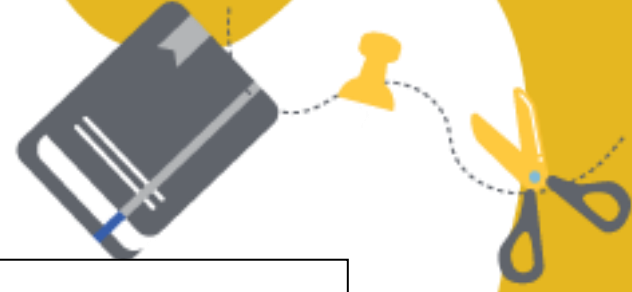


In a recent parent survey, many of you expressed a resounding affirmation in your choice about Ignite for your child, however about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of you want more hands-on learning experiences. Since hands-on education is one of the classic pillars of what distinguishes American education from other international approaches, the administration heartily agrees that even though we are striving to return to a pre-Covid environment, we also want more hands-on learning activities for our students. We want our children to experience more of the *universe* before they fly off into the *metaverse*! To that end, here in this space, each week, I will include an example of hands-on learning experienced by some of our students during the previous week.

Anyone who has walked a little bit on the inside of our campus will quickly see that our students are preparing for the Spring we want to have! As in gardening is true in school, and in life; *what we reap, we sow*. We want our children to learn that future consequences are shaped by present actions, and what better way to show this than by growing a few plants!

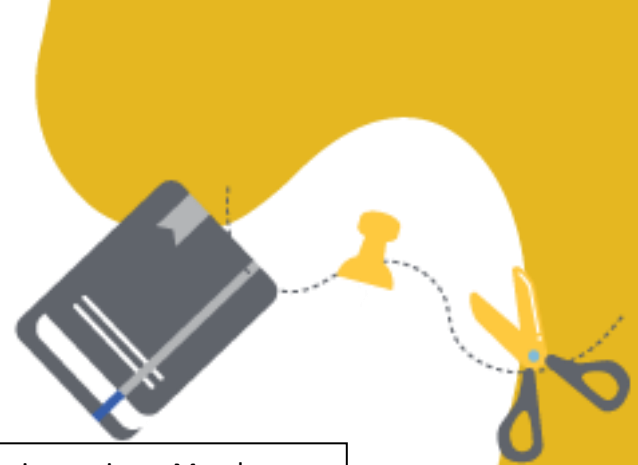
In returning to "normal," one challenge we have is in making sure that everything that was touched by one child is sanitized before another child touches it; yet in an active, social, hands-on learning environment with eager children, that challenge can prove exceedingly difficult. Last year and last semester, following KHDA guidance, we basically eliminated most of these kinds of activities due to safety concerns. Now that a national message is being communicated that we are *returning to normal*, we are still mindful of safety considerations but quickly realizing the numerous details that are now handed on the teachers' laps. Many of our teachers want nothing more than to impart this traditional American school staple, but as they begin to engage their students in hands-on discovery (including masks, gloves, sanitizer, and social distancing), they and their administrators quickly realize the added responsibility!



With your support, however, we will continue to venture back into beneficial aspects of the education that many of us grew up with and want for our children. We know that while assessments are important sources of feedback for our students and teachers, education is not just about testing. It is also about touching!

- Another great form of classic American education begins again each week on Mondays and Tuesdays in the form of our After School Activities known as ASA. If your child is not already enrolled and you wish him or her to benefit from these activities, please contact Admissions for more information.
- MOY Benchmark assessments have been completed for most classes, however there are still a few who will continue or take them next week. On these benchmarks, the same skills and concepts that were assessed in September and October will be reassessed to see if your child demonstrated improvement. For more information about benchmark results, please contact your child's teacher in about one week by which time teachers will have scored the benchmark.
- Please don't forget that we are a uniform school! Thank you for making sure that your child wears the school uniform. We understand that sometimes emergencies do occur which is why we also accept uniform colors - plain colors with no advertising on it! Addis, Nike, PlayStation etc, while no doubt great companies, are not accepted as uniforms logos! Please inspect your child before he or she leaves the house! If your child is not appropriately dressed, you may receive a phone call to bring in appropriate attire. Recess and other activities may also be denied if the uniform is not worn.





- Gulf Star After School Activities are also commencing again on Monday with the following activities:


Gulf Star Community Program is also starting as follows:

## GULF STAR ECA'S AT IGNITE SCHOOL

Starting January 31th

Ignite School	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Swimming 3:00-3-45pm	Learn to Swim Ages 3-5	Learn to Swim Ages 6-12	Learn to Swim Ages 3-5	Learn to Swim Ages 6-12
3pm - 4pm	Teacher led activities	Karate G3+	Football KG2 - G2	Gymnastics
3pm - 4pm		Engineering	Athletics	Karate KG2 - G2
3pm - 4pm		Dance		Football G3+

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK**



For more information visit - [bookings.gulfstarsports.com](http://bookings.gulfstarsports.com)

Wishing you and your child all the best for a growthful, hands-on second semester!

