

SPOTS



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 19 Issue 2 / September 24, 2016

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MONTH AT A GLANCE

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

Welcome to the SPOTS calendar. We encourage parents to check weekly as occasionally dates or times may change.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	WEEKEND
SEPTEMBER 2016					
25 PS/ES Day 7 MS/HS Day 7	26 PS/ES Day 8 MS/HS Day 8	27 PS/ES Day 9 MS/HS Day 1	28 PS/ES Day 10 MS/HS Day 2	29 PS/ES Day 1 MS/HS Day 3	30 1
KHDA Mandated Parent Contract Signing – MS/HS Foyer					
High School Individual Photo Day (Ties required) ----- PS- ES - MS After School Activities begin ----- MS Volleyball v GWA @ DAA	Middle School Individual Photo Day (Ties required) ----- JV Volleyball v ACS/ASD @ ACS ----- Golf v GWA @ Els Club ----- V Volleyball v GAA @ DAA	Early Release Day Kg2 –Gr. 12 dismissed at 1:45 p.m. -----	JV Volleyball v GWA @ DAA	V Volleyball v GWA @ DAA ----- MS Color House Day	
OCTOBER 2016					
2	3 PS/ES Day 2 MS/HS Day 4	4 PS/ES Day 3 MS/HS Day 5	5 PS/ES Day 4 MS/HS Day 6	6 PS/ES Day 5 MS/HS Day 7	7 8
* Islamic New Year (school closure only if announced by KHDA)	PS Coffee Morning 8:00 a.m. PS Conf. Rm (rescheduled) ----- EAC Golf Hosted by DAA @ Arabian Ranches ----- JV/V Volleyball v UAS @ DAA ----- MS Volleyball v UAS @ UAS		MS Volleyball v GAA @ DAA		MS Swimming at UAS ----- JV B Volleyball Invitational @ UAS ----- JV G Volleyball Invitational @ ACS ----- V Volleyball Invitational @ ASD
9 PS/ES Day 6 MS/HS Day 8	10 PS/ES Day 7 MS/HS Day 1	11	12 PS/ES Day 8 MS/HS Day 2	13 PS/ES Day 9 MS/HS Day 3	14 15
	ES Coffee Morning 8:00 a.m. ES Conf. Rm	Professional Learning Day - No School for Students			

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ALL SCHOOL NEWS

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear DAA Families,

Thanks to the many parents who attended our Back-to-School Nights. We held four such events over the last few weeks – three before the Eid break and the MS event this past Wednesday. All were very well attended. A positive, proactive home-school partnership makes an enormous difference to a school – indeed, I think it's an important cornerstone of any successful school. Your attendance at events like Back-to-School Nights and Parent-Teacher Conferences signals to teachers how much you care. The relationship you forge with your child's teacher matters. And, remember, it's not only about grades – what really matters is that teachers and parents form a partnership that's honest, process-oriented, and focused on the child/student. No child is perfect and a positive home-school partnership can empower him or her to learn, make mistakes, and grow.

Speaking of the home-school partnership, I need to remind parents who have not signed the KHDA-mandated parent-school contract that they must do so by Thursday, September 30. I appreciate that most of you will have signed the contract for the first time only a few months ago for the 2015-16 school year and that we are now asking you to sign the contract *again* for the 2016-17 school year. Most parents can disregard this reminder as they have taken care of this requirement. If you haven't, please visit DAA early next week to do so. KHDA expects schools to exclude children whose parents have not signed the contract from school – that is the last thing we want to do, but the authorities have made it clear that we have no choice in the matter.

Also, I wanted parents to know that our first Professional Learning Day on Tuesday, September 20, was very successful. I wrote extensively about our plans for this day in last week's mini-SPOTS. It was important to position the first two PL Days early in the school year – the second day will be on October 11 – so that we could build momentum for some of the changes we are implementing. Thank you again for your support for this change in practice.

