

# SPOTS



## NEWSLETTER

Vol. 17 Issue 9 / January 24, 2015

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### MONTH AT A GLANCE (K-12 All School Event; PS = Primary School; ES = Elementary School; MS = Middle School; HS = High School; DAAPA; MESAC/EAC)

Welcome to the SPOTS calendar. We encourage parents to check weekly as occasionally dates or times may change.

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY  | WEEKEND  |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| <b>JANUARY 2015</b>  |  |   |  |   |  |
| <b>25</b> PS/ES Day 6<br>MS/HS Day 6   | <b>26</b> PS/ES Day 7<br>MS/HS Day 7   | <b>27</b> PS/ES Day 8<br>MS/HS Day 8  | <b>28</b> PS/ES Day 9<br>MS/HS Day 1   | <b>29</b> PS/ES Day 10<br>MS/HS Day 2   | <b>30</b> <b>31</b>  |
| <b>IB Mock Exams / High School Semester 1 Exams / ES Parent Engagement Week<br/>Grade 4/5 Swim Team Tryouts</b>  |  |   |  |   | <b>EAC Cross Country</b>   |
| <b>Grade 5 Overnight Camping Trip</b><br><b>Parent Information Meeting 8-9am, ES Conference Room</b><br><br><b>Grade 5 Students Course Selection Sheets due</b><br><br><b>MS WWW Par. Mtg G7 Nepal – Rm. 134 3:15 pm start</b> | <b>ES Coffee Morning 8:00 a.m. PS/ES Conf Rm</b><br><br><b>MS WWW Parent Meetings</b><br><b>G.6 A.A. Oman – Rm. 9</b><br><b>G.8 Thailand Rm 30</b><br><br><b>U14B/G Basketball v GAA @ GAA 2pm leave</b> |   | <b>DAAPA MS New Year's Brunch 8:30 a.m. Bystro RSVP required</b><br><br><b>U14B/G Basketball v ACS @ DAA 4.30pm start – Boys HS gym, Girls ES gym</b><br><b>U14B/G soccer v ACS @ DAA 4.30pm start</b> | <b>1<sup>st</sup> Semester Ends for Middle/High School</b><br><br><b>DAAPA Student Souk Day</b><br><br><b>MS WWW Parent Meetings London - Art room</b>  | <b>EAC JV Basketball</b><br><b>EAC JV Soccer</b><br><b>EAS JV Tennis</b>                                       |
| <b>FEBRUARY 2015</b>   |  |   |  |   |  |
| <b>1</b> PS/ES Day 1<br>MS/HS Day 3  | <b>2</b> PS/ES Day 2<br>MS/HS Day 4  | <b>3</b> PS/ES Day 3<br>MS/HS Day 5   | <b>4</b> PS/ES Day 4<br>MS/HS Day 6  | <b>5</b> PS/ES Day 5<br>MS/HS Day 7   | <b>6</b> <b>7</b>  |
| <b>MS WWW Parent Meeting for Philippines Sailing Rm 36</b>   | <b>8th Grade Student / Parent Presentation on HS Course Registration 1:45-2:45 p.m. DAA Auditorium</b><br><br><b>MS WWW Parent Meetings G.8 Philippines Diving Rm. 30</b>                                | <b>ES Track &amp; Field Day</b><br><br><b>HS IB Night- Gr 10 6:30 p.m. DAA Auditorium</b> |  | <b>MESAC JV Soccer AES Delhi (Feb 5-9)</b><br><b>MESAC Senior Fine Arts ABA Oman (Feb 5-9)</b><br><br><b>MS Semester 1 Reports Mailed</b><br><br><b>WWW Parent Meeting for G.6 Kalba Camp Rm. 136</b> | <b>MESAC JV Basketball ASDubai (Feb 6-8)</b><br><br><b>EAC Varsity Soccer</b><br><b>EAC Varsity Basketball</b> |
| <b>8</b> PS/ES Day 6<br>MS/HS Day 8  | <b>9</b> PS/ES Day 7<br>MS/HS Day 1  | <b>10</b> PS/ES Day 8<br>MS/HS Day 2  | <b>11</b> PS/ES Day 9<br>MS/HS Day 3   | <b>12</b> PS/ES Day 10<br>MS/HS Day 4   | <b>13</b> <b>14</b>  |
|  |  | <b>HS Junior College Night – Gr. 11 6:30 p.m. DAA Auditorium</b>                          |  | <b>MESAC Var Basketball ACS (Feb 11-14)</b><br><b>MESAC Var Soccer Doha (Feb 11-15)</b><br><b>MESAC Var Tennis (Feb 11-15) hosted by DAA</b><br><b>MESAC Cross County (Feb 12-15) hosted by DAA</b>   |  |
|  |  |   | <b>MS Coffee Morning 8:00 a.m. PS/ES Conf Rm</b>   |   | <b>EAC U14 Basketball</b><br><b>EAC U14 Soccer</b>   |

### GEMS - DUBAI AMERICAN ACADEMY

Telephone 04 347-9222 Fax 04 347-6070

e-mail: [communication\\_daa@gemsedu.com](mailto:communication_daa@gemsedu.com)

DAA Website: [www.gemsaadubai.com](http://www.gemsaadubai.com)

GEMS Website: [www.gemseducation.com](http://www.gemseducation.com)

**ALL SCHOOL NEWS****FROM THE SUPERINTENDENTS' OFFICE**

Dear DAA Families,

As this is my first SPO TS message of 2015, I would like to briefly wish everyone in DAA's community a happy New Year! Two weeks ago I asked Matthew Wilding, DAA's deputy superintendent, to write this message. Matthew has been at DAA for only a short time, but we are already beginning to benefit from his experience, dedication, humility, and sincerity. I asked Matthew to write our SPO TS article two weeks ago partly because I wanted to raise his profile among our parent community. He is an indispensable member of DAA's leadership team, and I certainly know how much I depend upon him!

