THE HOMEWORK DEBATE EMERGES AGAIN

The debate has been raging for more than a century: Is homework good or bad? Now, some recent research is providing a direction. The main arguments used for homework are to improve learning and achievement; to help students develop self-directed learning skills and to involve parent’s in their child’s education.

Recent research into high performing nations indicates that while they are high achievers much less time is spent on homework than those that achieve at a lower level. Finnish students for example score higher than their international counterparts yet spend as little as 30 minutes on homework per night, even in secondary school. American students spend more time on Maths homework than South Korean students yet score less on international tests than the Korean students. In Lebanon, almost one-quarter of students spend more than four hours per night on homework but score less on international tests than students in the Netherlands where only 3 percent of students spend this amount of time on homework at night.

So what is the secret of Finland’s success? Teachers, especially in primary school, try to arrange tasks so that students can complete most or all of them in the school day and a culture of parental involvement, not the quantity of homework given simply to keep students busy, underpin student success.

There is a simple way in which parents of students in our college can assist in developing a culture of parental involvement in relation to homework. At the end of each day, have your child write on a piece of paper the numbers 1 to 7 (or the number of lessons in that day). Then ask your child to write one phrase or sentence against each of the numbers to tell you what it was that they learned in each of the lessons.

This is the beginning of quality homework – the review of what happened during the school day. This will bring you closer to your child and get you involved in their education. All of the research shows that children achieve better results when they have parents who are involved.

Dr Ray Barrett
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

ICAS Results
MashaAllah to the following students for achieving excellent results in the ICAS competitions. InshaAllah we hope to obtain good results for the outstanding tests.

**SPELLING**
- Rafif Habibi  Yr 6  Distinction
- Mohammed Diries  Yr 6  Credit
- Nurina Jaaztar  Yr 6  Credit
- Aleena Deen  Yr 5  Credit
- Azhar Abdi  Yr 4  Credit
- Murah Hakizimana  Yr 4  Credit
- Abouomar Mnette  Yr 3  Credit
- Almira Purwadi  Yr 3  Credit

**WRITING**
- Jasmine Asifwe  Yr 3  Credit
- Abouomar Mnette  Yr 3  Credit
- Aleena Deen  Yr 5  Credit
- Asiya Abdi  Yr 8  Credit
- Fatima Abdi  Yr 11  Credit
- Atiyah Makada  Yr 11  Credit
- Salma Sid Ahmed  Yr 11  Credit

**SCIENCE**
- Abouomar Mnette  Yr 3  Credit
- Talha Deen  Yr 3  Distinction
- Azhar Abdi  Yr 4  Credit
- Rafif Habibi  Yr 6  Credit
- Ahmed  Yr 6  Credit
- Abdelrahman
- Asiya Abdi  Yr 8  Credit

**COMPUTER SKILLS**
- Amin Meery  Yr 4  Credit
- Aleena Deen  Yr 5  Credit

Swimming
Swimming for Prep -3 will commence in week 3 of term 4. More details will sent out early next term.

Term 3 Reflections
This term has been a very busy and productive one for both students and teachers at the college. Some of the very interesting and exciting events held, are listed below.

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Thank you to parents who were involved in the above events at our college. It is important for parents to support the college by attending and being part of the activities and events held. Parent involvement will strengthen and help the college progress in its development. We look forward to a rewarding Term 4 and Insha’Allah in our first newsletter I will include the upcoming events for the first few weeks.

Volunteers
The college welcomes volunteers throughout the year. We need your expertise, skills and energy to support teachers and students at our college. If you are available next term please visit us and let us know how you could help us improve all aspects of the college to provide extra opportunities for our students. We look forward to seeing you next term, InshaAllah.

I thank all parents for their support to the college and I wish all students a wonderful and safe holiday.

Mariam Banwa
We have been focusing on where our food comes from and what animals can give us. The Preps were excited about their excursion to meet Farmer Brown at Trevena Glen Farm. The bus journey there was full of chatter and excitement with cries of “Are we there yet?”! There is always plenty to do on a farm and the children enjoyed hands on activities and experiences including a pony ride, feeding the calves and lambs, milking the cow, holding ducklings and chicks and a tractor hay ride. On the way home, our bus was very quiet. Farming can be hard, tiring work!

Back at school the children wrote about their experiences and we continue with our farm unit. We made butter to have on our jam sandwiches and have planted beans which the children will observe, monitor and record their growth – such budding scientists.

Mrs Ursula Muncaster

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It has been a wonderful term 3, 2012 for the year 9’s. We have been very active and engaged in learning different subjects and are trying very hard to perform our best in the exams. In the Studies of Society and Environment this term, Year 9’s are learning about coastal landforms. We are learning about the different coastal landforms formed by the action of wind and waves, coastal pollution, causes of coastal pollution, government policies to save coast’s from getting polluted, and managing coastal national parks. We have been engaged in making posters on “No Plastic Bags” as a part of our study. We also participated in a classroom debate on “The effectiveness of the Government Policies to protect the coast in Noosa”. It was very exciting and the debate was a tie between the affirmative and negative teams. We had a good and exciting learning experience this term and are looking forward to an exciting term 4. Wish you a wonderful upcoming school holiday!

Mrs Preeti Saha
Assalam Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu

Allhamdullillah, terms one & two were very successful; year 6 students worked very hard in all subjects. We enjoyed Jump Rope for Heart, Sports Day and World Refugee Day where the year 6 students sang a humanitarian song on stage. They also loved and appreciated hands-on experiments of mixing and adding materials in the Science lab.

Last term, four students from our college were sent to the leaders’ camp “Together For Humanity”: Ali Ulum (7), Sumaiyah Gedik (7), Ahmed Ibrahim Abdel Rahman (Year 6 - Primary Vice Captain) and Yosra Abdelrahman (Year 6 – Primary School captain). They enjoyed the camp and described it as an “amazing experience”.

I would like to thank all parents for their help and support.

On Wednesday 11th July 2012, Year 6 students visited The Queensland Parliament to learn more about their government and their leaders.

Year 6 students participated in English, Maths & Science ICAS Assessments, and we just finished completing Maths, Science and English Queensland Comparable Assessment Tasks (QCAT).

This term students were very lucky to be able to follow the daily news of the 2012 Australian Olympic Games in London and they were exposed to every detail about the London 2012 Olympic Games which was held from 25 July until 12 August 2012. They were educated about the heritage, physical, historical and cultural features of London; The organisation and sports, and Australia’s participation in the Olympic Games.

Congratulations to all the students who are working very hard and to all award recipients. Keep up the good and inspiring work in class and at home. I would like to thank all parents for their help and support. I am, cordially, inviting all parents to visit us in class and check on their children’s improvement.

Mrs Roula Ghanem