I also have an update to share regarding the GEMS search for DAA's next superintendent. Returning families know that in April I announced my resignation, effective at the end of the 2016-17 school year, and that I will be leaving GEMS to join a school in Tokyo, Japan next year. This may be news to some of our new families. GEMS officials initiated a search process immediately after my decision. GEMS ultimately narrowed the field to three finalists – all Americans; all veteran school leaders with considerable experience; all very familiar with American curriculum, instructional priorities, and the IBDP. On Tuesday (Sep 27) and Wed (Sep 28) the candidates will visit Dubai. They'll spend most of the day at DAA on Tuesday. GEMS intends to put the candidates through their paces, and we've asked for time for each candidate to meet students, teachers, parents, and the school's administrative team. There will be an informal meet-and-greet for parents with the three candidates on Tuesday at 1:15pm in the PS/ES Conference Room. We welcome any DAA parents to attend.

As many of you know from my SPOTS messages over the years, I actually much prefer sharing the great things I see happening daily around DAA. I had worked in six different schools in my career before I arrived at DAA in 2010, and of these six schools, I would claim that two were genuinely exceptional. What made these schools exceptional was not their facilities or curriculum; rather, both schools possessed deeply embedded cultural identities that were aspirational and improvement-oriented; true and unapologetic; and focused on delivering exceptional care for every child.

Each year wonderful, dedicated teachers, whom your children love, leave DAA. It is the nature of the expat lifestyle international teachers live – we come, invest ourselves wholeheartedly for a time, and then move on. As much as it saddens me when great teachers leave DAA, I am immensely proud of the new teachers we bring in each year. I thought I would share a little this week about our recruiting philosophy at DAA, as I think it will help parents better understand the kind of cultural identity toward which we are striving. First, when it comes to the students they teach, DAA wants teachers who sincerely believe the glass is half full. A great teacher sees the promise and potential of every child, and we do our best at DAA to recruit teachers who are positive and passionate in their convictions about students and their abilities to learn. Second, a great teacher has a deep confidence in her/his own ability to positively influence *any* child's learning, even through frustrations, challenges, and disappointments. I think these are the two defining qualities that most

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE, continued

DAA teachers share because they're the qualities that we deliberately seek when recruiting teachers. While we don't necessarily ask the following questions directly, I think they will reveal to parents the dispositions and qualities we are looking for in our teachers:

- How much can you influence whether your students enjoy coming to your class?
- How much can you do to influence whether your students trust you?
- How much can you do to get through to your most difficult students?
- How much can you do to increase a student's memory and understanding of what s/he has learned?
- How much can you motivate your students to give their best effort?
- How much can you influence a student's confidence that s/he can do well in your class?

It should be evident that DAA has a school-wide conviction that a child's glass is half full, that intelligence and talent aren't fixed, and that all students can learn. It should also be apparent that the new teachers we hire possess a deep confidence in their own abilities to influence student learning and to hold themselves accountable for what happens in their classrooms. What makes DAA a great school is the attention our teachers give to building meaningful relationships with students, investing in their learning, and believing in their potential.

Great teachers value dignity and self worth in all that they do, but they go further by instilling in their students a deep confidence in their own agency – that is, in their abilities to control and master skills and knowledge. And that's really why I'm proud to welcome our new teachers to DAA's faculty. Students only give their best effort to teachers who really believe in their capacity to learn. What's really powerful, of course, is when an entire faculty of creative, smart, dedicated teachers reinforces the value of effort.

I ask, if your children have a teacher new to DAA this year, that you are patient, supportive, and proactive in your relationships and communications with those teachers. A teacher's first year in a new school/building is challenging, regardless of how many years he or she may have previously taught. We know we've brought in a fabulous group of new teachers this year, but we need to give them time to adjust to DAA's ways of working as well as their private lives in Dubai. Most are a long way from home, which doesn't make their transitions any easier. Your support, understanding, and a little kindness will go a long way. At some point this year, ask your child's teacher, "How are *you*?" – and then take the time to listen. You'll probably catch them off guard and they won't know how to respond – they're accustomed to talking about your children, after all. Asking that question and taking the time to listen will go far in your establishment of a positive relationship built on trust and mutual respect.

There are great things happening at DAA. I look forward to sharing more with you soon.

Kind Regards,



Jim Hardin
Superintendent / CEO



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.

WILD WADI NIGHT FOR DAA (SPONSORED BY DAAPA) RETURNS

DAAPA's is pleased to announce that we will be sponsoring a night at **Wild Wadi Waterpark** exclusively for DAA students and their families again this year. Wild Wadi night will be on **Friday, October 21st from 8:00-11:00 pm.** During this time, the park will be open exclusively to DAA families. This has proven to be one of our most popular events of the year truly bringing out the community feel at DAA. We hope to see you again this year!

