

Emirates International School - Meadows

PARENT REPRESENTATIVE GROUP – UPDATE 3 (2016-17)

13 June 2017

Dear Parents/Friends

I am pleased to share with you 3rd update for the academic year 2016-17.

We had a detailed review of action plan of the various focus groups:

- Attendance – several initiatives taken to increase awareness among students and parents about importance of attendance and improving overall school attendance to 96%. Students are encouraged to aim for 100 % attendance through class attendance awards. We have couple of challenges such as Early Years attendance pattern which is hovering at 90%, availing leave towards beginning and end of holiday breaks and during the holy month of Ramadan. This item would continue to be on the agenda until target is achieved.
- Communication - Few initiatives completed – Newsletter enhancement, On line booking for Parent Teacher Consultation, improving website content.
- Community school – The team are exploring several other ways of giving back to the community in the next academic year viz. blood donation, donation of old school uniforms, improving awareness about health and lifestyle diseases, stationery supplies donation.
- Transition – In the beginning of this academic year we had identified specific issues raised by parents relating to transition of children from EY 2 to Year 1 and Year 6 to Year 7. We are happy to note that the focus group along with the respective class teachers has implemented an action plan to have smoother transition of these year groups when the school opens for the new academic year.
- New parent induction – We have agreed to hold two coffee morning sessions in Sep and Jan for new parents to familiarize them with the school, teaching faculty and other parents. In addition, sessions would be held for Islamic, Arabic, LS, EAL, PYP, Assessments and Reporting. The Primary School Handbook has been loaded on to the website and the High School handbook is under development. Information relating to PRG and its periodic update will be posted on the website.
- Career guidance – The school will be having a dedicated staff handling career counselling from beginning of next academic year – this was a long pending issue and glad to note that this has been addressed. We had fantastic feedback for pilot project of Year 12 student internship with the Al Habtoor group. Members are currently reviewing whether similar projects could be held for Year 10 and Year 11 with the support of parents i.e. shadowing parents in their office.

We had an extensive discussion on DSIB inspection report with the Principal. Members congratulated the school leadership for attaining “very good to outstanding” ratings on several parameters at DP and MYP level. Members noted anomaly in Science subject rating between levels MYP (Good) and DP (Outstanding). An action plan is being developed to make further improvements in the next academic year.

Other matters discussed include migrating to new school uniform, reducing heaviness in school bags, improving road safety in coordination with Emaar and other relevant authorities, ensuring cleanliness of washrooms as several complaints received from students and parents, providing support to students for Inter Disciplinary Unit.

The last meeting of the current PRG team will be held on 15 June 2017 and new members are expected to join prior to closure of the school for summer. We will ensure smooth transition between incoming and outgoing teams!

I take this opportunity to wish you all a very blessed Ramadhan .

Warm regards,

On behalf of EISM - PRG

Dara Al Ayed
Vice Chairperson