

GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #6
28th September, 2023



Message from the Principal/CEO Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents,

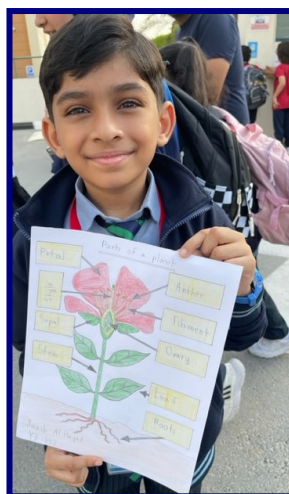
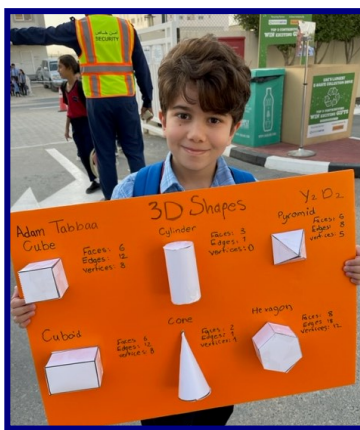
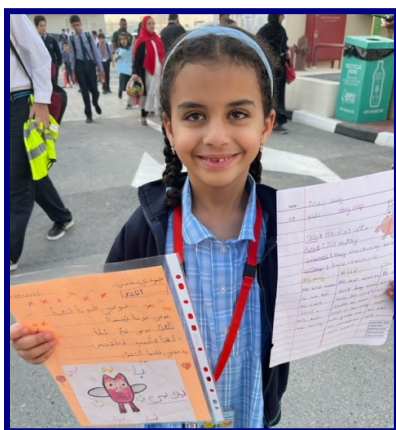
Parent-Teacher Teamwork

Many thanks to all the parents who took precious time out of your hectic schedules to join us in school this week for PTM, Literacy Activities & the Secondary Student Leadership Investiture. It means a great deal to your children & to your teachers that you engage & support in this way. Your presence makes the events more meaningful & special too! Thank you again.

We wish you a very enjoyable & blessed long weekend for the Prophet's (PBUH) Birthday this weekend.

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Details
Thurs. 28th Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School closed for the Prophet's (PBUH) Birthday
Mon. 9th Oct.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration for September 2024 will open (Enrollment Assessments will start from January 2024 for the September). Places are limited, so if you want new admission sibling seats, we recommend that you Register early.
Wed. 18th-Thurs. 19th Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid-Term Break. School closed for students. School opens on Monday 23rd October
Mon. 18th Dec—Monday 1st January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School closed for Winter Break. School opens on Tuesday 2nd January 2024. T2 Fees due by 2/1/24. Thank you.



Our Vision; 'Excellence Through Teamwork; Success For All'

مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة



النشرة الإخبارية رقم # 6
28 سبتمبر 2023



المواعيد

التاريخ	التفاصيل
الخميس، 28 سبتمبر	إغلاق المدارس بمناسبة المولد النبوي الشريف
الاثنين، 9 أكتوبر	سيتم فتح التسجيل لشهر سبتمبر 2024 (ستبدأ تقييمات التسجيل من يناير 2024 لشهر سبتمبر). الأماكن محدودة، لذا إذا كنت ترغب في الحصول على مقاعد جديدة للأخوة، فنوصيك بالتسجيل مبكرًا.
الأربعاء، 18-الخميس، 19 أكتوبر	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> استراحة منتصف المدة، المدرسة مغلقة أمام الطلاب. تفتح المدرسة يوم الاثنين 23 أكتوبر.
الاثنين، 18 ديسمبر - الاثنين، 1 يناير	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> المدرسة مغلقة لعدة أسابيع. تفتح المدرسة يوم الثلاثاء 2 يناير 2024. رسوم T2 مستحقة بحلول 2/1/24. شكرًا لك.

رسالة من المديرية / الرئيس التنفيذي
السيدة فاليري تومسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر
الشارقة الأعزاء،

العمل الجماعي بين الوالدين والمعلمين

شكرًا جزيلًا لجميع أولياء الأمور الذين أخذوا وقتًا ثمينًا من جداولكم المحمومة للانضمام إلينا في المدرسة هذا الأسبوع لحضور PTM وأنشطة

محو الأمية واستثمار القيادة الطلابية الثانوية. إن مشاركتكم ودعمكم بهذه الطريقة يعني الكثير لأطفالكم وللمعلمين. حضوركم يجعل الأحداث ذات مغزى أكثر وخاصة أيضًا! شكرًا مرة أخرى.

نتمنى لكم نهاية أسبوع طويلة وممتعة ومباركة بمناسبة المولد النبوي الشريف في نهاية هذا الأسبوع.



رؤيتنا؛ "التميز من خلال العمل الجماعي؛ نجاح للجميع"

☺ The most important gifts
you can give your child are
a **quality education** and the
values that will guide them
through life ☺

Sunny Varkey

Whole School News

Newsletter Contents

Page	Includes:
1, 2	Dates for Your Diary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Message from the Principal; Date for Your Diary, general notices
3	Contents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contents Table
4 5 6 7-9 9-11 12 13	Whole School News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online Trip & Activity Payment Parent Guide Storyboard Top Tips; 1) The Power of Reading, 2) Reading is Fun! Staff CPD Environmental Superstars; Plant a Legacy Environmental Recycling Superstar Champions Colin the Kindness Camel Happy Birthdays
13-14 15-17 18 19	Junior Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior Section Superstar Champions Learning Activities (General) Learning Activities in Y1 Learning Activities in Y2
20 20 21 22-25 26-28 29	Primary Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Section Superstar Champions Assembly Time with Y3D1, 27/9/23 Assembly Time with Y5F1 & Y5F2, 27/9/23 Learning Activities in Y3 Literacy Week & Parental Engagement in Y5 Literacy Week & Parental Engagement in Y6
30 31-33 34 35-36 37 38 39 40-41 42 43	Secondary Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary Section Superstar Champions Secondary Section Student Leaders Investiture Ceremony, 21/9/23 Assembly Time with Y8BH; Balancing IT with Life, 26/9/23 Secondary Student Leaders Arabic Learning Activities Preparing Students for their Future; 'A' Level students mentoring A/S Level students GCS Career Fair, 27/9/23 Celebrating World Peace Day on 21/9/23 Gratitude Day, 21/9/23 Personalisation of Learning Through AI

Find our updated **Parent Hand-book** through this QR code. Check-out school policies & procedures to be familiar & comfortable with our system.



Whole School News; Paying for Trips & Activities Online



Trips & Activities now need to be paid online through your Parent Portal. Teachers are no longer able to collect in cash.