Tickets will be sold beginning on October 3rd at drop-off and pick-up in the PS/ES foyer. Tickets purchased on or before October 14 will be 100AED/person. After this date, ticket prices increase to AED 125, so get your tickets early! Leopard Dens sales dates will be announced shortly.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Parents will be responsible for their children during this event. Primary, elementary and middle school students must be accompanied by an adult.

THE LEOPARDS' DEN



The Leopards' Den is the school spirit store, operated by DAAPA and located in the High School building. Leopards' Den is open Sunday to Thursday from 7:15 – 8:00 a.m. & in the afternoon from 2:30 to 3:15 p.m., however we're closed on Tuesday afternoons! We sell **ALL the Middle & High School PE Uniforms, MS Color House Shirts, DAA hoodies and athletic wear.**

DAAPA BOOSTER CLUB

The Booster Club is a part of DAAPA that supports the Athletics, Fine Arts, and Forensics competitions in which DAA students participate. The Booster Club is operated out of **The SPOT**, located in the High School gymnasium, and provides refreshments to students, coaches, teachers, and parents after school on Wednesdays or during most home games and tournaments.

**The SPOT is now open every Wednesday after school!!
Stop by to grab a snack or just say hello!!**

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,

This past Tuesday, we held our first Professional Learning Day for teachers and Educational Assistants. The Primary School teachers participated in unique professional development opportunities called PLC's (Professional Learning Communities). A PLC is seen as an effective staff development team approach and a powerful strategy for school improvement. The PLC process is a reflective one where both individual and community growth is achieved. The PLC topics supported our school initiatives, and were relevant and meaningful to the participants. In addition to PLC work, teachers were highly engaged as they worked on curriculum development and the development of authentic assessments.

Professional development opportunities were also provided to our Educational Assistants. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to participate in trainings that increased their knowledge of positive discipline strategies and how to support students during Readers' and Writers' Workshop.

The richness and depth of academic discussions was both exciting and productive. The benefits derived from this day will continue to support the level of excellence that nurture and promote the learning and social development of all students.



Swim teachers Voja Karban, Tara Lewis, and Kyle Cloete develop swimming assessments.



PS and HS Arts teachers Collaborate

CAPS in the Primary and Elementary School:

The caps required in the PS and ES are not yet in stock at Threads. We know that you had been diligently trying to purchase these prior to the EID deadline, but please know that we will not expect your child to have a cap until Threads is fully supplied. We will notify you when supplies are in later in October.

Student Photos:

Primary school individual photos were taken last week. All student photo orders are down on line with our provider, Stu Williamson. Last week, each student received an individualized order card with a code to access their personal pictures. Please keep this card in a safe place. Photos should be available in the coming days for viewing on the website www.sw-schools.ae

Where do you eat dinner?

While we all eat dinner, do you know the benefits of having your family share the meal together? Research has found that children who enjoy family meals have larger vocabularies, better manners, healthier diets, and higher self-esteem. When they grow into adolescents and teenagers, they will be less likely to engage in high-risk behaviors.

So, can we sit together and watch TV? Does this count? Not really! It is the meaningful conversations that take place around the table that are important. That also goes for checking your phone for texts, What's App, Facebook, and on and on. Instead of competing with electronic devices, turn them off! Instead, enjoy this time to talk about your child's day. Ask him what was one new thing he learned, what was his favorite part of the day (lunch and recess excluded), or how he may have made it a better day for a friend. Share stories about your life as a child, as children love hearing these! Tell them funny stories about relatives. You could also describe your home country and its special features that you treasure. These conversations will increase their sense of family, establish solid family bonds, and one day be looked back upon with loving memories.

PRIMARY POINTS, continued

FROM THE PS PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear PS Parents,

Upcoming Events:

Sept 25	First Day of After School Activities (ASA's)
Oct 3	8:00 PS Parent Coffee (Rescheduled from Sept 27th)
Oct 11	Professional Learning Day - No School for Students
Oct 19, 20	Parent Teacher Conferences - No School for Students
Oct 24	UN Day
Oct 30	Diwali Holiday - 12:00 pm Student Dismissal
Oct 31	Fall Parade

Respectfully Yours,

Laura King and Nathalie Salameh
PS Administrative Team



GIRL SCOUTS TROOP LEADERS WANTED !!

