



## ***Principal's Newsletter***

***December 2021***

***“Adaptability to change is itself a hallmark of successful education.” Peter Hilton***

The First Term of the academic year 2021-22 saw our students return to their classrooms for face-to-face learning after almost twenty months. The tentative and anxious early days soon settled into confident and enthusiastic participation by everyone in activities that were carefully structured and implemented without any compromise on safety and wellbeing.

Attendance across the school has been outstanding. Teachers' have made a tremendous effort to engage with our students and provide them with support and guidance to overcome any barriers to learning. The progress that we have seen across the school has been very encouraging.

A wide range of active learning opportunities were provided for our students. Exhibitions, competitions and community initiatives have provided our students with opportunities to be critical thinkers, problem solvers and work collaboratively. I am grateful to my entire staff for their hard work, dedication and commitment.

Students are enjoying the much-needed social engagement and overcoming social anxiety. While academic achievement is important, our student's health, safety and wellbeing remain a priority. Our school counselors have implemented programs and activities to support the community to deal with issues ranging from anxiety to classroom performance, peer pressure and mental health.

The wonderfully expressive Expo logo created by our talented students across the school and the beautiful timeline constructed by the secondary school art students for the 50<sup>th</sup> National Day celebration is absolutely amazing. A fitting finale to the end of Term 1!

While we have made a steady return to onsite learning, and demonstrated resilience, compassion and empathy in our ability to cope with the uncertainty, we continue to be challenged by the impact of the pandemic.

I am grateful to the parent community who has been extremely cooperative and supportive of the management. We are committed to providing our students with stability and continuity, as we continue to cope with the effects the pandemic has had on our community, including our staff. Parents will be kept informed of developments and plans are being made to cope with any situation that might arise. A supportive and cooperative parent community has enabled us to navigate these challenges with confidence.

Online teaching saw our teachers reaching students in their homes and parents being involved in every aspect of teaching and learning. The return to classroom teaching has made students take responsibility for their own learning. Parents are encouraged to support their children to become independent, confident learners. Achievement is possible through learning that is meaningful and tangible and acquired through independent learning.

Our students have appeared for the externally benchmarked assessment - CAT4 in October 2021 and completed the First Term Examinations. Teachers will have the opportunity to analyse data from these exams and provide the required support to match the needs of individual students.

**Condolences:** Our long serving nanny Marietta (Alice) met with a fatal accident on Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021. She joined Dubai Gem in April 1996. She was a familiar face working as a nanny in Dubai Gem Nursery till June 2020 and then continued in the school as the clinic nanny. She is survived by a daughter (in Saudi Arabia) & 2 sons (in Phillipines). We deeply mourn her loss and offer our heartfelt condolences to her family in the Phillipines. May her soul rest in peace.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our stakeholders and wish everyone a very happy holiday season.

Have a safe winter break. Season's Greetings and best wishes for the New Year.

***“Adaptability is not imitation. It means power of resistance and assimilation.” Mahatma Gandhi***

***Humera Ibrahim, Principal***

***December 2021***