



GERONIMO



Kings' School Nad Al Sheba Newsletter
Edition 3 - April 2017

From the Principal's Desk



Every Monday, we hold School Tours for prospective students and parents. One question I am constantly asked is, "what sets you apart from other schools in Dubai?" The answer is not an easy one as every school has its unique identity; every school is trying its level best to provide the best for each and every child. What is important to one family may differ to the next. What a family may value from a school is very personal.

It is no secret that competition amongst schools in Dubai is high. It is therefore, important for us to actively listen to what is valued and appreciated by our community. What I consistently hear in my feedback is the sense of community and team spirit at KSNAS. I am proud of our emerging sense of togetherness and inclusivity. Far too often, schools pay lip service to the '*parent as partner*' agenda. Throughout this academic year, I do hope you feel that you have been part, if not integral, to the success and development of our school.

"Seek to understand to be understood," by Stephen Covey is an apt quote for Edition III of Geronimo. From our understanding of inclusion, the tolerance and understanding of International Day, and the 'togetherness' and competitive spirit of our House Swimming galas, all add to our sense of community spirit. For that to happen, we need to take pride in and be proud of our school. I remain immensely proud of all that is achieved at KSNAS. After two terms in post, I understand what our children and community need and we continue to lead in this direction; that is understood!

Enjoy the read!

**Mr. Gale
Principal
Kings' School Nad Al Sheba**

Contents

Community in Focus	02-03
Specialist in Focus	04-05
Celebrations	06-09
Sports in Focus	10-11



Front Cover Image

A glimpse of International Day 2017 celebrations at Kings' School Nad Al Sheba

An Inclusive Community

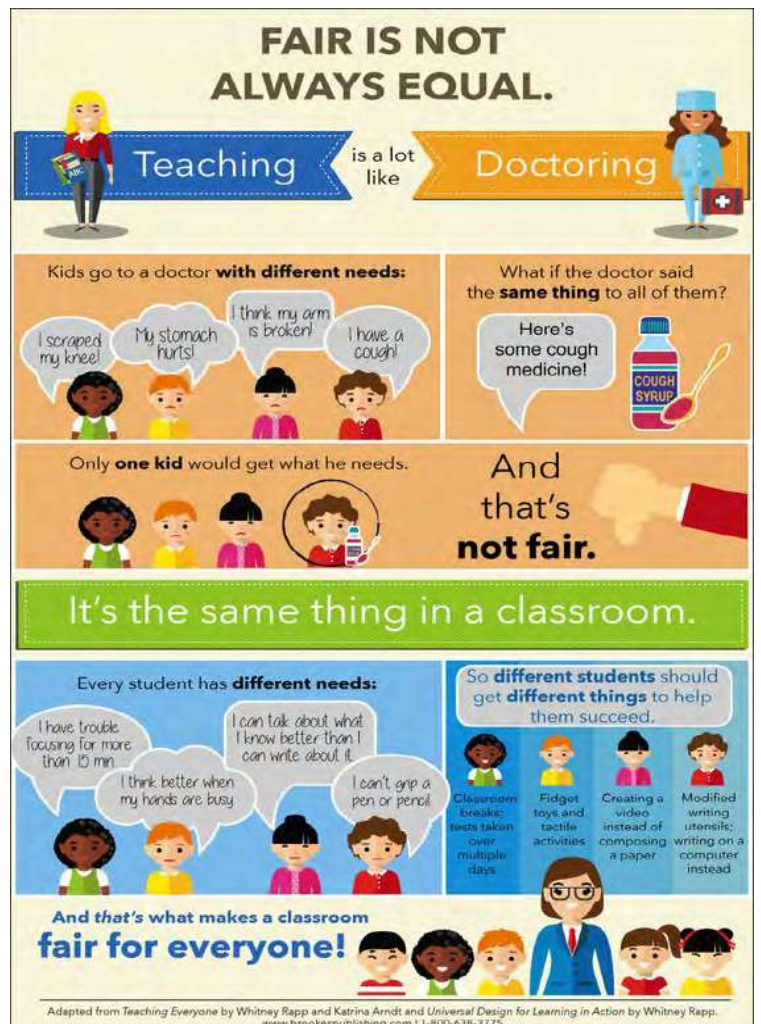


Mrs. Buckley
Primary Leader of Learning Support

At Kings' School Nad Al Sheba, we pride ourselves on being an inclusive community with the children at the very heart of everything we do. We are constantly striving to do the 'best by every child'.

