

ABU DHABI GRAMMAR SCHOOL (CANADA)

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Together We Make the Difference!



WEBSITE: <http://www.agsgrmmr.sch.ae>

Date: Thursday September 1, 2016

What's Happening?

September 10-September 13
September 21

Eid Al Adha Holidays
Curriculum Night for Parents
@ 6:30 pm in the Gym

September 29

Early Dismissal @ 12pm K-2
& @ 1pm grades 3 - 12

Welcome back to a new year at Abu Dhabi Grammar School (Canada). We hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable summer and the children are now refreshed. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead. A warm welcome to all the new families who have joined our school community.



We are pleased to welcome the following new staff to AGS and wish them a very successful year:

Margaret C. (KG2A),
Kirsten R.(1A), Kathryn U.(1C), Reem D.(KG & 1),
Vanessa M.(3E), Lindsay T.(4C), Scott C.(5A),
Shazana R.(5B), Tasnim S.(3-9), Glen M.(6B),
Michael I.(6C), David M.(7A), Natalie P.(8B), Shani Sh.(9A), Jessica Th.(9B), Michael R.(English Senior High).

In administrative roles we welcome Mr. Danny Berry as the new High School Vice Principal and Ms Marlene Johns as Guidance Counselor to our school.



School Times

KG to Grade 2 @ 7:55 am to 2:00 pm

Grade 3 to 12 @ 7:55 am to 3:00 pm

Eid Al Adha Holidays School will be closed on Sunday 11 September until Tuesday 13 September in celebration of Eid Al Adha. Students return on Wednesday 14 September, 2016. These dates are tentative and will be confirmed later. Eid Adha Mubarak!!!



Newsletter

This school newsletter will be published on a monthly basis. Parents of students in grades K – 6 please ensure that your child brings it home to you, to be informed about school happenings. Hard copies are available for Grades 6-12

students at the reception office. and all newsletters will be posted to our website at www.agsgrmmr.sch.ae

Student Attendance and Absence

If your child is going to be absent for a day you must inform the school by the beginning of the school day. Students are not supervised prior to 7:20 am so please do not drop your children off before that time. The school is not responsible for any students prior to this time.

Please ensure your child is at school prior to the first bell at 7:55 am. All KG - 8 students must report to Ms Rola and Ms. Lena and all 9-12 students must report to Ms. Diane if they come to school late so it can be recorded in the Late Book. We are going to work hard to ensure that our students are on time for school this year! If you wish to pick up your child early from school you must report to the main security office and sign in and show your ID card. If

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someone other than a parent/guardian is picking up your child you must send written permission for them to be picked up. The receptionist will sign your child out of the school. Thank you for your co-operation with these procedures. All students must be picked up from school by 2:10 pm (KG-2) and by 3:10 pm (grades 3-12). There is no supervision provided for students and it is not a safe environment to leave your child unattended.

Curriculum Night

Our Curriculum Night for parents will be held on Wednesday 21 September. There will be a short presentation and introduction in the gymnasium at 6:30 pm. After this parents can meet the teachers for each grade in the classrooms until 7:30 pm. We look forward to meeting you and sharing what will be happening in your child's classroom over the next ten months.

Classroom Resources

This year again parents were not required to purchase text books for all courses for their children from Grades KG-9. The school has purchased class sets of text books that students will use while they are in class. As you are well aware not every page of every text book is used and teachers use them depending on the content and relevancy to what we are teaching and in relation to the Nova Scotia Curriculum as well as learning about the UAE, the country where we live.

By having the school purchase the textbooks, needed at each grade level, students will have access to the books at all times while in the classroom. As well many other resources have been purchased which will make learning more exiting for your child. You will see much more photocopied materials coming home and work will be posted on teacher's websites once they are up and running. Text books are available to borrow and can be taken home by students as needed.

Students are not required to purchase laptops or iPads. These are purchased by the school and accessible to students on a scheduled basis to learn basic technology skills such as word processing, research and video making, etc. Students will not be using technology as their main way of

communicating and learning. Teaching methods will not differ from previous years however, we are pleased that we are able to meet IT outcomes through the addition of planned lessons in using technology.

We are very pleased to add Google Chrome learning and training to our students this year.

The school has purchased many Chrome Books for your child to use while at school.

