



# Virginia International Private School Newsletter

VERSION 6 / JAN 2022

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## School Principal Welcome Word

On behalf of our school community, I would like to wish you and yours "Happy 50<sup>th</sup> UAE National Day". Personally, I am very grateful for the UAE's visionary leadership, its hospitable and aspirational citizens, and all the opportunities afforded to me, my family, and many others. Since my arrival to the UAE in 2004, I have been blessed personally and professionally with family, friends, and school communities such as VIPS. During this festive time of the year, I hope and pray that, as we reflect upon the past, present and future individually and collectively, we are filled with gratitude and hope for the UAE - its leadership, citizens, residents, martyrs, and livelihood. As we conclude term 1 of this academic year, I am proud to see almost all of our students return to campus for face to face learning.



While learning takes place best face to face, we will continue to implement effective digital learning approaches in and out of the class as such is a key skill for success in today's, and tomorrow's, global world. We will also continue to ensure health and safety, including our wellbeing as well as Covid measures, are at the forefront of our operations. As I look forward to 2022, I am very excited about graduating our first cohort from VIPS – the Class of 2022! Our grade 12 students this year are an amazing, intelligent, mature, and talented group of students who are making us proud. I will review my goals personally and professionally. I intend to continue with my passion as a lifelong learner, acquiring new skills, knowledge and understanding about leadership and education through ongoing professional development. What are your goals? What will you try to do in 2022 to make you a better person? May you make your dreams come true. Asalamu Alaikum, and thank you.



*Mr. Daniel Bokelman  
Executive Principal*

I would like to reiterate, especially in light of the changes in education and society, you have all the information needed to ensure your child(ren) are able to attend school in a safe, structured, sensible, and strategic learning environment.

[Reopening Model.](#)

Other key documents to start our year are:

- [Parent's Guide to Schools Reopening](#)
- [Reopening FAQs For Schools](#)
- [Private Schools Reopening Policies and Guidelines](#)
- <https://virginiaschool.ae/en/>

If you have any questions or need further information, kindly contact us accordingly.

*Kind regards.*



## Irtiq'a Inspection

*Mr. Daniel Bokelman*  
*Executive Principal*

Virginia International Private School was one of the first schools in Abu Dhabi to be inspected this year, after Irtiq'a inspections were postponed throughout the Covid pandemic. We were proud to evidence our progress since the last inspection in 2018. Not only has our school increased in enrollment to nearly 1,200 students, the quality of education has also improved, as evidenced in this inspection.



While we await the official report from the authorities, the feedback we received highlighted our improved progress in most subjects, in early childhood (KG) and primary phases (elementary); improved teachers' capacity to facilitate blended learning approaches; the care, protection, and welfare of children; and the unity of governance and leadership in forging, with the community, a unified vision for the school. We would like to thank all our teachers for their expertise, our parents for the partnerships and support, our Board of Trustees for their effective governance, and our students for their keenness to learn and grow. VIPS is proud of its success and it will continue to go from strength to strength as one of the leading schools in the UAE, developing its learners for successful participation in society and the global economy.





## PIRLS and Literacy

*Ms. Paula*

Our Grade 5 students and teachers worked tremendously during the month of October to prepare for the International PIRLS exam. Reading competitions were ongoing throughout the month, the students were highly motivated to spend as much time as possible reading to ensure their readiness for the PIRLS exam. An extra push on reading comprehension skills was seen in all grade 5 classes and with additional class visits from management the students were more than prepared. The PIRLS exam ran smoothly on the 1st and 2nd of November. Our students took pride in representing Virginia International School both nationally and internationally.



Elementary students have enjoyed learning about procedural writing this term. Teachers planned hands-on lessons which enabled the students to link their learning to real-life. Classes were involved in making sandwiches, tea, hot chocolate and cupcakes to name but a few. Happy faces were to be seen in the classrooms as they enjoyed their treats after writing the procedure.



# Elementary Hands on activities and investigations

This term, our Grade 1 students have grown their own plants, while observing and making notes of the changes and steps of growth each day. It was an exciting period of six weeks as the seed grew into a new plant with roots, stem and leaves in their own plastic bags and cups. They had brought in a seed from home and at the end of six weeks, eagerly took their new plants home to show their families. They also loved playing the role of a 'teacher' while solving addition and subtraction sums with their peers using blocks and counters.



This is what we strongly believe in, and practice in our Elementary classrooms.

