

ABU DHABI GRAMMAR SCHOOL (CANADA)

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Together We Make the Difference!

WEBSITE: <http://www.agsgrmmr.sch.ae>

Date: Thursday, September 8, 2011

What's Happening?

Wednesday 28 September
Tuesday 27 September 7, 2011

Curriculum Night
University Fair

7pm
1pm

Welcome Back

Welcome back to a new year at Abu Dhabi Grammar School (Canada). We hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable summer and that the children are now refreshed and looking forward an exciting year ahead. A warm welcome to all the new families who have joined our school community.

We welcome our new school administrator to Abu Dhabi Grammar School (Canada); Annmarie MacInnes, from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Ms Annmarie has been a principal in Canada for 15 years and has taught internationally in Germany and Japan as well as in Canada.

We are also pleased to welcome the following new staff to AGS and wish them a very successful year.

KG 2A	Brittany Smith
1A	Barbara Tomlinson
1B	Sarah Braydon
3B	Tanya LeClair
3C	Makaela Pena
5A	Laura Conrad
5C	Shanon Little
6B	Iman Babadi
7A	Kimberley Stock
8A	Jaimes Rebecca Bue
8B	Lauren Dowling
High School	Daniel Weber
High School	Jo-Ann Wickware
Music KG to 6	Diana Damato

Newsletter

This school newsletter will be published on a monthly basis. Please ensure that your child brings it home to you so that you are informed about school happenings.

Curriculum Night

Our curriculum night for parents will be held on Wednesday 28 September. There will be a short presentation and introduction in the gymnasium at 7:00 pm. After this parents can meet the teachers for each grade in the classrooms until 8:00 pm.

Preparing for University ME Education Initiative

The sixth annual Middle East Education Initiative is taking place once again for students in Grades 11 & 12. Students and parents will have the opportunity to meet representatives from Canadian universities who will be visiting Abu Dhabi. The Canadian delegation will be visiting AGS on September 27, at 1:00 p.m. in the gymnasium. This will be a great opportunity for you to obtain information on study opportunities in Canada, and the chance to discuss any inquiries you may have about studying in Canada.

School Times

KG to Grade 2	8:00 am to 1:30 pm
Grade 3 to 12	8:00 am to 3:00 pm

If your child is going to be absent for a day you must inform the school by the beginning of the school day.

Please ensure your child is at school prior to the first bell at 7:55 am. All students must report to **Ms Rola** if they come to school late so it can be recorded in the Late Book.

If you wish to pick up your child early from school you must report to the main office. The receptionist will sign your child out of the school. Thank you for your co-operation with these procedures.

School Site Access

After 8:10 am you will have to access the school through the main office. If you need to access the school site during school hours you will have to see Sibel or Rania at the front office and obtain a Visitor's Badge. We are implementing these procedures to ensure the safety of all students at AGS.

Our other secretaries Rola and Damia will be working at the reception area for teachers and students. If you need to see a teacher or an administrator, please make an appointment through the school office.

At **1:30 pm** the side gate will be opened for parents to pick up their children from KG to Grade 2.

AGS School Uniform

The AGS school uniform consists of the following:

- LONG black AGS pants
- Collared AGS T-Shirt
- Dark shoes and white socks
- Black sweater (*an AGS sweater will soon be available*)

The AGS sports uniform consists of:

- Black AGS PE shorts
- AGS T-Shirt

All students are expected to wear their AGS PE shorts to physical education classes only. They **are not** to be worn in the classroom. If a student is not dressed in the correct PE uniform they will not participate in the PE lesson and this will affect their grade for PE.

PLEASE NOTE: Parents will be asked to bring the correct AGS uniform to school if their child does not wear the correct uniform to school.

Update of Medical Records

Could parents please visit the nurse in the School Clinic if there are any changes to report regarding the health of your child. It is especially important to bring in any medications that a child needs for conditions such as: allergies, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy. Children requiring the use of Epi-pens for severe allergic reactions **MUST** provide an Epi-pen for the School Clinic. Thank you for your cooperation.

