



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations
CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE



RAFFLES
WORLD ACADEMY

FORWARD

The Newsletter of Raffles World Academy

September [2019-20] | Issue 114

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Homework @ RWA

What does homework look like in RWA Primary?

At Raffles World Academy, we believe in a holistic approach to homework. This means that although homework is sent each week, it is not to take over student's lives outside of school. Students need to spend time with their families and friends, participating in different clubs and sports teams as well as spend time relaxing. To find a balance there is mandatory and encouraged homework for students each week. All of this is flexible to fit the needs of students. However, the one part of homework that we are most passionate about is reading every day. **This is a non-negotiable.**

Two online resources we are using this year to assist students in learning is RAZ Kids and Mathletics. Links to both of these will be sent home to parents via the weekly parent email. The reason for using online resources for homework is the data it gives teachers. Teachers at RWA use this data to focus their teaching and ensure all students are learning what they need at a specific time. We understand that some parents may not be comfortable with doing homework online and this is not an issue. Instead of RAZ Kids, students can simply read any other book of their choosing. Instead of Mathletics, parents can use other Math resources/ways to revise, as they see fit.

If families find that the homework is too demanding, this can easily be discussed with teachers. They will be more than happy to help think of strategies to make homework manageable for your family. This may be cutting back on how many times areas of homework are done in a week, or simply focusing only on the certain sections of homework each week.

Keeping with our holistic approach, we believe that the amount of homework we assign is accurate. If students do any independent learning or inquiry spurred on by their own curiosity, we encourage them to bring this into the classroom and share it with everyone. All they need to do is let the teacher know.

Please remember that homework should not be a battle. It instead can be a chance to share the learning students are doing with their families.

If you would like to read some current and interesting articles regarding homework, please use the QR codes below. **Please note, these articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions and practices at RWA, but are here to support parents looking to do a little research themselves.**

Yolanda Maccallum
PYP Coordinator of RWA



Celebrating a historic moment for the UAE with middle school maths students

News of the first Emirati taking off to space on 25th Sept, 2019 is a source of pride to all Emiratis and to residents of the UAE from across the world. The Math department has tried to spread the message about this historic mission by the UAE among our student community at secondary school. A Math activity was organized across middle school students this week which was based on the MYP philosophy of making learning fun and engaging added with aspects of real life explorations. Students got to see videos of the astronauts sharing their pride in representing their country followed by an activity that was aimed at enhancing student understandings of MYP math command terms. Here is a snapshot of student work. This was followed by an engaging interaction between students that displayed their inspiration from the UAE space mission and reflected their motivation to try new challenges. (Sajitha Ranjith).

Step 1. For teachers- Show video "The first Emirati to go to space" to class
Watch video:

Step 2. For teachers- Show video Math and Space programs video to students

Step 3. For students-Math Challenge
After watching both videos:-

- Each group could discuss and come up with math command terms(MYP/IB) that can be connected to the work done by astronauts in space.

Eg:

- CALCULATE** - Calculate distance of the space station from the earth at any given time.
- Upload answers of your group using the QR code in (share) option above.

The winning group will be the one with maximum number of command terms used.

group 5 g10ncs
If a single fuel tank holding 500L of oil is needed to travel 50km, how many liters does it take to travel 2000k?
Evaluate the amount of oxygen in air tanks?
Draw a graph showing the amount of distance the space shuttle has made and compare it to the amount of time taken?
Predict which orbit the space shuttle should reach based on the amount of fuel it has?
Figure out where the space shuttle would land on earth using pythagoras theorem?

Group 6 g10 cs

Group 4
Predict how many days it will take to get to Mars?
Calculate the distance from the Earth to the Moon?
Identify how many planets there are in the solar system?

Group 3 Grade 10 CS
MYP Math Command Terms
- Apply : applying mathematical logic such as pythagorus and trigonometry for estimating transportation and distances.
- Communicate : communicating with systems on earth from space that guide them.
- Demonstrate: how gravity works
- Describe : the speed of orbit of the space aircraft.

