

Elementary School Newsletter

June 8, 2017



*Have a Wonderful
Summer Vacation!*



MESSAGE FROM THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

Today marks the end of our school year and the culmination of a year full of engagement and important learning. One of the ways we reflect upon the year is through photos. They provide snapshots of our experiences and help us reflect upon their meaning and value.

This week, we've had snapshots of our year captured through the 5th Grade Promotion presentation, our spectacular school yearbook and the slideshow from our end of year assembly. Evidence of student learning, visual and otherwise is evident throughout the year and is one of the many things that makes TAISM a special place to be. These are all snapshots of our year together at TAISM. A year of learning and meaningful moments together.

On behalf of the elementary staff at TAISM, thank you for an exceptional year together as we supported students in their growth and learning. We wish you a summer full of wonderful memories, time to recharge and safe travels.

For our families returning in the fall, we look forward to welcoming you back to school during our Registration Days on August 16th and 17th. For our families leaving TAISM, we wish you well on your educational and life journeys and hope to cross paths again someday. Please make a point to stop back and see us! Many do! And to everyone in our TAISM community, thank you for the opportunity to work with your children and share in making TAISM such a great place to learn and grow.

Sincerely,
Dan Hovland
Elementary Principal

Special Notes Regarding the 2017-2018 School Calendar

September 2017

- **Eid Al Adha**

- The school will not be in session from Thursday, August 31 through Monday, September 4. These holidays are definite for TAISM, and families shall plan accordingly.
- Any additional days that may be announced by the Omani Government will also be taken. However, we will not know the decision regarding the exact days until immediately before the Eid Al Adha holiday begins.

- **Islamic New Year**

- The school calendar shows this as "lunar" which indicates that the actual date for Islamic New Year will be announced by the Omani Government just prior to the day of the holiday.
- Therefore, the date of Thursday, September 21 is tentative, and will only be observed as a non-school day if announced by the Omani Government.

November 2017

- **Thanksgiving (America)**

- The school will not be in session on Thursday, November 23.
- This holiday is definite for TAISM.

- **Prophet Mohammed's Birthday**

- The school calendar shows this as "lunar" which indicates that the actual date for Prophet Mohammed's Birthday will be announced by the Omani Government just prior to the day of the holiday.
- Therefore, the date of Thursday, November 30 is tentative, and will only be observed as a non-school day if announced by the Omani Government.

- **Oman National Day Holidays**

- Normally, two days are scheduled by the Omani Government for National Days, and they occur sometime after the National Day (18th of November). The school will not be in session on the days announced as National Day Holidays.
- We will inform families once the Omani Government makes its announcement (normally just a few days before the holidays).

December 2017

- **Winter Holiday**

- The school will not be in session from Wednesday, December 20 to Thursday, January 4. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 7.
- This holiday is definite for TAISM.

March 2018

- **Spring Holiday**

- The school will not be in session from Thursday, March 29 through Thursday, April 5. Classes will resume on Sunday, April 8.
- This holiday is definite for TAISM.

April 2018

- **Prophet's Ascension**

- The school calendar shows this as "lunar" which indicates that the actual date for the Prophet's Ascension holiday will be announced by the Omani Government just prior to the day of the holiday.
- Therefore, the date of Thursday, April 12, is tentative, and will only be observed as a non-school day if announced by the Omani Government.



Summer Reading 2017

At TAISM it has been a tradition to encourage students to read throughout the summer. Lots of research has shown that students who engage in reading over the summer can prevent the loss of reading skills developed during the school year. However, we do not want reading to become a tedious chore for the students. So for the summer of 2017, we

are having the students set their own goals.

What this means is that students will decide what or how they might read this summer. Instead of being told to read an X amount of books the students can decide what they would like to explore or learn. Some students may choose to read a book a week or a certain amount of pages. Other students might continue with a different measured approach like reading a certain amount of time each week. The library is encouraging other types of goals too. Maybe the child will want to become a dinosaur expert and read as much as they can about dinosaurs. Some children might try to read through all the books in a new series or by a specific author. The main focus is that students will be encourage to continue reading and learning in a way that is not restrictive or binding.

As an additional extra, we will create a collage of students reading during the summer. If you can take a picture of your child reading over the summer and send it to us. We will feature all the students reading to achieve their goal in a collage outside of the library. To keep the process simple for parents, just attach the photo of your child reading to an email to eslibrary@taism.com with Summer Reading in the subject line. Photos can be submitted at any time during the summer.

Summer Reading Goals

Parents of grades 1,2,4, and 5 should have received their child's summer reading goal this week. Kindergarten and grade 3 will be sent out next Monday. If you are new to the school, have a student who missed the last library session, or would like to reset your child's summer reading goal, please use [this link](#) to fill out the form. Once the form is submitted, a computer will send a document to the email specified with your summer reading goals. These goals are to encourage students to continue reading during the summer months.

GRADE 1 PORTFOLIO PUBLISHING PARTY



KG's VIDEO CALL WITH A FIRST GRADE CLASS IN HONG KONG



MS. DAN'S KINDERGARTEN CLASS HAD THE CHANCE TO DO A VIDEO CALL WITH A FIRST GRADE CLASS IN HONG KONG! THE FIRST GRADERS ARE LEARNING ABOUT DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AND THEY HAD SOME QUESTIONS FOR US ABOUT OMAN. THEY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT LANGUAGE THEY SPEAK IN OMAN, WHERE YOU GET FOOD, WHAT DO KIDS PLAY, WHAT IS THE WEATHER LIKE, WHAT DO PEOPLE WEAR, HOW DO YOU GET FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER, AND WHAT IS THE MOST POPULAR SPORT.

THE KINDERGARTENERS LOVED ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS AND TALKING WITH THE FIRST GRADERS THROUGH THE VIDEO CHAT.



OMAN CHILDREN CHOIR FESTIVAL AUDITIONS



Arabesque INTERNATIONAL

The festival features Germany's one of the world leading boys choirs, Windsbacher Knabenchor

دعوة لتجارب الأداء للمشاركة في « مهرجان كورال أطفال، عُمان فبراير 2018 »

Call for Auditions for the "Oman Children Choir Festival (Feb.2018)"

For online applications and detailed informations please visit www.arabesqueintl.com/children-choir-peace-festival/

For more information, please e-mail us on info@arabesqueintl.com or call +968 71101250

Dear Parents,

The elementary school has three exceptional staff who are leaving TAISM at the end of the year. All three ladies are part of our Early Childhood program. Two of the staff have been with TAISM since its inception and one, although only here this year, has contributed many ways this year.

Sara AlTai has been an early childhood assistant this year, embracing all aspects of her role. She is leaving TAISM to pursue an advanced degree in psychology .

Khazina Al Harthy has been an assistant at TAISM for 19 years. She is leaving TAISM to retire while spending more time with her family in Oman. Khazina will also be volunteering at Omani schools as well as the Down Syndrome Association. She won't be far away and we hope she will stop in often to see us.

Julie Griep has also been at TAISM for 19 years. In that time she has been an Elementary Classroom Teacher in multiple grades, Early Childhood Teacher and Early Childhood Coordinator. Additionally she has been the Teacher's Representative to the Board and served on more committees that can be listed. She was a part of the initial planning and implementation work at the school. Julie's tireless efforts helped shape our school as it is today. Julie was leaving to retire back in the United States, which is still partially true. However, she has also agreed to help with the instruction of early childhood teachers at the college level.

Please join me in thanking these ladies for sharing their talents with our students and being exceptional members of our community. We wish them well in all of their future endeavors.

Dan Hovland

