



*The City School  
International*

**YEAR BOOK  
2021 2022**

# **CITY CONNECTION**

**WE ARE  
GROWING  
BIGGER**





*The City School  
International*

# CITY CONNECTION

## YEAR BOOK 2021 2022

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

**DR FRANK R FERNANDES**

Dear Parent, Guardian & Students,

This academic year, we have been through a lot together. We faced challenges that we could not anticipate. However, we learned so much - about ourselves and about each other. When there was uncertainty, we knew what we had to do, and we did it. The lessons we had learned the year before were still fresh in our minds. We remembered how we could adapt quickly to changing situations. We remembered how to stay optimistic when there was negativity all around. We remembered that a little kindness and compassion goes a very long way.

We are now nearing the finish of this academic year. The future is looking bright, and we want to end it on a high note. We are at this juncture because all of you - school leaders, teachers, parents, students and rest of the school staff - who worked together for the benefit of our children.

The year started full of promise. We opened a brand-new second floor for our 'Sixth Formers' (Year 12) with new added science and computer laboratories and staff room including other facilities. We had a grand inaugural of our new floor and celebrated the success of our IGCSE students with their brilliant results. We saw at school our sixth formers engaged in the community service as well as some of them did the work experience during this academic year.

I believe that as a community we have pulled together and made the very best out of the given situation for our children. We as a school backed our students and staff to cope up with crisis of the pandemic and offered support overlooking their well-being. We supported our students with the counselling services especially who endured the loss of their loved ones. I am proud of all the staff and students here who have gone above and beyond, whilst suffering their own loss at times too. Our students were able to do trips, sports day, debates as well as graduation during this academic year.

Summer is coming up. It is time to feel thankful for what we have achieved, grateful to those who have helped us, and excited for what's ahead. As we head into the final weeks of school before the holidays, please think about how our school will celebrate the accomplishments of our community this academic year and build excitement for the next. I want to say to the entire community of 'TCSI', I am truly proud of you. You all make this school a happy place, and whatever the school has achieved today with all its accomplishments are due to your efforts. I take this opportunity to wish the entire TCSI community a restful summer.

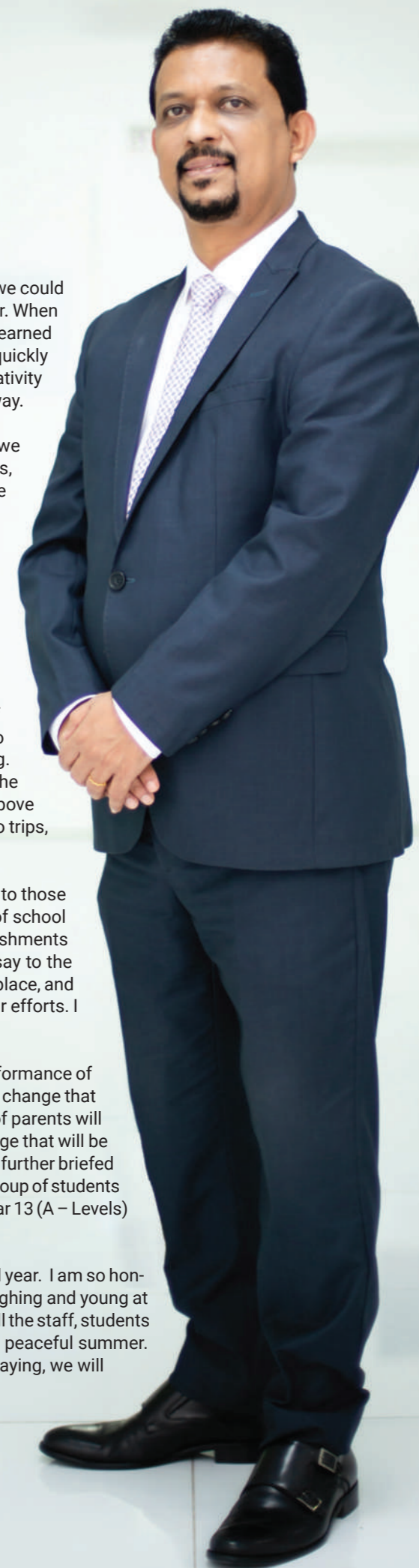
The school is constantly looking to improve and, in its endeavour, to enhance the performance of its students. Two major changes are taking place in the new academic year: the first change that you will see is the 'Home-room Teaching' in Key Stage 1 (Year 1 & 2); I am sure a lot of parents will not only like this change but will certainly embrace this change and the second change that will be implemented is the change in the 'Assessment Policy' across the school. This will be further briefed during the Parent Orientation. Another key addition will be the addition of the Year 13 group of students during the academic year 2022-23. We will be sending our first batch of students of Year 13 (A - Levels) at the end of the academic year 2022-23.

A final word to TCSI students: Thank you for all your hard work throughout the school year. I am so honored to be your principal; you make me proud to be an TCSI Leader. You keep me laughing and young at heart. I am grateful for your joy, astute insights and amazing talents. Best wishes to all the staff, students and parents. Wherever you find yourself this summer, stay safe and I wish you all a peaceful summer. For those that are leaving this year, I wish you all the very best. For those that are staying, we will see you soon in August.

Until next school year, here I am wishing you love, laughter and learning.

Respectfully,

Dr. Frank R Fernandes





## MESSAGE FROM Head of the section (Year 5 to 11)

Ms Farah Azeem

As another eventful year comes to a close, I am glad to take this opportunity to thank each and every one for the continued support and understanding. It was a wonderful journey to have our students back in the campus after a year-long hybrid mode of learning.

Our school programmes are aligned to focus on areas of "learning for life", "embracing all learners" and "enhancing student well-being".

To encourage our students to learn for life, we nurture joy of learning in our students and develop the 21st century competencies in them holistically, anchored on sound values, so as to be world and future ready. This is achieved through programmes like career guidance, and teach framework for integrated, engaged and assessed learning with teachers as curriculum innovators, collaborative learners and holistic educators.

We have adopted different online resources to help different learners achieve their goals. Disciplinary project work with a scientific focus on environment education/sustainable living to develop creative and critical thinking and collaborative problem-solving skills was an area that students enjoyed as well as found educative.

We look forward to the continuation and development of this successful project in the future. I am proud of our students not only for their academic achievements, but also for their many other outstanding achievements in areas such as sports and talent shows.

"Care for One Another" is a part of our school ethos. Through social and emotional profiling exercise and termly "check-in" surveys, we have identified the top 3 needs of our students: resilience and well-being, civic-mindedness and level-specific social-emotional skills.

Such success could not have happened without a group of passionate and highly professional staff.

I would like to thank the teachers of the middle school and high school sections for their continuous dedication.

The TCSI parents' community has always been the base and support to all the teaching staff at TCSI. I can never thank you enough for your support and feedback which has helped us a great deal to streamline our processes.

I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable summer break!

*Keep up your good work and keep striving!  
The sky is the limit!*



## MESSAGE FROM Head of the section (FS to Year 4)

Ms Lina Omar

Entering my fourth year at TCSI, I could not be prouder of The City School International and the resilience of our students and their families.

We have reached the end of a school year like no other. Despite all the challenges, our students and staff have persevered together and grown stronger as a result. Teachers have been challenged to adapt lesson delivery approaches to cover the educational gaps resulted during the quarantine. It has definitely been a team approach that has allowed the school community at TCSI to maintain focus and to achieve their goals.

We have had an exciting learning journey this year. We were blessed with less social restriction that allowed us to celebrate some events and assemblies. Our school has a strong tradition of celebrating achievement and encouraging children's self-esteem. Our weekly Celebration Assemblies are used to formally celebrate and reward children's achievements in class and outside of school.

My heart melts when I remember my little angles of the Foundation Stage walking on the red carpet in their graduation gowns. I am really proud of our school and the staff who work extremely hard to make learning fun and exciting.

We work as a very close team and strive to involve parents as much as possible in the learning of their children. I am extremely honored to be the Head of Foundation Stage and Primary sections at TCSI, and I believe that when children move on from Year 4, they will leave with the idea: "I believe and I have the confidence to succeed."

Our long-term goal remains one to realise our school vision of nurturing our students to be life-long and happy learners through a forward looking, balanced and holistic education - a vibrant learning community with a caring culture and close collaborations with our parents, stakeholders and partners. To establish a niche of excellence in teaching and learning, we will continue to develop our strengths in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) in both FS and Primary section. With optimism, I look forward to a good year ahead in 2022-2023 to embrace all the challenges with confidence, steadfastness and fortitude.

As we wind down the year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish my FS and primary students all the best as they move on to next year levels.

Warm thank you for the dedicated FS and primary staff who worked extremely hard to make this learning fun and exciting and leading to another successful year.

I look forward to seeing our students safe and energetic in September so that we achieve more milestones together.



## MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

Ms Zehra Ansari

Dear Students and the TCSI family,

The end of year always marks an end of an era, an era where we have had to learn to run before we can walk and did incredibly whilst doing so. I cannot tell you what a pleasure it has been for me to see each and everyone of you come into your 'Own'. For one or two of you this will be the last year at TCSI and I would like to say how proud I am of you for coming this far, staying focused and meeting your end goal. YOU DID IT!! Well done to you, and your family, and we at TCSI wish you immense success, joy and happiness for your future endeavours. You have been a pleasure to have and I am sure you will reach greatness ahead.

Whilst we say goodbye to some of our brightest students, I would also like to say thank you and to wish one of our staff members a very happy and successful new beginning in their careers and wish them the best. It has indeed been a wonderful journey to have worked alongside them and I thank them for their effort, time, and dedication towards the school and our students. They will always be remembered as a valued member of TCSI.

This year has been a tough one, it has been one where we have had too much time to think on our feet and move quickly. It is the first year back where we have had a full school with everyone on campus after a two year period of virtual lessons, where you had to very quickly adjust back into your normal school routine and adjust to a 'new way of life'. 2021 being the first year to host a brand new Sixth form has been extremely exciting, where our sixth form students were taken up a notch and were given a certain level of independence to think for themselves. It has been a year of internal growth academically and personally where they have spent time focusing on their studies but also their own interests and what makes them 'them'.

The year 12 have had roles to fulfil as leaders of the student body, whether it's for sport, wellbeing, peer mentoring/tutoring, MUN, community service and many others. Students this year have been focusing on their career plans and have slowly started to engage in conversations about what degree they would like to pursue and where they would like to call home for the next 3-4 years of their lives. We have had industrial days, and career fairs in aid to decision making and enlightening them of the new opportunities available to them. They have had a chance to look into different career paths with a microscopic view to start thinking about the future.

Along with a strong focus on academia and building a strong link with their teachers for guidance, 2021-2022 has been a time to focus on practical skills and help bridge a gap between school life and university life abroad. What are the skills that they will need to acquire in order to fulfil their passion? How can we help them do so? The parents, mentors, teachers, and others have been a great support in helping us achieve this and have paved a way for more open discussions next year.

'You' the students are what makes TCSI great, you have all individually spent each day passionately paving your way to success and it has been an inspiration to us all as your teachers and mentors. It has been one of the toughest years having to go through a pandemic, starting a brand new A-Levels which has been academically extremely challenging, and doing so with grace especially when you did not know what to expect. During this time, I believe we have been through it all, the happiness, the sadness, the frustration, the joy, eagerness and most importantly resilience. I am proud that during this year I have seen you develop a voice where you have voiced your fears, your views, your needs because that is what will take you forward in life and that is how TCSI aims to further enhance the brilliance we have already achieved.

May I also take this opportunity to thank the parents and ALL the staff at The City School International who supported students throughout the year and some who I have been grateful enough to have a wonderful relationship with. Your time and dedication to our students is one to cherish and one to forever be thankful for be it at home or at school. It is not everyday we have a team who we call family and for that I am forever thankful.

I wish you all a wonderful summer, a well deserved break and a time to rejuvenate and replenish. We look forward to having you come back with a fresh mind, for which some of you will be the last year here and for others a brand new beginning and the last leg at TCSI. Safe travels!



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF INCLUSION

Ms Consuelo Navarro

It is truly an honor to be part of the Senior Leadership Team this academic year. TCSI is an Inclusive School that consistently promotes diversity and inclusion. The existence of differences within a particular frame is referred to as diversity. Differences in ethnicity, culture, religion and a variety of other factors can all play a role in our school. The practice of ensuring that people with these differences experience a sense of connection and encouragement from their environment is referred to as inclusion.

In the workplace, equality is making sure people are given equal opportunities, and are well accepted for their differences. It fosters a safe, secure, and inclusive place where people with diverse backgrounds can thrive.

At TCSI, we are committed to inclusion, and we welcome students with a variety of needs including those with special educational needs, physical differences, emotional challenges, English language learners and students who are gifted and talented. We make sure that no student is left behind and no student or staff is excluded. Each student and staff feel that they truly belong in TCSI and we are one big family and community. We value and respect every staff and student as we continuously foster a culture that appreciates the contributions of each member of our learning community. We always aim to provide and create opportunities and give an equal chance to students to help them succeed in their individual journeys of emotional, social, and academic growth. At TCSI, our staff and teachers are well equipped and trained in handling Students of Determination and are able to use different strategies in handling different challenging behavior in the classroom. We celebrate diversity and unity at TCSI as well to better achieve our goals toward excellence and tolerance.

As Head of Inclusion, I believe that each child, even if differently abled has skills and potentials that are yet to be discovered and enhanced. We strive to address and handle the challenges and learning barriers that the Students of Determination might be facing or experiencing, by providing interventions and invaluable support to them, their parents, and their teachers. We discover and recognize given talents and giftedness of our students through relevant activities and enhancement programs. This year, the Inclusion Department (Achievement Center) has proudly launched TCSI's Got Talent 2022 to celebrate different talents and gifts of our students and it was indeed a successful event. We hope to hold the event annually to encourage more students to showcase their talents.

The Inclusion Team consistently support students under its care and continuously provides different services, such as Intervention Programs, Pull-out and push in sessions, provision of Individual and Personalized Learning Plans, Behavior Intervention Plans, Learning Support Assistance, and other necessary support required by the student. We also have partnership with different external institutions for therapy sessions and expert support and consultation. This academic year, we have also launched ASDAN-Life Skills Challenges as an alternative curriculum pathway for our Students of Determination. We believe that the need for additional support is something all students may experience at some stage of their school life. Different stakeholders, families and external agencies are our partners to ensure that all students get what they need, when they need it, to become resilient and enthusiastic learners.

After going through the challenges caused by the pandemic/ Covid-19, staff and students' well-being is also a priority at TCSI and we have a whole-school approach taken in promoting kindness, positivity and understanding across the school. We promote and offer a nurturing and supportive environment where students feel safe and secured and motivated to excel and persevere. We also make sure that no students are being bullied through our anti-bullying campaign and anti-bullying programs.

I thank the Inclusion Team, Ms. Apple Marfori and Ms. Grace Cervantes, together with our Learning Support Assistants for their commitment and dedication in the implementation of our Inclusion Programs and Inclusion Policy based on the Dubai and KHDA Inclusive Framework. I also thank the parents for their unwavering support to their children, and the teachers for their patience and cooperation. My sincere gratitude to my fellow Senior and Middle Leaders, and our principal Dr. Frank Fernandes and the school management for making TCSI a truly Inclusive School.

We have more plans and projects to come for Inclusion and the whole school improvement and development and we are excited and positively looking forward to a much better new school year to come.

I wish everyone a happy and safe summer break. We are looking forward to seeing you again in September!



## EDITOR IN CHIEF

### Mr Kamran Ahmed

It has been a year since we brought to you our magazine. City Connections has gone through a lot of transformations since its beginning. Now it also serves as a forum of expression of the school celebrations, the various competitions that the students participate in, the awards won by the students, workshops attended or organised and the activities executed by different departments.

Things end, but memories last forever. Sometimes we never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory. Nothing feels better than the nostalgic feeling one gets when leafing through the dusty old pages of the school magazine. It accompanies you down the memory lane when you read through event reports that you were once part of. Moreover, it drives you to a surge of emotions of many hues and colours. City Connections is going to give the same pleasure to all the brilliant minds who traverse through the portals.

We have conquered the realm of COVID19 and have managed to live a more healthy life. You will agree organising all these events was not easy at all. It was a team effort of students, ancillary staff, teachers and admin to break the shackles and make miracles happen. A word 'Appreciation' may not be enough for their zealous commitment.

Indeed, this edition derives the truest form of bliss for all. We are happy to see the amount of enthusiasm eminent members of the school contributed to this edition. I thank all the staff and students who shared these reports with us and Ms Jean who designed it so immaculately and beautifully that every page looks like a masterpiece. I am proud of my editing team that enriched the content with their expertise.

I invite you all to read and immerse yourself in the unfolding art and be exalted. With no exaggeration, this magazine will definitely paint a number of pictures in your mind. Happy Reading!

## ASSOCIATE EDITORS'S

### Ms Madelyn Addatu



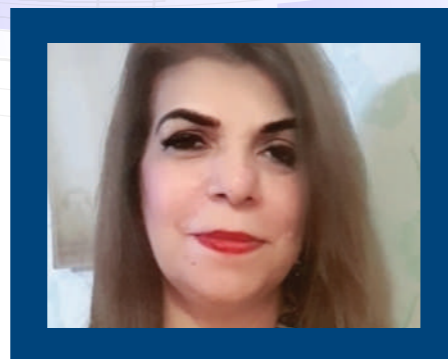
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### Mr Muammad Awais

System Administrator



## PARENT COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

**Arooj Omer**  
Parent Council President (2021-2022)

Dear Parents and School Community,  
It has been a great privilege for me to represent TCSI as a Parent Council President for the academic year 2021-2022. The school community had a rewarding year especially in terms of regaining momentum in campus learning.

The Parent Council is a key stakeholder toward educational framework with a purpose of improving student well-being and to reinforce the parental perspective as an integral part of education system.

The basic agenda of parent council meetings during the academic year revolved around discussing the school's strengths, students' achievements and areas of improvement for the advancement of entire school community.

The management of TCSI has always been very welcoming and considerate of parental viewpoint on school policies. Parents' engagement in various school events throughout the year has always been prioritised at TCSI.

Parent Council would like to express their gratitude to the school principal Dr. Frank Fernandes and the senior leaders for achieving the important school benchmarks this year as well as on new expansion of classrooms and provision of better facilities on campus.

I would also like to acknowledge the participation of all the council members in the parent council meetings this year. Looking forward to working with the school in the upcoming academic year with new developments and bigger achievements at TCSI.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

— Nelson Mandela



## STUDENT COUNCIL

### HEAD BOY

**Ahmed Hilal**

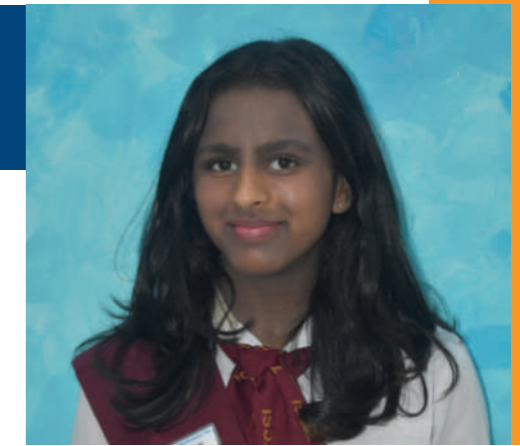
#### A Message from the Head BOY

In our first year back to full capacity since Covid, I must say we have had some great moments and all these precious days with our friends have truly been amazing. Insh Allah we will be able to create many more in the years to come.

We have all worked together as one school and had some amazing events and shared some beautiful memories together, whether it was from simple class trips and science fairs or the talent show held at our school. This shows what can happen when we all come and work to overcome difficulty and do what we love most.

Walking through those gates everyday has really been an experience, where we learned a lot to help us in our daily lives, including many valuable lessons to take to the future.

My advice for all of you now is to treasure these moments you have in school and enjoy as much as you can during them. Hopefully, we can have another year full of learning and fun with the people closest to us in the place we call our second home. I can not wait to see you all again.



### HEAD GIRL

**Sana Faisal**

#### A Message from the Head Girl

I remember imagining myself to become the position of the Head Girl in TCSI not knowing if it was possible for me to even achieve this goal.

Now here I am, 3 years later saying my heartfelt thank you and goodbye, which makes me feel melancholic but at the same time so grateful and excited for all the new ambitions to pursue and opportunities that are to come! I'm Sana Faisal, and it was a complete honor and privilege to be elected as the Head Girl for the academic year 2021-2022.

The opportunities that I've been given at The City School International are phenomenal and countless! Becoming the head girl has definitely taught me a great number of lessons and had exposed me to numerous situations which not only shaped me into the person I am today, but helped me get through the year smoothly, and for this I cannot thank the school heads and teachers enough for the support they've provided for me throughout this unforgettable journey.

As the Head Girl, I am extremely fortunate to have had such a unique opportunity to support and encourage everyone around the school. Though it required a lot of hard work and dedication, it was extremely rewarding and fulfilling to help make a difference, even in a small way. Being part of Student Council and taking over many events like Sports Day, National Day and working as a team with the student council has been one of the most memorable experiences in my life so far.

Most importantly, I am forever grateful to have been a part of such a prodigious school, always thriving to grow and improve for the better. It has allowed me to make some of the best memories over the past 3 years, and definitely ones that I will never forget!

## A MILESTONE: TCSI CELEBRATES TWO MAJOR EVENTS IN A DAY

### Ms Madelyn Addatu

The inauguration of the 2nd floor of The City School International and the launching of Advanced Subsidiary (AS) levels were held on the 30th of September 2021. The same day marked the recognition of the efforts and contributions of the staff and school authorities.

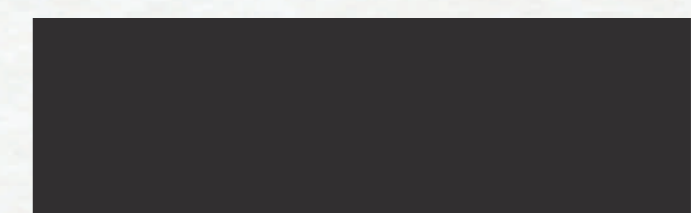
Dr. Farzana Firoz, the Chairperson and Managing Director of the City Schools (Pvt) Ltd., graced the occasion. At present, she manages 146 schools in 49 cities across Pakistan, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Oman and Philippines. With a vision to provide resources, knowledge and right platform for students in building a bright future, her priority rests on creating a culture of learning through technology, thereby equipping students and staff with the 21st century skills and value-based education in a holistic approach. In her speech, she highlighted the importance of teamwork and leadership. She commended the entire staff and management spear-headed by Dr. Frank Fernandes for their concerted effort in their aim of making TCSI a promising school. To her, this is yet another milestone achieved by the school.

