Management and Staff of Raffles International School extend their warm welcome to the Students’ and Parents’ for the Academic Year 2015-2016
A VERY WARM WELCOME TO RAFFLES INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

As we prepare to commence a new school year, you are joining us at a dynamic stage in our development. RIS Secondary School opens Grade 9/Year 10 in September 2015, with students commencing two-year, externally examined International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) courses. In Grades 6 - 8, the Cambridge Secondary 1 programme is followed.

We have already been rated ‘Good’ by KHDA, with ‘Outstanding’ features - now we continue to refine and build on the achievements of the school community, and our reputation for high quality.

The Montessori programme lays strong foundations in the Nursery and KG/Foundation. In KG2/Year 1 we deliver the Cambridge Primary Stage 1 programme, and incorporate the best of Montessori practice and methodology focusing on literacy and numeracy. The Cambridge International programmes provide the framework for a well-structured and rigorous international education. The breadth and depth of such an education is built on demanding academics, with emphasis on broader social and personal development and involvement. The events, assemblies, Field Trips and After School Activities provide that range of holistic learning experiences that children so enjoy and thrive on.

We thank you for choosing to join Raffles International School for your child’s continuing education and growth in all respects, and believe that the partnership between parents, students and teachers is central to success and a positive learning community. Our school community of teachers, support staff, students and Parents’ Association (PARIS) welcome you warmly. We encourage you to participate in the Parents’ Association and be involved in the many activities at school, particularly the parent-led UAE National Day and International Day celebrations - social highlights of the year.

The pace of our development towards being an ‘outstanding’ school continues to be steady and sure. The number of outstanding features as determined by the KHDA is set to increase further in those critical areas which will become the ‘tipping point’ for outstanding. We also must recognise that we have areas that require improvement, noticeably in Arabic as a First Language and this can only begin with effective partnership between all stakeholders. As a community we should reflect on how to move forward effectively and focus on areas of progress over the next twelve months. The hands-on involvement of PARIS on the improvement of Arabic learning and support for parents learning Arabic as an additional language as well as the moral, physical and financial support for so many areas of school life continues to be commendable. Similarly, we are committed through our Learning Support department to meeting the needs of all students inclusively within the resources available and this includes students who are gifted and talented as well as those with learning difficulties. We are an inclusive community and believe that our role as educators is to unlock the potential that individual students have, whatever their academic abilities.
I am not complacent and fully understand that as a school we cannot stand still but must seize the exciting opportunities ahead and as a community stay true to our vision and core values, committed to our journey, ‘Towards Excellence’, underscored by our integrity, care, engagement and dedication.

I look forward to meeting and welcoming you.

Yours faithfully,

Michael William Clack
Principal

Health and Safety
♦ To ensure safety and security of the students, Parents and Guardians are reminded to wear your ID badges at all time when you are in the school campus.
♦ With the building construction work in progress, we will ensure that Safety and Security of the students will be our priority.
MESSAGE FROM OUR DEAN OF STUDENTS

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the staff at RIS, I am very happy and excited to welcome you to the 2015-16 school academic year. We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure our children can achieve their highest potential. We recognise that in order to be successful in school, our children need support from both the home and school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child’s education. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children’s success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities. We ask that you guide and support your child’s learning by ensuring that he/she:

1) Attends school daily and arrives on time, ready for the day’s learning experience
2) Completes all homework assignments given by teachers
3) Reads daily to develop a love for reading and to improve literacy skills
4) Shares school experiences with you so that you are aware of his/her school life
5) Informs you if he/she needs additional support in any area or subject
6) Knows that you expect him/her to succeed in school and go on to college

I am listing below our school rules so that you and your child can review them together. If you have any questions about the rules and expectations, please feel free to contact me or to discuss them with your child’s teacher. It is very important that you and your child are fully informed regarding standards related to appropriate behavior for a safe and productive school year.

