

GREAT READS FOR OUR WINTER BREAK

Knowledge for Every Concerned Parent!



Learning Ideas for Parents and Children

Podcasts are an excellent way to have your children LEARN while being entertained.

And if you listen to podcasts together it can become a special time for the whole family, whether on long car rides or while at home.

There are some amazing podcasts out there! Below is a link to a list of 40 top growth mindset and character-building podcasts for you and your children. They can help your children develop a growth mindset to help them develop persistence, love of learning and other key growth mindset ideas.

[40 Top Growth Mindset and Character-Building Podcasts for Kids, Teens and Parents](#)

The Big Life Journal website also has a lot of free material covering such topics as:

- How to Help Teens Set Effective Goals
- 7 Fun Goal Setting Activities for Children
- 5 Steps to a Positive Bedtime Routine with Children

Please note: While we believe this material is useful for you to explore, MLS has no affiliation with Big Life Journal and assumes no responsibility for the use of any material provided by them.



Big Plans Ahead

The leadership team MLS has been involved in some wonderful planning with Mr Eric Jamieson, our Chief Education Officer for Egypt, to develop education at our school to an even higher level. The strategies that we are designing will be the foundation for exciting and creative learning for our students.

We have been studying outstanding education systems and schools throughout the world to learn from new directions and ideas. It is clear to us that education is changing to better prepare young people for the changing world. With increasing technology and the introduction of artificial intelligence in our world, students will need to do more than memorise knowledge and facts if they are to be successful in the future. At MLS, we intend to be leading the way in providing such an education for young people in Egypt.

The aim is for our school to be an educational leader in Egypt and to be working at an international level through GEMS Education.

Our commitment as a school will be to deliver highly dynamic, progressive and personalised learning that enables students to be leaders, designers, creators and contributors in our world.

We have been using the information you have provided to us in the recent surveys so that we know exactly what you want for your children through their time at school. The result will be a strategic plan that will guide big developments at our school, this year and in the future.

There will be programs and initiatives that we will be introducing at the school, focusing on the following three strategic priorities:



Citizenship, Character
Development and Success for All



Progressive,
Personalised Learning



A Dynamic, Inclusive & Positive
School Culture

Positive Behaviour 4 Learning

The first initiative from our school plan that we are excited to be introducing this year, is a new approach to teaching behaviour to enhance student learning. The aim will be to support students in positive ways to help them to develop ways to effectively manage their behaviours at school and at home. This will serve them very well as they grow and develop during their time at school.

The focus will be on 3 main aspects of behaviour for every student to develop. Our expectations will be to help students to be Respectful, Responsible, Learners and Leaders. There will be clear expectations for students in every aspect of their lives at school – classrooms, playground, corridors, toilets, buses, theatre, exams, etc. An example of the core expectations that will apply in the classroom is shown below:

BE RESPECTFUL IN CLASSROOM

- Listen carefully to teachers
- Be kind to others
- Appreciate differences

BE RESPONSIBLE IN CLASSROOM

- Be well prepared for Class
- Be safe in all I do
- Keep my work space organized

BE A LEARNER AND A LEADER IN CLASSROOM

- Make the most out of every activity
- Work well with others
- Respectfully ask for help when needed

Teaching and Encouraging Great Behaviours



We will be working with students to help them to understand what it means to Be Respectful, to Be Responsible and to Be a Learner and Leader in every situation at school. We will also be working with them to encourage them to Be Respectful, to Be Responsible and to Be a Learner and Leader at home. We will be working with you so that together, we will promote high standards of behaviour.

The best part of Positive Behaviour 4 Learning, is that students will be learning skills and strategies to take responsibility for their own behaviour, no matter where they are. We will be working with all students to set goals, as well as developing on character-building, citizenship and leadership skills.

You will receive a great deal of information so that you will be fully aware as we launch into this new, exciting approach. We will also be running information sessions for parents so that we can work together to demonstrate and develop wonderfully respectful and responsible behaviours for all students at our school.

Parent Advocacy, Governance and Engagement

Another major initiative that we are introducing this year as part of our new school plan is what we are calling PAGE – Parent Advocacy, Governance and Engagement.

The emphasis will be on creating positive, productive and supportive ways in which you, as parents, can be engaged in our school. This will be based on the following approach:

- We value the key role played by parents at our school as partners in supporting their children's learning.
- We want to reassure parents that they do not need expertise in subjects being learnt at school for them to play an important role in being able to support, encourage, inspire and challenge their children.
- It is important for the school to help parents with ideas and support in how to be partners in their children's learning, as well as run sessions for parents about different aspects of learning and development at school.
- The school will ensure parents will receive comprehensive information about the progress of their children, both academically and in terms of their personal growth.
- In the future, there will be increasing opportunities for parents to be part of project groups as well as parent/community advisory groups that will operate in each school.
- There will also be opportunities for parents to be part of their children's learning experiences at the school/s.

New Advisory Councils

As our first step in the PAGE initiative, we are establishing an Advisory Council for each school and also one major Advisory Council for GEMS Egypt. Each Advisory Council will consist of GEMS leaders, school leaders, students, parents, academic leaders and business leaders.

If you are interested in being the parent representative for MLS Advisory Council, could you please apply using the application attached at the end of this newsletter. Applications close on 28 February, 2019.

To begin with there will be a position on the GEMS Egypt Advisory Council for a parent from each of our four existing schools. If you are interested in being the parent representative for your school on the GEMS Egypt Advisory Council, could you please apply using the application attached at the end of this newsletter. Applications close on 28 February, 2019.

We are excited about this initiative as it will provide for contributions from a range of key people to the ongoing growth and development of high-quality education provision in GEMS Egypt schools.

Trends in International Education



Education is in the middle of a fascinating time of change. School systems throughout the world are having to reconsider the way schools operate to meet the changing needs of development in our world. The future is uncertain and we cannot predict it; but we need to be open and ready for it.

The children entering education now will be young adults in 2030. Schools throughout the world must prepare them for jobs that have not yet been created, for technologies that have not yet been invented, to solve problems that have not yet been anticipated. It will be a shared responsibility to seize opportunities and find solutions.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is a leading world economic organisation established by governments to stimulate economic progress and world trade. This year, the OECD has launched The Future of Education and Skills 2030 project. The aim of the project is to help countries find answers to two far-reaching questions in relation to education:

- What knowledge, skills, attitudes and values will today's students need to thrive and shape their world?
- How can school systems develop these knowledge, skills, attitudes and values effectively?

Although books and lectures have a place in the classroom, for students to be competitive in the workplace, the current ways need to change – from students mostly working alone at their desks, to collaborating with small teams on real-world issues in which students have a stake.

Our GEMS Egypt schools are committed to providing learning experiences that will help prepare students for a rapidly changing world. There will be changes that you will see happening in our school, starting this year and continuing in the coming years. To do this we need your support, understanding and patience, to create a way of teaching and learning that will be world class.

Happy Holidays!