

KS Scoop

A NEWSLETTER SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF POSITIVE SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

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MEET THE TEACHER | JOIN US ON SEPTEMBER 14TH

Kingdom School will host its first annual Meet-the-Teacher on Thursday, September 14, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. All campuses – KG, GIE, GIH, BIE and BIH will be open for this beginning-of-year event. This is the perfect opportunity for your child to visit Kingdom School, locate his/her classroom, and meet the teacher.

If you are in the city, please stop by to meet the teacher before the official start of school on Sunday, September 17, 2017. We look forward to seeing you!

COMMUNICATION@REDIKER

ATTENDANCE

During the 2016-17 school year, KS introduced the use of the Rediker Student Management Information system. We will continue to utilize Rediker to keep track of daily / period attendance. It's our goal that each student is motivated and excited to attend school and arrive on time. We'll keep you informed of your child's attendance throughout the year. Attendance information is also provided on all quarterly report cards. Thank you in advance for helping your child to arrive to school on time and attend every day!

STUDENT PROGRESS

Rediker hosts a teacher gradebook tool – the place where teachers enter student grades on classwork and assessment to determine student progress. As teachers 'post' grades, parents log on to see their child's progress. This allows a parent to have instant access to their child's academic information.

Additionally, KS uses Rediker to generate quarterly report cards. Each quarter (KG – quarters 2, 3, & 4) report cards will be generated and sent home.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

NEW!

This year, KS will integrate the Rediker discipline and parent portal component. This will allow parents to access a 'one-stop-shop' for student information and will take the place of MyLearning.

Parent login emails will be generated and sent out on Sunday, September 17, 2017. Please check your email and junk mail, and follow the directions to create your Rediker Parent Portal access account. Thank you!

MEET THE TEAM – KS ADMINISTRATORS

Dear Kingdom School Families,

My name is Dr. Gina Vukovich and I am excited to represent the Kingdom International School as the Academic Dean for grades preK-12. I anticipate a productive and successful year with your children, and I extend a warm welcome to you! We have a great administrative team in place this year! We look forward to collaborating with you to provide our KS students with a rigorous, engaging, and high-quality school experience. I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce to you the Kingdom International School administrative team.

Ms. Zahera Honinie is the Administrative Vice Principal of the **Girls' International Kindergarten School**. She oversees grades PreK-KG2 where she manages the day-to-day supervision of student care and protection, discipline, attendance as well as office staff coordination. She has a BA in English Literature and Childhood Education from Lebanon. Zahera joined Kingdom School in 2004 as a classroom teacher. Four years later she became the KG curriculum leader, which has led her to her current role. She strongly believes that her goal is to empower students to successfully pursue lifelong learning so they can adapt and successfully navigate the challenges of universal change.

Ms. Katina L. Walton is currently the Academic Vice Principal of the **Girls' International Kindergarten School**. She supervises grades PreK-KG2 where she manages the teaching and learning around curriculum development, focusing specifically on the planning and implementation of the academic program as well as the evaluation of teaching and learning. Katina is a global educator whose mission is to teach with a global point of view. She is a caring educator with over eighteen years of teaching and leadership experience and has a firm belief that the legacy we leave behind is based on the quality of education we provide today.

Mrs. Rawan Altal is the Administrative Vice Principal of the **Girls' International Elementary School**. She oversees grades 1-2 where she manages the day-to-day supervision of student care and protection, discipline, attendance as well as office staff coordination. She has worked for Kingdom School for twelve years. Mrs. Altal believes a collaborative school environment is the key to creating successful teachers and students. She believes partnerships with parents and community partners are essential to enriching the experience at Kingdom International School.

Ms. Rebecca Stinson is currently the Academic Vice Principal of the **Girls' International Elementary School**. She supervises grades 1-2 where she manages the teaching and learning around curriculum development, focusing specifically on the planning and implementation of the academic program as well as the evaluation of teaching and learning. Rebecca is an author of two leadership books and the former principal of two elementary schools in the Chicago Public School (CPS) system, where she led for 14 years. As the founding principal of both schools, Rebecca was recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education for her leadership skills, which put the school in the top seven percent of schools that were accelerating, or experiencing positive change in academics and school climate. Rebecca has a passion for collaborating with teachers to achieve success.

