

High School News



Thursday November 30, 2017



TAISM will follow the holidays declared by the Government of Oman for National Day & Islamic New Year. School will not be in session on the 3rd, 4th & 5th of December 2017.

School will resume on Wednesday, December 6th (Day 2)

COMING UP IN DECEMBER:



On Friday, March 2, 2018, TAISM will celebrate its Annual International Day and showcase its rich, cultural diversity of over 60 nationalities, through music, dance, food, crafts and many such activities. We invite you to be a part of the same and plan ahead your participation in this spectacular event, representing your home country.

If you are traveling home for the winter holidays, you might consider bringing your national dress, handicrafts, special food ingredients, etc., to share during the International Day. Feel free to reach out to your fellow nationals at school to plan your food booth.

To learn more about the TAISM International Day event celebration, please join our **International Day Start-Up Meeting** Wednesday, December 6, 2017

We need Sponsors to support this event! We accept support in the form of money donations or Lucky Draw prize donations. If you know of a company / corporate that would like to support our event, please contact Natasha before January 20, 2018.

For any further information, please contact Parent Volunteer Coordinator, Natasha Fernandes, at fernandesna@taism.com or call 92953413.

(Please Note: Due to the national day holidays, the International Day startup meeting has been postponed from Sunday, December 3, 2017 to Wednesday, December 6, 2017, as mentioned above)

COLLEGE NIGHT FOR JUNIORS AND PARENTS

When: **Wednesday - December 6, 2017**
Where: **Bosch Center**
Topic: **College/University Guidance**



This presentation will give you an overall understanding of how to start and continue the college research process throughout the Junior Year.

You don't want to miss this meeting as it will be a great introduction to the college research process at TAISM.

PRINCIPAL'S NOTE:

Dear TAISM High School Parents:

Thank you to the parents who attended the High School Parent Coffee Morning on Monday, November 27th. Our high school counselors, Cheryl Brown and Chrystal Kelly, shared information about the comprehensive school counseling program they are developing for our high school and helped parents understand the resources available for our students, especially through Naviance. Please visit the High School page at parents.taism.com to view the presentation from Monday, and contact our counseling office if you have any questions or want more information. As you plan ahead, our Second Semester High School Parent Coffee Mornings will be at 8:45 am on February 5th, March 5th, and April 30th. There will be more details about each of these gatherings in upcoming newsletters. I am grateful for the knowledge and skill that Cheryl and Chrystal provide for our students and our community, and the many ways they support our Mission and Core Beliefs.

At the heart of our Mission and Core Beliefs is a commitment to nurturing a passion and joy for life-long learning in our students. It is important to keep this perspective in mind, especially as we approach the end of the first semester and the time when our attention is focused on summative assessments and final exams. I have recently been reading more about ways that we can promote and nurture character traits in our students that research indicates promote life-long learning. One of those publications, titled "Academic Tenacity: Mindsets and Skills that Promote Long-Term Learning," was published by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in 2014. The authors describe academic tenacity as the "non-cognitive factors that promote long-term learning and achievement."

The authors state that academic tenacity, at its most basic level, is "working hard, and working smart, for a long time." They go on to describe the mindsets and skills that allow students to develop academic tenacity. Academically tenacious students exhibit the following characteristics and behaviors:

- "They believe that they belong in school academically and socially.
- They are engaged in learning, view effort positively, and can forego immediate pleasures for the sake of schoolwork.
- They are not derailed by difficulty, be it intellectual or social. They see a setback as an opportunity for learning. This is true in the case of a specific assignment as well as with their studies in general.
- They know how to remain engaged over the long haul and how to deploy new strategies for moving forward effectively."