Meanwhile, Dr. Frank Fernandes delivered a meaningful and inspiring speech that focused on the school being the pillar of success behind countless students' journey. According to him, the school constantly seeks to provide quality education in a caring environment without compromising students' fun learning experiences. In addition, he underscored success as the product of perseverance and collective effort.

Currently, A and AS level students are the ones utilising the rooms in the 2nd floor. In order to provide the students a conducive learning environment, each room is equipped with a big television and is well-ventilated. The school has also allotted two rooms for ICT and Science laboratories in the same floor.

AS levels are under the supervision of Ms. Zehra Ansari, the Post 16 Head. At the end of the program, Ms. Zehra thanked the management of TCSI for their unwavering support and guidance in making this project a reality.

Amidst the challenges of the current situation, TCSI continues to aspire for the success and satisfaction of its stakeholders especially the students. It has achieved a lot so far, and will always yearn for growth and improvement.



## FROM PAST TO PRESENT A PHENOMENAL TCSI PERFORMANCE AT EXPO 2020

### Ms Sadia Obaid - Head of Islamic Studies

It came with a bang! The long-awaited Expo 2020 was finally here. Everyone was excited and eager to visit and experience the marvelous event. However, there was something even more sensational. Expo 2020 Young Stars program was introduced. This allowed students to present their unique performances at the spectacular Al Wasl plaza. It was like every child's grand dream.

To give their students this unique chance of performing on a world stage, teachers from the City School applied for this program. Although almost every school in Dubai applied, The City School was selected and given the honour to perform on March 1st, 2021. It was time for the students to showcase their talents and capabilities.

It started with the teachers and students getting together and discussing the topic of the play. After a passionate debate, it was decided that the theme of the play would be based on the 'Journey of UAE.' The script of the play started to come into life. Each scene of the play represented a different struggle encountered by the UAE. Once the script had been fully completed, it was time to cast the actors.

One by one, students started coming for auditions hoping to get a role in this one-in-a-million opportunity. It was also decided that students would do unique dances between scenes to truly give the audience an exceptional experience. The eventual team was a mix of some incredible and passionate actors and dancers of all ages. Each of them had to work hard and get out of the box to deliver their full potential. It was now time to practice and prepare themselves for the big event.

The first part of the rehearsal was to record the lines that needed to be delivered by the actors. For this, teachers and actors went to a studio to record their lines. After a lot of practice and retakes, a final version was recorded which the students were supposed to lip-sing on the stage. The actors and dancers then got together and started practising the play. It was an extremely tiring and relentless rehearsal. All the actors and dancers had to work both in school and at home to make the play perfect.

Last, a final rehearsal was done a few days before the performance. It was approved by Expo 2020 management and marked the final stage of this huge process. It was now time for the students to deliver and perform.

The stage was set! The students started perfecting their look and getting ready for the moment they had been practising for a long time.

Beautiful and traditional props were set for the students to represent the culture and diversity of the UAE. It started with the actors talking about pearl diving and how it was the backbone of the economy of the UAE. Then a unique dance was performed by the students on pearl diving.

The second segment of the show was based on the exploration and discovery of oil. This was the part where the audience carefully listened to learn about how the UAE transitioned from a pearl-based to an oil-based economy.

The final segment of the show was based on the UAE as a leading example of unity and diversity. The actors also talked about the UAE government's initiatives and how they protected their people from Covid-19. The performance was going incredibly well!

The students ended their magnificent performance with a wonderful dance to the Expo 2020 theme song. It was a quintessential end that represented the journey of the UAE's forefathers and their future generations striving hard to make the UAE a perfect country for people of all backgrounds.

The students had done it! They proved to everyone that hard work and support from teachers can make the impossible look possible.





## GIFTED TCSI ARTISTS SECURE THIRD POSITION AT MASE 2021

### Wania Khalid - Student Year 10

On 8th April, Mase 2021 winners were announced. Two students of TCSI, named Fatima Zubair (Year 12) and Wania Khalid (Year 10), secured 3rd position for the category: "Poster Contest" in their respective grades.

In February, Gulf Medical University invited schools all over the UAE to participate in the biggest inter-school competition, also known as Mase 2021, under any of the five categories: "Painting Contest, Poster Contest, Project Contest, Poetry Contest, and Music Contest". Each of the categories had jury awards and view's choice awards, which allowed the students to win cash prizes worth 25,000 Dhs.

From the three poster topics (physical therapy, drugs in daily life, and coronavirus), the students decided to showcase their artistic skills and illustration on the topic: "coronavirus". After an impatient while of waiting, their vibrant entries won 3rd place among three thousand other entries.

All the winners were invited to the main campus of the Gulf Medical University for the prize distribution ceremony. The winner, including Fatima Zubair and Wania Khalid, received a glistening trophy, a cash prize of 400 Dhs, and a gift pack from Munch Box as an appreciation from the Staff. The supporting teachers and parents who accompanied the students received a Thumbay medical lab voucher.

At last, the students made TCSI proud by winning among three thousand other students and are looking forward to doing the same next year.



## TCSI RECEIVES TROPHY AND CERTIFICATES FROM ROBOFEST ONLINE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP USA

### Ms Jean Soney - Innovation Coordinator (IT Department)

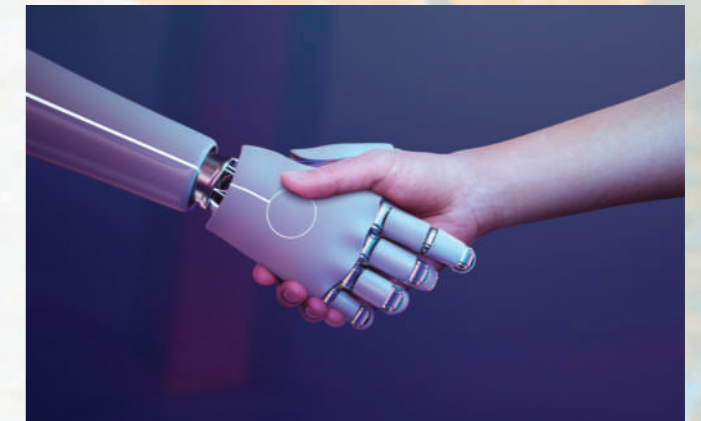
Last year TCSI conquered the challenges of COVID-19 by participating at the World Robotics Competition online. Robofest is hosted by Lawrence Technological University, USA. Teams from Canada, Egypt, Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates and The United States of America were recognized for their extraordinary efforts and perseverance.

Robofest is a festival of competitions and events with autonomous robots that encourages students to have fun while learning principles of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths (STEM) and Computer Science. Students design, construct, and programme robots. Any robotics kits are allowed in the construction of robots. Robots can be programmed with any programming language. Robofest programmes support computer science for All.

The Award Ceremony was hosted in October, and at the ceremony LTU President & CEO Dr. Moudgil delivered a video message while LTU Vice President & Provost Dr. Tarek Sobh presided over a special awards session and the 2020 Robofest Online World Championship category winners were announced. The trophy and certificates were shipped to our school for our achievements.

It is an honour that The City School International teams were representing the UAE at this Event. TCSI was awarded the Team Photo Award for the 2nd time. We are proud of our representatives of the Incredibot Team from the Junior division, Amaya Noor and Aafia Asadullah, the Witbot Team from the Senior division, Adam Noor and their coach, Ms Jean Soney. The team was awarded in school with a trophy and certificates on 31st Jan 2022.

It has been proven once again that despite the unpredictable pandemic and COVID-19 challenges, the ICT Department successfully managed to prepare the students to participate at this event virtually and to achieve awards.



## IGNITED MINDS FIGHT IN A FIERY MATHS BATTLE

### Mr Mudassir Saleem - Head of Mathematics

"MATHEMATICS is not about numbers, equations, computations, and algorithms: it is about UNDERSTANDING" - William Paul Thurston.

Mental Maths competition is a brief assessment used in education to measure growth in knowledge, abilities and skills. It helps to enhance the interest in the students towards the subject and creates a conducive environment to work outside the classroom.

A competition can inspire maths students to greater achievement. It challenges students to use their maths skills in new and creative ways. It also provides a challenging and engaging mathematical experience in both competitive and educational ways.

As a part of extended learning, the Maths Department always looks for competitions to provide our students a chance to compete with the students of their age in the rest of the world. All students from Year 3 - 8 participated in the biggest mental maths competition initiated by Ignited Mind Lab in UAE.

The Aim of this competition is to develop interest in mental maths and improve speed and accuracy of solving problems. This competition covers the fundamental concepts of Mathematics which develop interest in the subject and helps in sharpening the mind and improves thinking and analytical skills. It also provides a platform to showcase mathematical skills and compete with brilliant minds from different schools and regions.

It was an online competition which was further divided into two rounds. For both rounds students were provided with login credentials. The 1st round of the competition was free of cost and held on 14th March, 2022. TCSI created a special hour in the timetable to conduct this competition. Result of the first round was published on 28th March, and the 75 brilliant students qualified for the final round. Second and final rounds of the competition were paid and had negative marking for the wrong answer. Therefore, only 35 out of 75 students participated in the final round which was conducted on 12th May.

The main objective of the quiz was to encourage students to look beyond their textual knowledge, identifying their capabilities and motivating them to learn and expand their knowledge. This competition enhanced the inquisitiveness of students; thereby, building confidence, mental powers and learning at the same time.



## A RESEARCH STUDY ON INCLUSIVE PRACTICES FOR CHILDREN OF DETERMINATION

### Ms Consuelo Navarro – Head of Inclusion

#### TEACHERS' INTERVIEW WITH SHAIKHA SANA AL MAKTOUN & UNITED ARAB EMIRATES UNIVERSITY

In December 2021, a survey was sent to TCSI which was about an inspirational research study on inclusive practices for children of determination in the UAE, administered by the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU). The research project is an inter-institutional collaboration with University College London (UCL). The Inclusion Department chose 15 teachers to do the said survey and only two teachers were selected to proceed with the online interview.

Ms. Sabina Abbasi and Ms. Jean Soney were interviewed by Sheikha Sana Al Maktoum. Shaikha Sana Maktoum Al Maktoum was born with a love to teach, as one of her vivid memories was preparing worksheets for her cousin's, when they gathered at their grandma's house and making sure they sat on the marble steps imitating a classroom setting. Even though her Bachelor was in English Language and Literature and not Education her internship was in a school. She then graduated and went back to schools to teach for eight years in various grade levels, then shifted to teach in higher education and currently she is pursuing her PhD in Curriculum and Instruction integrating Special Education.

The interview focused on knowing the actual practices in the groundwork in schools all over the Emirates. Different questions were asked also about some of the practices we follow with the students of determination including differentiated lesson plans, worksheets, assessments etc.

They also asked and discussed the seven categories or seven concepts of SEND framework: The knowledge of the learner, quality of teaching and learning it, creating an environment conducive to effective learning, transition and change, system and processes, communicating with family, working with other professionals and the wider community.

Ms. Consuelo, Head of Inclusion and Dr. Frank, our principal, were also interviewed by Sheikha Sana and her professor. The interview with them also focused on Inclusion practices at TCSI.

Shaikha Sana was happy and impressed to know that TCSI has been promoting Inclusion in our school and how well we are taking good care of the Students of Determination and those who Gifted and Talented through the Inclusion Department and the Achievement Center. She is also happy that the teachers in TCSI are well equipped and trained in handling students experiencing different barriers

to learning. We look forward to having Sheikha Sana visit our school in the near future.

As the collaborative research between the United Arab Emirates University and the University College London is reaching its final stages, Dr. Frank, Ms. Consuelo, Ms. Farah, Ms. Jean and Ms. Sabina were invited to attend the professional development/ workshop on Thursday 2nd of June, with Dr. Zachary Walker Associate Professor in the Psychology and Human Development at the University College London. The workshop was entitled "Educating Young People of Determination on Mainstream Schools: An Examination of Inclusive, High Leverage and Culturally Responsive Practices in the UAE.



## EXPO CLOSING CEREMONY DAZZLES MILLIONS

### Ms Zahra Saleem - Secretary

As the curtain closed on Expo 2020 Dubai, the first Expo in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia region in the 170 years of World Expo history, in a spectacular closing ceremony that reflected a spirit of optimism and global togetherness. We said goodbye to six historic months and saw global music icons, enjoy dazzling fireworks and exciting performances unfold beneath the stunning Al Wasl Dome.

Our journey with Expo 2020 came to an end, but the memories that our students created at Expo are a gift that will cherish forever. As a token of appreciation from the Expo, we received an invitation to the exclusive Expo 2020 Dubai closing ceremony, which took place on Thursday, March 31st, 2022 at the Al Wasl Plaza.

It was an honour to be invited to Expo 2020 Dubai one last time along with our 3 young students to take part in the final chapter of the beautiful journey.

The students from the primary class joined the team in the closing ceremony to reflect the young generation that will carry the legacy of Expo 2020 Dubai forward.

The guest list at the Al Wasl Dome was limited to 'VIP guests' and school children aged seven to nine.

However, there were more than 20 giant screens beaming the show across the Expo 2020 Dubai site, including at the main stages, Festival Garden, and at various country pavilions. Those who were not visiting the Expo 2020 site could also watch the closing ceremony, streamed live on Virtual Expo and Expo TV. The closing ceremony started with the young Emirati girl from the opening ceremony, who showcased how she has grown, learned, and connected with people from around the world over the past 182 days.

Expo exclusively invited hundreds of children from across the UAE to witness wonders as the country looks to the next 50 years. There was also a segment called the Sea of Nations segment which showcased countries waving their flags from their National Day celebrations.

Forty members of a UAE-based children's choir performed Ishy Bilady, the National Anthem of the UAE, joined by the all-women Firdaus Orchestra. Also taking the stage was the Expo 2020 World String Ensemble.

The closing ceremony also reminded audiences of some of Al Wasl Plaza's iconic moments, including calligraphy poetry in the sky from Emirati poetess Ousha bint Khalifa Al Suwaidi; the falcon from immersive theatrical show Journey of the 50th, which was presented during the UAE's Golden Jubilee celebrations; and the incredible horse from The Boy and The Horse, a tribute to Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai.



As Expo 2020 Dubai looks to the future, Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, the Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence and Commissioner-General of Expo 2020 Dubai, handed the BIE Flag to Ambassador Jai-chul Choi, President of the General Assembly of the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE), who then presented it to representatives of Expo 2025 Osaka Kansai.

Expo 2020 Dubai closed its gates, concluding with a spectacular closing ceremony on 31 March after 182 days of welcoming visitors from around the world.

## MAZAMEER AL DAWOOD QIR'AH COMPETITION

### Ms Sana Amir - Islamic Studies Teacher

This year again our school participated in the Mazameer Al Dawood competition organised by The Creative Science School which aimed to celebrate the most influential voices in the recitation of the Holy Quran during the blessed month of Ramadan. The competition was named on the name of Prophet Dawoud A.S as it is mentioned in hadith:

Abu Musa al-Ash'ari al-Yamani - whose name is Abdullah bin Qais - May Allah Bless his soul, had a very beautiful and influential recitation of the Qur'an. One night the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) heard his recitation and was taken by his voice so Abu Musa narrated:

That the Prophet (SAW) said to him 'O Abu Musa! You have been given one of the mazameer (sweet melodious voices) of the family of David.' by Bukhari (5048) and Muslim (793)

It was an honour for The City School International that The Creative Science School invited us again to participate in the Mazameer Al Dawood Qir'ah Competition. As always Islamic department was ready to accept all the challenges, it motivated the students to participate and achieve the learning goals.

More than 80 students were registered this year in the competition. 77 of our students participated in it, and 1 of our students, Syeda Areeb Ayesh, made us proud by being the winner of the competition and 76 of the students received the certificates of appreciation.

The recitation videos were to be uploaded in the link shared by the organisers. The videos were supposed to be of 3 minutes with clear sound. The student would comply with the provisions of the Tajweed during the recitation as 50% of the marks were allocated on the tajweed and 50% on the voice modulation and recitation. The winner of the competition had the opportunity to record a video recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an with Sheikh Salah Bukhatir (a well-known Islamic scholar and owner of Bukhatir groups), which would be published on all their social media platforms and be awarded a winning certificate from the Holy Qur'an Department at BEAM.



## EXPO 2020 FIELD TRIPS SIMULATE SENSATIONAL SHOW

### Ms Zahra Saleem - Secretary

The 2021-22 academic year was bound to be a memorable one for many students.

Not only students had a chance to visit the much-anticipated Expo 2020 Dubai for free, but schools also incorporated events related to the World Fair into the curriculum with different projects.

Ever since Expo 2020 Dubai was announced, our school's Expo School Programme Coordinator actively engaged with the Expo 2020 team to ensure young learners were at the heart of this historic event. TCSI booked the free school journeys for every class from FS 1 to Year 12 and brought the students on the school trip of a lifetime.

The Expo School Programme offered the students access to four immersive journeys designed to tap into their potential and spark their creativity: Legacy of the UAE, World of Opportunities, Sustainable Planet and Universe in Motion. As the UAE and the world geared up for Expo 2020 Dubai, our school students were very excited to not only experience, but also contribute to this once-in-a-lifetime World Expo. Our aspirational commitment was to ensure all our students were given every opportunity to take part in the unforgettable educational and inspirational journeys of Expo 2020.

Our school managed to arrange around 50 field trips to different journeys of the Expo 2020 for ALL our students.



## TCSI EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES “ONE BILLION MEALS” CAMPAIGN

### Ms Jean Soney - Innovation Coordinator (IT Department)

1 DIRHAM =  
**1 MEAL**

Join the health sector for the  
**1 BILLION MEALS  
CAMPAIGN**

The largest humanitarian  
initiative of its kind in the region

To support those suffering from malnutrition

The One Billion Meals campaign is an expansion of the UAE's previous campaigns "100 Million Meals" and "10 Million Meals", organised under the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai

The education community in Dubai is known for its generosity and its willingness to come together to help others. "One Billion Meals Campaign" is implemented by Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI) with the aim of securing food aid for vulnerable communities around the world.

The "One Billion Meals" is the biggest humanitarian initiative of its kind in the region. It aims to secure food aid for vulnerable communities in 50 countries around the world. It will provide food support to those in need, representing a grand statement of the UAE's aspirations in humanitarian aid and firm commitment in developing long-term solutions to improve lives across the world without any discrimination.

The 1 Billion Meals initiative is aimed to bring the community together and foster a culture of giving in order to raise funds for the distribution of One Billion Meals. Individuals, schools and business communities are encouraged to launch their own fundraising campaigns in order to reach and achieve a greater impact.



TCSI was invited to bring its community together and take part in this initiative. Staff, students, parents and friends could donate in the name of the institution. As an education community, we know that we can make a significant positive impact when we work together.

TCSI's participation in this campaign contributed to the overall impact of the 1 Billion Meals initiative, which aims to reach and touch the hearts of needy people in 50 countries around the world. Our school family was involved to fundraise for the biggest food distribution campaign in the region, by contributing to our wallet through the link mentioned below.

Campaign Link: <https://1bmeals.yallagive.com/en/campaign/TCSI-Empowering-communities-1-Billion-Meals-11528>

The collection for this campaign from the TCSI was AED 9,750.01. TCS has always been welcoming UAE initiatives that involve school community and development programmes.



## TCSI's GOT TALENT 2022

### Ms Consuelo Navarro – Head of Inclusion

TCSI Inclusion Department has launched its very first TCSI's Got Talent this school year in search of the Gifted and Talented students.

The City School International welcomes students with a wide range of abilities. Each pupil is perceived to be an individual of great value. We strive to provide a secure yet challenging educational environment which will stimulate the development of all students and enable them to maximise their potential.

Gifted and talented refers to outstanding ability or aptitude in one or more areas of intelligence or creativity, or academic achievement or special talents and abilities such as oratory, poetry, drawing or handicrafts, sports or drama or leadership capacity.

In line with the mission and vision of TCSI's Inclusion Department to discover the gifted and talented students in our school as per KHDA requirement and the TCSI Gifted and Talented Students Policy, TCSI's Got Talent 2022 has come as an idea and eventually been realised through the efforts and initiatives of the Inclusion Team, the TGT Committee and of course with the immeasurable support of our principal, Dr. Frank Fernandes.

The committee includes, Ms. Consuelo, Head of Inclusion, Ms. Apple, Ms. Mary Grace, Ms. Zahra, Ms. Almas, Ms. Summiya, Ms. Prescilla, Ms. Dilyara, Ms. Maryam, Ms. Jean, Mr. Edgar, Ms. Sabina, Mr. Awais, Mr. Muzammil, Mr. Bawa with the support of Ms. Farah, Ms. Lina and Ms. Zehra.

Interested students were asked to submit their audition entries and 127 entries were received and screened. From 127, it came down to 50 students who were able to proceed to the elimination rounds. Out of 50 contestants, only 12 finalists were selected for TCSI's Got Talent Finale.

TCSI's Got Talent Grand Finals was held on March 25, 2022 at 7:00 pm at TCSI. Guests and external performers were also invited to perform. Varun Raina, a singer and aspiring actor who screened his movie "Chords of Love" rendered his song "O' Sole Mio." Mr. Dusan Popovic, a previous grand finalist of "Serbia Got Talent" an acrobat and Physical Education Manager of Canadian University performed and was one of the panel of judges. Other judges were, Ms. Neena Raina-owner and director of Tender Hearts, Ms. Heshani Malwenna-Talent Division Manager of MMG Talent and Mr Rivaan Mager- Music Teacher of and Conductor of the Dubai Orchestra.