Mrs. Nisreen Al Amari is the Administrative Vice Principal of the **Girls' International Elementary School**. She oversees grades 3-6 where she manages the day-to-day supervision of student care and protection, discipline, attendance as well as office staff coordination. Nisreen has a Bachelor's Degree in Arabic Language. She began her teaching career at Kingdom School in 2003 where she started as an Arabic language teacher. Nisreen coordinates the K-12 Arabic language program, which she has done since 2008. She also oversees the Islamic Studies instructional program. She has several certificates of accreditation as a professional development trainer and supports KS with the implementation of KAGAN cooperative learning strategies.

Ms. Anna Hammernik is currently the Academic Vice Principal of the **Girls' International Elementary School**. She supervises grades 3-6 where she manages the teaching and learning around curriculum development, focusing specifically on the planning and implementation of the academic program as well as the evaluation of teaching and learning. She has been in education for more than 20 years and has worked in four countries. Most recently, she was serving as a Head of Faculty in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. Anna has degrees in Educational Support, Elementary Education and Cultural Foundations of Education from Alverno College and the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee.

Mrs. Mawahib Al Mogbel is the Administrative Vice Principal of the **Girls' International High School**. She oversees grades 7-12 where she manages the day-to-day supervision of student care and protection, discipline, attendance as well as office staff coordination. Mawahib was educated in the U.S.A. at the American University in Washington, D.C. where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Sociology. She began her education career at Kingdom School in 2002 as an English classroom teacher. Her varied leadership experiences have led her to her current role as Administrative Vice Principal.

Ms. Saiqa Khan is currently the Academic Vice Principal of the **Girls' International High School**. She supervises grades 7-12 where she manages the teaching and learning around curriculum development, focusing specifically on the planning and implementation of the academic program as well as the evaluation of teaching and learning. Saiqa is from the United Kingdom and joined Kingdom School in 2011 as a high school English teacher. She has been in education for over ten years and has earned a BA in Applied Social Studies. She is currently working on a Master's degree in Education, Leadership, and Management. Outside of her school time she is a busy mom raising two teenage boys!

MEET THE TEAM – Continued...

Mr. Mohammad Khader is the Administrative Vice Principal of the Boys' International Elementary School. He oversees grades 4-6 where he manages the day-to-day supervision of student care and protection, discipline, attendance as well as office staff coordination. Mr. Mohammad is from Jordan where he received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Education from Yarmouk University. He was an Arabic language teacher for five years at the Ministry of Education in Jordan before joining Kingdom School in 2004 where he has held the positions of classroom teacher, grade level leader, and Arabic coordinator. Mohammad was part of the GEMS transition team and has participating in several internal and external GEMS professional development courses.

Mr. Robert Hagenbucher is the Academic Vice Principal of the **Boys' International Elementary School**. He supervises grades 4-6 where he manages the teaching and learning around curriculum development, focusing specifically on the planning and implementation of the academic program as well as the evaluation of teaching and learning. He is a school leader with more than 25 years of experience in the field of education. Robert studied in the United States where he earned an undergraduate degree in Education and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership. He has worked in U.S. public school and overseas international schools. Robert served as Associate Principal for the Anglo-American School of Russia, St. Petersburg, Director of the American School of Durango, Mexico, Elementary and High School Principal for Davy College- an IB World/Advance Ed school located in Northern Peru and as K-12 Principal for Doshisha International School in Kyoto, Japan.

Mr. Saeb Khasawneh is the Administrative Vice Principal of the **Boys' International High School**. He oversees grades 7-12 where he manages the day-to-day supervision of student care and protection, discipline, attendance as well as office staff coordination. He holds a Master's in Education and has had a variety of educational experiences – elementary and high school math teacher, coordinator, and academic supervisor. These experiences have led him to his current role as Administrative Vice Principal. Additionally, Mr. Saeb is currently participating in the GEMS Leadership Program.

