

## DIATONES PERFORM AT DUBAI RUGBY 7s 2018

On Friday the 30th of November, the DIAtones proudly represented the UAE, by performing the National Anthem at the official opening of the Dubai Rugby 7s 2018.

The children dressed to impress by forming the UAE flag through the white kanduras and red, green and black abayas. The choir were expected to perform at rehearsals, as well as be present early on the day. The behaviour of all students was one to be proud of! They not only represented DIA proudly, but the UAE as well.

Well done DIAtones!! If you would like to see more footage of the day, please visit the DIA Dubai Facebook and Instagram pages.





# Upcoming Events

ACADEMIC YEAR 2018 - 2019

Upcoming Events:

## DECEMBER 2018

Sunday, 2 - Monday 3 December	UAE National Day (holiday to be confirmed)
Tuesday, 4 December	Yr 11 Mock Exams (4-13 December)
Tuesday, 4 - Thursday, 6 December	DP1 Retreat & G4 Project (4-6 December)
Tuesday, 4 - Thursday, 6 December	DP2 Revision Week (4-6 December)
Tuesday, 4 - Thursday, 6 December	Week Without Walls (Year 7 - 10) - UAE
Tuesday, 4 - Thursday, 13 December	Year 11 exams
Wednesday, 5 December	Year 5 Science Fair
Sunday, 9 December	IVEI Secondary Basketball – U16 and U18 Girls @ RIS
Sunday, 9 December	IVEI Secondary Basketball – U16 and U18 Boys @ CAS
Sunday 9 - Thursday, 13 December	DP2 Mock Exams (9-13 December)
Sunday, 9 - Tuesday, 11 December	PADIA Santa's Grotto (PS), 9-11 December
Monday, 10 December	KG1, KG2, Year 5&6 Winter Concert
Tuesday, 11 December	Year 1-4 Winter Concert
Wednesday, 12 December	Innoventures Education Walk-A-Thon (TBC)
Wednesday, 12 December	PS Reports - Reports Unit 1&2
Friday 14 - Monday, 31 December	Winter Break

## JANUARY 2019

Tuesday, 1 January 2019	New Year's Day
Tuesday, 1 January - Saturday 5 January	Winter Break
Sunday, 6 January	Students and staff return after Winter Break
Sunday, 6 - Tuesday, 15 January	DP2 Mock Exams
Wednesday, 9 - Thursday, 17 January	DP1 Exams
Sunday, 13 - Tuesday, 15 January	Year 6 Field Trip
Sunday, 13 - Thursday, 17 January	Year 10 Exams
Sunday, 27 January	PADIA New parents coffee morning
Tuesday, 29 January	Innovents - Qur'an Recital Competition
Wednesday, 30 January	PADIA Wellness Talk
Thursday, 31 January	PD Day - No school for PS and SS students
Thursday, 31 January	SS - MR Reports to Parents
Thursday, 31 January - Friday, 1 February	DOE Bronze Year 10 Training

## NATIONAL PRIORITIES

The quality of education has significantly improved throughout Dubai with many schools adjudged as good or better. Nevertheless, Dubai still aims even higher and targets to become among the best countries in the world for education by 2021. Therefore, a number of national priorities have been emphasized to achieve this goal.

### UAE National Agenda Parameters

UAE Vision 2021: First Rate Education Indicator	National Agenda Objectives
Average PISA score An indicator that measures the country's ranking and scores in the PISA exam, which evaluates the reading, mathematics and science skills of 15 year old students.	To be among the 20 highest performing countries in PISA
Average TIMSS score An indicator that reflects the nation's ranking and score in the TIMSS test, which evaluates the math and science skills of students in grades 4 and 8	To be among the 15 highest performing countries in TIMSS
Completion of high school education	To ensure 90% of Emirati students complete their high school education
High skills in Arabic language	To ensure that 90% of grade 9 students develop high skills in Arabic language in the UAE NAP assessment
High-quality teachers	To ensure that 100% of schools have high-quality teachers
Highly effective school leadership	To ensure that 100% of public schools have highly effective leadership
University foundation programmes	To ensure that no students need to join a university foundation programme

### MORAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM

The Moral Education Curriculum (MEC) covers four pillars of teaching and learning: character and morality, the individual and the community, civic studies and cultural studies. The four pillars complement one another, using the lens of moral thinking and learning and building character. Underpinning the curriculum are thinking, learning and communication skills, which support development and progression through primary and secondary school up to year 13.





