



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear parents, students and colleagues,

It is hard to believe that we are already two months into school. The excitement and development continues unabated. In recent weeks we have launched some of our PADIA committees, namely Service Learning, Sustainability and Sport. Today sees us mark an important event as we are celebrating UAE Flag Day. We have also recently enjoyed the start of our Dubai 30x30 fitness challenge and the opening of the Primary swimming facility this week.

Please keep a look out for the many ongoing workshops designed for parents, including See-Saw and Arabic learning platforms. We hope many of you are able to attend these worthwhile sessions.

I am sure the children enjoyed the long weekend, having a little bit of a mid-term rest. For teachers it provided an opportunity for focused professional development with workshops taking place on Thursday, and for some there were external MYP workshops running all weekend and into Sunday. No doubt the students will see the benefit of these sessions over the weeks ahead.

This edition of meDIA highlights some of the activities and events of recent weeks. I hope you enjoy...



Mr. David Hicks
School Principal

Our Student Council joined with some of our young Emirati students to raise the UAE flag today



Dates for your diary:



Thursday	8th	730am: Coffee Morning with Mr Commons	Auditorium foyer
Tues-Sat	13-17	Global Grad Show (tbc)	SS
Wednesday	14th	Dubai 30x30 Fitness trip	PS Kite beach
Wednesday	14th	Innoventures Got Talent	Gr 3-12 Auditorium
Thursday	15th	Dubai 30x30 Fitness trip	SS Kite beach
Thursday	15th	Reports released to parents	SS
		GIVE Walk-A-Thon (tbc)	
Sunday	18th	Student Conferences	SS
Sunday	18th	Arabic Writing Competition	Gr 3-8 RIS
Sun-Thurs	wc 18-22	Green Week - Eco Initiatives (tbc)	
Monday	19th	Innovents Mathematics challenge	Gr 3-12 DIA EH

SCHOOL NEWS - HIGHLIGHTS

Dubai Fitness Challenge – 30X30

DIA AB ran off to a great start to the 30X30 challenge. We have had many fun and exciting activities and events for the students, parents and teachers and we still have many more to come. So far we have participated in a fun run around the track, where all participants could jog, walk, sprint, or dance their way around our spongy fantastic 400m track for a total of 30 minutes listening to their favourite song.

Tuesday we were fortunate to have Zeina share her expertise with us and deliver a HITT session to all, which was very motivating and exciting and even left many with sore legs after the 'squat song challenge, bring Sallie up bring Sallie down'. It is safe to say that there were a few finding out that they really do have muscles!!

The following days' activity was the fun circuit. Nine venues across the school and nine grades completing one. Activities included were tug of war, table tennis, dodgeball, fun relays, tennis, ball games and many more.

We will end our first week with Dana taking a fantastic yoga session Thursday morning to help stretch, bend and unwind all students, staff and parents who have been amazing and taken part in our fitness school challenges. Thank you to everyone.

Bring on week two!!

Let's go Sharks.
Jade Williams



SCHOOL NEWS

This week's IB Learner Profile focus is...**KNOWLEDGEABLE**

Students who are knowledgeable have explored relevant and significant concepts and can remember what they have learned. They can draw on this knowledge and apply it in new situations. They are proud that they have deep knowledge about subjects that interest them.

How can parents help to develop students who are Knowledgeable at home?

- ⇒ Ask your child about what they are learning in school and engage them in conversations about it:
 - “Why do you think that is an important thing to know about?”
 - “Can you think of anything happening in the world today that might be similar to that aspect of History?”
- ⇒ Foster any area that your child expresses an interest in with books and activities, but also be sure to encourage them to explore other areas.
- ⇒ Encourage your child to become familiar with current events and to read the newspaper (online or hard copy) and watch the news **when appropriate**.
- ⇒ Discuss events with your child – let there be a discussion – hear their perspective, let them hear yours
- ⇒ Encourage your child to read books at home that correspond with the topics being covered in school. In particular, books in their mother tongue will help your child make more meaningful, lasting connections to what is being taught in their classroom in English.
- ⇒ After reading a book, spend some time considering how the people in the book were knowledgeable. Also discuss what new knowledge your child has learned from reading the book. Can they connect this new knowledge with what is being learned at school? With prior knowledge?

As you can see – being more knowledgeable is not about completing worksheets or being kept busy with homework once they have left school. It is about them being able to discuss and share what they have learned – to COMMUNICATE what they know and want to know more about. Yes, it would be easier to just have them sit and do work, but it is more meaningful to discuss with them what they have learned, read, seen, done and to see if they can make connections to current situations, world news, experiences, etc.

Hope this helps a bit better to understand why our approach regarding home learning is the way it is – we have seen the benefits and although new to most of you, you will see a positive impact.

We had a few parents requesting a DIA AL BARSHA supporter shirt. Our staff have just recently designed one for themselves to ‘show off’ how proud they are to be a DIA SHARK! Parents have seen it and wanted something similar.

If you would like one, and again, no obligation to purchase one at all – visit the Primary School office – try on a size and place your order! The shirts are 80 dhs each. Please pay once ordered. We will place an order at the end of next week with the supplier and they have said it will take about 4 days for delivery from date of order. Not to worry – there will be another round if more people are interested.