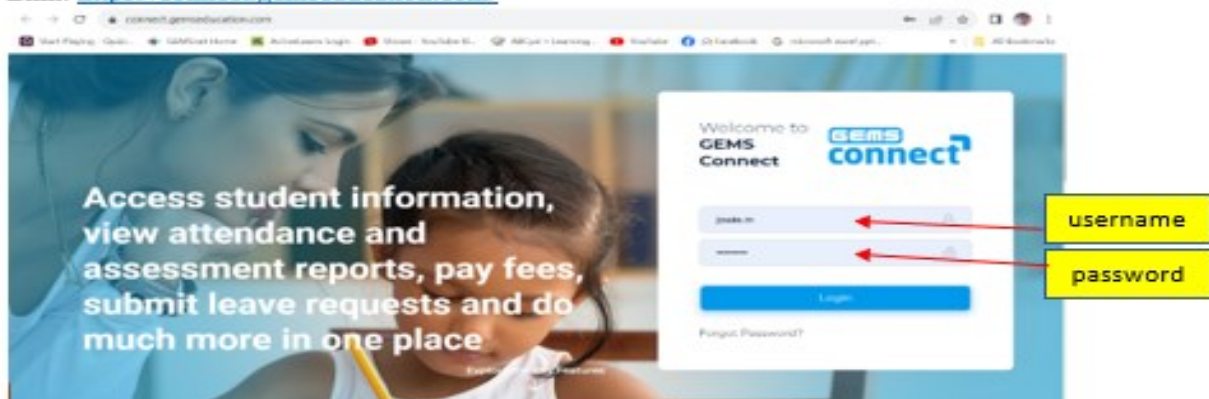
Please note this Parent Guide sheet FYI

Online Trip Payment Parent Guide

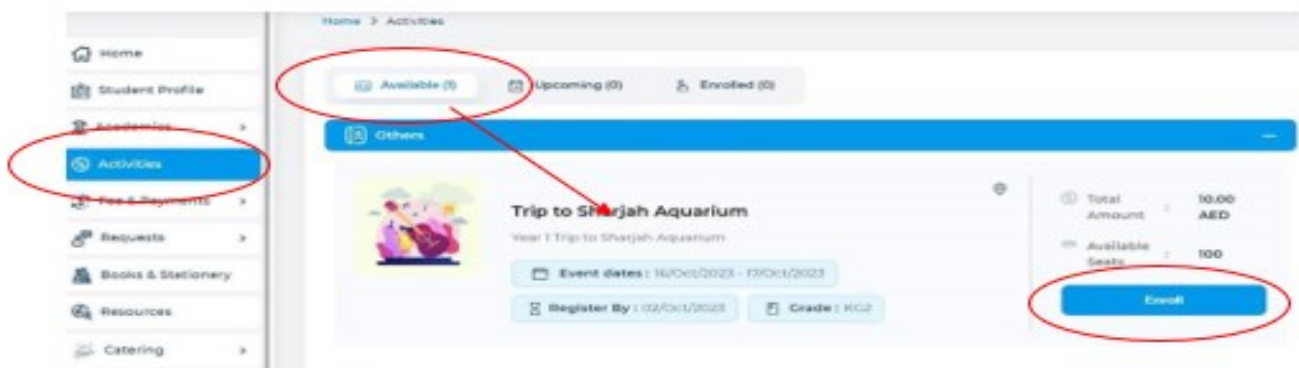
How to access the online trip payment through your GEMS Connect Parent Portal

1. Go to the website of GEMS parent portal or click the link below and enter your school-issued username and password, then click the login button.

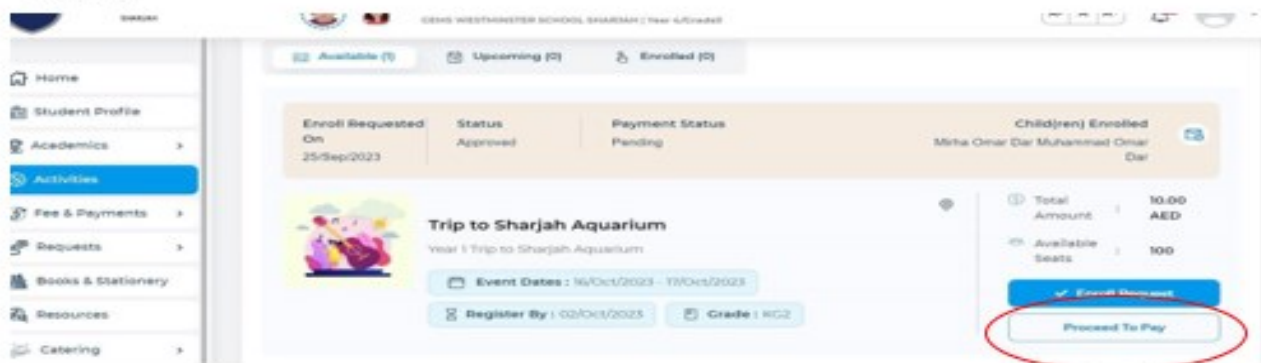
Link: <https://connect.gemseducation.com/>



2. On the home page, click the **Activities** option, select the **Available** fee and click **Enroll** button.



3. Then click **Proceed to Pay** button for the payment of the trip. Provide your card details and confirm the payment.



Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!

Read. Grow. Inspire

**HAPPY
READING
WEEK!**

The Power of Reading

There are 4 reasons why we should make reading as part of our daily routine:

1. Nurtures the mind
2. Improves vocabulary
3. Helps to improve concentration
4. Boosts creative thinking

Why do you think reading is important?

WHY IS READING IMPORTANT?

Nurtures the mind

Reading has been proven to keep our minds young, healthy, and sharp.

Improves your vocabulary

Reading exposes you to new words which may become part of your daily vocabulary.

Helps improve concentration

Reading trains your mind to focus and accomplish tasks efficiently.

Boosts creative thinking

Reading can inspire you and awakens the creativity in you.

This week, we will celebrate the world book day and surely we will enjoy the activities.

Yes. Let's enjoy reading and have fun.

A child who reads will be an adult who thinks.

- Sasha Salmira

Reading Is Fun!!

Looking to make reading enjoyable? Here are some methods to try!!

Create a Reading Area

This will spark an interest in reading for the students.

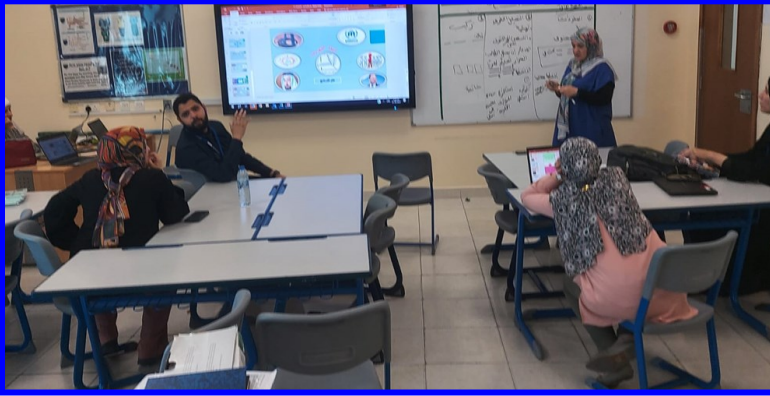
Encourage Reading Everywhere

Practice reading menus, movie names, road signs, game instructions, and more....

Reading and Real-Life

Making connections between the book and the child's own experience can help increase his/her interest in reading.

Whole School News; Team CPD!



Ms. Azaa leading a CPD session on Arabic activities for non-Arabs



Our new teachers attended a GEMS Cluster Teaching & Learning Conference held at sister school WSD on Saturday 23/9/23, along with Principal Ms. Valerie, VP Mr. Shujahat & Learning Coach Ms. Christine. Session themes included 'Setting Learning Objectives using Blooms Taxonomy' (presented by Ms. Christine), & practical engagement strategies.



GEMS has partnered with innovation leaders 8Billion Ideas, a company that promotes leadership, creativity & innovation in schools. Mr. Karl met the Principal Ms. Valerie & Secondary GC Ms. Anisha on 27/9/23 to initiate a Y11 Internship programme over the coming year. We are very excited about this collaboration & look forward to being able to provide additional 'Life Preparation Skills' to our students.



