



Acorns International School

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December 2018

Message from the Head of School / CEO

On some days, I feel the Term zipped by too soon! And then there were other days, when I looked forward to the end of the Term. It is this journey, of ebbs and flows, which helped us tide over, while creating ripples in the field of education in Uganda.

At Acorns International School, the main protagonists of our narrative are our precious students. Each member of my team thrives on the foundation of innocent smiles and the infinite curiosity that these students arrive with each morning! Together, we set out to unravel the beautiful world of knowledge, ending each day a tad closer to achieving our vision.

This Term has been eventful one too! In addition to our calendared events that were a roaring success (please do take the time to read more on that), we had some unexpected ones too.

| Date | Event |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 8 th Jan | First Day of Term II (ECDC & PYP) |
| 9 th Jan | First Day of Term II (MYP) |
| 21 st - 24 th Jan | Book Week |
| 25 th Jan | Spelling Bee Competition |
| 26 th Jan | Holiday - NRM Liberation Day |
| 1 st - 15 th Feb | Assessments |
| 11 th - 14 th Feb | ECDC Favourite Week |
| 15 th Feb | 100 Days at AIS |
| 16 th Feb | Holiday - Archbishop Janani Luwum Day |
| 18 th - 22 nd Feb | Midterm Break |

His Worship the Mayor of Kawempe Division Urban Council



This Term saw a visit from His Worship the Mayor of Kawempe Division Urban Council, **Mr Serunjogi Emmanuel**. During one of his monitoring exercises, the honourable Mayor enjoyed his tour around Acorns International School, as well as interacting with our students. He also deputed a member of his office to represent him at the AIS Art Exhibition, which marked the end of the Term.



Exceptional Parental Engagement Award



Another crowning glory to this Term was Acorns International School being presented the **'Exceptional Parental Engagement Award'** at ISA Dubai this month. We feel truly honoured!

It is with this elation that we set off to embrace Term 2. The next term holds as much promise for us, as it does for our AIS Family. Book Week, Assemblies, ECDC Favourite Week, and of course, the grand finale with Sports Gala! We look forward to celebrating the next three months with our entire AIS community. Happy holidays, and see you all on January 8!

- Ameena Lalani - Hos/CEO

Money matters

Fees are due by January 15, 2019. A 5% surcharge will be levied as late payment.

AIS offers 15% reduction on one term's fee following the introduction of a new enrolment. Post dated cheques, dollar notes printed before 2009 (old white dollar notes) and marked notes will not be accepted.

PICTURE PERFECT - HIGHLIGHTS OF TERM I

TALENT SHOW



SPORTS ACHIEVEMENTS



The Basketball Under 10 merged champions in the ISSA Primary Basketball.



Our Swim Team, too, brought home the second place trophy at the ISSA League this season



TEACHERS' APPRECIATION WEEK



ECDC UPDATES



It's been a great term here in ECDC.

ECDC celebrated families this term. We invited family members to come in and spend time in classes. Some chose to read to the class, others to share their family histories. It was great to have you in the classroom and celebrate something so important in our students' lives. We wrapped up the week with Grandparents' Day, when families joined us for a series of fun activities and some snacks. Musical chairs was a particularly popular game, and face painting revealed some hidden artists among the ECDC parents.



Reception students kicked off the ECDC assembly year with a presentation about healthy eating. They told us all about good and bad habits in eating and hygiene, giving us a good guide on how to look after ourselves. The two classes also demonstrated the different ways we can move our bodies and performed the hit children's song of the second half of 2018, Baby Shark. A fantastic start to our assembly year.

We had a fun-filled field trip to UWEC Zoo in Entebbe. We saw so many animals, from snakes to parrots to chimps to crocodiles, and many more. Many students saw the animals their classes are named after and were very excited to meet them. It was an exciting experience for all who went and the students thoroughly enjoyed their day out.



Students enjoyed showing parents their term's work during the 3-Way Conferences held just last week. The pride in their work shone on their faces, as they led their parents through notebooks and folders. This satisfaction was also evident in the parents as they saw everything their child had been doing over the last few months. Our students have come so far in a few months and it was a delight to share that with you.

In the calendar for Term III is the **ECDC Production on May 16**. We have reviewed this and decided to merge the Production with the Celebration of Learning. Therefore, the ECDC Production will take place on June 20. We request that family travels be planned after this date, in order to allow all students to participate. The title of the Production is "Eddie the Penguin Saves the World!" and work has already started. We are confident that it will be a spectacular event and look forward to seeing you there.

