

summARISE

The Newsletter of Raffles International School

Thursday, 10 March 2016 | Issue **103**

GENERAL

NURSERY

FS

PRIMARY

SECONDARY

GENERAL



IMPORTANT DATES



DATE

EVENTS

March

Tuesday, 08 March—Thursday, 10 March	Emirates Literature Festival
Saturday, 12 March	PARIS—Family fun day
Sunday, 13 March—Thursday, 17 March	IT Week
Monday, 14 March	RIS Open Day, 9.00-10.30am
Wednesday, 16 March - Thursday, 17 March	Nursery Field Trip
Wednesday, 16 March—Thursday, 17 March	TechnoRISe
Sunday, 20 March—Thursday, 24 March	Book Week
Sunday, 20 March	Author visit FS/Y1
Thursday, 24 March	Primary School Debate—PS @ CAS
Sunday, 27 March—Thursday, 31 March	Spring Break

April

Sunday, 03 April—Thursday, 07 March	Spring Break
Sunday, 10 April	Students and Staff Return
Thursday, 14 April	Purple Day—Nursery
Sunday, 17 April—Thursday, 21 April	Arabic Week
Sunday, 17 April	Checkpoint parent student conference
Tuesday, 19 April	Nursery Open day
Wednesday, 20 April	Nursery—Dubai Drums
Thursday, 21 April	Parent student conference
Sunday, 24 April—Thursday, 28 April	FS and Year 1 Artist Week
Sunday, 24 April—Thursday, 28 April	Science Week—Nursery
Sunday, 24 April—Thursday, 28 April	Spain Field Trip
Wednesday, 27 April	Year 2 Concert
Thursday, 28 April	Year 3 Concert

Message from the Principal



Dear Parents,

I would like to share with you the Council of International School's accreditation requirement and process and where RIS is positioned at this time on the CIS cycle of continuous school improvement.

The CIS Accreditation Process is a flexible, yet rigorous, vehicle for continuous school improvement which leads, if successful, to the most highly valued and sought after international recognition of the school.

The process involves evaluating the school in the light of:

- The school's own Guiding Statements (i.e. Philosophy/Mission/Vision for Students/Educational Objective).
- The CIS School Evaluation Standards/etc.), always referenced to the CIS Code of Ethics for members;
- Once a school obtains CIS School Membership and applies for participation in accreditation, the process involves a continuous cycle of steps.

The steps include:

- Preparatory Evaluation
- Self-Study
- Team Evaluation
- Decision on Accreditation
- Subsequent Procedures

Raffles International School was conferred the CIS School Membership in October 2014. In September 2015, the school underwent the CIS Preparatory Evaluation and was accepted as a candidate for the Self-Study process. It is with great excitement and enthusiasm that RIS has begun the Self Study process within the CIS accreditation cycle. The process was initiated in February 2016 with a Self Study workshop, attended by all school staff. Through this workshop teaching and non-teaching staff were able to understand the accreditation process and purpose, and the role of evidence and data in the Self-evaluation process. Parents and students will form an integral part of the self-study committees as we move forward.

The Self-Study being the most important part of the whole evaluation and accreditation cycle, both in terms of time and effort and in the value to be derived, our Self-Study will take between 12 and 18 months to complete. While identifying and celebrating the school's strengths, this process will also involve the identification of areas for improvement and initiate actions to address them. We eagerly anticipate considerable improvements in alignment with the CIS School Evaluation Standards and Evaluation Criteria which usually occur during this vital Self-Study stage.

The Self-Study is prioritized with considerable time commitment from all members of school personnel as well as from a number of parents, Board/ Governing Body members and students. The Self-Study Report emerging from this process will present an honest, broad-based view of the school.

Soon after completion and submission of the Self-Study Report, RIS will be visited by a team of volunteer Peer Evaluators: suitably qualified and trained school leaders and teachers drawn from other CIS Member Schools. The primary function of the Evaluation Team will be to assist the school by providing an objective evaluation of the conclusions of the Self-Study and the process by which the conclusions have been derived. It is this step in the cycle that may result in RIS being recognized as a CIS accredited school.

Becoming a CIS Member School will enable us to gain access to current practices and innovative ideas shared by other Members.

