GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH

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Newsletter Issue #19 25th January, 2024





Message from the Principal/CEO Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents,

<u>Optimus Award Wellbeing</u> <u>Survey</u>

Many thanks if you have already completed the short wellbeing survey emailed to you this week. The survey aims to give us your valuable in-

sights so that we can continue to improve wellbeing provision at WSS for your children. If you have not yet completed the survey, may I request that you do so this weekend. Many thanks.

Safeguarding; Privacy

Please note that it is illegal to post pictures of other people on a public platform without their permission (such as on Social Media, YouTube, etc). This includes posting videos/photos of school events that include other people's children, for example Sports Day or an Assembly. If you have posted such videos, kindly take them down & avoid doing this in future. Many thanks.

Term 2 Fees

As educators, we really hate having to discuss pending fees with our dear parents. However, the reality is that fee income is our only source of finance, & critical in ensuring payment of staff salaries & bills for the smooth operation of school. Many thanks to all the parents who have cleared their T2 fees in a timely manner. However, unfortunately there are around 800 students still to clear their fees. This is a really critical situation for us, so please clear pending fees as applicable, so we can operate school & open the reenrollment facility for September 2024 seats. Thank you.

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Details
From Wed. 24/1/24 Mon. 15/4/24	 System re-enrollment opens for Sept. 2024 seats, subject to T2 fee payment & no serious behaviour issues (students with WLs are 'On Probation') Online re-enrollment is required, but is a nonbinding 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 re-enrollment fee is non-refundable for any reason, as per the Sharjah Authority Circular. The deadline to pay the re-enrollment fee is Monday 15th April. After this date, any unbooked 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	 School closed for Mid-Term 2 Break (2 days) Admin offices open (timings TBC)
Friday 29/3/24 to Sunday 14/4/24	 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.



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

شارقـة	VARKEY FOUNDATION Charaging News through colocation		CATION
	رسالة من المديرة / الرئيس التنفيذي السيدة فاليري توميسون نسب أ	المواعيد	
	أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة الأعزاء،	التقاحسيل	التاريخ
	مسح جائزة أويتيموس للرفاهية شكرًا جزيلاً إذا كنت قد أكملت بالفعل استطلاع الرفاهية القصير الذي تم إرساله إليك عبر البريد الإلكتروني هذا الأسبوع. يهدف الاستطلاع إلى	 سيتم فتح إعادة التسجيل في النظام لمقاعد سيتمبر 2024، مع مراعاة دفع رسوم T2وعدم وجود مشكلات سلوكية خطيرة (الطلاب الحاصلون على WLs" تحت المراقبة") إعادة التسجيل عبر الإنترنت مطلوبة، ولكنها إشارة غير ملزمة فقط سيتم أكد المقاعد بمحدد مداه بمسمو إعادة التسعيل على المقاعد بمحدد مداه مسمو إعادة التسعيل على ملزمة ألما مسمو إلى المقاعد بمحدد مداه مسمو إلى المقاعد مع مدام مداه مسمو إلى مع مدام مدام مدام مدام مدام مدام مع مدام مع مع مدام مع مع مدام مع مع مدام مع مدام مدام	من الأريعاء. 24/1/24
ة لأطفائك في WSS. ي أن أطلب منك أن تفعل	تزويدناً بمعلوماتك القيمة حتى نتمكن من الاستمرار في تحسين توفير الرفاهي إذا لم تكن قد أكملت الاستبيان بعد، هل لا ذلك في نهاية هذا الأسبوع. تشكرات.	فقط سيتم تأكيد المقاعد بمجرد سداد رسوم إعادة التسجيل بالإضافة إلى رسوم T3بالكامل، بحلول المواعيد النهائية المحددة. • بغض النظر عن أي بريد إلكتروني يصدره النظام، فإن رسوم	
ل التواصل الاجتماعي، س مقاطع فيديو/صور على سبيل المثال اليوم	الصون خصوصية يرجى ملاحظة أنه من غير القانوني نشر على منصة عامة دون إنتهم (مثل وسائر ويوتيوب، وما إلى ذلك). يتضبن ذلك نة لأحداث مدرسية تتضمن أطفالا آخرين، الرياضي أو التجمع. إذا كنت قد نشرت مقاطع فيديو كهذه، في بذلك في المستقبل, تشكرات.	إعادة التسجيل غير قابلة للاسترداد لأي سبب من الأسباب، وفقًا لتعميم هيئة الشارقة. • 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 إز عاج وخيبة أمل، يرجى الالتزام بالمواعيد النهائية المحددة لتأمين مقعد لطفلك إذا لزم الأمر. شكرًا لك	الاشين. 15/4/24
رسوم الفصل الدراسي الثاني كمعلمين، نحن نكره حقاً الإضطرار إلى مناقشة الرسوم المعلقة مع والدينا الأعزاء. ومع ذلك، فإن الواقع هو أن دخل الرسوم هو مصدرنا الوحيد للتمويل، وهو أمر بالغ الأهمية لضمان دفع رواتب الموظفين وفواتير هم من أجل التشغيل السلس للمدرسة. شكرًا		 المدرسة مغلقة لعطلة منتصف الفصل الدراسي الثاني (يومين) المكاتب الإدارية مفتوحة (المواعيد سيتم تحديدها لاحقًا) 	الأربعاء. 14/2/24 ق الخميس. 15/2/24
بسداد رسوم T2الخاصة ء الحظ لا يزال هناك يعد هذا وضفًا حرجًا حقًا طقة حسب الاقتضاء، حتى	جزيلاً لجميع أولياء الأمور الذين قامواً ، بهم في الوقت المناسب. ومع ذلك، لسو حوالي 800 طالب لم يسددوا رسومهم. بالنسبة لنا، لذا يرجى إلغاء الرسوم المه نتمكن من تشغيل المدرسة وفتح مرفق إ سبتمبر 2024. شكرًا لك.	 المدرسة مغلقة لعطلة الربيع (أسبوعين). سيتم إجراء اختبارات T2قبل أسبوع أو أسبوعين من عطلة الربيع (التواريخ المحددة سيتم تحديدها لاحقًا) المكاتب الإدارية مفتوحة في أيام العمل طوال فترة الاستراحة للتسجيل ودفع الرسوم (المواعيد سيتم تحديدها لاحقًا) 	من الجمعة 29/3/24 إلى الأحد 14/4/24
		 يوصى بدفع الرسوم عبر الإنترنت لتجنب قوائم الانتظار. ومع ذلك، سيكون أمين الصندوق مفتوحًا في المدرسة يوم السبت (13/4/24، من الساعة 8 صباحًا حتى 1 ظهرًا لدفع الرسوم بشكل مريح. رسوم الفصل الدراسي الثلث مستحقة بحلول يوم الانتين 15 أبريل. شكرًا لك. 	

