

4 April 2019

**HEAD OF SCHOOL'S NEWSLETTER NO. 11**

Dear Parents,

Our Spring Break has come and gone and I hope yours was a happy one? Sadly, a number of parents at both branches seem to feel that returning to school on the day appointed is unnecessary and, as I write this newsletter nearly 25% of each branch is missing. I fail to understand how it is so often apparent that parents allow their children to extend their holidays and lose out on valuable teaching and learning particularly at senior and final examination levels!!

Such absenteeism on such a scale necessitates that taught lessons or part thereof / are repeated so that all students are on the same page, BUT hindering real progress for those for whom these lessons are a tedious repeat!! I can only appeal to you to desist from such practice in pursuit of genuine learning for all of our students. This issue is compounded by the oncoming religious observations with shorter school days and earlier holidays envisaged. We all understand and appreciate such limitations, but why lose valuable full-time school days when they are available?

Since I last write to you in March, you have attended Taekwondo Belt Tests and Project Presentations in large numbers at both branches. Your attendance and many wonderful endorsements really lift teachers and coaches and give your children the firm belief that their education is such an important matter for them and you. Teachers 'glow' after such appreciation and your feedback forms made for truly positive reading. For me as Head of School, it is the quality of, and the many excellent attempts at arriving at the core of real PBL teaching that is so moving and a delight to witness. So too, to all of those of you who made the effort to respond to our recent, rather detailed PBL Parents' Survey, thank you for your in-depth response / questions and belief in TNS' commitment to this learning programme and its outcomes.

Our Seniors' Pet Day at DHA on the last Friday before Spring Break was a resounding success and your support of this animal care / awareness exercise much appreciated.

Ms. Kanwal, Ms. Nimra & Ms. Naintara (unfortunately the key motivator Ms. Zahra Bokhari was not able to attend) attended the award ceremony for the International School Award (ISA) for the exercise, undertaken by Ms. Nimra and others in working to reveal TNS's outstanding level of support for Nurturing Global Citizenship in young people and

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thereby enriching teaching and learning for our students. This is related to that central IB tenet of Inter-national-mindedness to which TNS is very committed through Assembly presentations and our project-led learning journeys you have just witnessed. Collaboration with other international schools in Morocco and Palestine followed, as too, with a number of Pakistani schools. Considerable documentation and evidence of our activities was undertaken by Ms. Nimra and the team including pictures, video, stories, emails and messages between ourselves and other partner schools.

A glamorous ceremony was held in Karachi where our team was presented with plaques and framed certificates which now adorn our school. A high moment for TNS' strong commitment to internationalism in education.

Mahnum Malik of DP1 and her avid team of DP2, DP1 & Year 10 supporters produced / directed her adapted version of 'My Fair Lady' at the Ali Auditorium last Sunday as Mahnum's major IB CAS project. This project was a resounding success with a large supportive audience, great sets and some strong acting. All of it the students' 'own work'!! Amazing what our students can achieve. Thank you to Mr. Aurangzeb for his involvement in this successful event.

Finally, and by no means least our very large contingent of intrepid student and staff are back from their Turkey trip! All such ventures usually have their teething moments and this 'larger than life' trip was no exception, but it did settle to a happy, enjoyable rhythm with so much learning being experienced at all levels. Would we do it again? Would we do it differently? Would we take the numbers we did again? All such questions will be discussed and future tours firmly based on the experience of this TNS student trip!!!

We are in the process of launching some serious 'green' learning opportunities/experiences in the month of April. Tree planting; wastage and clean up campaigns – all with a bit of a twist and parent – driven resulting, we hope, with sure learning outcomes and awareness for our students. We want them to treat our earth with more care and respect than has been the case with our own generation!! I know you will support us.

As our future calendar for April & May seems a little uncertain, we are making contingencies for various assessment periods (although those 'FINALS' dates for IB DP and MYP will NOT change).

So too, the looming heat of Lahore will take its toll, and we remind you that ALL of your children should be in neat, smart, fresh summer uniform and to attend school having

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showered and nice to be near!! Girls' hair tied back particularly at this time of year and boys' hair much shorter again to ensure that freshness so necessary as they are so active and undertaking a number of physical activities at school.

We will continue to be firm on our latecomers; bullying (big one-on-one class sessions at Gulberg with our new School Counselor Mr. Osama have been conducted this past Wednesday).

Very soon a team of experts will be in at each branch to observe how much classroom technology is being used effectively and as relevant learning tools by our teachers? Following the observations, teachers will be advised on how to make classroom technology more appropriate, relevant and exciting for students!

We are sending you a BSS – supported software on Summer Courses at Oxford University UK. If you are interested in sending your children to experience one of these courses then please be in touch with our PRO's Ms. Misha in Gulberg and Mr. Ghuffran at the DHA Front Offices. The course will only be available to students 13 years and over at both branches.

If there is interest, the CEO of Gateway Events Mr. Irfan Ibrahim will address interested parents and students at a date to be announced.

Enjoy the summer!



**Clive R. Barnes**

Head of School, TNS Gulberg

Acting Head of School, TNS DHA