I write this week from London where I am attending a teacher recruitment fair. This is how international schools like DAA identify and hire their teachers. The recruiting season in international schools hits its peak in January and February, when DAA's principals, assistant principals, and I do most of our hiring for the following year. There are nearly 700 seasoned international educators attending this London fair, and my job is to convince the best ones to join us at DAA in August. Most of the 700 teachers attending this recruitment fair currently work in other international schools around the world. Just yesterday, for example, I interviewed several great teachers presently working in Belgium, Brazil, Kuwait, South Korea, and the Philippines. All are ready for new adventures in their careers and I'm doing my best to convince them that Dubai might be right for them.

In addition to the training and experience DAA requires, we're also looking for teachers who have the right mindset about children and learning. We want teachers who, above all, love working with children - compassionate educators who see every student as a unique person. We also want teachers who motivate and inspire students to give their best efforts in everything they do. The most brilliant teachers, in my opinion, are the ones who inspire a student to give her greatest effort and realize her potential, even on smaller tasks and assignments, not because of a grade or incentive, but because the pride, self-confidence, and integrity that child develops are their own enduring reward.

Two indicators suggest a lot about the type of school DAA is becoming. First, where are DAA's departing teachers taking new positions? I am pleased to share that some of the best international schools in the world are lining up to recruit the best teachers from DAA who have declared themselves "free agents." In the last two years, schools such as United World College South East Asia, the American School of the Hague, Singapore American School, the International School of Manila, Shanghai American School, and the International School of Aberdeen (Scotland) have hired former DAA teachers. DAA is recognized as an outstanding school on the international circuit, one that has high professional standards and expectations of its teachers and one that invests seriously in teachers' professional learning. Second, how successful is DAA at retaining its best teachers? Much credit here belongs to Robin Appleby, my predecessor as DAA's superintendent. When Robin became DAA's superintendent during the 2008-09 school year, DAA was the type of school teachers "visited" for two years before moving on. The average tenure of a DAA teacher at that time was around 2.5 years. Nearly six years later that number stands around 5.2 years, which is a dramatic change. So while it always saddens me to have an outstanding teacher move on from DAA, those numbers indicate that teachers are staying longer and investing more in our school. And that's good for DAA's students.

There are great things happening at DAA, as this edition of SPO TS will surely reveal. Things never seem to really slow down around this school! My best regards again to your families as we begin 2015. I think we have another terrific year in front of us.

Kind Regards,  
Jim Hardin  
Superintendent / CEO





**DAAPA NEWS**

DAAPA (DAA Parents Association) is an active parent association dedicated to enriching the lives of DAA students and community, promoting cooperation between DAA parents, staff and administration and spreading the "culture of kindness" that is at the core of DAA's values. All parents/guardians of DAA students are *automatically* members of DAAPA.

**SO UK DAY THIS THURSDAY, JANUARY 29<sup>TH</sup>**

*DAAPA presents*

# STUDENT SOUK DAY

January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
3:15pm – 5:30pm  
Field will be open at  
2:15 for set-up

*Are you looking for some great bargains? Join us and support our young entrepreneurs as they part with their gently loved, but no longer needed items. Remember to bring along some spare change. You never know what you might find.*

**What is on sale?**

Used toys, books, crafts (kid-made), sporting equipment, electronics, baby gear, puzzles, craft supplies, treats, sweets and baked goods.

All goods must conform to UAE guidelines, and must be non-violent and non-pirated.



**Contact**  
[stayintouchwithdaaes@gmail.com](mailto:stayintouchwithdaaes@gmail.com)  
for more information.

# International Food

## FESTIVAL



**Friday, February 20, 2015**  
**Mark your calendars!**

Dear Parents,

*Can you imagine a year without an International Food Festival? No? Then, we need your participation!*

The IFF is just a few short weeks away and we need parent participation! Of the 99 countries at DAA, less than 25 are currently represented. We need more country representatives for the IFF to be successful. Don't miss this opportunity to showcase your national cuisine and culture. **Sign up TODAY - <http://goo.gl/forms/rWlnVlho7> DEADLINE FOR SIGN-UPS IS THURSDAY, JANUARY 29<sup>TH</sup>.**

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact any of the IFF team.

- Samar Husseini - Event Chair - (samarh-02@hotmail.com)
- Manisha Dutt - manisha.middle.east@gmail.com
- Colleen Sommerin - csommerin70@gmail.com

Join us and help make IFF 2015 the best event yet! We look forward to sharing this experience with you,

The DAAPA IFF Committee

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### DAAPA IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

DAAPA in the MS

- **MS will be having its annual New Year's brunch on Wednesday, Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> at Bystro starting at 8:30am.** There will be a pre-set breakfast arranged for us and everyone attending will pay 70AED per person to attend, payable upon arrival. We will continue our tradition of having a secret gift exchange, please bring a 50AED wrapped gift to the brunch to participate in the exchange. RSVP by Jan 25<sup>th</sup> if attending to: [stayintouchwithdaams@gmail.com](mailto:stayintouchwithdaams@gmail.com). Map to Bystro can be found at this link: <http://bystrodubaic.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/bystro-map.pdf>
- **The Golden Mile will be on Thursday, Feb. 19 from 8:00-9:30am** the event will include the annual parent/ teacher mile run. We would like as many parents as possible to run at this event. No need to RSVP, just show up that morning in your running gear.

Have a good week,

Christina Lundgren & Theresa Starta

DAAPA MS Vice President & DAAPA MS Communications Coordinator

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**DAAPA NEWS, continued****DAAPA IN THE HIGH SCHOOL**

Dear HS Parents,

1. Our next parent connect **Bunko Night**, is happening on Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, from 19:30 to 23:00, at Karen Elkawa's home, in Umm Al Sheiff!