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

COLORA A COLORA MARCAN DA

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				
1, 2	Dates for Your Diary			
	• Message from the Principal; Date for Your Diary, general notices			
	Contents			
3	Contents Table			
	• QR Code to Access our online Parent Handbook			
	Whole School News			
4	Parent Wellbeing Survey			
	• Storyboard Top Tips; 1) The benefits of Reading Aloud, 2) The			
	Power of Reading			
	WSS Superstar Champions			
	Environmental & Recycling Superstar Champions			
	Colin the Character Camel			
	Happy Birthdays			
	Junior Section News			
	Junior Section Superstar Champions			
	 Junior Wellbeing Report 			
	 Assembly Time with Y2D2 on 'Respect', 25/1/24 			
	 Assembly Time with Y1F1 on 'The Four Seasons', 25/1/24 			
	 Assembly time with FS2F1 on 'Community Helpers', 25/1/24 			
	 FS2 Learning Activities 			
	 Y1 Learning Activities 			
	 Y2 Learning Activities 			
	Primary Section News			
	Primary Section Superstar Champions			
	Primary Wellbeing Report			
	• Assembly Time with Y4H1, 'Resilience', 24/1/24			
	• Assembly Time with Y6BD; 'Everyday Superheroes!', 24/1/24			
	• Learning Activities in Y3			
	• Sustainability & the 3R's; Making Pen Holders From Water Bot-			
	tles.			
	Making Working Models of Simple Circuits			
	Secondary Section News			
	Secondary Section Superstar Champions			
	Boys' Sports Day, 24/1/24			
	• Girls' Sports Day, 25/1/24			
	Secondary Wellbeing Report			
	Study Skills Workshop			
	• Y8 Learning Journey			
	Tech Minds Unite!			
	• Y10-13 Girls' trip to Aquaventure Water Park			

Whole School News; Parent Wellbeing Survey!



