

## HEAD OF SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

20 February 2019

### HEAD OF SCHOOL'S NEWSLETTER NO. 9

Dear Parents,

Can you believe we are into our 7<sup>th</sup> week of our second term?! Spring Break is just over 4 weeks away starting on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March with our return being Monday 1<sup>st</sup> of April.

We have filled our last 7 weeks with effective learning and teaching at both branches with a new approach to learning technology in the classroom being the order of the day. We are hopeful that the new learning apps and imaginative uses of our IWB's will brighten our students' learning during this term. Much more to come on this and I will keep you updated as it unfolds.

Our whole TNS Staff – both teaching and administrative are undertaking a course on Child Protection at this time, and once again Beaconhouse is taking the lead in this essential understanding of our children's needs and rights and how so easily these precious needs and rights can be eroded and sacrificed by unscrupulous adults. We now have teams of people at each branch known as Child Protection Committees to whom any child can go who feels the need to talk?

Recently we sent out a Parent Cafeteria Survey at Gulberg after surveying your children's thoughts on this school service. 54 of you responded, so we are assuming that the majority of you are satisfied with the service? We have taken all responses into consideration at our Gulberg committee level and implementing a number of your good suggestions / requests. Many of those who responded were positive. Thank you. I will be reporting back on DHA's survey once I have the details.

So, too, we have sent out from both branches a Parent PBL (Project Based Learning) survey to better understand your response to and understanding of the process? I do hope as many of you as possible will respond as the PBL is central to our educational philosophy at TNS. So far we have had 33 responses.

All of our students, other than DP are presently working on class or personal projects at both branches and your support of and involvement in these projects is mandatory!!?

At DHA the DP2 assessments came to an end last Wednesday and have seen a smooth operation happening in appropriate and the quiet surroundings of the DP/MYP 3<sup>rd</sup> floor library. Thank you to all students, invigilators and Mr. Giddens and staff for ensuring this success. Results will be sent out to you in the form of a report and your acknowledging the opportunity to meet the relevant DP staff is encouraged.

The dates for the MYP/DP Assessments has been set and we will be issuing those details on Managebac and to the students. Following Head Office instructions, all future correspondence with DP students / parents / teachers will be on Managebac and not through WhatsApp. Such messaging

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is now forbidden. May I remind all parents whose children are permitted to bring laptops or mobiles to school, that such devices are entirely the responsibility of the student.

I am still seeing unacceptably long, untidy hair on boys who think, by tying it back, they have adhered to my demands. Please have the hair cut to a reasonable length! ALL girls must tie their hair back throughout the school day.

Attendance and lateness to school have much improved at DHA, but there are still stragglers entering with no better excuse than I or my parents woke up late!!? Please, inform the school at both branches if you know your child/ren will be late.

Winter is coming to an end and so, I hope will the plethora of unacceptable clothing worn that is an excuse for keeping warm when we have suitably warm uniform items which will do the job just as well. Skinny jeans / tight coloured pants are both unacceptable and very often unsightly and revealing too! Discounted sales of uniform are being offered DAILY at both branches.

Please ensure your child/ren wear appropriate bathing costumes and Taekwondo kit on the days they take lessons in swimming and Taekwondo. These disciplines are compulsory.

This sounds like a moaning - session but I am surprised to see how unfriendly and even bad-mannered some of the senior students of DHA have become? Gone are the days when staff or visitors moving around the school were greeted spontaneously and with obvious good intent. I have observed that almost no student greets any adult unless forcibly reminded to do so! Whilst I wish to change this behaviour, your support at home would certainly help improve the situation. I look forward to that support.

Greediness in the DHA Cafeteria on popular food days is unacceptable with some boys taking 6 – 8 slices of pizza each. Cafeteria personnel and duty staff have been charged with stopping this unacceptable excess!

I am being reminded of how many of our students in Years 6 & 7 and to a much lesser extent Year 8, indulge in group / personal bullying with excessively vulgar language in both Urdu and English. When such culprits are identified they will be suspended, until they understand what really constitutes civilized behaviour!

Pet Days at both branches were a resounding success and I thank so many of you who appeared with your beloved pets and gave our school community such pleasure. On the back of this success we will be having senior school pet days at both branches very soon. Speaking of animals. Our Bedian Complex is again offering some truly excellent horse-riding lessons. Please approach the school office or Mr. Haseeb, our Sports Coordinator to sign up for your children or yourselves!!

We have celebrated the International Mother-Tongue Day for Early/Primary at DHA and the play performed was of a truly excellent standard. It was so satisfying to see our students enjoying their language in action. The IB places very strong emphasis on children in their authorized schools

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acknowledging and using their first language or mother-tongue. I like to believe we all venerate our beautiful Urdu Language and certainly both schools promote Urdu very seriously.

Please continue to support and inform us when you have a query or concern. We want to know how you feel about our services?

Very warm wishes.



**Clive R. Barnes**

Head of School, TNS Gulberg

Acting Head of School, TNS DHA

PS: Please do not allow your children to bring ZOMBIE Sweets into the school. They, and other chocolates, potato crisps and sweet biscuits / drinks **WILL** be confiscated and not returned.