Environment Superstar Champions!



Our environment super heroes participated in the 'Plant a Legacy' initiative. Students visited Al Tadweer waste management center for the PAL (Plant a Legacy) drive.

Thanks to Ms. Laneetha and Ms. Indira for organizing, & to our accompanying teachers, Ms. Rema & dear parents.



Environment Superstar Champions!

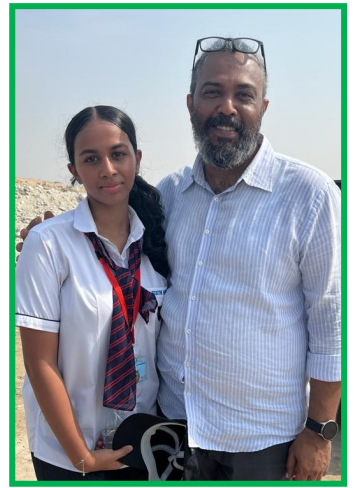
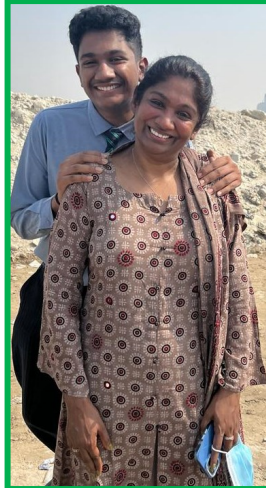


GEMS Global Ambassadors Society with Plant
A legacy Campaign

@ Al Tadweer Waste Management Centre



Environment Superstar Champions!



Our environment super heroes participated in the 'Plant a Legacy' initiative. Students visited Al Tadweer waste management center for the PAL (Plant a Legacy) drive.

Thanks to Ms. Laneetha and Ms. Indira for organizing, & to our accompanying teachers, Ms. Rema & dear parents.

Dear Ms.Laneetha,

Sorry for the late reply. Thank you for taking your time to ask Eva on this volunteer opportunity. Not only do I immerse myself in opportunities like these but I also keep others encouraged and so quite proud to see Eva wanting to participate on her own means.

Please do let us know of similar events like this in the future and if time allows, we will definitely follow it through.

Thank you for keeping me in the loop and looking forward to hearing from you on similar future projects .

Thank you for the good work you do too.

Sini

Eva's mother.

The WSS community has collected 551kg of e-waste! This is a stunning recycling effort, well done!

The e-waste competition has now closed, however, please still send in your plastic bottles for recycling. Thank you.



Environment Superstar Champions!



Environment Superstar Champions!



To support the UAE & GEMS Sustainability drive towards COP 28, WSS is working hard towards achieving the Green Flag certification. This course is about promoting Eco-friendly principles in schools through a seven-step methodology and Project-Based-Learning (PBL). The course duration is 25-30 hours.

So far a total of 5 WSS Teachers have completed the course (examples of two certificates above). Huge congratulations to the following 5 Environmental Superstars:

1. Ms. Laneetha Shajahan (Secondary)
2. Ms. Indira (Secondary)
3. Ms. Saritha (Secondary)
4. Ms. Jinitra (Primary)
5. Ms. Saranya (Primary)

Whole School News; Colin the Kindness & Respect Camel!
Awarded for demonstrating Good Character
(Respect, Kindness & Community Spirit)



Thank you to this kind student for sharing a sweet treat on 27/9/23, to celebrate the Prophet's (PBUH Birthday).



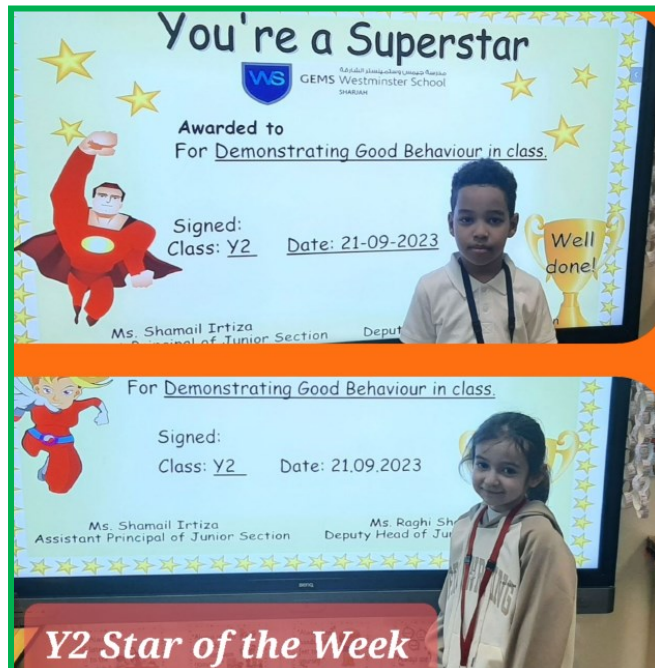
Happy Birthdays!



WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!



WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!



Dear Ms. Sadiqa,

Good Day,!

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for the opportunity to meet with you yesterday during the parent-teacher meeting.

I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge and commend the dedication and efforts you have put into nurturing Ayesha's development and academic progress. It was truly valuable to discuss her performance, strengths, and areas for improvement. Your insights and observations have provided us with a clear understanding of her progress in the classroom.

We are particularly pleased with the progress Ayesha has made under your guidance and the positive learning environment you have created. Your passion for teaching is evident, and we are confident that Ayesha is in good hands. Your patient and encouraging approach has instilled a sense of enthusiasm for learning in her, and we are grateful for the role you play in her education.

We have faith in your expertise and are optimistic about Ayesha's continued growth and success under your guidance. Your dedication and commitment to your students' development are truly commendable, and we are grateful to have you as her teacher.

Thank you once again for your time and the valuable insights you shared during our meeting. We look forward to staying in close communication to support Ayesha's academic journey.

Thanks & Regards



Amir Shah



Dear Miss Marian,

I would like to Thankyou for all the efforts and love you gave to the students in helping them settle down.

The kids love you and miss Aneezah. The classroom atmosphere is so entertaining that the kids love to go to school.