Dear DAA families,

I am very happy to announce that we will continue to run the Overseas Girl Scouts program at DAA thanks to our current troop leaders. Being a part of the Girl Scouts Community has its own unique benefits. Our girls make new friends, gain self confidence, develop positive values, learn leadership skills among many other experiences.

We heavily rely and thrive on Parent support and to offer this great experience to our girls. We currently have one grade 3 troop led by Scott Baldwin, one grade 4 troop led by Pia Gardener and one grade 5 troop led by Saliha Afridi. A big thank you for these amazing leaders for volunteering their time to lead our troops.

Most of these troops however are full as we can only accommodate 12 girls per troop with 2 adults. To grow our DAA Girl Scouts family we need your time and support. We are actively looking for volunteers to lead troops for Kg1, Grade 1, Grade 2 and of course we would also love to grow Grades 3-5 if we have the leaders. We will only be able to extend this opportunity to more students if we have the leaders.

If you are interested in being a troop leader for any of the above grades please email me at jbabhanian@yahoo.com or you can contact me at 0509227629.

Please step up to make a difference and create a positive learning experience for our girls!

Jagruti Babhanian,
Girl Scout Co-ordinator

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

Dear ES Parents,



We have been busy learning and growing together in the ES! This past Tuesday our teachers spent the day working in a variety of committees and as a whole school to deepen their understanding of many important educational topics - all in an effort to improve your child's success in school. Their work was part of a comprehensive and integrated Professional Learning Plan that is designed to challenge and augment teachers' instructional practices. Our day was divided into three parts. The first part was designated to teachers working in small groups focused on specific areas relating to whole school improvements. The next section of the day was a small portion designated for teachers to take an opportunity to guide their own learning by researching or collaborating with others. The last half of the day was a whole school activity geared towards assessments. Much time, effort and thought went into planning this day and the teachers will agree that it was a complete success. We all walked away having learned deeply and reinvigorated to continue to provide high caliber opportunities in the classroom for your children.

Please read on for more exciting news from the Elementary School!

After School Activities (ASAs) begin on Sunday (September 25th): Confirmation letters for internal ASAs (provided by our teachers) were sent home on Thursday. Confirmation for external ASAs (outside providers) is your payment receipt. Please refer to this link, [ES After School Activities](#), for any questions you may have.

Trimester 1 ASA Dates:

- **Start Date:** Sunday, September 25
- **End Date:** Wednesday, November 16
- **Make up Week:** Sunday, November 20 - Wednesday, November 23

ES Dismissal and the start of ASA's:

We want to say a big thank you to all of you that have assisted us before and after school with keeping our hallways clear until 7:30am and again until 2:45pm in the afternoon by waiting for your children in the foyer. It has made a huge difference in keeping instruction going until the end of the day and speeding up dismissal!

Please note the following change to our dismissal procedures in conjunction with the start of ASA's on Sunday, September 25th. As in previous years, students will begin to independently make their way to the foyer at the end of the day. Teachers will continue to assist students in packing up, lining up in the classrooms and supervising students as they walk down the hallway. Students with ASA's will wait in the classroom until 2:55pm when they will be dismissed to attend their ASA. Please continue to help us by waiting in the foyer for your child to come down. Students have been told to continue to meet the parent/driver at the same prearranged meeting spot in the foyer and members of the ES staff will be present to supervise the foyer.

Thank you for your help with this.

ELEMENTARY ESSENTIALS, continued

Important Update on Hats: Our expectation that students wear hats in sun-exposed areas of the playground has been temporarily delayed due to an issue with an available hat supply at Threads. Until a supply of hats is available for purchase, students will not be required to wear hats outside, although we encourage those that have already purchased hats to continue to wear them. Once the supply of hats has arrived at Threads, and parents have had adequate time to purchase them, a new date for requiring students to wear hats will be established. More information will be available once these details have been established. We apologize for any inconvenience caused and appreciate your patience.

