

## Emirates International School - Meadows

### PARENT REPRESENTATIVE GROUP – UPDATE 1 (2016-17)

8 March 2017

Dear Parents/Friends

The Parent Representative Group (PRG) for 2016-17 was constituted in October 2016 with several new members on board from this academic year. We have had five meetings till date (once a month) with Ms. Kathryn Dyche-Nichols, Principal along with the school leadership team and we have been actively engaged on various issues as a group. In addition, individual members of PRG have also been dealing with issues relating to their respective year groups. We have also had one meeting with Ms. Amna Al Habtoor, Director of Schools to discuss how to improve the learning experience and work towards improvement of KHDA inspection ratings.

During this period, we have had two inspections:

1. Council of International Schools which has recommended continuing accreditation
2. Dubai Schools Inspection Bureau (DSIB) part of KHDA - we understand from the school leadership that several positive comments received from the Inspection team and await the DSIB report to celebrate these achievements.

Several initiatives are being made to improve quality of teaching and learning with greater focus on Mathematics, Science and Language subjects. We have noted that certain changes have been made to teaching staff and advised further changes will continue as and when required with a view improve quality. Focus Groups have been formed comprising of PRG members and School Leadership team to improve the school in the following areas:

- Attendance
- Communication
- Community School
- Transition
- New Parents Induction
- Careers Guidance

Focus Groups have met and discussed several ideas and implementation of action plan will commence shortly. We have identified Communication between the school and parents is a major area of concern and working towards enhancement through letters, emails, weekly reports, social media and coffee morning sessions which will be held for respective year groups. Should you be interested to join the Focus Groups and contribute, please connect with me by email [mabbouri@gmail.com](mailto:mabbouri@gmail.com).

Improvements that were made during this period include enhancing school safety environment through implementation of access cards, extension of library hours timing , issuance of revised policy on Bring Your Own Device (BYOD), additional training sessions on use of Managebac, improving Science learning at primary years and importance of having a dedicated "career counsellor".

The school leadership team recently shared results of PASS - Pupil Attitudes to School and Self Survey - an online survey which was conducted for Year Groups 7 - 11 students and glad to note that overall results were overwhelmingly positive. The school leadership team will be sharing this in due course.

With the school leadership team now settled in, we are optimistic that tangible progress would be made in the coming months of this academic year. Going forward, we will be issuing monthly update from PRG.

One matter that is under consideration - whether PRG election should be held before completion of the academic year so that new team would be in place in advance and plan ahead for the next year. We will update you soon.

Warm regards,

On behalf of EISM - PRG

Mohamed El Abbouri  
*Chairman*