



GERONIMO!



Kings' School Nad Al Sheba Newsletter
Edition 6 - October 2017

From the Principal's Desk



What is the point of school?

This is a question that has been debated by not only prominent international educationists, but also parents and most certainly young teenagers and students!

It is a philosophical question and one which we must frequently revisit to ensure we are providing the 'best by every child' through 'results the right way.'

Posing this question to our children received a rich and varied response; some quite funny. It would be interesting for you to ask your children this question.

For us as a school staff and community, we are clear about the purpose of coming to our school. The start of the new academic year affords us a fresh opportunity to re-evaluate our priorities and our unique selling points. We remain steadfast in our focus on our children's learning journey, their progress with and the richness of their schooling experience. The point of our school is to be a school for and about our children, their learning and their futures; a place where children feel they belong, feel happy, feel safe and achieve. The point of our school is to think differently – outside of the box, not be afraid to take managed risks and to stand out!

As we publish our first edition of Geronimo! for the academic year 2017-18, I hope you see a continuation of our vision; that we have raised the bar and we explicitly showcase to you through this publication throughout the year, the key point of Kings' School Nad Al Sheba.

"Children's success in life depends not whether they can read, but on whether they do." – Guy Claxton

Enjoy the read!

Mr. Gale
Principal
Kings' School Nad Al Sheba

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Front Cover Image

The Oldest (Ahmed Mugharbi - Y6), The Tallest (Gemma Martin - Y6), The Youngest (Julia Boareh - FS1) and The Most Petite (Shaima Haroon - FS1)

STEAM Fortnight and Science Fair



Mr. Holliday
Assistant Headteacher

First and foremost, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to our school community.

Thank you to our children for their constant curiosity and for having a thirst for knowledge that drives them into the learning pit and out towards answers. Thank you to our parents for their continued support in encouraging children to ask questions and for showing a keen interest in their learning, echoed by a remarkable turnout for our Science Fair on Thursday 28th September. Finally, thank you to our teaching staff, who work tirelessly to provide our children with truly remarkable learning opportunities on a regular basis.

This year's STEAM Fortnight was launched on the back of some incredible data outcomes for Science. See table below:

PRIMARY SCIENCE SUMMARY				
	Well Above Curriculum Expectations ST 8 & 9 SAS 127+	Above Curriculum Expectations ST 7 & 6+ SAS 112-126+	In Line with Curriculum Expectations ST 5+ SAS 89-111+	Below Curriculum Expectations ST 4- SAS 74-88
STANINES	46.0%	74.0%	97.5%	2.5%
Standard Age Score	33.0%	56.0%	97.5%	2.5%

In short, our children are working at a very good level in Science, above National and International expectations.

“The important thing is to never stop questioning.” - Albert Einstein

This thought has been a prominent cog in our STEAM Fortnight machine. In viewing our School's Facebook videos, you would have seen a range of incredible hooks into specific themes and how the children were instantly engaged through awe and wonder: thousands of questions flying through their imaginations. Whether it was protecting Jack's Golden Eggs, baking in homemade Solar Ovens or investigating a prehistoric problem in our Year One area, the children enjoyed their learning for every single second.

Our teachers captured this and gave our children the most incredible opportunities to explore their questions in a practical, cross-curricular way. Throughout, we kept the same mentality: learning is not achievement. This was cascaded down to the children; that the learning journey of investigation, collaboration, perseverance and risk-taking and mistake making is much more important than being correct. Indeed, anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new.

To view our amazing STEAM Fortnight learning journeys, take a look at our videos, found on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/KingsSchoolNadAlSheba

We are looking forward to the opening of our new KSNAS Science Lab, which should be installed and ready for use before the Half Term Holidays start at the end of October, as we continuing prepare our children for a future that does not yet exist.





Moral Education and Our Values



Mrs. Buckley
Assistant Headteacher

This year, the UAE has introduced a Moral Education Curriculum that all schools are implementing from September 2017. This is a very interesting initiative that we are very excited to be a part of at Kings' School Nad Al Sheba.

Moral Education is designed to be implemented from Year Two, right through to Year 13. Here at KSNAS, we will be introducing elements of this from the Foundation Stage as we strongly believe that it is important that children receive a holistic education.

What is Moral Education?

Moral Education is a curriculum that is designed to develop tolerance, openness, acceptance and respect among young people. It plays an important part in preserving the nation's longstanding traditions and culture whilst creating a responsible and resilient youth who have a strong moral compass and are aware of their rights and responsibilities.

How is the curriculum structured?

It is a progressive curriculum that consists of four pillars: Character and Morality, The Individual and the Community, Civic Studies and Cultural Studies. Throughout the year, learners will be work on different objectives from these strands. However, Civic Studies will only commence in Year 6. It is also designed to help children to consolidate their other learning during their Moral Education lessons. For example, they will be applying their problem solving skills when finding solutions to moral dilemmas, or using their collaboration skills to work with people from their class.

What are the whole-school values?

Last year, children from across the school decided which values were most important to them. We used this information to select ten values which will be discussed and celebrated each month. Our values include: respect, diversity, equality, tolerance and many more. Each month, we will be launching a new value as part of our assembly programme which will be posted on Facebook, Twitter and it will also form part of the children's Home Learning.

Are you a bucket filler or a bucket dipper?

In order to help the children to conceptualise their learning in Moral Education and around the values, we have introduced a story called "Have you filled a bucket today?" by Carol McCloud. The story promotes positive behaviour by demonstrating how rewarding it is to express kindness and appreciation. By promoting the values around school, children are being 'bucket fillers' and will be rewarded by being able to add to their classroom bucket display. This will then be celebrated each month with certificates in assemblies.