Student Photos: Elementary school individual photos were taken last week. All student photo orders are down online with our provider, Stu Williamson. Last week, each student received an individualized order card with a code to access their personal pictures. Please keep this card in a safe place. Photos should be available in the coming days for viewing on the website www.sw-schools.ae

Jr. EAC (ES Coordinator James Anaya): Soccer practices for grades 4-5 boys and girls get underway next week! If your child is involved, please check this [link](#) for all the details!

Swimming (Coach Voja and Pia Gardner): Swim tryouts were held this past week – congratulations to all students who tried out for the swim team! Additional swim team information and contact details can be found on this [link](#).

ES Coffee Morning: Please plan to join us at our first ES Coffee Morning of the year on Monday, October 10th from 8-9am. More details will be coming next week. We hope you will plan to come!

MAP Testing is Coming Soon! In October, all grades 3, 4 and 5 students will be taking MAP tests. We give students MAP tests to determine individual instructional levels and to measure academic growth throughout the school year, and from year to year in the areas of reading, language arts and mathematics. The tests are completely computerized and are unique in that they adapt to be appropriate for each child's level of learning. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing.

More information will be sent home to parents in a newsletter very soon. Additionally, please remember the following tips are helpful for parents in preparing their children for testing:

Tips to help your child to be ready for a good test experience:

- **Make sure that your child is well rested on school days. Children who are tired in class are less able to pay attention or focus on the demands of a test.**
- **Give your child a well-rounded diet. A healthy body leads to a healthy and active mind.**
- **Encourage your child to listen to directions and give every question their best effort.**

Enjoy the week ahead!
Roberta Wiens and Kit Wilding,
ES Admin Team



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

Back to School Night

Thank you parents for attending our MS Back to School Night - we hope this event provided an opportunity for you to get to know our amazing MS teachers and also to learn more about the educational experience of your child in the Middle! For those parents that were unable to attend or missed the Life Skills presentations, please contact the teacher who would be happy to share any presentation they used with you.

Engrade

For those parents who are new to the MS experience, you should have been sent your access code. If you did not receive this code, please contact our office so we can assist you with the process. Returning students should already have their password and will now have access to the new school year.



Peace One Day

We have had an amazing week celebrating PEACE. A group of students and teachers joined the committee meeting at lunch from the beginning of the year to plan events to learn about peace. This week we have made Peace Cranes, wrote thankful notes on the Wall of Gratitude, were given 'Who will you make peace with' stickers, had a bake sale to raise money for the Red Crescent and spent some time reading to our second grade DAA community members. The POD committee were able to be a part of a video conference with three other schools in the Ukraine where we discussed overcoming conflict and what motivates a person to be a peacemaker. We also did our

tradition Student Body Peace Sign! We want to thank the teachers and students who organized this week for teaching us the importance of making PEACE!



Joel Oloroso Neroná

MIDDLE SCHOOL MESSAGES, continued

After School Activities

After School Activities are set to start this week and will last for six weeks through November 2nd. ASAs are on either Sunday, Monday, or Wednesday. Students should check the [ASA particulars](#) on Edmodo or in the middle school blog on www.gemsdaa.com to see when and where the ASA meets. It's still not too late to sign up for ASAs after the start of the event. Please have your student come see Mr. Spencer in the MS office to sign up. We are really excited to kickoff the first cycle of activities for the year! **CANCELLATIONS:** *take note that smartphone photography, soccer 7/8, and flag football were cancelled due to insufficient student numbers.*

Intramurals

Intramurals are coming! Every year in the middle school, we provide students a chance to try out a sport and work together as a team to offer friendly competition. For the first cycle we'll have our soccer intramurals where the grade level Color Houses will compete in friendly matches against each other while the sports leadership team referees. Grade 8 students will compete on Sundays, grade 7s on Mondays, and the grade 6 students will compete on Wednesdays. Intramurals happen during lunch, but don't worry, they'll have an opportunity to eat. Students should bring their color house shirt to play in, as well as a water bottle to stay hydrated.

Individual Photos

Individual Photos will be taken on Monday, September 26th. Students will need to wear their tie or scarf for this day.