Bunko is an easy game and the sole purpose, is to get to know lots of different people as you play the game, but mostly, to have fun!!

Just bring yourselves, and we will provide the food, drinks and lots of fun prizes. The Cost is 150 dh and space is limited to 40 players only!

Please make your payment at Leopard's Den, during their opening hours to confirm your participation or before Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, as long as spaces are still available!

A confirmation e-mail will be sent to you, with directions to Karen's home, as soon as we receive your payment!

2. We have more information on the **Emirates Literature Festival at the Intercontinental Hotel in Dubai Festival City**. As a group we will be attending 2 sessions on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>.

The first is from 10-11am and will be given by Financial Times columnist Heather McGregor highlighting her book *Mrs. Money Penny's Financial Advice for Independent Women*. It seems Ms. McGregor is able to look at issues like family, budgets, and financial responsibilities in a humorous way. This book is available at Kinokuniya in Dubai Mall as well as online via iBooks and Amazon.

The second session, from 12 - 1pm, highlights 3 authors called "**Female Focus: Women in Wonderland**".

The following authors will be featured speakers:

- **Jenni Murray**, an acclaimed British broadcaster who has anchored the daily Radio 4 show Woman's Hour since 1987. She has numerous books including *Memoirs of a Not So Dutiful Daughter*. We have not found this book in the UAE. It is available on the UK Amazon store.
- **Adele Parks**, a author of 14 bestselling novels, including her latest *Spare Brides*. We have found a few copies around town. There is one available at McGrudy's in Jumeirah and WH Smith in Oasis Center.
- **Saira Shah**, an award-winning writer, war reporter & documentary film-maker. Her latest novel is *The Mouse proof Kitchen*. This book is available at Kinokuniya in Dubai Mall and online as well.

Based on last year, the books were sold at the Festival as well and after the sessions, the authors were available for signing personal books.

If you would like to attend either session, tickets are 70 AED each and can be purchased on the website: <http://www.emirateslitfest.com>

If you will be going to the talk and would like to enjoy some lunch afterwards, please drop us an email and we'll make a booking at one of the restaurants around Dubai Festival City. The event takes place at the Intercontinental Hotel, Dubai Festival City.

Any questions, please call Nicole 050-718-5169.

This is a very fun event. Don't miss it!

Warm regards  
DAAPA HS Committee

**PRIMARY POINTS (Kindergarten 1 - Grade 2)** *Make sure to read the corresponding DAAPA NEWS section of this issue of SPOTS for all the latest Primary School parent sponsored events!*

### FROM THE PS PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Primary School Parents,

It was wonderful getting to see so many of you during our Wellness Week at both Sports Day and our Morning Coffees. We all have the same goal to make sure that all our kids have healthy bodies, minds, and relationships and it was wonderful to give wellness the attention and focus it deserves.

This week in SPOTS I want to make sure that everyone has access to the information and ideas that were shared during the Coffee Mornings. Whether you were able to attend or not, this information can be helpful as you help guide and teach your child healthy habits for a lifetime.

Resources to promote wellness

**Sleep:** Sleep might have a bigger factor on our child's wellness than any other single factor. Here is a link the handout with some research and tips on healthy sleeping habits (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0ByI7iMpCWkSbQzV2QkxOUmRheG8/view?usp=sharing>)

**Healthy Eating:** We were fortunate to have Chloe Moir, a local nutrition expert come in to provide information on the impact of healthy eating on your child. For more information here is a link to the handout she provided on nutrition (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0ByI7iMpCWkSbVmFmcXpfU3l6aFE/view?usp=sharing>) and also the link to her Chloe's blog (<http://www.smartfitness.ae/team/chloe-moir/>)

**Mindfulness:** Dr. Salha Afridi did a wonderful presentation on the importance of mindfulness and slowing down in children. There is lots to think about and some great practical strategies in her presentation which is linked here (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0ByI7iMpCWkSbREJaaKfJdkg0WE0/view?usp=sharing>).

**Overall Wellness:** Ms Dana Shermi and Ms Sonja Adam, two fabulous DAA teachers, put together a folder with information on fitness, exercise ideas, screens & brain development, and fun quotes for kids. Here is the link to the folder with all the information ([https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B5z2Vb5QaSjU8wC DN6SFjU&usp=sharing\\_eid&invite=C Mvy5vIE](https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B5z2Vb5QaSjU8wC DN6SFjU&usp=sharing_eid&invite=C Mvy5vIE)).

**Big Thanks** to DAAPA for hosting the lovely movie night on Thursday evening. It is a lot of work and this type of event is part of what makes going to DAA such a wonderful experience for our kids. Thank you, DAAPA volunteers!!!

### Upcoming Events

Relatively quiet for DAA, but we will have some opportunities to come in and learn more about teaching and learning in our Arabic classes during our World Language Week (the week of February 8<sup>th</sup>). Be looking for more information in SPOTS and teacher blogs.

Warm Regards,  
Your PS Admin Team

### Lost and Found

*Are you missing a water bottle, sweater, uniform?* We have many items in the Lost and Found which would love to return to their proper home.

Primary and Elementary School lost and found items are currently on display in the Foyer. The deadline for collecting items has been moved to **Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>**.

After this, items will be donated to an approved charity.  
Thank you.



**ELEMENTARY ESSENTIALS (Grades 3-5)** Make sure to read the corresponding DAAPA NEWS section of this issue of SPOTS for all the latest Elementary School parent sponsored events!

**FROM THE ES PRINCIPAL'S DESK**

It's an exciting time in the ES! Have a look below to discover all the great events happening here!