What can parents do to support with Moral Education and Values?

The Moral Education initiative will be most effective if all members of the school community are involved. There are lots of things you can do to support this, such as asking your child whether they have been a bucket filler, talking to them about the value of the month, discussing the values question on the home learning with them or simply talking to them about their Moral Education lessons.

Infusing Technology Across the Curriculum via Seesaw



Mrs. Campbell
Leader of Learning Technologies & Innovation

This term, Kings' School Nad Al Sheba teachers and children from Year 1-6 have been introduced to the app 'Seesaw'. Children have been using the app to showcase their learning using the built-in creative tools to provide a digital portfolio of their learning in school.

Seesaw makes formative assessment easy for teachers and is a safe environment for children to learn 21st Century Skills. The 4 C's in 21st Century Skills are Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Creativity and Seesaw gives children the engaged learning experiences that include these skills. Families will also will have access to the digital portfolio, which will give them immediate access to their child's learning in school.





Seesaw

The Learning Journal

What is Seesaw? Seesaw is an amazing app that will enable you to see what your child is learning at school.

Seesaw provides a SAFE way for children to document their learning and be creative whilst using technology to produce an online journal.

Each child has their own journal which they can add photos, videos, drawing and notes. Their learning can then be commented on by parents creating a partnership of communication between the child, teacher and parent.

 **Download the Seesaw Family app today scan your child's QR code from the letter you receive and comment on their learning.**

Need help?
 Please contact Mrs Campbell traceycampbell@kingsnas.com
 The school communicator also has guides and videos to help you access Seesaw Family



App smashing with Seesaw

Creative Performing Arts at Kings' School Nad Al Sheba



Mrs. Bloy
Creative & Performing Arts

Creative Performing Arts (CPA) has launched as a new subject at Kings' School Nad Al Sheba this academic year. I feel a great sense of privilege to have the opportunity to work on introducing and developing this new curriculum and to be working with your children.

I am very passionate about teaching and have over 15 years of teaching experience in the UK and Internationally, leading the development of creative art curriculums in a range of schools. I have a Masters in Dance Education from the Royal Academy of Dance in London and have enjoyed a diverse career as a professional performer in both Dance and Theatre, as a choreographer, working as a performing artist in health and community contexts, as a teacher and teacher trainer, examiner, action researcher and lecturer in Performing Arts at University level.

CPA combines the performance mediums of Dance and Drama. My aim is to develop and nurture Dance and Drama skills with students through a wide variety of challenging processes and themes, creating a positive learning experience, which allows students to realise their full potential. My approach places a strong emphasis on creativity, the exploration of material and the value of the learners' journey through the process of creating work. By doing this students are given ownership of their own work. This is an enriching process that contributes to the development of the individual and the student as a whole, reflecting the skills that the KSNAS seeks to promote. I am a strong exponent in extending learning experiences beyond the classroom. I believe an extensive Arts programme is fundamental to students' creative, emotional and physical development and the development of a supportive, adventurous school community.

My new home is the Black Box Studio and our aim is for this space to develop into a permanent performance space over the course of the year. I very much look forward to getting to know the KSNAS community and celebrating with you the creativity of the children at KSNAS as we STAND OUT in the Creative Performing Arts.



Creative Performing Arts (CPA) at KSNAS

Healthy Eating at Kings' School Nad Al Sheba



Mrs. Brown
School Nurse

At Kings' School Nad Al Sheba we are passionate about healthy eating. We have launched healthy lunchbox certificates in the Primary Stage and will be launching healthy eating rewards in Foundation Stage soon. The healthy lunchbox certificates are awarded daily to the three children who have the healthiest packed lunch. The names of these children are recorded and if they are continuously getting certificates, they will be featured on a display as our **'healthy eater of the month.'**

As part of our healthy eating campaign we are also launching a healthy recipe competition. Children are asked to submit healthy recipes that they have designed themselves. The winner will then be picked and the recipe will be published in each edition of Geronimo. This helps us work together as a community and share our exciting healthy eating ideas. We encourage you to sit with your child to discuss possible recipes and ideas for healthy eating. Please submit recipes to either reception desk.

Eating the right foods prevents us from getting various diseases like heart disease and diabetes. Eating the wrong foods can make us more prone to these diseases including cancer and can also increase the risk of obesity which can lead to further health issues. Healthy eating is very important for children as it helps to ensure that they have enough energy to last them throughout the busy school day. Please support us in helping your children by encouraging them to eat healthily at home and packing them a nutritious snack and lunch box.

To launch the healthy recipe competition, here is Nurse Vic's Healthy Granola Recipe:

Ingredients

- 300g rolled oats
- 2 tsp ground ginger
- 2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 50g sunflower seeds
- 100g pumpkin seeds
- 50g sesame seeds
- 50g flax seeds
- 125ml extra-virgin olive oil
- 125ml honey



Method

- Combine the oats, seeds and spices in a large bowl.
- Measure the olive oil and honey into a jug and stir it up until it's all combined together.
- Pour the honey and oil into the granola mix and stir it around until everything has a good covering.
- When everything is mixed together well, put the mixture onto one or two baking sheets and pop into the oven at 150c for 30 mins, take it out and move it all around to make sure that it cooks evenly. Then put it in for approximately another 30 minutes. It should turn a nice golden brown.
- Take it out of the oven, leave it to go cold and then decant into jars or your chosen container.

Serving Suggestion

- Serve with fresh fruits and plain natural yoghurt

Next update will be
in November/December 2017.

- Culture in Focus
- UAE National Day Celebrations
- Sports at KSNAS



"the best by every child"