

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the second newsletter of the session. In it we will reflect on what has been happening in the last few weeks and give you advance notice of important events planned for the month of November. Since the first newsletter we have had two extremely successful Curriculum Evenings for the parents of Primary and Secondary students respectively. I would like to thank Mr. Gordon Parrish and Ms. Kim Percy who delivered the presentation on the Primary Curriculum Evening.

I would also like to thank parents for their positive response to my plea to attend a second meeting to elect a Parent Teacher Association Core Committee. The re-scheduled meeting was held on 1st November and on this occasion we had sufficient volunteers to create a committee which hopefully will reflect parent views on school matters and also support us in what we are doing to develop the school in the community.

The names of the PTA Core Committee are as follows:

Chairperson	-	Dr Saeed Iqbal
Vice-Chairperson	-	Mrs Debbie Rawcliffe
Treasurer	-	Mrs Aisha Al-Ma'amary
Secretary	-	Mrs Heather Al-Hatmy
Member	-	Mr Hafed Habhouba
Member	-	Ms Rose Lee
Staff Members	-	

Mrs Meagan Stevens, Ms Anne Keen, Mr Andrew Boase, Mrs Elizabeth Westwood, Ms Charlotte Ruiz, Mr Joseph Westwood, Mrs Janet Danaher.

We will keep all parents informed of developments.

Currently, we are in the middle of our Annual Literacy Festival and the "bookworms" are growing by the day! This is an extremely important initiative for the students and again we would ask for your support in encouraging reading to become an integral part of your child's leisure time activities.

One aspect of MIS school life which is concerning me is the degree of late coming which we are experiencing amongst our students. This is proving to be extremely disruptive as the late comers miss the morning assembly where important information is passed to the student community. Please do your best to emphasise to your child the importance of establishing good timekeeping habits. As you are well aware this is crucial not only for now but also for later life. Records of late coming are being kept and the parents of persistent offenders will be informed in writing. We need your support in raising the awareness of the importance of being on time.

Selected staff from both Primary and Secondary Sections have recently been, or will be attending, professional development conferences and insets in Dubai during October and November. The information gained from attendance at such insets/conferences is important in allowing staff to stay

abreast of the latest curriculum developments and passing this onto our students and other colleagues.

The first 'Big Draw' event was held in school on Wednesday 13th October. The Big Draw is an initiative started by the Campaign for Drawing, (an independent charity which raises the profile of drawing as a tool for thought, creativity, social and cultural engagement.) Students and staff were all invited to produce a postcard with an Image representing their culture. The event was a huge success with the help of our sponsors Faber-Castell supplying all drawing materials. Our Grade 11 and 12 students raised over 500 Rials for our Charity Club appeal by selling refreshments on the day. Thanks to all those who participated.

Congratulations to Reham Al-Rawahi and Ghassan Al-Hajri on their election as Head Girl and Head Boy for 2010-2011. Adiroopa Mukherjee and Mohammed Al-Khabori were elected Deputy Head Girl and Boy. All Prefects, House Captains and Vice Captains [Primary and Secondary] and School Council members are now installed and are attending to duties assigned in an enthusiastic manner.

Brian McCormack, Principal

From the Primary Desk

Many thanks to all those parents and students who attended our recent Curriculum evening; attendance was high and it was good to see so many happy faces. Strong parent teacher partnerships are a cornerstone to productive and effective educational practices and we received a great deal of constructive feedback during these sessions that will assist in enhancing our teaching and learning practices.

Some points to remember:

- **Our Literacy Festival** is well under way. This year our theme is "**Authors R Us**". So far we have had an amazing response to our reading at home programme. We ask our parents to sign their child's reading record each night and monitor the number of minutes read. Grade 4, 5 and 6 have all had visits from local Authors, Jane Jaffer and Steven Fryberger and our author Carousel is in full swing with students visiting a number of classes to learn about other authors. A number of exciting activities are being planned over the next week to encourage our students to read and parents are encouraged to visit us during these, so look out for further news to follow!
- **Homework** is going home regularly; please make every effort to ensure your child completes this. It is set to reinforce what the students have studied in class and helps to develop independent learning habits.

- Our Student **Dress Code** is published in the Student Homework Planner. Can I please stress that all students must wear their appropriate uniform every day? P.E. kit is now readily available for purchase and should only be worn on P.E. days.

- **Parents** are reminded that children can be collected from the **Marble Area** after they have been dismissed. Please refrain from going upstairs at this very busy time in the day! Likewise, we ask that students be dropped off at the Marble Court in the morning. Teachers are very busy with preparation at this time of day and disruption can have a negative effect on this.

