

RAHA REMINDERS

Gardens Campus

Whole School



Principal's Message

I hope you are well.

Well, that was the first week back! I think it is fair to say it was not the week we wanted. Moving online to teach is frustrating for everyone, and I hope it did not bring back any lockdown PTSD. The storm, sadly, is a reminder that we are living in a time of climatic change and need to be prepared for the future. With natural disasters, there generally is a next time. I intend to discuss the nature of online learning with you as parents, should we need it in the future. Having worked in a country that maintained online for children for over two and a half years, I have some strong experience with this, which, combined with your thoughts, should mean we will be prepared should this happen again.

On a much brighter note, Raha Gardens is starting to look back to normal today, and it is hard to believe it is the same school I walked into on Wednesday morning, which was a very dispiriting experience.

Click [HERE](#) for a video of Mr. Michael's latest status of the campus

We thank parents for the food they have sent to the cleaning team.

A big shout out to our support teams who took care of the school during and after the storm. Thanks to their dedicated work, our school will be safely ready to open on Monday.



New Date!

Coffee Morning

Mr. Michael is hosting the G10 Coffee morning at 8am in the Canteen on 24th April.



Parent Team Newsletter

Food Nation T2 Menu

Issue 26

Key Dates

- 16 Mar–8 Jun: La Alhambra Children's Play Prep (every Sat)
- 22–26 April: Raha Music Festival 2024
EY World book week & book fair
- 22 April: Teacher Led ECPs start
G12 MOE Final Exams (Arabic A/B – Listening)
G8DEF: Girls Parkour Trip – DXB, 8:15am
G10CD: F45 Fitness Trip
- 23 April: WBD Raha's book character dress up day
G8ABC: Girls Parkour Trip – DXB, 8:15am
G10AB & EF: F45 Trip
- 24 April: G10 Coffee Morning – 8:00am
PYP Symposium Day (several locations)
- 24–25 April: Raha Raptors Team Photos
- 25 April: G12 DP exams commence
Meet the Team – Canteen, 7:45–8:15am
G5 Islamic Sheikh Zayed Mosque Excursion 8:10
EY2 Emirates Park Zoo Trip (info on SchoolsBuddy)
G5 PYPX Parent Information session–8:00&5:00
- 29 April: G12 MoE Final Exam (Arabic A/B – R&W)
Grade 12 MoE Final Exam (Islamic A/B)



Storm damage at Gardens Campus

Yearbook 23/24 Sale

Get ready to secure your copy of the 2023/24 Raha Yearbook, available for sale next week! Hurry, as there are only 100 copies up for grabs on a first-come, first-served basis. Cost is 160 AED (cash only). Swing by the Raptors Nest before and after school from 24–26th April to purchase yours!

Emirates Transport Bus Survey

In order to continue to improve and offer superior service, it is important for us to hear from our families. If you have a child that takes the bus for school, please complete the short survey [HERE](#).



Don't forget your hat! We're rebuilding our campus shade. Stay cool!

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Collecting money from the Raha Reads Challenge!

Our hope is that every student raises at least 20dhs for the Red Crescent in the reading challenge. We know so many of our dedicated, enthusiastic students are very keen to log their participation. They can do this by taking their completed sponsor forms and clearly labelled envelopes (of money) to the primary or secondary libraries. If you prefer to make your payments directly to the Red Crescent online, please send (to the library) the issued receipt so we can evaluate the impact of the challenge (<https://www.emiratesrc.ae/>).

If you have any queries or questions please contact:

Ms. Teejay (tbutton@ris.ae) or

Ms. Hannah (haljneibi@ris.ae)



BookWorm Book Fair this Week

Hey book lovers! The storm may have kept us at home, but it couldn't dim our love of reading. Whether you raced through books in 'Raha Reads for Charity', or burned through your collection during online learning, the BookWorm Book Fair is a perfect opportunity to restock; offering a range of age-appropriate, quality examples of popular, modern fiction. Sustained reading is a practiced habit which leads to academic success. Remember: Children are statistically much more likely to read books that they select themselves!

Raha Music Festival 2024

The second *Raha Music Festival* begins on Monday 22nd April at 3.30pm in the KCC Black Box. Around 75 students from across both campuses performing on a variety of different instruments are competing against one another to be crowned 'Raha Young Musician 2024'. The Grand Final will be held on Friday 26th April at 7pm in the KCC Black Box. The full schedule and list of competitors can be found on the [website](#). Audience members are welcomed to all sessions. There is a AED10 CASH ONLY entry fee Mon-Thurs but it is free for the Grand Final on Friday evening.

[Schedule for Raptors team photos: click here](#)

[Term 2 Sports at Raha Newsletter](#)

Raha Raptor Sport Team Photos

If you played on a competitive sport team this academic year, don't miss having your picture taken with your team in the Black Box on Wednesday 24th April or Thursday 25th April. You can wear your sport uniform to school for the day that your photo is scheduled (if you were on swim squad/triathlon you can wear other team sport shorts or PE shorts if you only have the Raptors top.

Please arrive 5mins before your allocated time to ensure you are ready. Homeroom teachers will have the schedule and try to remind students of their time. There will be no make-ups due to the format of the picture. If you have any questions please email your coach and cc amckinnon@ris.ae

FAB Cycling Festival

Join us for a thrilling ride at the FAB Cycling Festival on Hdayriyat Island from 26 to 28 April! As the Raha community, let's pedal together for fun and fitness. Plus, the school with the most participation stands to win a fantastic Wolfi's Cycling Academy experience worth AED6000! Don't miss out, sign up now and let's race towards victory together click [HERE](#).