What does 'inclusion' actually mean?

We believe that all children have the right to access quality educational provision. Kings' School Nad Al Sheba caters for students with a range of special educational needs and disabilities, along with those who have English as an additional language, and those who might be more or exceptionally able. Every single child is different and has a unique set of strengths and weaknesses. We always play to the children's strengths whilst supporting them with things that they might find challenging. Within one classroom or year group, there are many different children, all of whom require different support and challenge from the class teacher. "Inclusion" does not simply mean the placement of students with special educational needs in mainstream classes, rather, it is the way in which a school community supports and addresses the individual needs of each child, whatever these may be.



FAIR IS NOT ALWAYS EQUAL.

Teaching is a lot like Doctoring

Kids go to a doctor **with different needs:**

- I scraped my knee!
- My stomach hurts!
- I think my arm is broken!
- I have a cough!

What if the doctor said the **same thing** to all of them?

Here's some cough medicine!

Only **one kid** would get what he needs.

And that's **not fair.**

It's the same thing in a classroom.

Every student has **different needs:**

- I have trouble focusing for more than 15 min
- I think better when my hands are busy
- I can talk about what I know better than I can write about it
- I can't grip a pen or pencil

So **different students** should get **different things** to help them succeed.

- Classroom breaks: tests taken over multiple days
- Fidget toys and tactile activities
- Creating a video instead of composing a paper
- Modified writing utensils: writing on a computer instead

And that's what makes a classroom fair for everyone!

Adapted from Teaching Everyone by Whitney Rapp and Katrina Arndt and Universal Design for Learning in Action by Whitney Rapp. www.brookespublishing.com | 1-800-638-3775

What is differentiation?

One of the most important principles of inclusive education is that no two learners are alike. Therefore, we place great emphasis on creating opportunities for students to learn and be assessed in a variety of different ways. We consider a wide range of learning styles, ability levels, and interests when planning and delivering lessons. Teachers understand that what works well for one child might not work for another. This understanding enhances the way in which we provide support and challenge for students with special educational needs whilst also diversifying the educational experience of all students.

A welcoming environment for all

Dubai is a very cosmopolitan city where many cultures live harmoniously alongside each other. This is definitely reflected in our school community where it is clear that children from all around the world learn wonderfully together. In a place where many of us don't have our extended family, being an inclusive school is so important because it ensures that all students truly feel that they are part of the school community.

Where does the Achievement Centre fit in?

Pupils are referred to the Achievement Centre when their teachers feel that they need some additional support. This could be for many reasons:

- they have moved to Kings' School Nad Al Sheba from a different curriculum and have some gaps in their understanding within the British curriculum
- English is not their first language so they might need some language support
- they have a special educational need or disability
- they are more or exceptionally able

We offer inclusive provision with additional support, intervention, differentiation and personalisation, where appropriate. This might be through support within the classroom, in a small group, or in a 1:1 situation.

Inclusion is something that we are very passionate about. All of our children need to feel that they belong and their happiness and progress in learning is vital to our value system; this is why being an inclusive community is at the heart of what we do.