Students should behave according to the following guidelines at all times.
♦ Be punctual for school and all classes.
♦ Wear correct school uniform.
♦ Respect the rights of others and avoid disturbing or interrupting the class.
♦ Respect and cooperate with teachers, staff and other students.
♦ Complete the assigned school work.
♦ Work quietly during class and follow all the instructions of the teacher.
♦ Obtain the permission of the teacher before asking questions, moving, or addressing the class.
♦ Have all materials required for each class.
♦ Remain in class until dismissed by the teacher.
♦ Keep the classroom and school premises clean and tidy at all times.
♦ Avoid rough games in the playground.
♦ Walk quietly and orderly in the corridors when moving around the school.
♦ Sit quietly in the assigned seat of the bus. Be alert to the instructions of the driver.
♦ Respect school property and the property of others.
♦ Behave in an honest and honorable manner

The wonderful RIS staff and I feel privileged to be a part of this school family. We thank you for your support and look forward to meeting you.

Gary Williams
Dean of Students
# Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, 30 August</td>
<td>Returning students join</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 22 — Thursday, 24 September</td>
<td>Arafat Day / Eid Al Adha tbc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 14 — Thursday, 15 October</td>
<td>Islamic New Year tbc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 2 — Thursday, 3 December</td>
<td>National Day Holiday tbc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 17 December</td>
<td>Dismissal for Winter Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, 3 January 2016</td>
<td>Students and teachers return</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, 31 January</td>
<td>Semester 1 Ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 1 February</td>
<td>Semester 2 Starts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 24 March</td>
<td>Dismissal for Spring Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, 10 April</td>
<td>Students and teachers return</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 4 — Thursday, 5</td>
<td>Al Israa Wa Al Miraj tbc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 23 June</td>
<td>Last Day for students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 27 June</td>
<td>Last Day for Teachers</td>
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## Students’ Orientation - 26th and 27th August 2015
Dear Parents,

Welcome to Raffles Umm Suqeim Montessori Nursery We feel privileged to be sharing your child’s first stepping stone of education. This is a time for new beginnings, making friends, and learning lots of new and exciting things each and every day. Our days will be filled with lots of wonderful experiences and opportunities for learning and growing.

I once heard someone say, “…. Children, marriages, and flower gardens reflect the kind of care they get.” I begin this academic year with the same nurturing spirit that every child deserves. My name is Garima Kapoor, and I am Nursery Coordinator for Raffles International School, South Campus. Having spent the first part of my working life in hospitality, I found my calling towards working in an environment with children. I completed my Montessori training in London where my family was based at the time and began teaching at a nursery in the middle of serene woodland. A few years on, life brought me to Dubai and I have been a part of the Raffles Nursery family, prior to the opening in 2009, and have watched it grow into the loving and caring atmosphere that it exhibits today.

In our Nursery, we aim to build upon all the good work you have already done with your child during their early years. Developing your child’s Personal, Social and Emotional skills will help them to feel confident and to achieve their full potential in all areas of learning. We believe it is ‘It’s good to talk’ and this will be embedded each day in Nursery, our aim is for your child to share their feelings, and thoughts with us.
Our children learn in a Montessori classroom. Our Montessori teachers are trained facilitators in the classroom, always ready to assist and direct. Their purpose is to stimulate the child's enthusiasm for learning and to guide it, without interfering with the child's natural desire to teach him/herself and become independent. Through the course of the year, the children will work through their individual cycle of activity with work that interests them in their ‘Sensitive periods.’ Sensitive periods are Maria Montessori’s name for periods when the child shows unusual capabilities for acquiring particular skills. Modern psychologists refer to these as ‘critical’ learning periods or ‘windows of opportunities’.

During your child’s time in Nursery, we will continually assess and record his/her progress and achievements. This will be shared with you during our Parent Teacher Conferences and we value your comments and input. We also have Drop in Days for you to come and meet your child’s teacher whenever you need to share something or have a concern. Details about this will follow soon. At this age, the best way to record many of your child’s achievements is through a ‘Learning Journey’, which is a working document that records your child’s development (from their first day in nursery to their last). It documents the children’s interests, their next steps and informs our planning. Your child’s Learning Journey will include photos, teacher observations/comments, examples of work, achievements and milestones. You are welcome at any time to contribute to this by sharing with us your child’s ‘WOW Moments’ that happen outside of school. For example, photos, stories etc...we love to hear about all these, so please tell us about them.