مدرسلة جيمس وسنتم ينسئر الشارقة GEMS Westminster School SHARJAH

23/01/2024

Dear WSS Parent /Carer,

Subject: The Optimus Wellbeing Award for Schools (WAS)

As you may know already from our SMS, WSS is working towards achieving the international Optimus Wellbeing Award for Schools.

To support us to improve the support we offer, we want to understand the views of parents & students on what we are doing well & what we need to improve in how we support the emotional wellbeing of our students. For this reason, we are inviting parents & students to complete an anonymous Wellbeing survey. Your views are important to us. The information from the survey will help our school to improve its work in providing better provision for emotional wellbeing and mental health. All information collected is anonymous and will be kept confidential.

Please note the following important, useful information that explains about the survey process and how the information gathered will be used.

Why we are writing to parents/carers.

- We are asking parents to complete the Wellbeing survey.
- We are also asking for permission to invite your child to complete the survey (if you are happy for your child to do this then you do not have to do anything. However, if you do not want your child to complete the questionnaire then please let us know by Tuesday 30th January. If we do not hear from you, we will assume you are happy for your child to be invited.)
- Rest assured that it will not disadvantage you or your child in any way if you decide against you or your child taking part in the survey.

Survey Design & Completion

- The surveys have been specially designed for students/parents.
- The survey link for parents will be shared with you via email.
- The survey may take about 15 minutes to complete.
- Answers to the questionnaire will not be seen by others unless you or your child chooses to share or take help to complete the questions.

What we need Parents/Carers to do next

- Please complete the parent survey on the given link (this will be emailed to you) by latest Tuesday 6th February.
- We hope that you are happy for your child to be invited to take part in this survey too (as noted, if you do not want your child to participate in this survey, you need to contact the school by 30/1/24).

If you have any queries about the survey, you are welcome to contact the PRE Ms. Aiysha at aiysha.k wss@gemsedu.com Thank you in advance for your support with this important initiative.

Take Survey Now

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Valerie Thompson WSS Principal/CEO © Optimus Education 2017 v1



Please complete the Wellbe

ing survey emailed to you

on 23/1/24. Many thanks.

Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!



At WSS, Secondary school students are cultivating a vibrant learning environment through hands-on gardening activities. Engaging in the entire cultivation process, from sowing seeds to nurturing plants, these green-thumbed students are fostering a deeper connection with nature. As the seasons change, the dedicated Eco club at WSS eagerly participates in the joyous ritual of harvesting, reaping the rewards of their hard work. The bountiful harvest not only provides fresh, organic produce for the school community but also instills a sense of pride and accomplishment in the students. Through this enriching experience, WSS students are not only cultivating gardens but also cultivating valuable life skills and a profound appreciation for sustainable living.







Whole School News; Staff CPD!



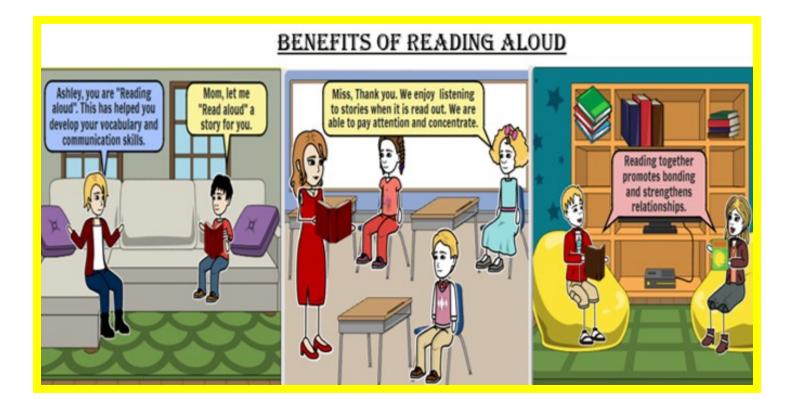
Ms. Vandana, Primary English Coordinator & Ms. Ayesha, HOD English attended our SPEA SIA Ms. Lynn's 'Stretch & Challenge—English CPD session on 18/1/24. The session related to the use of CAT 4 data & was hosted by Sharjah English School. Here they are pictured with Mr. Fahd Kahlaoui, Vice Principal of The international School of Creative Sciences, who ran the session.