- If you would like to **volunteer** in the classrooms, please do not hesitate to contact me at school to make arrangements!

- **Lost property** has been displayed and all items which were clearly labeled returned to their rightful owners. Items not collected have been donated to charity. Please ensure that all the items which your child brings to school are clearly labeled; in this way it's safe return if lost can be assured!

Again, thanks to all parents for their ongoing support to date, particularly during the numerous charity fund raisers during this term, your support is greatly appreciated. If you do have a query, concern or some positive feedback you can contact me through the front office.

Gordon Parrish, Head of Primary

Kindergarten News

I wish to extend a warm welcome to you and your child. We hope that 2010-11 will be a wonderful year for you all in the KG Department. The girls and boys have settled in well and we have made a very smooth start to the semester. We have a total of 77 children in the KG this year; 7 in Pre-KG, 26 in KG1 and 44 in KG2. We trust that their time with us will be enriching and rewarding.

The curriculum is in full swing and as I walk around the corridors I notice how the majority of the students have adapted to their new school environment. Students are following the Daily Programme enthusiastically and they are working hard. The display boards are a true reflection of the students' efforts in the classroom.

I wish to encourage you to take an active role in your child's education and offer your support and guidance in all their endeavours. The KG students have participated keenly in the M.I.S. Recycling Project. We are looking forward to participating in the Literacy Festival and have had a local author, Ms Shannon Butler, visit the KG students last week.

In an effort to ensure the efficient functioning of the KG Department, please note the following:

- Ensure an early bedtime for your child (8 – 8.30pm)
- Send a healthy snack to school every day.
- Encourage your child to wear his/her PE clothes every Saturday and on his/her PE day.

Thank you for your continued support.
Ms Jennifer Hodgskiss, KG Co-ordinator

From the Secondary Desk

The 2nd Muscat Youth Summit –Al Nadha Resort & Spa - Monday 1st - Thursday 4th November



The following students, accompanied by Mr Cawley, were selected to participate in the Muscat Youth Summit:

Simone Portaluri, Nimer Al Amad, Lina Al Khalil, Mohammed Al-

Khabori , Ghassan Al Hajri , Parsa Khan, Tasfia Shikdar , Luay Al Harthy

The Muscat Youth Summit is an annual initiative organized by the Brand Oman Management Unit (BOMU) supported by UNESCO, the Sultanate's Ministry of Education and the Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science. Given the Sultanate's demographics – over 40 per cent of the nation's population is 15 or under - issues related to youth are of significant interest to us.

The purpose of the Muscat Youth Summit is to give youth a voice in the planning of activities and programs for their communities and to provide information to adults making decisions that affect their lives.

Literacy Festival

The English Department organised a short story book to be read to students in KG. We are looking to have the book published at a later date. The following Grade 8 students were involved in the activity:

Haneen Ibrahim, Amna Aftab, Hind Eliyas, Maha Al-Balushi, Lujainah Al-Subhi, Swafiya Sheikh

The M.I.S. Green Team

The Green Team was started in September and students have been keen to help with the recycling project. We have instigated the collection of plastic bottles and paper. Several



blue bins and boxes have been placed around the school for staff and pupils to use. The Green Team are proud to say that they have been a huge success and thanks all the staff and students who are supporting the

recycling project. There are other projects and events happening at the moment, for example, the making of campfire blocks from waste paper as well as a beach clean-up and BBQ trip which has been planned for December. We would like to ask all staff and students to bring any plastic bottles they have at home into school. Let's make the world a healthier place. Stay clean stay GREEN.



BP Young Adventurers Programme, U.A.E.



M.I.S. has welcomed an invitation to participate in the BP Young Adventurers Camp in Fujairah, UAE, again this year. Mr Clyde van Graan and 15 students set off on 4th November for what promises to be a challenging but most worthwhile experience.

Careers

A number of visiting universities from around the world have provided our senior students with a wealth of information about universities which they may not previously have considered. Feedback from the visitors demonstrated that our students are keenly sought by many institutes of higher education around the world. Students too were delighted with the information and literature from the universities opening up, potentially, new horizons for their future.

We were also pleased to welcome Ms Claire Shasha, a lawyer from Al Busaidy, Mansoor Jamal & Co (Barristers & Legal Consultants), to talk to the 6th Form students about a career in Law. The careers talk was aimed at giving students a real idea as to what it is actually like to be a lawyer/barrister/solicitor.