Assembly

The first student assembly of the year will happen this Thursday, September 29th. We're excited to showcase our Peace One Day activities as well as introducing our 2016-17 Student Council representatives. Students should wear their color house shirt, pants (no holes, no leggings, no sweats) and closed toe shoes.

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.....?

- All things IB were discussed at IB Night**
 Marc Starr, our IB Co-ordinator and Tim Tschumperlin our CAS Co-ordinator spoke with over 100 parents about the key elements of the two year IB Diploma Programme last Monday. Parents had an opportunity to ask questions during and after the event which was held in the Auditorium and lasted nearly two hours.



- Senior Night and the college process**
 A large group of Senior parents and students gathered on Tuesday night to hear about the Senior College Process, presented by the DAA Counseling team of Ms. Watson, Mrs. Russell and Mr. Kurrass. The counselors presented a timeline for senior year, the different parts of the application, and how to make the most of senior year.

Please view the [presentation](#) or speak with your child's counselor for more information.

- Grade 12 students became more Mindful this week**
 On Monday in the Auditorium, Ms. Jen Crick led the whole grade 12 class through the process of Mindfulness. It is hoped that students will now think about taking more time out of their busy days to "stay in the moment", relax and re-group which in turn will help them in their studies.



- Democracy in action at student Senate elections**

Elections to the new Student Senate took place over two-days (Sunday and Monday) this week. Students heard speeches from prospective candidates who outlined their manifestos in front of all their peers.

There are 18 Senators (4 per Grade plus a President and Vice-President):

- Grade 12:** Ashwati NAIR (President), Zeena QADUMI, Son-mei Adriana GORACCI, Mauricio FORTUNA, Kshitij SETH
- Grade 11:** Andrew RIAD (Vice-President), Seif ABOU SHADY, Ghayas OSSEIRAN, Sarah WALLI, Diala TALAAT
- Grade 10:** Damla GUNDOGDU, Zein HAGEALI, Sam POURSAFAR, Eman Walid QADUMI,
- Grade 9:** Mustafa SAYGI, Sofia LADAK FERNANDEZ, Varun GUPTA, Natalia HARA



HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS, continued

- Sheikh Fatima Award winner announced



Every year a Grade 12 student receives the H.H. Sheikh Fatima Bint Mubarak award which is given in honour of the mother of the nation and her ongoing commitment to excellence.

It is awarded to an exceptional girl who exhibits outstanding academic success, commitment to social responsibility and World Citizenship. This year's recipient is **Meghna Banerjee**.

- Teacher workshops proved a great success at the first Professional Learning Day at DAA



Teachers came together to examine their practice, learn from each other and work collaboratively to improve teaching and learning at the school. A wide variety of topics were explored including; Instructional Rounds, Assessment, Differentiation, Developing a Growth Mindset, Intrinsic Motivation and Gaming in Teaching.



- Your serve!
Game night starts with Volleyball on Thursday

We kick off the Volleyball season with the BIG one against ASD. Varsity girls & boys volleyball against AS Dubai at ASD. Come out to support our student-athletes!

- Beating a path to our door

It's that time of year again! Seniors are busy finalizing college lists, and some may be submitting applications as early as October. In the coming weeks students will have numerous opportunities to visit with university and college representatives from the UK, USA, and other European countries.



Some universities that will be visiting are the University of Glasgow, Babson, St. Andrews, Royal Holloway, Queens University, Northeastern, Bentley, and many others. College visits are announced to students via Naviance and the Facebook page.

The first semester of Grade 12 is an especially busy time for students. Time management is important, so please remind your student get enough sleep during this busy time. Proper nutrition and sleep can also assist in having a clear mind.

HS Counseling Team

HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS, continued

What's coming up.....?

- **Student photos:** On September 25 it is Photo Day for High School students who need to wear full uniform includes TIES for the photos as they will be in the Yearbook
- **Food deliveries to school are not allowed:** Students cannot order food or drinks (e.g. coffee) to be delivered to the school under any circumstances. Food or drink that has been delivered will be taken away. I would suggest that your child pack a lunch or use the school canteen. Thank you or you understanding and cooperation.
- **Stay informed – website is a one-stop shop:** Check out our DAA Community website, where you can find High School information at <http://www.gemsdaa.com/?q=hs>
The HS Handbook, Program of Studies and the College Handbook can all be found here at the bottom of the page with all the information you need.