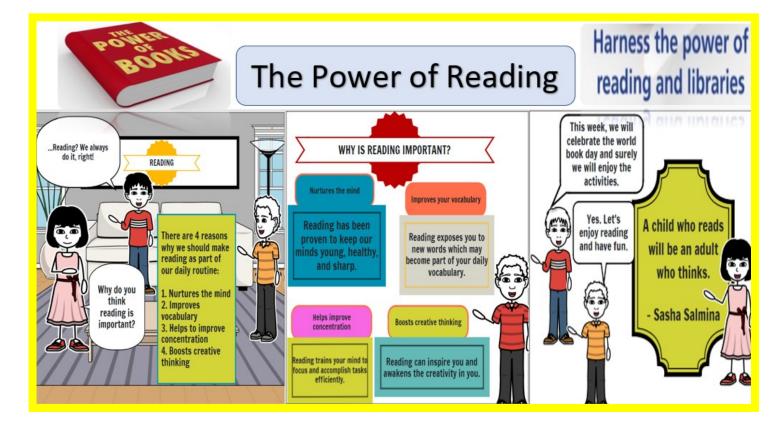


WSS hosted SPEA SIA Ms. Lynn's 3rd Stretch & Challenge-Maths session on 25/1/24. 30 Maths leads from Sharjah British schools attended & participated in an interactive session on 'The Personalisation of Learning; Duel Coding' led by Ms. Christine, followed by a session focused on SPR inspection preparation with Ms. Valerie. Thank you to Ms. Lynn for attending.



Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!





Happy Birthdays!







Thank you for bringing healthy fruit treats to share with classmates, to support our 'Healthy Lifestyles' policy.

Happy Birthday song for celebrants of the week in our Primary Assemblies











WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!

Dear Ms Valerie

I wish i could say more or even do anyththing for WSS. The school to me is not a place where fatima is learning but a 2nd home and a safe place where my child is learning safe with confidence.

I had the honour to have with me a short meeting and if you remember my words that WSS proves that education is not relared to fees at all.

Can't thank you more for your great leadership and pf course every SLT and teachers specially Ms Sabiha our life saver and super hero. Ms Sabiha is not only an outstanding teacher but a kind and lovely person that has many positive impact on Fatima.

As me a teacher with 15 years experience im so proud to have Ms Sabiha as my role model for a hard work and passionated tescher.

Thank you everyone in WSS and from deep my heart i wish for more success and progress for our school.

Thanks

Dear our lovely WSS teachers ,

To begin with , I would like to thank Mrs Valerie , Mrs Shamail , Mrs Raghi , Mr Karen , Mrs sheikha and Mrs israa for the amazing Sportsday this previous Thursday . As Youssef's mom I was very happy to see youssef so excited for this day and all the dances and practice that you did with all the children , and even the part that all the parents got engaged with the children playing was alot of fun .

Thank you so much for all your efforts and support for Youssef and hoping to always see him involved in all good activities and to be the best with your guidance.

Regards ,

Youssef's parents





Congratulations to these superstars for being the winners of the Sheikh Zayed Competition!

WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!



Happy to get stickers from Ms. Shamail and Ms. Raghi



Junior Section Wellbeing Report!

WELLBEING ACTIVITIES IN JUNIOR SECTION



Wellbeing is healthy body and healthy mind... Students expressing art through emotions.

Junior section students of WSS were engaged in World Mental Health Day Activities. They learned the importance of staying mentally healthy. A short video mental health aware was shown to students. They expressed their feelings through various activities. Students were engaged in drawing and writing about oh how to stay happy and what makes them happy. They also wrote about their worries and how to fix them up. Students got the message and shared their thoughts of staying positive and happy always!!

Celebrating WSS Junior Section Sports Day - January 2024

The theme of Our Sports Day was Winter Sports Festival. Students from FS1 to Y2 participated in various races with zeal, vigour and team spirit. Large number of parents witnessed the event. Their presence was indeed a motivation for all the little

Junior Section: Assembly Time with Y2D2, 25/1/24!









Y2D2 put on a super confident Assembly on the theme, "Respect'. We learnt about what we should do to show respect to others.















Junior Section: Assembly Time with Y1F1, 25/1/24!











Y1F1 presented a cute & colourful Assembly on the theme 'The Four Seasons'. They spoke very well about each season & how we can take care of our health.

Thank you to all our dear parents who attended.







Junior Section: Assembly Time with FS2F1, 25/1/24!