Mr. Yusuf Ashworth joins the KS team this year as the Academic Vice Principal of the **Boys' International High School**. He supervises grades 7-12 where he manages the teaching and learning around curriculum development, focusing specifically on the planning and implementation of the academic program as well as the evaluation of teaching and learning. His educational background includes a degree in Linguistics from Cambridge and a master's in Economics from the LSE. Building on this platform, he has progressed in his career in education for over 24 years, much of which has been spent in educational management and training. He has a passion for learning and introducing innovative educational practices that are student-centered first and foremost. He is delighted to join the team at Kingdom Schools and hope to work very closely with parents and students alike.

We recognize the importance of a strong home-school connection. Parents are every child's first teacher and we believe that by working together, we will ensure your child's social, emotional, and academic needs are met. Additionally, we believe that great schools are the result of great teachers, so our primary objective is to ensure that every student receives high-quality instruction from every teacher at Kingdom School.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you! Do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas you would like to share (275-5555, Ext. 3660 or 3646). Please ensure you stay in contact with the school – visit our website, follow our social media sites, ask your child about Rediker, and update your contact details to receive SMS or email messages.

If you would like to meet with me or other members of the administration team, please contact the school office to schedule an appointment. Scheduling an appointment ahead of time will ensure a chance to meet, and for us to give you our full attention. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Gina Vukovich, Ed.D.
Academic Dean
Kingdom International School Program



What's New?

Textbooks

Kingdom School will utilize Pearson textbooks this year - one of many resources to help our students successfully meet the Common Core State Standards. Here's a breakdown of what is provided to students:

- Preschool & KG1: Pandy and Friends phonemic awareness and phonics early literacy series
- KG2: Reading Street Literacy, EnVision Math, & Interactive Science
- Grades 1-6: Reading Street Literacy, EnVision Math, & Interactive Science
- Grades 7-8: Writing Coach, Course Math, & Interactive Science
- Grades 9-12: Writing Coach and previously purchased subject area textbooks

Students will receive one login account from Pearson, which will allow online access to all textbooks and accompanying resources. This means all resources are readily available through a computer, laptop, and/or tablet.

Although we highly discourage 'textbooks traveling to and from school', it is certainly your option to request your child to bring his/her textbooks to/from school. Please remember, textbooks are very heavy and can easily weigh down a backpack. Again, all resources are available online for easy and convenient access. Thank you.

Visitor Sign-In Policy

Each International Campus – KG, GIE, GIH, BIE & BIH will have visitor sign-in books located at the reception area of the school building. The purpose of this policy is to provide a safe and secure environment for our students, staff, and resources by establishing guidelines and procedures in relation to visitors to the school. Our goal is to effectively monitor and manage visitors, while not compromising the open and inviting nature of our school.

KS, as part of the wider community, seeks to provide an open and friendly learning environment where appropriate visitors are valued and their presence is actively encouraged. At the same time, we recognize our duty of care to ensure a safe environment for our students and staff. Thank you in advance for your continued cooperation.

- Once on site, all visitors must report to the school's reception area first.
- No visitor is permitted to enter the school via any other entrance.
- At reception, all visitors must state the purpose of their visit and who has invited them. They should be ready to produce formal identification upon request.
- All visitors will be asked to sign the Visitor Sign-in book, which is kept in reception making note of their name, organization, and who they are visiting.
- Visitors will then be escorted to their point of contact OR their point of contact will be asked to come to reception to receive the visitor. The contact person will then be responsible for them while they are on site.

Reminder – MAP Testing

MAP Beginning-Of-Year (BOY) testing will begin during week 3 of school – Sunday, October 1, 2017.

To ensure that student performance on standardized tests such as MAP, accurately reflects what they know and are able to do, there are three healthy habits that can help your child get ready for tests: short bursts of exercise, getting enough sleep, and eating breakfast. Thank you!