- Following will be benefits that will accrue to our school: Enable us to offer an "international curriculum" including, for example, one or more of the International Baccalaureate Organisation's programmes, the International Primary Curriculum, or parts of the other official educational programmes from other countries.
- Delivering teaching and learning programmes in more than one language.
- Introducing international and intercultural aspects into curricular and co-curricular programmes in as many areas as possible, especially social sciences, language & culture, arts & music courses. Activities such as Model United Nations or Global Issues Network conferences can be offered at Member Schools. Implementing recruitment policies aimed at creating national, linguistic and cultural diversity on the staff.
- Encouraging international students to join the school, either on a medium-term basis or on short visits. There will be a possibility to develop scholarships to encourage international students to enrol.
- Encouraging students to travel internationally on educational trips or exchanges.
- Inviting speakers and performers from other countries and from other cultural groups to contribute to school life and events.
- Creating pen-pal or key-pal programs with students in other cultures or countries. CIS Member
- Schools are able to use more than one language for these programs.
- Establishing joint projects with schools in other countries – through the internet or video-conferencing. Providing an opportunity for teachers to become involved in visits, exchanges and professional development activities abroad. Involving students in community service in other countries through fund-raising or practical tasks.
- Celebrating or arrange projects around UN Day and other National or Cultural Days.
- Ensuring the school library and media centre provide students with access to information and leisure sources from more than one culture and in more than one language.
- Providing students with information on further educational opportunities in a range of countries and languages while giving advice and support in making relevant admission applications.
- Helping students from one country or culture to create relationships with families from other countries or cultures.
- Establishing and using mechanisms, including counselling, to ease the effects of international and intercultural tensions.

Through the CIS Accreditation process RIS demonstrates to all stakeholders its commitment to high quality international education to parents, students and staff members and ensures that the school is continually improving and keeping up with the best international education standards.

Michael William Clack
Principal

IVEI Athletics

Raffles International School participated in the IVEI Athletics Competition on Sunday, 28th February. Primary and Secondary competed against Collegiate American School, Raffles World Academy and Dubai International Academy. Congratulations to all the pupils that competed in running, field and relay events. The results were as follows:

Primary School Results	Secondary School Results
Running: 3 rd Place	Running: 4 th Place
Field: 4 th Place	Field: 4 th Place
Overall: 3 rd Place	Overall: Joint 3 rd with CAS

Well done to all pupils who participated and we look forward to building and improving next year.

Primary Swim League

Mrs. Emma would like to congratulate all of the Primary swim team who achieved 3rd place last week in the Dubai Swim League. The team is excited about building on the success and the swimming gala taking place on Thursday, 10th March.

Primary Basketball

Mr Alex and his Primary school team had a challenging game against Dubai British School last week. The game finished 22-4 against a well drilled Dubai British School side. The team is concentrating on training for the next game and improving their performance.





Developmental Disability

What is a developmental disability?

It is a diverse group of chronic conditions that are due to mental or physical impairments. They cause individuals living with them many difficulties in certain areas of life, especially in “language, mobility, learning, self-help and independent living.

Facts:

- Originated at birth or during childhood
- Is expected to continue indefinitely
- It substantially restricts the individual’s functioning in several major life activities.
- Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or a combination of mental and physical impairments;
- Is manifested before the person attains age 22;
- Results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity:
 - ⇒ self-care
 - ⇒ receptive and expressive language
 - ⇒ learning
 - ⇒ mobility
 - ⇒ self-direction
 - ⇒ capacity for independent living, and
 - ⇒ economic self-sufficiency;
- Reflects the person's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic care, treatment, or other services which are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated;



Examples of developmental disabilities include:

- Autism
- Behaviour disorders
- Brain injury
- Cerebral palsy
- Down syndrome
- Fetal alcohol syndrome
- Intellectual disability
- Spina Bifida



What can be done?

People with developmental disabilities benefit from comprehensive long-term services. With such services, people with disabilities are often able to be more active, productive, and independent, which benefits their communities as well. Further information:

<http://www.iddcconsortium.net/>

<http://www.council-for-learning-disabilities.org/>



The Nursery Times

Dear Parents, Grandparents and Extended Family,

We began the week with our Book Week. Books have long been used to give children a way of looking at and understanding issues that are familiar to them by putting them in a different context. We read 'If You Give a Mouse a Cookie' by Laura Numeroff. In this book, the consequences of giving a cookie to this energetic mouse run the young host ragged, but our children came away smiling at the antics that tumble like dominoes through the pages of this delightful picture book. The book exposed the children to 'cause and effect,' sequencing, and various procedures for everyday life. They particularly enjoyed how with each occurrence the author prompted another one, which is a great way to help children to understand how items or events are paired and how one action leads to another.

