



It is excellent to be in touch with you again and to let you know that, day by day and despite challenges, Dhafra is moving steadily towards improved learning for your children.

I am delighted in the progress made in Kindergarten and Grades 1-3 and it was a pleasure to have English and Arabic teachers from another school in Al Ain coming to see our facility and watch our students learn. Miss Hala, Mr Brett and myself attended at least 7 parent events last month and appreciate your warm enthusiasm and helpful support.

In Secondary, we have started our Student Councils and a wonderful group of students is ready to represent their classes to extend the life of the school beyond the classroom. Assessments are challenging for some as students become accustomed to higher standards and staff use more rigorous marking procedures. We are working with all to support this time of transition which will result in a better prepared cohort of students whose learning is more aligned to international benchmarks.

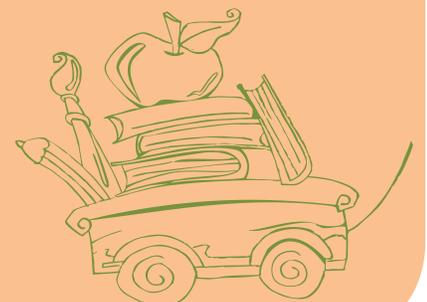
I also welcome Miss. Maggie Finnemor as our new Head of Primary. Maggie has transferred from our Abu Dhabi school. She lives in Al Ain and we are very lucky to have a head with her experience and knowledge.

# Bulletin Board



I do need parent support in four areas please:

1. All students, with the exception of Year 12, must wear our uniform every day, without exception. If they do not, they may be sent home.
2. There are a few students whose behavior is disrespectful to teachers and which disrupts other students' learning will be warned, then placed on detention and then suspended. Please be aware that such interventions go on students' files.
3. Students are bringing their phones to school and using them in classrooms and outside the school on trips. We have been patient and advised politely that this is against the rule but the problem continues. This is absolutely unacceptable and, to me, because of the risk of photographs going on social media, becomes a Child Protection risk. I personally asked all senior girls on 2 last occasions not to use phones in school. Any student who continues to disregard this request and ignore this school rule will be put on immediate one day suspension.



4. Students are arriving late to school again. They miss instruction and disrupt lessons. Children should be here at 7.30am. At 7.45am the doors are closed for tabour – a compulsory part of the curriculum - and assembly. Students kept outside will enter their names. If they are late three times in one week, there will be an afternoon one hour detention on Wednesday commencing at 2.30pm for one hour – parents will be advised 24 hours prior. The school will not provide transport home. If they do not attend they will have a repeat on Thursday for 90 minutes. If they do not attend they will be put on suspension.

On a positive note, the weather is cooling and it is wonderful to see students enjoying learning activities outside in courtyards. In our next edition, we will have a full report from two months' activities, complete with photographs for you to enjoy.

We look forward to families' participation with us in preparation for National Day.

In the meantime, my sincere thanks to you all for your support for Dhafra.

Warm Regards,

Margaret Beresford

Principal



Wow! What a busy month was October!

Beginning with the MAP and GL Progress tests, the Cambridge re-sit assessments for students looking to improve their grades and finally the Assessment 1 period, the students have had an intense programme of teaching, learning and assessment. Outside of the classroom our senior girls did a fantastic job of organizing the annual Pink Day bake sale, raising awareness and funds for Breast Cancer awareness. The students took on the responsibility of arranging the activities, sales and décor and all who attended commented on how excellent the organization was this year. As a result, approximately 12,000Dh was raised, which will be donated to support Breast Cancer charities.



Student leadership at ADPS is an important part of our values, and at the beginning of October we announced the Head Boy – Giath Jabra, and Head Girl – Fatima Al Kaabi, both of whom have been busy representing the school and coordinating activities within the walls of Al Dhafra. Supporting the Head Boy and Girl we now have House captains for the five houses – Eagles, Kites, Hawks, Falcons and Kestrels, as well as the student council representatives from each grade level. This year the number of opportunities for students to take on leadership roles will increase, and their contribution to the continued development of the school will be highly valued.

In the playground we have had several sports competitions, with Al Dhafra competing outside of the school at Al Jimi Mall and in a local sporting league in a range of sports – football, table tennis, volleyball and basketball. At ADPS we expect great results from our sports teams, and owe a great deal of thanks to our dedicated PE team. The Model United Nations (MUN) team have begun preparations for attending the conference in Dubai in March. This student led club brings together dedicated students in a United Nations forum where their public speaking, negotiation, research and critical thinking skills are called upon as they represent a specific nation to debate an identified topic. It is amazing on a Thursday afternoon, after the entire school has emptied, to find this group of dedicated students working independently as they prepare their position papers for their debate. We wait with real excitement to see how our MUN team competes at the Dubai competition.