Each year fees for resources are collected, cost depending on grade level, to cover the cost of depreciation of text books, photocopying of resources for students to take home, purchasing software and updating to latest technology

Class Configurations

At this time we are still waiting for some students to return to AGS from summer holidays as well as waiting to find out if some students who registered are returning. At this time many classes are unbalanced in numbers and it will be necessary to make changes from one class to another. These changes, if necessary, will be made as soon as possible prior to students becoming comfortable in their classes.

School Site Access

After 8:10 am you will have to access the school only through the security office. If you need to access the school site during school hours you will have to see Mr. Sadat at the front gate and obtain a Visitor's Badge. We are implementing these procedures to ensure the safety of all students at AGS and to comply with ADEC regulations.

At 2 pm KG students will be brought to the front gate to line up and have their parents pick them up. Grades 1 students will line up by the castle area and Grade 2 students beside the main reception. Parents are welcome to come in the gate by the security guard where students enter in the morning and exit via the front gate.

At **2:00 pm** the large front gate will be opened for parents to pick up their children from KG to Grade 2. If you need to see a teacher or an administrator, please make an appointment through the school office.

Teacher's focus is on the safety of all students at this time and are not available for discussions

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about your child. Again, please make an appointment.

AGS School Uniform

The AGS school uniform is purchased at *First Day Textiles (Tel#: 02 6340043 & Mob#: 050 5322630) behind Omeir bin Yousif mosque, Hamdan St., Abu Dhabi. Shop hours: 9:30 am – 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm – 10:00 pm.* Please see the price list below for the uniform items:

1	Polo T. Shirt half sleeve	65 dhs
2	Polo T.Shirt full sleeve	70 dhs
3	Round neck half sleeve- sports	45 dhs
4	Round neck house T.Shirt-sports	50 dhs
5	Black trouser	70 dhs
6	Black shorts- sports	55 dhs
7	Black pants- sports	55 dhs

The AGS school uniform consists of:

- LONG black AGS pants
- Collared AGS T-Shirt
- Dark shoes and white socks

The AGS sports uniform consists of:

- Black AGS PE shorts/pants
- AGS T-Shirt
- Proper foot wear for the gym
- All students are expected to wear their AGS PE shorts to physical education classes only. They **are not** to be worn in the classroom. If a student is not dressed in the correct PE uniform they will not participate in the PE lesson.
- Students are required to wear dark coloured shoes; not brightly coloured ones.
- **Beginning on Sunday we will be strictly enforcing the wear of proper uniform.**
- **PLEASE NOTE:** Parents will be phoned and asked to bring the correct AGS uniform to school if their child does not wear the correct uniform to school.



Early Dismissals for Professional Development

AGS is dismissing early the last Thursday of the month so that teachers can take advantage of Professional Development to enhance programming and learning for our students. **We will be having early dismissals in November and March for Parent Teacher Conferences and in September, October, January, February, April and May for Professional Development. Students from grades K-2 will be dismissed at 12 pm and students from grades 3-12 will be dismissed at 1 pm on the dates designated.** We are giving you lots of time to plan for childcare on those dates so please keep the school calendar close at hand.

Update of Medical Records

Parents are asked to please visit the nurse in the School Clinic if there are any changes to report regarding the health of your child. It is especially important to bring in any medications that a child needs for conditions such as: allergies, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy. Children requiring the use of Epi-pens for severe allergic reactions **MUST** provide an Epi-pen for the School Clinic. Thank you for your cooperation. Ms Lekha is our School Nurse this year. Please see her if your child requires any special medical attention during the year.

Medical and Dental Appointments

All appointments for doctors and dentists should be made outside of school hours. If you have to schedule an appointment during school hours, please send a **WRITTEN NOTE** to your child's teacher detailing the appointment time and the arrangements for picking up your child. The absence is then excused, everybody is aware of the appointment and the note is placed in the child's file.



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Bus Procedures

Emirates Transport will be handling bus transportation for the school this year.



Transportation registration should be completed before your child is allowed to use the school transportation. If your child travels on a school bus to and from school please reinforce the following bus rules with them.

Simple Bus Rules (FOR SAFETY)

Students should display positive behavior and courtesy during the ride. Students are expected to be ready for pick up. The bus will leave after 2 minutes maximum. No exceptions. Assistants will make emergency calls ONLY. Any issues should be directed to the administration.

