

GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #18
18th January, 2024



Message from the Principal/CEO Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents,

School Priorities

FYI, to keep you updated about key school priorities, please note p4 regarding the international Optimus Wellbeing Award that we are pursuing. Our aim is to raise awareness of wellbeing issues & processes & to establish a more holistic & strategic approach to our wellbeing provision across the school. We look forward to your support by completing the short survey that will be coming to you shortly. Many thanks.

Re-enrollment

Please note the critical deadlines & actions required in 'Dates for your Diary' if you want to reserve a seat for your child for September 2024. Thank you.

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Details
Thurs. 11/1/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> T1 Reports released (online)
Friday 12/1/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am-12pm; Parent Teacher Meeting (PTM) Cashier open for Fee payment (Cashier also open on Saturday 13/1, 8am-12pm) Parents are invited to come into school to meet their child's teachers to discuss T1 progress, achievement & next steps.
From Wed. 24/1/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> System re-enrollment opens for Sept. 2024 seats, subject to <u>T2 fee payment & no serious behaviour issues</u> (students with WLs are 'On Probation') Online re-enrollment is required, but is a non-binding indication only. Seats would be confirmed once the re-enrollment fee plus T3 fees have been cleared in full, by the given deadlines. Regardless of any system-generated email, the <u>re-enrollment fee is non-refundable for any reason</u>, as per the Sharjah Authority Circular.
Mon. 15/4/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <u>deadline to pay the re-enrollment fee is Monday 15th April</u>. After this date, any un-booked seats would be given to the Waiting List. To avoid any inconvenience & disappointment, do please keep to the given deadlines to secure your child a seat if required. Thank you.
Wed. 14/2/24 & Thurs. 15/2/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School closed for Mid-Term 2 Break (2 days) Admin offices open (timings TBC)
Friday 29/3/24 to Sunday 14/4/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School closed for Spring Break (2 weeks) T2 exams will run 1-2 weeks before Spring Break (exact dates TBC) Admin Offices open on working days throughout the Break for Enrollment & Fee Payment (timings TBC) Online fee payments recommended to avoid queues. However, the Cashier will be open in school on Saturday 13/4/24, 8am-1pm for convenient fee payment Term 3 fees due by latest Monday 15th April. Thank you.



It's Secondary Science Week!

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

مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة



النشرة الإخبارية رقم # 18
18 يناير 2024



رسالة من المديرية / الرئيس التنفيذي
السيدة فاليري تومسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر
الشارقة الأعزاء،

أولويات المدرسة

لمعلوماتك، لإطلاعك على آخر المستجدات
بشأن أولويات المدرسة الرئيسية، يرجى
ملاحظة الصفحة 4 المتعلقة بـ

Optimus Wellbeing الدولية.

الجائزة التي نسمي إليها هدفنا هو رفع
مستوى الوعي بقضايا وعمليات الرفاهية

وإنشاء نهج أكثر شمولية واستراتيجية
لتوفير الرفاهية لدينا في جميع أنحاء المدرسة.

ونحن نتطلع إلى دعمكم من خلال استكمال الاستبيان القصير الذي سيأتي
إليكم قريباً. نشكركم.

إعادة القيد

يرجى ملاحظة المواعيد النهائية والإجراءات الحاسمة المطلوبة في
"تواريخ يومياتك" إذا كنت ترغب في حجز مقعد لطفلك لشهر سبتمبر
2024. شكراً لك.