We will keep you updated with our regular newsletter, SummaRISe which will also be available on our website. I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at any time, I will be available from 8:00 am each morning. Please feel free to walk into the Nursery office.

Yours sincerely,
Garima Kapoor,
Nursery Coordinator
Dear Parents,

A big welcome back, I hope you had a great summer break with your family and friends. We have a large amount of new families joining us this year, and I look forward to getting to know you all. It was a pleasure to meet many of you during the Orientation Day.

During the coming weeks your children will be exposed to many different environments. The most important environment for them is their Home-room class. There, they will work with the Montessori material during the work cycle. They will also get to know the Library, Sports Halls, Music Department and the Arabic Classes. We also have a KG Art class in our own environment and new to this year, the KG Science Lab.

We have many exciting events happening throughout the year, so please keep an eye on the Communicator and check your emails regularly.

We are all looking forward to getting this year started and getting to know the new families, also welcoming the ‘big boys and girls‘ to KG2.

I wish all the children in KG a very positive, knowledgeable and fulfilled year ahead.

‘Let the friendships form’

Yours sincerely,

Susie Mcshane
KG Coordinator
Message from Head of Primary School

Welcome to Raffles International School

Dear Parents,

I hope you had a relaxing summer break and are happy and ready to get back into the school routine along with the children. I am delighted to have you ‘on board’ and would like to extend a very warm welcome to you to Raffles International School. To all our new families joining us this academic year, I wish you a great RIS experience and a fun, engaging, challenging and fulfilling learning journey to the children.

RIS is a Montessori/ Cambridge/ UK Curriculum school, authorised to deliver the Cambridge Primary Programme and the Cambridge Secondary Programme and courses. The Primary School follows the Montessori/ Cambridge Primary Programme in the core subject areas of English, Mathematics and Science and the UK curriculum in non-core subject areas like Music, Art and Physical Exercise.

Our school has an outstanding reputation in the region, and is especially commended for its warm, welcoming and friendly environment where each child is respected and valued. We are a truly international school with over 96 nationalities, which makes the school atmosphere very vibrant, and we endeavor to understand, respect and appreciate the diversity within our school community. I am proud to have been associated with RIS in various roles, starting as an English as a Second Language teacher in the year 2007, when I first moved back to Dubai from Toronto, Canada.

RIS has a dedicated professional staff committed to providing the students with a high quality education. KHDA (Knowledge and Human Development Authority) has for the past several years rated the relationship between teachers and students and between students/peers as ‘Outstanding’. The last few years has seen RIS achieve an overall KHDA rating of ‘GOOD’ with several outstanding features. We have an exciting year ahead of us, and I am looking forward to a positive working relationship with you, staff and children to make the academic year 2015-2016 a fulfilling and rewarding experience for the RIS community.

Yours sincerely,

Zeba Khan
Head of Primary School and Nursery
Message from Deputy Head of Primary School - (KG2 - Grade 2/Years 1 - 3)

Welcome back to Raffles International School. I am really looking forward to the new challenges and achievements for 2015-2016. I am looking forward to meeting with you as in my role I am responsible for Teaching and Learning in KG2, Grade 1 and Grade 2. My role involves supporting the teachers and working with them to improve standards across the grade level. My role is one that I love, as it gives me a chance to work and to familiarize myself with all of the children and get my hands back into the classroom. My experience over the past 15 years have been in UK schools, leading a range of different curriculum areas and being part of the Senior Management and Leadership Team.

I look forward to meeting with you and sharing in the successes ahead.

Yours sincerely
Jasmit Kaur Kang
Deputy Head of Primary School - KG2 - Grade 2/Years 1 - 3

Message from Deputy Head of Primary School, (Grades 3 - 5/Years 4 - 6)

Welcome back to a new school year at Raffles International School. As one of the Primary Deputy Heads I am charged with ensuring students in Grade 3 - 5 are safe, secure and engaged in positive and challenging learning experiences. A responsibility I take very seriously. I believe this phase of a student’s life is crucial in embedding responsible attitudes and in laying strong academic foundations for life in the Secondary School. Students in the upper Primary School are expected to show exemplary discipline and focus on producing their very best work, working collaboratively with their peers to achieve their goals and to learn lessons from their mistakes. Our students are recognised by their successes, be it academic, sporting or in the arts, and as a school we endeavour to challenge each and every child to reach their full potential in a personalised and supportive learning environment.