4th Travel & Tourism Conference

The following A2 students attended the 4th World Travel and Tourism conference on Tuesday 12th Oct. They were accompanied by Mr. D. A. Fleming:- Parsa Khan, Aqlimia al Kindi, Miriam al Balushi, Noor al Rahbi, Manazir Islam, Sarah al Zadjali and Nibras al Amri. The core theme was that of "Responsible Tourism" – the exact title of one of the exam papers in January! The group was very kindly sponsored for the day by the Oman Tourist Board, amongst others. Thanks go to Melanie Fritz for helping us with sponsorship at this very prestigious event.



Papers were presented by a wide range of guest speakers and covered topics such as "green eco and sustainable tourism"; the effects of tourism developments – good and bad; the role of hotels and the accommodation sector; educational tourism at turtle beach Ras al Jinz; the development of golf facilities as a tourist attraction etc. The day was of great benefit to all, not least of which was the ability to network with people in the various sectors in the industry. It is hoped to contact them shortly for further information.

Khalil Ahmed, Acting Head of Secondary

U19 Football

On Saturday 16th October the Boys U19 Football squad played a friendly match at the British School. Despite losing 3-1 the boys were very competitive throughout and were unlucky to end up on the losing side. With many new players making their MIS debut it

looks as if the forthcoming season could be a successful one. MIS have drawn with The Sultans School, ABA and the Indian School in their pool and should be confident of progressing through to the final stages. The boys would like to thank all those staff and students who made the effort to turn up and support them on the night and we look forward to seeing more in the future.

U16 Football Match

On Wednesday 27th October 2010 the under sixteen football squad played a match against Al Ibdaa Private School. Five minutes after the match had started Muscat International School scored the first goal of the match, with the second goal coming shortly after. The first half came to an end and M.I.S had a lead of two goals. The players were exhausted in the break, both teams had underestimated each other. This was no longer a match it was a battle for the school's reputation. In the second half the match got intense; there were more fouls and more shots. Two more shots for M.I.S had flown past the goalkeeper and in to the net, this gave M.I.S a comfortable lead. Al-Ibdaa Private School refused to give up and scored the final goal in the 90th minute. The whistle had blown and the match was over, 4-1 was the final score. Both teams walked with their head held high, some had learnt from their mistakes and some were proud of their schools performance. *Submitted by Badaruddin Nadeem*

TAISM Swimming Relays Event

On Monday 11th October 2010 Muscat International School took a team of swimmers to TAISM School for the swimming relays event which they hold each year. It was a delight to take a big group of enthusiastic participants to represent the school. Although M.I.S. did not prove victorious in terms of places within the races on the day, each and every competitor should feel triumphant in their achievements. They all put in every ounce of effort they could possibly muster and did it with enthusiasm and winning attitudes. The P.E. Department would like to congratulate you all and hope that this event has set a precedent for the coming year of sports fixtures for which we wish to see M.I.S. teams or competitors going from strength to strength.

Swimming Relays Teams:

Primary Girls:- Ellie Rawcliffe, Eliza Parrish, Verte Boulos, Samantha Beaver, Kelsie Beaver, Ishaanee Didwania, Zahra Atmoko, Thalia Leonard
Primary Boys:- Sasha Compton, Samuel Massner, Azim Baruno, Kevin Gaa, Faisal Al Ajmi
Secondary Girls:- Arsy Baruno, Salma El Genidy, Nadine Bou Kamel, Adiroopa Mukherjee, Ivana Mucalov, Nicole Prince, Reham Al Rawahi
Secondary Boys:- Faisal Al-Jaouni, Raas Ijaz, Matthew Gerard

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- *Eid Al Adha and National Day Holidays will be as announced by the Government.*
- *National Day Inhouse Celebration date will be advised to you when date has been set.*
- *Hijra New Year holiday will be as announced by the Government*

1 st	Dec	-	Reports Term 1 issued Grades 7, 8 and 9
5 th	Dec	-	Parent/Teacher Conference G7, 8 and 9
8 th	Dec	-	Reports Term 1 issued Grades 10, 11 and 12
12 th	Dec	-	Parent/Teacher Conference G10, 11 and 12
15 th	Dec	-	Reports Term 1 issued Grades KG to G6
19 th	Dec	-	Parent/Teacher Conference KG to G6
22 nd	Dec	-	End of Term 1
8 th	Jan	-	Start of Term 2



Reham and Ghassan : Head Girl & Boy



The Big Draw



University visitors



MIS Swimmers to TAISM competition



Football MIS vs Al-Ibdaa 4-0

SNAP SHOTS



Min of Health Vaccinations



Literacy Festival visiting authors