What resonates most strongly for me is the authors assertion that "these mindsets and skills can be taught." Some students bring these mindsets and skills with them to school. For other students they are still developing. One of the ways we nurture these mindsets and skills is to view all students through the lens of what Carol Dweck, one of the authors, calls a "growth mindset" - the very basic belief that every human being possesses talents that can be developed (through hard work, good strategies, input from others, etc.). I have the unique opportunity to observe our teachers nurturing these mindsets and skills on a daily basis, and to the positive impact it has on students' behaviors and subsequent learning.

On Wednesday evening TAISM hosted the MS/HS Fall Choir Concert in the Bosch Center. The concert, titled "this is my voice," featured our grade 6-12 choir students performing a wide range of songs with skill and considerable confidence and flair. Melanie Brink engages her students in the creation of their performances, and gives them considerable voice and choice in the learning process. The final song of the evening was "We are the Voices" by Jim Papoulis. The lyrics are particularly relevant and empowering, and include the lines "We are voices finding out that we have what we need right in our hearts. Now is the time to believe we are heard." Empowering language combined with an experience that contributes positively to each student believing in their own ability to grow and develop. It is representative of the approaches to teaching and learning that guide our work to nurture life-long learning for our students at TAISM.

HS CANDIDS:



Last Wednesdays Varsity Boys Soccer game vs. BSM

Pic. Credit: Yasmine Tebib - Gr. 12



Mr. Gibney's EVS students surveyed water quality and species diversity at Qurum beach on Sunday - November 26th



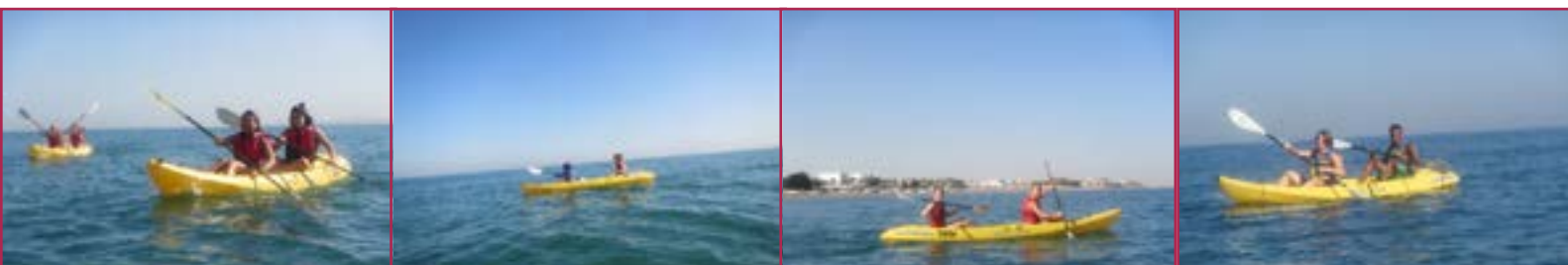
Sundays JV/Varsity Soccer game vs. Staff & Bake Sale to raise funds for Men's Health (Movember). Face Painting done by the HS Community Service students.

Pic Credit: Paige Spilles (HS Yearbook Coordinator)



Sunday's Varsity Girls B'ball game vs. Philippines School Oman (PSO)

Pic Credit: Paige Spilles



Aquatics Class Field Trip to Azaiba beach on Tuesday morning with Ms. Cori Lee (Aquatics/Lifeguarding teacher) & Ms. Grace Luna (Swim Asst.)
Pic. Credit: Ms. Luna

MS/HS CHOIR CONCERT:



Scenes from Wednesday nights MS/HS Choir Concert at the Bosch Center.

Pic Credit: Nicole Bradbury-Bex (TAISM PR)

HS ART:

HS Fundamentals of Drawing students designed and created these animals. The emphasis of this project was manipulating value using simple geometric patterns.



- Artists:
Sofia Moreno Briceno (9)
Zoe Perera (9)
Jazmin Agnew (11)
Sara Al Saidi (11)
Aarathy Manivannan (10)
Trim Al Shanfari (9)
Aiden Kemp (11)
Malak Helmy (10)