*Tell Me*  
AND I'LL FORGET.  
*Show Me*  
AND I MAY REMEMBER.  
*Involve Me*  
AND I LEARN.

Ms. Gloria D'Souza  
Head of Elementary



# Elementary Hands on activities and investigations



Our Grade 2 students were able to explain the steps to prepare some interesting and delicious food and write the recipes and follow them, while learning about 'Procedural Writing' in their English lessons.

Our Grade 3 students spent a good amount of time learning about ecosystems and food chains. They thoroughly enjoyed creating their own ecosystems in plastic containers. The ecosystem consisted of biotic and abiotic features which the students observed over one week. The plants in the ecosystem thrived and grew beyond the children's belief. They were very eager to take their ecosystems home and share them with their families.



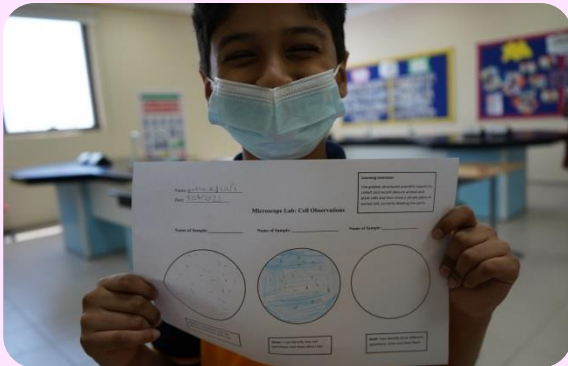


# Elementary Hands on activities and investigations

Our Grade 4 students enjoyed learning about animal adaptations. Through a very innovative and interesting investigation they were able to tell us how camel hooves were adapted to enable camels to walk on sand efficiently and comfortably.



In Grade 5, our students have started learning about the basic unit of life, ie, the 'cell'. They had an amazing experience learning about plant and animal cells while investigating the similarities and differences between the two.



It was truly an enjoyable experience for them to use the microscope, take part in the preparation of slides, record their findings and list the parts of the cells while observing them under the microscope.



# Science Experiment and Good News

*Ms. Shireen*

VIPS Science Experiment and good news, are based on the VIPS Science Department understanding of the needs of our students to master the 21st-century skills, preparing them to lead their bright, and promising future as global citizens, aligned with the UAE's core values, and VIPS vision, mission, and values.

We stepped our game up, turning heavy, and overwhelming scientific lessons into real-life experiences, hands-on activities, scientific inquiries, experiments & investigations, opening our students' imagination, and carrying them to a world of wonders; from the magnitude of the chemical reactions to exploring the microscopic world, and observing life from levels they weren't aware of their existence, introducing them to the UAE's accomplishments in the stem cell research & genetic engineering facilitated with highly advanced equipped 5 specialized science labs, managed by expert teachers, and technicians, for the VIPS students' use, putting on our safety goggles, lab coats, and gloves pretending to be weird scientists, to explore kinematics, and experimental physics as well!



But the most astonishing part capturing our hearts as educators is to see our students' wide-opened curious eyes with their amazing stares from their findings when they are linking them to events in their daily lives.

We wrapped up the term 1 learning journey with our innovation & enterprise projects to make our achievement complete. VIPS students turned into naturally curious forensic scientists, investigator biologists, enthused chemists, and savvy inspectors & physicists.

Science teachers had the chance to exchange their expertise and to do experiments share some of their best experiments as a team through our Experiment Wednesday Program!





# Updates from The Arabic Department

ونحن كلنا ثقة في قدرات طلابنا الأعزاء في تحقيق النتائج المتوقعة. كذلك طلاب الصف الثاني عشر، في تجربتهم في التحضير لاختبار **EMSAT** حيث تقدم بعض طلابنا لهذا الاختبار، وقد شاركوا مع زملائهم ومعلميهم تلك التجربة الرائعة التي أثبتوا من خلالها قدرتهم على تمثيل مدرسة فرجينيا الدولية على المستوى المحلي والدولي.