المواعيد

التاريخ	التفاصيل
الخميس. 11/1/24	تم إصدار تقارير T1 (عبر الإنترنت)
الجمعة 12/1/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 صباحاً - 12 ظهراً: اجتماع أولياء الأمور والمعلمين (PTM) ولياء الأمور مدعوون للحضور إلى المدرسة لمقابلة معلمي أطفالهم لمناقشة التقدم في T1 والإنجاز والخطوات التالية. أمين الصندوق مفتوح لدفع الرسوم (يفتح أمين الصندوق أيضاً يوم السبت 13/1، من الساعة 8 صباحاً حتى 12 ظهراً)
من الأربعاء. 24/1/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> سيتم فتح إعادة التسجيل في النظام لمقاعد سبتمبر 2024، مع مراعاة دفع رسوم T2 وعدم وجود مشكلات سلوكية خطيرة (الطلاب الحاصلون على "WLS" تحت المراقبة) إعادة التسجيل عبر الإنترنت مطلوبة، ولكنها إشارة غير ملزمة فقط. سيتم تأكيد المقاعد بمجرد سداد رسوم إعادة التسجيل بالإضافة إلى رسوم T3 بالكامل، بحلول المواعيد النهائية المحددة. يغتن النظر عن أي بريد إلكتروني يصدره النظام، فإن رسوم إعادة التسجيل غير قابلة للاسترداد لأي سبب من الأسباب، وفقاً لتعميم هيئة الشارقة.
الاثنين. 15/4/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> الموعد النهائي لدفع رسوم إعادة التسجيل هو يوم الاثنين 15 أبريل. بعد هذا التاريخ، سيتم تحويل أي مقاعد غير محجوزة إلى قائمة الانتظار. لتجنب أي إزعاج وخيبة أمل، يرجى الالتزام بالمواعيد النهائية المحددة لتأمين مقعد لطفلك إذا لزم الأمر. شكراً لك.
الأربعاء. 14/2/24 و الخميس. 15/2/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> المدرسة مغلقة لعلبة منتصف الفصل الدراسي الثاني (يومين) المكاتب الإدارية مفتوحة (المواعيد سيتم تحديدها لاحقاً)
من الجمعة 29/3/24 إلى الأحد 14/4/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> المدرسة مغلقة لعلبة الربيع (أسبوعين). سيتم إجراء اختبارات T2 قبل أسبوع أو أسبوعين من عطلة الربيع (التواريخ المحددة سيتم تحديدها لاحقاً) المكاتب الإدارية مفتوحة في أيام العمل طوال فترة الاستراحة للتسجيل ودفع الرسوم (المواعيد سيتم تحديدها لاحقاً) يوصى بدفع الرسوم عبر الإنترنت لتجنب قوائم الانتظار. ومع ذلك، سيكون أمين الصندوق مفتوحاً في المدرسة يوم السبت 13/4/24، من الساعة 8 صباحاً حتى 1 ظهراً لدفع الرسوم بشكل مريح. رسوم الفصل الدراسي الثالث مستحقة بحلول يوم الاثنين 15 أبريل. شكراً لك.

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



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



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 QR Code to Access our online Parent Handbook
4 5 6 7 8 9 9	Whole School News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optimus Wellbeing Award Enrollment Open Day for September 2024 Whole School News Staff CPD (Training) Environmental & Recycling Superstar Champions Colin the Character Camel Happy Birthdays
10-11 12-14 15 16-19	Junior Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior Section Superstar Champions Junior Section Sports Festival Learning Activities (General Projects & Home Learning) Y2 Learning Activities
20-21 22 23 24-26 27 28	Primary Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Section Superstar Champions Y5H2 Assembly on 'Confidence' Y3F2 Assembly on 'Perseverance' Y3 Learning Activities Y6 Science with Parental Engagement Week Healthy Eating Week
29 30 31-33 34 35 36	Secondary Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary Section Superstar Champions PTM on 12/1/24 Sustainability Through Science Week Y7 Learning Activities Y8 PASS Survey KS5 PASS Survey

Whole School News; The International Optimus Award!



Wellbeing Award
for Schools

Parent, Student
& Staff Surveys
coming shortly!

Over the next few months,
we are working towards the

WELLBEING AWARD FOR SCHOOLS

This is a whole-school activity to help improve the
emotional wellbeing and mental health of everyone.



To find out more
or to get involved, contact your
Wellbeing Award Coordinator:

PRF Ms. Aiysha (Parents)
Principal Ms. Valerie & HoI Ms. Rema (Staff &
Students)

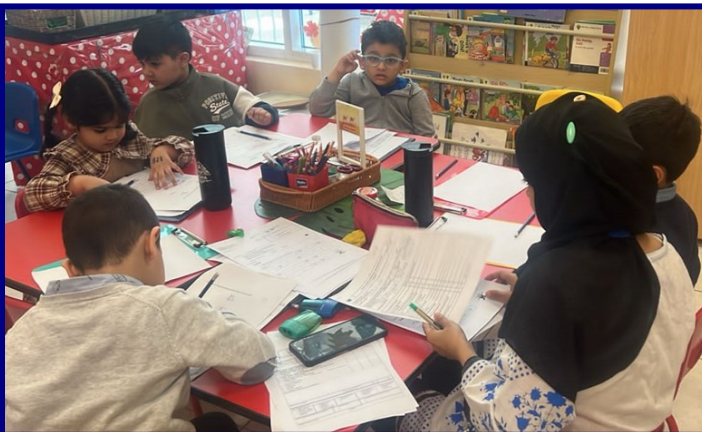


Whole School News; Enrollment Open for September 2024!