**Jr. EAC Track and Field finals at ASD:** Saturday marks the end of the Track and Field season for Jr. EAC. Please come out to cheer on our students!

**Grade 5 Overnight Camping Trip Parent Information Meeting on Sunday Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> from 8-9am, ES Conference Room:** Let the 5th Grade Desert Safari fun begin! This year we are happy to be partnering with Ecoventure, to provide the opportunity. Please join us, this Sunday at 8 a.m. in the ES Conference Room, when DAA will be hosting an informational meeting for parents facilitated by the company. There will be a student informational meeting to follow. The agenda for the meeting covers the trip explanation as well as the timeline of events leading up to the trip including important deadlines and forms. Ecoventure and teachers will also be available to answer any questions you may have.

**Grade 5 Course Selection Sheets:** due January 25<sup>th</sup> to grade 5 homeroom teachers.

**Parent Engagement Week: January 25-January 29**

Next week (January 25-January 29) will be Parent Engagement Week in the Elementary School. During the week, parents will have the opportunity to attend a variety of ES specialist and grade level classes. The importance of this event is to provide parents an opportunity to experience the learning taking place while giving parents ideas and activities to use at home to support their child's learning. We look forward to seeing all of you frequently next week! For more specific details regarding session descriptions, times and locations, please see the separate flyer attached to this week's SPOTS email.

**ES Parent Coffee Morning: Monday, January 26 at 8:00am in the ES conference room**

Session: Parents as Partners: Supporting Learning Beyond the School Day. In this session, you will learn more about literacy and math instruction in the Elementary School (by some of our very own ES classroom teachers!), with an emphasis on how you can build on the learning at school by linking this to your work with your child at home. Parent participants will also have opportunities to share their ideas with other parents and hear from some of our ES students on this topic. Please plan to join us!

**ES Musical for 5th Grade Students:** Thank you to all grade 5 students who came out to the auditions last week. The cast list has now been posted and practices begin February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please check the blog link for more information: <http://aladdinjrdaa.blogspot.ae/>.

**Student Souk Day:** January 29th Please refer to the DAAPA Corner in this newsletter for more information.

**Lost and Found:** Items have been on display in the Foyer for a couple of weeks. Tomorrow is your last chance to check for missing property before it is donated to charity.

**A note from Ms. Allison and Mr. Anaya (ES PE Teachers): ES Track and Field Day:**

Track and Field Day for all Grade 3, 4 and 5 classes will be held on **Tuesday, February 3rd, 8 am to 1 pm**. This will be held on the DAA track and artificial turf. The students have been working really hard to improve their fitness and skills, so they can demonstrate their best speed and power for this day! Parents are welcome to come and cheer on their child and their team! Just a reminder there will be no hot lunch served on this day, so pack an extra energy supplying lunch for your child. Water bottles are necessary! Each homeroom has been assigned a color (representing one of the UAE's 7 Emirates or a color of the UAE flag), and we are asking that your child wear a T-shirt of that color, their PE shorts and proper running shoes on Feb. 3rd. Colored T-shirts with our ES Track and Field Day logo have been ordered, they should be ready next week. It is not mandatory to buy one, but please have your child wear a solid color t-shirt for their team. **Mark your calendars so you can join us on this day!**

Roberta Wiens and Patrick Molloy  
ES Admin Team

**ELEMENTARY ESSENTIALS (Grades 3-5), continued**

**DAA Jr. EAC (Grade 4 and 5 only) Swim Team Tryouts and Season:**

The ES swim team starts tryouts next week and finishes competition season mid May. The team is open to grade 4 & 5 students only and will be chosen based on the tryouts. If a student does not attend the scheduled tryouts they will not be eligible to take part. As advertised at the start of the year, Absolute Swimming will be providing coaches and life guards. There will be a cost of 1000aed perswimmer payable to Absolute Swimming if your child is selected for the team. This must be paid within the first week after selection. In addition, team members are expected to purchase a DAA swimsuit and cap.

The team will be based on the time trials and coaches will be looking for swimmers to execute a variety of strokes. Practices will be Mondays and Wednesdays, from 3-4:30pm at the ES pool. If your child is not selected for the ES Swim team they will still have the opportunity to sign up for other ASA's on Saturday January 30th, and Sunday February 1st.

**Tryouts sessions:**

- Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> Jan            Grade 4 Boys ONLY    3-4.30pm
- Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> Jan            Grade 4 Girls ONLY    3-4.30pm
- Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> Jan        Grade 5 Boys ONLY    3-4.30pm
- Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> Jan            Grade 5 Girls ONLY.    3-4.30pm

If a student is unable to attend the allocated session they must contact Mrs. Tara Lewis (t.lewis\_daa@gemsedu.com) by email PRIOR to the start of the session. Alternate arrangements may or may not be possible.

We ask that all parents remain in the cafeteria and do not come poolside during tryouts.

The final team will be announced and posted on the ES PE notice board by Friday January 30th, 3pm.

We look forward to seeing your child at the ES Jr. EAC Swim Team tryouts.

Tara Lewis  
DAA Aquatics Coordinator





**MIDDLE SCHOOL MESSAGES (Grades 6-8)** Make sure to read the corresponding DAAPA NEWS section of this issue of SPOTS for all the latest Middle School parent sponsored events!

**FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL OFFICE**



**MS Sport's Day:**

Thank you again to all parent volunteers who came out to support our 2nd annual Sport's Day. Here a few pictures from what was a truly great day of active participation and friendly inter-house competition in our Middle School.