The event was sponsored by: Fil Ind Consultancy, Filipino International Teachers Society, FAME, Tender Hearts, Radisson Blu, Lifeline Healthcare Group, MMG Talent, and Think-N-Innovate. The talent event went really well,



and everyone enjoyed the talent presentation of each contestant but in the end only 3 winners were selected. Duaa Shahzad Khan and Maisa Abid of 6B won the 3rd Place, Gloria Gathoni of 7B won 2nd Place and the Grand Winner was Alexander Kizyakovsky of 12B who did card tricks and magic. The Grand winner received, a trophy, a Virgin Record Voucher from FAME, one-year premium membership and free photo shoots from MMG Talent, Free 6-month courses from Think-N-Innovate, Gifts from FIL-Ind Consultancy, Cash prize from Filipino International Teachers Society, and a 1,000AED worth voucher from Lifeline Healthcare Group.

A special prize for the teacher with the greatest number of entries for the audition was also awarded. Ms. Sridevi Sriram, Class Teacher of Year 5B, won it with a Radisson Blu Voucher. Through TCSI's Got Talent, students were encouraged to showcase their talents and have been helped to become more confident. We will surely have another TCSI's Got Talent next year. Therefore, from now on, we encourage students to discover their talent, enhance it and show it to us next year....



## UAE NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS EXALTED TO A NEW HEIGHT

### Mr Mohammed - The Head of Arabic

The Arabic Department celebrated the 50th UAE National Day on 25th November for the whole school .

The Arabic Department believes in the importance of linking students and introducing them to Emirati history and culture since the Arabic language, culture and UAE heritage cannot be separated. Through this great opportunity that the school provided to Arab and non-Arab students to celebrate the National Day of the United Arab Emirates, the students participated in many activities in standard Arabic.

While many students participated through the live broadcast on Teams, in addition to their participation in Arabic language classes for a whole week, their posts expressed their love, affiliation and appreciation for the United Arab Emirates as a role model - historically and culturally.

The Arab students talked about various topics such as the importance of the union, the history of the federation of the United Arab Emirates and the role of Sheikh Zayed (May Allah have mercy on him) in founding of the United Arab Emirates. In addition to listing some of the wise quotes and proverbs of Sheikh Zayed and Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid and some of the poems of Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid as he spoke, the students presented Hazza Al Mansoori as the first astronaut in the UAE to go into space and talked about the UAE's initiatives to confront the Corona pandemic.

The programme included many paragraphs, starting with reading the Holy Quran, followed by everyone singing the UAE national anthem. Then the students talked about the importance of the National Day of the United Arab Emirates and its flag, which has a deep meaning.

The students performed a theatrical work in the Arabic language while the kindergarten students performed an amazing ballet dance show that entertained everyone. Moreover, the high school students sang a beautiful Emirati song, and the elementary school students sang an Arabic poem and a historical poem. The programme continued with many traditional dance performances such as a Yuala and Nasha dance and also the dance spirit of the union.

One of the students also narrated the words of wisdom written by Sheikh Zayed and the other students gave speeches about the culture and heritage of the UAE. The Year 9 students also praised the efforts made by the UAE during the pandemic to help its citizens.

At the conclusion of the programme, the principal of the school, Dr Frank, Ms Farah and Ms Lina expressed their words to thank the United Arab Emirates, and they also thanked all the students of the school, teachers and the Arabic Language Department in appreciation of their efforts



# UAE

Happy National Day

في مثل هذا اليوم من كل عام يحتفل جميع المواطنين والمقيمين على هذه الأرض الطيبة بذكرى إعلان الاتحاد وتأسيس دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة.. تعبيراً عن محبتهم واعتزازهم بهذه المناسبة الغالية واحتفائهم بهذه اللحظة الفاصلة من تاريخ الإمارات.ومما لا شك فيه أن يوم الثاني من ديسمبر سنة 1971 سيبقى دائماً، ويخلد أبداً، ذكرى عزيزة على قلوب أبناء الإمارات، تؤرخ لاتحاد الإمارات وميلاد دولتنا المباركة على يد المغفور له بإذن الله الشيخ زايد بن سلطان آل نهيان. إن احتفالنا هذا العام هو بحق احتفال بالمنجزات والمكتسبات وبمسيرة مباركة من العطاء امتدت زهاء خمسة عقود بفضل غرس الآباء المؤسسين- طيب الله ثراهم أجمعين- لنمضي بكل فخر واعتزاز نحو تحشين احتفالات الدولة باليوبيل الذهبي والذكرى السنوية .. الخمسين لقيام الاتحاد

ففي هذا اليوم الوطني تعمّ الفرحة ومشاعر الفخر نفوس الطلاب والمعلمين، وتقام احتفالات على مستوى الدولة، حيث تزين ألوان علم دولة الإمارات كل الأماكن، وترتفع الرايات فوق المباني والأبراج والبيوت، وتنتشر الزينة في مختلف أنحاء الدولة وتغمر ألوان الأحمر والأبيض والأخضر والأسود مراكز التسوق وناطحات السحاب والشواطئ والمنزهات

في 25 من شهر نوفمبر 2021 احتفلت مدرستنا بالعيد الوطني الخمسين لدولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة فتزينت المدرسة احتفالاً بهذا اليوم العظيم وعمت البهجة أرجاءها ، وأكدت المدرسة من خلال فعاليتها التي حملت شعار «اليوبيل الذهبي، خمسون عاماً من الازدهار» أن المدرسة ليست مكاناً للتعليم فقط بقدر ما هي مؤسسة تعليمية تربي الطلبة على القيم الوطنية وتغرس فيهم حب الوطن والانتماء إليه

فتحلت ساحات المدرسة إلى روضة تنهض بالعزائم، وتتوعدت عناوين المشاهد الاحتفالية، والكل سعى لأن يكون احتفاله بحق تعبيراً صادقاً عن الفخر والاعتزاز بكل ما حققته دولة الإمارات من إنجازات ونجاحات على مدار العقود الأربعة الماضية، وتجسد حاضرها ومستقبلها المشرق

وإيماناً من قسم اللغة العربية بالمدرسة بأن مناسبة اليوم الوطني تأتي في كل عام لتذكركمنا بعظمة الجهود والتضحية التي سطرها مؤسسو هذا البلد العظيم والمخلصون من أبناء هذا الوطن الذين قدموا الغالي والنفيس في سبيل نجاحه فشارك الطلاب في الكثير من الأنشطة متحدثين بالعربية الفصحى ، بالإضافة إلى مشاركاتهم في أنشطة صافية متعددة خلال حصص اللغة العربية على مدار أسبوع كامل فعبروا عن حبهم وإنتمائهم وتقديرهم لدولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة . كنموذج يحتذى به تاريخياً وثقافياً

فتحدث الطلاب العرب عن موضوعات متعددة مثل أهمية الاتحاد وتاريخ اتحاد دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة ودور الشيخ زايد رحمه الله في تأسيس دولة الامارات العربية المتحدة بالإضافة إلى سرد بعض الحكم والأمثال المأثورة للشيخ زايد والشيخ محمد بن راشد . وبعض من أشعار الشيخ حمدان بن محمد بن راشد

وقد اشتمل البرنامج على العديد من الفقرات بدءاً من قراءة القرآن الكريم متبوعاً بغناء النشيد الوطني الإماراتي، ثم تحدث الطلاب عن أهمية اليوم الوطني لدولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة ثم قام الطلاب بتمثيل عمل مسرحي باللغة العربية وبعد ذلك قدم طلاب الروضة عرضاً مسرحياً ( رقص الباليه المذهل) الذي استمتع به الجميع ومن ثم غنى طلاب المرحلة الثانوية أغنية إماراتية جميلة وغنى طلاب المرحلة الابتدائية قصيدة عربية و قصيدة تاريخية ومن بعدها قدم الطلاب العديد من عروض الرقص التقليدية والتراثية مثل ( رقصه اليوالا) و ( رقصه شعبية للبنات) ، كما أشاد طلاب السنة التاسعة بالجهود التي بذلتها دولة الإمارات لمكافحة وباء كورونا المستجد

ووجه مدير المدرسة السيد فرنك والسيدة فرح رئيسة القسم الثانوي و السيدة لينا رئيسة القسم الابتدائي والسيد محمد رشدي رئيس قسم اللغة العربية كلماتهم لتهنئة دولة الامارات العربية المتحدة بعيدها الوطني الخمسين كما قدموا الشكر لكل الطلاب والمعلمين في المدرسة بهذا اليوم وخاصة قسم اللغة العربية على تنظيم هذا الحفل الرائع

## UAE NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS EXALTED TO A NEW HEIGHT (FS)

### Ms Uzma Safer - EYFS Teacher

In order to show our gratitude and cherish the success of our great nation, the FS section overwhelmingly participated in the UAE's Golden Jubilee celebrations held on 25th November 2021.

The school building was impeccably adorned in the UAE colours with decorations consisting of flowers, balloons, the UAE flag and curtains. Parents took the initiative to dress their children who belong to different ethnicities and backgrounds in Emirati attire such as Abaya, Jalabiya and Kandora for the occasion which manifested an ambiance of togetherness.

The festivities commenced with the UAE National Anthem, signifying the utmost respect for the country. We orchestrated numerous indoor and outdoor activities while keeping in mind the Covid SOPs including adherence to social distancing guidelines.

Indoor activities included colouring and dot painting of the UAE flag, Burka craft, camel and sand craft, drawing and decorating the illustrious attractions of the UAE such as Burj Khalifa, Burj al Arab etc.

In STEM activity, FS students' enthusiasm was remarkable as they built UAE landmarks such as Dubai Frame, Burj Khalifa, Burj al Arab, Miracle Garden and Sheikh Zayed Mosque. The outdoor activities were another fascinating experience for children where FS teachers ornamented the stalls which included painting activity booths, henna designs and nail art. The occasion was covered by photographers who skillfully captured those moments in beautiful pictures which shall become a part of TCSI's wonderful memory lane.

The overall event was thoroughly enjoyed by the students and the teachers alike while keeping the core message of togetherness by our great leaders at the helm of affairs. The occasion was concluded with a beautiful UAE song sung by all FS students.

The significance of this event was to show solidarity to the country during these unprecedented times while paying tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the people of this nation. As everything must come to an end, this eventful day did too with inspiring a lot of students and enlightening their heart with empathy and devotion.



## TCSI ANNUAL SPORTS DAY KICKS IN ONCE AGAIN

### Ms Prescila Santos - PE Department

On the 15th and 16th of February, The City School International Dubai had successfully held its official Annual Sports Day for 2022! The event had started at 9AM sharp, and all the students from 3 to 12 were present for Sports Day. Many parents had appeared at the event to enjoy and watch the exciting activities being carried out at Sports Day!

To start the event, the UAE National Anthem was played and everyone present at the venue stood in attention in respect to the UAE Anthem. The march pass began with the Head Boy, Ahmed Hilal, holding the UAE Flag, followed by the Head Girl, Sana Faisal, holding the School Flag. The Deputy Heads, Afifa Khan and Ali Affan, as well as the Sports Captains, Nofel Omar and Maab Babiker, marched along. Behind them were the students who marched behind their House Captains.

After the march past, the event continued with the House Captains and Sports Captains taking part in the exciting Torch run. Each house captain ran from the track and passed on the flamed torch to the next house and then the Sports Captains. It was thrilling and exhilarating to see! The junior students also exhibited a very magnificent and talented dance and cheerleading performance. The talent displayed by the students had everyone's mind blown!

Throughout the event, many challenges took place for the students including 100 M sprint, long jump, and relay. The grade 10 students did an astounding job at hosting the food stalls for the students and the parents present at the venue. Everyone present had a wide range of refreshments to keep them hydrated and cool for the entire occasion! Luckily, the parents also had the opportunity to take part in the amusing 'Parents Run' which was great entertainment and enjoyed by all parents!

At the end of the event, all the deserved medals, awards and trophies were handed out to the students to appreciate and value their hard work, dedication and participation in the Annual Sports Day 2022! As a great surprise, the Red House won the winning trophy for this year's Sports Day 2022 which was a great accomplishment and happiness to all! This event by The City School was a massive success and was greatly enjoyed by all parents and students!



## TCSI EMPOWERING YOUNG LEARNERS THROUGH GIRLS4TECH!

### Ms Jean Soney - Innovation Coordinator (IT Department)

Our Young Girls enjoyed STEM Girls4Tech sessions on International Women's Day Dubai Expo School Programme - Empower the Tech Leaders of Tomorrow

Dubai, UAE, 08 March 2021: Mastercard – the Official Payment Technology Partner of Expo 2020 Dubai – partnering with the Expo School Programme expanded its work in designing a better world for women by calling on girls across the UAE to join a virtual Girls4Tech session on March 8, 2021, to celebrate International Women's Day. The virtual Girls4Tech sessions are held in 23 countries to inspire girls across the globe to explore the possibilities of careers in science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM).

Our girls were engaged in this virtual session inspiring initiative, Girls4Tech, to empower the next generation of problem solvers and creative thinkers. The Girls4Tech programme offered students the opportunity to uncover science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) principles through inquiry-based activities and real-world challenges and learn about the careers of the future by playing the role of several Mastercard STEM professionals including Cryptologist, Fraud Detective, Data Scientist and Design Engineer.

Our students aged from 8 to 11 were invited to join the Girls-4Tech community of nearly 2 million girls in 45 countries as we discover the incredible world of algorithms, cybersecurity, data privacy and much more. The signature education program, Girls4Tech was launched to drive the interest of young girls in STEM subjects. The programme aims to help support the skill gap in the technology industry for girls in primary school, using basic technology and training content that effectively drives learning and engages curiosity. This session will help create a pipeline of female talent for the jobs of tomorrow by teaching subjects that are shaping the future of science, research, and the digital economy.

Through Girls4Tech, leveraging its deep expertise in technology and innovation in a way that creates limitless possibilities for girls. The initiative covers topics such as encryption, fraud detection, data analysis, digital convergence, cybersecurity and artificial intelligence. It also emphasises important skills, including collaboration, creativity and communication, to enable young girls to apply their technical knowledge to solve real-world challenges.

This session helps students' to think about some of the big issues and challenges our communities face. Our mission is to find the next generation of problem solvers and creative thinkers. We support students in tackling the challenges the world is facing today as they become the leaders of tomorrow! That's OUR student!





## IGNITED MINDS FIGHT IN A FIERY MATHS BATTLE

### Mr. Mudassir Saleem - Head of Mathematics

"MATHEMATICS is not about numbers, equations, computations, and algorithms: it is about UNDERSTANDING" - William Paul Thurston.

Mental Maths competition is a brief assessment used in education to measure growth in knowledge, abilities and skills. It helps to enhance the interest in the students towards the subject and creates a conducive environment to work outside the classroom.

A competition can inspire maths students to greater achievement. It challenges students to use their maths skills in new and creative ways. It also provides a challenging and engaging mathematical experience in both competitive and educational ways.

As a part of extended learning, the Maths Department always looks for competitions to provide our students a chance to compete with the students of their age in the rest of the world. All students from Year 3 - 8 participated in the biggest mental maths competition initiated by Ignited Mind Lab in UAE. The Aim of this competition is to develop interest in mental maths and improve speed and accuracy of solving problems. This competition covers the fundamental concepts of Mathematics which develop interest in the subject and helps in sharpening the mind and improves thinking and analytical skills. It also provides a platform to showcase mathematical skills and compete with brilliant minds from different schools and regions.

It was an online competition which was further divided into two rounds. For both rounds students were provided with login credentials. The 1st round of the competition was free of cost and held on 14th March, 2022. TCSI created a special hour in the timetable to conduct this competition. Result of the first round was published on 28th March, and the 75 brilliant students qualified for the final round. Second and final rounds of the competition were paid and had negative marking for the wrong answer. Therefore, only 35 out of 75 students participated in the final round which was conducted on 12th May. The main objective of the quiz was to encourage students to look beyond their textual knowledge, identifying their capabilities and motivating them to learn and expand their knowledge. This competition enhanced the inquisitiveness of students; thereby, building confidence, mental powers and learning at the same time.



## LAST HURRAH! PRECIOUS MEMORIES & KNOWLEDGE HONoured AT FAREWELL 2022

### Wania Khalid - Student Year 10

On 25th March 2022, students of Year 11 (batch of 2022) were given a farewell party to honour the memories they created along their IGCSE journey and to wish them goodbye through a formal meeting. The occasion took place at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Dubai Deira Creek.

Along with the hard work of the school staff, students of Year 10 played an immense role in the organisation of the grand event. The preparations for the Farewell party were initiated from the start of this academic year, in September. Year 10 conducted numerous bake sales during school events, such as the National Day celebration and the annual sports day, where items were sold to earn profit to cover the cost of the farewell party.

Furthermore, Year 10 prepared personality-based titles and a yearbook for students of Year 11. Along with these articles, gift items, such as a customized key chain and a cup, were kept in their gift bags.

The first half of the event was hosted by Year 10. Students of Year 11, along with their class teachers (Miss Veena Babani and Miss Sadia Obaid), gracefully walked into the hall while wearing their exquisite graduation gowns and hats during the first ceremony. The mood was further enlightened by the motivational words shared by our honourable principal,

Dr. Frank Fernandez, and respected section head, Miss Farah Azeem.

Soon after, other etiquette ceremonies took place. Starting with the candle lighting ceremony, which symbolizes light in the darkness of life brought by knowledge. Later, subject teachers were invited to do the honors of handing the gift bags to the students in five separate rounds. After one such round, a video was presented to take the students down memory lane that showcased their unforgettable journey at TCSI. Year 10 also entertained the shining stars with their marvelous skit, singing, and dance performances after each round.

Before proceeding with the flavorsome dinner, students of year 11 participated in the pageant of Miss Eve (won by Daniya Rehman) and Mr. Eve (won by Raheim Raneil) with their competitive spirits as they modelled in their modish dresses and suits.

The second half of the event was allocated to year 11. They were able to express themselves to the fullest by performing hilarious skits and enthusiastic dances they practised. Moreover, the students organised a bubbly and interactive game for the teachers. The teachers were required to guess the identity of the student using their childhood pictures.



## YEAR 11 GRADUATION AT EXPO 2020 - ANOTHER BATCH BIDS ADIEU

### Laiba Asif - Student Year 11

On 25th March 2022, The City School International had been cordially invited to address their official graduation pictures at the site of EXPO 2020. This was after the official farewell party for Year 11. The school's deemed principal, Dr. Frank, and the section head, Ms. Farah Azeem, escorted the class to the site. Along with the class teachers: Ms. Sadia Obaid and Ms. Veena Babani.

Upon entering the site, the students were handed black gowns with red stripes on the borders along with a graduation cap for taking their graduation pictures throughout the site. They took a grand picture at the entrance of the Expo. Then, headed onwards to find picture-worthy spots around.

It was a wonderful experience on a sunny morning to head to the Al Wasl Plaza, where other graduates from various universities partook in their ceremonies and official pictures. Teachers and students took many photographs in front of picturesque pavilions to catapult a strong and nostalgic memory in their minds for the rest of their lives.

Year 11A and 11B took their photographs in turns with Dr. Frank, Ms. Farah, Ms. Sadia and Ms. Veena respectively. After spending almost the entire morning capturing pictures, videos, selfies with friends and loved ones, it was time to head back to the school.

In the end, it was a sublime day spent at the EXPO. It was a privilege and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students of 2022 to take their memorable graduation pictures at EXPO.



## OVERNIGHT CAMPING FIELD TRIP BRINGS THE THRILL OF WATER RIDES AND BONDING WITH PEERS

### Mr Attique Ashraf - Head of Humanities

On 29th November 2022, secondary students (Year 9-12) of TCSI were rewarded with a field trip to Dreamland Aqua Waterpark, Umm Al Quwain. By the evening of 30th November, the students departed from the venue. The two-day long trip was planned and executed by Travel & Tourism students to gain practical knowledge about their subject.

As the students reached the venue, they went straight up for a swim in the water park, where they enjoyed the thrilling rides. There were several fun rides to be tried, such as the twisting dragons, twister, black hole, family raft rides, etc. Right after the rides, the students went to the campsite, where all camping tents were set up for a comfortable overnight stay for the students and the teachers. To add to it, a barbeque dinner was prepared by the staff. Later that night, students and teachers played games like dodgeball, volleyball and even antakshari (singing songs) around the campfire.

The 2nd day at the Dreamland Aquapark began with the voice of the Fajr Azaan, as the students slept in their camping tents, while some decided to stay awake throughout the night. At roughly 8 am students were offered a delicious and scrumptious breakfast buffet. At sharp 10 am water park rides were reopened, and students were allowed to enjoy the whole day with their acquaintances, visiting all the adventurous and thrilling rides and activities. Later, students were offered lunch and rested back at their camps till dawn. Finally, it was time to bid farewell to this forever memorable trip.

At last, this trip was a great experience for our students and the memories they must have made with their friends will be remembered for a lifetime. Year 11's must especially have enjoyed this trip as a refreshment before their mock and IGCSE exams.



## KIDZANIA CLONING COMMUNITY HELPERS

### Ms Uzma Safer - FS Teacher

To reinforce and explore more about "Community Helpers", the FS department planned to take the students for a field trip to Kidzania in Dubai Mall.

Prior to that, the teachers showed related videos to them so they would know where to go. The students were transferred by bus safely with their respective teachers and assistant teachers to Kidzania. They got their credit cards which they used to buy things and to enter the different profession sections, such as police station, hospital, fire station, bank and many more.

In the fire station, a representative explained how firefighters work. Pupils wore fire fighter costumes and pretended to be firefighters. They went to the fire truck and experienced putting out the building fire.

In this way, they knew first hand how people from different professions help the community, thus becoming Community Helpers. They enjoyed and learnt a lot from the educational trip.



## ELECTION CAMPAIGN BLOWS THE TRUMPET FOR A NEW STUDENT COUNCIL

### Ms Zakirunnisa Alias Noor - KS2 & KS3 Coordinator



Students need their own Voice, so make the right choice. The City School International gives immense priority to the Student Council Body. As TCSI strongly believes, these budding leaders can do wonders if given an opportunity.

Students from Year 10, Year 11 and Year 12 are the eligible group to contest the elections. Student Council forms were distributed to all the students who were interested to take up the election challenge. The candidates had to express the reasons for contesting the elections, their strengths etc.

Moreover, each candidate had to face an interview with the Election Committee members which includes. Dr Frank, Ms Farah Azeem, Ms Lina and Ms Zakirunnisa. During the interview many skills like self- confidence, leadership, vocal skills, comprehension and compilation skills were judged.