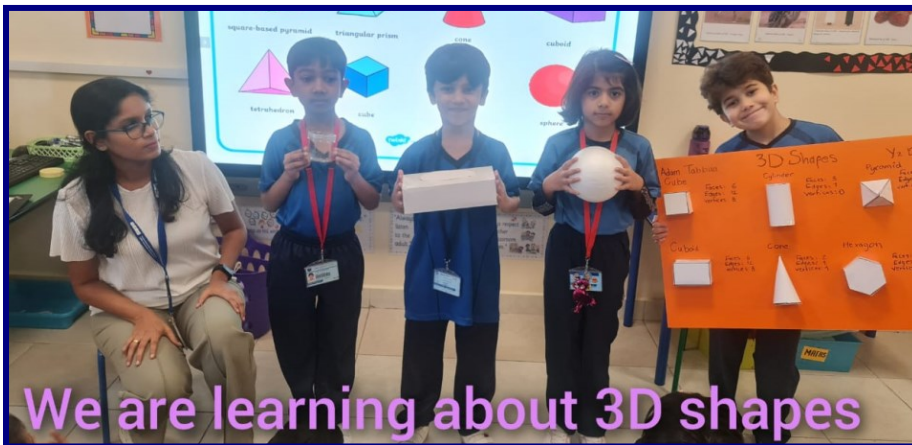
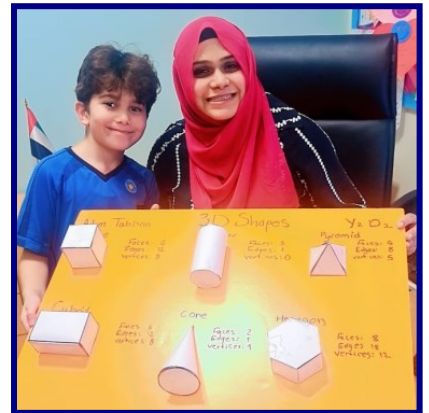
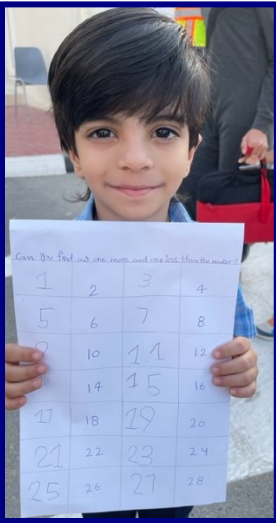
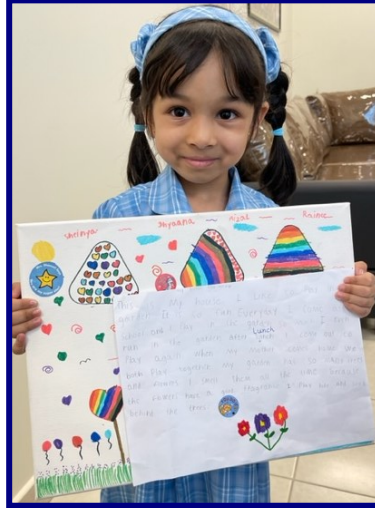
The level of education has just been getting better and better in WSS from teaching methods to the improved textbooks and the introduction of learning apps.

Im really happy and satisfied with the level of education you are providing to the kids.

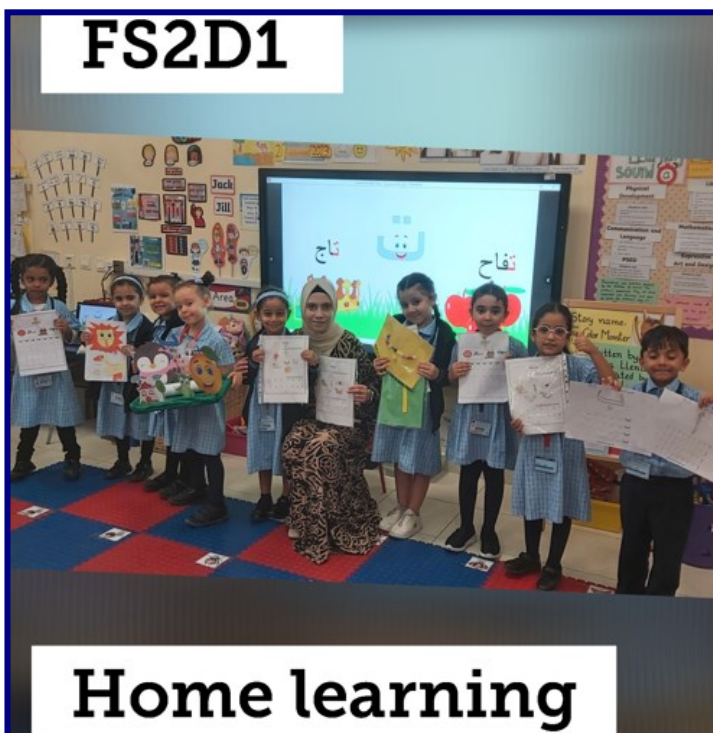
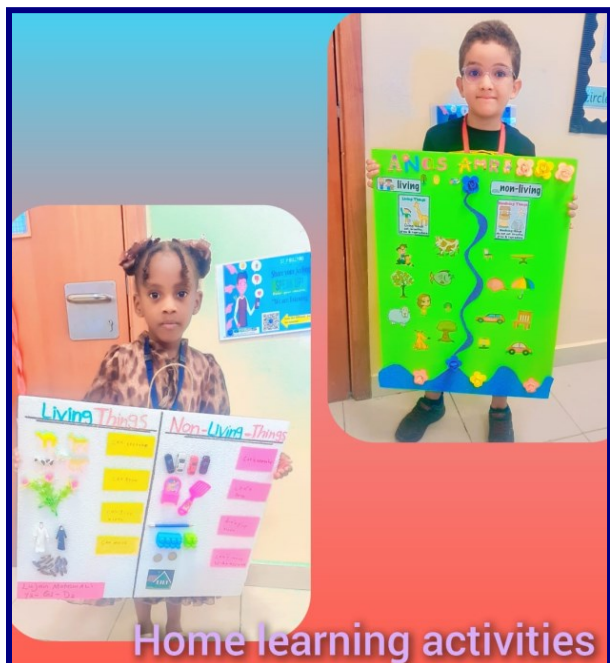
Aoshah Almansouri

(Mother of Ali Imran year 1 S1)

Junior Section News



Junior Section News



Junior Section News

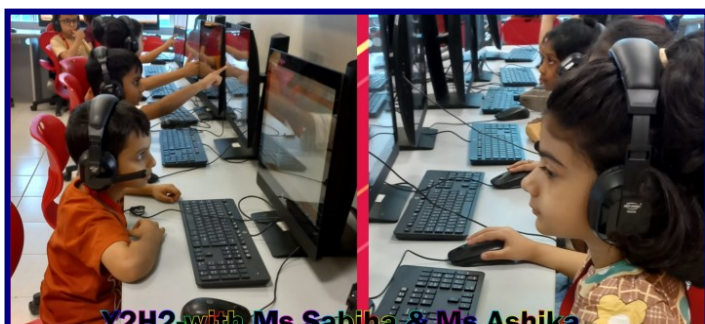
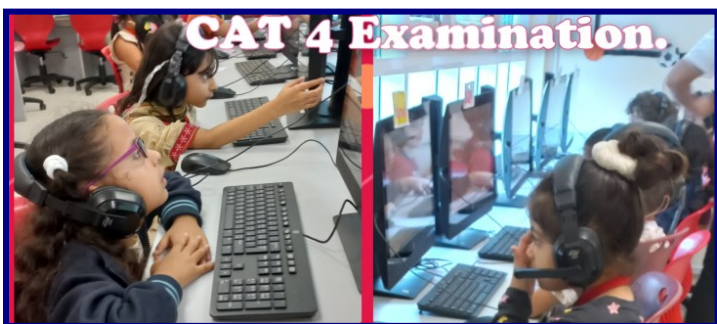
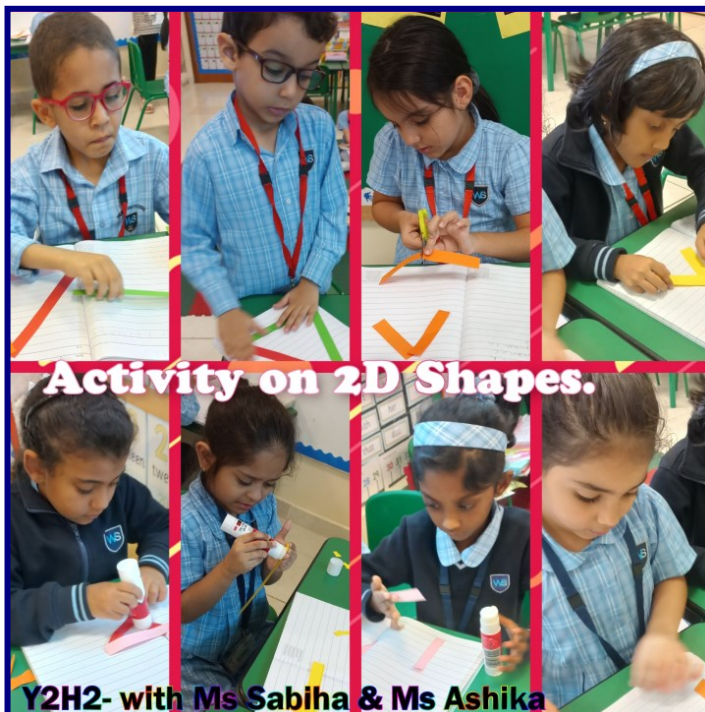


With Ms. Safia & Ms. Fiza

Junior Section News; Learning Activities in Y1!