**Stepping up to the Middle School:**

Thank you to grade 5 parents for attending our Middle School orientation session this past Wednesday morning. For those parents who were unable to attend, the presentation is posted on our MS blog on [www.gemsdaa.com](http://www.gemsdaa.com). Should you require additional information or guidance when completing the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Selection sheet, please feel free to contact one of our counselors, Ms. Catlin or Mr. Eberhardt, in the Middle School office. The course selection sheets were distributed to 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at the end of their orientation session last Wednesday afternoon and are due to be completed and submitted to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom teacher on Sunday, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>. We certainly hope the varying sessions related to 5<sup>th</sup> grade student transition to the Middle School have been helpful . . . we welcome your feedback if there is something we can do to improve the process for you or your child.



**Laptop Security:**

All MS students were issued a security sticker for their laptop last week during Life Skills. Please take a moment at home to ensure that your child has this sticker securely fastened to their laptop. Middle School teachers dedicated time in Life Skills last week to reinforce the need for our students to take great care with their laptop and other belongings at school. We often find laptops left unattended in the hallway, and continue to remind students to keep them with them at all times or to leave them locked securely in their lockers. Students were shown a video during LS which is posted on our MS blog that will hopefully assist our students in safeguarding the loss of their device. We encourage all parents to watch this video and reinforce the message at home with your child. Should you require additional support with laptop security, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Semester One Formal Report:**

As the first half of the school year comes to a close on Thursday, Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>, we are in the process of generating the Semester One report. We track student progress very carefully, and are pleased to see how well our students are doing relative to the academic program in the Middle School. For all students, the report serves as an indicator of progress to date for our year long courses, and stimulate areas for potential growth and improvement for the second half of the school year. Reports will be emailed out to parents on Thursday, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>. Please be advised that students have been reminded of outstanding books or resources due to the library and with this in mind, we encourage parents to check in with students to ensure that accounts are cleared, otherwise, reports will be withheld.

**Uniform reminder:**

With the cooler weather, we are finding that many of our students are wearing the DAA hoodie purchased from our Leopard's Den . . . however, we are giving daily reminders to a good number of students to wear DAA approved hoodies. For those students that do not have a DAA hoodie, please support our uniform policy by purchasing one from the Leopard's Den – the hours of operation are from 7:15 – 8:00 a.m. Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday and on Tuesdays from 7:15 – 8:00 a.m. Thank you parents for your support!

**MIDDLE SCHOOL MESSAGES, continued**

**WWW Parent Meetings:**

All meetings start at 3:00 p.m. except for Nepal, which starts at 3:15 p.m.

- Sunday, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> - Nepal in room 134 (\*3:15 p.m. start)
- Monday, Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> - AA Oman 6 in room 9
- Monday, Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> - Thailand in room 30
- Thursday, Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> - London in the Art room
- Sunday, Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> - Philippines Sailing in room 36
- Monday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> - Philippines Diving in room 30
- Thursday, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> - AA Kalba 6 Camp in room 136

We strongly encourage all parents to attend their child's WWW informational meeting and if for some reason, you are unable to attend, please feel free to contact the teacher in charge of the trip directly.

**REMINDERS - OTHER IMPORTANT DATES**

Dubai American Academy High School and Middle School Proudly Presents

# ANNIE Jr.

Book by Thomas Meehan Music by Charles Strouse Lyrics by Martin Charnin  
Based on "Little Orphan Annie" By Permission of the Tribune Media Service, Inc.

**17-19 February 2015**  
**DAA Auditorium**

Tuesday 17 Feb 7pm  
Wednesday 18 Feb 3:30pm  
Wednesday 18 Feb 7pm  
Thursday 19 Feb 3:30pm

Tickets 30aed available from the MS office and PS/ES reception

Proceeds go to DAA charities

VARKEY GEMS FOUNDATION  
Changing lives through education

Dubai American Academy  
A GEMS SCHOOL

GEMS EDUCATION  
Learn. Aspire. Be.

- **Annie, Jr.:** February 17-19
- **HS Student / Parent Presentation:** Attention all 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents – The HS Counseling Office will be running an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student and Parent Presentation on High School Course Registration for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students on **Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> from 1:45-2:45 in the auditorium.** All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be attending this event and we strongly encourage parents to also attend if they are able.
- **MS Coffee Morning:** Our second coffee morning of 2014-15 will take place on **Wed. Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. in the ES Conference Room.** We are in the planning process now for this event and look forward to seeing as many moms and dads as possible! . . . mark your calendars :)
- **The Golden Mile:** Looking ahead to February, our annual Golden Mile run will take place on **Thursday, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>.** Students with the fastest mile times will compete this annual event, by grade level.
- **Annie, Junior**

Warm regards,

Andrew Ball and Joan Wiens  
MS Admin Team

**HIGH SCHOOL HIGHHS (Grades 9-12)** Make sure to read the corresponding DAAPA NEWS section of this issue of SPOTS for all the latest High School parent sponsored events!

**FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE**

Dear HS Parents,

IB Mock Exams are in full swing as all of our students prepare for semester exams this week. Some of the goings on in HS last week included:



French IV students acted out scenes from a play as part of their semester exams! It was wonderful.



9th grade science students prepping for next week's Science Symposium.



We are now half-way finished with Mock Exams for Seniors, two days into exams for Juniors and Sunday exams will start for the Freshman and Sophomores. Things have gone pretty smoothly, thanks mostly to our IB Coordinator, Marc Starr. All high school students have been given identification cards - please make sure that your student wears this for exams. Because students "dress-down" for exams, our security guards need to be able to identify them as DAA students. Thanks for your cooperation!

A big thank you to all parents who came to the Coffee Morning this week, we felt like it was a really positive and worthwhile meeting. Despite the rain, turnout was impressive and the questions asked were all really on-point. You can find a link to the meeting's slide show here:

[https://docs.google.com/a/gemsdaa.net/presentation/d/1vacVEVV6ByBRR\\_4i7B8pt2pnDZsfbf-Fam0FZISPHU/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/a/gemsdaa.net/presentation/d/1vacVEVV6ByBRR_4i7B8pt2pnDZsfbf-Fam0FZISPHU/edit?usp=sharing)

It is hard to believe, but the school year is now almost half over! Semester one officially ends Thursday, and we hope to have report cards sent out by the following Thursday. Please be on the lookout for them!

