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IB PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME NEWSLETTER

October 2016

A note from IB PYP Coordinator, Chloe Hill

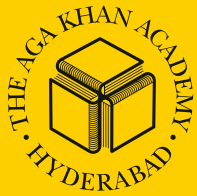
The 2016-17 academic year has got off to a flying start and we have already completed our first unit of inquiry. A warm welcome to all new staff members and students.

The beginning of the year is a time for goal-setting and planning so during the INSET in the first week of August we took the opportunity to lay down our plans for the Junior School. The theme for the year is innovation and we are conscious of planning fresh, innovative learning engagements which light the spark of creativity in our students. We have dedicated curriculum time each morning to the following areas: *Critical Thinking, Reading, Educate Mind and Body, Activate the Imagination and Maths Challenge (CREAM Time)*. Students are really enjoying this opportunity to develop their creativity in different ways during this morning time.



Teachers too are committed to developing their own innovative attitudes and practices and, in particular, to becoming courageous writers and reflective readers. During the INSET I delivered a session for Junior School teachers on creative writing. The session demonstrated innovative teaching and learning ideas which teachers have enjoyed trying out in the classroom. We have launched a book club in the Junior School too, starting off with the poignant tear-jerker, *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White and are looking forward to sharing opinions and discussing ideas.

Further opportunities will be explored for developing the theme throughout the year, developing our students' attitudes and aptitudes towards critical thinking, creativity and innovation.



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Academy Junior School Student Council – encouraging leadership

What is the Student Council?

It is a student organisation that provides a formal channel of communication from students to the Academy's management and allows our students to be part of the democratic process. This is in line with our mission to create home-grown leaders.



Hussein, Grade 5K



Qizr, Grade 4A



Garv, Grade 5A



Zinya, Grade 1

How is the Student Council organised?

There are 12 student representatives from grades 1-5 who meet once every 2 weeks with the Academy Junior School Principal and Teacher Representative to share their ideas, interests, and concerns.

What does the Student Council do?

The Student Council is designed to conduct a variety of events and activities throughout the school year. With input from all students and staff, the Student Council sets a yearly agenda of activities that promote school spirit and positive recognition.

Student Council focus for 2016-17

- Encourage all students to take care of school resources
- Conduct regular checks in the classroom to ensure that the stationery is kept well
- Come up with ways in which recycled paper can be used
- Communicate to the students that the student council is not a complaint board but a place where students come together to brainstorm over common issues and come up with the most effective and efficient solutions
- Take turns to line up while the buses leave and make sure the students are not loitering around the campus

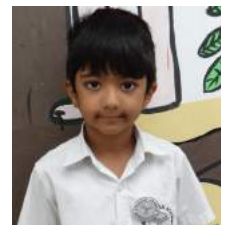
"I am Sarah and I am a student council member from grade 5. I will try to bring a change to the school to make this a memorable year for all of us. I will help share student ideas and concerns to the teachers. I will help the school community."



Kareena, Grade 4k



Shastha, Grade 2



Yash, Grade 2



Sarah, Grade 5A



Raizan, Grade 1



Gitanjali, Grade 5A



Mehnoor, Grade 3K



Aysha, Grade 3A



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Celebrating special days

Hindi Diwas

Hindi Diwas is celebrated annually on 14 September to commemorate the historic occasion when written Hindi using Devanagari script was approved as an official language in 1949. Almost all Academy Junior School students learn Hindi as an additional language. Grade 5 students conducted an assembly and every Academy Junior School student was proud to have their work displayed in a Hindi Day Exhibition!



International Day of Peace

The Academy Junior School celebrated International Peace Day on 21 September 2016 with an assembly on what 'peace' means to them. Students and teachers used art to illustrate the significance of peace in the world today.

Out-of-class learning



Academy Junior School students and staff spent one Super Saturday exploring Shilparamam – the arts, crafts and cultural village in Hyderabad. They experienced craft walks, workshops with master craftsmen and toured the Rural Museum.



Grade 3 visited the Golconda Fort, Salarjung museum and Chowmahalla Palace to understand patterns, Islamic culture and to explore the past in connection with their unit 'Our Heritage'.



Grade 4 visited the Salarjung Museum in relation to their unit 'Rituals and Traditions'.



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Grade 4 – Broadening horizons through guest interactions

The IB Learner Profile attributes of being 'knowledgeable' and 'open-minded' encourage students to explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local and global significance, as well as be open to perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. Grade 4 hosted guest speakers from Germany and Syria.

Thara, a young lady from Syria who is doing her PhD in India, brought a magic bag with artefacts from her country including homemade pickles, olive oil, teas, prayer beads and a rosary, a beautiful necklace, a seaweed body scrub and a Syrian flag which symbolises peace and understanding with neighbouring countries.

Max, a student from Bremen, Germany is learning classical Indian music and has started to play the sitar. He took Grade 4 students through a culinary tour of Germany and spoke about the Sunday ritual of having *kaffee und kuchen* (coffee and cake) with family.



Super Saturday #4 – Service and action

Academy Junior School students devoted Saturday 1 October 2016 to service in and around the Academy, an appropriate gesture just before Gandhi Jayanti. They cleaned up classrooms, the buses and the library.

2 groups spent the morning shadowing the landscaping and housekeeping staff. Grade 4 was inspired by *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan* (Clean India Mission), while Grade 5 helped clean the school buses.





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Parents as partners programme

As part of our commitment to develop a community of learners, we encourage parent participation in our students' learning and development. For the year 2016-17, we have scheduled a series of parent sessions on various topics. Parents shared that the first two sessions were engaging and educational, and we look forward to the next few!

Date	Time	Session	Outline	Venue
Saturday 17/09/2016	1.45-2.45pm	How can I be an IB parent?	1. Parenting tips 2. How can I help my child be a better student? 3. What's important and relevant to today's children?	Academy Junior School Library
Saturday 01/10/2016	1.45-2.45pm	How do we know what our children have learned? (Assessment in the PYP)	1. How do we assess? 2. What do we assess? 3. Why do we assess? 4. How do I know how my child is doing in school?	Academy Junior School Library
Upcoming parent sessions				
Saturday 12/11/2016	1.30-2.45pm	Inquiry in the PYP	1. What is a Unit of Inquiry? 2. What is my child learning? 3. What subjects are taught? 4. What does transdisciplinary learning look like?	Academy Junior School Library
Saturday 21/01/2017	1.30-2.45pm	Maths and English in the PYP	1. What does Maths and English teaching and learning look like? 2. How is the approach to teaching teaching and learning look like? 3. How can parents help?	Academy Junior School Library



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