

Head of School's Newsletter No. 3

Dear Parents/Guardians,

23rd November, 2017

It has been a while since I shared my thoughts with you. The time just seems to be flying by. We are about to enter the assessment period for MYP/PY and before you know it we will be completing term 1. As you are aware there have been some exciting events and curriculum activities happening in school so I would like to share my own observations and reflections with you.

Many of my favorite moments have come from our assemblies. We decided that we would create two assemblies; Monday for Grade 6-DP2 and Friday for Nursery – Grade 5. This has allowed us the opportunity to cover specific topics at the appropriate level. We will however, still conduct Whole School assemblies on a monthly rota, so that the school community can come together to celebrate special events. I believe that assemblies should be led by our students wherever possible and to include a short message from myself or other key staff. This seems to be working extremely well.

One of the more popular assemblies most recently was to introduce our new Heads of House (4 staff) and their House Captains/Vice Captains (see table below). The Heads of Houses talked about the introduction of our new House System where students can now achieve House Points for their respective houses. Subsequently, I am encouraging greater participation through academic studies, the arts as well as usual sports events. The traditional promotion of the houses continues through Sports Day events but students will also be involved in a wider programme of both team events and individual challenges.

House	Staff Head of House	Student House Captain	Student Vice-Captain:
Phoenix/Orange House	Rabiya Sajjad	Sumaana ,Abrahim	Taymur Farooq
Pegasus/Purple House	Sana Shaikh	Shehryar Ghori , Mishael Hyatt	Jehan Khan
Dragons/Red House	Alina Ajmal	Aleeha Nadeem, Saem Iftikhar	Dual role as HC
Griffin/Green House	Haroon Paul	Zainab Khan	Amaan Ali Khan

Moreover, our IBMYP re-authorization visit was an inspiring time for all of us. The verbal feedback from the team was very positive and they expressed their wish to thank all stakeholders involved in the three day process. In particular, they were impressed with the reception they received from our students across the school and I am so proud of our school community. I often talk about my own reaction when I first came to TNS DHA and was so pleased that this was how our visitors also felt. There is a unique buzz about our school that comes from a culture of mutual respect and acceptance for all. Although the main focus area was on Grades 6 to Grade 10 (MYP1-MYPV), the team identified and praised the fact that we

use the Reggio Emilia approach through project-based learning, which is an ideal foundation for the Middle Years Programme. The official report may take several weeks, but once I receive it I will be able to share a more in depth feedback on our commendations and recommendations. I am confident that there will be no unpleasant surprises!

Many of you witnessed the Project presentations across our EY and PY sections last week and I know that you will join me in congratulating the students and their teachers for what was the most amazing display of knowledge, craftsmanship and superb communication skills. I was blown away by the confidence our young learners displayed and their ability to not only demonstrate their knowledge of their projects but the process in which they created them.

I have been encouraging our staff to follow a Matching Monday (monthly) and the turnout has been so refreshing to see. Perhaps you can spot the color for next month (Monday 4th Dec). Our student body has picked up on the idea and now have a fortnightly Themed Friday in which they encourage their peers to follow a specific theme. They have already done shalwar kameez theme. A great way to bring the school community together.

Students are now preparing for their end of term assessments and I know that this is a particularly stressful time for all concerned. I know that the Programme has been adjusted to try and make the process more accommodating to both students and parents, especially in light of the announced holiday on Friday 1st December which has meant alternative assessment dates for some. I would encourage you to join us for the parent/teacher conferences that will take place once all assessments and reports have been completed. I am adding an additional Dates for your Dairies table below for your convenience.

I hope to see many of you there for a friendly chat, otherwise may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very relaxing Winter break. I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year, when school reopens on Wednesday 3rd January 2018.

Date for your Diary	What is happening
24 th Nov – 12 th Dec	MYP PY assessments – see specific schedules
Tuesday 5 th December	Eid Milad-ul-Nabi assembly
Wednesday 6 th /Sat 9 th December	Information event–DP –details to follow
Saturday 9 th December	Winter Carnival
13 th -15 th December	Parent/Teacher conferences
18 th December – 2 nd January	Winter Break
Wednesday 3 rd January 2018	School reopens

Warmest regards

Ms. Diane Metcalfe
Head of School
TNS Beaconhouse DHA