Medical And Dental Appointments

All appointments for doctors and dentists should be made outside of school hours. If you have to schedule

an appointment during school hours, please send a **WRITTEN NOTE** to your child's teacher detailing the appointment time and the arrangements for picking up your child. The absence is then excused, everybody is aware of the appointment and the note is placed in the child's file.

Bus Procedures

If your child travels in a school bus to and from school could you please reinforce the following bus rules with them.

Simple Bus Rules (FOR SAFETY)

School begins when you board the bus. Use ordinary conversation. Unusual and/or loud noises do distract the driver.

Treat your drivers and bus helpers with courtesy: they are responsible for your safety. If they ask you to do something, please do it as quickly as possible.

Be on time at your bus stop, five (**5**) minutes prior to the scheduled departure time, and, while there, wait in an orderly manner. Stand well back from the side of the road and be watchful of younger children.

When crossing a street to get to or leave the bus stop, look both ways first, then walk with extreme caution across in front of the bus if no cars are coming. Most accidents occur when children are crossing a street or road. Do not run across.

While on the bus, sit in the seat or area designated by the driver. As long as the bus is in motion, remain in the seat, facing front, feet on the floor. Keep books, material, your head, arms, and other parts of your body, inside the bus at all times. Do not throw anything out of the bus.

Parcels, books, feet, or other obstructions must not extend into the aisle or bus stairwells at any time.

Treat the bus equipment as you would your own personal belongings at home; you will be held responsible for any willful damage you may cause. No food or drink is to be consumed on the bus.

Failure to obey these bus rules may lead to the total loss of bus privileges.

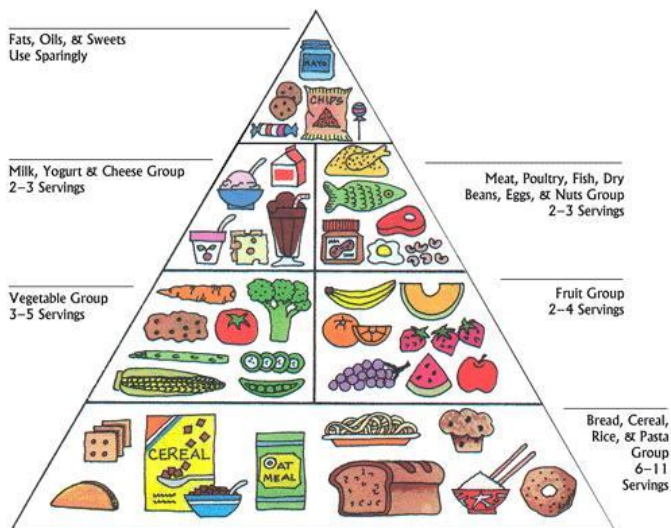
Healthy Lunches

Healthy eating patterns are essential for students to achieve their full academic potential, full physical and mental growth and life long health and well-being.

We are discouraging students from bringing unhealthy snacks or lunches to school. Items such as

chips, chocolates, candy, chocolate cookies and pop are not be brought to school.

There are 4 Food Groups that we need to eat from each day. They are Milk and Milk Products; Meat and Alternatives; Breads and Cereals; and Fruit and Vegetables. Students should be aiming to choose 1 serving from each of the 4 Food groups during every meal and to choose snacks from the Fruits and Vegetable Group.



'No Nut' Policy

Our school has some children who suffer from severe nut allergies causing potential fatal reactions to the ingestion of either nuts or nut products (even close proximity to nut related products could cause attacks).

The school is now a **NUT FREE ZONE**. We ask parents to please avoid either nuts or known nut products in snacks, eg peanut butter, Nutella chocolate spread, etc.

Your co-operation in this important safety matter is greatly appreciated. The school should be made aware of any allergies your child may have.