Linked to the World Book Day, we have launched our annual 'Mystery Reader Programme.' A Mystery Reader is a mother, father, grandparent or any close family member who comes to read aloud to our class. Thank you to the parents who have already volunteered to read to their child's class. We hope to see many more parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles participate.



Thank you to the Mums who joined us for our little song performance on Sunday, 06th March. You are special and deserve to know that. Mothers to need to find ways to free their spirit to appreciate all that life has to offer.

Here are a few suggestions:

- Develop a short memory. Practice the fine art of developing a short memory when it comes to hurts, wounds, and wrongs that have been inflicted on you. Doing so will help you let go of yesterday's pain and free you from the burden of anger and resentment.

"Good to forgive; best to forget." observed poet Robert Browning.

- Look for the humour in daily events. Joy is the feeling of smiling inside, so laugh a little more. Laughter lightens life and animates the spirit.

Billy Graham recommends it: "A keen sense of humour helps us to overlook the unbecoming, understand the unconventional, tolerate the unpleasant, overcome the unexpected, and outlast the unbearable."

- Encourage someone who is discouraged. Deliberately seek out someone who needs your words of wisdom and praise.

There is great wisdom in this statement made by Sir James Barrie, author of Peter Pan: "Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves."

- Make peace with your life. "Take what is given and make it over your way," advised Robert Frost.

Let go of regrets. Embrace the joy of the present. Anticipate the beauty of the future.

- Count your blessings. Sure, there is a lot wrong in the world and sometimes in our lives. But there is a lot which is right and good as well.

Get out a pencil and paper. Give yourself five minutes to write out as many blessings as you can recall. Add them up. Keep the sheet around and review it from time to time. It's bound to elevate your mood.

Thank you for your continued support.

Garima Kapoor
Nursery Coordinator

Montessori Work Time



Book Week Craft



Concrete Mathematical Concepts



Sharing a story



Beginning of Reading



FOUNDATION STAGE/YEAR 1 NEWS



Dear Parents,

As we draw closer to the end of the 2nd term, I am sure many of our parents are contemplating their academic journeys for their children. As you know we follow the Cambridge Primary and Secondary Curriculum here at Raffles International School.

The Cambridge programmes prepare students for life – helping them to develop an informed curiosity and lasting passion for learning.

Cambridge helps students become confident, responsible, reflective, innovative and engaged, who are ready to tackle the demands of tomorrow's world and capable of shaping a better world for the future.

The teachers in Foundation Stage work closely with the Primary School teachers to help transition into a main stream curriculum. Our Year 1 teachers are experienced and trained Montessori teachers, which also assists the transition from the Montessori approach to main stream teaching.

What the Cambridge Curriculum offers:-

The Cambridge programme takes students on a journey through Cambridge Primary, Cambridge Secondary 1 and Cambridge Secondary 2. Students can join at any stage.

The curriculum in each stage has aims and objectives that support students to become confident, responsible, reflective, innovative and engaged. These are the [*attributes of Cambridge learners*](#).

We want each student to fulfil their potential and make the most of their strengths and interests. Consequently, we offer a wide range of subjects and let every student choose the subjects they love and the subjects they are best at.

We design programmes – with the help of expert educators in schools and universities – to challenge students, and get them excited about what they are learning.

Our programmes are flexible so teachers can use examples that are relevant to students' local context and culture. Students learn in English and our assessment is accessible to speakers of English as a second or foreign language.

Cambridge Programme

Cambridge Primary

6 years

5-11 years

Students develop skills and understanding in English, mathematics and science. Progression tests help teachers check their progress.

Cambridge Secondary 1

3 years

11–14 years

Students develop further their skills and understanding in English, mathematics and science. Progression tests help teachers check their progress.

Cambridge Secondary 2

2 Year

14-16 years

Students follow Cambridge IGCSE courses, leading to globally recognised qualifications. They build a broad learning programme from a wide range of subjects.