You are required to wear a seatbelt while on the bus. As long as the bus is in motion, remain in the seat, facing front, feet on the floor. Keep books, material, your head, arms, and other parts of your body, inside the bus at all times. Do not throw anything out of the bus. Students are responsible for their belongings. The aisle and bus stairwell should be clear of any obstruction at all times. Treat the bus equipment as you would your own personal belongings at home; you will be held responsible for any willful damage you may cause. No food or drink is to be consumed on the bus. No littering. Three warning letters are made to the student if an offense has been committed while on the bus. After that, the student will lose the privilege of using the bus.

Students are not permitted to travel on any bus, other than the one they are scheduled to go on, without **written permission** from a parent and the note must be signed by an administrator. Failure to obey these bus rules may lead to temporary or total loss of bus privileges. All school rules apply when on the bus.

Healthy Lunches

Healthy eating patterns are essential for students to achieve their full academic potential, full physical and mental growth and lifelong health and well-being.

We are discouraging students from bringing unhealthy snacks or lunches to school. Items such as chips, chocolates, candy, chocolate cookies and pop are not to be brought to school.

There are 4 Food Groups that we need to eat from each day. They are Milk and Milk Products; Meat and Alternatives; Breads and Cereals; and Fruit and Vegetables. Students should be aiming to choose 1 serving from each of the 4 Food groups during every meal and to choose snacks from the Fruits and Vegetable Group.

Celebratory Food Gifts

Please do not bring any birthday cakes or party food to school to be shared in the classroom. Whilst very well-meaning, it creates health and logistical problems at the school. We have many children at the school with food allergies. Furthermore, we are also trying to encourage healthy eating.

Please understand that teachers will be consistent in not accepting party food for their classes.

Cell Phones

A reminder to all students and parents that cell phones are not permitted to be used during the school day or inside school property until 3 pm



. Cell phones must be stored during the day and not used. If a student uses a cell phone the phone will be taken and given back by the teacher at the end of the day. A second offence the phone is given to administration and a parent must pick it up in the office. A third offence will result in the phone being kept at school indefinitely. ADEC will be notified after a 3rd offence, as this is considered defiance.

Lockers

Lockers are available to students from grades 6 to 12. Mr Faouzi is responsible for these lockers. There is a rental of 50dhs and a refundable insurance deposit of 50 dhs per locker. **Lockers should be cleared before the winter, spring and summer breaks.** A copy of the key will remain at the office with Mr Faouzi.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT AGS IS A NUT SAFE SCHOOL!



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Lates

Being late for class is very disruptive for all students. Students who enter the classroom late interrupt all of the other students, the teacher and their own learning by having to catch up to what is going on in the classroom. Please make every effort to get your children to school on time and encourage our older students to get out the door and to school on time. Please help us resolve this issue of dealing with students being late. Thank you!

Further information will be sent regarding procedures in place to alleviate the problem of students being late for school.

Expectations at AGS (Canada)

The following are some expectations for students attending Abu Dhabi Grammar School (Canada)

- Follow the nut safe policy
- Follow school cell phone policy
- Dress appropriately
- Place garbage and recyclables in the proper containers
- Use appropriate language
- Allow others to move freely in the halls
- Enter the building through the stairs to your classroom area only
- Respect school property and the property of others
- Use only the washrooms in your area
- School is a gum and substance free zone

Classrooms

- Arrive on time
- Be prepared
- Use appropriate language
- Respect the rights of others to learn
- Leave your work area tidy

Cafeteria

- Place garbage and recyclables in the proper containers
- Use the chairs, not tables, for sitting

Library:

- Food free zone
- Maintain a quiet and courteous learning environment

School Events:

- Remember you represent AGS (Canada) when attending school events both on and off campus
- Be supportive and positive

Gymnasium:

- Arrive to class on time.
- Gymnasium is a food and gum free zone
- Participation requires that you change into appropriate gym wear

Code of Conduct

This past year our school developed a new Code of Conduct for implementation in September 2016. The new Code of Conduct was developed in cooperation with staff, students, parents and it follows guidelines established by ADEC. The Code of Conduct will assist in ensuring a safe and positive learning environment for all students and staff. The Code of Conduct will be posted on the school website for all to read and become aware of the contents. More information concerning the Code of Conduct will be forwarded home soon. We look forward to everyone's cooperation in ensuring a safe and positive learning environment at Abu Dhabi Grammar School (Canada) this coming school year.



Students in Grades 3-12 are able to buy food from the cafeteria on a daily basis. Water, juice, fresh fruits, zaatar, pizza, sub sandwich, salads are available for purchase at reasonable prices. There will be a 'meal of the day' available as well every day.