## UAE NATIONAL EDUCATION AND SOCIAL STUDIES

In line with UAE national priorities and the Dubai strategic plan 2021, schools in Dubai are required to incorporate the Ministry of Education UAE social studies curriculum standards into their curricula. The rationale for this is to provide students with in-depth knowledge, skills and understanding in history, geography and civics, which emphasise the links and relationships between diverse groups, people, science and society. Students will contribute, as responsible citizens and residents of the UAE, to the building of a cohesive society that is inclusive of all, while preserving the UAE culture, heritage and traditions.



## INNOVATION @ DIA – “CREATIVITY IMPLEMENTED”

The UAE vision 2021 includes innovation as part of the National Agenda. The UAE National Innovation Strategy aims to promote innovation in the education sector by introducing creative teaching methods and techniques, as well as designing and developing innovative curricula that equip students with the 21st century skills and knowledge. Schools are required to promote innovation through meaningful learning opportunities with elements of enterprise, enquiry research, critical thinking and the use of learning technologies.

## EMIRATI STUDENTS

During 2018 – 2019 there will be a specific focus on the aspirations and achievements of Emirati students in schools. As per the UAE Vision for 2021 states that at least 90% of Emirati students will complete their high school education, with an increasing proportion of students going on to university. At DIA our Emirati students are well integrated into the school community. All our Emirati students graduate at the end of Year 13 and enter university.

## INCLUSION OF STUDENTS WITH SEND

The vision of Dubai is to become a fully inclusive city by 2020. Schools are required to demonstrate a commitment to the values and standards of inclusive education. At DIA we ensure that students who experience SEND are provided with the support, accommodations and curricular modifications required to enable equitable access to educational opportunities. Appropriate priority is given to the development of each student's potential, including meaningful participation in the learning process, with peers in the common learning environment.



## READING LITERACY

The theme of PISA 2018 was Reading Literacy. PISA defines Reading Literacy as, “... understanding, using, and reflecting on written texts, in order to achieve one's goals, to develop one's knowledge and potential, and to participate in society.” The recent PISA and TIMSS results highlight the importance of reading literacy on student performance in international assessments, including science and mathematics, in which there is a clear link to the National Agenda. DIA is developing a Reading Programme that aims to engage, inspire and motivate students.

## SERVICE AND ACTION

Setting up of 'Organic Farmers Stall' in Marsa Al Khor at the Dubai Festival City.

They were the first set of students trying this option out for Service and Action. The students who participated took instructions from the organizer Mr. Muhammed who provided them with this opportunity. He was delighted by DIA's initiative.

I would like to thank Varsha Bhardwaj (Year 5); Megan Daniels (Year 6C); Ivans Smirnovs (Year 8C); Ryan Daniels (Year 7A); Hiral Verma (Year 9B); Sachi Menon (Year 9); and Rohit Vadgama (Year 8C) for making this possible.

**Ms. Mithra Rennie Daniels**



I was happy to get an opportunity to be part of the organic farm produce vendors who are helping the community sell organic produce grown in their farms or backyards. It was amazing to see this vibrant community of sellers and vendors with products not just from the UAE but from various parts of the world, like Jordan, India and Greece. We worked for four hours with set up of stalls and selling some products too.

**Ryan Daniels 7A**

I was happy to help all the people with setting up the food produce stalls and help them sell. It was a fun activity to do during the weekend and it was good running around and helping people who appreciated it.