The short-listed candidates were announced and were given an opportunity to meet students during the Election Campaign Assembly.

Each candidate had to select their own LOGO and deliver their speech on stage for a minute, where they introduced themselves to the student body, the post they were contesting for and their role and their promises towards the students and the school.

This was a platform for each candidate to prove themselves, to showcase their capabilities, to reach out to their school-mates, to show their public speaking skills and to convince people by their eloquence.

After this assembly, each candidate becomes a popular face in school and this will surely be a turning point of their lives as they grow into becoming better and better students, leaders and student council members.

## MATHS WEEK: PROBLEM SOLVED

### Mr Mudassir Saleem - Head of Mathematics

"Mathematics gives us hope that every problem has a solution."

In an effort to lay a strong foundation of Mathematics, the Mathematics Department of The City School International (TCSI) organised a yearly Maths Week in the third week of March 2022.

The purpose of the Maths week was to teach the students about basic Mathematics in a simple, yet enjoyable manner. The plethora of activities which engaged the students in various fun-filled activities were planned by the teachers during the week. From the 14th to 18th of March, 2022, the week-long activities enhanced the critical thinking and problem solving skills of the young ones. The activity was a success in injecting curiosity in the minds of the students about the exciting world of Mathematics. The students excitedly took part in various activities and competitions which were meticulously planned by their respective teachers.

Day 1: March 14th was celebrated as "Pi Day" because the numerical date (3.14) represents the first three digits of pi, and it also happens to be the birthday of the mathematician and scientist, Albert Einstein. All students from Year 2 to Year 8 participated in the Inter-Class Mental Maths Competition organised by the Ignited Mind Lab. Meanwhile, Years 9 and 10 took part in the Intra-Class Mental Maths Competition.

The competition aims to develop interest in Mental Maths and to improve speed and accuracy in solving problems. Moreover, it sharpens the student's mind and improves critical thinking and analytic skills.

A range of activities were planned at different phases: Key Stage 1: The students participated in the Maths STEM Project where they accepted the challenge of making a strong tower of at least 12 inches tall, which can hold an apple for 10 seconds. Creating patterns on their old shirts with paints using vegetables, numbers and shapes was also fun and worth seeing. Furthermore, preparing their favourite dish, measuring the amount and quantity of items in grams, kilograms, litres and millilitres was remarkable. They learnt so many delicious recipes as the students themselves became chefs. On one hand, various online Bingo games were played to reinforce the concept of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Key Stage 2: Students were given the challenge to design the book cover/bookmark and Maths games. They were very excited and enthusiastic to take up the challenge of designing a Maths game. Every student individually conducted research on different games according to their year level. They then took up the challenge of using 'research' to design their own game. Various Maths challenges also formed a part of the Maths week activity: presentation of board games/tricks, projects in the form of models, posters, riddles and poems.

Key Stage 3: Students were involved in project blends: elements of history of Maths, Geometry, and Art/Design. It was an engaging learning experience where they used Mathematical thinking to manipulate shapes in creating Escher tiles. These were used to create geometric works of art, applying the concepts of area and perimeter by building a city using Lego bricks. This hands-on activity is another great example of how Lego can be used to teach challenging concepts, measuring the circumference and diameter of different circular objects and then calculating the value of pi by dividing circumference by diameter. Students compared their results and re-measured to get the accurate value of pi and Math Eyes Photographic competition. Maths Eyes is an innovative approach to building a positive image of Mathematics. It enables one's eyes to describe the whole action / activity in terms of Math. Students captured their learning and shared it with the whole class. They took pictures of activities showing Maths principles and gave interesting captions.

Key Stage 4: Students were given the challenge to design their projects for real life application. They thought out of the box and displayed their creativity in creating projects based on numbers, Pythagorean theorem, 3-D shapes, Trigonometry ratios, Circle theorem, modern city design, real life applications of Trigonometry, etc. Some students displayed their creativity by constructing games based on probability and number: Escape Room.

Moreover, students conducted research on different games according to their age group and developed some fun games using Mathematical logic.

The 18th of March was the final display of the students' projects. The School Principal, Section Head and the Heads of Departments visited the whole school to appreciate and acknowledge the hard work and diligence of the students in creating wonderful projects.

In the end, the students learned that "The only way to learn Mathematics is to do Mathematics." - Paul Halmos



$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2 \quad (a-b)^2 = a^2 - 2ab + b^2$$



## LITERACY WEEK - ANOTHER NAME OF FUN AND LEARNING

### Department of English



The English Department launched another fun-filled event in March to celebrate Literacy Week. A range of activities were designed on different days so that the students could learn as well as enjoy.

"A book is a magical thing that lets you travel to far-away places without ever leaving your chair." Katrina Mayer

Among the four macro skills in English, reading plays a very essential role that greatly affects the development of listening, speaking and writing. Each macro skill serves a purpose in communication. Inability to cultivate one macro skill could weaken the flow of communication.

At The City School International, the students are highly encouraged to read more. Several reading platforms have been introduced to cater to the students' needs and interests. With this approach, students have become confident speakers, keen listeners, and competent writers. Not to mention, their creativity has levelled up.

The first activity was D.E.A.R (Drop Everything And Read) that was scheduled between 28th February and 4th March, 2022 for Year 1-10. The students were allotted tutor's time (25 minutes on Monday and 10 minutes for the rest of the week) to read books. The students explored both printed and digital books which triggered a point to read whatever time that is available. The target of this activity was to provide the readers comprehension tools to become active, successful readers. "Dress-up is an ideal way for young children to work on so many early childhood development skills: literacies, life skills, and creative play," Dr. Karen Aronian.

Costume days are one of the most exciting parts of a school – and one of the best parts is dressing up in creative, silly ways! It is the motto of the TCSI to build school spirit and develop community and imagination.

It is a celebration of authors – people who write books, illustrators – artists who draw pictures for books and books

– funny, scary, and true stories, poetry, jokes and much more. On 2nd March, 2022, the English Department organised a Character Day. Students were invited to dress up as their favourite literary characters. They were allowed to arrive at school in their costumes and stay in their costume for the entire day. It was recommended to students to dress comfortably, and that costumes be kept simple; it was not necessary to rent anything. Where possible, students were encouraged to bring a book to school that contains the character they were going to be dressed up in.

As a part of a literacy week, KS1 learners had a wonderful opportunity to dress up as their favourite character on the Book Character day. They did a fantastic job using their imagination and creativity in order to express their preferences in terms of beloved characters. We witnessed a presence of sublime Snow White princesses, industrious dwarfs, and treacherous hunters.

The students made their best-loved 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs' story come alive on the stage of TCSI and helped everyone become a part of this charming fairy tale.

In the morning the students paraded on the stage in their favourite costumes. Judges selected the winners from each class after they had described their character: what they were dressed up as, why they had chosen that character, one good thing that they had learned from that character and one thing that they wanted to change about that character.

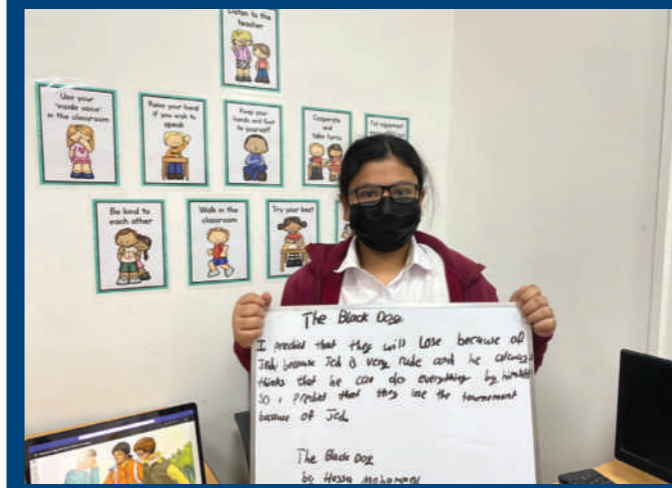
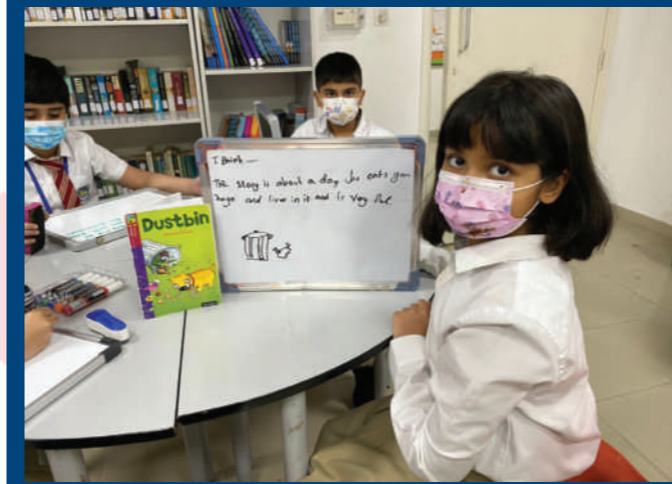
The students had a lot of fun and learned about new characters and books they would love to read next.

The next activity was poster making competition for Year 7 and 8, in which the students designed a poster about their favourite character in a story book or their favourite book while Year 9 and 10 were engaged in a book review writing competition of their favourite book.

During the Literacy week, students were engaged in writing a shared Big Write in a play script format. In the later stage, they were tasked to rehearse the enactment on their script during the week. The final enactment was either on the stage or in the class during 7th -11th March where the best performers were rewarded on their performance and script quality.

What is more, the students had a chance to create their own stories for the Big Write assignment. English teachers provided students with exciting settings for their writing tasks. Little learners amazed their parents and educators with various characters, breathtaking events and extraordinary settings.

2A students were ecstatic to choose a 'Red Riding Hood' story as their most-liked whereas 2B selected 'Cinderella'. Elegant grannies, brave woodcutters, girls wearing beautiful scarlet capes with hoods, princesses dressed in sky-blue ball gowns were wandering around school corridors while fearsome



wolves and evil stepmothers were hiding in the classrooms. Literacy week enabled learners to apply their acting skills. Scenes from both fairy tales were performed wonderfully on the TCSI stage. The students could practice using diverse intonations, making facial expressions to mirror the emotions and feelings of their personages. In addition, new vocabulary and pronunciation were drilled during numerous rehearsals.

The students' concert was topped off by a 'Mind the wolf' song performed by 2A as well as a mesmerising Waltz executed by 2B. 2A student Lujan who played the vicious Wolf summarised the day of the performance by saying it was the best day of her life. So we may state with confidence that Literacy week was a success. Don't believe us? Ask Lujan. "Alone we are smart, together we are brilliant!" Steven Anderson

As this quote says, our students came up with brilliant play-scripts through collaborative writing. They were assigned in groups to work on a 'Shared Play Script' based on their Literature books and classic fairy tales.

As the literacy week started, there was a great enthusiasm seen among all the students. Keeping the traditional traits, Year 3, 4, and 5 did Big write with a twist. Students of Year 3 wrote a play script of the classic stories of their choice.

Year 3 brought Literacy Week to a close with a bang. Year 3 students did fantastic role-plays based on various classic stories. Cinderella was presented by Year 3A, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs was done by Year 3B and Sleeping Beauty was performed by Year 3 C.

In the scripts, they wrote how their story and the changed characters could be if it was written in the year 2022. Years 4 and 5 chose classic fairytales and changed the plot and the personality traits of the main characters of the story by adding the element of humour to it. 'Merchant of Venice' by Year 5 and 'Jane Eyre' by Year 6 respectively.

While the students at KS3 and KS4 were given the same chance with the flexibility to choose from their favourite literary works and Viola! They came up with brilliant scripts and then performed them with vigour. It was indeed an activity to akin with.

In accordance with a famous quote, 'Without real exchange, you can't create knowledge', our students exchanged their ideas with the members of their group not only in class but also through meetings via Teams in order to complete their writing within the Literacy Week. It was a delight to watch their enthusiasm, teamwork and competitive spirit which made our young writers produce brilliant scripts.

The activity was well-aligned with a very important curriculum objective which is to adapt well-known stories for writing play scripts.

The Literacy Week not only kindled their creative writing skills, but also made our students turn into actors who enacted the scripts they had written.

The teachers had a very challenging task of choosing the winning groups for 'Best Playscripts' as well as 'Impressive Enactment'.

## TCSI CELEBRATES WORLD SCIENCE DAY

### Ms Anupama Girish - Head of Science

To end the monotony and make Science more engaging and fun, the Science Department of TCSI organised the Science Week in the month of April from 18th to 22nd. This gave the students an opportunity to focus on their creativity and think out of the box. In addition, this helped in inculcating research mindedness and scientific attitude among the learners.

Considering the Ramadan timings, the activities were reduced to STEM challenges and Science projects. The projects enabled the students to predict real-life systems and applications. They chose their topics from different branches of Science. Students worked in groups or individually as per their preference.

World Science Day for Peace and Development was proclaimed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in 2001. The day highlights the significant role of Science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. More so, it underscores the importance and relevance of Science in daily living.

In line with this, TCSI arranged a set of activities for the students. The event was celebrated for two days. Students showcased their talents. Year 10 presented a short skit on the importance of vaccination and natural immunity during the assembly. They conducted a general quiz for the entire school. Students from different classes dressed up as their favourite scientist.

Various student-led Science experiments were conducted during the Science lessons. Students from Year 9 demonstrated some experiments in the junior classes and spoke about the importance of sustainability. This was followed by the Scientific Poster Making Competition and the Scientific Writing Competition. These were organised to encourage and develop scientific fervour and attitude of research skills among the students and to establish a cross-curricular connection with subjects like Arts and English.

Moreover, the students of Year 3 to Year 6 made posters on the following topics: 'Save Water', 'Impact of Climate Change', 'Endangered species and their protection' and 'Technology and Nature'. It was a fun-filled celebration where all the students showcased their talents, creativity and innovation.

Year 7 to Year 11 students wrote articles on the topics, 'Evaluation of a Science fiction movie/book', 'Scope of Nanotechnology in Medicine', 'The Real World vs. Sci-Fiction', 'Vaccines or Natural Immunity, Justify your choice', and 'Food Choices: Organic or Biotech products'. Selected students from each class were awarded with certificates of excellence.

Key Stage 1: The students of Years 1 and 2 participated in STEM and PBL activities, enhancing their scientific and creative skills on a singular platform. They worked in structured

groups with shared responsibility depicting project based learning and peer learning through diverse activities:

**Year 1 Activity:** All sections of Year 1 participated in the Science week. The students were given the opportunity to work as engineers by identifying a problem, brainstorming and designing a practically applicable solution and finally testing their end product, reviewing and enhancing where necessary.

The students' scientific knowledge was integrated with English literacy, particularly reading skills under the theme of "Fairytales". They were provided with a number of popular children's stories such as "Goldilocks and The Three Bears", "The Three Billy Goats", "Three Little Pigs", "Hansel and Gretel", among others. They were then asked to identify engineering problems in each fairytale (broken chair, faulty bridge, home designing etc.) and rectify or redesign accordingly.

For instance, in the case of "Goldilocks", the students planned to design a chair using various resources such as popsicle sticks and straws to build a chair that would not break. They then tested the final product by setting a teddy bear on the chair and ensuring that it would hold its structure along with the weight of the teddy bear. Likewise for "The Three Billy Goats", they brainstormed an alternative for the goats to cross the bridge, such as a different bridge or a boat and tested its efficiency.

As a first step, they identified the problems, devised solutions and utilised their problem-solving skills. Next, they sketched their designs, planned which tools and resources to use and applied their creativity.

Afterwards, they practically built their design, integrating Mathematics by taking appropriate measurements in testing their products and revising where necessary. Finally, the students presented their work on the last day of the week.

**Year 2 Activity:** The students were given an opportunity for project based learning integrated with Biology under the theme of "Habitat". They worked together in groups, conducted research, collected data and designed models for different animal habitats. Also, they selected from a large array of territories such as ocean animals, savannah animals, arctic terrains, rainforest etc.

Year 2 students started the Science Week by researching in groups about different animals, their living conditions and how they interact with each other and their environment. In this way, they developed their research and data collection skills. They then utilised this information to share ideas in their respective groups and create their own model for an animal habitat. They decided and tested suitable resources that they needed for their design. Each group created a different model. They collaborated with each other and completed their assigned duty. This enhanced their team work as well as their creativity.

On the final day of the Science week, the students presented their models in a Science fair. They were given the chance to present their work in front of their peers, seniors (Year 3-5) as well as school teachers and the senior leadership team. The students addressed their questions; thus, boosting their confidence and presentation skills.

In conclusion, the students of Years 1 and 2 benefited greatly from the Science week. They had ample opportunity to work in teams, enhancing their holistic skills. Their roles were clearly defined in each group to ensure individual participation (researcher, questioner, dialogue keeper). The teacher acted as a mentor and facilitator encouraging them to take charge of the learning process, utilising their problem solving skills, along with research and creativity. Cross-curricular reference was evident and there was a practical end product for each class.

As a befitting finale, the students were provided the chance to present their work in front of a diverse and authentic audience.

It was fascinating to observe young minds working together with such a spirit. The model activity not only helped students to revise the concept done so far but also gave them a platform to develop their fine motor, social and cognitive skills.

Different Science projects included still models, working models and investigatory projects. These allowed the students to explore the science behind space, communication, engineering, travel, and design. They successfully used their STEAM skills to come up with some very interesting designs. To aid in explaining their ideas, students prepared posters which gave the visual overview of their entire project.

STEM competitions allowed individual or student teams to solve a specific challenge or problem through Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Many of these challenges were rooted in real-world issues, encouraging participants to use creativity and critical thinking to come up with innovative solutions.

Some of the STEM challenges included building a balloon rocket, building the tallest straw tower, paper building blocks, building a structure with only one cube at the base, building a card tower, building a foil tower, building the strongest and tallest tower with apple pieces and toothpicks, among others.

Besides the opportunity to put their Scientific knowledge and skills to the test, the STEM challenge taught the relevance of their learning, as well as the importance of teamwork, success, and failure. STEM challenges help to promote love and curiosity about Science and the world around them.

Overall, students demonstrated excellent teamwork and a spirit of healthy competition. Students were awarded with certificates of Recognition, Appreciation and Excellence based on their effort, and quality of work presentation.



## BUDDING WRITERS CREATE A MAGICAL WORLD THROUGH BIG WRITE

### Mr Kamran Ahmed - Head of English

The English Department created a buzz in the gloom through the first Big Write of the Academic Year.

The Big Write theme for the first term was aligned with the theme of Emirates Literature Festival 2021-22 - Story Writing Competition. The inspiration for 2022 was 'Here comes the sun'.

The story writing competition was focusing on themes such as hope, optimism, overcoming challenges and how changes in our lives can be viewed in a positive lens.

Constant change in our daily lives creates deeper meaning and gives us a new perspective of the world around us. Change is an inevitable part of life and with it comes the opportunity to SHINE!

This past year was a challenge for the world. Our normal routine in life had suddenly changed and regardless of that we still see the sun burning bright promising the world better days ahead!

Students used their imagination and creativity to the fullest to inspire. The first draft was written between 12 and 16 September, whereas the final draft was written in the following week between 19 and 23 September.

As usual, students were only allowed to write under the appropriate age category: ages 11 and under (maximum of 500 words), ages 12-14 (maximum of 1000 words), ages 15-17 (maximum of 1500 words) and age 18-25 (maximum of 1500 words).

The masterpieces were later converted into class magazines, and the best entries were uploaded for the story writing competition organised by Emirates Airline Festival of Literature.



## INVESTITURE CEREMONY - CROWNING THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW

### Ms Zakirunnisa Alias Noor - KS2 & KS3 Coordinator



A much-awaited day arrived where our budding leaders took the ownership of their responsibilities. Yes! It was the Investiture Ceremony.

The Investiture Ceremony this Year was held on the 22 November, 2021. It was indeed a special day to all the young leaders of our school. The moment of pride, honour and accomplishment that a few of them were chosen from the whole school.

The ceremony began with the blessings from the Almighty followed by the motivational talk from our Principal, Dr. Frank. The proceedings were taken over by our Student Council In charge, Ms Zakir. The flag bearers were ready with the house flags, school flag, and the UAE flag. The march past and the flag ceremony commenced with the band playing in the background. It was a spectacular sight to witness.

The whole contingent assembled in the assembly area after the march past for the oath taking ceremony where the council members were given oath by Ms Farah who read the oath aloud followed by the council members, with their hands raised, declaring that they would do their best to the service of the school.

After this emotional moment, each member took up the ownership of their responsibilities by coming onto the stage to receive their badges. They got the badges pinned by Dr. Frank, Ms. Farah, Ms. Lina and Ms. Zakir. The proud contingent was feeling so honoured by their achievements.

The student council members were dispersed from their assigned places after the photo session was done. Each member had to sign their job descriptions and became the office bearer of the council.

The Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputy Heads, Sports Captain, House Captains, and Vice Captains were aware of what is expected from them. Many leaders were also appointed for different services like Environment, Social services, Entrepreneurship, Islamic services, media and communication, Discipline and wellbeing.



Thus, the Investiture Ceremony was a day to be remembered always for our council members. This event is to promote students' leadership and social skills.

## ELOQUENCE PERSONIFIED! TCSI CONDUCTS INTRA-CLASS DEBATE COMPETITION '21

### Ms Madelyn Addatu - English Teacher

The Debate Competition is being organised annually by the English Department of The City School International. This event serves as an avenue for the students to improve their research, reasoning and public speaking skills, as they are encouraged to think critically, and construct a compelling and succinct speech in a full-blown argument.

This year's Intra-Class Debate Competition commenced on the 14th and concluded on the 21st of November. Prior to the main event, English teachers of Year 3 to Year 11 conducted an In-Class Debate Competition in order to select four representatives from each section including the substitute. All students were motivated to prepare and master a constructive speech as well as write possible questions which could be asked to their opponents to challenge their evidence and claim.

Moreover, students were guided by the Debate Mechanics which were explained comprehensively by their respective English teachers. Part of the mechanics was the criteria for each major award: Best Speaker, Best Debater and Winning Team.

Students were given enough time to prepare their speech anchored on the side they were in: Proposition or Opposition. Meanwhile, students of Year 3 followed a slightly different mechanics since it was their first time to participate in a Debate Competition. Also, students of Year 3, 4 and 5 have three sections in each year group; the rest have two sections only.

