12	Spanish	Arabic A Arabic B HL /SL	Computer Science Conflicts
Classroom	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
11:00 - 12:30	Business	English SL English 11	Math St Math Ap	DT Chemistry HL/SL		SEHS Physics	Music Visual Arts HL/SL Conflicts
Classroom							
11:00 - 1:00		English HL	Math HL Math SL		Biology HL /SL ESSL		Theatre Arts HL/SL

Grades 9 + 10

TIME	June 19	June 20	June 21	June 22	June 23
Classroom	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs
8:30 - 10:00	Math 10 History 9	English 10 Science 9	History 10 English 9	Science 10 Math 9	Conflicts
	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
11:00- 12:30	French II, III, IV	Spanish II, III, IV	Arabic I, II, III, IV	Native 9 and 10	Conflicts



ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES

EAC

Emirates Athletics Conference

NEW ATHLETICS JACKETS NEXT YEAR!

Please read the 'PRESS RELEASE' in the High School section for information about the new options for Athletics in 2016-2017. Purchase of the athletics jacket and travel t-shirt will be available from the Leopards Den in September.

All MESAC athletes are also asked to purchase their own dark grey pants that will be worn on 'travel' days to and from MESAC tournaments. Please take the time to purchase Dubai appropriate (no rips/holes etc..) grey pants for next year. Student-athletes will not be allowed to travel in black/blue jeans, shorts or tracksuit pants. The image of our school and sporting teams is a high priority and I thank you all for taking the time to make this a priority.



MESAC ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE 2016-2017

In preparation for next school years activities, please see the table below. I am excited to announce that next year there will be the addition of **MESAC Golf during Season 1 open to all Grade 8 - 12 students**. DAA will also be hosting 3 MESAC events: JV Volleyball (housing required), JV Basketball (housing required) and Track & Field (No housing needed). Please note that if your child takes part in any JV or V MESAC team at DAA next year, they will be required to house guest athletes from Abu Dhabi, Oman, India and Qatar. If you cannot house, your child cannot be selected for a MESAC team.

Season	MESAC Event / Activity	Dates	Host School
1	JV Volleyball	November 9 - November 13	DAA - UAE
1	Varsity Volleyball	November 9 - November 13	ABA - OMAN
1	JV & Varsity Swimming	November 9 - November 13	ASDubai - UAE
1	JV & Varsity Academic Games	November 9 - November 13	ACS - UAE
1	Open Golf	October 19 - October 22	AES - INDIA
2	JV Soccer	February 1 - February 5	ASDubai - UAE
2	JV Basketball	February 1 - February 5	DAA - UAE
2	Senior Fine Arts	February 1 - February 5	ASDoha - QATAR
2	Varsity Soccer	February 8 - February 11	ACS - UAE
2	Varsity Basketball	February 9 - February 13	AES - INDIA
2	Open Tennis	February 8 - February 12	ABA - OMAN
2	Open Cross Country	February 9 - February 11	ABA - OMAN
3	Forensics	April 14 - April 18	AES - INDIA
3	JV Softball / Baseball	April 12 - April 15	ASDubai - UAE
3	Varsity Softball/Baseball	April 12 - April 16	ASDoha - QATAR
3	JV & Varsity Badminton	April 12 - April 16	ACS - UAE
3	JV & Varsity Track and Field	April 12 - April 15	DAA - UAE

ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES, continued

DAA COACHES FOR 2016-2017

I am pleased to announce that the coaching staff for 2016-2017 has been set. We have so many dedicated returning staff as well as new DAA members that contribute hours and hours of their time to build, develop and support our student-athletes. Please congratulate the following staff members and thank them for their positive contributions to the Athletics Program:

MESAC & EAC Tournaments 2016-2017			
TRY OUT DATES: 31st August - 10th September 2016. TEAMS NAMED by 11th September.			
SEASON ONE ACTIVITY	COACH	MESAC DATE & VENUE	EAC DATE & VENUE
U14, JV & Varsity Swimming	Tara Lewis JP Smit Elizabeth Beukenkamp	ASD, Dubai Nov. 9-13	Friday 21st Oct @ GWA
Open Golf (Gr 8-12)	Scott McDougall Hardi Fichardt	AES, India Oct 19-21	Friday 4th Nov @ ASD
Varsity Boys Volleyball	Miro Bruan	ABA, Oman Nov. 9 -13	Saturday 22nd Oct @ ASD
Varsity Girls Volleyball	Mike Freeson		
JV Boys Volleyball	Mary Fuglie	DAA, Dubai Nov. 9-13	Saturday 22nd Oct @ DAA
JV Girls Volleyball	Desirae Matthews		
Mid School Boys Volleyball	Teresa Cantu	U14 No MESAC Event	Saturday 22nd Oct @ ACS
Mid School Girls Volleyball	Jill Clegg		
JV & V Academic Games	Jibola Ajayi Lars Hansen	ACS, Abu Dhabi Nov 10-13	NO Event
TRY OUT DATES: 16th - 26th November 2016. TEAMS NAMED by 27th November.			
SEASON TWO ACTIVITY	COACH	MESAC DATE & VENUE	EAC DATE & VENUE
Varsity Boys Soccer	Mike Murray	ACS, Abu Dhabi Feb.8-12	BOYS Friday 20th Jan @ GWA GIRLS Saturday 21st Jan @ GWA
Varsity Girls Soccer	Robb Willet		
Junior Varsity Boys Soccer	Kyle Cloete	ASD, Dubai Feb.1-5	GIRLS Friday 20th Jan @ DAA BOYS Saturday 21st Jan @ DAA
Junior Varsity Girls Soccer	Kersten Grant		
Middle School Boys Soccer	Mike Rodosthenous	U14 No MESAC Event	Saturday 21st Jan @ ASD
Middle School Girls Soccer	Lianne Lapalme		
Varsity Boys Basketball	Miro Bruan	AES, India Feb.9-13	Saturday 21st Jan @ ASD
Varsity Girls Basketball	Bret Rodgers		
JV Boys Basketball	Omar Ghosn	DAA, Dubai Feb.1-5	Saturday 21st Jan @ ACS
JV Girls Basketball	Nicole Bonner		
Mid School Boys Basketball	Bob Grant	U14 No MESAC Event	Friday 20th Jan @ GWA
Mid School Girls Basketball	Luke Fuglie		
Senior Fine Arts Festival	Jeff Quinto Kate Acheson Padraig Downey Sebastian Seidel	ASD, Doha Feb.2-5	NO Event
Open Tennis (Gr 8-12)	Melinda Eversteyn Linda Olson	ABA, Oman Feb. 8-12	Saturday Jan 28th @ ACS
U14, JV & Varsity X-Country	Tim Tschumperlin David Gardner Natashia Keesling	ABA, Oman Feb.9-12	Friday Jan 20th @ DAA

TRY OUT DATES: 15th - 23rd February 2017. TEAMS NAMED by 25th February.			
SEASON THREE ACTIVITY	COACH	MESAC DATE & VENUE	EAC DATE & VENUE
Jr. Arts Festival Invitational	Mel Eversteyn Jeff Quinto Amanda Milkeratis Sebastian Seidel	ASD, Dubai May 11-13	NO Event
JV & Varsity Badminton	Sandeep Pechetti Benjamin Orwin	ACS, Abu Dhabi April. 12-16	Saturday March 18th JV Teams @ GWA & V Teams @ DAA
Varsity, JV & U14 Track & Field	Nicole Bonner Tim Tschumperlin Kelly Susee Hardi Fichardt & Miro Bruan	DAA, Dubai April 12-16	Saturday March 18th @ UAS
Varsity Boys Baseball	Brian Dougherty Mike Russell - Assist.	ASD, Doha April 12-16	NO Event
Varsity Girls Softball	Mike Freeson Kersten Grant - Assist.		
Junior Varsity Boys Baseball	Bob Grant	ASD, Dubai April. 12-16	NO Event
Junior Varsity Girls Softball	Teresa Cantu Jill Clegg - Assist.		
Varsity & JV Forensics	Rhonda Kotb Lars Hansen	AES, India April. 14-18	NO Event

