# GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH









Newsletter Issue #21 11th February, 2021





Message from the Principal/CEO Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents,

As per the circular we received on 11/2/21 from the Authorities, due to the critical number of COVID cases in the community, for health & safety reasons

Sharjah schools are all moving to 100% RLP for 2 weeks. As educators we believe that our children need to be in school full time. We miss them in school & are looking forward to getting back to normal. However, we must put health & safety first during this pandemic & support the government's vaccination drive. We hope that you are well & safe, & assure you that our teachers remain fully committed to providing the best online experience possible. We thank you for your hard work, commitment to learning & ever-present support.

Take care & stay safe.





# Dates for Your Diary

5	
Date	Details
Thurs. 11th Feb to Thurs 25th Feb Inclu- sive	<ul> <li>Sharjah schools are now all on 100% online RLP, as per Authority instructions. Thank you for your support &amp; cooperation -we really appreciate it.</li> <li>Blended Programme in school resumes from Sunday 28th Feb.</li> </ul>
Sunday Feb. 7th Mon. 12th April	<ul> <li>System re-enrollment facility opens for Sept. '21 seats.</li> <li>Deadline book your seat online &amp; also to pay the AED500/- Seat Booking Fee is Thursday Monday 12th April. After this date seats will be given to the Waiting List.</li> <li>Seats Booking Fee can only be paid subject to clearance of full T2 fees.</li> <li>Seats will not be held beyond the last day of T3 if T3 fees remain pending. Any paid Seat Booking Fee would be lost. Seats would be given to the Waiting list, &amp; if parents decide later that they want a seat, this would be subject to availability, &amp; not guaranteed.</li> <li>You may change your mind about enrollment at WSS at any time, however the seat booking fee is non-refundable (but it will be deducted from T1 Fees, Sept-Dec. '21).</li> </ul>
Tues. 16th to Sat. 20th Feb.	School closed for Mid-Term 2 Break
Fri. 26th March to Sat. 10th April	T2 Spring Break (2 weeks)

Celebrating the UAE's 24th National Environment Day in Secondary.

Our Vision; 'Excellence Through Teamwork; Success For All'

For details of policies & procedures, please refer to our Parent Handbook found at: <a href="https://media.gemseducation.com/media/58401/parent-handbook-3620.pdf">https://media.gemseducation.com/media/58401/parent-handbook-3620.pdf</a>



# Top tips to deal with Cyber bullying

# **Tips for parents**

If your child is being bullied, **don't panic**. Explain to your child that the bullying is not their fault and together you will sort this out.

- Speak-Up; Encourage your children to report any type of incident that they feel is bullying or have hurt their feelings. They can share their concern from GEMS Classroom (see next page) or the Speak-Up form attached to Microsoft Teams Classroom.
- Bullying is never acceptable; and should always be taken seriously. It is never your child's fault if they've been bullied.
- Try and establish the facts. It can be helpful to keep a diary of events. If the bullying is online, save or copy images and text.
- 4. Find out what your child wants to happen. Help to identify steps you can take; and the skills they have to help sort out the situation. Make sure you always keep them informed about any actions you decide to take.
- 5. You may be tempted to tell your child to retaliate but this can have unpredictable results. Your child might get into trouble or get even more hurt. Rather role play non-violent ways they can respond to children that are bullying them (e.g. "I don't like it when you say that to me / do that to me. Stop."); show them how to block or unfriend people if the bullying is online and help them identify other friends or adults that can support them.
- Encourage your child to get involved in activities that build their confidence and esteem, and help them to form friendships outside of school (or wherever the bullying is taking place).

Encourage your children to share their concerns without hesitation. If they are not able to find time during school hours ask them to use GEMS Classroom to report any form of bullying or any other online safety related concerns. See next page to learn the process.







# WS

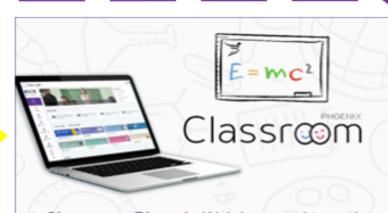
# E-Safety Reporting guide for students

How to report incidents/concerns

Using your browser,

Go to> Gems.ae

Click on Classroom



Classroom Phoenix Web is an end-to-end Learning Management System (LMS) connecting students, teachers and parents.