**Rohit Vadgama 8C**



I helped set up organic stalls in Al Soufouh next to the Intercontinental Hotel. We arrived around 3:30 pm and helped every single person set up his/her stalls to sell their products. After this, we also helped to sell their products. We made sure that we put a smile on everybody's face by selling their organic products. The reason we volunteered for this is because we knew that they were supporting a good cause by selling their freshly made vegetables and fruits.

**Harsha Bharadwaj, Year 9**

During this experience I was supposed to help vendors set up their organic food stalls and also help promote their stall around that specific area. My main goal and focus was to lend a hand to the people standing behind the stalls as they needed help to organize and unpack their products during the day.

**Varnika Seth, Year 9B**



## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

### MAKING FRIENDS!

DIA celebrated Anti-bullying week from the 11<sup>th</sup> November to 15<sup>th</sup> of November.

The Primary Student Council has been taking part in a variety of creative activities related to **Friendship**.

Odd Socks Day was held to show that everyone is different but equal. The messages are 'We are all unique' and 'We choose respect'. These socks have been displayed in a collage next to the Primary School office.

Another activity involved classes tying a ribbon of friendship onto the bleachers on the field to make them look more colourful and inviting and as a pledge from the children to show respect. Some of our PSC members also organized a 'reading with a friend' activity on the bleachers. That was amazingly successful!

Early Years and Lower Primary classes composed the 'Hands of Friendship' displays with a clear message; 'Although all our hand prints are different we are all equal.'

Other events organized by the PSC were the gratitude jar, messages of hope and a friendship rainbow and selling friendship bands and donating the proceeds to GIVE.







### PAPER PLANE FRENZY!

On Thursday December 13<sup>th</sup> (last day before the holidays) we celebrated the end of 'Where we are in place and time' unit with a paper plane innovation design and flying contest. Our hallways, classrooms and cafeteria were inundated by paper planes that would be tested for flight time, distance and accuracy in flight.

**The winner of accuracy:  
Mohammed Al Yousuf, 4C**

**Winner of the distance competition:  
Noah 4B with a distance of 20.3 m**

**Winner of flight time:  
Noah 4B for 5.4 seconds**

It was a lively competition enjoyed by all!

**YEAR 4**







**TITLE OF THE BOOK - THE ONE AND ONLY IVAN  
AUTHOR - BY KATHERINE APPLGATE**

**FIRST REVIEW BY - ALISAR ADASI 6B**

I highly recommend this book because it shows an animal's life through a different point of view.

A gorilla called Ivan faces the obstacles in front of him and discovers the reason why they call him "the one and only Ivan"

Interestingly, the story is based on a true story.

**SECOND REVIEW BY - MS. OLIVIA, PS ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN**

I never thought that an enormous creature, Ivan (a caged gorilla) can capture my heart and let my tears fall down. "*The One and Only Ivan*" is an amazing book that brought many revelations to my life. The story shows that hope, love and patience can also be manifested from non-human beings. Ivan, Stella, Ruby, Bob and even Julia (the only human in their circle) show the essence of true friendship.

My curiosity arose when I read Alisar's (from Yr. 6) review of this book since I was fascinated with the life of Koko, also a gorilla who can communicate using American Sign Language.

From the beginning up to the end, the life story of Ivan will expose to the readers that animals also have emotions and can feel sadness, pain, happiness and excitement.

Katherine Applegate's masterpiece will surely leave a mark on every reader's heart. It is a story that can change a cold-heart to a warm-heart.

I would recommend this story for all ages.



## SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS

### DIA YEAR 9 & 10 CAREERS FAIR 2018

On Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> November, we were delighted to host the fourth annual DIA Careers Fair, a joint parent/school management led initiative to provide our Year 9 and 10 students with an introduction to the various careers and professions in the world of work.

During this time, our students had the opportunity to engage with thirty different professionals from a wide spectrum of career backgrounds and ask questions related to their work, education and qualifications. The team of participants consisted of many parents of DIA students, along with a variety of external professionals who willingly volunteered their time to make this event a success. Students were organised in a mini-seminar basis and got to visit four informative sessions of their choice.

