

# Newsletter

6th October, 2023

Term 1, Issue 6



Photos courtesy of World Teacher's Day, World Dyslexia Day me showing some Year 2s what 3 weeks of learning the piano sounds like, the Italian Consulate visit and a footloose Friday.



With Beagles, you will never eat alone.  
Lucy is always watching.

# Head of Primary's Message

As we step into another week, I am pleased to share the latest updates and highlights from our vibrant school community.

## **Lost and Found Drive:**

Our Lost and Found drive is upon us again. PADIA will spearhead the initiative, returning any items that bear name labels. For items that remain unclaimed, they will be organised and displayed on the 11th, 12th, and 13th of October on the Quad. As has become our tradition, any articles left after these dates will find their way to charitable causes, turning loss into an opportunity for giving.

## **World Teachers' Day Celebration:**

World Teachers' Day this year surpassed all expectations! It was heartwarming to see parents stepping forward to spruce up our primary staff rooms, bringing with them an aura of appreciation, quirky fun, reducing waste and community spirit. The school gates witnessed a plethora of flowers, cards, and delightful treats, setting a tone of gratitude and affection. Our morning commenced with tea, toast and coffee, generously sponsored by Café Nero. However the pièce de résistance was our fantastic parents and Year 12 students taking over reading sessions, allowing our teachers to enjoy a well-deserved, parent-sponsored luncheon. The community atmosphere across all year groups and throughout the school was nothing short of delightful and another example of community engagement (one of our school drivers).

## **Emphasis on Physical Student Work:**

During our welcome mornings, I had touched upon our evolving educational approach. We've consciously dialed down our use of iPads and Toddle, choosing instead to prioritize physical books and more hands on tasks. While we still add class tasks to Toddle in the upper years we understand that for some parents this has altered the amount you see daily. Please trust that this change is having a profound impact in the classroom. To support your understanding of what is being completed in class, we have also added additional emphasis on year group-specific newsletters and by sending the books home regularly for your to review. (These are in the Comms Corner below). Our endeavor is to strike a harmonious balance in primary education methodologies, and we will continue to refine this approach based on feedback from parents, students, and teachers.

## **World Dyslexia Day:**

Today, we observed the first of our Diversity Days – World Dyslexia Day, a cause close to my heart. Spearheaded by our inclusion department, this day sheds light on the challenges and potential advantages of dyslexia. Speaking from personal experience, while dyslexia does present its set of challenges, in fact, it has been a catalyst for creative, lateral thinking in my journey.

## **Student Birthdays – Dressing Up Over Treats:**

A gentle reminder to our DIA families about the decision was made by student council last year regarding birthday celebrations. Children are invited to wear their home clothes on their birthdays instead of bringing in treats or gifts. This initiative is geared towards reducing any undue pressure on families and ensuring each student feels special on their big day.

# Head of Primary's Message

## **NPS Survey – Your Feedback Shapes Us:**

Reflecting on last year, it's evident that our NPS survey played an instrumental role in shaping the direction and initiatives of DIA. The invaluable feedback from our parent community spurred several wonderful projects and developments in collaboration with our internal vision. The current vision, along with positive parent collaboration and constructive suggestions led to the creation of our new stage, the introduction of our 'Tunes' and 'Footloose' performances, the policy for books going home, dialing down on tech reliance, refining our CCA offering and amplifying community-centric opportunities, even putting bold headings to these paragraphs. Not to mention the great number of phone calls, coffees and laughs I and the rest of the team have had with so many of you. Let us work together to both celebrate and innovate. If you have not completed the survey then please do check your emails and submit so that we can share the feedback with our academic team.

## **Ecoventure Residential Camps:**

Excitement is in the air as we gear up for another residential camps collaboration with Ecoventure! After discussing the upcoming adventure with our students, their faces lit up with anticipation of the fun-filled activities and experiences in store. We also emphasized the importance of family discussions and decisions. It's paramount that every child understands the choice to attend lies with their parents. Rest assured, we've taken this opportunity to instill the value of respecting and understanding family decisions. Whether attending or not, our main goal is to ensure every child feels included and valued.

## **Celebrating Mother Tongue - A Nod to Our Italian Heritage:**

Today marked a significant milestone for our Mother Tongue language program. With immense pride and joy, we witnessed over 70 Italian families come together in a heartwarming celebration of Italian culture, graced by the esteemed presence of the Italian Consulate. This event was not just a celebration of linguistic diversity, but also a testament to the rich tapestry of cultures that our school community represents. Our aspiration is that such collaborations will pave the way for deepening our ties not only within the Italian community but also among all our Mother Tongue communities.

