

A Centre of Excellence in Learning  
at the Heart of the Community



مركز تعلم متميز فى قلب المجتمع

## Ras Al Khaimah Academy أكاديمية رأس الخيمة

Welcome Back

The Primary PYP section of Ras Al Khaimah Academy (RAKA) is under new management. We have an amazing and talented leadership team that is working diligently with our dedicated staff to ensure we keep focused on our vision to be a school of excellence within the community. Prior to the start of school, we also dedicated ourselves to work towards being the leading PYP school within the African, Middle East and European International Baccalaureate (IB) region. We have begun our preparation week with a host of professional development and finished the week with a retreat for our leadership team with the task of completing a three year strategic plan for school improvement.

I am confident we will achieve our vision. The gifts and talents of our students combined with the dedication, knowledge and passion of our teachers and assistants allows us to strive for excellence. 'Excellence' is not the result of a good intention or clever slogan; it is not a value that is easily achieved. It comes from a strong desire to improve how we do things when we see something we can do better. We continue to work hard to ensure that the Primary PYP section of RAKA will be recognized as a school that sets their students and teachers up for success. In fact, the Primary PYP section, this year has the motto "Working Together for Success."

The PYP section is a great place to be. As we strive for excellence, we remember that we are not on this journey alone. I believe that strong community- school relationships are essential to enable high academic achievement. Find any successful school and you will also find parents and community members that are involved and supportive of the school. This year our hope is that parents, staff and students can all work together, support one another with a very clear focus on making the PYP experience a successful partnership.

Please make sure you read the Family Handbooks which will be available on the website shortly. These documents provide important information about our school's philosophy, procedures, policies, curriculum, and schedules. It is a guide to the way we operate as a school. Also included in the handbook are behavioral expectations and guidelines for students. Every two weeks, I publish a newsletter entitled 'PYP Matters' and it is my hope that every parent reads this document when published. Each year level will also publish a weekly newsletter to share information about the grade and to remind you about important information.

On September 8, we will hold a Parent Information Evening for all parents; where the leadership team will share their plans for the year; this is also an opportunity to meet the team that will be leading the school improvement. Further information will be forwarded to you about this evening. During the week of September 13, each year level will host an evening where the team will discuss their plans for the year and be available to answer any questions

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you may have about the PYP. Throughout the year, we will hold information meetings for parents to help to better understand the IB Primary Years Programme (IBPYP)

Once a month, the leadership team will be available for what we call an Open Forum. The Open Forum is where you can raise concerns, ask questions, give advice or share a compliment regarding any aspect of the school. This meeting is located in our conference room; further details will be sent home to you regarding the first meeting.

If at any time you have a question, have heard a rumor or want clarification on an issue please do not hesitate to contact me, one of my fellow leadership team members or if it pertains to your child your child's teacher. Often misconceptions occur when the right person is not asked the question or the question is not asked in the first place. Often questions/comments regarding the school on Facebook and other social media can cause concern. As a school we believe in open communication – I cannot promise you will always like the answer but I will definitely respond to you. We want our school to provide an excellent education for your child, we need all our parents to work with us to enable us to achieve this vision.

I am very excited about the upcoming academic year and I look forward to working with you, the Primary PYP staff, your child and other students to make the Primary PYP section of RAKA a strong and successful community of learners.

Let's work together to ensure the children in our school are successful.

Kind regards

Steven Thompson

Head of Primary

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- We have two significant issues regarding drop off and pick up that require your attention. We will send home a separate letter regarding this matter.