It was a wonderful experience for our students and it was evident that they came away very enthused about the different career prospects and definitely feeling like they got some valuable insights into the daily routines of these highly skilled and successful participants.

DIA would like to sincerely thank all of those who contributed to make this event a huge success.

**Colin Leacy**  
Head of Year 10

**William McKee**  
Head of Year 9

**Robert Jennings**  
Deputy Head of Secondary School - Pastoral









## FIRST LEGO LEAGUE (FLL) ROBOTICS CHALLENGE

On Saturday 24th of November a group of students from DIA took part in the First Lego League (FLL) Robotics Challenge. The challenge was made up of a number components, including a presentation and Robot. The theme of this year's challenge was around space travel and the challenges that are faced. The students represented the school magnificently, working together to solve problems. Unfortunately, on this occasion we came up just short of qualifying to the National Finals. However, this nearly formed team will continue to work on Robotics challenges, preparing for more competitions in the second semester.



The Heriot-Watt Computer Science Festival that took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> November was an eye-opening experience that provided a platform for students to gain knowledge on the field of Computer Science and its applications on our modern society. From the 'App Inventor' workshop to the 'Artificial Intelligence' workshop, all these interactive sessions developed our skills and provided a platform to interact with real-life applications of Computer Science, such as the 'Wrestling Robots'.

The 'App Inventor' enriched the students' coding skills which is utilised in the subjects of Digital Design and Computer Science at DIA. This event created exposure for Computer Science and motivated enthusiastic students to pursue the profession of computer programming in the future.

**Sahil Singhvi, Year 11**





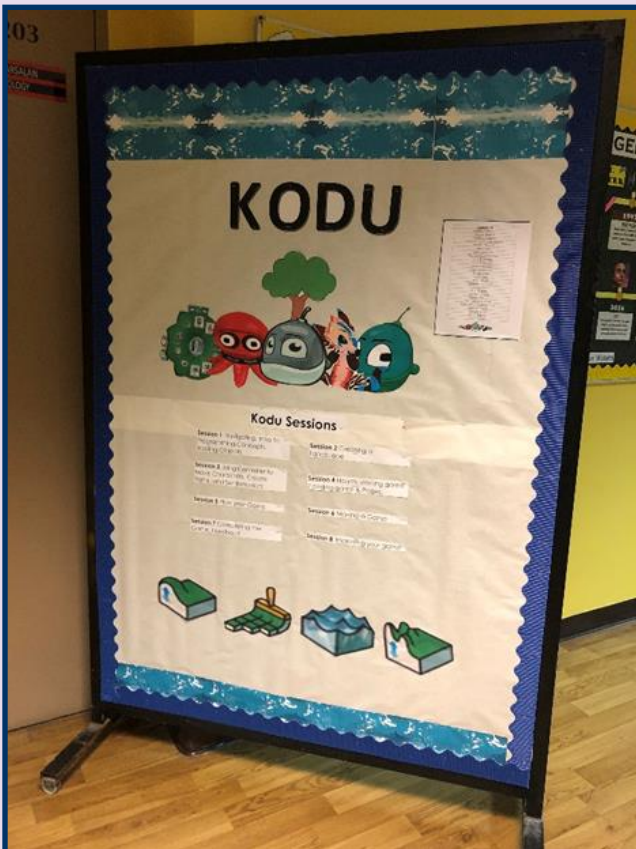
## WEEK WITHOUT WALL/ KODU GAME DESIGN

During the Week Without Walls, the Technology Department introduced a game design workshop. Students from both *DIA Emirates Hills & DIA Al Barsha* participated in this workshop. The students designed games using Microsoft Kodu which is a platform that is developed to teach the fundamental concepts of programming through game design. The students sculpted landscapes; decorated them with trees, buildings, lakes and other objects; and populated them with interactive characters, gameplay, scoring systems and more.

The workshop started by introducing the fundamentals of gaming and the students started creating simple games to practice the main content and capabilities of the programme. The students were required to design a game with multi levels and then played the game and tested it coming back with some recommendations and tips to enhance the game and make it better.