As published in previous Newsletters, our enrollment process for September 2024 seats has started. Enrollment interviews & assessments have started with the Junior Section.

These are pictures from Saturday 13/1/24. Thank you to the team for giving up a weekend day to ensure a smooth process.



Whole School News



WSS has a dedicated Wellbeing Team, who meet regularly to review progress with achieving the international Optimus Award for Wellbeing, & next steps with our school development on student & staff wellbeing.

We are proud to share that our Principal Ms. Valerie Thompson has been selected to be a SPEA School Principal Council Executive Committee member, to serve colleagues to support SPEA-School collaboration & Sharjah school development. We thank SPEA & Sharjah school Principals for this opportunity to serve the community in a meaningful way.

Safeguarding and Inclusion PD - Preparation for School Inspections



حكومة الشارقة
هيئة الشارقة للتعليم الخاص
SHARJAH PRIVATE EDUCATION AUTHORITY

Dr. Mokhtar Bourchak

16th January, 2024

انتخاب اللجنة التنفيذية لمجلس مديري المدارس Election of the Executive Committee of the School Principals' Council



مجد ماضي
Majd Madi
رئيس المجلس
Chairperson



جيمس ستيرانس
James Stearns
نائب رئيس المجلس
Deputy Chairperson



فاليري لويس تومبسون
Valerie Thompson
أمين السر
Secretary



د. رائد صبحي
Dr. Raed Subhi
عضو تنفيذي
Executive Member



سمر مراد
Samar Murad
عضو تنفيذي
Executive Member



Head of Inclusion Ms. Rema attended an important SPEA workshop on preparing the Performance Indicators for Safeguarding & Inclusion ready for the next school inspections.

Whole School News; Staff CPD!



The Principal Ms. Valerie attended a SPEA 'Excellence Day' held at the SPEA Academy, on 17/1/24. The agenda included Inspection preparation, The School Learner Profile, Wesgreen's Farm & Forest School, EYFS Cognitive Development Tracking & MUN. Our dedicated Teaching & Learning Coach Ms. Christine presented on 'Personalising Learning'.



Head of Inclusion Ms. Rema & Guidance Counselor Ms. Gincy attended a SPEA workshop on 'Developing Competencies for Psychologists'.

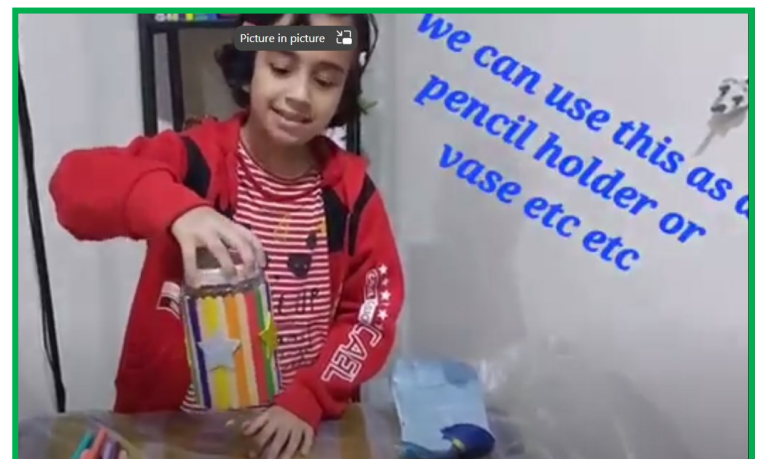


The Principal, Ms. Valerie attended a meeting at SPEA Academy (SEA) with other SPC Principals. The Agenda was a collaboration with Toronto University for staff Leadership programmes.

Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!



Thank you Nabia for your fun, sustainability-related video on reusing materials.



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

Dear Mr. Francis,

Hope this mail finds you well, It was very generous of you to provide the needed help and support when my son broke his shoulder. Thank you for accomidating the exam condition to help my son write his exams despite his fracture. Words can not describe how much I want to thank you for your spectacular support.

I would also like to thank Mrs. Valerie for having such an exemplary examination staff, specially Mr. Francis.



Happy Birthdays!

Y3D1 - Happy Birthday Malika & Janelle



WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!