Want a SHARK SHIRT?

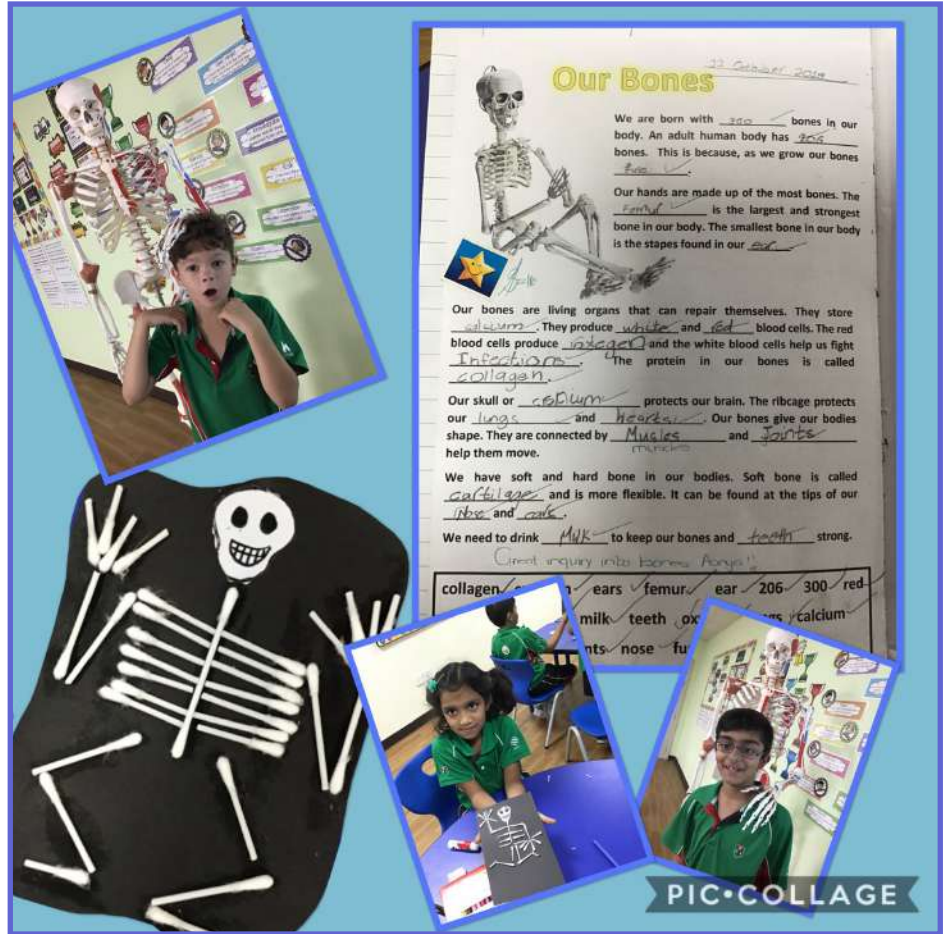


PRIMARY SCHOOL — HIGHLIGHTS



Teachers and students at DIA Al Barsha were most excited about the launch of SEESAW, a student driven digital portfolio of children's individual learning journey. Students and teachers have eagerly been showcasing amazing learning in action through the upload of photographs, videos and samples of student's work.

This platform enables teachers to empower their students to create, reflect, share and collaborate. Our Primary parents were connected to their child's portfolio this week and now have the opportunity to share in their child's learning journey.



Learning through play is the best!



The KG outdoor areas have had some exciting new additions this week. Pre-K children enjoyed exploring their new sand and water areas as well as building up some speed on their new wheels.

KG1 enjoyed making music on the colourful Boomwhackers...before long we'll be performing the latest chart hits with them! They also applied new maths knowledge ordering clothes on a washing line and our new talking telephones allowed the children to develop their communication and language skills.



SECONDARY SCHOOL — HIGHLIGHTS

GLOBAL
CONTEXTS

MYP HIGHLIGHTS

Global Contexts create a context through which we explore the content in each subject. They also inspire explorations of our common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet. Ask your child what Global Contexts they are currently using in their classes.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Whilst students enjoyed a long weekend, teachers were still at school working hard!

On Thursday, Secondary teachers spent the day honing their techniques for teaching Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS), along with using Bloom's Taxonomy for questioning and various Assessment for Learning (AfL) activities to enable them to provide further 'stretch and challenge' for our highly able students here at BIA Al Barsha. A number of our Secondary Teachers also gave up their weekend to spend Friday, Saturday and Sunday taking part in development courses with the International Baccalaureate organisation, whilst others will take part in similar events later in the year.

We're very confident that our teachers' approach to 'Lifelong Learning' will support our students in making outstanding progress in the Middle Years Programme (MYP).



Are you following us?

This week our **TWITTER HANDLES** went 'live'...that's right...one for each grade! Our teachers have had some fun getting all social media savvy and tweeting away!

So why not find us...become an inquirer and see if you can track us down on TWITTER...here's a clue...search for @DIAB_ (followed by your grade)...we also have one dedicated to the Primary.

Don't forget...we are also quite active on **INSTAGRAM...DIABARSHA**.

Next time you take a break to have a coffee or some tea – why not see what we are up to.