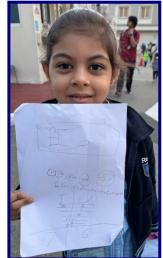
FS2F1 presented an important Assembly about 'Community Helpers'. We also talked about our WSS 'community' helpers, who are with us each day helping us to learn & to be safe in school. Ms. Shamail particularly appreciated the Assembly resources, such as the bus, & the colourful costumes! Thank you to the many parents who attended & enjoyed the Assembly!





Junior Section News









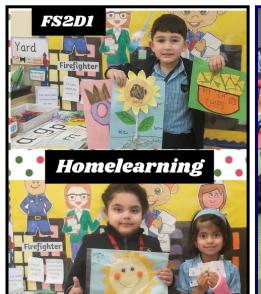




Y2 students learning to express their feelings in a Moral Education lesson with Ms. Amira.



Junior Section News; FS2D1 Learning Activities!







Planting Activity Teamwork makes the garden grow!



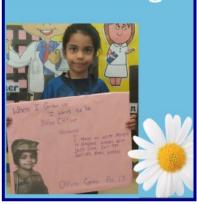
FS2D1 Homelearning



Planting Activity Teamwork makes the garden grow!



Planting Activity Teamwork makes the garden grow!







Junior Section News; Y1 Learning Activities!



Sports Day last week was so much fun!



Junior Section News; Y1 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y2D1 Learning Activities!

Y2D1 Class activity Picture

TR: Jinitra Rajesh

TA: Asma Mohamed



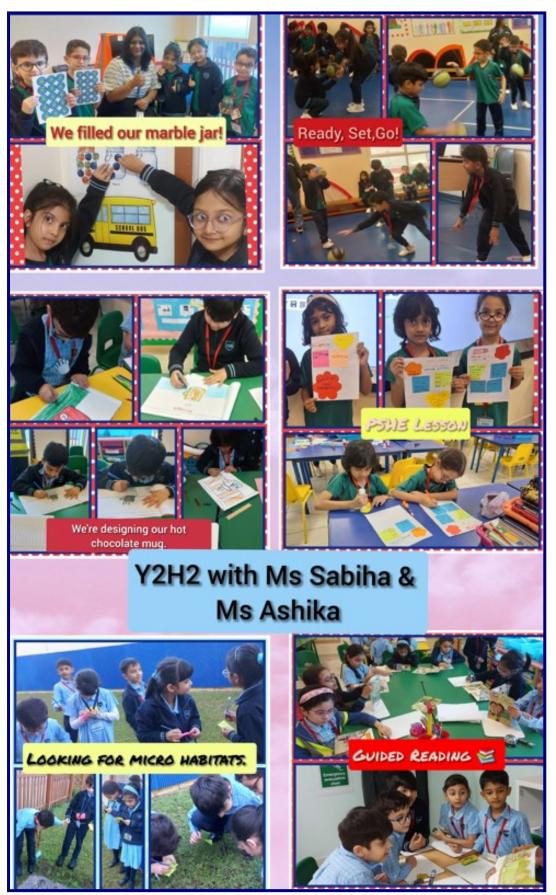
Junior Section News; Y2D2 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y2F1 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y2H2 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y2S2 Learning Activities!



WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!

Dear Teacher,

I take this oppurtunity to thank you for conducting the Healthy food week campaign with colour themed lunchboxes for each day. I really enjoyed planning and preparing the tiffinboxes for Vihaan and Vivaan. They also loved the theme based lunch and said it was fun and healthy.

I would like to share a video which I compiled with all the 4 days' tiffinboxes. Kindly find attached.

Thanks and regards, Nayana P K Parent of Vihaan and Vivaan Y3F2





Safeguarding is a priority at WSS; congratulations to the 54 Y6 students who successfully completed a Guinness Book of Records Cybersafety course, as promoted by SPEA.





WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!



Primary Class, Dojo & Reading Champions

Y3D1 - Omar Ahmed, celebrating the sweet victory of mastering the times tables! 🔀



Primary Section Wellbeing Report!

WELL-BEING ACTIVITIES - PRIMARY SECTION

The healthy food Week 15th Monday 2024 - 18th Thursday 2024

Practicing a healthy diet in schools is crucial as it fosters proper physical and cognitive development, enhances academic performance, and establishes lifelong habits. It empowers students with essential nutrition knowledge, promoting overall well-being. Healthy eating habits learned in school contribute to a healthier, more productive society.



Primary Section News; Assembly Time with Y4H1, 24/1/24!







Primary Section News; Assembly Time with Y6BD, 24/1/24!







