



شركة تنمية نفط عُمان  
Petroleum Development Oman

# PDO SCHOOL NEWS

Issue 9

January 26th 2011

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Dear Parents,

*I would also like to encourage parents to take a look at our revised school website, our curriculum, newsletters and other important information can be accessed through the website. Now that the sun has decided to greet us again the school activities can go back to normal. We will of course keep you updated with rearranged dates for any event that was postponed.*

Any parents who have not yet given their email address or updated telephone number to the school please contact our school office.

## PTA News

If you need to become involved in the PTA please contact them

## events

- 26th January IP4 Assembly
- 30th January Sports Day MP2/3

## Important School Dates

Monday 31st January	CITO Eindtoets DP8 [ FINAL EXAMS]
Tuesday 1st February	CITO Eindtoets DP8 [ FINAL EXAMS]
Wednesday 2nd February	CITO Eindtoets DP8 [ FINAL EXAMS]
Sunday 27th February	CAMP DP 7/8 +1P7
Wednesday 2nd March	CAMP DP 7/8 +1P7

## SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER

The school photographer will be coming into school from the 29th January—2nd February. Please refer to letter regarding the photo arrangements.

## FUN DAY

We will inform you of the change of date for the Fun Day in due course.

## Sports Day MP 2/3

**CAN I REMIND PARENTS OF THE UPCOMING SPORTS DAY ON JANUARY 30th**

## SCHOOL BUSES

**PLEASE CAN I REMIND PARENTS THAT ONLY STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN REGISTERED TO TAKE THE SCHOOL BUSES ARE ALLOWED TO TRAVEL ON THEM.**

## January 2011

Mo	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## February 2011

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

### Special points of interest:

#### Half Term 15/16 February

- 26th January IP4 Assembly
- 30th January Sports Day MP2/3

### Dates for your Diary 2011

**January 8<sup>th</sup> first Day of second term all students**

28th January EY Fun Day

January 30<sup>th</sup> Sports Day MP2/3

February 13<sup>th</sup> School Musical Early years / Milepost 1

**February 15<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> MID Term break no school**

February 19<sup>th</sup> Parents / teacher meetings

February 20<sup>th</sup> Parents / teacher meetings

**April 13<sup>th</sup> last day of Term 2**

April 14<sup>th</sup> thru April 29<sup>th</sup> EASTER HOLIDAY

**April 30<sup>th</sup> First day of Term 3 all students**

21<sup>st</sup> May Parents / teacher meetings

22<sup>nd</sup> May Parents / teacher meetings

14<sup>th</sup> June DP7/8 Musical

**22<sup>nd</sup> June last day of Term 3**

## **International Mother-Tongue Day**

International Mother Language Day was proclaimed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in November 1999

On 16 May 2009 the United Nations General Assembly called upon Member States "to promote the preservation and protection of all languages used by peoples of the world".

International Mother Language Day has been observed every year since February 2000 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. The date represents the day in 1952 when students demonstrating for recognition of their language, Bangla, as one of the two national languages of the then Pakistan, were shot and killed by police in Dhaka, the capital of what is now Bangladesh.

Below is the first of a series of three articles which will appear in the newsletter addressing language learning and the role of the mother-tongue (sometimes called 'home-language' or 'first language').

### **Additive Bilingualism at PDO School**

At PDO School we have children of many nationalities and from many different cultural backgrounds. For some of the children this is their first experience of an international education, for others it is the third or fourth international school they have attended in their lives. At PDO School we currently offer the choice of learning through English or learning through Dutch. For some children the language of instruction is not their first language. These children have the challenge of learning the language, learning about the language and learning through the language.

The school offers support to these children in acquiring the social and academic language they need to become part of the school community. Many teachers at PDO School have completed the course 'Teaching English as an Additional Language in Mainstream Classes' and this has contributed to a greater awareness of the needs of children learning in a different language than their own. In addition the Learning Support Department offers support to those children needing extra help with English or Dutch.

In addition to the language of tuition, children from P4-P8 are also offered the opportunity to learn a Modern Foreign Language (MFL). The languages currently on offer are French, Spanish, Dutch and English. Arabic is offered in MP1, MP2 and MP3 as part of IPC units on Oman.

We recognise that there are many children in the community who have home languages which are not taught formally at school. Many parents are concerned about their child's ability to cope with more than one language and stop using the home language in order to support the acquisition of the language of instruction. Some children already have two languages, a mother-tongue and the lingua franca of their home county (for example Bahasa) which the children had already been schooled in. In this situation parents may chose to use the lingua-franca with their children as a means of ensuring they can communicate with others from the same home country but with whom they may not share a mother-tongue.

At PDO School we believe in additive bilingualism. That is the continuing development of the home language whilst at the same time learning the language of tuition.

*The Importance of the Mother-Tongue Language*, will be discussed in the next newsletter (dated 9<sup>th</sup> February), followed by *Ways to Support the Mother-Tongue (23rd February)*.

**Michelle Lawrence**



# Learning in IP2H

## Learning in IP2H

Our IPC Unit is all about "Beautiful Oman". This week we are learning about the history of Oman. We are using our research skills to find out lots of things. We have been to the Souk and the Bait al Baranda museum, where we learnt a lot about Omani designs, buildings, objects and clothes now and a long time ago. Next week we will have an interview with some Omani people to find out what they did in the past and what Oman looked like when they were young. In IP2H we enjoy our IPC, because we gain lots of knowledge and develop new skills.

Our learning focus in Literacy is on Fairy Tales and Traditional Tales. We have learnt to retell stories in a sequence using a variety of voices. Next we will learn to think of our own tales and write them using story language and time connectives. We are very excited about this.

In Numeracy we are learning the names of 3D shapes and their types of faces. We are also learning what is 1 more / 1 less and 10 more / 10 less than any given number. We keep challenging ourselves by trying to use higher numbers up to 100.

If you would like to see all the things we learn about, please pass by our classroom and have a look. We enjoy sharing our learning with others.

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## New Students

Welcome to our new students Aryan in IPN and Muhamad Rizky in IP1. They have just started in our school and we wish them all the best in their new school.

## IPC PERSONAL GOALS

At the end of last term we introduced the "Personal Goals Passport." The children are enthusiastic about their passports and have been receiving stamps for their efforts. As part of having the Personal Goals as an integral part of children's learning we would like to introduce the third Personal Goal to you.

The Personal Goal we would like to share with you is being Co-operative. The IPC states that children should:

- Be able to understand that different people have different roles to play in groups.
- Be able to take different roles in groups depending on the activity and the need of the group.
- Be able to work alongside others to complete our goals.

What does this look like in and around PDO School?

- Children share their ideas with others and listen to other people's ideas.
- Children play an active role during group work or group discussions.
- During group work children can take the role of: leader, scribe, time keeper, researcher, presenter etc.
- Children are focused on the learning target and support their group.
- Children help each other where required in and outside of the classroom.

We encourage the children in school to be co-operative throughout the day and have some special time scheduled where we consider all the Personal Goals on a weekly basis. We would like you to encourage your child at home and praise them when your child is showing this personal attribute in their home life.

