

February 11, 2017

As the year progresses and we approach the end of the third quarter fast, I wanted to touch base with you. In this edition of the Principal's Desk I share with you several announcements and pieces of news. I encourage you to continue visiting our website, and to increase your use of EduNation.

### I Know I Can!

It is that time of the year again! It is time to register for the I Know I Can Summer Camp. It is a fun and challenging camp that takes place on both campuses. The upper school (FBS) will host grades 6 through 9 in an English enrichment course. SAT, TOEFL and ISLETS prep are also offered for grades 10 and 11. For more information please visit the official I Know I Can website.

<http://www.iknowican.net>

### Subject Overviews: Achievements and Works in Progress

Ever wonder what your child is learning in his current grade? Or what will they learn in the years to come? All this information is simply one click away. The subject

overviews for the MYP (DP to follow end of this academic year or during the summer) were uploaded on the website. Simply visit the link below and click on the subject overviews button.

<http://www.rfs.edu.ps/en/page/ib-middle-years-program?p=ib-middle-years-program>

Since the spring semester of 2015/2016, the school began weekly professional learning communities' meetings for faculty on Saturday afternoons. During those meetings we engage in collaborative planning and professional development for all teachers. A key focus for us is backward curricular mapping. We determine content and skills required for students in grade 12 and 11 and moved backwards to make sure that what we offer in the Middle Years Program better prepares students for the IB Diploma Program. And that what we teach helps students become better prepared for universities. We have a lot more to do, and while we were able to implement some changes, many others will come through time and accumulation. Our first set of backward planning

sessions focused on the MYP and its details. As you browse the MYP subject overviews, please feel free to ask any questions. You may contact the MYP Coordinator Mr. Mohammad Habbas ([mhabbas@rfs.edu.ps](mailto:mhabbas@rfs.edu.ps)) or myself ([rkafri@rfs.edu.ps](mailto:rkafri@rfs.edu.ps)).

### New Report Cards

By now most of you accessed their children's report cards and noticed the new MYP school reports. I hope you liked them. A special thank you for the team who worked endlessly over the past four months to make this transition happen. Please spend some time going through your child's report, and give us your feedback.

School reports are a key form of communication with parents, and considering that the MYP looks at students holistically, we chose to offer you a report that offers more information than just numbers. I ask that you are patient with us as we work out the programming bugs especially in the IBDP report cards.



If you have any further questions, please contact Mr. Salim Zughayyar ([szughayer@rfs.edu.ps](mailto:szughayer@rfs.edu.ps)) or Ms. Wafa Asmar ([wasmar@rfs.edu.ps](mailto:wasmar@rfs.edu.ps)). They are ready and available to assist you.

#### **A Reminder about Tuition**

We kindly remind you to please continue to make tuition payments on time. Your commitment to the school is a commitment to your children. We thank all of you who pay on time, and we urge any of you who needs further assistance in making arrangements to contact me via email or make an appointment to meet with myself and the accounting team.

#### **Professional Development**

Our teachers are participating in IB professional development workshops across the world. Workshops range from subject specific MYP or DP workshops to training on interdisciplinary learning, approaches to learning and inquiry based learning and teaching. On average we have three to four faculty

members away once to twice a month to attend IBO certified workshops in Amman, Dubai and various cities in Europe.

We are committed to professional development, and half and full day PD days are part of our commitment. Our next full professional PD was originally scheduled on Thursday February 16, 2017; it will now take place on Saturday February 18, 2017 to keep the school calendar unified between both the lower (FGS) and upper (FBS) school.

#### **Evaluation Visit**

As you may already know from previous communications, we are now up for the five-year IBO MYP evaluation visit. The evaluation process is a one year to 18-month process. It includes the submission of several school documents which we successfully completed on December 1, 2016, including a self-study report that incorporated your feedback from the MYP surveys conducted in November. Last summer we submitted sample unit

plans and received positive feedback on all sixteen of them. The upcoming visit will take place from February 27-March 1, 2017. We will welcome to our campus to IB educators, one from a school in Egypt and another from France. They will spend three days talking to the school community about the MYP. Evaluation visits are a professional development opportunity for the entire school. It allows us to identify areas of strength and areas that need improvement.

#### **Focus Groups Survey**

Please help us determine when is the best time to hold focus groups to discuss the results of the MYP Self Reflection survey conducted in November. If you have not done so kindly take our survey by visiting the link below. It only takes two minutes! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MYPReflection>

Further details will be shared.



### **The MYP Corner: Global Contexts**

What is a global context exactly? Good question. In an effort to spread further awareness about the MYP and its various components, I will start writing short pieces that answer frequently asked questions. This week we begin with global contexts.

The MYP has six global contexts. They aim at contextualizing knowledge and learning. Often students ask, why do I need to know this? Why is physics important? I do not want to learn math; do I really have to? Connecting content with context is key at making sense of the knowledge we acquire. In the MYP we do this through the Global Context. Those stem from the PYP transdisciplinary themes. Each unit is connected to one of them, and teachers as well as students must connect the inquiry, content and activities in the unit to the specified global context. For a more detailed description of each one of the six contexts please visit the link to our website listed below and click Global Contexts.

<http://www.rfs.edu.ps/en/page/ib-middle-years-program?p=ib-middle-years-program>

I am available to answer questions via email [rkafri@rfs.edu.ps](mailto:rkafri@rfs.edu.ps) . I am also available to meet, please email or call to set up an appointment.