Math Term sentences. 6GCS
We should measure our height, we must have grown!
How long is the distance from Earth to the NASA Space station?
We need to make sure our speed and time match.
Calculate light years between planet 01 and planet 02
Trigonometry will help us!

Group 5 G6CS
Calculate the distance from the Earth to Mars
Estimate the amount of time it takes to reach ISS (international space station)
Identify the position of the spaceship in space
Sketch the trigonometry of earth ,satellite , your rocket.

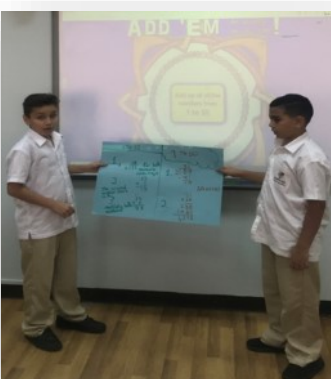
Shivam grade 8
We use maths to calculate

24th Sept Grade 6 winners!

Math CCA

There are numerous co-curricular activities offered in Mathematics this term.

MATHLETES – Monday S61



There has been a great turnout of around 16 students from grade 5 who are keen to challenge themselves and have fun solving math problems. The first week involved researching Pi and then creating a mnemonic to help remember the first 10 digits of Pi. In the last club students attempted to find a quick method top add up consecutive numbers; some of their efforts are shown in the photograph below. (Jamie Moxom)



Celebrating a historic moment for the UAE with middle school maths students

MATHLETES – Monday S61



STEM – Monday S60

At STEM Club, we aim to provide an opportunity for meaningful STEM learning and for students to engage in science, technology, engineering and math in multiple ways and in a supportive and fun environment. We will build on their knowledge and application of STEM content and processes while encouraging them to collaborate with and learn from other students. (Gillian O' Brien)

Diploma Programme

To support our DP students there is Math Support available for some of the groups after school. This time is exclusively meant for doubt clearance and support in understanding concepts. Students are expected to carry their devices, GDC, books etc.

Day	Course	Location	Teacher
Wednesday	G11 MAA HL	S58	Amit Raj
Wednesday	G12 SL	S62	Darshana Walavalkar
Monday	G12 HL	S59	Carina Saunders

Events in the English Department

On September 9th, a Montegrappa-prize winning author, editor, journalist, Annabel Kantaria, visited RWA to offer a workshop on editing Emirates Festival of Literature entries, both short stories and poems. Kantaria was the school's guest author during the Literary Soiree on March 22nd last year. She dispensed valuable advice and practical tips on ways to improve creative writing. The English Department organised this session as a run-up to the actual submission of the shortlisted entries from among students in Grades 6-9 and 11.

Secondary students in Grades 6-7 have also officially signed up and registered along with students in the primary section for the Chevron's Reader Cup, a reading challenge offered by the Festival to ignite a passion for reading in young learners. The teams have a list of books to read until October 27th, the first round of the competition, when their reading comprehension will be tested in a written quiz. A second round will follow with a similar format in February.

Furthermore, the English Department will organise a trip to visit a session during the Festival, February 4-9th. The Literary Soiree will be held, as customary, in March with students representing all sister-schools.



Events in the Physical Education Department

Welcome

Welcome to the Physical Education department of Raffles World Academy. We are excited about the upcoming school year. The PHE staff consist of Stephanie Carte Head of Physical and Health Education. Neil Cunningham and Hayley Bunsell. Our goal at RWA High is to encourage the children to participate and enjoy the benefits of physical activity. We hope to accomplish this goal by providing a safe environment where each child is able to be successful in the activities taught in class.

Competitive team sports

Congratulations to all RWA students who attended team trials over the past two weeks. The trials were very well attended and unfortunately not every player gained selection. If your son or daughter was not selected on this occasion there will be more opportunities for other sports in January. Being part of a team is a great honor and requires commitment and dedication from every player. RWA has a very proud history on the sporting fields of Dubai and this year promises further success.