Dear Ms kishwar

Greetings

It was very nice meeting and opportunity to know how is our appreciate for your efforts with Tamara, we are very happy about Tamara progress for first term and hope make more hardworking together to be more good

Many thanks for your support and efforts
Tamara parents

Dear Miss Sadiqa,

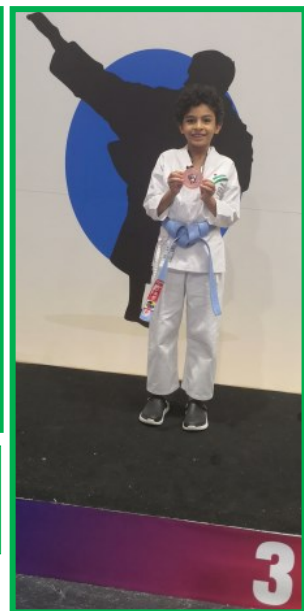
Reference to our PTM, we were delighted to meet you, we want to thank you for your enormous efforts & supports in shaping Sarah's academic record,

We have seem improvement in reading, writing & all other educational activities,

PTM was really insight & it has really given us an edge to understand the way we need to proceed in child's growth, the explanation in all aspects was really made us feel the progress made by Sarah & the areas of growth need to be done.

Once again than you for all your guidance & support.

Thank you
Afrin



Congratulations to sporting superstar Farid Amr (Y2/S2) for winning a bronze medal in the UAE Open Karate Championship for individual kata for the sports season 2023-2024. This was his first ever participation, so a special well done Farid!

I would like to begin by thanking Teacher Shamail for the wonderful team she chose to help the students in education

The second thing is that I would like to thank Kinda's teachers, Miss Iman, Miss Eliza, Miss Fawzia, and Miss Rana Al-Sayyid Joy, for their continued support of Kinda and the effort they made in the first term.

I am very happy that I met you today, and God willing, we will be supportive of each other to reach the desired goal for Kinda.

Thank you

Good evening, teacher (Ms. Kishwar)

I hope you are well. I would like to thank you for your interest in the children. How much I noticed the change in my daughter's level, even though she joined school in October, but she changed and became able to express and communicate with others well. How much she was able to learn. I thank you and the assistant teacher in the class for the clear effort. How much I thank those in charge. At this stage, Miss Shamayel and Miss Raji, for their constant support.

Regards
Nashwa Attia

Dear Ms Aysha

Greetings

It was very nice meeting to know from you what's sila progress and a good opportunity to thanks for your support and efforts, we are very happy about sila improvement and hope more successful in this term

Many thanks for your support and efforts
Sila parents

WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!



Dear Ms. Punnya,

I hope this email finds you in good health and high spirits. As we approach the end of school year, I wanted to take a moment to express my deepest appreciation and heartfelt gratitude for your exceptional dedication and unwavering commitment to my child's education.

From the very beginning of the academic year, you have consistently demonstrated a level of passion and expertise that has truly left an indelible mark on my child's educational journey. Your ability to engage and inspire, combined with your immense knowledge and patience, has transformed their learning experience into something truly remarkable.

Throughout the Term1 and this term, I have witnessed my child's growth and development, not only academically but also personally. Your continuous efforts to create a nurturing and inclusive classroom environment have instilled a sense of confidence and self-belief in my child. They have blossomed under your guidance, and it fills my heart with joy to see them thriving and eagerly embracing new challenges. Moreover, I am deeply grateful for the open lines of communication you have maintained throughout the year. Your willingness to promptly address any concerns or questions has reassured me as a parent, allowing me to actively participate in my child's educational journey. Your regular updates and feedback have kept me informed and involved, fostering a strong sense of partnership between home and school.

Please accept my heartfelt appreciation for the incredible effort you have invested in shaping my child's educational experience. Your passion for teaching, your dedication, and your ability to inspire have made a lasting impact on my child. The progress my child has made under your guidance is a testament to your exceptional skills as an educator. Your influence extends far beyond the classroom, and we are truly fortunate to have you as our child's teacher.

Best Regards,

Naheed Usman

Dear Ms. Punya,

We hope this email finds you well. Further to the PTM we had last week, we wanted to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for the incredible work you've done as our son's Teacher.

We have witnessed your dedication, passion, and genuine love for teaching and this has made a profound impact on Jon's learning and development. Your warm and nurturing approach has created a positive and supportive learning environment that Jon has thrived in. We're seeing him grow not only academically but also socially and emotionally under your guidance and this is truly commendable.