Certificates and trophies were distributed during the assembly. Students were delighted to receive their awards—the fruits of their labour. Nonetheless, the school congratulated all the students who participated in this event.

TCSI will continue to support the English Department's aim of honing students' minds to think critically, develop teamwork and increase their confidence, poise, and self-esteem.



## EID UL-FITR: DEVOTION, COMPASSION AND CHARITY CELEBRATED

### Afifa Khan - Student Year 10

Eid ul-Fitr, one of the biggest festivals of Muslims, marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan for Muslims across the world. The festival falls on the first day of Shawwal in the Islamic calendar, which does not correspond to a specific date in the Gregorian calendar.

During Ramadan, Muslims follow a ritual of fasting from dawn to dusk, not partaking in even the consumption of water. The month is dedicated to prayer, devotion and self-control, and Eid ul-Fitr (the festival of breaking the fast) marks the culmination of this holy month. Moreover, the night before Eid ul-Fitr is known as 'Chand Raat'. This night marks the onset of the Islamic month of Shawwal and the day of Eid-ul-Fitr the next day. However, if the crescent moon cannot be seen, Muslims continue to fast on the next day to complete 30 days, then they celebrate Eid ul-Fitr.

The day begins with Salat-ul Eid (Eid Prayer) and Muslims wish each other by saying Eid Mubarak. Celebrations continue with feasts and family gatherings, with people exchanging gifts. There are some constituent parts of Eid ul-Fitr that are recognised all over the world. For example, one of the five pillars of Islam is giving charity, or Zakat. On Eid, there is a specific type of charitable giving called Zakat al-Fitr, which can take place at the end of Ramadan. However, it is recommended to give out in advance so those in need can also celebrate Eid happily with their families. It is considered to be a day dedicated to gratitude and charity. In addition to this, Muslims are also encouraged to forgive their fellow beings and seek forgiveness from the Almighty on the holy day of Eid ul-Fitr.

In countries with large Muslim populations, like the UAE or Pakistan, Eid ul-Fitr is a national holiday. For instance, in places like Pakistan and Egypt, Muslims decorate their homes with lanterns, twinkling lights and flowers. Whereas, at some places, the days before Eid ul-Fitr, people rush to Ramadan markets to prepare the exchange of gifts on Eid.

Eid is meant to be a time of joy and blessing for the entire Muslim community and a time for distributing one's wealth. In the entire month of Ramadan, Muslims give charities and food to the ones in need. It allows generosity in individuals, peace in the society and sharing compassion and support with those who are suffering. It also reduces inequality and poverty in the community. In Islam, charity to the poor is a highly emphasized value. The Holy Quran says: "Believe in Allah and his messenger and give charity out of the (substance) that Allah has made you heirs of. For those of you who believe and spend in charity - for them is a great reward"





## PROACTIVE GENEROSITY AT RAMADAN FOOD CHARITY DRIVE

**Ms Naghma Nafees - Islamic Studies Teacher/ Hassan Rashid - Student Year 10A/ Eshal Junaid - Student Year 9B**

The blessed month of Ramadan has showered its blessings upon us, and it is of utmost importance that we share these blessings with those less fortunate than us. Charity is a paramount aspect of Ramadan, known as the month of giving. In Ramadan, the reward for taking part in good deeds is multiplied, thus increasing the benefits of giving in charity. Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) said, "The Prophet (peace be upon him) was the most generous of people, and he was most generous during Ramadan", (Bukhari).

The long-awaited month of Ramadan arrived in the UAE with its all beauty, sacredness and blessings on the 2nd of April. Like every year, this year also the TCSI planned several activities for Ramadan as young people have a high degree of engagement with charities, and schools play a significant part in it. There are likely to be many positive aspects to this engagement as it fosters and reflects young people's sense of collective responsibility.

Islamic Education Department of TCSI decided to initiate programmes for citizenship education in a more formalised way and assigned Ramadan projects activities to students. One of them was organising the Ramadan Charity Market. The students were assigned projects for creating various objects such as wreaths, lanterns, models of mosques, decorative candles, gift baskets or goodie bags, etc. The market was set up in the corridor where the students of every class/ section came and visited the market according to their allotted time and bought the stuff of their own choice. Everyone was aware that collected money would be used for charity.

"And spend of what Allah has granted by the way of sustenance before death should come to any of you and he should say: 'Lord, why did You not defer my return for a while so that I might give charity and be among the righteous?'" [al-Munafiqun, 63:10].

The last week of Ramadan arrived, and the market geared up with unbelievable students' response. Overwhelmed by the notion of Ramadan and charity, many of them submitted more than one project and their works were amazing. They also actively participated in arrangements, buying and selling the objects created by their schoolmates along with their teachers. A good amount was collected and contributed to "One Billion Meals". The "One Billion Meals" is the biggest humanitarian initiative that aims secure food aid for vulnerable communities in 50 countries around the world providing food support representing a grand statement of the UAE's aspirations in humanitarian service and firm commitment in developing long-term solutions to improve lives across the world without any discrimination.

To contribute to this operation, TCSI's students donated dry food, which was packed up and given to volunteers who agreed to drive around and deliver these food packages to those in need. Each volunteer driver was assigned an area where they would distribute the food packages. The respected parents of TCSI's students were also provided with an opportunity to contribute to our school's charity initiatives by donating money which was donated to the one billion meals project, a product of Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum initiatives. The next week was utilised by the senior citizens of school to show their entrepreneur skills to organise, manage and present the hard work of our citizens allowing us to sell most of it reaching 4,500 charity donations from our school making us a part of this scheme to work for humanity and brotherhood and food security for everyone and making a difference.

"We make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give." Winston Churchill

In brief, "The example of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed (of grain) which grows seven spikes; in each spike is a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies (His reward) for whom He wills. And Allah is all-Encompassing and knowing." Surat Baqarah Ayat 261 Overall, it was an amazing activity which enhanced positive physical, social, spiritual and ethical skills in our students. Hence, the formalisation of this charitable engagement and voluntary activity within the intention of citizenship education can also be justified in terms of the skills developed by the students.



## RABBI- AL- AWWAL SUNNAH WEEK AND SEERAH QUIZ SALLO ALAIHI WA AALIHI [SAW]

**Ms Nasreen Akhtar - Islamic Studies Teacher**

Rabi' al-Awwal is one of the Islamic months. It is the 3rd Islamic month of the Islamic calendar. It is in this month that humanity was blessed with the birth of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), the last prophet and Messenger of Allah (SWT). He came with the ultimate truth and the final Divine message for mankind. It is also during this month that 63 years later he departed this world. Muslims around the world from different cultures and different countries mark this month in different ways.

Every Muslim celebrates this month with full of Islamic spirits. The Most Beautiful Sunnah to Follow in Daily Life is to eat the favourite food of Prophet Muhammad (SAW). Food is one of the most important physiological needs of every living being in this world.

The City School International also celebrated this occasion as Sunnah week. Year 1-2 prepared the projects, model, presentations and posters about the favourite food of Prophet Muhammad (SAW). Informative videos about the favourite food of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) were shown to the students in the Islamic lessons to know the importance of those foods. The purpose here is to commemorate the occasion of glorious Prophet's Mawlid with the intention of using the opportunity to share information about the benefits and nutritious values of the favourite food of Prophet Muhammad (S.AW) like honey, olives, milk, figs, dates and barley etc.

These food items have major benefits and were the most loved by our Prophet. A true Islamic follower heavily relies on the Sunnah of our Holy Prophet (SAW) and even does small to smallest actions in the light of Him. Year 3 celebrated Sunnah week by presenting the daily masnoon duas in different ways. They showed the importance of daily duas through PPT, booklets and posters. They learned the dua's by heart and showed their interest. Masnoon Duas exists to protect us from evil and disasters. Allah has vowed that He will safeguard His creatures from harm and wicked individuals. There is no better method to seek Allah's aid than to recite Masnoon Dua and pray for Allah's compassion.

The City School International also organised and conducted online seerah quizzes in the Islamic classes as the theme of the week. The purpose of celebrating this event is to give the world a message that Islam is a religion of peace. This is the teaching of our beloved Holy Prophet (SAW). Following the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), one can get success in every walk of life. Seerah quizzes covered the different parts of seerah: firstly the revelation of Quran and its importance in our daily life and secondly the Hijra to Madina is explored and what we learn today from this Hijra.

The Qur'an is God's last divine revelation to mankind. It will serve as a guidance till the Day of Judgement since there will be no new divine books. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) also is



the last of a series of human messengers and there will be no more messengers after him. Therefore, the Qur'an and the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) should be viewed as ever-lasting and valid at all times.

If this is the case then our understanding of the Qur'an and the teachings of the Prophet must be not restrictive but applicable to all cultures and all civilisations. All students participated and enjoyed the seerah quizzes about the different stages of Prophet Muhammad's life. May Allah accept our effort and reward us abundantly. Ameen.

## LITERARY LEGENDS - KSI CONDUCTS MORNING READING PROGRAMME

### Ms Lesia Apiuk - English Teacher

Reading is an indispensable, if not the best tool for acquiring mastery of a language. It exposes learners to grammar, different sentence structures, a wide array of vocabulary and whole new worlds of imaginative and creative fiction, exciting nonfiction and sublime poetry. It was proved by scientists that our brain recognises and learns patterns of a foreign language while reading.

Furthermore, it helps learners improve their knowledge and use these patterns in other significant areas such as writing and speaking.

TCSI always gives utmost importance to the literacy requirements of our young minds. Hence, a wonderful initiative came in place at the beginning of Term 2, namely, 'The Morning Reading Programme'. Key Stage 1 students have been commencing their day at school with reading a broad selection of fabulous books. Engaging in such an activity for just 15 minutes daily allowed them to add the whole hour of reading each week. Year 1 students begin their day with Jolly Phonics and Oxford Reading Tree books focusing on general fiction and nonfiction. Class teachers, English teachers and Teacher Assistants support and guide the students helping them with phonics, comprehension, high frequency words and making simple inferences. What is more! Pupils did diverse tasks such as identifying and describing events, characters and settings, telling about their favourite parts and characters of the story to name a few.

Year 2 students were focusing on traditional tales and informational texts. Alongside reading, learners were accomplishing various tasks starting from simple assignments like making predictions to more challenging ones, in particular, creating an alternative ending of the story. Outstanding works were produced by some of the students suggesting upbeat endings as well as tragic finales of 'The Great Chapatti Chase' story.

Among numerous students' achievements in terms of reading, it is worth mentioning that learners were able to set new records leaving no place for writing down book titles in their Reading File. Muhammad Umer from 2B read an impressive number of books setting a record in his class. This avid reader got a "Star of the week" certificate that served as a wonderful example to his peers.

The programme has been a fantastic opportunity for English teachers and learners to practice the material taught in the lessons during morning reading. For instance, Year 1 students were able to use amazing adjectives for description as well as to look for split digraphs in the stories. As for Year 2, reading informational texts in the morning enabled them to practice inferring the meaning of unknown words, identifying charts, diagrams, bold print and subheadings and recognizing the specific text features and structure.



## LITERARY LEGENDS - KSI

### Ms Razan/ Ms Nandi - French Teachers



TCSI offers French from Year 3 to 8. During lessons, the teaching approaches incorporate movement, music and drama to support vocabulary retention.

To a great extent, all basic 'traditional' topics such as greetings, colours, numbers and family members are covered in lesson starters. Students are showing immense interest in speaking and role-playing lessons.

The Role-playing game, in particular, is a therapeutic technique, an educational method and a delightful or a recreational activity. The role-playing game is a simulation of communication and lingual skills performed inside the classroom to learn foreign languages. It is considered as an activity aiming to ease the verbal phrasing of the learner.

Bon, là, on se CALME et on parle tous FRANÇAIS: The students are taking French language très sérieusement, which are made interesting and more fun. Working from the Léo et Théo textbooks provides a range of different characters and scenarios, allowing the students to enact situations that occur in everyday life in France. To bring these scenarios to life, a range of French bread, cheeses and pât were sampled. C'était délicieux!



## SAVE THE PLANET - SAVE YOURSELF!

### Ms Zakirunnisa Alias Noor - KS2 & KS3 Coordinator

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. Margaret Mead

TCSI is indeed a forerunner in executing the thought that our students can change the world by contributing through their actions, deeds, and thoughts in making this world a better place to live.

To achieve these goals our students participate in different campaigns organised by different companies and organisations. Here are a few of the campaigns where TCSI participated to encourage and imbibe values of sustainability, save the earth, Recycle, Reuse and Reduce:

**Bee'ah Battery Collection Campaign:** This is a drive run by Bee'ah Environment Group. In this campaign, students must collect used batteries. The batteries that lie in your drawers for ages and later go into the trash bins and then to the landfills. Here they stay for years without decomposing, giving out their chemicals to the soil, increasing the acidic level of the soil particles, entering the food chain, environment, air and water and leading to health issues, pollution issues.

Students of all age groups were encouraged to collect as many batteries as possible and deposit them in the battery bin, kept in the school and this bin was emptied from time to time. People from Bee'ah take the batteries collected from our school. This is a year-long campaign, running throughout the academic year. This is a small contribution by our students to save the earth.

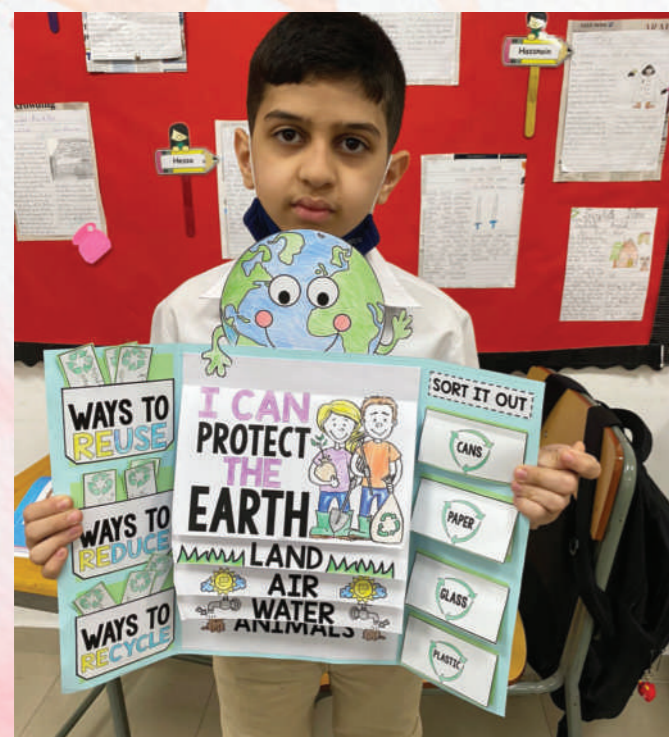


**EEG Campaigns:** Our School is an active member of all the campaigns from this environment group. There are many drives organised by EEG Environment Group like the Aluminium Can Collection, Plastic Bottle Collection, Paper Collection and EEG Drawing Competition to name a few.  
**DEWA Campaigns:** Our school participates in many of the virtual workshops held by DEWA. We even participate in the Earth Hour campaign organised by them.

**Simply Bottles Campaign:** This is a water bottle collection campaign organised by DGRADE company. This is also a year-long campaign where students collect used water bottles. People from Simple Bottles come and collect these bottles from school. In collaboration with Mai Dubai, different competitions are organised to encourage school students to be a part of sustainability projects.

**WETEX:** Our school was invited to be a part of the opening ceremony held at EXPO Exhibition centre.

**Earth Hour:** Our school encouraged students and parents to be a part of Earth Hour too.



## DUBAI CAN - REFILL CULTURE

### Ms Zakirunnisa Alias Noor - KS2 & KS3 Coordinator



Dubai Can, the sustainability initiative by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, and Chairman of the Executive Council of Dubai. The initiative aims to reduce reliance on single-use plastic water bottles in Dubai by providing free and safe drinking water stations throughout the city.

Creating lasting change takes the commitment of a whole community. Schools can show their commitment by being part of Dubai Can and building greater awareness in their own communities.

A staff member was nominated to lead the school's sustainability practices and programmes. The school's eco-champion was invited to a town hall meeting to learn more about Dubai Can and how schools could support its goals. All schools that signed up were also eligible to take part in a student video competition to promote the concept of a 'refill culture.'

The initiative was to join the team as the wider Dubai community on a mission to make Dubai a happier and more sustainable city for all.

TCSI was a part of this very recently launched drive too. To proceed a step further to imbibe the Refill Culture, the school invited ambassadors from FLOWATERS, who gave our students of Year 5A a workshop on touchless water filter systems and the importance of refilling bottles, instead of using single use water bottles.



## UAE FLAG DAY ENDORSES THE UNITY OF THE UNION

### Sana Faisal - Student 11

The UAE Flag Day represents a day full of power, growth and bravery. It reminds us of all the great effort put forward by the UAE's leaders and allows us to reflect on their achievements, who have, and continue to bring visions to reality. For this, The City School International had proudly celebrated the UAE Flag Day 2021. Students were dressed up in the colours of the UAE flag and also created UAE flags in class!

At sharp 10:00 am, students, teachers, Head of Sections and the Principal gathered at the front gate of the school and stood in attention for the flag hoisting ceremony. Senior students recited and translated the powerful verses of the Holy Quran, and a highly informative speech was delivered by the Red House Captain, Daniya Rehman about the importance of the UAE flag along with the outstanding amount of work and effort put in by Sheikh Zayed and all the founding fathers of the UAE towards the country.

As the UAE National Anthem was played, the school

stood in attention, waving their flags and singing along as the Head Boy, Ahmed Hilal; Head Girl, Sana Faisal, and Green House Captain, Hamza Asif raised the flags for the ceremony.

This event at TCSI was truly inspiring and enlightening. Raising the UAE Flag allowed us to unite and show our great appreciation to the founding fathers for all their continuous effort contributed to the United Arab Emirates!



## WETEX- 2021 HIGHLIGHTS CONSERVATION

### Ms Zakirunnisa Alias Noor - KS2 & KS3 Coordinator

TCSI had the honour to invite students and their parents (Year 10 and above) to participate at the 23rd Water, Energy Technology & Environment Exhibition (WETEX 2021) and Dubai Solar Show. The exhibition was held from 5-7 October 2021 at the Dubai Exhibition Centre – EXPO 2020 Dubai. Being a part of this international event, they witnessed a great platform display of the latest Water, Energy and Environment technologies.

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority organises this exhibition to achieve the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy.

WETEX and Dubai Solar Show focused on water, energy, sustainability and innovation, and provided a safe and convenient way for companies around the world to meet and interact during 3 days with officials from DEWA, UAE government organisations, as well as local and international companies.

WETEX has become an important strategic platform for decision makers, investors, researchers, academics and experts to explore modern solutions and technologies while promoting sustainability, renewable energy, innovation and a wealth of opportunities for current and future generations. WETEX and Dubai Solar Show provides a new experience to exhibitors and visitors from around the world. A natural progression that unequivocally advocates all forms of sustainable practices. WETEX 2021 will enable conversations, connections, and cooperation between decision makers, investors, researchers, academics, and experts to explore modern solutions and technologies.



WETEX was pleased to extend an invitation to participate and look at the opportunities offered to their valuable stakeholders and customers, exploring new businesses, projects, latest technologies and innovative solutions presented by experts, multinational companies and prominent organisations around the world.

The staff had a chance to interact with different people, to look at different innovative machines that are invented to meet the sustainability goals. They even researched more on the compost machine, which could be used in our school canteen to recycle the organic food waste from the canteen into compost. The compact, well-designed machine was an area of interest to them. They shared their knowledge and discussed their plan to buy the compost maker with the principal as it is an eco-friendly device, economical and user friendly too.

There were many other equipment/ machines exhibited in the exhibition, but their interest was only in the machines that could be useful to our school. It was indeed a broader platform to share and enlighten ourselves with new innovative inventions done to fulfil the goal of sustainability.



## THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL WITH EVERLASTING MEMORIES

### Ms Nosheen Ali - EYFS Coordinator



Leaving Preschool behind and entering Reception is a big step for children, but schools can do much to ensure their new arrivals' experiences are positive ones. That's exactly what the FS2 teachers team at the TCSI does.

The first day is a short one where students come to the school only for two hours i.e from 8am till 10am. Teachers prepare the environment to ensure that every child will have a wide choice of activities, and also that routines and expectations are established from day one. For example, coat pegs, self-registration, resource storage and labels must all be ready so that routines can be taught on the first day.

Teachers plan fun activities for the first day. As students enter the classroom, each one is allowed to move around and explore the various learning stations in the class. Once the majority of students have arrived and are settled some teachers introduce the circle time. After that the students carry on with their first day activities like first day hand printing, first drawing or painting, first mark making etc.

The students then have their first day individual photos in the My First Day Photo frame booth. After photos are taken, all students have their snack break. During snack break, they might watch some interesting rhymes videos. After snack break, it is time to go home. As it is the first day, most of the students are picked up by their parents and the rest go by the buses. The teachers try their best that these four-year-olds set off for their first day at 'big school', with positive emotions and excitement.



## EEG DRAWING COMPETITION STIMULATES AWARENESS

### Ms Zakirunnisa Alias Noor - KS2 & KS3 Coordinator

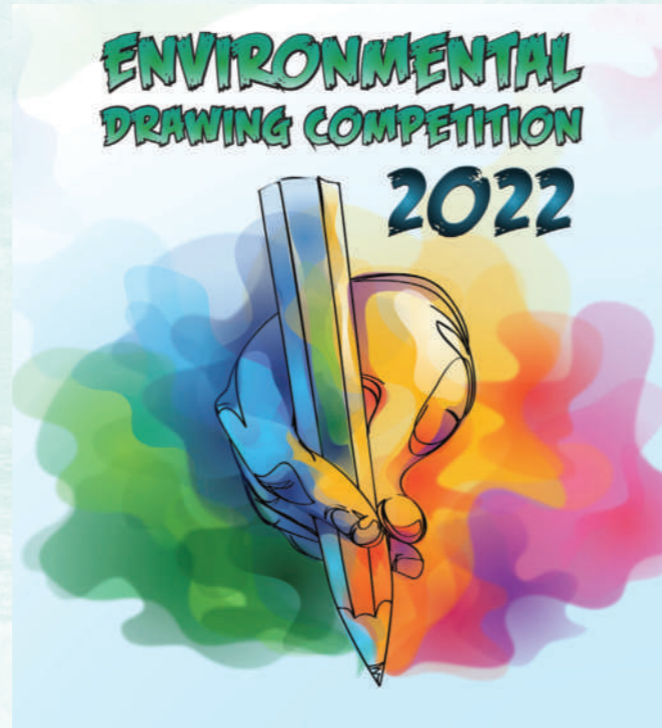
The attitude of caring for the environment and being aware of our actions towards Mother Nature does not develop overnight. This requires the creation of awareness in children right from the early years. Therefore, the concept of understanding our environment and maintaining the balance needs to be driven through the curriculum and activities at school. Schools need to use different tools to educate children on subjects like Environmental Studies, drawing reference points from real life situations.

