

Tehdeed

Tehdeed: 04 November 2009

Summary

This week's *Tehdeed* includes an update on ISG policies concerning Influenza A/H1N1 as well as a link to feedback from students, parents and teachers following virtual week. In other news, enrollment statistics for the district indicate that 98% of forecasted enrollment goals.

ISG member schools have many events to share, including charity events, team-building activities, SIAK sports tournaments, after-school clubs, and up-coming student-parent-teacher conferences.

Dhahran Elementary Middle School invites the public to tour their corridors which have become a veritable art gallery, filled with student creations from virtual week and teachers from across the district participated in recent professional development conferences. Lastly, find out about the up-coming *Speak Out* program in Damman, with an emphasis on the theme of "Tolerance". Check it out!

DISTRICT-WIDE NEWS

Enrollment: ISG district data indicates that the number of currently enrolled students has met 98% of forecasted enrollment figures. For budgetary and planning purposes, ISG establishes goals regarding the number of anticipated students for each ISG school. This statistic means that ISG planning is on target and that the district is growing. Enrollment has already surpassed last year's statistic of 93% during this same period; and the year has only just begun.

Influenza A or H1N1: The ISG community is doing its part to prevent the spread of Influenza A or H1N1 around the world. Parents are encouraged to follow the below listed ISG guidelines by keeping sick children at home and informing school staff in the event of a positive Influenza A or H1N1 diagnosis.

Fact: H1N1 is a subtype of Influenza A. It is possible to have Influenza A without having H1N1, but you cannot have H1N1 without having Influenza A. Specific hospitals have been designated as H1N1 testing sites.

As expert medical advice is modified, ISG will continue to discuss, evaluate, develop, and modify our communication plans to ensure that our families have updated information. Parents are encouraged to contact ISG staff with feedback and questions.

Current district policy provides sets forth the below guidelines if a member of your family is diagnosed with Influenza A or H1N1:

1. The confirmed student or staff member with Influenza A or H1N1 should stay home from school until no longer contagious. The Doctor should indicate in writing the date on which the student or staff member can return to school/work.

2. Siblings of the confirmed student or spouse/children of the confirmed staff member should stay at home for 5 calendar days. This follows the CDC guidelines for H1N1 as of Oct. 12, 2009.
3. Notification regarding confirmed cases of Influenza A or H1N1 will be provided to parents of students from the student population (i.e. elementary school, KS1, middle school, high school, KS 3) in which the confirmed case was diagnosed.
4. Notification will be given to all staff members in the event of confirmed Influenza A or H1N1 cases of in their school.

Virtual School Make-Up Days: The ISG Board of Trustees approved no additional make-up days as a result of the Virtual School educational experience. Input provided by staff, students, and parents while positive, served as a solid review of the Virtual School experience to help in the event of any future events. Survey results may be viewed on the ISG website by following the below link: [I will send you documents later today to add as links to this message – for now, you can input the paragraph above.]

ISG PARTNERING SCHOOLS

Following virtual week, school is in full swing! Each *Tehdeed* will include highlights from ISG member schools. See what is happening in your community and throughout the ISG educational network.

Dhahran High School (DHS)

AFG Middle States Accreditation: Principal David Dorn wishes to call attention to the AFG Middle States Accreditation process and the work of the DHS Steering Committee, who under the guidance and leadership of Vice Principal David Butler and staff member Mireille Daaboul (AFG Assistant Coordinator), met to define their role and operational norms. Comprised of student, board member, teacher, parent and community member representatives, the AFG Steering Committee brainstormed modifications to DHS' Mission Statement. The goal is to have a fresh new Mission Statement and Beliefs and Graduate Profile statements completed prior to winter break.

Last weekend DHS served as host for the boys and girls **SAIK Varsity Volleyball Tournament**. Managed by DHS staff member/Athletic Director Retief Gerber, athletes, coaches and spectators enjoyed exciting championship round matches. Principal Dorn congratulated this year's tournament winners: Dammam High School's Boys and Dhahran High School's Girls' Varsity A Team and thanked the DHS coaching staff, comprised of Robert Smith, Alichia Gerber, Brian Carreon, and Dan Dodd, citing their excellent work "... motivating, teaching and coaching our student athletes throughout the grueling two day tournament." "Life is good at DHS," Principal Dorn added proudly, "due to quality teaching staff who really care about our students and the quality of our students who readily accept our staff's nurturing, guidance and friendship."