We appreciate the time and effort you invest in ensuring that each child feels valued and included. The progress Jon has made in his school journey is a testament to your efforts.

Thank you for being more than just a teacher – you are a mentor, a role model, and a source of inspiration.

We are truly fortunate to have you as Jon's teacher.

With Heartfelt Appreciation,

Amita and Aju
Jon's Parents

Junior Section News; Sports Days!



Dear Ms. Kishwar,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and thank Miss. Shiney for your great efforts with the kids.

What a nice permonace&dances . I really enjoyed the day.

Appreciate your dedication , love and support.



Dear Ms Alysha

I am mother of fatima y.2H. Im writing to thank you from my deep heart for your support and kindness to my daughter today.

I was unable to attend this amazing event that reflect how the teachers were working hard for the preparation for the sports day.

Although i was very frustrated for not coming and fatima was crying the whole night, but suddenly i saw you like an angel that god sends to fatima and gave her nice words and patting her shoulder. This all means to me a lot. My tears were flowing when i saw that scene when moms send videos on whatapp gp.

Im do blessed to be a parent in WSS and to see teachers like you. Hamdolah i always had the feeling that fatima in a good hand hamdilah.

Can't thank you more for what you did for my kid

جزاك الله كل الخير ♥♥♥♥♥

Good evening Mam

I just want to say that m so grateful to ALLAH to have you as my child teacher and want to say special Thank to you for your tireless effort and support for Ayza. As in such small age kids are really very difficult to handel even by thier parents you train them really well for today sports day. Thanks alot for everything you do for my child jazaka ALLAH KHAIR ♥

REAGRDS

AYZA ALI.MOM

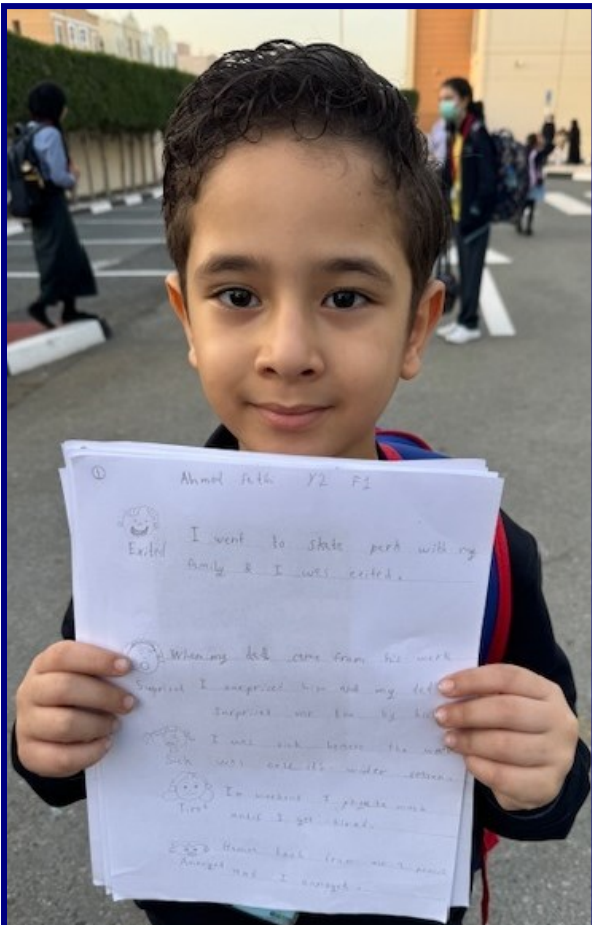
Junior Section News; FS Sports Day, 18/1/24!



Junior Section News; FS Sports Day, 18/1/24!



Junior Section News



Junior Section News; Y2D1 Learning Activities!

Y2D1 Class activity Picture

TR: Jinitra Rajesh

TA: Asma Mohamed



Junior Section News; Y2F1 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y2H2 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y2S2 Learning Activities!



WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!

" For the second year in a row Selim (Y5S2) won the gold medal in UAE Open karate 🏆 championship for individual kata for sports season 2023-2024"



Our amazing Primary Choir! We really enjoyed their impressive performance at the WSS MUN event opening ceremony on 5/1/24

WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!