Please read the following information from our science department:

**GRADE 9 GLOBAL WATER ISSUES SYMPOSIUM**

As many of you are aware, our Grade 9 students have spent this past semester looking at many different aspects of water. They are culminating their semester with a final project in which they are developing a campaign over specific water issues around the world. As part of their final assessment they will be presenting their projects to an audience on Tuesday January 27th. These presentations will give the students the opportunity to share all the hard work that they have done and allow us to evaluate if the effectiveness of their campaigns.

We would like to invite you to be part of the audience for the symposium presentation. Presentations will be conducted in 30-minute time slots between 10:30-12:30 on Tuesday January 27th. If you are interested and able to attend, please click on the Google form link (<https://docs.google.com/a/gemsdaa.net/forms/d/1xWQf1JGBXL4PfpB1lg-HQfKGwA41xSj0n9Tl1bIESMY/viewform>) and fill out which time(s) you would be available. We ask that you be able to commit to a full 30-minute time slot. If you would like to be present for your child's presentation please see the link (<https://docs.google.com/a/gemsdaa.net/spreadsheets/d/11GTw-jX-YR0UGtNcUsvfSmZML0sAgwtWNb3EoqrEs/edit#gid=0>) for the time and classroom they will be presenting in. If you are willing, we would appreciate if you could sign up for more than one time slot as we realize not all parents will be able to attend and we would like each student to have at least one adult in their audience.

Once the Google form is closed you will receive a confirmation email with the times and classroom for the presentations you will be attending. We thank you in advance for the support of our students.



## HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS, CONTINUED

### QUICK REFERENCE TO SEMESTER ONE EXAMS 2015

#### Grade 11/IB Exams

| TIME          | Jan 21   | Jan 22                        | Jan 25                   | Jan 26                               | Jan 27            | Jan 28                        | Jan 29                         |
|---------------|----------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Classroom     | Wed      | Thurs                         | Sun                      | Mon                                  | Tues              | Wed                           | Thurs                          |
| 8:00 -9:30    | History  | French                        | Economics                | Psychology                           | Arabic            | Spanish                       | Computer Science/ Chemistry 11 |
| Auditorium    | BREAK    | BREAK                         | BREAK                    | BREAK                                | BREAK             | BREAK                         | BREAK                          |
| 10:30-12:00   | Business | Math SL<br>Math St<br>Math Ap | English SL<br>English 11 | ESS/ DT/<br>IB<br>Chemistry<br>HL/SL | Geog /<br>IGS     | SEHS/<br>Physics<br>Conflicts | Music<br>Conflicts             |
| Classroom     |          |                               |                          |                                      |                   |                               |                                |
| 10:30 - 12:30 |          | Math HL                       | English HL               |                                      | Biology<br>HL/ SL |                               |                                |

\* conflicts all in Auditorium on January 28- 29 (10:30-12:00)

#### Grade 9 and 10

| TIME         | Jan 25                | Jan 26                 | Jan 27   | Jan 28     | Jan 29    |
|--------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--|------------|-----------|
| Classroom    | Sun                   | Mon                    | Tues   | Wed        | Thurs     |
| 8:00 - 9:30  | Math 10<br>History 9  | English 10<br>Math 9   | History 10<br>English 9                                    | Science 10 | Conflicts |
|              | BREAK                 | BREAK                  | BREAK  | BREAK      | BREAK     |
| 10:30- 12:00 | French II,<br>III, IV | Spanish II,<br>III, IV | Science 9 -<br>Science Fair<br>presentation<br>until 12:30 | Conflicts  | Conflicts |

#### Counseling Office Announcements

- **Grade 10 Parents** – Please note there will be an **Information Evening Presentation on the 3rd of February** discussing Sophomore Internships along with the International Baccalaureate Program. We strongly encourage at least one parent to attend this evening with their son or daughter.
- **Grade 11 Parents** – Please note that **Junior College Night** will be held on the **10th of February**. We strongly encourage at least one parent to attend this evening with their son or daughter as we will be discussing the college application process for student applying to universities all around the world.

See you on campus,

HS Admin Team

See you on campus,

HS Admin Team





## ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES

# EAC

Emirates Athletics Conference

### Important Season 2 Dates

|              |  |  |
|--------------|--|--|
| <b>EAC</b>   | Sat Feb 7<br>Sat Feb 14  | Varsity Soccer, Varsity Basketball<br>Under 14 Basketball, Under 14 Soccer   |
| <b>MESAC</b> | Feb 6- Feb 8<br>Feb 5 - Feb 9<br>Feb 5 - Feb 9<br>Feb 11 - Feb 14<br>Feb 11 - Feb 15<br>Feb 11 - Feb 15<br>Feb 12 - Feb 15 | JV Basketball ASDubai<br>JV Soccer AESDehi<br>Senior Fine ArtsABA Oman<br>Varsity Basketball ACS<br>Varsity Soccer Doha<br>Varsity Tennis DAA<br>Varsity Cross Country DAA |

### MESAC events

This school year DAA is hosting the following MESAC events:

- Varsity Tennis Feb 11-15
- Varsity Cross Country Feb 12-15
- Varsity Football/Basball April 22-26

DAA are hosting Cross Country and Tennis in February, so if you took part in season 1 and did not host, please schedule the dates in to your calendar to help out. All Cross Country and Tennis MESAC squad members will be expected to assist in housing.