We hope you have a restful holiday and students come back ready for another exciting term in January.

- Rebecca Hawkins- ECDC HoD

ECDC CURRICULUM COORDINATOR UPDATES

Our ECDC students can, rightfully, say that they have the most fun! They have had a term full of learning through play. All classrooms started with the theme 'All About Me', then continued into themes such as, Community Helpers, All Around the World and Seasons/Gardens/Cooking. We've had students treating wounds as they pretend to be doctors, making passports to explore new countries and planting seeds to watch how they turn into the food we eat. Next term, we will continue with more exciting themes. Learning continues at home, so we encourage you to ask your child about what they have been learning and all the fun activities they have done in class.

Thank you parents who joined us for Coffee with the Curriculum Coordinator. At the CCC, we explored the differences between tradition learning and play-



based learning. I hope you all got your hands dirty in our sensory activity and were able to get a clear picture of how fun and educational our days at school are.

Sarah Bowman- ECDC CC



PYP UPDATES

We had the absolute pleasure of enjoying the class assembly presented by the Year 5 Dolphins, Sea Lions, and Sharks this term. Their Unit of Inquiry was about Famous Explorers and they provided us with a bevy of performances on Wednesday, November 21st, 2018. They also offered a sing-along about Christopher Columbus sailing the ocean blue, several dance performances, a by-memory poetry recitation of "The Explorer" by Rudyard Kipling and so much more. We look forward to our next class assembly (Year 4) on **January 30th, 2019.**



After school clubs

We curate our after school clubs such that it gives students an opportunity to explore untrodden paths outside the curriculum, as well as fortify their skills in those that are already part of their daily activities. In Term 2, we are happy to reintroduce the Drama

Club, and bring on board the Zumba Club for our students! Starting this term, a few clubs will also have beginners and advanced sessions, to cater to different levels.

While selecting clubs, please bear in mind that Wednesdays are when the school teams practice, so if your child (ren) is/are in the teams, do not enrol them for a club on that day.

Going forward, we do encourage you to select clubs that your child (ren) would like to pursue for an entire year, to ensure consistency and deeper learning.

Nishitha Shrivastava

Head of Department- Admissions and Administra-



The Acorns Gazette

Editor's Note

Welcome to the first edition of **The Acorns Gazette (TAG)**! This supplement has been spearheaded by our sprightly Year 4s, who took their Unit of Inquiry, In the Headlines, to a whole new level. In this edition, you will be privy to many news snippets that you may have seen, or heard, as part of our AIS news board or grapevine, but here you see it through the eyes of our young reporters. The first of many, we hope you enjoy this read, and revert with words of encouragement for our TAG Team! Look forward to your emails at admin@ais.ac.ug Happy Holidays!

DRUMMER BOY

Easily worthy of the title, child prodigy, **Matthew Kirabo Gitta** represented Acorns International School in the recently held Talent Hunt 2018, and won Runner Up place in the Under 11 group of Instrumental Category. In this interview with **Stephanie Arinda** from Year 4S Gold, he speaks of his talent and aspirations:



How old are you?

I am 9-years-old.

How old were you when you first played the drums?

Five years ago, I was 4-years-old then.

How did you train?

I trained by watching videos online, and also the popular movie, *School of Rock*.

Why did you not go to a formal music school?

I wanted to be self-taught,

so I did not go to a music school.

What are your future plans?

I want to be on The Ellen Show and America's Got Talent.

YEAR 6 CREATED RIPPLES AT GRIFFIN FALLS



Byline: Minal Fatima

This year, the Year 6s went to Mabira Forest for a field trip. On Thursday, November 29, they set off with their homeroom teachers, Miss Jennifer, Miss Julian, Miss Lydia and Miss Lydia. The forest is located near Lugazi Town, and the group took about 1 hour 30 minutes to reach it, using the Kampala-Jinja Highway. Their first stop, after reaching, was the Griffin Falls. Also on the itinerary was a guided nature walk and fun team-building activities. According to Year 6L Maples homeroom teacher, Miss Lydia, "It was an adventurous and fun field trip." **Editor: Aditya Modi**

Over December 6 to 8, Acorns International School organized the unique Three-Way Conference. Year 4N Titanium reporters **Lakeisha Ashaba** and **Jemimah Kiara Asengo** give us a sneak peak:

The Three-Way Conference was held on December 6, 7 and 8, at Acorns International School campus in Kisaasi. During the conference, there were

*Nature, animals and conservation was on the cards at the Year 4 field trip, reports **Aarini Patel***

Students and teachers of Year 4 had a fun-filled field trip on November 29, to UWEC Entebbe Zoo and Botanical Gardens.