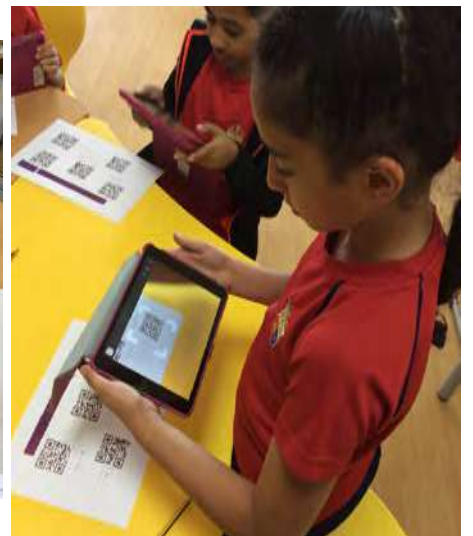
A Community of Learners



Mrs. Elsaid
Arabic Leader

The community feel is strong at Kings' School Nad Al Sheba and one of the things we feel makes us stand out. Our recent Arabic Week is a great example of how we involve the whole community in learning opportunities.

Arabic Week was a special event at Kings' School Nad Al Sheba which had lots of learning, a range of activities and one that engaged the whole community.





During the Arabic Week:

- children were encouraged to speak Arabic at play time and motivated to speak only classical Arabic during Arabic classes
- children were very excited when they taught their class teacher some new Arabic words and simple phrases (good morning - *Sabah Elkhayr*, thank you - *Shukran*)
- Arabic A children taught Arabic B children some new phrases
- children enjoyed visiting an Arabic book fair
- children engaged in listening to stories from the Arabic author Sahar Naja Mahfouz and enjoyed taking part in activities related to the story
- class teachers challenged themselves to give simple instructions in their classrooms using Arabic language
- parents were engaged in the learning through the parent workshops and they also joined their children in Arabic classes and enjoyed it when the children taught them Arabic

Children, especially the Arabic Ambassadors, showed their fantastic learning in Arabic as they led the activities and were very engaged during the Arabic Week. Our Arabic Ambassadors led a teacher's quiz as well.

Finally, the week culminated into a wonderful assembly where lots of personal achievements were celebrated and special prizes were given to children and teachers who worked extremely hard and put lots of effort into showcasing their very best Arabic learning during the week.

Book Week 2017



Mrs. Khan
Librarian

Book week 2017 was full of fun and action. In the weeks preceding book week, a writing competition **Igniting Writing** was launched. The theme was based on inanimate objects found in the School's lost property box, e.g. a flip flop, a towel, a pencil and even some blu tac! Children were asked to write stories about these objects as part of their creative writing.

Foundation Stage children wrote poems about animals and superheros with the support of their class teachers. All these writings are now being published as a book, titled *Igniting Writing - Kings' School Nad Al Sheba*.





We started the Book Week 2017 with a dress up day, when everyone dressed up as their chosen inanimate object. Julia Johnson was invited to our School as the guest author. She did some story reading sessions with each year group. A book fair by Little Thinkers also took place over three days during this week.

Finally, we celebrated the World Book Day with a Roald Dahl theme. Everyone had to dress up as a character from a *Roald Dahl* book. The parade/catwalk of costumes started straight after registration. All children paraded around the garden and had their moment on stage.

A carousel of Roald Dahl based activities was organised by Miss Bryce as follows:

- *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* - Design your own wrapper
- *The Twits* - Guess what the different foods are, then create a beard for Mr. Twit (one per class) to show what it would look like if this food were stuck in his beard
- *James and The Giant Peach* - How many balloons does it take to make the peach float investigation
- *The Witches* - Mouse hunt in the garden
- *Matilda* - Character limericks
- *BFG* - Create a dream jar
- *Fantastic Mr. Fox* - Fox origami

The activities were a huge success with high engagement and quality outcomes. Thank you for getting involved.

International Day 2017



Mrs. Campbell
Digital Coach

International Day at Kings' School Nad Al Sheba was an early start for many as stalls needed to be decorated and prepared for the many visitors. The school garden was turned into a sea of flags representing the various nationalities of our children. Twenty two fantastic looking stalls were created and manned by our growing community of families and friends.

The day started with *Dhol* drumming which announced the beginning of celebrations to the crowd. The International Day Parade followed soon after, where our children entered the garden beaming with pride in their national dresses. The electric atmosphere included music from around the world and the children took their turn on the stage to greet their class members. The community warmly welcomed all by singing a chorus of Let Love Shine Through. Our Principal, Mr. Darren Gale, then thanked everyone for their dedication, participation and enthusiasm for the International Day.