Y3H2 "Times Tables Champions"



Berlant M Bachar



Muhammad Safwan

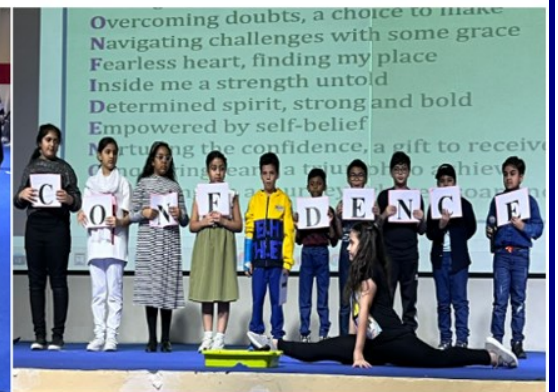
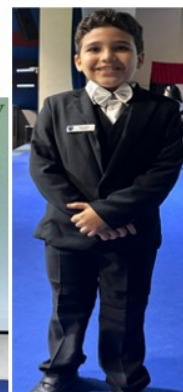


Congratulations to sporting superstar Aisel, who won 3rd place in a Karate Championship.

Primary Section News; Y5H2 Assembly on 'Confidence', 17/1/24!



Y5 H2 Assembly on Confidence



Primary Section News; Y3 F2 Assembly on 'Perseverance', 17/1/24!



Primary Section News; Y3H2 Learning Activities!



Primary Section News; Y3D1 Learning Activities!

Y3D1- Times table Competition was held to enhance memory, speed, and accuracy involving problem-solving skills.



Y3D1 - Students exploring Skeletal and muscular system and its importance with Ms. Lissy



Primary Section News; Y3S1 Learning Activities!

Y3S1 – Parental engagement activities with Ms. Saranya

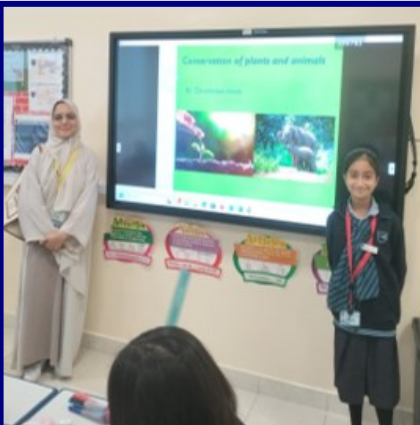
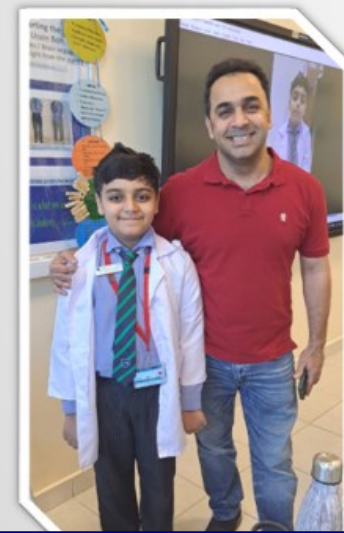


Primary Section News; Y6 Science Day with Parent Engagement!

THEME: CONSERVATION OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS. PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT



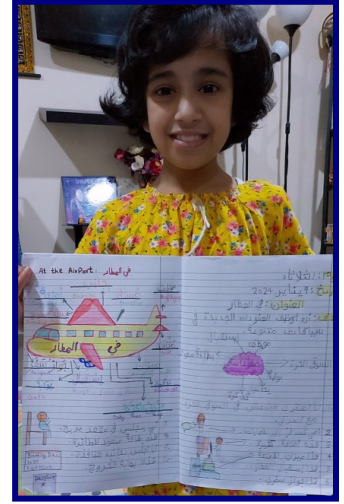
MS. Asha parent of Avni Y6GD as part of parental engagement presented their experiences and importance of the conservation of animals



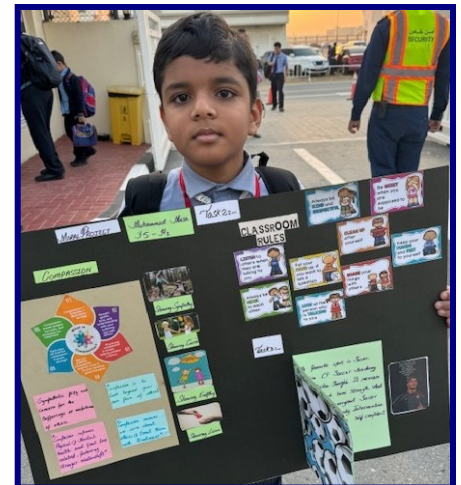
Dharakshan Y6GH along with her mother presented their experiences and importance of the conservation of animals



Primary Section News; Healthy Eating Week!



