



Elementary School

UAE National Day

UAE National day is celebrated on December 2nd of each year. This year the holiday occurs next Thursday, December 2nd and is preceded by Commemoration Day, which is actually on November 30th but is usually marked on December 1st. So we will have a 3-day week with schools being closed on Wednesday and Thursday of next week.



History of the UAE

The UAE celebrates National Day to commemorate the formation of the country in 1971. The holiday marks the day that 6 emirates bound together to form the UAE, with Ras Al Khaimah joining as the 7th and final emirate the following year. Sheikh Zayed, the Founding Father, led efforts to unite the emirates and became the first president. His son, Sheikh Khalifa, has served as president since 2004.



According to Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed, Minister of Foreign Affairs, “National Day is a historic day that marks a milestone for our country's achievements. We pay tribute to the past 50 years of the founding of our country and together work towards the centenary.”

UAE National Day Celebration

Your children partook of traditional emirati culture during a series of activities throughout Thursday's program and included a formal program on stage followed by UAE Stations (Henna, Face Painting, Falcons, dancing), a magic show, pancakes, coffee, Shawarma, potato wedges, and other delicious traditional foods. Classroom activities included a UAE Virtual Field Trip, a UAE History video and a UAE Kahoot game.



Organizers

Organized by Ms. Mayra, Ms. Rahma and a team of parents and other staff members, and supported by the rest of the administrative team, it was a remarkable day enjoyed by all in the Ignite Family.

Over and over again, parents expressed their joy in being able to socialize with their children and other families as they accompanied their children through the various rotation stations all over our wonderful campus.

It was wonderful to see the joy on our students' faces as they moved from station to station. A few adults had fun as well :-).



Winter Break

Time is truly zipping along and It's hard to believe that December will soon be upon us. As of this upcoming Sunday, there are only 8 instructional days remaining until Winter Break,

Please note the following:

- Dec 1 - UAE Martyrs Day Holiday
- Dec 2 - UAE National Day Holiday
- Week of Dec 6 - G1-4 Award Recognition Assemblies
- Dec 9 - Winter Break Class Awards and Celebrations
- Please remember that although the first day of Winter break is Sunday, December 12th, the last day of Semester 1 is actually Sunday, January 9th.
- The first day of Semester 2 is January 10th



Screen Time

As many of you are aware we have reduced the amount of daily screen time during the regular school day. However one of the tools that we have found effective last year is IXL. So we are still utilizing IXL usually when students have completed their paper and pencil assignments. Therefore , we are asking parents to permit their children to complete personalized teacher assignments on the students' individual level at home as part of their homework.



IXL Honor Roll

Please look for your child's name on our IXL Honor Roll. If their name is not there then you may wish to have a conversation with your child about how they can improve their ranking and perhaps next month, make the IXL Honor Roll!

Please find the IXL Honor Roll by subject here:

[NOv 25 ELA](#)

[Nov 25 Math](#)

[Nov 25 Science](#)



Drop Everything and Read at Ignite!

Drop Everything and Read at Ignite! is a new ES initiative designed to develop an awareness of the significance of reading for all of our students. All students in Grades 1-4 will read silently for 15 minutes from 7:30-7:45 during the Arrival Period. As you know, students usually respond to a *Writing Prompt* during the *Arrival Period* but now, by adding reading, we are demonstrating to your children the significance of *reading and writing*, the first thing in the morning.



Library

Great news! Students can now borrow books from our growing library! If your child wishes to borrow a book, please let them tell their homeroom teacher who will review the check-out procedures with Ms. Regina. Books will be sanitized before being checked-out and again when being returned.

Reading Logs

Regarding the reading logs, after some discussion about the form of the Reading Log, we have decided that we will no longer use the blank pages of the Planner. The book log is being revised again and will be available shortly. Teachers will ask students for their book logs in January in order to earn recognition points! The Winter Break is coming and is an ideal time for enjoyable holiday reading. Whether your child is traveling or staying in the UAE, please be sure to ensure they have developmentally appropriate reading material.

Lexile

One way to measure whether a given book is appropriate for your child is called the Lexile which measures both the readability of a given text and a child’s ability to read it.

MAP

One easy way to find an estimation of your child’s Lexile range is to look at correlations with the RIT scores which are used in MAP.

Once you know your child’s MAP scores (by asking your child's homeroom teacher) then you can easily convert the RIT score to a Leile. [RIT to Lexile Chart](#)

Reading Corner

Please be sure to see Ms. Regina’s Reading Corner in this weekend’s Curriculum Newsletter. There is a special section on the Ten Book Club Award!

Grade	Below Basic (Far Below Grade Level)	Basic (Below Grade Level)	Pficient (On Grade Level)	Advanced (Above Grade Level)
1	N/A	OL-99L	100L-400L	401L and above
2	OL-99L	100L-299L	300L-600L	601L and above
3	OL-249L	250L-499L	500L-800L	801L and above
4	OL-349L	350L-599L	600L-900L	901L and above
5	OL-449L	450L-699L	700L-1000L	1001L and above
6	OL-499L	500L-799L	800L-1050L	1051L and above
7	OL-549L	550L-849L	850L-1100L	1101L and above
8	OL-599L	600L-899L	900L-1150L	1151L and above
9	OL-649L	650L-999L	1000L-1200L	1201L and above
10	OL-699L	700L-1024L	1025L-1250L	1251L and above
11	OL-799L	800L-1049L	1050L-1300L	1301L and above

Reading Night

One soon-coming idea for the new year that will turn into reality in one form or another is a Reading Night. We are thinking of having a *Reading Evening* at Borders in Mirdif City Centre. More exciting details to follow in January.

Culture of Literacy

Step by step we are building up our culture of literacy and with your help, our students will experience learning in a way that lasts beyond their life at school.

First Semester

As we approach the end of the first semester, please note that we will not have any final exams as we did last year. We have recognized that there is simply too much formal testing! Some testing like MAP is mandatory for all American curriculum schools in the UAE. However, by using our benchmark internal assessments 3x per year in addition to the MAP, we can obtain usable instructional information that we can share with parents. In addition, your child's teachers regularly assess their students and these "Learning Checks, quizzes, projects and other *formative assessments in addition to projects and unit tests* form the basis of grades that are entered in Alma. Progress and Report Card grades are pulled straight from Alma. You already received a good indication of what your child's grades might be with the recent Progress Reports, and at the end of the semester you will receive your child's report card early in the new year. If you have any questions about your child's current grades, please contact your child's teacher.

Wishing you a relaxing weekend ahead.