*Ms. Rabaa and Mr. Mohammed Ghazy*

خلال الفصل الدراسي، أظهر طلابنا من الصف الثالث وحتى الصف التاسع تفاعلاً رائعاً من خلال استعدادهم في التحضير لتقديم الاختبار الدولي في اللغة العربية **IBT** والذي ظهر خلال زيارتنا الصفية، حيث ضاعف طلابنا استعدادهم للاختبار وترجمة ما بذلوه من مجهود، لاقى التقدير من المعلمين، قدم طلاب فرجينيا نموذجاً مؤثراً من خلال سعادتهم الواضحة أثناء الاختبار، فقد وجدوا ثمار عملهم الدؤوب أثناء الإجابة عن الاختبار. وقد شارك طلابنا مع معلميهم فرحتهم وفخرهم بتمثيل مدرستنا في تقدمهم في الاختبارات الوطنية والدولية،

ia International Private School

مدرسة فرجينيا الدولية الخاصة

## IBT Test

الأكاديمي لطلابنا، ومن ثم تحليل النتائج التي لها الدور الأساسي في وضع صورة كاملة للوضوح للخطط المستقبلية على مستوى الفصول الدراسية المتابعة، كما تساعد المعلمين في تقديم الدعم الكامل والمستمر لطلابنا لتقديم ما هو أفضل بصورة مستمرة وتتابعية، وكانت تحليل النتائج مرضية وتوضح أن طلاب مدرسة فرجينيا دائماً فخورين وسعداء بما يتعلمونه داخل المجتمع المدرسي وأنهم يمثلون جزءاً هاماً في تشكيل وترجمة الصورة المُشرقة للتعليم والتعلم في مدرسة فرجينيا الدولية الخاصة.

*Ms. Rabaa and Mr. Mohammed Ghazy*

استكمالاً ومتابعةً للتعليم والتعلم الأكاديمي المستمر، والذي يهدف دائماً إلى متابعة مستويات التقدم الأكاديمي لطلاب مدرسة فرجينيا، تقدم للاختبار طلاب الصفوف من الثالث حتى التاسع، لطلاب اللغة العربية **A**، وفيما يخص طلاب اللغة العربية **B** فقد تقدم طلابنا للمستويات الأولى، الثاني، والثالث في اختبارات **IBT** في مهارات اللغة العربية، والذي تم إجراؤه في الفترة من 14 نوفمبر وحتى 24 من نفس الشهر، حيث يتم من خلال هذا الاختبار قياس مستوى تطور ونمو طلابنا في مهارات اللغة العربية، والذي بدوره يساعد معلمي اللغة العربية في الوقوف على المستوى



## Updates from The Islamic Department

والحديث الشريف وهذا ما قمنا بتحسينه في بعض الصفوف وأيضاً حصص التقوية التي يشارك بها بعض الطلاب لتحسين مهاراتهم بالتربية الإسلامية حتى تصل مدرستنا إلى المكانة التي نتشرف بها بالمجتمع المحلي. كما تم العمل على تدريب الطلاب على مخارج الحروف الصحيحة من خلال مقرر تلاوة موضوع من القسم يراعي مستويات طلابنا والفروق الفردية لديهم.

*Mr. Ayman*

خلال الفصل الدراسي الأول ، أظهر طلابنا من الصف الأول وحتى الصف الثاني عشر تفاعلاً متميزاً من خلال مشاركتهم بتقديم الفقرات المختلفة الخاصة بالقرآن الكريم والحديث الشريف باحتفال المولد النبوي ، حيث تمت المشاركة بالأنشطة الصفية، اللاصفية والفعاليات بالمناسبات الدينية المختلفة .

كما قام قسم التربية الإسلامية بعقد الاختبارات التشخيصية للمراحل العليا ببداية العام للعمل على معرفة نقاط القوة والضعف لبعض المهارات الأساسية للتربية الإسلامية والعمل مع الفريق على تطبيق برنامج موحد لتحسينها ومنها ، التلاوة والحفظ للقرآن الكريم

## MAP Test

As part of their ongoing progress track, grades 3 to 9 had completed their Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) program for the subjects of Maths, Science and English Language between the 17h of October to 11th of November 2021. Each MAP assessment uses a continuous interval scale, called the Rasch (RIT) unit scale score, to evaluate student growth and student mastery of various strand defined skills.

The RIT scores act as guides in helping teachers make decisions about differentiating instruction, which in turn can lead to gains in student learning,

student progress and improvements in school wide achievement. In differentiated instruction, individual teachers provide a more personalized instructional experience for students within their classroom.

Teachers maximize each student's growth and individual success by meeting each student where he or she is, and assisting in the learning process.

MAP tests are done twice a year and count for a measure of both effective teaching and learning in the classroom compared to students worldwide.

*Ms.Reema*