See you on campus!
Scott Schaffner and Paul McMahon,
Your HS Admin Team





ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES

EAC

Emirates Athletic Conference

...AND SO IT BEGINS!

We are off to a great start! So far our students have been competing against most of the EAC (Emirates Athletic Conference) teams. Coaches are using all their players to evaluate to see if they will make the final MESAC team that will represent DAA. We will compete against EAC teams in at least 2 head-to-head matches to see who wins this Athletic Conference. Congratulations to all of our teams for all their great efforts so far.

GOLF

We are excited to have golf as a MESAC sport this year. The team will be traveling to New Delhi in October. We will be sending 5 athletes to compete. You should be receiving information concerning trip details very soon.

BADMINTON

If you are interested in knocking the dust off your badminton racquet, come by the DAA gym to play from 1:00-3:00 on Fridays!

WEBSITE

Information such as practice times, games and tournaments can be found on the Athletics Bulletin Board and on the DAA Athletics Website. Just go to: <http://www.gemsdaa.com/> and then click on the Athletics link. Everything that you need to know for season 1 can be found there.

MATCHES FOR THE NEXT 2 WEEKS

SEPTEMBER

- 25 Sunday MS Volleyball v GWA @ DAA
- 26 Monday JV Volleyball v ACS/ASD @ ACS
- 26 Monday Golf v GWA @ the Els Golf Club
- 26 Monday Varsity Volleyball v GAA @ DAA
- 28 Wednesday JV Volleyball v GWA @ DAA
- 29 Thursday Varsity Volleyball v GWA @ DAA

OCTOBER

- 3 Monday EAC Golf Hosted by DAA @ Arabian Ranches
- 3 Monday JV/V Volleyball v UAS @ DAA
- 3 Monday MS Volleyball v UAS @ UAS
- 5 Wednesday MS Volleyball v GAA @ DAA
- 7 Friday MS Swimming at UAS
- 8 Saturday JV Boys Volleyball Invitational @ UAS
- 8 Saturday JV Girls Volleyball Invitational @ ACS
- 8 Saturday Varsity Volleyball Invitational @ ASD

Just a note that home VB matches typically start around 4PM.

COACHES/SPONSORS

GOLF: Mr. McDougall and Mr. Fichardt (Grade 8-12 only)

SWIMMING: Ms Lewis, Mr Smit and Ms Beukenkamp

VOLLEYBALL: Mr Freeson (V Girls), Mr Bruan (V Boys), Ms Matthews (JV Girls), Ms Fuglie (JV Boys), Ms Clegg (MS Girls) & Ms Cantu (MS Boys)

ACADEMIC GAMES: Dr. Ajayi, Mr Hansen & Mr. Atkinson

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Tim Tschumperlin

Acting DAA Athletic Director

ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES, continued

MESAC ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE 2016-2017

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



Menu
Week 4: September 25-29, 2016

WEEK 4

SUNDAY THAI

Chicken Coconut Curry			
Vegetable Coconut Curry	PASTA	Rainbow Fusili	
White Rice	SOUP	Minestrone	
	SALADS	Lentil	Potato

MONDAY INTERNATIONAL

Fish Tempura			
Tomato Green Bean Stew	PASTA	Spaghetti n Tomato Sauce	
Onion Rice	SOUP	Mushroom	
	SALADS	Russian	Pasta

TUESDAY AMERICAN

Beef Sloppy Joes			
Veg Sloppy Joes	PASTA	Fenne Araoiatta	
Sweet Corn	SOUP	Lentil	
Oven Roasted Potatoes	SALADS	Red Slaw	Waldorf

WEDNESDAY EMIRATI

Breaded Chicken Tenders			
Vegetable Thereed	PASTA	Mac 'n' Cheese	
Broccoli Forest	SOUP	Cream of Broccoli	
Potato Wedges	SALADS	Coleslaw	Oriental

THURSDAY INDIAN

Chicken Stew			
Daal	PASTA	Beef Lasagna	
Aloo Gobi	SOUP	Vegetable	
Saffron Rice	SALADS	Chickpea	Sweet Corn
Chapatti			



Gluten

Dairy

Egg

Tree Nuts

Peanuts

Soya

Shellfish

Fish