Click on Student

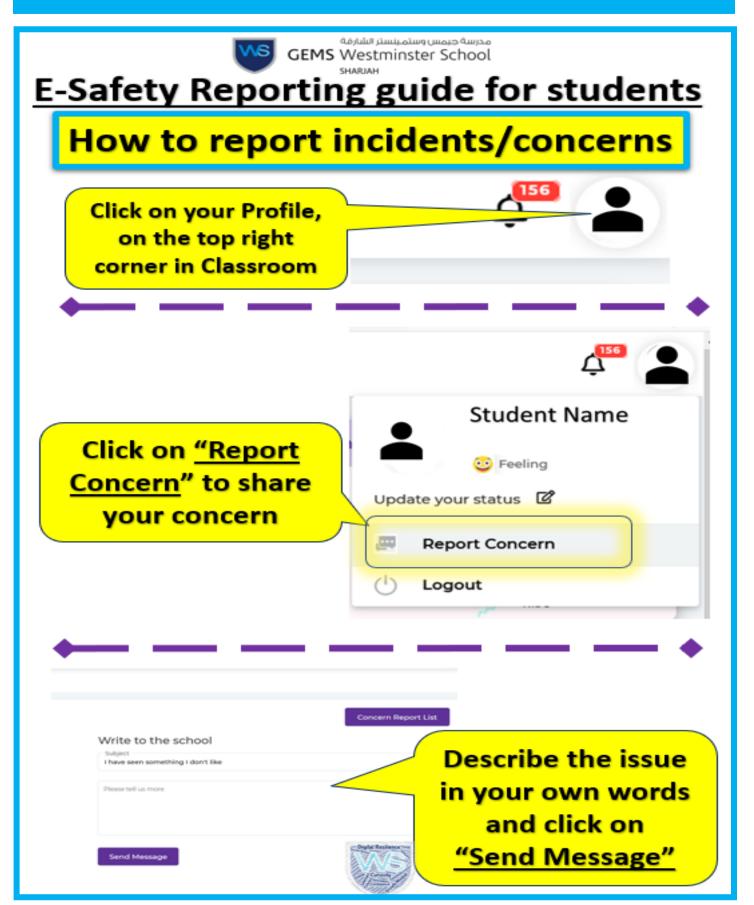
Use your ELearning id (TEAMS ID) and Password to sign in.











# Whole School News; The Digital Decode; Top Tips for Students!



# WSS Superstar Champions; Cricket Superstar Maroof!



Maroof (G10BD1) is a cricket superstar. He was included in the squad for a big club game for the Maratha Arabians recently. This is what he said about his experience,

"It was a great tournament playing alongside senior players such as Hafeez, Shoiab Malik, laurie Evans, etc. My debut game was a great experience bowling to Chris Gayle and Joe Clarke!"

Here is a report by proud HOD PE Mr. Jishar, "I am so happy to announce Another golden feather to the cap - Westminster school Sharjah, family. Maroof (G10 BD) played for 'MARATHA ARABIANS' in Alubond Abu Dhabi T 10 international cricket tournament, & was conferred with a very prestigious award as the Emerging player of UAE and the Youngest player of the tournament as well. Congratulations, Maroof!

I would like to thank Mr. Anil (Cricket team coach), the PE team and the Secondary Section for their great support in his achievement, with special thanks to Mahroof's Parents who always arranging great opportunities for his cricket carrier.

Youngest player of the tournament:

Emerging UAE all-rounder <u>Maroof Merchant</u>, at 15 years of age, is the youngest player to be drafted in 2020 <u>ADT10</u>. The youngster is a part of defending champions <u>Maratha Arabians</u>' squad and will rub shoulders with veterans <u>Shoaib Malik</u>, <u>Mohammed Hafeez</u>, and <u>Laurie Evans</u>. Maroof Merchant bowls leg-spin and is also a potent threat with the bat, even earning praise from former Indian cricketer Yuvraj Singh."

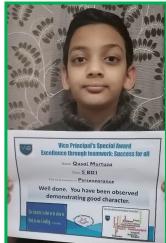
This is what Mr. Andrew, VP said, "I loved seeing him bowl to Chris Gayle (one of the best and biggest hitters of a cricket ball in the world!). Maroof showed super talent, super focus, super drive and super confidence! Well done Maroof and those who have supported him. Getting to this standard doesn't happen overnight, it takes years of hard work, sacrifice and grit. Super proud of him and the team. Well done!"



# WSS Superstar Champions!









# **STAR STUDENTS**



Star student: Mustafa - 9BF



jewel of Kindness: Yohan-9BS



Congratulations to Ms. Ismail for achieving this certificate; he was awarded 'Teacher of the month.' as his G6 class collected 1500 points during the month of January for reading 75 books just during that month!