A final project required each student to create a multi-level educational game that is related to any discipline of their choice (Math, Science, Language, History etc.) and then test it and evaluate it with peers.

Throughout this workshop the students practiced so many different life skills. Clearly communicating with players, anticipating the possibilities of how others will interact with your creation, solving the multitudes of problems that arise, working through things in a methodical way, creating small and large goals to accomplish, reviewing work and developing an eye for editing, creatively expressing ideas, and so much more. It was a very interesting experience.

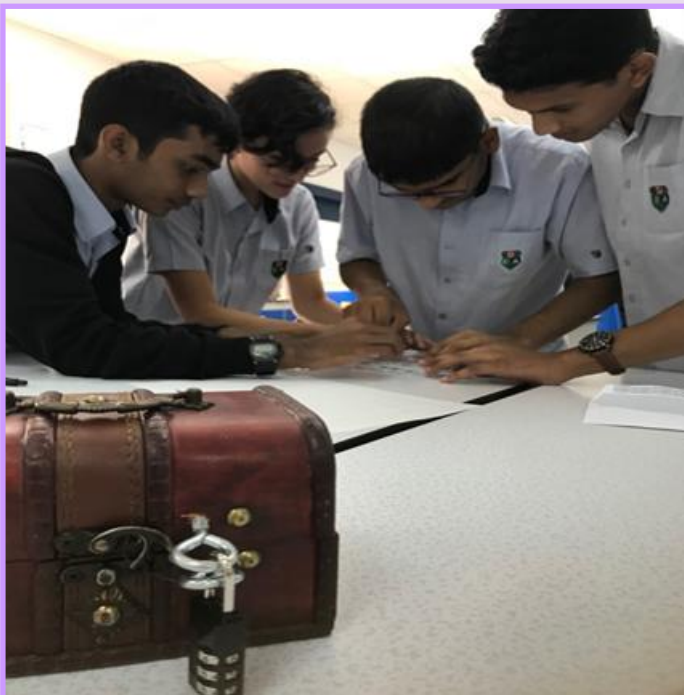


## THE GOLDEN BUNSEN

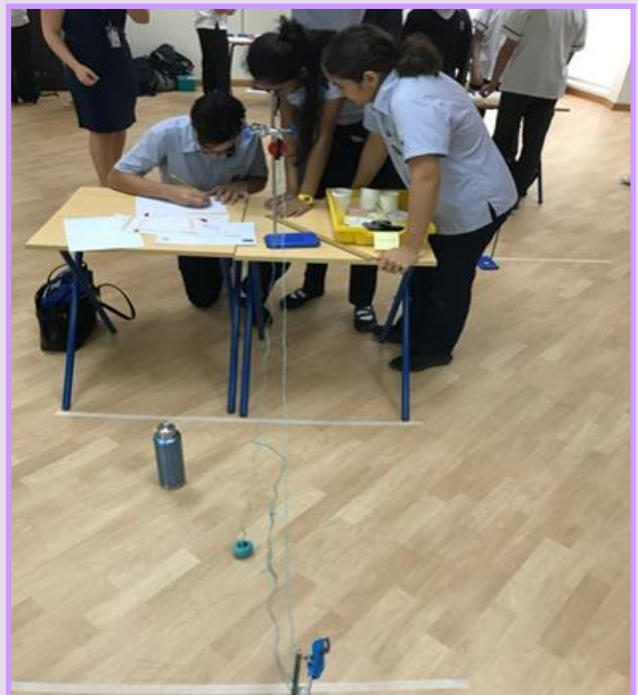


YEAR 11 TEAM

YEAR 9 TEAM



The competition was a thrilling experience. It was such a fun way to incorporate science into exciting challenges. We really enjoyed putting our scientific and practical skills to the test, and are looking forward to doing it again as a team.



This competition was a great experience and a chance to develop our collaboration and critical thinking skills. We hope to participate again and come back with a trophy.



## NEWS FROM PADIA



A big thank you to the PADIA team for all their work during the first semester and especially for the Santa's Grotto