I am now entering my third year at RIS and am due to complete my studies for a Masters in Educational Leadership and Management with Bath University in the UK this academic year. This rigorous qualification, along with my recent experience at RIS, ensures the approach I take to working with our students, parents and teachers is informed through relevant, evidence-based practice and is applied thoughtfully in our context.

As well as a member of staff I am a proud parent at RIS, with a young child in the Nursery section.
Matthew Barrett
Deputy Head of Primary - Grades 3 - 5/Years 4 - 6.
Welcome from Grade 1

Thank you to the teachers, parents and students for their help in making the first week of Grade 1 a success. We are delighted to be back and ready to start on our many learning adventures.

So far we have been busy touring the school and getting to know each other in our vibrant classrooms. School rules and routines are being reinforced through stories, song and activities.

We are reminding each other and our teachers to swipe our ID’s in the morning as it is very important for our safety.

We are hands on and busy in Grade 1, showing our teachers how good we are at ordering numbers, reading and chanting our sight words and sounding out words to write simple sentences.

In the next few weeks we will have special booklets to practice these sight words, and we will be bringing books from the library to read to our families at home.

Remember parents, to spend a little time every day reading with your child, to help them become fluent, expressive and confident readers. Check your child’s understanding of the texts by stopping every so often while reading aloud to ask and discuss questions. e.g. What happened in the story so far? Encourage them to predict what will happen next.

While we have not introduced homework yet, do encourage your children to revise sounds, words and numbers through the medium of the educational websites we have attached in the Communicator.

Learning is challenging and fun, not hard. That is how we want our children to feel at school and at home.

Grade 1 Team

Welcome from Grade 2

Dear Parents,

As this new academic year is about to begin at Raffles International School, the Grade 2 team would like to wish you and your children a very warm welcome. We hope you had lovely holidays. We cannot wait to hear all about all the fun you had on your vacation. We are about to embark on yet another exciting journey filled with fun, learning and activities! The Grade 2 team is all geared up to welcome the students on board, as they reunite with their friends as well as make new ones.

This year is going to be packed with Science experiments, class projects, role-plays, ICT and Art work. The classrooms are all decorated and looking bright.

Kavita Nanda & Alberta Pace
Grade 2 Coordinators
In our Grade 2 team, we have welcomed five new teachers. We will be updating you via e-mail, so be sure to check your account regularly. We are all very enthusiastic about working collaboratively and helping our students achieve all that they can.

The Grade 2 team cannot wait to get to know the children in our classes.

**Grade 2 Team**

**Welcome from Grade 3**

Greetings from the Grade 3 team. Hope you all have had a good summer and we are glad to welcome both the new and returning students.

The Grade 3 team; Rachel Kennelly, Mitchelle Carvalho, Michael Scully, Rebecca Green, Orla Derrane, Deirdre Menezes, Niall Healy and Teri Bredekamp are looking forward to a wonderful and enthusiastic year with your children. We will enable them to work more independently by developing their academic skills, and giving them ownership of their own learning. In addition we will help them to develop their teamwork skills. This will enable them to make friends and build confidence for their day to day interactions.

RIS follows the Cambridge Primary Programme which sets out a framework in the content areas of English, Mathematics and Science, that allows for adaptation of the content to include a variety of local topics; thus making it a truly international curriculum. RIS have embedded the “Circle of Culture” whereby a monthly focus is on a country represented within classrooms where students have the opportunity to make links between their and other nations.
We want all of our students to experience success and enjoy learning. Our lessons are differentiated to accommodate the variety of learning styles of our students. The teachers plan collaboratively and establish cross-curricular links in the planning and delivery of the curriculum, providing opportunities for students to develop 21st century skills.