If you would like more information on the Cambridge Programmes we follow, please do not hesitate to contact our Admissions Department or the Deputy of Lower Primary Ms Jasmit Kang, Upper Primary Mr Matthew Barrett and for Secondary School; Mr Plant the Deputy Head of Secondary.

Susie Mcshane

FS and Year 1 Coordinator

FS News

“The education of a young child does not aim at preparing him for school, but for life” Maria Montessori

As we continue to watch this academic year fly past us, the teachers in FS have had the opportunity to watch the children ‘normalise’ in each classroom.

In the words of Maria Montessori, “Only normalised children, aided by their environment, show in their subsequent development those wonderful powers that we describe: spontaneous discipline, continuous and happy work, social sentiments of help and sympathy for others. An interesting piece of work, freely chosen, which has the virtue of inducing concentration rather than fatigue, adds to the child's energies and mental capacities, and leads him to self-mastery. One is tempted to say that the children are performing spiritual exercises, having found the path of self-perfectionment and of ascent to the inner heights of the soul”.

It is a pleasure to watch this natural development of each child, aided by the prepared environment and the Montessori philosophy. We are able to observe the emergence of children with inner discipline, independence and empathy.

Over the past few weeks we have been exploring the topic of pets. The children have enjoyed discussing animals that can be pets and critically thinking about how to care for pets. They have also learnt about veterinarians and role played what happens at a veterinary clinic.

The highlight of the week in FS was the special celebration of Mother’s Day. The children had practiced their special songs and were very excited to perform them. It was a beautiful event that was very special



Year 1 News

This was another week filled with fun and educational moments. The children were very excited wearing their green t-shirts to school for World Wildlife Day.

They learned about different endangered animals, why these animals are endangered and what we can do to help them. Each class made a mask to show their support for each animal.



In Language, the children have been focusing on their creative writing, practicing to write longer and more detailed stories. In Mathematics, they were exploring simple addition and subtraction problems. The new science topic, Water and Landforms, excited the children. They loved learning about what the earth consists of and learning about the seven continents was made easier with the fun Montessori 7 continents song.

Year 1 Team

Arabic B News

The images below show a free reading activity. Teachers brought different types of stories from the library and in mixed groups, the students started reading the story.

In each group there was a student who helped his classmates to read and understand the story.

Teachers facilitated the task by giving hints about the main points. After reading, each group wrote a summary about the story they chose. In fact, some students preferred to read individually and finished their tasks perfectly.



PRIMARY SCHOOL



Dear Parents,

With the emphasis on reading and writing this year, we have involved all children in a writing competition across the Primary School. The theme of the story writing competition was a Super hero story. All children wrote their own story on this theme, Ms. Zeba Khan and Mr. Plant had the pleasure to decide the finalists from Years 2-3 and Years 4-6.

The standard of writing was extremely high but the winners were chosen:

Year 2 and 3 winners were: 1st place Ranveer Kang in 2J and second place was Selma Alturki 3F
Year 4 and 6 winners were : 1st place Felipe Bongioiolo in 5A and second place was Jia Popatlal in Year 6B.

Please look out for the winning entries on the display board next to the dance studio to read our fantastic winners work.

Mother Day Assemblies:

We celebrated Mother's day this week. Each assembly during the week was focused on celebrating what our mothers do for us and the importance of a mother figure in our lives. There was a performance in each assembly this week and as I remember from last year, it was an emotional and very teary event. All our mothers were in for a lovely treat.



Family Fun Day:

This is our fantastic yearly event where all teachers work together to support the Secondary students with their entrepreneurial skills. All students have come together to produce different tasks and games for the rest of the Primary school. It is truly an enjoyable event and last year was a great success. We encourage you to bring your children to this event for an array of games, food, bouncy castles and much more. We thank you in advance for supporting our family fun day at RIS. I look forward to seeing you during the coming weeks to support our school.

Jasmit Kang
Deputy Head of Primary School

Year 2 News

In English, we read the story 'The Very Cranky Bear' and 'The Itchy Bear'. We retold the story discussing the beginning, middle, end, problem and solution. We had great fun creating our own stories like these, but with our own title. In our story we tried to use sequencing words, adjectives and paragraphs to highlight the beginning, middle and end of the story. We read our story for a friend and helped each other fix any mistakes we made.