To instil love and care for the environment and make it a way of life, EEG took a solid step to spread awareness and mindfulness in every learner and staff member so that each one would act and react responsibly to protect the natural world. With this aim in mind of educating the youth and in keeping in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, EEG invited remarkable educational institutions to the 16th Cycle of the Environmental Drawing Competition 2022.

The topics chosen each year are after much research and analysis which are then finalised after comprehensive discussion based on relevance to local, national and international trends. The topics for the year 2022 were Marine Life in the Arabian Gulf for 6 - 8 years old, Nature - Looking Back 50 Years for 9 - 11 years old and Combating Climate Change - Your Contributions for 12 - 14 years old.

TCSI was a part of this Drawing competition. The students were encouraged to research, discuss and design their drawing as per the topics. TCSI submitted around 18 pieces of our students' work, 6 from each group. This effort from the school gave our students an opportunity to showcase their drawing skills. Our budding Artists did a splendid job, reflecting their care for nature.

This competition is held every year and our school never misses this chance to showcase our student's talent to the outside community. Such activities inculcate the love for saving the Earth, to plan ways to protect it and to reason out the causes that are damaging nature. They will ponder on ways to stop the damage. They will come up with ideas and few students will surely volunteer to work more on such projects. Wishing them all the Best in their future endeavours!!!



## HAND WASHING TECHNIQUES REMODELLED

### Ms Raihana Hashir - The School Nurse



#### How to Wash Your Hands

1 Wet the hands with warm or cold running water



Do this for at least 20 seconds

2 Lather with soap between the palms, rubbing them together



3 Lather and rub the back of the hands



4 Rub between the fingers



5 Clean under the nails, ideally using a nail brush



6 Rinse the hands under running water



7 Dry thoroughly with a clean towel

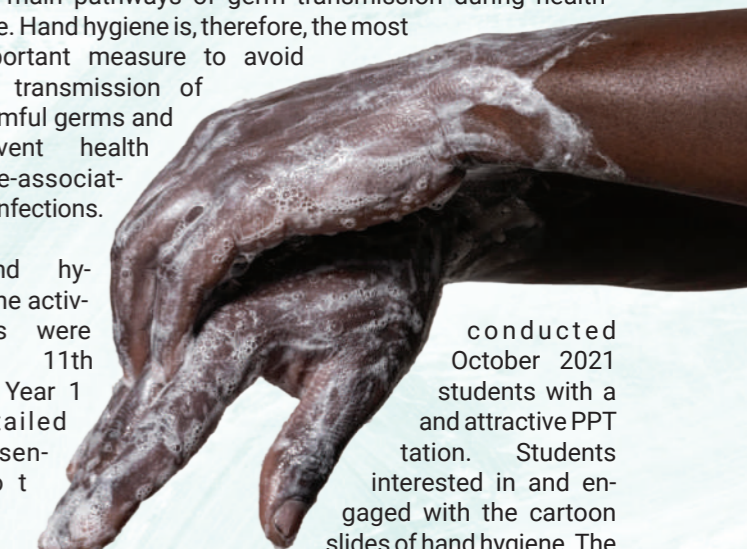


Thousands of people die every day around the world from infections acquired while receiving health care. Hands are the main pathways of germ transmission during health care. Hand hygiene is, therefore, the most important measure to avoid the transmission of harmful germs and prevent health care-associated infections.

Hand hygiene activities were on 11th for Year 1 detailed presentation.

programme covered the introduction and importance of hand hygiene followed by hand washing techniques and frequency.

Students were also demonstrated the techniques after the Presentation. The programme concluded successfully with good interaction and engagement of the students. The students clearly understood proper hand washing procedure and implemented it on a day to day basis.



conducted October 2021 students with a and attractive PPT tation. Students interested in and engaged with the cartoon slides of hand hygiene. The programme covered the introduction and importance of hand hygiene followed by hand washing techniques and frequency.

**SYMBOLISING LOVE AND COMPASSION, CALMNESS AND SERENITY AND FRESHNESS AND BLISS!**

**Ms Umaira Iqbal / Ms Sadia Javed / Ms Heena Shaikh  
EYFS Teachers**

The 'Red Day' celebration was a wonderful learning activity which helped the tiny tots of EYFS to sort and classify objects based on colours by reinforcing cognitive skills.

It was a scintillating day with innocent faces gleaming and reflecting brightness, joy, love, and happiness. The 'Red Day' celebration also helped children to understand the concept of Primary Colours. The young learners also understood that the colour red signifies love and compassion.

To make this day more special and exciting, students and teachers dressed in red clothes. Classes were decorated with red balloons. Students actively participated in the "Show and Tell" activity. They got an opportunity to speak about their favourite red object. After that, they had palm printing activity.

Everyone enjoyed colouring and printing their own hands. FS students celebrated Red-colour day by creating Ladybug headbands, making red jelly, and red-apple craft.

Early identification of colours helps to create the cognitive link between visual clues and words which is an important part of a child's holistic development. Hence, the EYFS Department celebrated Blue Colour Day on October 7th, 2021.

It was not only a fun-filled day for the students but also served as a wonderful learning opportunity for students to understand the concept of 'primary colours'.

The day began with a short prayer and continued with various activities like singing rhymes and jingles on colours, colour identification game etc. The significance of the colour was reiterated as students, staff and teachers were dressed in different shades and hues of blue. Children brought different objects such as toys, decorative items and drawings based on the colour and spoke a few sentences about it.

Blue is a cool and calming colour that shows creativity and intelligence. The motive of celebrating blue day was to make the students aware of the colour blue, its significance and to develop the fine motor skills in them. Students participated in different activities such as raindrop colouring, painting the fish blue, messy play, colouring the pasta and designing their own blue coloured hats.

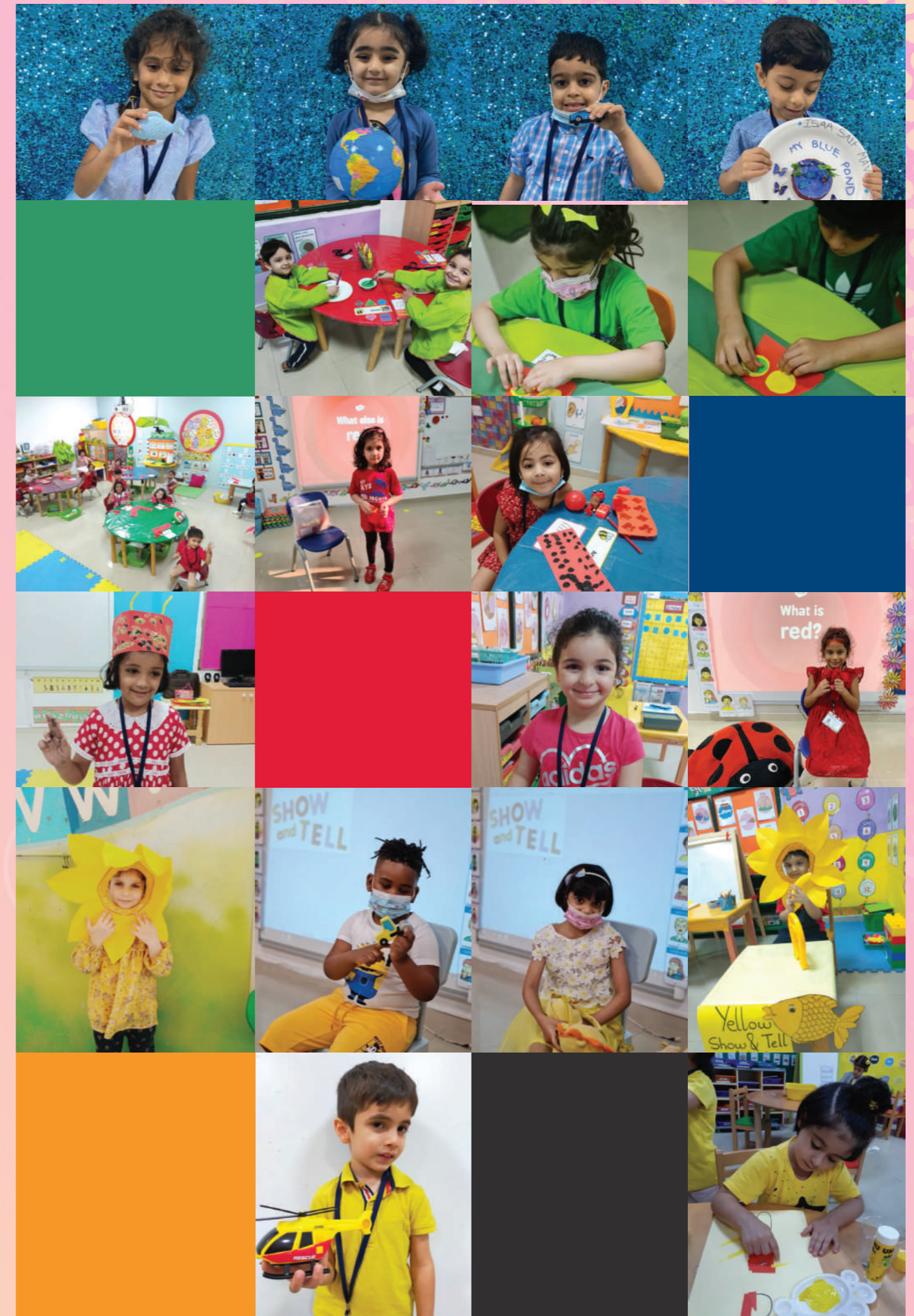
It was indeed an amazing day with innocent faces gleaming and reflecting brightness, joy, love and happiness.

On Thursday, November 4, 2021, Green Day was celebrated with great zeal and enthusiasm as a part of colour's day celebration. The students and teachers came to school dressed in green attires.

The day began with a Show and Tell activity in connection with the colour Green. The children spoke about the colour, and they named the vegetables, fruit and other things that they see in their day-to-day environments which are green in colour.

The shades of green filled the air with freshness, thrill, ecstasy and bliss. It also prompted them to think how green colour energises and revitalises our lives

Overall, it was a fun-filled and an everlasting experience for the little munchkins.



## HAPPY TEETH - HAPPY US

**Ms Raihana Hashir - The School Nurse**  
**Ms Asma Azher - EYFS Teacher**

It is always very important to teach children about the importance of Oral Hygiene from a very young age. After the EYFS updated reforms TCSI, there has been a greater emphasis on Dental awareness for our EYFS children.

For young children, their body's natural defences and good oral health care, which includes daily brushing and flossing, keep harmful bacteria under control. On the other hand, without proper oral hygiene, bacteria can reach levels that might cause oral infections, such as tooth decay and gum disease. Dental health awareness session for the FS students was arranged by our School Nurse Ms Raihana. The activity was conducted on 18th October 2021 for EYFS students. The cartoon slide presentation made good interaction and caught the interest of the student to understand the topic. Topics included Care of Teeth and Causes of Unhappy Teeth.

The sessions were held in each class separately due to COVID-19 restrictions and to ensure that social distancing SOPs were being followed. Ms. Raihana made the session fun and engaging for the tiny tots.

After the interactive session, children did a small activity of brushing their teeth one by one. Most students did a great job and Ms. Rehana was generous in praising and reaffirming good oral hygiene habits. The students were even made to do an Egg-Experiment as an extension activity in UW to further build upon their knowledge of healthy and unhealthy teeth.

All in all, it was a day well spent learning about good oral care and how to maintain healthy teeth which I am sure are habits that will go a long way with our little ones.



## BEEÁH BATTERY COLLECTION DRIVES THE MASSES

**Ms Zakirunnisa Alias Noor - KS2 & KS3 Coordinator**



With every new academic year, comes new opportunities and challenges. Thus, we're delighted to announce that our (2021-2022) competition has been officially launched. We invite you and the students to participate in our competition "The Great Battery Challenge".

TCSI has been a part of this drive every year for the past three years. We are proud owners of the Battery Bin in our school campus. The students are constantly reminded to get used batteries from their homes, instead of throwing them into their trash bins. This small act of every responsible student will surely save the Earth enormously in the future.

Patrick of Year 4A and Mark of Year 8B, especially contributed effortlessly to making this drive a success. They recorded videos encouraging the schoolmates to get as many batteries as possible for recycling. They constantly checked the Battery Bin and updated the status to the teacher in charge. The collection of the batteries from our school campus has recently been completed. The students collected around 5 kilograms of used batteries.

Hopefully, TCSI will work on ways to encourage students to actively participate in this drive. Our motto will be to increase the number/ quantity of battery collection. In future, TCSI plans to organise school level competitions to invite more students to the drive





## SIMPLY BOTTLES- WATER BOTTLES COLLECTION CAMPAIGN

### Ms Zakirunnisa Alias Noor - KS2 & KS3 Coordinator

TCSI was very excited to start the 5th year of the Simply Bottles recycling initiative for schools in the UAE.

The Simply Bottles recycling initiative will continue to be free of charge for schools to take part in. This academic year they will provide both online materials and when it is possible school visits as well.

TCSI has been a part of this initiative for the past five years. Last two years were very challenging for the collection drive due to the spread of COVID19. Being volunteers for the Dubai Marathon boosted our drive due to the huge collection as the runners in the marathon used water bottles and left them empty on the site.

With the help of Dubai Municipality workers, TCSI students brought a huge collection of these bottles which was around 12- 15 huge bags of water bottles.

Simply bottles in collaboration with MAI Dubai, a water company, has planned many campaigns and our school was a part of it too: Race for the Desert - An event to clean up deserts and Rethink Plastic Art Challenge sponsored by Mai Dubai - the joint sustainability advocates with DGrade.



## STEAM PROJECT TEAMS UP

### Ms Asma Azher - EYFS Teacher

STEAM is an acronym that stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths. In EYFS, STEAM generally falls under the specific area of learning known as 'Understanding the World'. This is all about getting young students involved and engaged in activities that would help them understand the world around them.

TCSI has always strongly emphasised on incorporating STEAM activities in EYFS which helps to teach the little minds at an early age the importance of making connections and to build these pathways.

It makes sense to introduce STEAM during the time in children's lives when their brains are primed to take in new information. Children in FS did simple yet fun and engaging STEAM projects which included building bridges, tunnels, towers and rafts across all the classes to help reinforce important life skills and to potentially spark a lifetime interest in this crucial field.



## SAVE THE EARTH BEFORE WE GET EXTINCT

### Ms Zakirunnisa Alias Noor - KS2 & KS3 Coordinator



In line with the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to protect the environment and address the effects of climate change, DEWA invited to support the global environmental event "Earth Hour", happening on Saturday, 26th March 2022. This year's Earth Hour theme "Shape Our Future" encouraged all individuals and businesses to take part to create a green and brighter future for us and for generations to come.

They looked forward to our cooperation by supporting Earth Hour through turning off unnecessary lights and devices in our premises during Earth Hour from 8:30 to 9:30 pm on Saturday, 26th March 2022 and promoting Earth Hour through our social media platforms using the media materials on our website and by using the hashtags: (#Connect\_With\_Earth or #Earth\_Hour\_Dubai or # Shaping \_Our Future)

This initiative was shared with all the parents of our school to emphasise the importance of saving energy, saving the Earth and saving the future as TCSI wants to spread awareness on conservation and sustainability.

To celebrate the Earth Day, TCSI organised poster making competitions, collage competition and different activities relevant to different age groups. Students and parents were encouraged to contribute and mitigate climate change and nature loss and show that they care for the one home that we live in the EARTH.

Such activities inculcate the thoughts and ideas in our students of the value and care for Mother Earth. They will surely act responsible in all walks of their lives, keeping in mind their small steps to care for the Earth. We should keep in mind "The Earth does not belong to man. Man belongs to the Earth". Therefore, let's all pledge to do things to SAVE THE EARTH.



## CONCERNS OF NUTRITION AND BEHAVIOURAL THERAPY FOR KIDS

### Ms Raihana Hashir - The School Nurse

Childhood is a period of many firsts, yes, but it's also prime time for tremendous brain growth. So much so, without the right brain foods on their plate, your children may fall behind in their development. We know that early on, in the first two to three years of life, brain growth is fast and furious, making nutrition critical for cognitive development.

The section was conducted on 17th October 2021 for EYFS student's Parents. The topic include How Nutrition Can Shape a Child's Behavioural and Emotional Well-being. A virtual presentation was conducted by Dr Lakhmi Saranya (Clinical Psychologist) and Dr Sabitha Ramachandran (Specialist Paediatrician) from Modern Family Clinic. The slide presentation made better awareness and importance of the topic.

The questionnaire session with the parents was engaging and provided more clarity on the topic with better understanding.



## ARE YOU BORED? LET'S WATCH A MOVIE!

### Ms Nosheen Ali - EYFS Coordinator

Thursday 11th Nov, 2021 was certainly a busy day when the FS celebrated the Pyjamas Day. This event was not only fun for the children as they were permitted to wear their PJs and bring in a cuddly toy, but was also a reminder as to how important a good night's sleep is before the next day's lessons.

To mark the day, the students had a show and tell activity regarding their soft cuddly toys. They expressed their feelings about their teddies and dolls with their peers and teachers. This helped to give students confidence about public speaking. This activity was followed by a photo session of the students posing in their colourful and trendy pyjamas.

Lastly, to commence the Pyjamas Day, movie time was arranged for the students. To ensure the safety of the students, obliged by COVID-19 SOPs, the students were asked to bring in their own popcorn. It was such an endearing scene to see the tiny tots holding their teddies/soft toys in one hand and popcorn in the other fully engaged and enthralled by the movie 'Toy Story'.



## PARENTS, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS INVOLVEMENT DAY

### Ms Nosheen Ali - EYFS Coordinator

Parental Involvement Day provides a yearly opportunity for schools and families to honour and highlight the powerful contributions parents and caregivers provide at school and home to support students' success. 18th Nov, 2021 was celebrated as a Parental Involvement Day at the foundation stage in TCSI.

Research shows that getting involved in your child's education has proven to dramatically increase the chances of academic success.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Parental Involvement Day was limited to the reading activity this year. A good number of parents from each section of the FS1 and FS2 volunteered for the activity. Moreover, the teachers allotted a 20 minutes time slot to each parent.

All the parents, who participated, were screened for COVID-19 vaccinations and made to follow all the protocols. They brought along age appropriate books with them and read them out to the students in each section. This was followed by a small discussion with the students based on the book.

This event was equally enjoyed and appreciated by the students and parents. TCSI would like to say Thank You to all the parents for their involvement with their child's education.



## PARENTS READ ALOUD SESSION FS1 AND FS2

### Ms Nosheen - EYFS Coordinator

On 1st Feb 2022, TCSI's FS department celebrated the Read Aloud session with parents. Several parents showed a keen interest; hence, parents were given different time slots to participate in the event.

From 11 am onwards parents started to visit the respective class room of their child. Each class had designed a special reading chair for the parents. The parents began the session by introducing themselves and then asking students generic questions such as: if they enjoy reading or if they read on a daily basis.

Parents had brought with them various age appropriate books. They first started by introducing the title and cover page of the story. They asked students if they could guess the book's content by its cover page.

Then they introduced the story characters and read the book. In between, they kept asking questions to keep the students engaged.

Once the story or book was read, they asked students the moral of the story. Different students shared their views and ideas. Students enjoyed this fun loving reading activity with the parents and their classmates.



## CRAZY HAT AND SOCKS, CRAZY ME

### Ms Umaira Iqbal - EYFS Teachers

Crazy Hat Day was organized at The City school International, on 4th-February, 2022. " Crazy Hats! Hats! Hats! We saw a lot of unique hats that had been given a fresh and crazy look using recycled materials. Children paraded around the school with confidence and were happy to receive a standing ovation from the children of the primary section.

All the children were excited to see their friend's hats and couldn't stop talking about it. A special thank you to the parents who made this day very creative and fun!

Teachers and parents tried their best to nurture creativity in our children and led them to that haven where they got connected with their souls and experienced absolute bliss. Crazy Hat Day was one of the best days for our tiny tots to break the routine and make them feel super cool with their crazy hats on.....!!!

Crazy sock day was a fun-filled event at TCSI. This event helped the students to focus on the positivity and ignore the negativity around them. It was a great opportunity for all the students and parents to participate and show their creativity and implement the ideas they had in their minds.

The event was filled with excitement and students squealing with joy as they saw their classmates' crazy sock ideas. The students showed off their socks in a parade where all the junior primary students participated. Some students had fries and soda on their socks while others had made funky faces and human-like images on them. It was indeed an enjoyable day



## MATCH OR MISMATCH? WHAT TO DO??

Ms Sadia Javed - EYFS Teacher



A 'Mismatch Day' was planned at The City School International, on Friday, 18th February 2022. Students and staff were encouraged to come to school dressed in their most outrageously mismatched clothing.

The event allowed the children to express themselves with the most colourfully mismatched outfits they could imagine. Creativity was a key component of this highly anticipated event. Children wore different-colored socks, different shoes, shorts worn over pants, multiple neckties and different-colored hair clips and hairstyles!

The students admired each other's outfits and enjoyed posing happily in their mismatched attire for photos. Teachers had a great time leading their daily lessons while dressed in multi-colored pants and mismatched shoes.

This popular Mismatch Day event is a fun reminder that no matter how we look or dress and despite our differences, we are all part of the same nurturing community. Self-expression is such an important part of each student's individual development and this event allows the children to express themselves through their outrageous fashion choices and be applauded for their creativity.



## FAVOURITE STORY CHARACTER DAY COMES ALIVE

Ms Sadia Javed - EYFS Teacher

A child's brain is constantly forming connections which are strengthened by activities like reading.

