

10th January 2012

Dear Parents,

May I first extend a warm welcome back to all our students, parents and staff, especially the new members of our school community. I feel privileged to take up the position as the new Director of Deira International School and am very much looking forward to the year ahead. I do not take my new responsibilities lightly. We are proud of the fact that you have entrusted your child's education with the teachers of this school.

DIS is making great strides forward towards the outstanding school we all want it to be. Even after only a few days it is quite obvious that DIS is a happy place to study and work, student teacher relationships are strong and respectful. That gives us a strong platform to further develop our school. We will continue to focus on learning and the quality of teaching. Whatever educational research you read the fact remains that the quality of the teacher in the classroom is the most critical component in achieving academic excellence, and to ensure children maximise their personal attainment and exceed their potential.

As a successful school we will never stand still; we will continually monitor and evaluate our progress so that we know exactly where we are and what we need to do to improve. Self-evaluation will permeate the school. Our philosophy will continue to be one of reflective analysis and we will share good practice which leads to improving the quality of teaching and learning in the classroom. We expect teachers to lead by example and demonstrate that they are 'Forever Learning, Forever Achieving'. The middle management of the school will be the conduit of school development and we will continue to professionally develop and invest in all staff.

Thank you to Norm Dean who has stepped into the Director's role for the past year. He has put the school in an extremely strong position for the future. The school has been fortunate to be able to call up an educational leader with his level of expertise and has benefitted from his balanced and professional approach. I look forward to working with him as our ESOL Education Consultant.

School Open Days for Potential Parents

The Primary School Open Day will take place on **Tuesday 24th January** followed by the Secondary School Open Day on **Wednesday 25th January**. These days will start with presentations at 9:15 a.m. followed by a guided walk around the school; school tours should finish by 11:15 a.m. Potential parents will have the opportunity to talk to staff about the curriculum offered and ask teachers and administrators about how the school functions. Advertisements will soon appear in The Gulf News and on our website.

International Day, March 3rd 2012

On Saturday 3rd March, 2012 we will be celebrating DIS International Day. This has become an important and popular event on our school calendar where we have the opportunity to celebrate the cultural diversity of our school community. There will be an impressive array of activities, displays, international performances and food from around the world to enjoy throughout the day. This is your opportunity to showcase and share your culture and experience some of the cultures of the 70+ nationalities represented in the school. It is also a wonderful opportunity to bring our school community together. Please ensure the date above goes in your diary.

We would be delighted if you would be involved in organising or contributing to our DIS International Day celebrations. There will be an **Organizing Committee meeting on Sunday 15th January in the**

Secondary Cafeteria at 3:00 p.m. for anyone who can help make this day as successful as in past years. Market sites and car boot sale sites are available to use on the day. If you have any good contacts of other suitable groups or organisations that would like some performance or marketing space please pass on their details to Mr Hare at AHare@disdubai.ae or leave the details with our ladies in reception. The attached form can also be returned to Mr Hare and he will contact you.

Parents' Meeting

I will be arranging a Parents' Meeting in early February so that I have an opportunity to meet as many parents as possible and answer all your questions. I will confirm the date in the next Primary School and Secondary School newsletters.

Thank you to all the teachers and administrative staff at DIS for their hard work and dedication. We have had a very smooth start to the second term. It has been a pleasure to meet some parents and of course your delightful children. I look forward to getting to know you and working with you and your children in the future.

Jeff Smith
Director

"Forever learning, forever achieving"

P.O. Box 79043 Dubai United Arab Emirates
Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151 www.disdubai.ae