# WSS Superstar E-Safety Champions!



Certificates earned by G11 PSHE students by learning <u>Pear Deck and Google's</u> <u>Be Internet Awesome</u> digital citizenship curriculum.







Congratulations to Maryam (G4H1) who was selected as the Student of the Week - Islamic.

# WSS Superstar Champions!





# **CHARACTER AWARD WINNERS**













The most important gifts you can give your child are a quality education and the values that will guide them through life

Sunny Varkey



### Whole School News



Our PPP met with the Principal Ms. Valerie & PRE Ms. Aiysha on Teams on 8/2/21 to discuss next steps, plans for T2, suggestions for improvement & the selection of a new Chairperson following the previous Chairperson's resignation. Returning members present were Ms. Abn, Ms. Mareille & Ms. Susan. We also welcomed new members Mr. Moh'd Ataba & Mr. Farid M. They will be selecting a new Chairperson shortly, & we will share details with you.

Positive parent-school partnerships are critical in school improvement & meeting the individual learning needs of all our dear students.

We have installed a new Emergency Evacuation Chair for the first floor to avoid having to carry a patient, in case of requirement.

#### What matters most to you in your child's Education?

# Student Voice

'Opportunities for students to comment on matters of their education'

# Student Wellbeing

'Attention to, and focus on, students' state of mind, happiness, positive relationships and experiences'

# Personalized Learning

'Customize learning in accordance with each student's strengths, needs, skills and interests'

#### Preparing students for the future

'Providing students with opportunities to develop the skills they need for beyond school'

Thank you to the many parents who completed the recent parent survey. We really appreciate the positive feedback & also your specific ideas for 'next steps' for school development.. The most useful feedback related to areas that are within school control, such as educational aspects & wellbeing (eg. issues related to COVID arrangements, traffic & fees are outside school's control, so we are unable to action these areas). The survey also identified that most parents value the above four aspects of education the most, which was a valuable insight into what truly matters. As a school we will be focusing on these four areas for development in the coming months, & sharing progress with you through Coffee Mornings & the Newsletters.

# Whole School News; WSS Vaccination Drive!



# Whole School News; WSS Vaccination Drive! 12

# **Junior Section News**



Wonderfully confident video by Moh'd Ali in Arabic. Anaya shared a cute video about dinosaurs. She was using advanced scientific vocabulary. Super job!