Reading to children and then teaching them to read promotes healthy brain development that lasts a lifetime. Reading stories is also a catalyst for a child's imagination and curiosity and enables them to learn the difference between real and make-believe.

The Book character day is an educational event held by The City School International, Dubai on Monday, 28th Feb. 2022. On this day students and staff dressed up as their favourite characters from books they love and had a parade around the campus. It was a blast! There was so much creativity and obvious love of reading!

The event was planned and implemented with the idea to trigger the child's imagination and make them feel like their favourite character. The event was a big success with the tiny tots dressed up in various book characters such as Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Princess, Caterpillar and many more.

The event helped the children develop vital language and literacy skills; social development and emotional development; the important areas of early years, and their creativity and imagination.

With the combined support of parents and teachers and yes, the amazing talent showcased by the little hearts on the stage. Overall, the event was a big success and everyone enjoyed it to their bits.



## LET'S ASSEMBLE AND RUMBLE WITH NO FUMBLE

Ms Nosheen / Ms Heena / Ms Asma / Ms Saba / Ms. Uzma



FS2 A: On 23rd Feb 2022, FS2A had their very first stage performance - their class assembly. The students had practised for this event for almost two weeks.

On the main day, the stage was prepared and seating was arranged for parents who took the time out to be part of their child's first experience on the school stage. All FS classes were invited for the assembly. The topic of the assembly was 'Walking in the Jungle'.

The two students acted as the explorers and the rest of the students played the role of different animals. The assembly started with the recitation of the holy Quran followed by the UAE national anthem. Then the host introduced the assembly topic and interacted with the two explorers. The students performed songs like 'Walking in the Jungle' and 'I Like to Move It'. Each student was given a chance to come forward and speak a few lines about their character.

In the end, the host highlighted the thought that we should take care of our environment to keep it safe and healthy for both humans and animals.

FS2 B: It is of utmost importance that students' learning, their efforts and achievements should be celebrated at regular intervals. Therefore, every week class assemblies are held in the morning.

Each class in the school hosts a class assembly to perform in front of their parents and the school. These assemblies foster learning with fun.

This time, the topic of the FS2-B Class Assembly was "Elmer Elephant". The students were dressed up in different characters while 2 student-narrators took us through the entire assembly.

TCSI always tries to adopt creative ways to sensitise the young minds about the prevailing issues such as diversity and tolerance. Every read of Elmer's story is a charming exploration of identity, diversity and acceptance- topics that are essential to inculcate these values among our young ones.

Elmer, the elephant's story is set in an idyllic jungle, where the animals appear to live in harmony. He's famous and stands out because he's not grey like the rest of his herd, instead, his skin is a patchwork of bright colours. He's lively, cracks jokes, and is well-loved. But he's wary of being different. He wants to be like the rest. So, one day he sneaks out at the crack of dawn to cover himself with the grey coloured juice of a berry found outside the jungle. Once covered in the grey berry juice, he isn't Elmer anymore, but just another elephant. He enjoys the anonymity and joins the herd only to realise that his friends miss his presence. To lighten up the mood, he startles them all with a loud "Boo!" Just then a cloud bursts and Elmer's grey colour washes off, making his friends laugh even harder. They understand his conundrum of wanting to fit in and be like the rest of them, and decide to celebrate his uniqueness by instituting an annual 'Elmer's Day Parade'. On that day, all the elephants transform themselves into colourful patchwork elephants, and Elmer colours himself grey. Children notice colour. It's a fact. Their curious brains notice more than we realise. It's okay for them to ask questions like why their friend's hair or skin colour is lighter or darker than theirs.

Providing thoughtful answers could help them understand, respect and hopefully, embrace diversity. A blanket response along the lines of "we're all the same" is not only inaccurate, but it's also counter-productive. It impedes curiosity and makes kids (and later, adults), dismissive of diversity and racial differences.

At the end of assembly students received certificates for Star student of the week and Super readers, Parents were allowed to come forward and click pictures with their child on stage. FS2 C: FS2 class assemblies are a fun-filled and exciting series of events where all the classes from FS are assigned to perform on stage in front of the Principal, Head of Section, parents, teachers and students from the FS Department.

This time, FS2 -C selected the topic from the monthly theme and acted on the "Snowwhite and the Seven Dwarfs" fairytale.

Children memorised their cues, rehearsed their dialogues with expressive dialogue delivery for a whole month during their class and looked forward to the show excitedly.

There were 2 narrators from FS2 C who not only hosted but took us along the journey of "the Snowwhite and the seven dwarfs" fairytale.

The children's assembly began with the Quran Recitation then the national anthem of the UAE followed by the City School song.

The whole FS2 C class acted at their best according to their roles and nailed the show. The audience not only enjoyed the act but appreciated the stunning show wholeheartedly.

Overall, it proved to be an enjoyable and learning experience for all.

FS2 D: On 18th March 2022, FS2D held their very first morning assembly on one of our themes called 'When I grow up'. It is an annual event which is held to demonstrate support for children's personal, social and emotional development. It also helps students to gain confidence in performing in front of many people. This time, the theme of the term was about the people who help us in our community.

Parents and the whole FS team were invited. The seating arrangement was done ahead of time.

Students were dressed according to the theme of our assembly. Some of them were dressed up as doctors, some as firefighters, pilots, and some in teachers' costumes. The assembly started sharp at 8:00 am with the national anthem of the UAE followed by Quran recitation. Few of the students explained what they have been learning and how the theme was integrated into their lessons.

Later, children came forward in groups to enact and talk about how different professionals in our community help us. The assembly concluded with an amazing performance of the song 'If everyone helps each other.'

In the end, Ms Lina shared a vote of thanks and appreciation certificates. Some students were also rewarded with the star of the week and super reader certificates. After the assembly, all classes went back. FS2 D; parents took group pictures of their children before the students finally went to their classes.

FS2 E: With the theme "Healthy Eating", FS2-E Assembly was organised at TCSI and performed in front of other FS students, teachers, staff, administration and parents.

Parents were invited to motivate their children and to appreciate their achievements and hard work. The agenda behind this topic was to promote healthy eating. FS2-E students did an excellent job and managed to give their message to everyone. All students dressed up in their healthy food item's costume such as mango, apple, fish, broccoli, spinach, avocado, strawberry and many more healthy food items.

A host welcomed all the students to come and talk about their characters. The students initiated the assembly with the recitation and the UAE National Anthem. They danced on two songs: first in the beginning of the assembly and second at the end.

After that, the host explained and informed everyone what their topic would be and shared the benefits of healthy eating. Each student came forward and talked about the character assigned to them. Among the lines mentioned by the students



were: "Mango keeps the immune system active; strawberry is good for the eyes and brains; watermelon keeps one hydrated and broccoli keeps the brain sharp." All students looked amazing in their outfits, performed well and gave their best to deliver the message.

## EYFS EXPO 2020 TRIP - A PATH TO FUTURE

### Ms Asma Azher - EYFS Teacher

It is a privilege to live in the UAE - such a diverse country that always embraces new technologies and yet never leaves a chance to make this world more sustainable.

During the Covid19 pandemic, the EXPO 2020 event was one of its kind where Dubai again proved its excellence. EXPO 2020 Dubai is the first World Expo to take place in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia (MEASA) region.

Keeping in mind that our young ones are our future generation who will be playing major roles to make this world a better place in every aspect TCSI FS Department planned a field trip to Dubai EXPO 2020 on 15th March 2022. Teachers played some information videos on EXPO 2020 and did several art and craft activities within the classes a week before to give children a prior knowledge of what expo 2020 is all about.

The students were very excited about the EXPO field trip as it was the first-ever outdoor trip for our tiny tots. All 5 sections of FS2 and 2 sections of FS1 were accompanied by the Tour guide from EXPO 2020 during the whole field trip. The tour guide from EXPO took the students to their planned, designated pavilions and provided the information to children about those pavilions.

The students took a 20 minutes snack break in between during the tour and then continued the educational fun-filled journey again.

The students learned about new technologies, sustainability, diversity and cultures of the different countries.

Undoubtedly, it was an excellent and fun-filled educational trip for the FS Department. Children enjoyed it to its fullest, received some souvenirs from the EXPO 2020 and left the Dubai Expo Venue at 11:30 AM.

Such educational trips widen the perspective and knowledge of the youngsters. Students look forward to having more such rewarding experiences in the future as well.



## EYFS SPORTS DAY - A DISPLAY OF SPORTSMAN SPIRIT

### Ms Heena Shaikh - EYFS Teacher

The annual sports day for EYFS was conducted at Nad Al Hamar Park. The students were instructed to be present on the school premises on or before 8 am. From there all the teachers and students went together to the organized sports field (Nad al Hamar Park). All the students were very excited.

After all, this was the first time after Covid 19 pandemic that they got an opportunity to come out openly to enjoy the time beyond their regular studies. All had been selected for different games and started practising and making themselves well and fit for the day.

All the students participated in all the games. The students were divided into different houses, like red, blue, yellow and green. The students were expected to dress up and wear shirts as per their house colours.

The show started at 9 am with an opening ceremony, a warm-up dance by Ms Dilyara, our P.E teacher. All the students participated along with the teachers and class nannies. After the warm-up students started moving to their respective stations to begin their activities. The next was sprinting races after Fun games, and the top 3 students were selected from each class as winners to compete in the final race.

At the end of the fun-filled day, parents and teachers were allowed to show their zeal and vigour by participating in the games as well. A sprinting race was held for the fathers, and a tug of war between mothers and teachers was arranged. It was fun and all relived the moments from their childhood again.

All the winners received medals and certificates at the end of the event, Class pictures were taken and students left for their home with their parents hoping to return the next year for the same fun and learning.



## WHAT'S IN AN AGE? BE PROFESSIONAL!

### Ms Saba Aun - EYFS Teacher



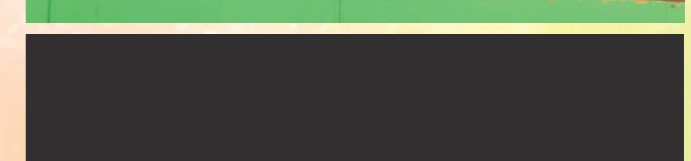
On 22nd March 2022, FS students were asked to dress up as community helpers and enact the character assigned to them.

FS students started their day with a show-n-tell session where they showed their costumes, presented and enacted their selected community helper and explained to their fellow peers how their chosen community helper helps in our community and what costumes they wear when they are on duty.

The students dressed up as different helpers like doctors, soldiers, teachers, firefighters, etc.

At 8:30 am, the students participated in a parade, which helped them gain more confidence in speaking and sharing what they want to become when they grow up and how they will help the community. Moreover, they learned the importance of community helpers and their impact on our life.

Such activities not only inculcate confidence among youngsters but motivate them to explore more about their surroundings and their environment.



## FS ENJOYS FREE FLOW PLAY

Ms Nosheen - EYFS Coordinator



“Free flow play” is the term used in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) to describe a style of play where children have the choice to move indoors and outdoors freely within their learning environment. This activity focuses on child-led learning, as they are able to direct their own attention and interests, freely moving where they would like.

Every Friday at TCSI, EYFS students engage in a free flow session for an hour - Funky Friday. All EYFS teachers plan one activity for their outdoor station in the corridor and one activity inside the classroom. Funky Friday mostly starts around 10:00 am until 11:10 am. Students from each class come out in the corridor turn wise. They select the station or activity as per their choice and teachers click their pictures while they are engaged in the activity.

While one class is engaged in STEAM activities outside, other students are engaged in the activities planned by their class teachers inside their respective classrooms. Class teachers stay at the activity stations in the corridor; whereas, Teaching Assistants stay inside the classroom to support the students in the class.

Pupils and teachers both actively engage in the Funky Friday happy hour that both makes the learning fun and enjoyable.

## POST 16 STUDENTS BEGIN THEIR JOURNEY WITH A WELLBEING SESSION

Ms Qirat Shaheen - Career Counsellor



At TCSI, it is strongly believed that a school curriculum that incorporates well-being fosters a friendly, respectful and inclusive environment.

A wellbeing session was organised for Year 12 students on the first day at school as part of their orientation. The session was presented by Ms. Kim Sehlar, Foundation and Meditation Expert from MIE Mind. Ms. Kim shared a few techniques of meditation and mindfulness that helped students to know how to gain new perspectives during stressful situations, reduce negative emotions, focus on the present and increase self awareness, patience and tolerance. The session included a plethora of engaging activities: breathing in and out, performing stretches to relax the muscles and recalling happy moments.

Students not only enjoyed the session but also gained some insightful knowledge as Ms. Kim shared some tips on a healthy lifestyle. This gave our young adults a very important perspective that a healthy body is needed to host a healthy mind. Students were also apprised about how this leads to the achievement of academic goals. They were recommended to keep journals or notes of all activities to be done, which will serve as a checklist to be organised in Year 12.





## VENTURE OUT IN ADVENTURA IN AUTUMN

Ms Zehra Ansari Head of Sixth Form



It is always a great idea to have team building activities especially at a time when you are still getting to know one another. Not only was it the first year to run the A-Level team, there was not a better way to commence the year with a field trip to Aventura.

On a very hot 'Autumn' day in September, the students were taken out for an outdoor activity. Although it was extremely hot, the students, mostly the girls, showed resilience and had a 'Can do' attitude. Most of them despite the heat, thirst and getting stuck on various tracks carried on till the very end.

During the lunch break, an opportunity was organised where the Head of Post 16 was able to table hop and get to know some of the students a little better and get to know what makes them 'them'. The Head's interaction with such a diverse group of young people was inspirational due to their individual strengths and headstrong attitude towards learning. Some students had an interest in singing, acting, whilst others were gamers and produced music in their own time.

That day was insightful to what TCSI actually consists of and the talent that transpires throughout the year group. The students had a ball, when it came to asking Ms Zehra questions about her personally, and the plans she had for them for the current academic year. She was elated to hear some of their views and had tried her very best to try and take them aboard.

What an amazing experience it was for the Head of Post 16 to start the year at TCSI!



## KHDA CONDUCTS WELLBEING CENSUS SURVEY

Ms Qirat Shaheen - Career Counsellor

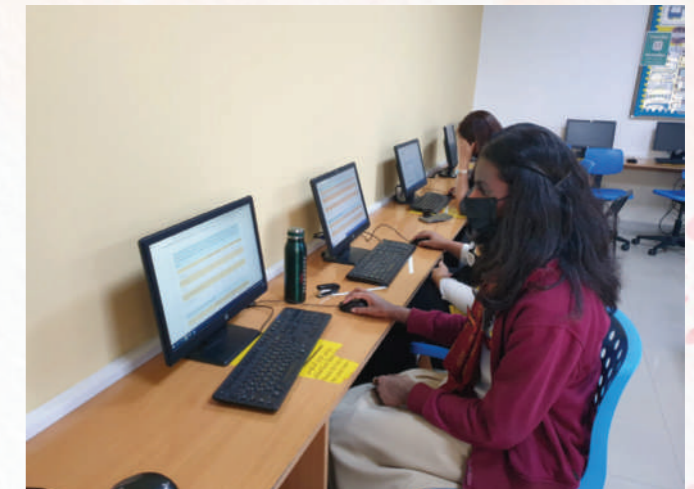
The Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) believes that supporting and improving the wellbeing of our students will lead to students flourishing at school and in life.

Together with the schools of Dubai, KHDA is working to support and improve the wellbeing and happiness of students in our school. Therefore, for the fifth year, together with KHDA partners from the Government of South Australia, they brought to us the Dubai Student Wellbeing Census (DSWC) which measures the wellbeing of all students from Grades 6 to 12 (Years 7 to 13). In addition, some students in UK primary schools will also be completing the Census.

At TCSI Students from Year 7 to Year 12 were taken to the ICT labs during their Wellbeing lessons to complete a 20 minutes survey. The results of the survey will give us a clear idea about the areas to work on to improve our students' well-being. TCSI also believes that supporting and developing the wellbeing of our students will lead to students realising and expanding their potential.

Research has shown that motivation to learn and achieve one's best is linked with higher levels of wellbeing: 'feeling good and doing good' in the home, at school and in the broader community.

This motivation is supported by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. "We will seek to create a society where our people's happiness is paramount, by sustaining an environment in which they can truly flourish," said the honourable leader.



## GRILL TIME ON A WINTER DAY? HOP ON AND LET'S GO!

### Ms Zahra Saleem - Secretary

Like every year at the end of Term 1 and before going on the Winter Break, the TCSI staff celebrated the last day of the Year 2021 on Thursday, 9th December 2021.

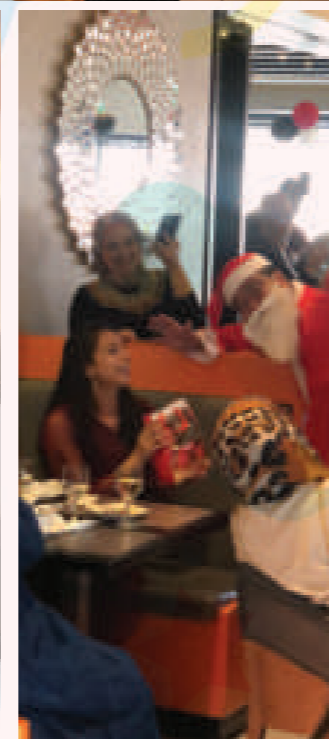
The TCSI Management awarded the staff for their outstanding performance in the year 2021 and recognised the staff who completed 5, 10 and 15 years of their service at TCSI along with a lunch in the restaurant, Karachi Grill, Dubai.

The day was filled with laughter and happiness on the staff's faces. They were delighted to be recognised by the management for their effort and dedication to their work. After lunch, we had our Santa come in and distribute the "Secret Santa" gifts to all the staff. Everybody went home with their holiday gift from their Secret Santa. All staff were happy and satisfied knowing that their hard work was always appreciated by the Management.

Employees like it when they are appreciated either by their executives or their peers. Every good work and extra effort exhibited by an employee is meant to be respected and acknowledged.

Failing to recognize your employees may often result in a demotivated workforce not suitable for the work environment. Henceforth, putting up the right word to appreciate colleagues at work is one of the crucial aspects at TCSI.

We at TCSI are a family and when an organisation uses the family metaphor at work, it creates a positive, motivating and morale-boosting culture, where colleagues are not seen as colleagues anymore, but as brothers or sisters. This leads employees to emotionally attach themselves to the organisation.



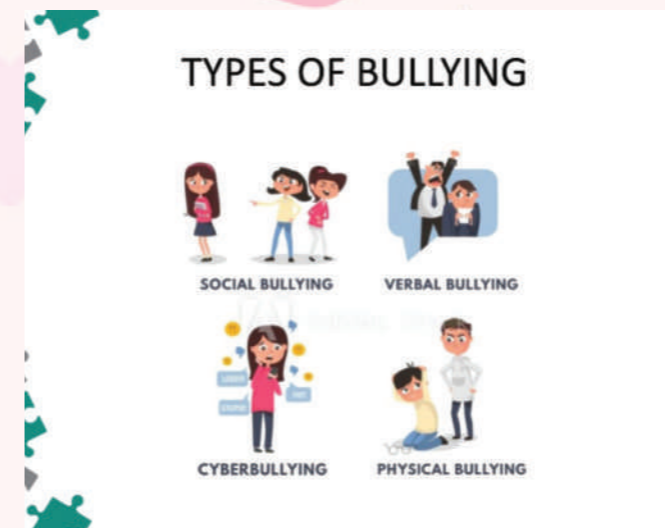
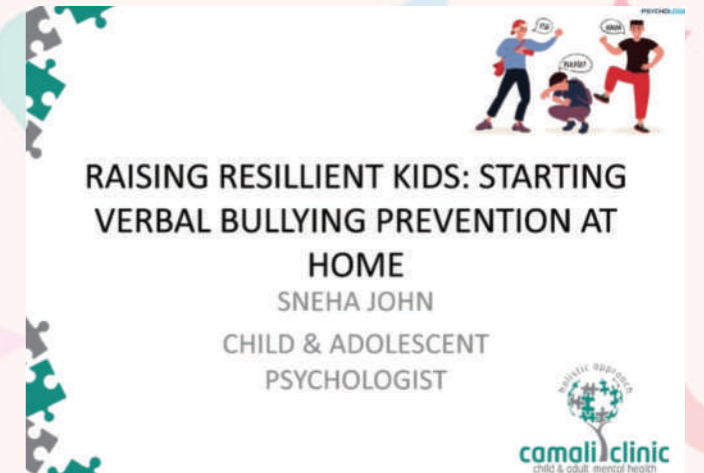
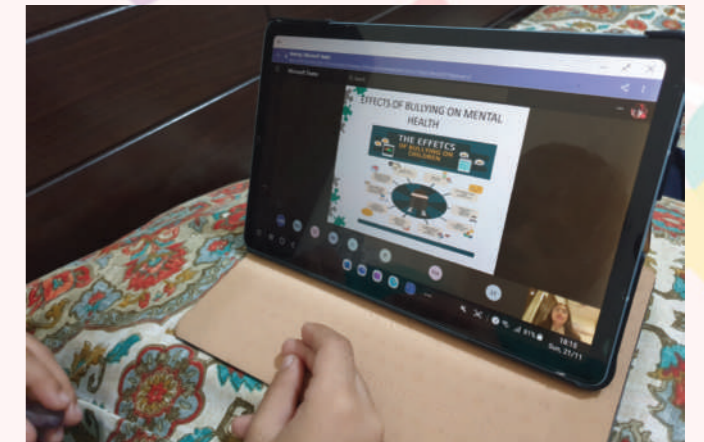
## RAISING RESILIENT KIDS; PREVENTING VERBAL BULLYING AT HOME

### Ms Qirat Shaheen - Career Counsellor

In line with the National Bullying Prevention Week, from 20th to 26th November, 2021 led by the Ministry of Education (MOE), a webinar was arranged for parents/ caretakers and school staff. This year, the National Bullying Prevention Week focused on verbal bullying under the slogan 'Your Words Leave An Impact' (#Flourish\_Together). It aimed to raise awareness about verbal bullying and its impact on society.

The webinar was led by Ms. Sneha John, Child & Adolescent Psychologist. She started with the concept of raising resilient kids and also explained the cycle of bullying in detail. Her main focus during the session was to make participants understand the effects of bullying on children's mental health.

