



Newsletter

SEPTEMBER, 2017

UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS – OCTOBER 2017

- 2 October Awards Ceremonies (Grade 1 to Grade 4: 2016-2017)
- 3 October Awards Ceremonies (Grade 5 to Grade 12: 2016-2017)
- 5 October Student Council elections
- 8 October House Cheer Activity (Please wear House colors on this day!)
- 9 October Open Day (KG2 – Grade 12) / Semester 1 ASA program starts
- 17-30 October International Activities Preparations
- 31 October International Activities Celebrations

Mr. Terry Swain
Principal

ACADEMIC INFORMATION AFTERNOON/EVENING

On the afternoon/evening of Tuesday 26 September, HASIS held its annual 'Academic Information Afternoon/Evening' event. We hope you enjoyed meeting the teachers of your children and getting to know a little more about your child's education at HASIS. If you were not able to attend and wish to meet with your child's teacher(s), please contact our School Reception (between 7:30am and 3:00pm) to arrange a suitable meeting date/time. Parents who may have difficulty with English may request the help of a school assigned translator.

EVACUATION DRILL

On Thursday 28 September we had the first of our regular evacuation drills for the school year. This was a phase 1 drill where we evacuate the building, but not the grounds. We check that all students, staff and visitors are accounted for. During the year we work to decrease the time it takes to evacuate and have everyone accounted for. If as a parent you are on the campus and the alarm goes you are expected to become part of the drill and line up with everyone else at the designated emergency assembly point.

IT IS OK TO BE WRONG!

As teachers, one of the biggest obstacles we face is the fear of "the wrong answer". Useful learning is not comprised of a set of memorized facts or formulae. Useful learning requires that a student be able to take the facts and actually build their knowledge and understanding through experimentation, analysis, synthesis and extrapolation. If a student is afraid to take a guess, then he or she will never get to the other steps. In an attempt to free students from the fear of failure we need them to understand that there are no such things as mistakes or failures, only choices and outcomes. If their choice doesn't work, they need to have the courage to make a different choice until they get an outcome that does.



Ms. Raewyn Eagar
Assistant Principal for Secondary

GOOD STUDY HABITS

It is part of our mission that all students are enabled in the transfer from school to university by developing self-discipline and self-study habits. It is therefore essential that time is set aside for homework and study. As a rule of thumb, the following suggested times are recommended for individual private study per night:

Grade 5	40-60 minutes
Grade 6 to Grade 8	60-90 minutes
Grade 9 to Grade 10	90-120 minutes
Grade 11 to Grade 12	120-150 minutes

Of course, the guidelines above depend on how quickly a student works, how much reading around a subject they wish to do and how much their individual subject teachers see fit to set them in order to cover the course.

The nature of private study is flexible depending on the individual student, but includes preparation for:

- homework
- wider reading
- extra note making, perhaps going over topics they are unsure of
- revising for tests/exams
- finding books or journals in the library that will help them in their studies
- reading for pleasure
- university research & applications
- reading the papers/news on the web...yes, we want them to know about the world
- or, like Isaac Newton in the orchard and like Archimedes in his bath, just thinking...

Ms. Saleema Al Arai
Head Counselor

SICKNESS

Trying to decide whether or not a child is well enough to attend school or not can be a challenge. For the health and wellbeing of the children in our care and our staff we ask for parents to assist us by keeping sick children at home. It is also possible for children to fall ill while at school so we will always refer them to our School Nurse. If it is deemed necessary, by the School Nurse, that a registered doctor's referral is required, you will be contacted by a School receptionist and asked to collect your child so that they may be checked by the HAS doctor, based at the HAS Clinic. HASIS will always abide by the HAS doctor's recommendation or directive.

The following is considered a common (non-exhaustive) list of health concerns that may require keeping your child at home:

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|---|-----------------------------------|
| - <i>Fever</i> | - <i>Diarrhea</i> |
| - <i>Contagious rash</i> | - <i>Vomiting</i> |
| - <i>Conjunctivitis (pink eye)</i> | - <i>Persistent Hacking Cough</i> |
| - <i>Thick White, Green or Yellow Discharge</i> | - <i>Head Lice</i> |

NUT-FREE POLICY

Although we recognize that this cannot be guaranteed, HASIS aims to be a Nut-Free school. This policy serves to set out all measures to reduce the risk to those children and adults who may suffer an anaphylactic reaction if exposed to nuts to which they are sensitive.

HASIS aims to protect children who have allergies to nuts yet also help them, as they grow up, to take responsibility as to what foods they can eat and to be aware of where they may be put at risk. We do not allow nuts or nut products in school lunch boxes. Our "Nut-Free Policy" means that the following items should not be brought into school:

- *Packs of nuts*
- *Peanut butter sandwiches*
- *Fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts*
- *Chocolate bars or sweets that contain nuts*
- *Sesame seed rolls (children allergic to nuts may also have a severe reaction to sesame)*
- *Cakes made with nuts*

Parents must notify the school of any known or suspected allergy to nuts and provide all medical and necessary information. This will be added to the child's care plan and if necessary a meeting organized with the School Nurse.

The school requests that parents observe the nut-free policy and therefore **do not** include nuts, or any traces of nuts, in packed lunches.

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Mr. Mostafa Saudi
Assistant Principal for Arabic

ROAD SAFETY EVENT

An OLANG-sponsored road safety event took place over two weeks towards the end of September. This included a poster competition, teachable safety moments during morning Homeroom as well as age-appropriate presentations. A **BIG** thank you to our OLANG representatives Ms. Afrah Al-Busaidi, Ms. Fatma Al-Farsi & Ms. Huda Al-Hajri for the time and effort they put into their informative presentations. Another **BIG** thank you to all of the teachers involved. House points were up for grabs for those who chose to participate in the poster competition and even more points for the top five (5) posters selected by the Royal Omani Police. These five posters will be prominently placed around HAS.

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Mr. Patrick Woods
English Coordinator – Secondary

One of the English faculty's goals this year is to try and help develop a reading culture within the School. In a lot of contemporary research there have been strong links recognized between reading and academic success.

To help and try to instill this into the School, the English faculty has developed an extensive reading program. This program is designed for Grades 5-8. Students will select an appropriate novel from the library or from home. We will be starting the program in the month of October and it will run during both semester one and two.

Students will read multiple novels during this time.

For this program to be fully successful parent involvement is vital. The greatest help that can be provided is with parents spending time with their children and getting them to read to them. This will help the students gain confidence and practice their pronunciation and fluency.