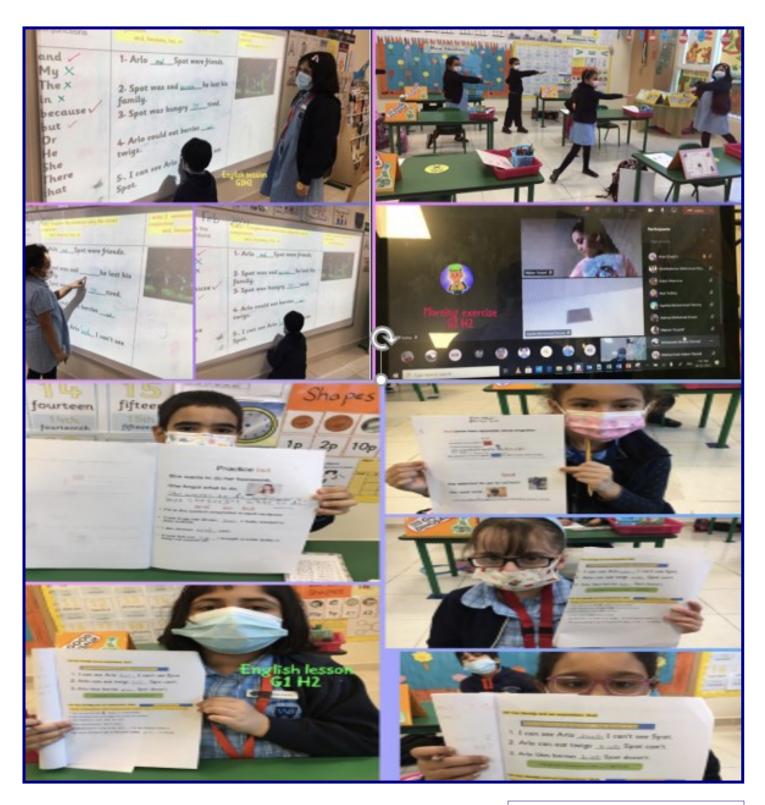




With Ms. Beena



# Junior Section News



G1H2 with Ms. Sabiha & Ms. Fathima

# Junior Section News; Community Helpers!



With Ms. Himaya



# Junior Section News; Community Helpers!



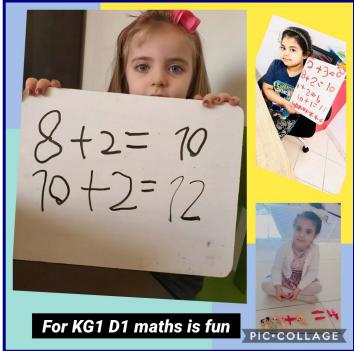
With Ms. Geraldine



# **Junior Section News**













# Primary Section News; Literacy & Reading Week!

#### Theme of the week - February 7th, 2021



#### Ways to encourage good reading habits in students

Reading is one of the most fundamental skills children need to learn to be successful.

By learning to make reading fun, the student is more likely to develop a love of reading, encouraging better reading habits and making learning easier. Here are a few ways:

#### CREATE A READING AREA.

Make an area for the student to read in with his or her help. Create the right ambience to create the interest from within.

#### ENCOURAGE READING AT HOME AND EVERYWHERE IN BETWEEN.

Teach your student that reading is more than just for books. Practice reading menus, movie names, road signs, game instructions, and more—show the student that reading is everywhere.

#### MAKE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN READING AND REAL LIFE.

Help your student apply what he or she is reading to everyday life. Making connections between books and the student's child's own experience can help increase his or her interest in reading.

#### READING SHOULD BE FUN, NOT FRUSTRATING!

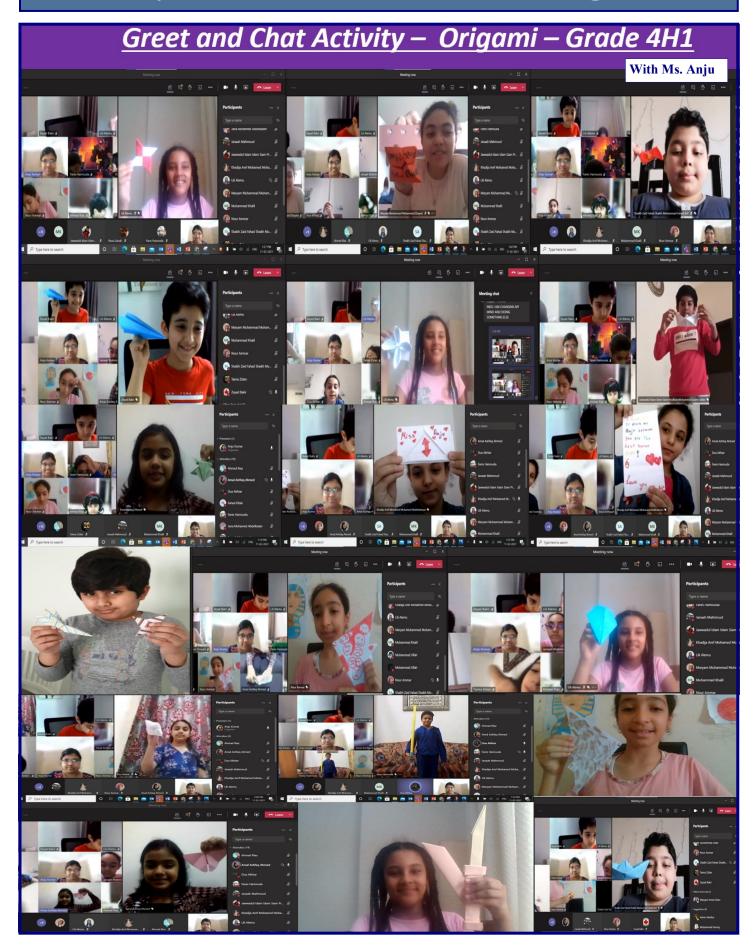
Use these tips to get the student interested in reading so he or she can become an even better learner. With a little focus and direction, you can help give your student the reading boost he or she needs.