The theme of this outstanding Assembly was 'Everyday Superheroes!'. The skits were humorous, well presented & the message very clear. Loved it!



Primary Section News; Sustainability & the 3 R's—Recycle, Reuse & Reduce; Making Pen Holders from Water Bottles!!



Proud Creators of a Working Model of a Simple Circuit!







Primary Section News



Thank you to Muzammil (Y5S1) for sharing a nice video showing your Arabic skills.





Y4F2 and Y4S1 & Y4S2 working collaboratively with Ms. Dalal.



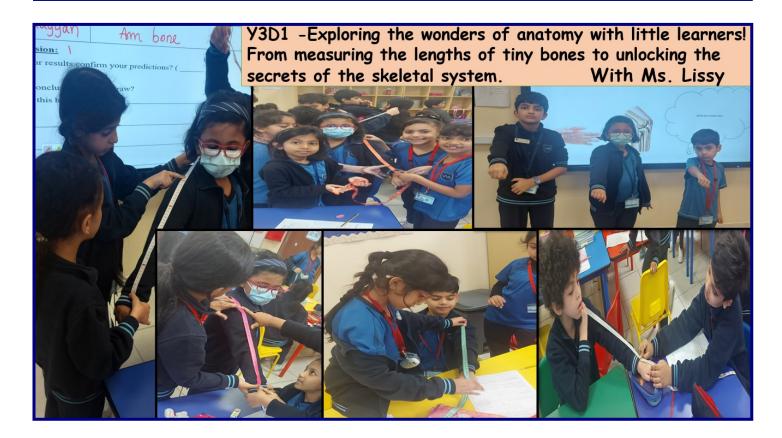






Sustainable Art project

Primary Section News; Learning Activities in Y3D1!





Primary Section News; Learning Activities in Y3D2!



Year 3D2 Students designed muscular and skeleton system using magnets. They had fun doing this activity. On the other hand, few children used their own stationaries as counters to show grouping concept to solve division problem without any instructions provided.

WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!



Congratulations to Muhammad Shahdal (Y10 BS) who has won a silver medal in a UAE Kickboxing championship! "Epic Triumphs and Athletic Feats: Our Boys Rocked Sports Day!" of Y9BD1





Yousef Mohamed, Essa Yousef, Ahmed Tarek, Mohamed Hamza, Muhammad Sanan, and Abdul Rafay from Y9BD1 sprinted their way to victory, clinching first place in the secondary boys' relay with an infectious enthusiasm that made their speedy journey to the finish line truly WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!

"Shining Bright: Where Stars Learn, Inspire, and Soar! ***** #StarStudents"-Y9

















Secondary Section News; Boys' Sports Day, 24/1/24!





















Secondary Section News; Girls' Sports Day, 25/1/24!





Congratulations to Dolphin House, overall Sports Day Champions, 2024!



Secondary Section News; Secondary Wellbeing Report!

Monday, 22 January 2024

MUN & WELLBEING

The diplomacy of wellbeing: Exploring the harmonious nexus between Model United Nations and personal fulfillment.

Doaa Mokhtar

Starting the new year 2024 with the most exciting event for WSS school adds a special sparkle that carries within it strong support for the wellbeing of students at several levels, whether social, cultural, emotional and mental,

Over two days, this momentous event painted an artistic picture that includes all the goals of Wellbeing. Let's quickly take you on a tour that tells the aspects of this event and how it reflects students, staff, & parents wellbeing.

The Model United Nations (MUN) is a popular exercise for those interested in learning more about the UN. Hundreds of thousands of students worldwide participate every year in MUN at all educational levels - from primary schools to universities.

Westminster School Sharjah held it's first ever event on the fifth of January. Three E's perfectly captured the WSSMUN as it was an atmosphere charged with excitement, enthusiasm and emotion. And amongst the intensity that consumed the two running days of the experience, attendees had glimpse into wellbeing at its finest.





else: from heated debates to bold accusations and even calls to war- delegates were motivated and driven to put forth their best effort. Interests were sparked, talents employed and inner fires ignited. themselves to one another, sharing their Healthy competition requires teamwork and participation. Delegates positive were encouraged to improve themselves and learn a new technique to keep up with escalations.

The admins and student volunteers were the very heart of the function, heroes appound in their The WSSMUN was a true show of high visibility jackets guiding new comers to their respective committees, helping chairs whenever delegates came forth with questions, overseeing committees and managing logistical aspects.