Y5S2 Healthy Eating Week with Ms. Viola



WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!

Dear Mr. Muhammad Nishad

hope my email find you & all school teamwork are well.

Am writing this email for appreciation your great efforts and always support given for Yassin & his freinds in Y10 which reflects directly on students behavior and keep education environment active & positive,

Actually am tried hardly meeting you on parents day meeting unfortunately due to rush I couldn't,

Plz keep your excellent education & personnel style with Yassin for more improvements & goals achievement .

Thank you very much

BR



**Books Donation by
Christopher Kurian Roy Y7BF**



Dear Ms. Affaf,

Thank you for informing me of his progress at school.

It is my hope that he will continue to improve throughout the school year.

Sincerely yours,
Jocelyn

Secondary Section News; PTM, 12/1/24!



The highly successful Parent-teacher meeting held on Friday, 12th of January 2024.

Parents and teachers discussed results in term 1 in addition to, what steps can be taken to support students to achieve their academic excellence.

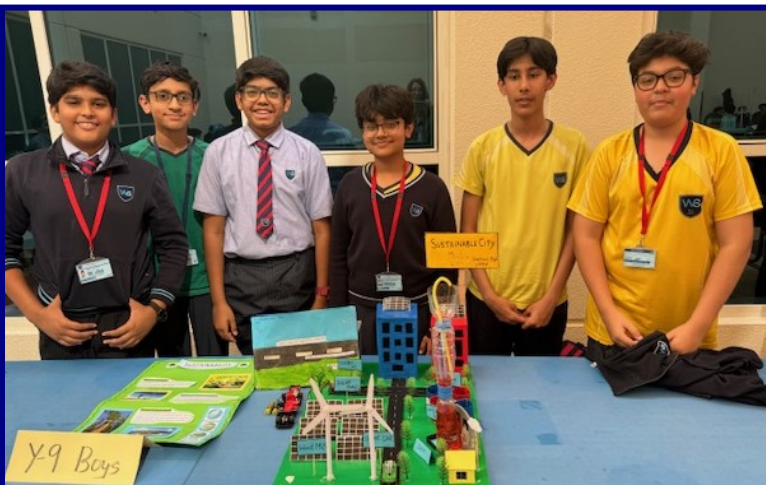
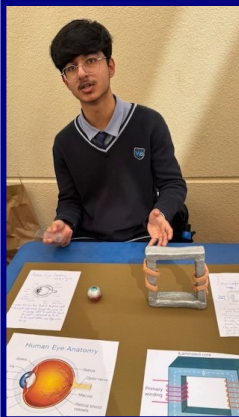
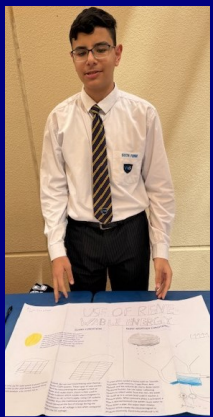
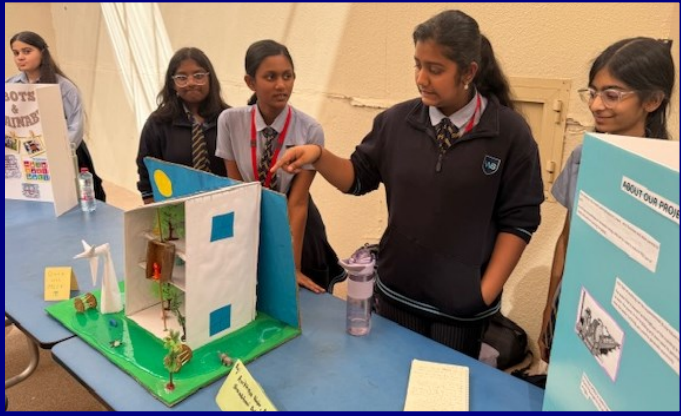


Thank you to all parents who attended. Your feedback will be considered as we plan for T2 PTM.