The main aim for this field trip was

THRICE AS NICE!



sessions that involved the teacher, student, and parent.

The students told their parents what they have been doing in class, thereafter, how the parents and teach-

ers can help them achieve and maintain their goals. The teachers also gave parents a report which explained how the student has been behaving. These conferences took place in their respective homerooms, where each parent had to sign up for a 15-minute time slot. **Editor: Aditya Modi**

ZOOMING TO THE ZOO

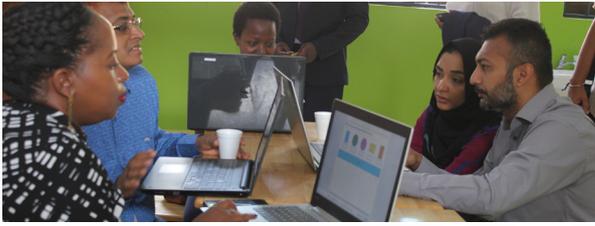


to explore Mother Nature, play games, see animals, conservation centres, enjoy snacks, and above all, interact with the teachers in a fun-filled

environment. At the Botanical Gardens, the students explored many plants from different countries.

"The students learnt about different animals from all over the globe, how they reproduce, and how to look after them," said Mr Nelson, homeroom teacher.

MYP UPDATES



This term's Coffee with Curriculum Coordinator was unique in a way that parents were more engaged in the activities. Our focal point was how to successfully parent teenagers and bring out the best in them. Parents volunteered to take sample MAP tests and formed two groups to brainstorm and share their findings on; "How to help teenagers succeed in school" and "How to help teenagers develop and maintain healthy relations." Both groups came up with amazing ideas on how to profitably groom our teenagers. Sincere gratitude goes out to all the parents who participated in these activities.



Mathemania

In our external engagements, we had a group of 20 students selected from Year 4 to Year 10 representing the school at the National Math Puzzle Contest, held at Galaxy International School, in both the Junior and Senior categories. Congratulations to all the students who participated, and a special shout out to Anthony Atukunda (Year 9), Bridget Bitarabeho (Year 8) and Alina Shabuddin (Year 7) for their outstanding performance in the math puzzle contest, where they finished among the top 20 national champions.



Student Elections



Alina Manji
Year 8
Team Earth
Captain



Faith Rachael
Year 8
Team water
Captain



Ayaan Lalani
Year 9
Team Light
Captain



Bridget Bitarabeho
Year 8
Team Metal
Captain



Nyawei Riek Gai
Year 9
Team Air
Captain



Timothy Aogon
Year 8
Team Fire
Captain

Prior to the mid-term break, our MYP students got a chance to channelize their leadership skills through the house team captain elections.

This is our new Leadership Team.



MYP Three-Way Conferences



The MYP Three-Way Conferences involved our first digital report cards. In Term 2, we plan on going entirely digital, as our parents and select students become more comfortable and involved with our online curriculum software, Managebac. We will be eagerly working towards updating parents and students with online updates on a regular basis. We believe, and will be working on, the emphasis being placed on progress and formation of the students as they go, rather than on the summatives and End of Term scores. To this end, we will be offering a few small group curriculum walkthroughs early in term 2:

Managebac

A small group approach to getting parents set up with Managebac and going over its key features that they will be able to expect from it. Managebac is the curriculum and reporting software we use in the MYP.

Thursday, January 24, 2019



World Scholars Championship



We had the honor of sending three MYP students to Yale University for the World Scholars Tournament of Champions in November. All three students returned having won medals and proud of their accomplishments.

Differing Curriculums, Differing Expectations



Middle Years Programme

AIS's MYP Programme is not like other curriculums. This small group setting will allow for a closer and personal elaboration of all that our MYP has to offer, and how that compares and contrasts with other curriculum backgrounds.

Thursday, January 17, 2019

MYP Study Trips

The MYP Study Trips were meaningful, as well as a blast, for everyone involved. The Year 9 students went to Lake Nabugabo and Lake Mburo to explore the different uses of natural resources, while the Year 10 students went to the source of the Nile and had their own Nile adventure.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



We hope you are receiving our emails. If not, or even if you want to express concerns/grievances, please drop us a word at parent@ais.ac.ug