Junior Section News; Learning Activities in Y2!



WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!

Thank you Ma'am and dedicated teachers team for the hardwork and boosting students confidence and learning skills. 😊

Regards,
Mother.



Many thanks to the enthusiastic Mothers who joined story-reading sessions in class with their child on 25/9/23.



Primary Section News; Assembly Time with Y3D1, 27/9/23!



Class Assembly: Students from **Y3D1** with an important message on how to save our environment. Thanks to all the parents who took time out of their busy schedule to attend.



Primary Section News; Assembly Time with Y5, 27/9/23!

Y5F1 Assembly about Wellbeing

With Mr. Arvie



Y5F2 and Y5F1 Choir presentation



Primary Section News; Parent Engagement in Y3!

"Celebrating International Day of Peace" Y3 H2 with Ms. Anshy Anto



Reading Week Activities Y3H2



Parental Engagement



Primary Section News; Parent Engagement in Y3!



Primary Section News; Parent Engagement in Y3!

**WALT: HOW DO I EXPLORE
THE PARTS OF A FLOWER?**

Y3S1 with Ms. Saranya



**Parental
Engagement-
Reading and
discussion**

**WALT: How do I
identify the features
of a fairy tale?**

**- Y3S1 With Ms.
Saranya.**

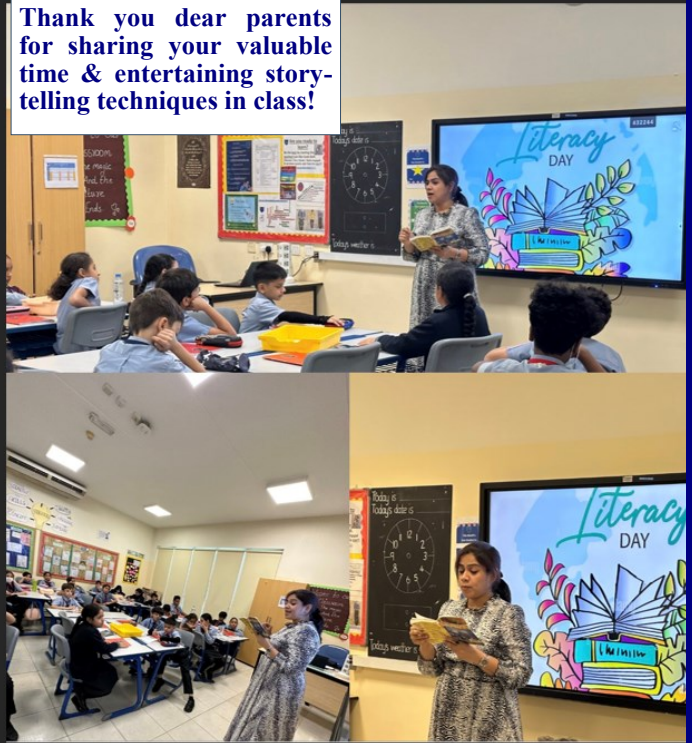
Primary Section News; Parent Engagement in Y3!



Primary Section News; Parent Engagement in Y5!

Y5S2 Literacy Week: Parental Engagement

Thank you dear parents for sharing your valuable time & entertaining story-telling techniques in class!



Form Tutor : Ms.Anjukrishna.R

Y5 Reading week activity -25.09.2023

Mrs. Mehwish Abid, the Mother of Hafsa Abid (Y5D1) sharing her favourite story book with the class and read to the students (Parent Engagement).



With Ms. Anju Kumar

Primary Section News; Parent Engagement in Y5!

Y5F1 Parental reading engagement and freeze frames activity during the Reading week celebration.

With Mr. Arvie



Thank you dear parents
for sharing your valuable
time & entertaining story-
telling techniques in class!

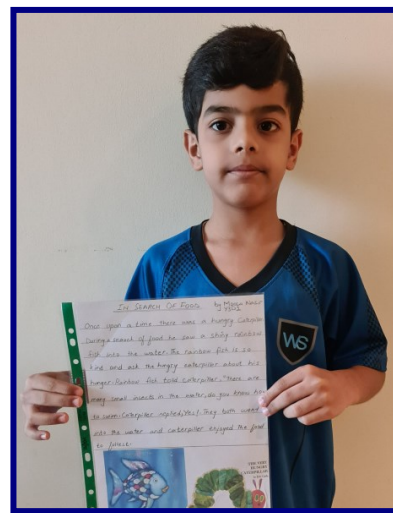


Primary Section News; Parent Engagement in Y5!

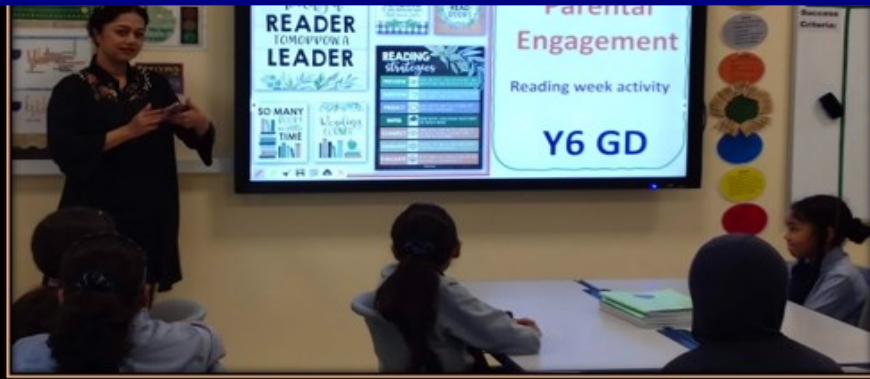
Some super student work about the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ with Mr. Ahmed



Primary Section News



Primary Section News; Parent Engagement in Y6!



Reading week activity -

My Favourite Book- Parent Talk in Y6GD by mother of Avni Shakthi Sai

Thank you dear parents for sharing your valuable time to visit class & share your experiences of reading!



Reading week celebration – Parent engagement activity

Parent of George Y6 BF shared her favourite book with the class and read to the students. A short discussion was followed as she asked the students about their favourite character and why they would recommend the book to their peers.

WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!

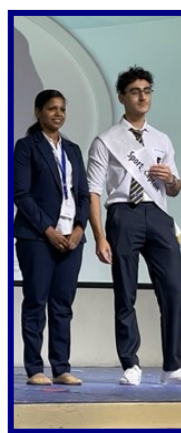


Well done to Dulan (Y10BD1), who got the opportunity to participate in the Haarlem World Jamboree (August) held in the Netherlands. He represented the British Scouts Overseas, Dubai Branch.