ECPs have started!

Sign-up is live! Register with our external providers

[IJF Football Academy SPECIAL OFFER](#)

Swim For Clean Seas

Jenna dos Ramas and Emma Verlosa Berhalia represented our school as ambassadors to help raise awareness on the importance of keeping our seas clean.

They attended a 3-week program in February in collaboration with SeaWorld on this worthy cause. We are hoping to get as many students (MYP and PYP) to participate in this event and support our ambassadors.

To find out more about this community initiative for clean seas click [HERE](#).

APR 21



Follow our social media accounts for Gardens updates and campus life!

Raha Riddles

What runs but never gets tired?

Last Week's Answer

What goes up but never comes down?
[Your age](#)

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Early Years

EY are going to Emirates Park Zoo

EY2's trip to Emirates park zoo has been **changed to Thursday 25th April**. Every child must have a hat and small backpack that they can carry themselves, please pack a refillable water bottle, sunscreen and snack & lunch inside ready for lots of fun at the zoo!

APR
25

NEW!

The Gruffalo's Child

22nd & 23rd May

The EY1 & EY2 theatre trip to see The Gruffalo's Child is now open for registration on SchoolsBuddy. Payments can be given to homeroom teachers up until one week before the trip.



EY Read-a-thon challenge

Please return all completed reading challenge logs to your homeroom teacher by Thursday 25th April. Ms Emily & Ms Kerry will be arranging certificates for our amazing bookworms!



APR
23

Book Character Dress Up Day

EY students are invited to dress up as their favourite book character and bring along the book they are from to talk about with their class. We cannot wait to see all our amazing characters.



Primary

APR
22

Teacher-led ECPs start

Students in these groups will be dismissed at the piazza at 4pm. Please collect them promptly.

Bookworm Book Fair

Primary classes will visit the book fair on their usual library borrowing day. Students are invited to bring spending money for books and/or visit with their parents after school.



APR
23

Book Character Dress Up Day

PY students are invited to dress up as their favourite book character and bring along the book they are from to talk about with their class. We cannot wait to see all our amazing characters.



APR
24

PYP Symposium Day
3rd annual conference-like event
Grade 5 PYP Exhibition
All day, several locations
+ 30 speakers from our community



Raha's sponsored read ends

Raha's sponsored read comes to an end next week. Please check the information shared on Toddle for more details.



Unit Five starts next week

Please see the new curriculum newsletters for Grade 1-4 [HERE](#). You will find an overview of the exciting new learning plus ideas for home learning to support at home.

Grade 5 has the PYP Exhibition unit so communication is being sent separately for this special time of inquiry.

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Secondary

Thought for the Week:

Welcome back! As we return from a refreshing three-week spring break, it's important to refocus and support our secondary school learners in re-establishing their daily routines. This transitional period is a valuable opportunity to reinforce the skills and attributes central to the IB learner profile—being principled, reflective, and balanced.

By focusing on these areas, we can support our learners in smoothly transitioning back into their academic routines and reaffirming their commitment to the values and skills fostered by the IB philosophy. Let's make the most of this term by providing our children with the support they need to succeed and grow as global citizens!

MYP Decoded Podcast

Episodes 15 and 16 of the MYP Decoded podcast are available on Apple, Spotify, etc – featuring six Raha MYP students.



G12 MoE Final Exams

Arabic Listening assessment will be in class during Arabic (timing on MS Forms). Arabic Reading assessment (MS Forms), Arabic writing assessment (on paper) and Islamic assessment (MS Forms) will take place in the auditorium.

All the best for our students!
Please click [HERE](#) for further details

Trying to re-establishing daily routines

Getting back into a routine can be challenging, but it's crucial for providing the structure and stability our children need to thrive. Here are a few strategies to help ease this transition:

- 1** **Structured Discussions:** Take some time to discuss what your child enjoyed over the break and what they are looking forward to in the coming weeks at school. This helps in making the transition a shared and reflective journey.
- 2** **Gradual Adjustments:** Rather than a sudden shift, gradually reintroduce school-year habits. This might mean adjusting bedtimes, mealtimes, and study periods incrementally.
- 3** **Set Clear Goals:** Help your child set realistic, achievable goals for the remainder of the school year. Discussing and writing down these goals can make them feel more tangible.
- 4** **Encourage Balance:** Balance is key in the IB philosophy. Encourage your child to balance their academic responsibilities with their extracurricular activities and personal time.
- 5** **Stay Engaged:** As parents, your ongoing interest and engagement in your child's education are vital. Regularly communicate with teachers, attend school events, and show interest in the IB topics your children are exploring.

Conscious Counselling Tips (CCTs): Support for Parents

In our commitment to nurturing well-rounded, principled learners, we recognize the importance of conscious technology use. This week, we recommend an enlightening article from [AfterBabel](#), which discusses the optimal age for children to begin using smartphones.

Aligning with our IB philosophy, the article offers thoughtful insights into how delaying smartphone use can benefit cognitive development, social skills, and emotional well-being. We encourage our parents to read and reflect on how these guidelines can support our shared goal of developing inquisitive, knowledgeable young minds.