

Monday 8th February 2016

Dear Parents,

At the Winchester School we always strive to achieve the best for our students. As you are aware His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, launched a seven-year UAE NATIONAL AGENDA leading to the UAE Vision 2021 which coincides with the UAE's 50th National Day. It includes a set of national indicators in the sectors of **education, healthcare, economy, police and security, housing, infrastructure and government services**. To promote the National Agenda we have created and planned many activities to engage all stake holders (students, parents and teachers).

Areas of focus for us are:

- Education
- Healthy life style including safety
- Innovation and entrepreneurship
- Sustainability
- Reading

Promoting and complementing His Highness's vision, The Winchester School is introducing 3 exciting community building initiatives.

1. Winchester Reads Together: Since 2016 has been declared as the year of reading in the UAE to create a generation of book lovers and consolidate the UAE's position as the global capital for culture and knowledge. His Highness Sheikh Khalifa has underlined the importance of reading in broadening one's intellect and knowledge, as well in promoting tolerance, openness and inter-cultural communication.

Reading has always been an integral part of the daily routine at the Winchester School and it is with great pleasure that we inform you of our exciting initiative **Winchester Reads Together**. Think of it as a club of book lovers and story tellers. Parents and children will come together once a month starting Thursday 25th February from 6 to 7 pm. Bring in your mats and blankets, something to eat and an eager child and get ready to be transported to the fantastical land of reading.

To further encourage reading in various languages (Arabic, English, French) as well as different genres (poetry, fiction/nonfiction books etc.) the following activities have been planned for the '**Winchester Reading Together' (WRT)** programme:

- Majlis almudeera
- Outdoor trips with reading as the focus
- Home learning which includes focussed reading activities
- Reading zones in different areas around the school
- DEAR time which means "Drop Everything and Read"

We would really appreciate if you can contribute by sending child friendly books, magazines and any other reading materials in different languages – English/Arabic/French. (Books which your child/children has/have already read, magazines (wheels, readers digest etc.).

2. Winchester resolves Together: We believe that we are one big family and we need to help each other. Parenting can be a daunting task sometimes, so it's always good to have a support system to make this fascinating journey smooth and happy. That's why we are initiating this social group where parents of children, from early years to teenagers, come together to discuss challenges and positive approaches of parenting. The first monthly meet for this group would be on Monday, 22nd February from 8:30 to 9:15 am at the Teacher Training room in the secondary building.

3. Winchester Roots (for health) Together: The greatest wealth in the world is health and to promote a healthy lifestyle Winchester together will like to meet every Wednesday starting from 24th February from 6 to 7 pm at school for fitness programs like funky bhangra, energetic aerobics, revitalising yoga, talks on healthy eating.....we'll cover it all!! Come groove with us every Wednesday.

Looking forward to an enriching and healthy experiences together. Winchester Rocks together as well!

Sincerely,

Ranju Anand
Principal & CEO



EDUCATION

GEMS Education
PO Box 8607, Dubai, United Arab Emirates



Linkedin.com/company/gems-education
@gemseducation