Y8B Class Superstars!

Secondary Section News; Student Leadership Investiture Ceremony, 26/9/23!



Secondary Section News; Student Leadership Investiture Ceremony, 26/9/23!



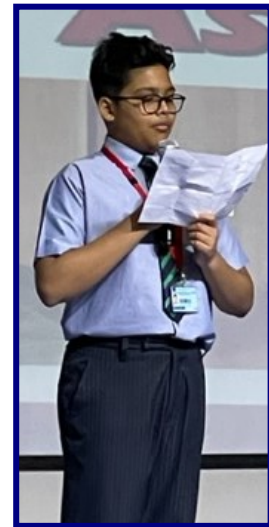
Secondary Section News; Student Leadership Investiture Ceremony, 26/9/23!



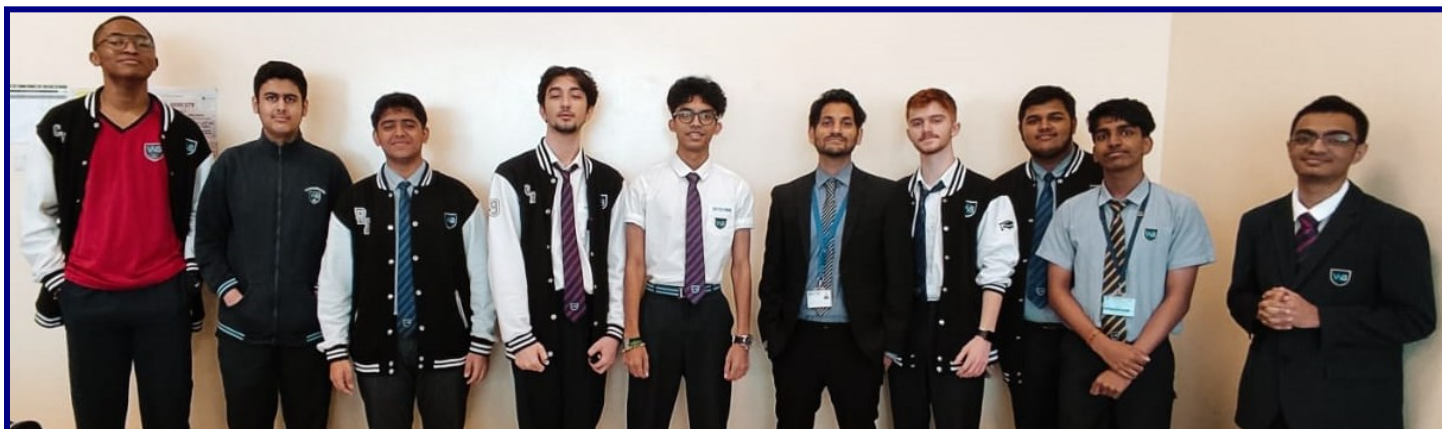
Secondary Section News; Assembly Time with Y8BH, 26/9/23!



Important Assembly theme by Y8BH on 'Balancing IT Use with Life'. We discussed the principle 'All things in moderation' as the most healthy way to live our lives.



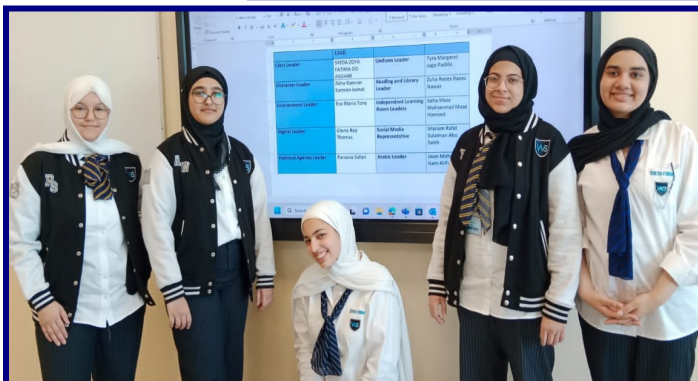
Secondary Section News; Class Student Leadership!



Excellence Through Teamwork; Success For All!

	12 BF	12 BH	13 BS	12GH	12GS	13GD
Class Leader	Mohammed Fawaz	Abdul Aaiz Khan	Yohan Manoj	<u>Ranem El Sayed</u> Hamza Mohamed Elashal	Inayah Zia Siddiqui Zia Ahmed Siddiqui	SYEDA ZOYA FATIMA DO ASGHAR
Character Leader	Ahmed Diaaeldin Saad Awad	Ziyad <u>Benabdelhak</u>	<u>Achman</u> Malhotra	Zainab Zubair	Carine Firas Jizdan	<u>Zoha Kamran</u> <u>Kamran kamal</u>
Environment Leader	Mohammed <u>Shehroz Khan Tahir</u>	Mohammed Zahir Mahgoub Mohamed	Omar Ahmed	Sarah Mohammed Imtiaz	Mashal Afzal Malik Mohammad Afzal	Eva Maria Tony
Digital Leader	<u>Mukkaram Sewak</u>	Afnan Ahmad <u>Nizamudeen</u>	Zaman Ahmed Khan	Zainab Batool	Bianca Claire Pajooyan Precilla	Gloria Reji Thomas
National Agenda Leader	Mohammed Hatim Awad <u>Elgeed</u>	Maied Juma Obaid	<u>Chigozie</u> Emmanuel	<u>Amena</u> <u>Taufique</u>	Fathima Zahraa Liyakath	Parvana Safari
Uniform Leader	<u>Zainul</u> <u>Abdeen/Abdul Qadir</u>	Zuhair <u>Ahed Brney</u>	Azeem Ahmed	Ayesha Fakher	Emaan Masood Abbas	Tyra Margaret Jugo Padilla
Reading and Library Leader	Haider Hassan Raza Syed	Nihal Nair	Rayyan Ramzan	MAYASS ABDUL	Rida Aamir Mumtaz	<u>Zuha Raees Raees</u> Nawaz
Independent Learning Room Leaders	Arham Ali Khan Sikander Ali	Tamim Mahmoud Hijazi	Sai Prakash	<u>Fariha Javed</u> Khot	Syeda <u>Mahnoor</u>	Soha Maaz Muhammad Maaz Hameed
Social Media Representative	<u>Qusay Rafat</u> <u>Sulaiman</u>	Muhammed Haris	Issam Mohammed	Ayesha Tazeem	Sumaya Bin Anowar Hossain	Mariam Rafat Sulaiman Abu Saleh