"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader"

-Margaret Fuller

# Science Investigation – Solubility – Grade 4H1 With Ms. Anju Adham Ahmed Ahmed Maryam

# Primary Section News; Chat & Greet Wellbeing Time!

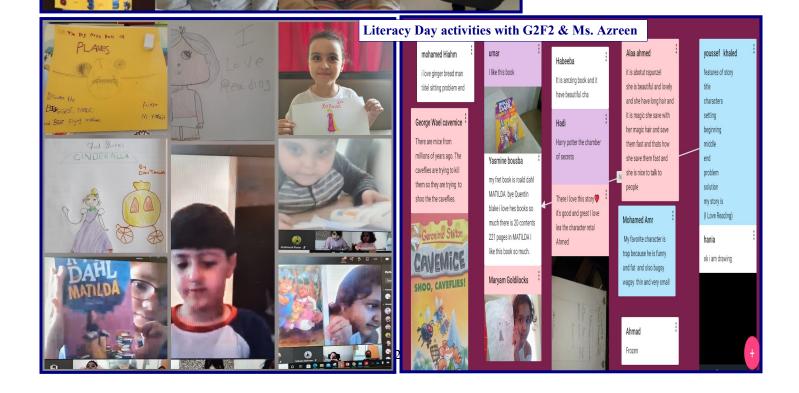


# Primary Section News; Literacy & Reading Week!

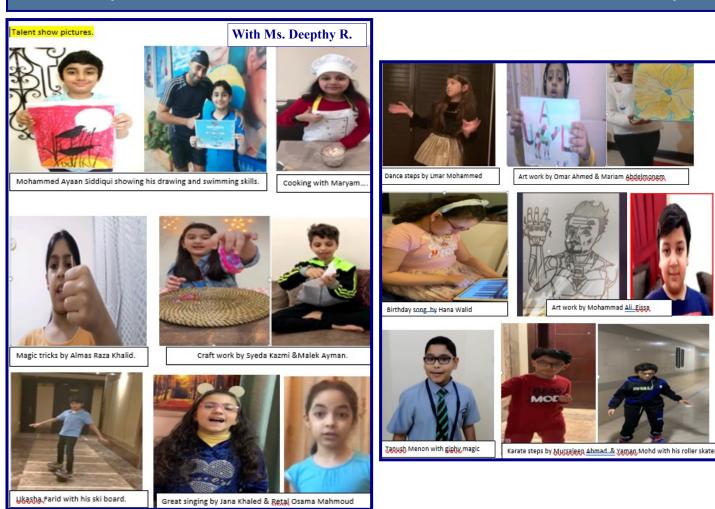




Maha (G4F1) solving a Rubik Cube in 1.14 minutes! Super skills!



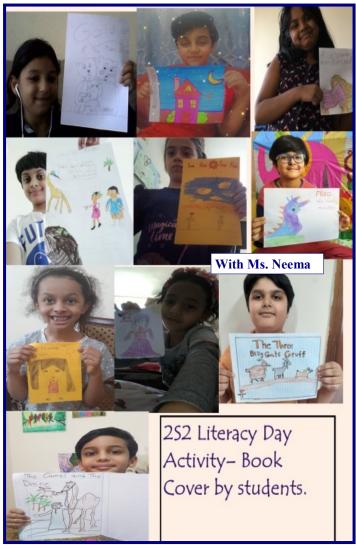
# Primary Section News; G4 Talent & Achievement Assembly!