Celebratory Food Gifts

Please do not bring to school any birthday cakes or party food to be shared in the classroom. Whilst very well-meaning, it creates health and logistical problems at the school. We have many children at the school with food allergies. Furthermore, we are also trying to encourage healthy eating.

DEAR Program



DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) is an important part of our school day.. Every class has DEAR (silent reading) from 8:10 to 8:20 each day. It is an opportunity for students to read material of their own choice. This program is meant to encourage independent reading and to help children want to read more at home. It can be one more tool for developing lifelong readers.

Please ensure that your child has reading material each day for the DEAR program.

Cell Phones

A reminder to all students and parents that cell phones are not permitted to be used during the school day or inside school property. Cell phones must be stored during the day and not used. If a student uses a cell phone the phone will be taken and a parent must pick it up in the office. A second offence will result in the phone being kept at school until the end of the year.

Lates

Being late for class is very disruptive for all students. Students who enter the classroom late interrupt all of the other students, the teacher and their own learning by having to catch up to what is going on in the classroom. Please make every effort to get your children to school on time and encourage our older students to get out the door and to school on time. Those students in Jr High and High School who are late on a consistent basis face weekly detentions after school. This gives students an opportunity to catch up on the work that they missed when they were not in class to hear instruction.

Please help us resolve this issue of dealing with students being late. Thank you!

Expectations at AGS (Canada)

The following are some expectations for students attending Abu Dhabi Grammar School (Canada)

- Follow the nut safe policy
- Follow school cell phone policy
- Dress appropriately
- Place garbage and recyclables in the proper containers
- Use appropriate language
- Respect yourself
- Allow others to move freely in the halls

Expectations Continued

- Enter the building through the stairs to your classroom area only
- Respect school property and the property of others
- Use the proper stairways to and from classes
- School is a gum and substance free zone

Classrooms

- Arrive on time
- Be prepared
- Use appropriate language
- Respect the rights of others to learn
- Leave your work area tidy

Cafeteria

- Place garbage and recyclables in the proper containers
- Use the chairs, not tables, for sitting

Library:

- Food free zone
- Maintain a quiet and courteous learning environment

School Events:

- Remember you represent AGS (Canada) when attending school events
- Be supportive and positive

Gymnasium:

- Arrive to class on time.
- Gymnasium is a food and gum free zone
- Participation requires that you change into appropriate gym wear:

We look forward to an exciting year at Abu Dhabi Grammar School (Canada) and look forward to working closely with you throughout the year.

Please do not hesitate to contact teachers or school administration if you have any questions or concerns. Good communication is key for our students to have the most positive experience possible at school

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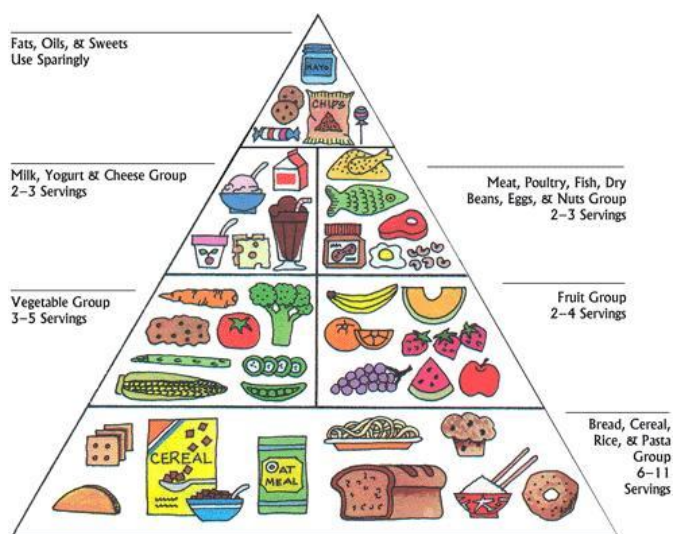
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