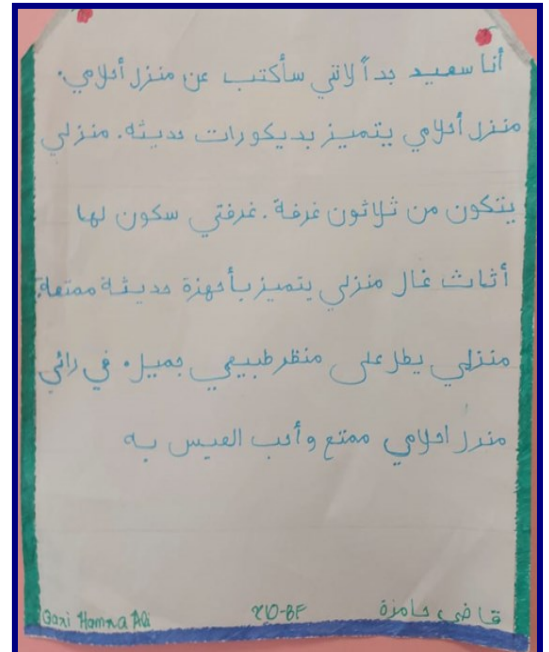
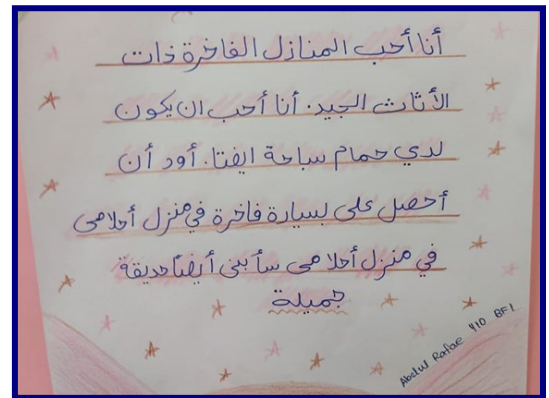
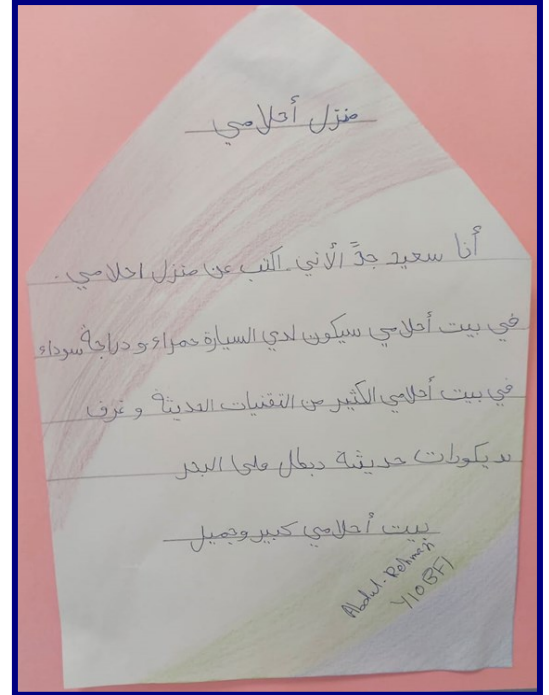
Secondary Section News; Class Student Leadership!



Secondary Section News; Arabic Learning Activities!



Y10B Non-Arab class' writing activities with Ms. Iman Awad



Secondary Section News; Preparing Students for their Future!



A level students Syeda Fatima Al Zahra , Humayra Tasnim, Noor Mustafa and Farah Favaz , sharing their Success story to AS students. The session was very inspiring and informative.

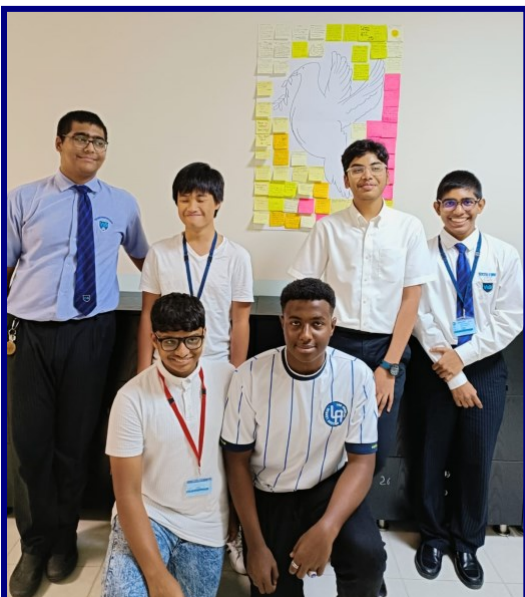


Secondary Section News; Preparing Students for their Future— GCS Career Fair, 27/9/23!



WSS Sixth Form students visited sister school GCS on 27/9/23 for an IDB career fair where they met representatives from over 80 Universities

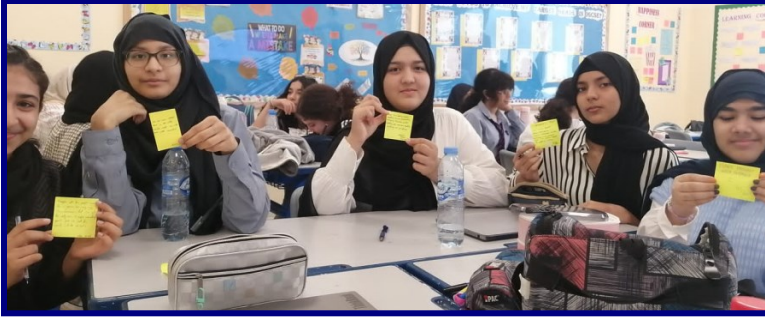
Secondary Section News; Celebrating World Peace Day, 21/9/23!



International Day of Peace was celebrated on the 21st of September at WSS to play a part in building a peaceful culture that will last for generations to come. It is a day set aside by the United Nations General Assembly for everyone around the world to devote to keeping peace.



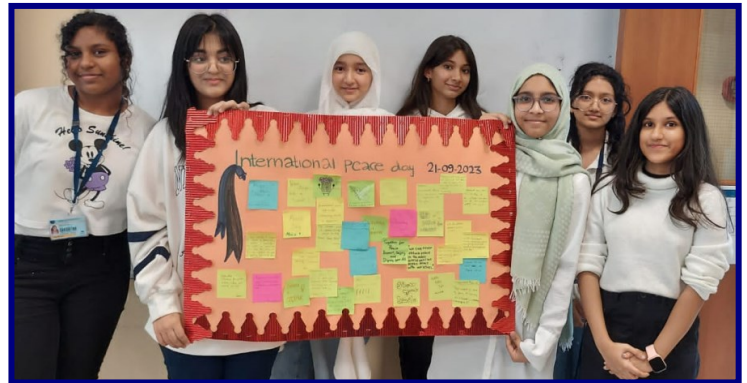
Secondary Section News; Class-based Learning Activities!