In Mathematics, we started multiplication. First we looked at multiplication as repeated addition. We spent time drawing arrays that match the multiplication equations. We wrote __ groups of __ to describe the array and we replaced 'groups of' with the 'x' symbol. We practised our skip counting and times tables in 2s, 5s and 10s every day so that we can calculate multiplication questions mentally. We had a great time singing multiplication songs.

In Social Studies, we loved learning about the Vikings. We wrote some facts about them in our copybooks and watched a video showing us how to draw a Viking. Then we tried drawing a Viking by ourselves. We started learning about electricity in science. We know that electricity is a form of energy and it gives us power. We talked about the different sources of electricity and recorded what we had learned.

International Mother Tongue Day was a great success. We had approximately 20 parent volunteers read to the children in their own language. A big thank you to all the parents who volunteered. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Green Day took place on the Thursday, 03rd March in support of World Wildlife Day. The children learned about endangered animals, what it means to be extinct, why the animals are becoming extinct and what we can do to prevent this.

Year 2 parents Read Aloud is in full swing. The children are enjoying all the stories and are so happy to have their parents coming in to read a story for the whole class. It has been a great experience so far and we welcome more parent volunteers to the classes.

Year 2 Team



Year 3 News

We have been very busy over the last few weeks. In English, we have been learning about different myths and mythological creatures. In Science, we have been carrying out a variety of experiments to test the properties of various materials. In Mathematics, we have been solving story sums and working with number patterns.

Last week we also went on an educational field trip. We went to DUCTAC theatres to watch 'The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark'. It was an amazing experience answering questions the characters were posing and interacting with them. We also got the opportunity to talk to them before the show began. It was an extremely insightful play and we all learnt to never give up on your hopes and dreams.

To celebrate International Mother Language Day, several parents were kind enough to volunteer to come and read to all the Year 3 children in a variety of languages. The children were very excited to hear stories in their mother tongue and loved sharing the experience with their fellow peers. We all had such a wonderful time.

We also celebrated World Book Day by drawing the cover of our favourite books and writing a little summary about the story. To celebrate World Wildlife Day, we used laptops to research some of the endangered animals and understand why these species are in danger of extinction. We also discussed what we can do to help these animals and prepared posters to make more people aware of this.

Year 3 team

Year 4 News

The Year 4 students have been discovering, experimenting and inquiring new topics inside or outside of classroom realms. In Mathematics, students have been learning about area and perimeter. They are now able to answer challenging questions involving the area of shapes and the outer perimeter of shapes. Students have thoroughly enjoyed creating their own 'Healthy Lifestyle Park' for Dubai and have creatively expressed their learning on this topic to one another. They have come up with some wonderful ideas together.



In English, students have been learning about story writing and are using their imagination to 'think outside of the box' while creating settings, characters, problems and resolutions. During English lessons we have had the opportunity to use programmes such as Padlet and Nearpod in order to encourage our creativity while using IT. We now move on to the wonderful Roald Dahl novel, Fantastic Mr. Fox.

In Science, the level of excitement has been amazing. Students have just finished the topic of electricity. During the past two weeks children have had great fun creating simple and more complex circuits. They have managed to maximise the potential of circuits and understand what it is we need in order to provide more energy. They have learned a great amount and we now eagerly move to the topic of Magnets.

In Social Studies, students are coming to the end of their studies on Ancient Rome. We have looked deep into the ancient Roman times and have gained a vast amount of knowledge on how the Romans lived. We will soon complete our end of unit assessment before moving to our next topic.

Year 4 Team.

Year 5 News

Looking back on the last week all we can say it was amazing and so much fun. We had a book swap. Students had to bring in a book from home and then they could swap it for any other book that the other students brought in. Within a few minutes everyone had a new book and were ready for some serious reading.

We have been doing some experiments in science which have got the students thinking, ultimately rearing to go home to do some more research on their own.

We worked in teams to plan and investigate on how the heights of shadows are affected by the distance of light. We observed, recorded and interpreted our results using graphs which linked with our mathematic topic.

In Mathematics, we have been answering questions by identifying what data to collect, organising, presenting and interpreting data in tables and graphs.

The students enjoyed putting different data on the different kinds of data capturing methods. The students were very excited about creating their own data and choosing a method on how to reflect their data.