# Primary Section News; Scintillating Science & Literacy Day!





# Primary Section News; Literacy Day!























With Ms. Lincy









4H1 Literacy Day Activity



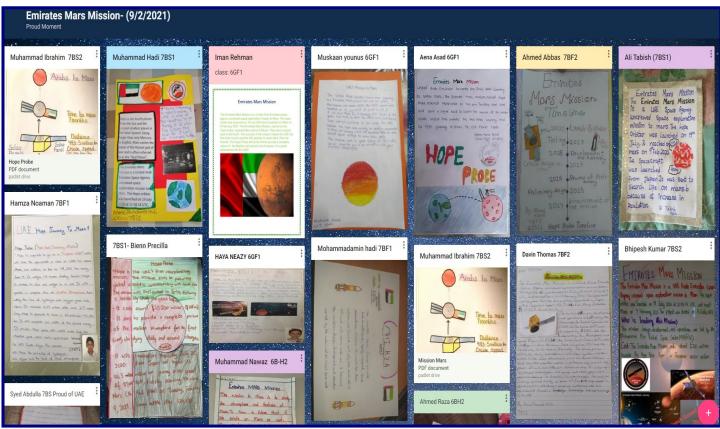


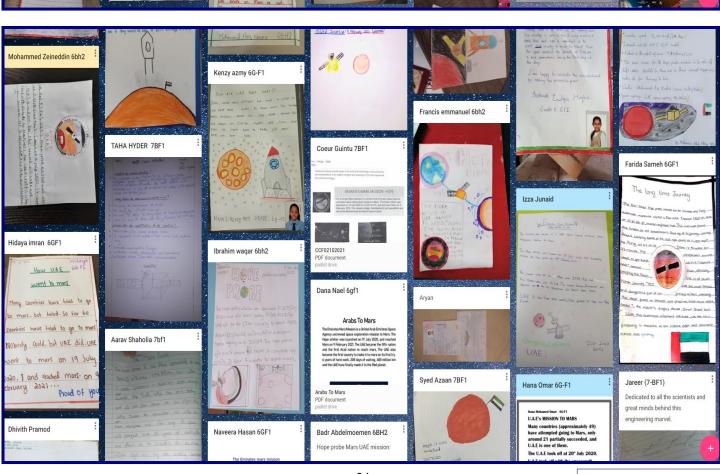






# Secondary Section News; The UAE's Mission to Mars!





# Secondary Section News; Celebrating UAE Environment Day

On 4/2/21 we celebrated the 24th UAE National Environment Day. The Department of Social Studies and Geography organized activities in Key Stage 3 to create awareness about the importance of conserving resources and habitats.

During Registration time, students were shown a video that highlighted the need to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and to change our habits to ensure we reduce our carbon footprint. We then shared a padlet link to enable the students to share their ideas. G6 & G7 students shared their messages about Environment Day while G8 students shared their pledges. We have also shared a home activity for creating posters, art work and models. We will have these pictures later.

Thanks to Ms. Indira, Ms. Shany, Ms. Sunumol, Ms. Nida, Ms. Theresa all the team leaders for KS3 Ms. Laneetha, Ms. Deepthi, Ms. Navdeep and Ms. Swati, & all the Form Tutors of KS for their ideas, support & encouragement which made this activity possible..



something to contribute towards this day. What about a small and intelligent campaign which empowers people to grow more trees and follow the 3rs and collects donation from pe that we can expand our campaign . Anybody can join for me shoping to get reply at the earliest

I take a pledge to use my own reusable bottles and refuse straws and plastic cutlery because I believe that taking small steps such as switching off non-essential lights and taps can go a long way to care for the environment when done by everyone.

Mayass Abdulsalam 8GH1

earth is our current home, without it, I bet that nothing is

to know when to turn off the running water, when to stop asting paper, and when to stop deforestation.

endangering animals. I want an earth witch is beautiful, full of

## padlet.com/indirapras/Grade6

#### UAE National Environment day

INDIRA PRASAD SEP 07, 2020 04:07AM

#### Hana Omar 6G-F1

we need to take care of the planet like how the planet takes care

just because we have 5 senses, that doesn't mean that we are the only living organisms on the planet, there are not only humans but plants and animals on earth too, and slowly the earth is getting stolen and we humans are the thieves.

Earth is basically the rarest thing in the entire universe, there might be another earth in another universe but we can't know sure, if you had the only cat in the world, wouldn't you want to take care of it, why don't you do that to earth?

it's basically the only one available that we know of.

so you might think you can't do anything to save the earth, here is where you go completely wrong, you have a very very very valuable and special chance of saving the earth, next time you think of saving the earth, stop thinking and start saving, every second will count, and if your wasting that opportunity to save the earth then you are wasting the opportunity of saving your

not only yours but every single organism's life, so doing one little thing to save the planet, will help everyone you know.

you can achieve it, but you won't if there is nowhere to stay.

hy is our planet falling and how?

green scenery, and most importantly clean.



#### Hana Omar 6G-F1

#### SAVE THE EARTH POEM

Why are you doing this? It's your life that you resist Don't you think we need to stop? Come on, it's the axe you need to drop

Don't you want it to be clean? Just like it was green Humans are being very mean That's enough, I have already seen

It is the most valuable

SAVE THE EARTH POEM

#### bledge to use paper pags

Made with the best of intentions

UAE National Environment Day 8

yaseen 8bh1

ne day the whole world will be sustainable

the way... cck out my YouTube channel Search Fux with Amena Hope

njoy subscribe like n share 😐



I pledge to reduce the amount of electricity I use and to reduce, reuse and recycle at any time or day.

#### rudrakshi

Reduce, reuse, and recycle. 2. Use Reusable Bags 3. Print as Little as Necessary 4. Use Reusable Beverage Containers 5. Save Electricity, Turn off the lights. 6. Avoid Taking Cars, Instead, ride

#### Eman Avesha Ghazi

8GD1 My pledge is to recycle anywhere possible and take care of our

#### Aamina Imran 7GH1

"I only feel angry when I see waste"

Time spent among trees is never time wasted



Shaima Shafeen-7GS1

# Secondary Section News; Celebrating UAE Environment Day



"If humanity has to live for a long time, you have to think like the Earth, act as the Earth and be the Earth because that is what you

#### Ahmed Abbas

15511

Something we all have in common is Earth so save it.