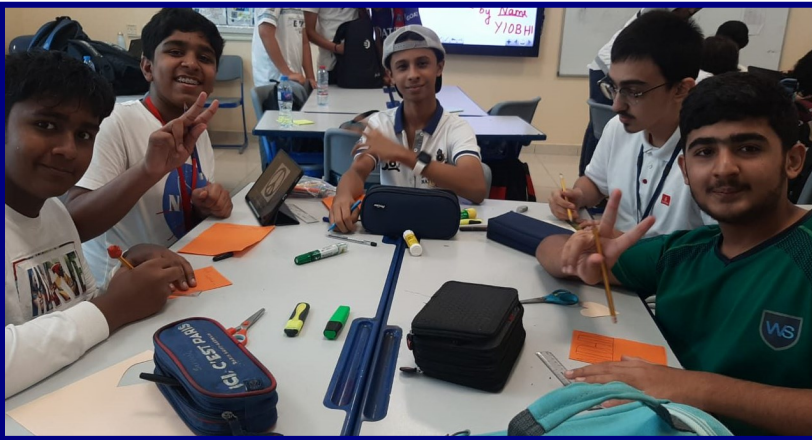
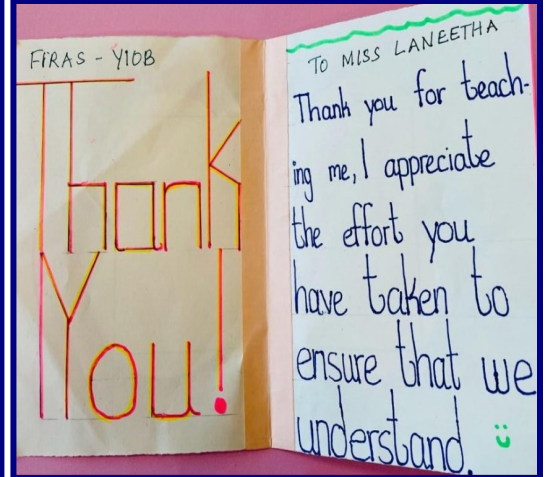
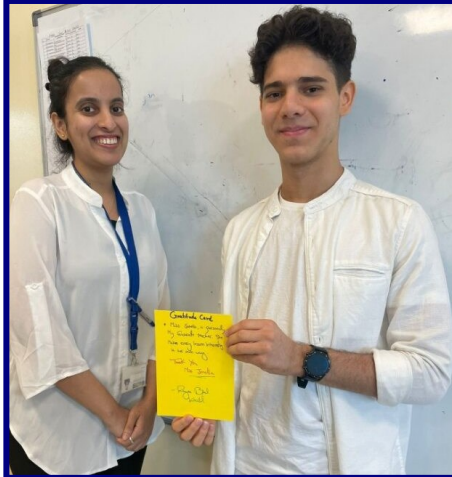
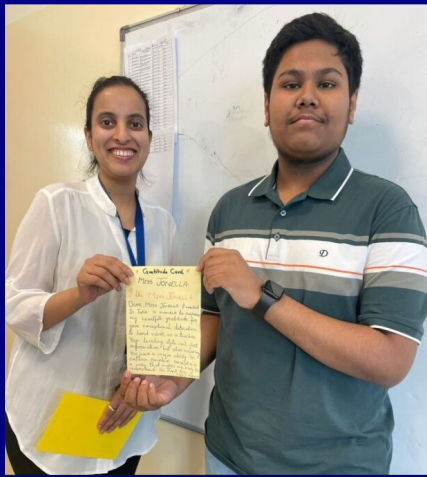
Global Storytelling: Students from diverse backgrounds shared stories and experiences with each other.

Quiz Bee: Quiz competitions tested students' knowledge about different countries, their history, geography, and Culture.

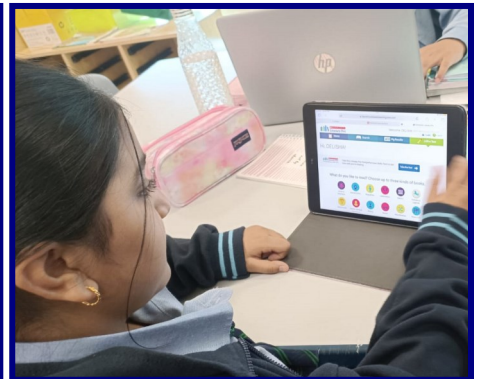
International Poster or Essay Contest: Students created posters or wrote essays on topics related to global issues, diversity, or the importance of international cooperation.



Secondary Section News; Gratitude Day, 21/9/23!

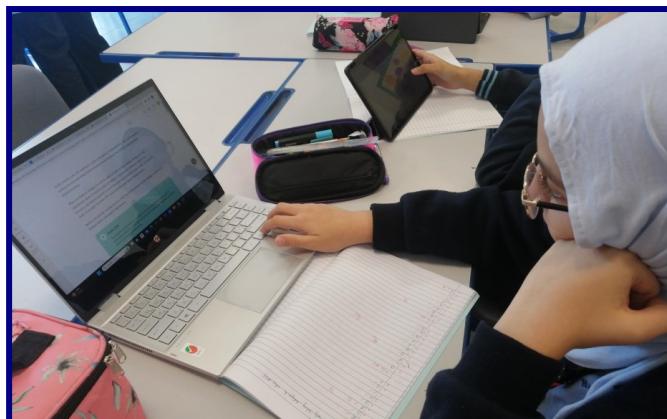
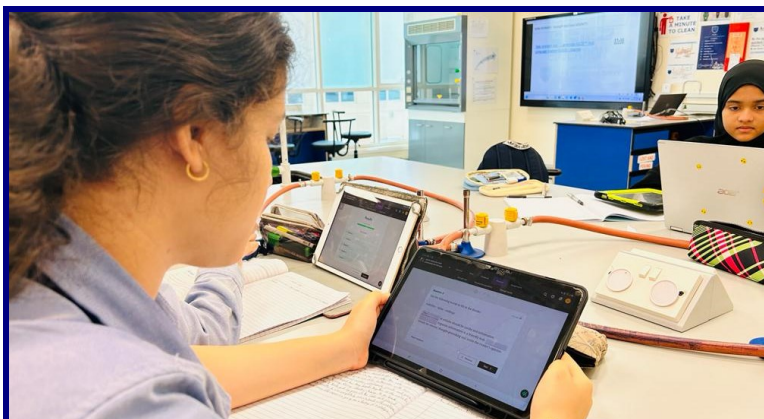
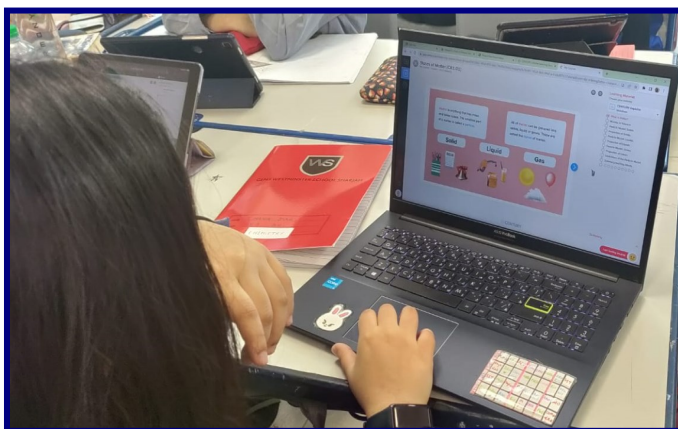
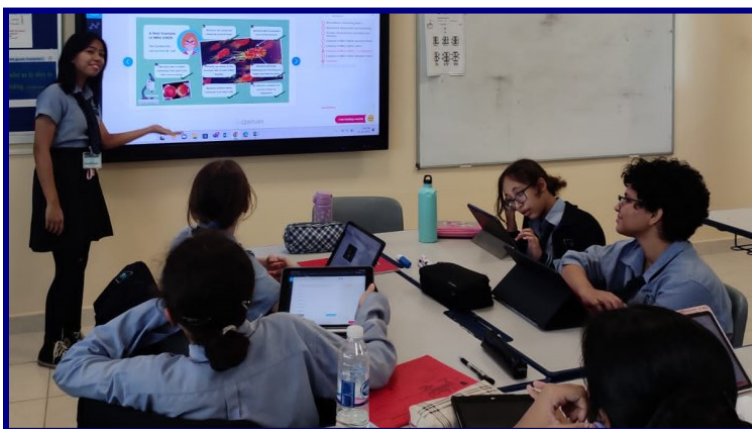


Secondary Section News; Personalising Learning Through AI!



Use of AI; students using **SCHOLASTIC LITERACY PRO** in English reading lessons

Secondary Section News; Personalising Learning Through AI!



Students using the Artificial Intelligence (AI) programmes Century Tech. in KS3 Science classes & KOGNITY in KS4 English Classes to promote personalised learning adapted to students' individual progress & achievement level.