Year 5 Team



Year 6 News

As we approach the end of term in March, we can say we have achieved many things to be proud of from the start of the new year. At the moment Year 6 is focused on preparations for Cambridge Examination Checkpoint. We have completed the mock exams and scores have been analysed. This has assisted us in planning for the next few crucial weeks.

Students are revising and working on sample questions and how to answer them in every subject. We will be sending home materials for spring break to consolidate the learning that has taken place. It is not all work and no fun for the children. They have had plenty on their hands. They participated in the Parade of Nations on International Day and enjoyed the festivities by visiting different pavilions.

Many of Year 6 students participated in the annual IVEI Athletic meet and won awards. Well done Mateo, Mateusz, Minnah and Zeeshan.

On Thursday, 03rd March we celebrated World Book Day by making a collage of famous authors and their works. World Wildlife Day was celebrated by incorporating the issue of extinction of species in the topic of habitat in our lessons. Students researched an animal from the list of endangered species and shared their findings in the classrooms. We also had some parents come in and read to students in their native language in the first Mother Tongue Reading day.

An inter-class Spelling Bee competition was organised in the year level and the finals took place on Thursday, 25th February. The winner was Malak Ghandor from 6C. In the English writing competition Jia Popatlal from 6B came second in the Primary school section of the competition.

We have also reached the Grand Finals of the "Brainiac" competition organised by Kidzania.

Congratulations to all the winners for displaying great talents and expertise in various areas of school life.

Year 6 Team



SECONDARY SCHOOL



Message from the Deputy Head—Secondary School

Great success at RIS

Over the past two weeks, there has been a lot to celebrate across the Secondary School. Most notably was our involvement in Dubai Canvas that was held on March 03rd, 04th and 05th in Jumeirah Beach Residence. The project was a wonderful opportunity for our students to collaborate with Neil Harbisson, the world's first totally colour blind artist and cyborg, and be a part of the Dubai Colour Symphony. 42 of our students participated over the three evenings and demonstrated their musical talents, including singing to certain colours and playing drums. Liana Timoshenko wowed the big crowds with her performance of Michael Bubl 's "Sway". Opportunities like Dubai Canvas give our students the platform to create links between subjects, in this case Art, Music, Technology and Science.



Well done to all students involved and I very much hope this might be the start of a Raffles International School Choir.

On the sports field, our Under-12 boys have reached the semi-finals of the Dubai Cup. In a pulsating quarter final, the boys knocked out Raffles World Academy 3-1, with Taeyeon Jin (2) and Daniel Felipe Pacheco (1) getting the goals. The semi-final is against Dubai English Speaking School (date to be confirmed) Well done to Coach Stephen Fleming and the boys.

This week many of our Secondary students demonstrated their baking talents in the Masterchef competition. The variety of cakes made was incredible and certainly well received by the students who tasted them at break and lunch times. The winners will be announced next week.

Some of our Secondary students were also involved in the Kidzania Brainiac competition. I am delighted to announce that RIS are through to the grand finals which will be held in the Dubai Mall on Friday, 11th March. Good luck to our teams in this important final.

On Tuesday, 22nd March all students and parents will receive their internal Progress Check 2 reports. Additionally, all students will receive the hard copies of their International Benchmark Test (IBT) results in English, mathematics and science – subjects the Secondary School performed very well in. There will be a session arranged specifically for parents to help them further understand their child's IBT results.

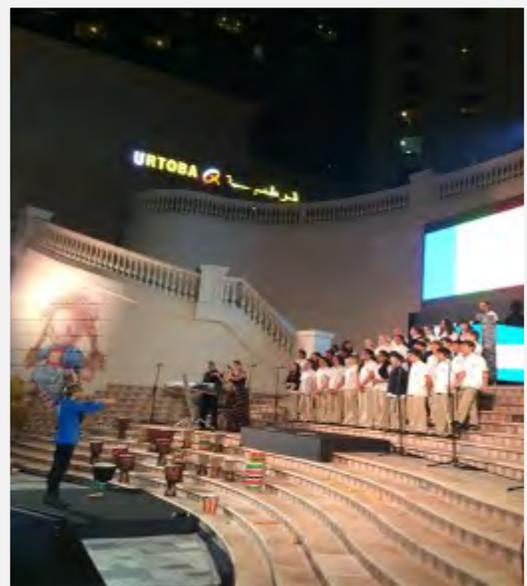
On Tuesday, 15th March Year 9 parents are invited to an IGCSE Curriculum Information session. This session will give all parents and students in this Year group to meet with our teachers and obtain more information about each subject on offer at RIS in Year 10 and 11. The session will be held in the ground floor Dance Studio from 4pm to 5pm.