#### 7BF2: Mohammed Salam Aziz Bayram

Dear friend and teachers

Happy National and Environmental day!

when you are not using your iPhone, labtop or iPad charger pick it up and put it somewhere and only use it for charging

REDUCE

UAE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT DAY PLANT NOW, HARVEST REWARDS IN THE FUTURE!

Dear friends happy environmental day.

Reduce

#### Sellapperumage Tristen Jayson Fernando 7B-S2

Dear friend,

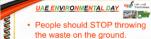
Please reduce your carbon footprint to save the environment. By Tristen

Carbon footprint is making the world's atmosphere warmer,

- but it's still a chemical gas.

   Reduce your carbon footprint.
  - Always recycle.
     Make the environment clean.





People should recycle things. People should use public transportation.

#### Komal Shafi 7GS1

With God's will, we shall continue to work to protect our environment and our wildlife, as did our forefathers before us. It is a duty, and, if we fail, our children, rightly, will reproach us for squandering an essential part of their inheritance, and of our heritage." - Sheikh Zaved bin Sultan Al Nahvan



#### 7BS1- Bienn Precilla

day, I hope you find ways to reduce your carbon footprint by: Use things that can be recycle 3R's- Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

and limiting transportation if the location is nearby, I hope you have done your part.

#### Ahmed Shahid 7BS1

as you know today is the UAE environmental day, so please make an extra effort of keeping the environment clean as you should

#### Meerab Naeem 7GS1



How has Global warming effected animals and US?



"We cherish our environment because it is an integral part of our country, our history and our heritage. On land and in the sea, our forefathers lived and survived in this environment. They were able to do so only because they recognized the need to conserve it, to take from it only what they needed to live, and to preserve it for succeeding generation."



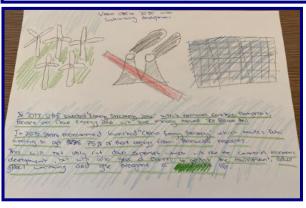
#### KADHEEJA MOHAMED FAZEEL

7GH1

The world is in your hands.





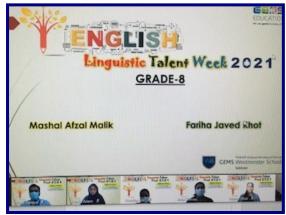




# Secondary Section News; English Linguistic Talent Week—Debating Competition!













The final round of the Debating Competition was held on 8/2/21. Topics included Education, Social Media, the application of IT in life & success.



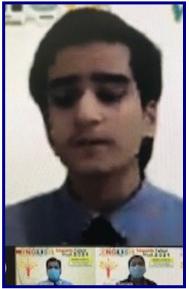




# Secondary Section News; English Linguistic Talent Week—Debating Competition!











Students spoke confidently & enthusiastically on their topic, using facts, clear arguments & passion to persuade their audience. Well done!







6BH1 Arjun Sujeev

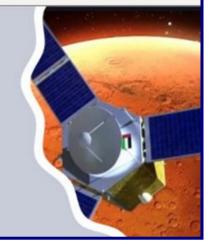
# Secondary Section News; The UAE's Hope Probe





#### Abeeha Zahrah Salman Ali 11:50 AM

# مسبار الأمل



#### Zainab Zubair-8gf1-id#4909

مركبة Hope الفضائية ، التي انطلقت من الأرض قبل سبعة أشهر ، توشك على الوصول إلى اللحظة الحاسمة في رحلتها الطويلة - الهبوط في المدار.

تتحرك حاليًا بسرعة تزيد عن 120000 كم / ساعة (75000 ميل في الساعة) ، ويجب أن تطلق محركات الكبح لمدة 27 دقيقة للتأكد من أنها ستلقطها جاذبية الكوكب.

سيمكن النجاح Hope من بدء مهمتها لدراسة مناخ المريخ.

وقال مدير المشروع عمران شرف "نحن ندخل مرحلة حرجة للغاية". "إنها مرحلة تحدد بشكل أساسي ما إذا كنا سنصل إلى المريخ أم لا ، وما إذا كنا سنكون قادرين على إجراء علومنا أم لا.