The MUN posed an incredible learning opportunity for beginners and younger students who hoped to embrace their confidence and uncover their potentials. One such example was a thirteen-years old student whom happened to be an International Press Corps (IPC) delegate. He carried his curiosity marxellously, asking curated questions and taking humble leadership of his team. He was a true highlight of his committee, charming not only chairs but fellow teammates and competitors alike.

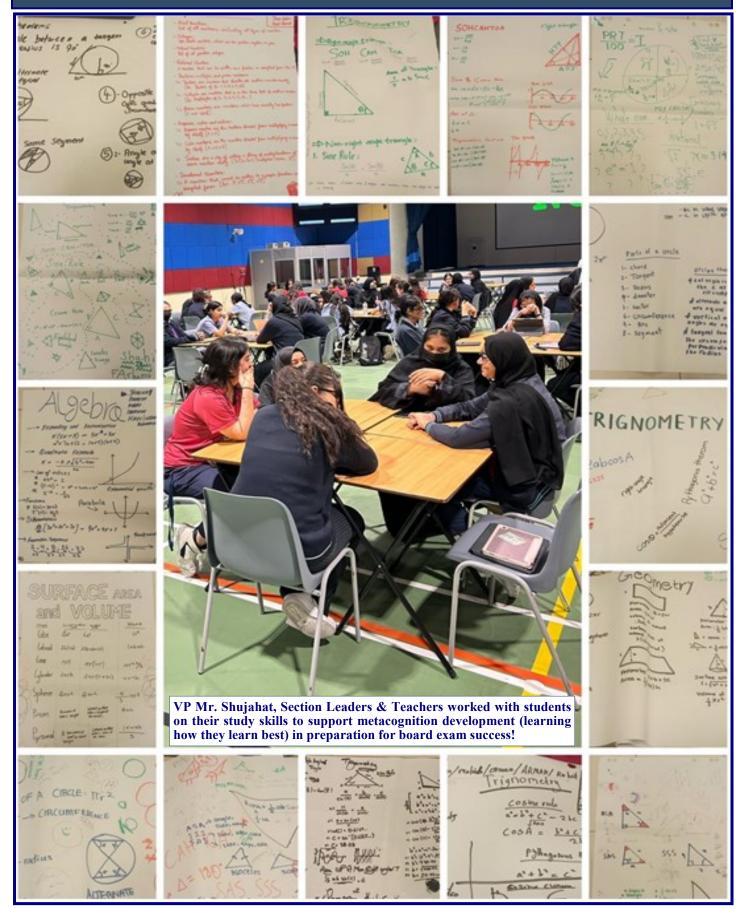
MUNs embrace the spirit of completion above all The culmination of the day's events really came through during its social events. After filling up on meals provided by the generous WSS faculty, attendees fizzed about, introducing experiences and opinions, commenting on the more fanatical parts of their sessions and familiarizing themselves with a course of handmade carnival games created by organizers to wind down.

> positivity, neighbourliness and innovation. Students and staff members left it saturated with exhilaration for what is to come and hopefully a rendition of the event in the future as WSS has proven it's more than capable of delivering a standard for wellbeing.



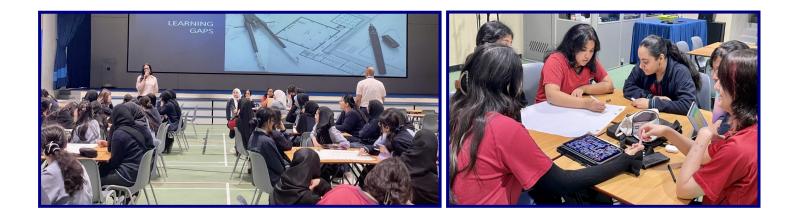


Secondary Section News; Study Skills Workshop!



Secondary Section News; Study Skills Workshop!









Secondary Section News; Y8 Learning Journey!

Y8- LEARNING JOURNEY







Y8 BF Scholastic literacy pro championscertificates given to students who are wonderful readers.





Secondary Section News

🌐 Tech Minds Unite! 🔙 🔆

AS and A level Computer science students gathered to exchange experiences and resources, fostering a vibrant community of knowledge-sharing.



Secondary Section News



FIELD TRIP TO AQUAVENTURE WATER PARK

Year 10 to 13 Girls field trip to Aquaventure Waterpark, World's Largest Waterpark with 79 record-breaking slides and attractions.