Our students from Grade 8 participated in an Arabic competition to further enhance their general Knowledge skills. Thank you to the students who competed, and also to the staff who helped to arrange the competition – the Arabic staff and Ms. Fatmeh from the library.



Some fantastic news which we received during October was that one of our students managed to achieve the third highest grade for the B2 DELF exams out of the entire UAE. Congratulations to Lina Hassan, and thank you very much to the French department for such great results.

An identified area for development at ADPS has been the Careers and College guidance provided to the senior students. In recognition of this two staff members have been working with the seniors to support college applications and provide increased guidance. There is a real excitement and energy amongst the seniors at the moment, increased by the Najah conference in Abu Dhabi, as well as the two visits from external Education Consultants – Al Qadri International and GyanBerry.

During the month of October the SLT managed to get together with parents for coffee mornings for the three different grade levels 4-6, 7-8 and 9-12. This opened the door for sharing several issues related to academics, pastoral etc. Overall we all enjoyed these meetings and parents in general were happy about the opportunity given to them.



As we near the final semester exams we need to remind all students of the importance of these assessments. Whilst they do contribute to their final grade, they give teachers a checkpoint to see how learning has progressed. Students should build a study schedule well in advance, as leaving study until the night before the assessment is proven to have little, if any, impact on long term learning. I wish all of our students good luck as they prepare for the end of the semester.

Brett Girven

Head of Secondary

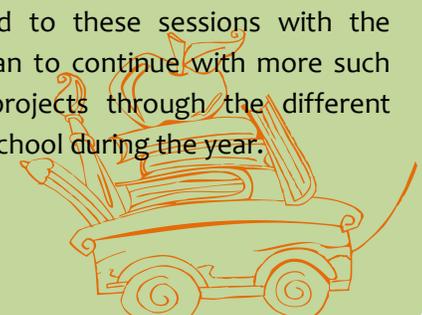


The month of October ushered in lots of exciting activities and engaging learning experiences for our young learners in K-3.

At the onset, the **Kindergarten Grandparents' Day** was a beautiful experience for our little children as they eagerly listened to their grandparents' childhood experiences in comparison to their own school life and other incredible changes over time.

The **Parents' Night** provided a wonderful opportunity to meet with parents and discuss our students' performance and share ideas of working in partnership to help our learners meet curriculum expectations and achieve their individual targets. In addition, the importance of Reading was emphasised with the **Reading Challenge** in the primary grades to promote a love for reading in coordination with the national reading campaign.

The secondary English department organized a **collaborative reading project** with our primary students. The grade 10 students' reading sessions in Grade 2 and 3 classes was an intriguing experience for the younger kids who looked forward to these sessions with the seniors. We plan to continue with more such collaborative projects through the different phases of the school during the year.



Furthermore, to extend our students' learning experience beyond the books, educational trips are organized in alignment with the theme. Our Grade 1 and 2 children **visited the Zoo** to observe and record information about the animals, especially the ones in the local environment. It gave the learners an opportunity to investigate and present their research projects to their friends and teachers back at school.

On the other hand, the Kindergarten children have been learning about different careers and community helpers and dressed up for the role play on **Career Day** to talk about what they would like to be when they grow up! "When I grow up ..." song in the Morning Assembly has been a treat to watch for all who are there.

Another highlight was on the **National Flag Day** with Kindergarten children on a parade through the corridors of the school, raising the flag proudly and chanting "UAE! UAE! UAE!" The euphoria caught on when the seniors too stepped out of their classrooms, clapping and joining in. The patriotic spirit was overwhelming at Al Dhafra!

Some other mentionable events were the **KG1 Pizza n Pyjama Day**, **KG2 Crazy Hats Day** and **Finger Family parade** and **Green Day** celebration by grades 1-3.

As the beautiful weather set in, it was the perfect time for our **Sports Days** which all the children and teachers enjoyed tremendously. The varied activities; races, relays and team games that were played showcased the values and competences of *Respect, Care and Collaboration* in practice in this fun-filled environment.



Hand-in-hand, the active learning and teaching continues in full swing as we progress towards the end of Term 1 working earnestly on our curriculum expectations and targets.

We are thankful to all our parents for their support and cooperation which is vital as we move forward on our journey from Good to Great!

Tamana Ajwad

KG – 3 Coordinator