I would like to thank our Sports partners for 2019-2020 Speedo for training our swimmers and preparing them for their first competitive DASSA gala league this year. The Football Academy who are working with our u12 and u14 boys Football teams. M-Pac Basketball who coach our senior basketball teams at lunch time. Skechers who provide our students with team kit. We are also looking forward to working with PaRWA again this year.

My final thank you goes to PARIS, Skechers and Anta who have helped promote sport at the school and have given us a vast number of prizes and kit for the students during our beach run and sports day. I would like to introduce the use of Team App and Fixtures pro for our competitive sports fixtures this year. Secondary school are moving away from handing letters to students for all fixtures in a bid to help the environment. **Fixtures pro** link <http://www.raffleswasport.com> and Students representing RWA competitive teams can download the Team-App on their device. Please ask a member of POE staff who will assist with this.

RWA IVEI BASKETBALL SPORT ROUND UP

Please congratulate our Basketball teams (Pictures below) who tip-offed the season this week in the IVEI Basketball tournament.



Results—U19-BOYS 1st Place - U19 Girls 1st Place—U16 Boys 3rd Place.



News from Grade 1

Grade 1 have been inquiring into healthy lifestyles and exercise. They have researched the different food groups and they have showed their understanding by sorting their lunch boxes into the five food groups.

In Moral Education, we have been exploring friendship. We recorded different traits of a good friend and shared ideas of how we can show friendship in our classroom.



Grade 1 have also been busy learning about number. They identified tens and units and constructed digits using Diene's blocks and cubes. They can also order numbers up to 100 using $<$, $>$ and $=$.

In English, Grade 1 have been writing recounts and have been focusing on the importance of the past tense. They have worked through the writing process, starting with a plan, creating a first draft, editing their work and finally publishing!



News from Grade 4

The start of the school year has been very busy and productive for all the students and teachers of Grade 4. Finding new classrooms, meeting new teachers and getting back into a routine after the long summer break was a challenge for the first few days, but by now we are all settled and ready to take on the new school year. This year our Grade 4 Team is as follows:

- ◆ 4A (4A) – Ms. Bronach O’Brien
- ◆ 4KT (4B) – Ms. Katie Teahan – Grade 4 Team Leader
- ◆ 4JH (4C) – Mr. Juan Hernandez
- ◆ 4PC (4D) – Mr. Peter Campbell
- ◆ 4MM (4E) – Mr. Marc McCallum
- ◆ 4DA (4F) – Mr. Dan Allmark



Being in Grade 4 means that students are now role models of principled and responsible behavior for younger students to follow. This was one of the first things that we discussed this year as part of our yearlong unit looking at how the roles and responsibilities that we hold can lead to being successful leaders. So far, our Grade 4 students have really impressed everyone with the commitment they have shown to this role, especially in the way they use HALL. Grade 4JH were the first recipient of the class trophy for this!



Well done!

Grade 4 have also applied their principled attitude to their learning and have made an incredible start to our first unit of inquiry. Researching the different life processes, and how they connect to each other has been really interesting and a lot of fun.

With lots of hands on learning, creativity and laughter already filling the classrooms and hallways in the first few weeks, this is a sure sign that we are in for a great year!



Primary School-Assemblies

Grade 1 – 5 have been enjoying their first assembly this week. We started our assembly with the wake up, shake up routine allowing all the students to get up and move to kick start their day.



The students spent time setting their essential agreements for how they should act in our assemblies as well as carefully creating personal goals for the new school year.

We ended our assembly with the presentation of certificates. A few students from each class received a certificate for demonstrating positive attitudes, matching that of the learner profile.



Primary School-Assemblies



Ms Emily has been coming into all classes to see the positive behaviour of the students and watching how they transition safely through the school. After a few weeks of observations, Ms Emily and the homeroom teachers selected one class from each grade who would receive the class trophy.

The class trophy was awarded to: Ms Danas' class in grade 1, Ms Stephanies' class in Grade 2, Mr Gregs' class in grade 3, Mr Juans' class in grade 4 and finally Ms Siobhans' class in grade 5.



