Issue 11

Jan 2012

Latifa News

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The highlight of this term at Latifa School was undoubtedly our 40th National Day Celebrations. This was a wonderful opportunity for the whole school communuity to celebrate and enjoy a fun-filled day together. This great day was made even more special by the attendance of H.H. Shaikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum and H.H. Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Al Maktoum. Parents, students and staff were all delighted and honoured to be able to meet our special guests and share this exciting event with them.

Debra Forsyth — Headmistress

LSG celebrates National Day

This year we organised Latifa School's largest National Day event ever! Secondary and Primary students, staff and parents all joined together to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the formation of the UAE. What was particularly exciting was that RSB foundation pupils were also invited with their mothers. Before the event Year 12 spent weeks planning for this day. Our concept was a mini-carnival. There were six stalls for Year 12 students, all selling different products related to National Day. Teachers also had stalls and ran games. By far the most successful stall (in terms of items sold) was the 'shabeyat' as they sold traditional snacks and sweets. Overall the reviews of the event have been very positive: 'Very successful!' 'The best so far!' Another very enjoyable part of the carnival was the national dress costume competition. The girls and boys looked wonderful in their national costumes and this event was enjoyed by parents, students and staff. It was definitely a very festive event which had a lovely atmosphere. Year 12 had a very enjoyable and educational experience as they organised the event and became 'young entrepreneurs' for the day. Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a lovely day.

Maryam Al Mulla Year 12

All the photographs in this issue are of our National Day celebration.

The Latifa School Student Council

Student Council Committee

Chairwoman
Maryam Al Mana

Deputy Chairwomen
Alia Al Hareb &
Maryam Al Mazrooei

Treasurer
Meerah Al Kamdah

Secretary
Mai Al Yassi

The Student Council was formed to help improve the school environment and the school community. It gives students a 'voice' in school matters.

The students who volunteered to be on the student council have been elected by their peers into these positions and we would like to congratulate them on this achievement. Members of the year groups voted for these students because they knew they were confident and committed to improving the school environment.

The Student Council meets every Wednesday at 12.30. We are eager to hear what students think would make Latifa a better environment in which to learn. Remember, it's not all about fun activities, non-uniform, etc., but a chance to make some meaningful changes. Use your 'voice' and make suggestions via your year rep or via the suggestion box near the Student council noticeboard. This is your chance to make a difference!

Student Council Representatives

Year 7
Latifa Al Maktoum
Roudha Al Falasi

Year 8
Dhabia Khalfan
Mai Al Yassi

Year 9
Latifa Ahbabi
Maryam Al Mansoori

Year 10
Maitha Al Marri
Maryam Al Marri

Year 11
Afnan Obadi
Meerah Al Kamdah

Year 12
Maryam Al Mazrooei
Maryam Al Mana

Year 13
Alia Hareb

Breast Cancer Awareness

One of the events hosted by the SC was the Breast Awareness campaign in October. Students were allowed to come to school dressed in pink accessories — this was done with the aim of informing students about the importance of screening at an early stage. The students very much enjoyed adding to their uniform in creative and colourful ways!

Maryam Al Mana, Student Council Chairwoman

Latifa School House News

WHITE	Latifa students have been busy collecting House Points through a number of activities, including *Guess that Tune* and *Guess Who,* quizzes and many others. The current House Point totals are:
GREEN	
RED	***Red: 61*** ***White: 57*** ***Black: 47*** ***Green: 53***
BLACK	Well done, Red House!

The Big Interview: Michelle Deegan

Year 7 analysed what made a 'good question' and then tried out their skills on an expert in asking good questions - our School Librarian!

Did you always want to be a school librarian? Was it your childhood dream?
No I didn't and it definitely wasn't!

Why did you choose to become a librarian?
I got a temporary job working in a library in Dublin and I liked it so I decided to look for other jobs in libraries.

When did you start work at LSG? Do you enjoy working at LSG?
In September 2006. I had worked in college libraries before and wanted to work in a different library. Yes I do.

What is the best thing about your job?
Working with students and choosing new resources for the library.

How many years have you worked as a librarian?
I have worked in libraries for 19 years and been a librarian for 12.

Where did you study to become a librarian?
I did a graduate diploma in librarianship at University College Dublin and a masters degree in Information Studies at Edith Cowan University in Australia.

How many years did it take you to qualify as a librarian?
My graduate diploma took 1 year and my masters degree took 2½ years as it was part time.

Have you ever been a teacher? If so, what subject did you teach?
No I have never been a teacher.

Have you read all the books written in English in the Library?? ☺
No – not even close but I have read some of them.

Do you like reading?
Yes I do.

What category of books do you enjoy reading most?
Thrillers or dramas.

What is your most favourite book ever?
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen.

Who is your favourite author?
I don't have one favourite but some of the authors I really like are Jane Austen, Alice Hoffman, Terry Pratchett and Stephen King.

Umrah Trip to Saudi Arabia

In December, a group of Year 11 students performed Umrah with teachers from the Arabic and Islamic Studies Department. The group visited the holy places and prayed in the Holy Mosques in Makkah and Madina. They also visited the Foundation of Dawa Center where Sheikh Abdulrahman Alsudais, Imam and preacher of the Two Holy Mosques, hosted the students and welcomed them. The trip was extremely successful. The students enjoyed it and benefited spiritually and socially.

Art Trip to Barcelona

During the Eid holidays several Year 12 art students visited Barcelona to explore a city famous for its vibrant art scene. The students and staff visited numerous Gaudi landmarks such as Park Guell, Casa Mila and Casa Batllo to look at the amazing architecture and design. In addition to Gaudi, Barcelona has a wealth of information on other famous artists. The Picasso Museum, the Juan-Miro Foundation, the Antoni Tapies Foundation and the MACBA Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art were some of the museums visited. Students were able to gain a wide range of skills including improved confidence, increasing speed whilst maintaining the quality of drawing, and finding ideas to feed their artistic journeys when back in Dubai. It was a wonderful experience for both students and staff.

Maryam Al Mana Year 12

Latifa Diary

Events coming up at Latifa School:

Alumni Rounders Event	16.1.12
Year 10 Parents' evening	23.1.12
Year 11 University Fair & parents	6.2.12
Year 9 Options Fair	13.2.12
Year 12/13 Parents' evening	27.2.12
Ski trip	18.2.12 to 25.2.12
Activities Day	8.3.12
Production	14.3.12 & 15.3.12
Year 7 Parents' evening	26.3.12
Year 8 Parents' evening	2.4.12

Alumni Events

On Wednesday, 14th December 2011 Key Skills students invited Alumni, and their children, for a very enjoyable afternoon of fun and games. Everyone was dressed-up as Smurf characters whilst playing musical chairs, doing a treasure hunt, decorating paper plates, playing W*hat's the time Gargamel?* and decorating cupcakes. There was also a photo booth where the children had their photos taken and their faces painted. Both adults and children had a wonderful afternoon full of fun and laughter.

Maryam Al Mazrooei Year 12

Latifa News is edited by Rosalind Stirzaker and translated by Shaza Rahma