**Season 2 Sports and Activities:** Our season 2 teams are heading towards their last few matches and the EAC tournaments. After our first ever back to back wins at Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball, our teams are looking forward to EAC and all teams are likely to be seeded well. Our U14 soccer and basketball teams are coming off great wins and fighting for high seeds in Division 1, whilst our JVB soccer have the top seed in their division sewn up after notching an undefeated season so far. All other teams in basketball and soccer have posted fantastic results with wins over our main rivals in ASD and ACS.

On the court our tennis teams have had friendlies against ASD and GWA and performances are high as they fight for the last spots on the MESAC teams. Cross Country have had time trials against ASD and are showing their hard work is paying off as athletes are posting personal best times.

With EAC tournaments starting on 31<sup>st</sup> January all teams are fine tuning their skills. Good luck to our teams.

**Middle School Next Wave Basketball and Volleyball:** Our Next Wave development program has started. Sessions are in the Elementary School gym from 2-5 pm on Fridays and will focus on skill development for our Middle School athletes wanting to improve their basketball and volleyball skills. This program is for students who did make Under 14 teams. You can still turn up even if you missed the first sessions.

**JEAC:** Congratulations to our Grade 4, 5, 6 athletes who took part in JEAC Track and Field over the weekend at ASD and GWA. All athletes competed well were extremely competitive. Their recent training has paid off as they blitzed others on the track. Well done to our JEAC Leopard Cubs.



**Practices:** With High school exams on this week, please make sure you check practice times. Maintaining balance in your life is important during stressful times and team practices are part of maintaining balance and relieving stress.

Upcoming matches:

|            |                               |  |
|------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Mon 26 Jan | U14B/G Basketball v GAA @ GAA | 2pm leave                                |
| Wed 28 Jan | U14B/G Basketball v ACS @ DAA | 4.30pm start - Boys HS gym, Girls ES gym |
| Wed 28 Jan | U14B/G soccer v ACS @ DAA     | 4.30pm start                             |

See you courtside (or on the field),  
Miss Jodi O'Reilly, Athletic Director


**PRIMARY/ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MENU**

|  |                                 |  |                                  |                                    |   |
|---|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
|   | SUNDAY                          | MONDAY  | TUESDAY                          | WEDNESDAY                          | THURSDAY                                  |
| <b>MAIN COURSE</b>  |                                 |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| <b>PROTEIN</b>  | BONELESS CHICKEN SOUTHERN STYLE | OAT COATED FISH FILLET w/VEGETABLE COMPOTE  | CHICKEN SHISH TAOUK              | FISH CHILI CHINESE STYLE           | CHICKEN BRIYANI BONELESS WITH RAITA/PAPAD |
| <b>VEGETARIAN (1)</b>   | CAULIFLOWER POLOGANAISE         | VEGETABLE JALFREZI  | BRIAM (GREEK VEGETABLE BAKE)     | STIR-FRY VEGETABLES                | VEGETABLE TIKKA MASALA                    |
| <b>RICE/POTATO/VEGETABLE - VEGETARIAN</b>   |                                 |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| <b>RICE</b>   | HERB RICE                       | SAFFRON RICE  | VERMICELLI RICE                  | VEGETABLE FRIED RICE               | STEAMED RICE                              |
| <b>VEGETARIAN (2)</b>   | CORN ON COB                     | ROASTED PUMPKIN WITH CARROTS  | CAULIFLOWER MORNAY               | SAUTE CARROT & MARROW              | FRENCH BEANS WITH RED ONIONS              |
| <b>LIVE PASTA a la carte station</b>  |                                 |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| <b>PASTA</b>  | PASTA - SPAGHETTI               | PASTA - TRICOLOUR PENNE   | PASTA - BOWTIE                   | PASTA - TRICOLOUR FUSSILI          | PASTA - PENNE                             |
| <b>SAUCES</b>   | TOMATO BASIL SAUCE              | CREAMY TOMATO SAUCE   | TOMATO , CILANTRO & CAPERS SAUCE | TOMATO WITH RATATOUILLE VEGETABLES | TOMATO SAUCE WITH CAULIFLOWER             |
|   | TRI PEPPER CREAM SAUCE          | MINT PESTO SAUCE (no nuts)  | ROSEMARY BUTTER SAUCE            | CREAM SAUCE WITH MIXED HERBS       | PUMPKIN ALFREDO SAUCE                     |
| <b>YOUR CHOICE OF JUICE</b>   |                                 |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| <b>JUICE</b>  | APPLE JUICE                     | COCKTAIL JUICE  | MANGO JUICE                      | APPLE JUICE                        | ORANGE JUICE                              |
| <b>OR MILK</b>  |                                 |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| <b>MILK</b>   | MILK - LOW FAT                  | MILK - LOW FAT  | MILK - LOW FAT                   | MILK - LOW FAT                     | MILK - LOW FAT                            |
| <b>WATER</b>  |                                 |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| <b>WATER</b>  | WATER                           | WATER   | WATER                            | WATER                              | WATER                                     |