Please feel free to contact your child’s teacher via email whenever needed. If you have any queries or concerns you should contact Ms. Mitchelle Carvalho the Grade 3 Year Leader at mitchellec@rafflesis.com

**Grade 3 Team**

**Welcome from Grade 4**
We are excited about the start of another academic year and trust that your child is looking forward to be in school soon. Grade 4 team would like to wish you and your children a very warm welcome to Raffles International School. Our Grade team consists of Conall Chivers, Charlene Botha, Ikram Bostan, Zubaida Abrahams, Caroline Casey and Shabana Ahmed as the Grade 4 Coordinator.

We are all very enthusiastic about working collaboratively and helping our students achieve all that they can. Our first unit of work will be: ‘I am International’ and this will provide the children with many opportunities to explore different cultures around the world. As this is an international school this topic seems a very apt one which will enable the children to get to know each other and their teachers, as well as, understand more about the world that they live in.

The Grade 4 team cannot wait to get to know the children in our classes and learning lots of new and fun things together.

We are looking forward to a fun-filled academic year with our new Grade 4 children.

**Grade 4 Team**
Welcome from Grade 5

Dear Parents,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you in Raffles International School. To those students and parents who are new to RIS we extend a special warm welcome and best wishes for an exciting and productive year in the school. We hope that you will quickly feel at home and become involved in the activities of our school.

As Grade 5 Coordinator I can assure that our key goal is the valuing of each pupil individually and equally. All pupils are individuals with different needs and we recognise this through the courses taught, the teaching approaches used, the supportive guidance system and the range of extra-curricular activities. Our Core values of Achievement, Collaboration, Integrity, Respect and Responsibility will help prepare our children for a purpose-driven life as a member of an increasing globalized society.

This year we have four Grade 5 classes and the team comprises of Sean Barry, Beata Jargilo and Paul Foley and myself. I look forward to working with them to give a wholesome learning experience to our children.

Students will be covering the stage 6 of the Cambridge Primary curriculum. Children will be encouraged to hone 21st century skills which will include group discussions, assignments, projects, presentations, problem solving, critical thinking along outdoor trips. As children transition to the middle school at the end of the year, they will be encouraged to take more ownership of their work and demonstrate independent learning habits.

Communication is the key to a successful learning journey that we start at this time of the year. It is the team’s priority to maintain a good communication about all aspects of your child’s life – their progress, personal and social development.

Your child will receive the Welcome Pack on the orientation day. It is a comprehensive booklet that will guide you through the “nuts and bolts” of the Grade. I encourage you to read it with your child so that we are better prepared for the coming year.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact your child’s Homeroom teacher or me at Shabanab@rafflesis.com

Shabana Bashir
Grade 5 Coordinator
Message from Deputy Head – Secondary School

Welcome message from Deputy Head – RIS Secondary School

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to Raffles International School for the 2015-2016 academic year. It is a lovely feeling to meet and welcome so many new students to the school as well as seeing all of the familiar faces return after the summer holidays.

The start of the new academic year is an exciting time in which we all want to hit the ground running. I am delighted to welcome many new teachers to our Secondary team and am sure you will get to know them all very well over the coming weeks. I am also pleased to see the construction of the new classrooms well under way as well as the many new renovations that have taken place over the summer months.

Without question, the biggest change to the Secondary School is the introduction of IGCSE (International General Certificate of Secondary Education) in Grade 9 (Year 10). Launching IGCSE is extremely exhilarating and the first major step in preparing a thriving community of learners for life after school. Over the next couple of years it is our vision to ensure that the IGCSE cohort grows in numbers as well to plan carefully and thoroughly for the introduction of Cambridge A-Levels in the near future.

On a personal note, it was a busy summer for me travelling to Belgium, England, Holland, Germany and the United States. Having time to relax, spend time with my family and travel was a wonderful experience and certainly helped in re-charging the batteries ready for a new school year. I am also very pleased that I have now completed my Masters of Education degree and looking forward to a new challenge, perhaps in the form of a PhD. The learning process never stops.

I will always maintain that the most important aspect of any successful school is ensuring that students experience a safe, enjoyable and rewarding academic experience throughout their educational journey. Working together collaboratively at all times is certainly the best way to achieve this – and something I look forward to doing with you all this year.

Yours sincerely,
Ian Plant
Deputy Head – RIS Secondary School