The first act was Bollywood dancing a lively dance by our students Kye and Burhanuddin (Year 5). These boys really know how to dance! Musical acts followed, sharing traditional music and performances from many countries. The children then had the opportunity to visit all the stalls, which gave them a true taste of each country. Each stall offered cultural information, history of their origin as well as native gifts and food.

The entertainment continued in the afternoon, where our staff, parents, and everyone in the Nad Al Sheba community enjoyed the beautiful weather and the amazing atmosphere.

Two of our students, Hannah (Year 6) and Kye (Year 5), summed up the day beautifully by sharing with us what was the highlight of the day for them. Hannah said that 'everything was perfect that day' and Kye echoed her sentiment by saying 'the day was epic!'

What a truly fantastic day that was!

How will we go one better next year?

CELEBRATIONS



KSNAS International Day - March 2017

Sports in Term 2



Miss Oliver
Director of PE and Sport

Sports development continues to be a huge driving force for the PE Team...

Throughout the Term 2, our children fully immersed themselves in each and every sporting opportunity. Our high participation rate is a key indicator that we are developing a healthy, active and sporting culture whereby our children are inspired and motivated to get involved in School Sports.

With over 30 Schools visiting us for various competitions since the start of the year (swimming, touch rugby and football development events), we are fast becoming a school known for its commitment to providing valuable and purposeful sporting competition for children within the Emirates. This commitment by the PE Department to drive forward sports development will ultimately lead to a growth in the number of sports initiatives provided by the school, enhancing sporting opportunities and experiences of every child in school and promoting healthy, active lifestyles.

Touch Rugby celebrates its first successful season!

Our Touch Rugby season has now finished and came to an end with a stunning finale. We hosted 3 tournaments in the finals for various age groups. Our children went head to head in a competitive tournament against various other schools across Dubai. With each and every game, it was evident just how far our children had come since picking up a rugby ball for the first time in January (for the most of them).

Some selected children went to Abu Dhabi to represent the School in the Middle East Youth Touch Championships on Saturday, 15th April. It was a fantastic day of rugby with each of our teams competing against opposition from Abu Dhabi and Dubai. The U9s competed very well against tough opposition, whilst the U11 girls demonstrated some great team work with a high work rate to match. It brings to an end our first ever touch rugby season, but with the sport fully embedded and enjoyed by all at KSNAS, there's sure to be more to come as we build toward next season.

House swimming made quite a splash!

It was fantastic to see our children show off their swimming skills before the break. Our first House Swim Gala saw children from Year 3 to 6 represent their House in competitive swim races. Demonstrating their skills in all 4 swim strokes, the children raced down their lanes encouraged and supported by a healthy show of parents and their team mates. In a special assembly later that week, Hanover House were announced as the winners. Year 1 and 2 children took part in their own swim festival. We saw some fantastic swimming skills as each and every one of them was eager to cross the pool and show mums and dads, and teachers alike, what they can do! Mr. Gale was also notably impressed with our young swimmers, commenting on how much they have developed since the start of the year.



Important Dates for the Diary

Tuesday, 9th May - FS2 Swim Open Day

Wednesday, 10th May - FS1 Swim Open Day

Tuesday, 18th May (12:15-1:15 PM) - Sports Awards Assembly

TOURNAMENTS	DATE	VENUE
Rounders	Tuesday, 25th April Tuesday, 2nd May Tuesday, 9th May Tuesday 16th May	Astroturf/Sports Hall
Basketball	Sunday, 7th May Sunday, 21st May	Sports Hall
Swimming	Thursday, 20th April Thursday 4th May	25m Swimming Pool
Cricket	—	Sports Hall

Next update will be in May 2017.

– *Innovations at KSNAS*

– *Birthday Blooms*

– *Technology in Focus*

– *FONASS*

#Geronimo



"the best by every child"