NATIONAL DAY HOLIDAYS

Wednesday - 28 November 2012 and Wednesday - 5 December 2012 are declared school holidays in lieu of Oman National Day holidays

ATHLETICS PRACTICES

As I informed the parents, athletics practices have started. The school started practices immediately after the Basketball Tournament for a very clear reason in spite of the term tests pending.

The Inter House Athletic Meet will be conducted on 14th and 15th February 2013. We do not think it is correct to wait until the beginning of the next term to start thinking about athletics as it would lead to very poor performances by the athletes.

The school will conduct only one more session of practices on Tuesday 27 November 2012 before the term tests. Parents are requested to ensure that the athletes are kept in prime condition until we resume practices in January 2013. I request the parents provide opportunities for the children to build stamina by taking them to public parks, beaches or any other suitable locations and getting them to engage in regular physical exercises.

The selections will be conducted by the Houses when school commences in January 2013. The selected athletes will be provided with professional coaching at the stadium with necessary facilities.

MATHLETICS

We still rejoice the achievement of our students at the Middle East Mathematics Challenge. The trophies and certificates are expected to arrive in due course. I thank the children who participated in the competition and the parents for facilitating their participation.

The Mathematics Department has now registered the school for the regular Mathletics programme which is designed by experts to make learning mathematics fun. This is a web based programme which challenges children to think fast and act swiftly. The programme is conducted by the same organization that conducts the Reading Eggspedition, World Mathematics Day, World Science Day and Spellodrome. The cost per student for registration for one year is RO 3.500. The registration is open to all students from Foundation Stage to Year 12. Please fill up the application form available at the cashier's counter and pay the registration fee before 2nd December 2012.

Parents are requested to visit www.mathletics.com for further details.
DRAMA COMPETITION

I wish to thank the English Department and the English Literary Association for conducting the inter house drama competition which showcased the theatrical talent of our students. The drama productions were of a high standard in all respects.

We have decided to arrange a show for the parents to witness the best productions on Monday 17 December at 7.00 p.m. Please keep the date free.

INTER SCHOOL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

I am pleased to inform the parents that the Inter School Basketball Tournament was conducted and SLSM became the champions in the boys category for the sixth consecutive year. The girls team too displayed a much improved performance compared to the previous years and emerged runners up. The American International School Muscat (TAISM) participating in the tournament for the first time became the champions.

Nine schools took part in the boys category and five schools took part in the girls category.

I wish to thank the Coaching staff of the boys squad, Mr Hanif Dad Mohammed Al Balushi (Head Coach) and Mr Shafiq Suhail Al Balushi (Assistant Coach) and the Head Coach of the Girl’s squad Mr Florentino Gallarde for their professionalism and hard work. The event was professionally planned under the supervision of the Board Sub Committee for Sports and Welfare and executed as planned by the Sports Department of the school. Mr. Sisira de Silva, Head of Sports assisted by Ms, Samadhi Dhanapala, Teacher in Charge of Basketball and a team of voluntary teachers worked tirelessly to achieve perfection at the tournament. Your efforts are much appreciated.

STUDENT MOTIVATION PROGRAMME

The session on academic motivation for Year 11 students coordinated excellently by Mr Lahiru de Silva was conducted over the last weekend. I express my gratitude to Professor Hemesiri Kotagama, Professor Sarath Kodituwakku and Mr. K.K.Lalith Kumara for their commitment and excellent contribution.

A USEFUL WEBSITE

Please checkout www.studygs.net if you are interested in learning new strategies and methodologies in teaching, current thinking on education etc.

Somabandhu Kodikara
Principal

26 November 2012