Kind regards,  
Tom Collar



**This perfectly sums up so much of what we should look for in a community #FootlooseFriday**



# EXTRA EXTRA! EXTRA!



KG1

YEAR 3

THE ARTS

KG2

YEAR 4

STUDENT  
COUNCIL

YEAR 1

YEAR 5

YEAR 2

YEAR 6



## NOTICES

- Click for the [lanyards order form](#) - Kindly contact [helpdesk@diadubai.com](mailto:helpdesk@diadubai.com) for any assistance.
- International residential trips meeting for Year 5 and 6 parents on Monday 9th October 7:40am in the rear of the cafeteria.
- Next week, with the weather steadily cooling, we will be spending more time outdoors, please remember to send you children with a water bottle and a hat! No hat, no sunshine.
- [Click here](#) to see a video we shared both last year and this year.
- [Click here](#) to see a video of members of our school community talking about their experiences with dyslexia.



10.

OCTOBER



2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
01	02 ECOVENTURE PARENT MORNING YEAR 4-6 WILL RECEIVE FACE TO FACE INFORMATION ON OUR LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL TRIPS. 7:40 - 8:45 CANTEEN	03	04 YEAR 3 COFFEE MORNING 8-9AM @COFFEE CLUB SPRINGS SOUQ.	05 WORLD TEACHER DAY • STAFFROOM TAKEOVER ORGANISED BY PRIMARY PADIA • 2-3PM TEACHER LUNCH WITH FOOD SUPPLIED BY THE COMMUNITY AND WHOLE SCHOOL PADIA	06 DIVERSITY DAY - DYSLEXIA - WEAR RED YEAR 5 COFFEE MORNING 8-9AM @COFFEE CLUB SPRINGS SOUQ.	07
08	09 <b>NEW!</b> BORNEO AND KENYA INFORMATION MORNING. 7:40 - 8:40 CANTEEN.	10	11 PYP WORKSHOP - COME AND LEARN ABOUT HOW THE IB SUPPORTS YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT 7:45AM REAR OF THE CAFETERIA	12	13	14
15	16	17 YEAR 3-9 PARENT READING INFORMATION SESSION ON ACCELERATED READER	18 S4K PRODUCTION 'PETER PAN' PINK DAY- DRESS UP	19 MID TERM - NO SCHOOL	20 MID TERM - NO SCHOOL	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 TODDLER REPORT UNIT 1 YEAR 1 - 6	28
29	30 PRIMARY PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES - NO SCHOOL	31	01	02	03	04



# Staff Member of the Month



# MS EMAN

HEAD OF ARABIC B



## What staff said:

- ★ "For always being there and helping us without even asking."
- ★ "She sets the bar so high for me and provides me with the tools to achieve my objectives."
- ★ "She is an incredibly supportive and helpful leader."



## S4K Production - Peter Pan coming to DIA-EH on 18 October 2023



*PETER PAN*, a musical show for 4–11-year-olds, adapted from the world-renowned JM Barrie story and made famous by the classic Disney movie (amongst many others!), is magically brought to life here at Dubai International Academy, Emirates Hills.

*PETER PAN* flies to London and meets his new friends WENDY, JOHN, and MICHAEL. He brings them back to NEVERLAND where they meet MERMAIDS, INDIAN BRAVES, PIRATES and the infamous CAPTAIN HOOK.

*PETER PAN* is a delightful, musical comedy show with plenty of audience participation and interactive fun. The action-packed, fun filled, comedy adventure is ideal for children of all ages.

*These shows are performed in English and sensitively adapted for UAE audiences.*

### Show times:

KG1-Y2 - 09.50 am - 10.40 am

Year 3-4 - 11.00 am - 12.00 noon

Year 5-6 - 13.30 pm - 14.30 pm

Venue: SS PE Hall, DIA Emirates Hills Dubai

If you wish your child to attend this fantastic performance, then please arrange an online payment of AED 60 via the below online payment line:

<https://payment.innoventureseducation.com/diaeh/online/>

To login, use your child's "student ID number" and date of birth.

**Payment deadline: Monday 16th October 2023.**

**The online ticket payment is non-refundable.**

Should students not be attending, they will remain in class with one of the year team teachers.