LIFEGUARD QUALIFICATIONS

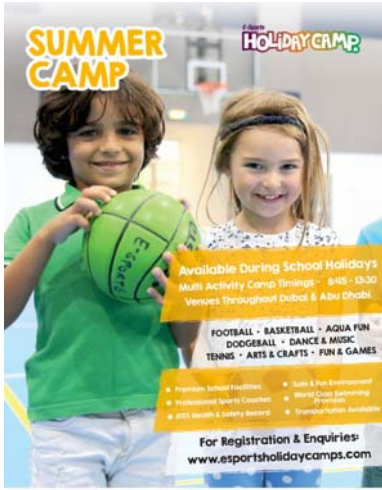
Congratulations to DAA's newest High School Student Lifeguards: **Mills Hoyt, Luca Kastner and Alex Veraart**. The three of them have just completed their American Red Cross Lifeguard Certifications. It has been an intensive 3 month course with both in and out of water skills assessments which has been a huge commitment time and effort wise. We are all so proud of your accomplishments and can not wait to have you helping out poolside!

STAY IN TOUCH - DAA LEOPARDS!

Twitter: Follow us @DAALeopards
Instagram: Follow us @DAALeopards

Emily Rentsch
Proud Athletic Director | Dubai American Academy





COMMUNITY NOTES

E-SPORTS SUMMER CAMP

E-Sports will be offering our multi-sports activity camps across 13 venues in Dubai.

The Camp will take place from the **3rd July – 25th August 2106** (venue specific) .

Children between the ages of 4-14yrs will have lots of fun and stay active with mini-tennis, basketball, dodge ball, football, Arts & Crafts and Aqua Fun sessions.

Don't miss out on our Sign up days from 12.30 – 13.30pm where you can register and make payment directly with a member of our camp staff at the relevant camp venue.



Available Venues and Sign up days:

GEMS Schools	DAY/DATE
GEMS Wellington International School - Al Sufouh	Sun, Tues, Thurs 12, 14, 16, 19, 21, 23, 26, 28, 30 Jun
GEMS Jumeirah Primary School Jumeirah	Sun, Tues, Thurs 12,14, 16, 19, 21, 23, 26, 28, 30 Jun
GEMS Metropole - MotorCity	Sun, Tues, Thurs 12,14,16, 19, 21, 23, 26, 28, 30 Jun
GEMS Wellington Primary School - Satwa	Mon, Wed 13,15, 20, 22, 27, 29 Jun
GEMS Wellington Academy Silicon Oasis	Sun, Tues, Thurs 12, 14, 16, 19, 21, 23, 26, 28, 30 Jun
GEMS Royal Dubai School - Al Mazar	Mon, Wed 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29 Jun
Dubai American Academy - Barsha	Mon, Wed 13,15, 20, 22, 27, 29 Jun
FirstPoint the Villa	Mon, Wed 13,15, 20, 22, 27, 29 Jun
Winchester School Jebel Ali	Sun, Tues, Thurs 12,14, 16, 19, 21, 23, 26, 28, 30 Jun

Camp timings: Drop off 08:30 | Start 09:00| Finish 13:30| Pick Up 13:30-13:45

What to bring: Swimming gear, Towel, Water bottle, Snack and Lunch Everyday

We have a 20% siblings discount available for weekly bookings!

Transportation is available to the closest venue to where you live and should be booked and paid for online by **Thursday the 23rd June** and will be provided to the closest venue to where you live.

(We require a minimum of 10 children registered for transport in order to provide a bus for each venue).

For more information and registration please visit our new website www.esportsholidaycamps.com

ONLY Online Registration and payment confirms your child/children's place at our camps. If the venues are full on the first day, parents who have not booked and paid online will be turned away.

If you require assistance or have any additional questions, please email camps@esportsdubai.com or call 043697817 | 044434188

We look forward to welcoming you!

E-Sports Camp Team

Ramadan Menu

Week 2	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
MAIN DISH	Breaded Chicken Tenders, Tomato Dipping Sauce & Mashed Potato	Fusili with Beef Bolognese	Butter Chicken & White Rice	Sweet and Sour Fish with Fragrant Rice	Slow Cooked Chicken with Saffron Rice
MAIN DISH VEGETARIAN	Veggie Pasta Bake	Fusili with Veg Bolognese	Vegetable Kadalai & White Rice	Chickpea Curry with Fragrant Rice	Three Beans Dal with Saffron Rice
SIDE DISH	Peas and Carrots	Steamed Corn and Olive	Baked Zucchini Cubes	Mixed Steamed Veggies	Oven Glazed Carrots