وقال أبي بي سي نيوز; "إذا ذهبنا ببطء شديد ، فإننا نتحطم على المريخ ، وإذا ذهبنا بسرعة كبيرة ، فإننا نتخطي المريخ".



اطلقت الإمارات مهمة الأمل في يوليو 2020 • واليوم هو يوم سعيد للغاية لأن مشروع الإمارات اليوم مييصل إلى المريخ وسيئيت ما إذا كانت هناك حياة على المريخ ، وإذا حدث هذا فستصبح الإمارات أول دولة في العالم نثيت ما إذا كان هناك المريخ .

حقا اليوم هو يوم سعيد للغاية .



Ms. Reem with G8GD & G8GF discussed about the Emirati 'Al Amal/ Hope' probe that is the first Arab exploration mission of its kind that approaches the orbit of the Red Planet Mars. The students wrote some super articles about it.

# Secondary Section News; UAE Vision for a Sustainable Future!

# UAE National Environment Day -Project Grade 8 **UAE Vision for a Sustainable Future**









TATHEER: 7 GH1

Mayass Abdul Salam-8GH1

Nawal Fatima-8GH1

Hina Abbas - 8GH1



PROJECTS BY STUDENTS FOR THE UAE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT DAY: Pencil holders from cardboard boxes

PENCIL HOLDER BY Nakshatra Preemon 6 GD1

Zainab Mahadi-8GH1

As part of the UAE Environment Day, projects were assigned to the students for Key Stage 3 as home assignments.

**Grade 6: Create a pencil holder** from Cardboard boxes and other recyclable materials

Grade 7: Create a model of a Sustainable City

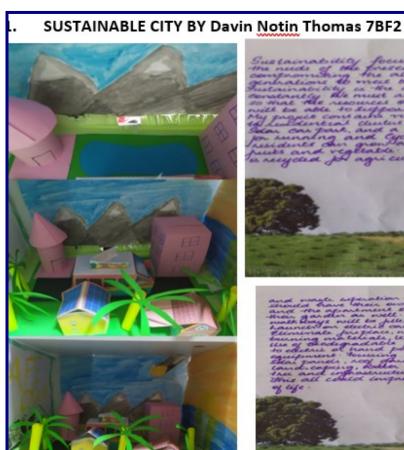
Grade 8: Create a poster 'UAE vision for a Sustainable Future'.

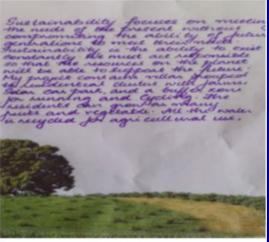


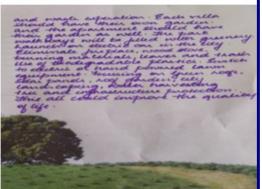


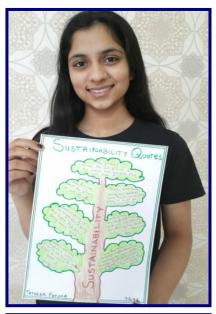
PENCIL HOLDER BY Shaheryar Sheikh Grade 6 GS

# Secondary Section News; UAE Vision for a Sustainable Future!

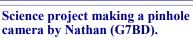
















# Secondary Section News; Science Club & Fun Activity!



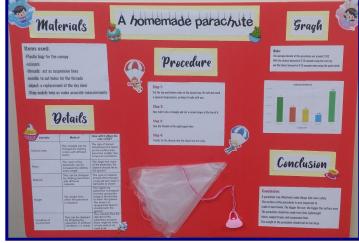


















# Secondary Section News; Fun Activity!





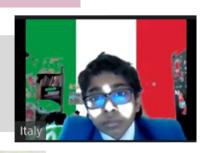


# Secondary Section News; WISMUN21!

# WISMUN'21 Compiled by Shaffa Zeenath of grade 11GH

Deepika Manral

Davin Thomas as the Delegate of Italy for UNDP

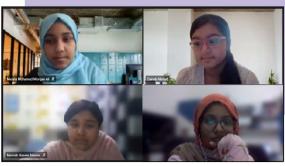


Vignesh Chandrashaker representing India with Mrs Deepika In FAO



Meerab Naeem of Grade 7 as China

Shaffa, a grade eleven student with former MUN experience, had several sessions with the some of the WISMUN attendees to give some tips and tricks they could use in the event



Zainab from grade eight gave some insight on her experience to Shaffa stating that she was amazed by the amount of knowledge she was able to gather on the country she was representing as well as the other





Thanks to Ms. Deepika who

countries in the MUN.