**CATERIA MENUS**



MIDDLE/ HIGH SCHOOL MENU

|     |                                 |  |                                      |                              |   |
|--|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
|  | SUNDAY                          | MONDAY  | TUESDAY                              | WEDNESDAY                    | THURSDAY                                  |
| <b>MAIN COURSE</b>   |                                 |   |                                      |                              |   |
| <b>MAIN PROTEIN 1</b>  | BONELESS CHICKEN SOUTHERN STYLE | CHICKEN TIKKA MASALA BONELESS   | CHICKEN SHISH TAOUK                  | KUNG PAO CHICKEN             | CHICKEN BRIYANI BONELESS WITH RAITA/PAPAD |
| <b>MAIN PROTEIN 2</b>  | BEEF STEAK WITH MUSHROOM SAUCE  | OAT COATED FISH FILLET w/VEGETABLE COMPOTE  | CHINESE CHICKEN w/HONEY ORANGE SAUCE | BEEF TERIYAKI                | BONELESS CHICKEN SOUTHERN STYLE           |
| <b>MAIN PROTEIN 3</b>  | STUFFED FISH WITH FENNEL SAUCE  | FISH NEWBERG  | FISH GUJONS WITH TARTARE SAUCE       | FISH CHILI CHINESE STYLE     | FISH PORTUGUESE                           |
| <b>VEGETARIAN (1)</b>  | CAULIFLOWER POLOGANAISE         | VEGETABLE JALFREZI  | BRIAM (GREEK VEGETABLE BAKE)         | STIR-FRY VEGETABLES          | VEGETABLE TIKKA MASALA                    |
| <b>RICE/POTATO/VEGETABLE - VEGETARIAN</b>  |                                 |   |                                      |                              |   |
| <b>RICE</b>  | HERB RICE                       | SAFFRON RICE  | VERMICELLI RICE                      | VEGETABLE FRIED RICE         | STEAMED RICE                              |
| <b>POTATOES</b>  | BOULANGERE POATOES              | OKLAHOMA FRIED POTATOES   | ROASTED SWEET POATOES                | GARLIC POTATOES              | SWISS STYLE MASH POTATOES                 |
| <b>VEGETARIAN (2)</b>  | CORN ON COB                     | ROASTED PUMPKIN WITH CARROTS  | CAULIFLOWER MORNAY                   | SAUTE CARROT & MARROW        | FRENCH BEANS WITH RED ONIONS              |
| <b>LIVE PASTA a la carte station (12aed)</b>   |                                 |   |                                      |                              |   |
| <b>PASTAS</b>  | PASTA - SPAGHETTI               | PASTA - TRICOLOUR PENNE   | PASTA - BOWTIE                       | PASTA - TRICOLOUR FUSSILI    | PASTA - PENNE                             |
| <b>SAUCES</b>  | TOMATO BASIL SAUCE              | CREAMY TOMATO SAUCE   | TOMATO, CILANTRO & CAPERS SAUCE      | TOMATO RATATOUILLE VEGETABLE | TOMATO SAUCE w/ CAULIFLOWER               |
|  | TRI COLOUR PEPPER CREAM SAUCE   | MINT PESTO SAUCE (no nuts)  | ROSEMARY CREAM SAUCE                 | CREAM SAUCE WITH MIXED HERBS | PUMPKIN ALFREDO                           |
| <b>SALAD BAR - PRE PACKED (1=6aed, 2=10aed, 3=14aed)</b>                             |                                 |   |                                      |                              |   |
| <b>PROTIEN SALAD</b>   | MUSHROOM & CHICKEN SALAD        | CAESAR SALAD w/CHICKEN  | SHREDDED VEGETABLE & BEEF SALAD      | EGG SALAD                    | POTATO BACON SALAD                        |
| <b>SALAD</b>   | AVOCADO & MANGO SALAD           | CHICK PEAS & TOMATO w/CORIANDER (V)   | ASPARAGUS & FRESH BEANS SALAD        | SPINACH & APPLE PEACH SALAD  | ROCCA SALAD                               |
|  | BLACK EYED PEAS SALAD           | CAPRESE CORN SALAD  | GREEN PEAS SALAD                     | CUCUMBER YOGHURT SALAD       | SNOW BEANS SALAD w/BELL PEPPER            |
| <b>SALAD BAR - MAKE YOUR OWN, SMALL PACK (1=6aed, 2=10aed, 3=14aed) - VEGETARIAN</b> |                                 |   |                                      |                              |   |
| <b>CONDIMENTS</b>  | TOMATO                          | TOMATO  | TOMATO                               | TOMATO                       | TOMATO                                    |
|  | CUCUMBER                        | CUCUMBER  | CUCUMBER                             | CUCUMBER                     | CUCUMBER                                  |
|  | LETTUCE                         | LETTUCE   | LETTUCE                              | LETTUCE                      | LETTUCE                                   |
|  | GREEN PEPPER                    | GREEN PEPPER  | GREEN PEPPER                         | GREEN PEPPER                 | GREEN PEPPER                              |
|  | SWEETCORN                       | SWEETCORN   | SWEETCORN                            | SWEETCORN                    | SWEETCORN                                 |
|  | SLICED BLACK OLIVES             | SLICED BLACK OLIVES   | SLICED BLACK OLIVES                  | SLICED BLACK OLIVES          | SLICED BLACK OLIVES                       |
| <b>PANINI &amp; SPECIAL WRAPS (13aed) - CHICKEN</b>                                  |                                 |   |                                      |                              |   |
|  | PANINI w/ CHICKEN & CHEESE      | PANINI w/ CHICKEN & CHEESE  | PANINI w/ CHICKEN & CHEESE           | PANINI w/ CHICKEN & CHEESE   | PANINI w/ CHICKEN & CHEESE                |
| <b>DAILY SPECIALS (13aed)</b>  |                                 |   |                                      |                              |   |
|  | CHICKEN FAJITA WRAP             | CHICKEN SHAWARMA  | TACOS                                | CHICKEN QUESADILLA           | JACKET POTATO                             |
| <b>SMOOTHIES (10aed)</b>   |                                 |   |                                      |                              |   |
|  | MANGO                           | MANGO   | MANGO                                | MANGO                        | MANGO                                     |
|  | STRAWBERRY                      | STRAWBERRY  | STRAWBERRY                           | STRAWBERRY                   | STRAWBERRY                                |
|  | BANANA                          | BANANA  | BANANA                               | BANANA                       | BANANA                                    |

CATERIA MENUS