Modern Foreign Languages @ RWA

"If you talk to a man in a *language* he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his *language* that goes to his heart". *Nelson Mandela*



Students in MFL have settled in smoothly and are very keen to learn and enrich and develop their foreign language skills through different activities. They are becoming successful linguists who have an awareness of their skills; and be reflective learners who interact with feedback and are prepared to learn from their experiences.



So far they have enjoyed learning how to greet each other in French and Spanish and practice with their classmates in order to get ready for our multilingual chat which will be across different grades. They will also learn how to introduce themselves and their families, and how to share thoughts and feelings. The subject focus will be on listening and speaking skills.



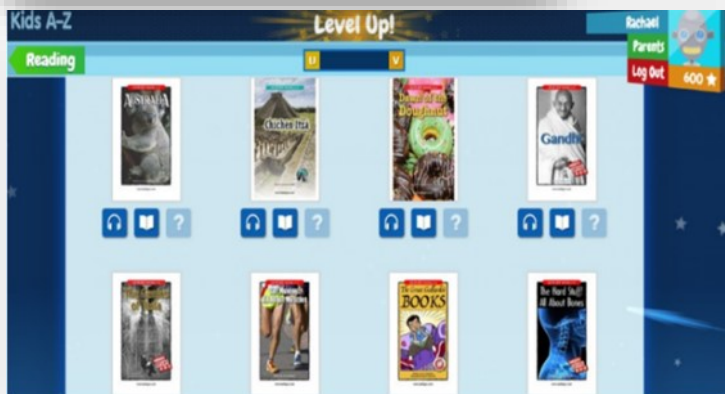
RAZ @ RWA

This year we will continue to use RAZ kids in RWA. RAZ kids is a fantastic resource which allows teachers to



assess the reading and comprehension levels of their students. From there, teachers can allocate all types of levelled books, such as fiction, non-fiction, biographies, journals etc.

The teachers also have access to Science A-Z through this wonderful resource, meaning all sorts of scientific readings can be accessed in class- this is great for teaching and learning about science units! Children in Grades 1-5 should by now, all have the kids A-Z app and have logged in a few times. This allows them to access the work allocated by their teacher, as well as work through reading books at their assigned level, at their own pace.



Swimming in KG1 @ RWA



Well done to all our KG1 risk-takers. Swimming can be a daunting activity, especially for a KG1 student, however, all of the PE team are super proud of their efforts so far. Over the course of this unit students will learn all about the rules of the pool and most importantly how to listen,



learn and have fun safely in the water.

Our swimming unit is 6 weeks long and in this time we hope students will build up their confidence and learn to love the water.

SeaSaw @ RWA

Seesaw is a student-driven digital portfolio that empowers students to independently document what they are learning at school and share it with their teachers, parents, classmates, and even the world. The most important feature of Seesaw is that it can easily capture student learning in any form such as photos, videos, drawings, text notes, and links to show what students know. RWA students from KG1 to Grade 5 can access, capture and upload their work independently.



When students add to their Seesaw journal, content is uploaded, organized by student, and immediately accessible to teachers from any device. It makes it easy for students and teachers to review progress over time and demonstrate growth. This also enables browsing work from the entire class, or for a single student. Optionally, teachers use folders to organize work by subject area or project. Seesaw portfolios are a great asset at parent teacher conferences or even student-led conferences.

At RWA, Seesaw is used to capture the learning process, not just the end result. Students use Seesaw's built-in audio recording, drawing and caption tools to reflect on what they've learned or explain how they got their answer. This gives students an authentic audience of their peers, parents and even other classrooms around the globe, encouraging better work and real feedback. Teachers control who can view what student content, and can customize which feedback options are available in their class.



Seesaw includes parents in the learning process by inviting them to view updates to their child's Seesaw journal. Seesaw's immediate, visual updates actually get seen by parents and provide encouragement for students. Teachers at RWA approve all new additions and comments before anything is shared with parents.



I'm a Teacher

I'm a Student

I'm a Parent

Seesaw for Schools Administrator Sign In