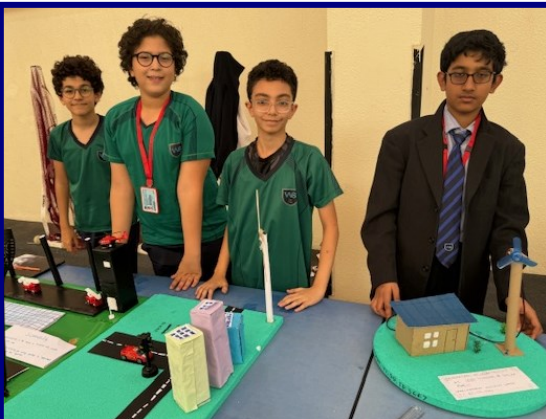
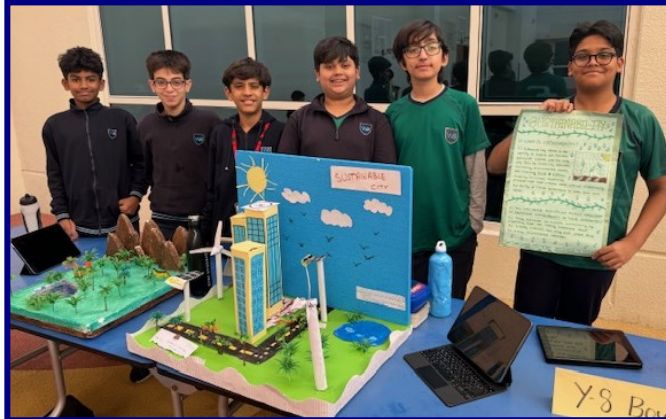
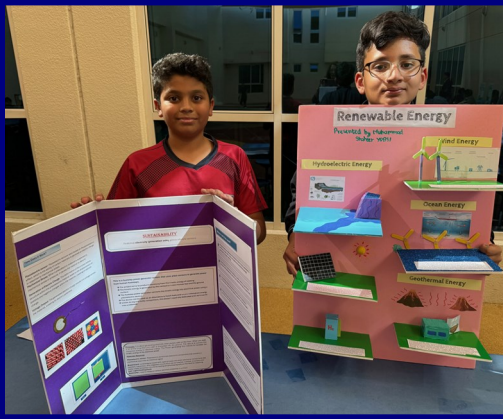
Secondary Section News; Sustainability Through Science Week!



Secondary Section News; Sustainability Through Science Week!



Secondary Section News; Sustainability Through Science Week!

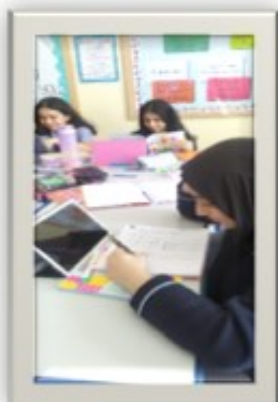


Newsletter Poster Year 7



Step into the vibrant world of our PASS survey collage, where the walls echo with the voices of our students shaping the future of education! This visually compelling artwork captures the essence of students actively participating in the survey, providing valuable feedback that resonates within our school community. profound impact that student feedback has in sculpting the educational landscape.

Independent learning time-You Do



Independent learning time/ "You Do" is essential for fostering critical skills, attitudes, and habits that contribute to students' overall development, preparing them not only for academic success but also for lifelong learning and success in their future endeavors.

In Y7



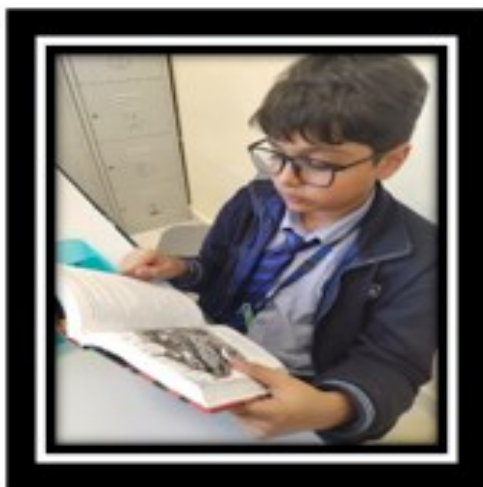
Secondary Section News; Y8 PASS Survey!

Y8-PASS SURVEY



The Pupil Attitudes to Self and School (PASS) Survey is important for assessing and understanding students' attitudes and perceptions, fostering a positive school environment, and informing strategies to support students' overall well-being and academic success.

Reading time



Secondary Section News; KS5 PASS Survey!

PASS is a powerful tool to explore the emotional and social well being of students, and a platform for students to share the impact of positive school environment on their academics and personal well being.

KS-5
Students
taking part
in the PASS
survey