On Wednesday, 08th March RIS had to send all students home early due to adverse weather conditions. I would like to thank all parents for supporting the school with the early dismissal. All students, parents and teachers arrived home safely despite the disruptions to the road network across Dubai.

Unfortunately, Family Fun Day was postponed due to the adverse weather. I apologise for this inconvenience and will work closely with the PARIS team, students and teachers to re-organise accordingly.

As always, if you would like to communicate with me regarding anything related to the Secondary School at RIS, please do not hesitate to send me an e-mail, give me a call or stop by the office.

Ian Plant
Deputy Head of Secondary



Year 7 News

Dubai Colour Symphony

Humans are usually born with the ability to see colour. Others are born colour blind. When you are colour blind, you can not see certain colours. Neil Harbisson has a special case in which he sees no colours at all. He sees in a completely greyscale vision. As Neil grew up, he studied different theories suggesting the correlation between colours and sounds.

In 2004 Neil implanted an antenna in his head which is like a third eye and senses colour and converts the colour frequencies into sound frequencies and plays them in his head, thus enabling him to hear colour. He associates these sounds with musical notes. He held a colour conducted concert for Dubai Canvas. He presented this to us on a screen showing the different colours of the rainbow for one of the songs the choir had sang, and another song using the most dominant colours of the UAE.

Working with Neil was a fun experience and he described his new sense of colour as something, not closer to robots, but closer to animals. He said he felt closer to bugs because of their antenna, enabling him to detect ultraviolet rays and infrared rays so he can sense more colours than a normal human being can.

The choir also made a drum, claves and wood block circle where we repeated beats, did call/answer and the performance was followed by a wonderful song by Liana Timoshenko as she performed 'Sway Me'. This whole Dubai Canvas project was on the 03rd, 04th and 05th of March 2016.

Written by Rami Hamzeh Year 7B

Kidzania Brainiac Competition 2016 26 4

On the Friday, 26th of February, students from Raffles International School participated in a competition called the Kidzania Brainiac 2016. Year 4, 5, 6 and 7 teams battled against two other schools in a DYWTBM (Do you want to be a millionaire) style game.

In the preliminary rounds, lots of schools went up against each other with only 1st and 2nd place getting through. There were different leagues and that narrowed down to 2 different leagues after the preliminary.

We came 2nd in the preliminary round and got through to the semi-finals where 4 schools went up against each other. RIS took 1st place. The team celebrated like crazy and we are going to the finals on the Friday, 11th March 2016.

Thanks to Mrs. Beata for making the whole thing possible and training the teams.

Written by Rami Hamzeh Year 7B

Year 8 News

It has been another busy few weeks for Year 8 as we countdown to the end of the Spring term. Students from across Year 8 have been making great contributions to the school, from taking part in meet the Principal to speaking in debates to taking part in the Masterchef baking competition.

One of the main focuses for the students these last weeks has been the Young Apprentice competition to create games for Family Fun Day on Saturday, 12th March. The competition is reaching its final stages, with most teams having decorated the school with posters for their games and making sure they have bought or created all the necessary resources.

Year 8 have shown a great deal of maturity and forward planning as they have prepared for this, and I am sure everyone will be impressed by what they have to show on the day.

Year 8 Team

Year 9 and 10 News

Happy Spring everyone. Time flies and we are almost at the end of term 2 and couple of weeks to go for the spring break.

Year 9 students had their Checkpoint Mock Examinations last week and this week they are getting the results and feedback. Students should reflect on their results in order to identify the areas they need to work on for the actual exams in April. One of the most effective ways to prepare for exams is to practice taking past papers. This familiarises the students with the format of the questions and also with the time limitations, making sure the right amount of time is spent on each question.

A few students from Year 9 and 10 participated in this year's camping trip at Al Jeer Marina in Ras Al Khaimah. Students were involved in many outdoor activities like rock climbing, canoeing and team building activities. Also, over the weekend some Year 9 students participated in the Dubai Canvas festival with Neil Harbisson at JBR along with other students from the school choir.

Year 9 and 10 Team

