

Cir/ AJ/2016/1713/PPI/Jan 2017

Date: Jan 11th 2017

Al Ain Juniors School- Student-Led Conference

Dear Valued Parent(s),

We wish you a Great 2017 and warmly welcome you back to Term 2 of academic year 2016-17. This is the term during which the teachers will cover a substantial portion of the grade level syllabus and the next few months will be marked also by pre- mocks, Mocks and mid-year exams for different grade levels, various events and an active sports and curriculum enrichment programmes. We have made an enthusiastic start to the term with the inaugural Football match between our star teams of AJB and AJI on our newly refurbished turf in the presence of our esteemed members of the executive management, school principal, Senior Vice Principal, staff and students.

CELEBRATING LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT 2015-16

HH Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards, UAE June, 2016

Alhamdulillah! It gives us immense happiness to extend our felicitations on our Management, teachers, parents and two of our students on their exceptional academic achievements in June 2016 Outstanding Cambridge Learners Awards. We are proud of our students.

We wish to thank the Executive Management for their invaluable support, friendship, transparency and “patience” ... We appreciate your guidance in leading and in helping us at all times. Your experience has been very valuable. Thank you again!!

We are pleased to enclose the details of our outstanding achievers:

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL IGCSE		
Eshan Fernandes	English as a Second Language	Highest in UAE
Maryam Shahbaneh	English as a Second Language	Highest in UAE

We would like to Congratulate English Department for the wonderful results. These huge achievements of hard work and professional diligence are truly outstanding. We commend one and all for your staunch quest of brilliance in teaching, learning & nurturing such gems. With enthusiasm and hard work like yours, success was certain to be achieved. Well done!!! Congratulations on this wonderful achievement.

Kindly Make Note of Changes in Open House format, day and time:

We would like to inform you of the necessity of the changes in the arrangements for the Open House that was scheduled on Thu. 12th January 2017.

We would like to take this opportunity to explain a new classroom practice being adopted by the school this academic session onward. In order to help you better understand what is going on with your child’s learning, we are going to hold a different type of parent-teacher conference every term in which your child will showcase his/her schoolwork and discuss educational goals with you through a new format called Student-Led Conferences. **The conferences will be held from 17th to 19th Jan 2017 for Kindergarten and from 22nd Jan to 27th Jan 2017 for Grades 1 to 9 on the stipulated time and date for each child, which will be notified next week.**

Students will be leading the conference and explaining to you what they have been doing in each subject area during the term. Through these conferences your child will be collecting information throughout the year, and present to you their efforts and achievements. They will be creating a portfolio of their learning Journey to showcase their work. The purpose of student-led conferences is to open the eyes of students to their own learning and to help them take personal responsibility for their progress. In the traditional parent-teacher conference, students are “third parties” to assessment, hearing about their progress through the interaction of teachers and parents. Although we do acknowledge that teachers and parents do play a vital role in assessing students’ learning, however, students must also take an active role in this area to maximize their potential for success. In preparing for a student-led conference, students see how their strengths, weaknesses and behavior can affect them as learners, thus allowing them to take more responsibility for, and control over, their achievement in school. Student-led conferences are an experience that can improve the communication patterns of both students and parents. Students learn how to reflect on their learning, evaluate their progress and communicate this information to their parents. Parents learn how to listen to their child, how to encourage growth and how to best help their child with specific problems.

Class teacher will also be at each conference to offer his/her perspectives on the work and to answer any questions you have.

You can expect the following things to happen at the conference:

1. You and your child will have time to go through his or her portfolio of work, achievements and targets.
2. You and your child will then meet with the class teacher to discuss your child's learning and performance.
3. We will discuss the grades, comments and targets that are included on the child's report card.

We are including a sign-up sheet for you to confirm the time for your conference. Please fill the required information to attend, and we will do our best to set up a productive conference time for you. In the week, after your confirmation you will receive a personalized invitation from your child. Students are working really hard preparing for these conferences, so please be sure to attend. It is their chance to show you all the work they have done this year. Your input will be important for setting our learning goals for the remainder of the year.

We have several goals for holding conferences using this format:

For parents – we hope that you will get to *see* rather than simply being *told* about your child's progress.

For students – we hope students will take more responsibility for their learning.

For teachers – we want teachers to have more meaningful and impactful conferences with you.

For all – we want to maximize our time together, create ways to partner with one another to support student success.

We welcome any questions you may have about this conference format.

Helpful Tips for Parents

- Express positive interest and anticipation about the upcoming conference
- be on time
- Listen and respond to the student (not the teacher)
- Express pride in your child's growth and progress
- Be positive, offering to help in areas where improvement is needed
- Recognize that your child needs to develop independence in communicating progress – the teacher will be there to facilitate and answer specific questions but will not take charge of the conference.
- Ask questions (see below for samples).
- Possible questions you may wish to ask your child during the conference
 - Can you explain this to me?
 - How did you come up with this idea?
 - How have you grown in this area?
 - How can you improve in this area?
 - How can we help you at home?
 - What was important to you about this?
 - If you could do this work over again, how would you change it?
 - What future goals do you have as a student?

Thank you for all the cooperation in this matter, and we look forward to seeing you.

AJB Administration

Kindly Note: Parents are requested to Clear the fee dues till Jan 2017 and also submit original copy of emirates id of student, father and mother; failing which, the report cards will not be issued

PARENT CONSENT TO ATTEND STUDENT LEAD CONFERENCE

Please confirm your attendance by signing this and returning this form to the class teacher by Sunday, Jan 15, 2017 .We will be sharing the date, time and venue details of your conference with your child and class teacher next week with the personalized invitation from your child

Please remember sign up with your child's teacher soon.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____