Yanbu International School (YIS)

With the start of "Autumn-like" weather, Paul Thompson, Principal of Yanbu International School, highlighted the start of the campaign season for **Student Council representatives and officers**. Candidates delivered their speeches and shared their visions to guide fellow students. May those elected "... follow through on their campaign promises," he commented encouragingly.

This week, YIS will host a **two-day volleyball tournament**. “The campus is electric with excitement,” expressed Paul Thompson, as Yanbu commemorates its participation in the Saudi Arabian Intra-Kingdom Activities Conference (SAIKAC), which includes fifteen other international schools from across the country. YIS welcomes the visiting teams and looks forward to the good competition, demonstrations of athletic prowess, and good sportsmanship.

Students and staff are taking advantage of the cooler weather to enjoy YIS’s outdoor campus areas beginning with **a new lunch-time intramural program** on YIS’s hardcourt. “It really feels like school again in Yanbu,” expressed Thompson.

Upcoming **student-parent-teacher conferences**, scheduled for November 18th, offer a valuable forum where “... students' learning, achievement and performance can be discussed and clarified for the parents.” The conferences mark the end of the first quarter for the Yanbu’s Middle School and High School with the end of the first trimester for the YIS Elementary school in the coming week. Student enrollment continues to grow as YIS experiences its highest enrollment in nearly 7 years.

Also highlighted this week, is the work of the **FOSS Coordinator** with YIS’s Elementary teachers. **FOSS, a new interactive/reflective science program**, is expected by YIS leadership to “be another area of accomplishment and pride in terms of student learning.” The FOSS Coordinator is helping teachers fully understand the program’s philosophy, methods, and management challenges to maximize the variety of materials and demonstrations required.

Dhahran British Grammar School

Headteacher Ian Jones highlighted Sunday’s final **Parent Teacher Conferences** of the Term with Year 8 parents visiting the school preceded on Saturday with a trip by Year 1 students to the Scitech Museum and a morning of **Team Building Activities** on BAe Beach for Key Stage 3 students. “They had a fantastic morning and there are some great photographs on our School Blog.”

In another development, some strange looking characters were reportedly seen on Campus last Tuesday when DBGS KS 2, 3 and 4 students held a **costume day to raise funds for charity**.

To see the photos, follow the below links: <http://www.dhahranbritish.com/Galleries2009-10/KS3teambuilding/index.html>
<http://dhahranbritish.wordpress.com/2009/11/03/fancy-dress-day/>

International Schools Group Dammam

ISG Dammam Elementary School Vice Principal, Annie Mathew, commented on the “tremendous enthusiasm and participation” by students in the **After-School Activities (ASA) program** which was launched last week on October 24th. Elementary students chose from a variety of learning and skill-building activities, including Art, Dance and Craft clubs, as well as Piano, Pencil-shading and Knitting classes, with the highest participation attributed to sports-related activities such as Basketball and Volleyball.

Also during the end of October, **Student Progress Reports** were sent home and teachers gained a visual introduction to new teaching materials as part of the English Language Arts (ELA) in-service training program. A handful of teachers also joined internationally-known education experts by participating in interactive seminars and workshops sponsored by the Near East South Asian Council of Overseas Schools (NESAS) Fall Institute. Both programs were held in Bahrain.

Professional and personal development programming continues at ISG Damman during the month of November with staff workshops and various student assemblies. On November 2-3, students and staff discussed this month's theme of "**Tolerance**" and enjoyed student presentations. In preparation for our **Speak Out program**, scheduled for the public on November 25th, students from various grade-levels honed their public presentation skills during a speech clinic at the beginning of the month.

Dhahran Elementary Middle School (DEMS)

DEMS Principal, Jana Barnhouse, encourages parents, staff and fellow students to explore the halls of the elementary building to **enjoy displays of virtual school work and fall celebration artistry**. Principal Barnhouse expressed that the middle school is "buzzing about the last three consecutive week-ends of volleyball and related intramural volleyball tournament" hosted at DEMS in addition kicking off a full schedule of after-school activities for students in grades one through eight.

Other activities this month include the first 2009-2010 Parent Teacher Group (PTG) meeting and the first parent conferences of the school year. With so many community related activities, it is no wonder that "students, faculty and parents are back in the swing of school!"