

HEAD OF SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

14 March 2019

HEAD OF SCHOOL'S NEWSLETTER NO. 10

Dear Parents,

11th week!! Can you believe it and under 2 weeks until Spring Break when 60 of our DHA students in Classes 6 to 9 and 6 accompanying staff will travel to Turkey to enjoy a fully-organized trip with 3 meals a day plus transport. TNS has taken a few trips over the years and our DP 2 & DP 1 very successful trips of late to far-flung quarters of Pakistan have been a point in case, but we have never had such an overwhelming response as we have had to our latest Turkey trip.

Indeed, we have turned students away and were not able to include Gulberg's Year 6 this time around, but if this is a harbinger for future trips, then I am truly delighted because this aspect of an IB School is so very important and relevant! We will do our best to give the group a truly wonderful experience. Mr. Rashid Khalid will lead the group. I have complete faith in his management and discipline / observation skills!?

Thank you to Ms. Zahra Khan for her consummate organization of another trip for the TNS DHA community!

Our DP 1 team under Mr. Peter Giddens' leadership left for Texila on Monday 11th March for a learning trip covering a number of the DP disciplines. A great experience for all.

3 truly delightful IB – related Mother-tongue Days were held at both DHA & Gulberg branches recently. So well-rehearsed and the love of language so evident through the comedy at DHA and the junior groups at Gulberg. A truly lovely Punjabi verse was much admired at Gulberg – spoken by Hamza of Year 6.

Our 2 Pet Days proved as happy and popular as we expected. Your bringing in your pets was just so very nice of you. Affection and care for our pets and animals in general was so much in evidence. Our Senior Pet Day is at DHA on Friday 22nd March. Pets Galore!!

Plenty of Inter-House sports and Saturday Cricket and Soccer with our 2 branches has been very popular and has increased House spirit and competition. The various charity drives and House Colour Days at DHA are such wonderful occasions to witness. Thank you for ensuring that our TNS children love to give!!

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Our 2 branches' Taekwondo Belt Tests are about to take place and we so look forward to your presence on these occasions. In Mr. Aaqib we have a dedicated and very able coach who expects high standards of performance.

Our various French Days celebrating the French Language and the Annual World Francophonie spirit are ensured through so one delightful French story-telling, speaking, drama, singing and dance. Thank you so much to the ladies of the French department for their efforts.

Our Termly Project Presentations take place at DHA on Wednesday 20th March and at Gulberg on Thursday 21st March before our Spring Break.

I am more than confident that both branches have moved their PBL expectations to a new, exciting and purer level of project learning and understanding. I shall feel let down if that does not happen and your feedback is valued. As it was – thank you to those of you who responded – to our Parent Cafeteria / PBL understanding survey. Not as many of you responded as we might have expected, but those of you who did, gave us some truly useful / practical / insightful feedback which we promise to entertain and implement. Indeed some of the student Cafeteria comments at DHA were almost scholarly!! But we are listening, and we do believe the flavours / amounts and quality is improving at DHA in particular. We are now working on behaviour and eating habits!!

Speaking of personal students' issues – a very good Dental Day with Rehman & Rehman was held at DHA and the diagnoses given and the professional demeanour of the attending dentists was impressive. Hygiene campaigns were held at Gulberg and we are about to stage an eye-sight session for each of our students at that branch. We would like to do so for our DHA students as well. If anyone knows of an ear specialist who is willing to come in and do ear tests, we would be pleased to 'hear' from you (excuse the poor pun!)

Gulberg, has this past week, undergone an IB International Consultancy visit with a Canadian MYP expert, who has spent 2 days with us guiding, advising and addressing ways in which we can offer a more vibrant and learning MYP experience for our MYP Year 1 group. The Consultant is a French Canadian so our French choir has been in full voice and he met many of our students, but very especially our Year 6's and their teachers, parents as well as our Governors. Ms. Zoona, our excellent MYP Coordinator

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with the support of Ms. Asma Amanat Ali and her teaching team of Ms. Rabia, Mr. Hassan, Ms. Mariam, Ms. Fareeha, Mr. Taqi, Mr. Nauman, Mr. Faisal, Mr. Shams, Ms. Sakunthala, Mr. Mukhtar, Ms. Tehreem, Mr. Toheed, Mr. Ahmad & Mr. Siddiq have worked tirelessly to ensure an effective consultancy as our first step towards full IB Authorization for our IB MYP group at the Gulberg branch. Thank you to those parents and Governors who gave of their time to meet the consultant.

The Year 10's at DHA are now deep in the throes of their final 'mock' assessments before the finals in May just a little after the DP start their FINAL assessments on the 5th May.

I am seeing some change in attitude towards manners and dress/appearance at DHA, but remain concerned that bullying lurks amongst mostly boys in Years 6, 7 & 8. Their very free and disgraceful use of foul language in both languages and often aimed at a student's family members is extremely disappointing and will be stamped out through suspension or even exclusion!

Otherwise, I am enjoying the challenge of overseeing both branches again and assure you of my very best intentions.

Very warm wishes.



Clive R. Barnes

Head of School, TNS Gulberg

Acting Head of School, TNS DHA