Students and parents from The City School International had joined the webinar using the link sent to them through email by the school. The session was interesting as well as fruitful for our students and parent community.



## KHALEEJ TIMES UNIVERSITY EXPO FAIR 2021

## UNIVERSITY FAIR 2022

### Ms Qirat Shaheen - Career Counsellor

### Ms Qirat Shaheen - Career Counsellor



Year 12 visited the University Expo Fair 2021 at Conrad Hotel in Dubai. Students were able to visit more than 20 University stalls from UAE, UK, Canada, USA, EU, Malaysia and many more. The students also visited the University placement counsellors for further guidance on university admissions. They explored the exhibition and met with various local and international universities showcasing their latest course offerings.

Few new universities like De Montfort University and University of Birmingham have recently Joined MENA region. It is an award-winning UK university which comes to Dubai with job focused graduate and undergraduate programmes, starting from September 2021.

The wide range of bachelor's programme students interested in were B.S in Computer Sciences, B.S in Electrical & Electronic Engineering, Medical Sciences, Software system Engineering, bachelor's in business administration, Bachelors in Law, Bachelors in Banking, Accounting & Finance.

There was a 30-minute seminar session presented by different Universities to showcase the employability of their curriculum and the research feeds into the students' learning. Each session touched a different topic such as managing accommodation abroad, visa application requirements, career planning and many more.

The students enjoyed the visit overall and gathered the maximum information they required for their university admissions in future.



The City School International organised a University Fair for Year 9 to 12 students at the school campus. Different universities including UAE, UK, Singapore, Canada, Australia and many more countries participated in this event. Moreover, 18 International universities and 2 federal Universities were part of the fair.

The students visited the University stalls during the day in the given respective slots according to their timetable. Parents of Year 9 to 12 were also invited to the fair with their child after school. Parents were allowed to visit University stalls from 2:30 PM till 4:00 PM. The event took place in the Boys/ Girls sports hall.

The main aim was to give students the opportunity to meet the university representatives and get a clear idea about the admission requirements, career paths, undergraduate courses and scholarships available for them. This has definitely helped them plan their higher studies with confidence. The students have also shared their experience about the University Fair. Ghazal Nadeem 10B mentioned, "I liked that there was a large variety of universities, but they mainly focused on the business and accounting fields; there were hardly any medical opinions available. However the art and design and arts in general were very informative and interesting, along with the many different options for psychology and even one for criminology."

Another concluded, "The Fair was quite varied and diverse. It included many different universities and provided a variety of courses. It had courses from Accounting and Finance to Engineering and Computer Science. However, most of these universities were originating from either the US, Australia, the UK and Canada. I would prefer that there may be some European Universities from Germany, Italy and Switzerland. Overall, I really liked the organized and prepared stalls and that they gave good information about themselves, their origins and what they offer and allowed us to contact them. Thanks."

Kashan from Year 10 expressed, "A variety of stalls guided us about the several facilities that particular university offers and about the procedures for admissions including the courses they are offering."

Mohammad Ibrahim Siddiqi from 9A said, "I did not find many universities that were about medicine and most were for commerce. Even if there were any science universities, they were mainly for engineering. I particularly took interest in Ajman University which offers medical scholarships with high ranking UAE universities. It is also the university in which a friend's siblings go to. It also requires a high number of marks to enter which makes it sound like a very good university."



## WEBPAGE ADS - A MUCH SOUGHT AFTER MARKETING STRATEGY

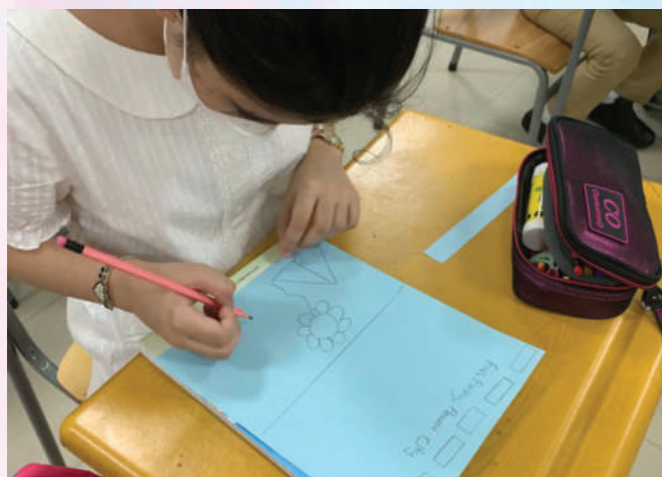
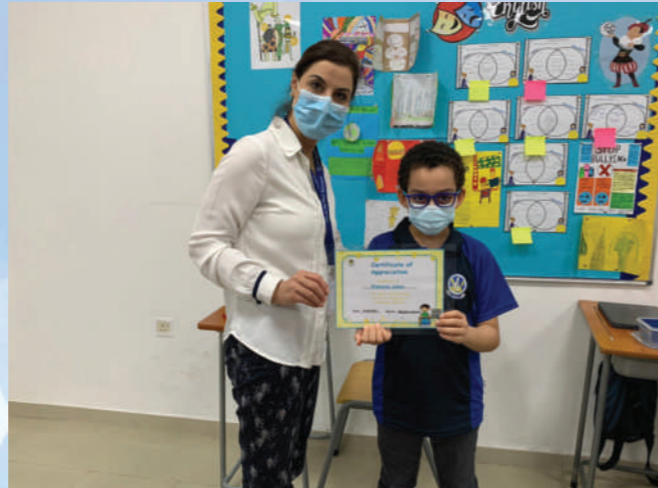
### Ms Wajiha Amir - English Teacher

Children need to understand the basics of advertising better than they do, says Illinois advertising professor Michelle Nelson.

The curriculum teaches kids to think critically about what they are seeing and not seeing in ads. As a starter, the students examined claims on the front of the cereal box and saw where they did not pan out on the nutrition label. The main activity was to have the young reporters make webpage ads to better understand the process and incorporate the lessons through doing – learning about advertising from the inside out. The purpose of having this fun-filled activity was to make sure that in this day and age of media, the students can be media creators and engage with media, not just deal with it passively.

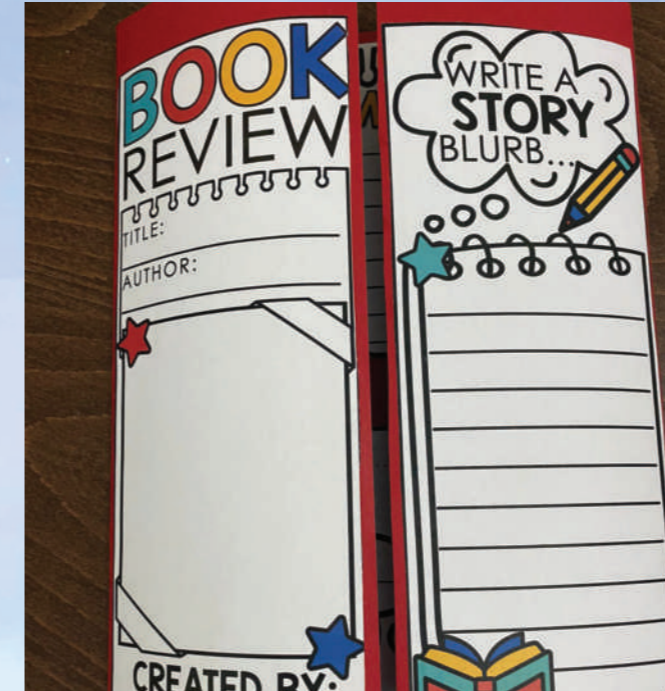
Students made posters selling the benefits of fruit and vegetables. They gathered research, studied their target audience (mostly the kids in class), and developed a message and an image. All three sections of 4 hung their posters in their classrooms.

It was a more authentic and truer picture of advertising literacy – beyond simply identifying the advertisement. It showed them that this is how ads are made, this is who makes them and this is why they are made.



## DID YOU READ THE BOOK? PLEASE TELL ME ABOUT IT!

### Ms Wajiha Amir - English Teacher



Learning to write a book review is a fantastic way to help strengthen students' reading comprehension and writing skills in an engaging and fun way. By taking books they have read, students can give their opinion to the reader whilst recalling its key events and themes.

Writing book reviews can help your child engage more deeply with what they are reading, find their next favourite series or author and develop their writing skills.

Keeping all the above in mind, Year 5A wrote a book review. To make it more engaging and interactive, lapbooks were used to write a book review. The students chose their favourite books and wrote a review. The same activity was undertaken on Easel by some students.

The objective of this activity was to establish a space where children could come together and recommend books to each other, no matter where they lived and with no judgement on their book choice or reading ability.

The process of writing a review is as important as reading a review. Book quizzes can be quick and fun, but a book review requires genuine engagement and can reveal so much more. Their reviews reflected how deeply the children were engaged with the various levels of meaning within the story. Not only were they able to understand the basic narrative but, they were able to pick up on themes and issues, which are less explicit. Not only is this interesting in itself but it gives us teachers a real indication of whether a book is at the right reading level for them or not.



## PRE-READING ACTIVITY PAUSE, PREDICT AND PRESENT

Ms Wajiha Amir - English Teacher

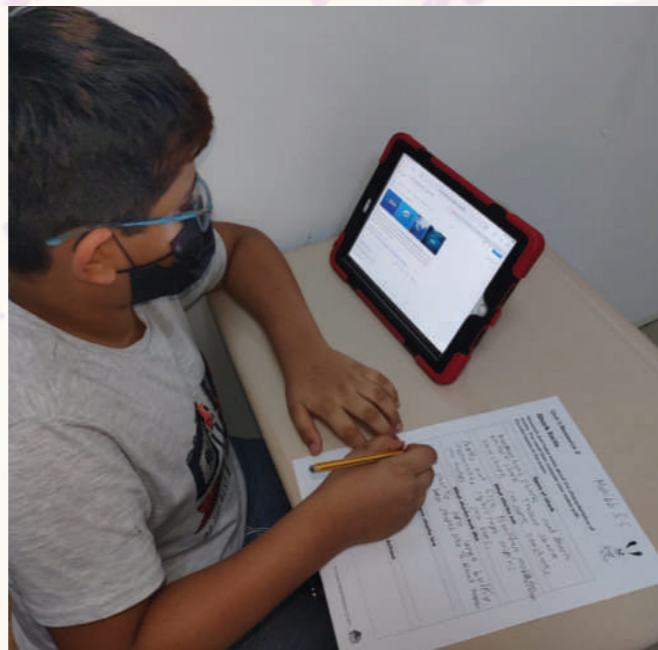
Pre-reading strategies are learning approaches designed to help give our students structure, guidance and background knowledge before they begin exploring a new text. These strategies target students' reading comprehension skills by giving them the tools they need to become active, successful readers.

As the name suggests, pre-reading strategies are used in the class before the students begin reading a book. There are a few main strategies that are used to help my young readers prepare to dive into any story.

Before starting the story, 'The Black Dog', pre-reading activities were conducted where students, only by looking at the book cover, were asked to predict. They were able to predict many things including the genre of the story, the main characters of the story, what they might think will happen in the story, etc.

Pre-reading activities basically infuse learners with the topic and generate interest in the content. It turned out to be a huge success as students kept referring back to their predictions as we went on with the story. After the story ended, a synthesis activity was conducted in which they expressed their views before and after reading the story.

To summarise, "Before" strategies tapped into my students' prior knowledge and gave them a reason to read. They were able to establish connections, check their learning, develop questions and stay attentive using "During" strategies. "After" strategies helped students to summarise, question, analyse, discuss and respond to reading.



## SCIENCE BROUGHT OUT OF ENCLOSED SPACES

Ms Saima Ali Khan - Science Teacher



At TCSI, the teachers believe that students learn most efficiently when they are practically engaged in a lesson. Particularly, in science, exploration plays a vital role in day to day lessons, comprehending the world around them and making connections to real life.

Keeping this in mind, the teachers arranged a field trip for lower primary to Nad al Hamar park for a hands-on collaborative learning session about seasons and weather.

Year 1 had an opportunity to observe how plants change during spring. They freely explored the signs and effects of the season and then were asked to create a painting of their observations. The students were fully engaged and delighted to have a chance to depict their creativity. It was an impactful lesson and a memorable experience.

Similarly, Year 2 was given the chance to witness minibeasts in their natural habitats. They discovered spiders, ants and other insects and then conducted research about their habitats and survival. It was a very fruitful idea, integrating fun and learning and the students' response was very positive.

## WHEN IN AN ARAB WORLD, SPEAK AS AN ARAB SPEAKS

### Mr Mohammed - Head of Arabic

The Arabic Department conducted a number of events throughout the year to improve speaking and writing skills of students. Some of these events are listed below:

**Show and Tell activity:** It was organised for Year 1 and 2. Each student brought their favourite toy and spoke about their toys in Arabic language.

At the end of the competition, students were evaluated against the number of sentences they spoke and the correctness of the sentences linguistically and grammatically.

**Standard Speaking Contest:** The students participated in a competition in Al-Fusha and talked about various topics such as courage, the holy month of Ramadan, the importance of work and the virtue of the mother.

The students paraphrased the texts, prepared an informational presentation that corresponded to the thought in a logical sequence, demonstrating their understanding of the subject and presented an informational presentation of the topic they studied, presenting the idea in a logical sequence. Furthermore, they spoke in a clear voice and expressive style with logical connection to provide information.

The students spoke on different topics and were evaluated on specific criteria and outstanding. At the end of the competition, the students were awarded certificates of recognition of their efforts, and the winners were awarded certificates of appreciation.

The aim of this competition can be to develop the skill of developing the skills of creating the use of fusha in speaking and creating a competition among students to participate in multiple competitions greater than their self-confidence and development of their abilities.

**Arabic Language Week:** From 21st to 25th November, the Arabic Language Week celebration was held. The Arabic Department developed students' skills in learning and speaking this language with confidence and fluency. These skills were demonstrated by students in a competition called "Free Speech".

The students who competed in the competition showed an impressive level of self-confidence and fluency. A range of topics were shared with the students so that they could reflect their strength to speak Arabic at different stages of their studies. This activity was limited to Year 3-6. The best speakers were rewarded with certificates of appreciation.

**Inter-class Arabic Quiz Competition:** The quizzes were held to measure the volume of information and language skills in

Arabic language in Year 3-10 for all Arab and non-Arab students. The quizzes were based on multiple choice questions. To encourage students, a motivational speaker was invited, who also witnessed close interaction. It was an enrichment programme for increasing academic progress and achievement.

**Arabic Creative Writing:** On 5th and 6th October 2021, the celebration of the Arabic Creative Writing was held, through which the extent of progress made by the Arabic Department in developing the students' skill in expressive writing, in which the students demonstrated, through the impressive level of writing in a variety of topics.

Some of these topics were related to the syllabus while others were general, which reflected the strength of the competition in their ability to write in Arabic language at different levels of studies.

**Expo Project:** The Arabic Department held a competition to make a mural for an Expo project. From 20th October to 15th December, the students of Year 3-6 spoke freely in standard Arabic about the importance of Expo and the role of the United Arab Emirates in assembling the world through this great edifice.

The students demonstrated their ability to list basic and sub-information. The students' participation was evaluated according to specific criteria, and the distinguished students were given certificates of appreciation in recognition of their efforts. The students spoke, drew, put pictures of themselves inside the Expo and talked about each place they visited. The aim of this competition was to develop free speaking skill and the use of classical speaking.

**Debate Competition:** During the Arabic language classes from October 10 to 12, 2021, the Arabic Language Department conducted the first Arabic debate for Arab students for Year 4-10. Students were given specific topics related to transportation in the past and the present, city and village life. Moreover, the programs began with a simple narration from the Arabic teachers, Mr. Ashraf and Miss. Amira. After that, Year 7-10 students talked about social networking sites and their pros and cons. Each team defended its opinion with evidence and arguments.

**Peace Day Celebration:** The International Day of Peace is celebrated around the world on September 21 every year. This day is considered a day dedicated to promoting the ideals of peace, within and among all nations and peoples.

And the belief of the Arabic language department in the importance of celebrating this day, the students of the school celebrated this important event, where the students expressed it through drawing and speaking in classical Arabic about the importance of peace for the individual and society.



## SCHOOL CLINIC LEAVES NO STONE UNTURNED

Dr Umair Ali - Doctor / Ms Raihana Hashir - Nurse



We are pleased to submit you the School Health Report for the Academic year 2021-22. We remain committed to meeting the health and safety of our whole school community. With the school administration's help and support we are thoroughly working to address concerns and give prompt treatments accordingly.

Throughout the academic year we have conducted 4 sessions of vaccination for students under the DHA guidelines and protocols. Health education was given to students and staff, comprehensive medical examinations of students, routine counseling and check-ups of staff with chronic diseases, first aid awareness and staff and faculty health promotions were carried out.

Covid-19 safety and protocols were ensured at all times, with follow up of Covid positive cases and their close contacts, and the records were submitted in DHA Hasana system portal. Parents were guided individually over the guidelines issued by DHA for Covid 19 protocols and distant learning.

Together, we have laid a solid foundation on which to build and improve in terms of health aspects for our dear students and staff. We assure, we will never deviate from rendering quality health care services and continue to promote and live our school's vision and mission.



## ASDAN LAUNCHING

Ms Consuelo Navarro - Head of Inclusion

At TCSI we currently have students of determination who are currently in Year 4 to 7. Our Students of Determination are currently enrolled in the said year level but performing quite lower than their class level. We often ask ourselves, having barriers to learning and having special educational needs, what will be the future of our Students of Determination? Where can they go? What can they achieve despite their special educational needs? How can we help them to further grow and develop? Will they be able to reach Year 11 or 12 and take the IGCSE?

Since we know that each year the higher the class they will be in, the more it will become challenging, and it will be much of a struggle for them to cope up with the current curriculum offered in their class. Having this in mind, the sincere desire to help our Students of Determination and their parents, the Inclusion Department launched ASDAN in February 2022 and is now offering ASDAN-Life Skills Challenge the SODs of TCSI as an Alternative Curriculum Pathway, as per the recommendation of KHDA as well during the last inspection in 2019. KHDA is also encouraging schools to offer ASDAN as per their correspondence to us in May 2021.

ASDAN (Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network) also provides programmes and qualifications for learners with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Their courses have been developed for learners with a wide range of learning needs and abilities and provide meaningful outcomes through a person-centred approach that prepares learners for adult life.

ASDAN is an awarding organisation whose curriculum programmes and qualifications help young people develop knowledge and skills for learning, work and life. Their programmes and qualifications are delivered by over 3,000 secondary schools, special schools, colleges, alternative education providers and youth organisations across the UK and in more than 30 countries and territories overseas.

Since 1997, when ASDAN was formally established as an education charity, their work has centred on giving all learners the opportunity and tools to discover, develop and make full use of their potential.

As an organisation focused on supporting the next generation, they have recognised the need to adapt their offer, innovate and deliver courses that are fit for the future and better serve the contemporary needs of learners and educators.

ASDAN programmes and qualifications are widely recognised by educators for providing an engaging curriculum that empowers students through personalised learning and choice. Their courses motivate and enhance learners' confidence, self-esteem and resilience. In addition, learners develop core skills in teamwork, communication, problem solving, research and self-management.



## PUBERTY AWARENESS

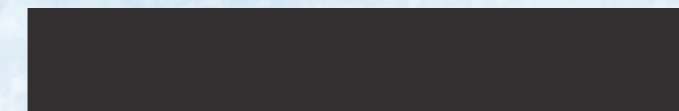
### Ms Raihana Hashir - School Nurse

Puberty begins between the ages of 8 and 13 and lasts several years. Puberty involves physical and emotional changes that can be both challenging and exciting. Being prepared and informed is the best way to manage the changes you will experience during puberty. Puberty in girls usually begins between the ages of 8 and 13 and lasts for several years. It is the time where your body develops and matures. Puberty prepares your body so one day you will be able to have a baby. The changes are caused by natural substances in your body called hormones. Puberty awareness was conducted on 10th February 2022 for Year 7 girls with a detailed PPT presentation. Students got interested and engaged with the slides of the puberty awareness. The programme covered introduction and importance of puberty awareness followed by their personal hygiene. The programme concluded successfully with good interaction and engagement of the students.



## TEACHERS' DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP 2021 - THE LITTLE ENGINEER

### Ms Bindhu Anil - Head of IT



Talents are key contributors to our future. Learners should be exposed to the latest technologies and inspired to enter the field of engineering, computer science, and artificial intelligence, the world of robotics, renewable energy and 3D modelling.

The Little Engineer Teachers' development workshop was an opportunity to build the educators' capacities through an interactive, experiential workshop dedicated to helping school directors, science coordinators, and IT teachers learn how to be more creative in STEM. The Little Engineer delivered an effective hands-on, mind-on 4 hours workshop that aims to encourage school directors, science teachers, curriculum and activities coordinators to get involved in STEM and get introduced to the new trends in education to enhance their knowledge in robotics and renewable energy.

Ms Bindhu Anil (HOD IT Department) and Ms Saima Ali (Science teacher) attended the workshop. It was an inclusive and equitable quality education and promoted lifelong learning opportunities for all. We strongly believe that change will start with us educators! Talents are key contributors to our future. As educators, we are the decision-makers in investing in our learners, exposing them to the latest technologies, and inspiring them to enter the field of engineering, the world of robotics, and renewable energy.







## TCSI PARTICIPATES IN WELLBEING FESTIVAL

### Ms Qirat Shaheen - Career Counsellor



The Wellbeing Festival, organised by KHDA, was a three-week celebration (March 7th to 24th, 2022) to reflect on how far we have come and where we are going in terms of well-being in schools. It brought together school leaders, governors, teachers, parents and students to take part in more than 20 online and hybrid workshops and talks by international and local wellbeing experts.

Results of the Dubai Student Wellbeing Census and the Adults@School Wellbeing Survey were announced during the festival.

The event also included sessions on how to improve the wellbeing of school leaders and staff, focus on student voice, increase community participation, make best use of the school's wellbeing data and much more.

The festival featured three very special sessions from the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which will provide a report on its review of Dubai's wellbeing initiatives and its recommendations for future improvement. More information and a separate invitation to these sessions will be received by the school soon.

KHDA attached the schedule for the festival in the email to the Principal, which included links to the webinars. That was later forwarded to the Heads of Departments and teachers to attend the session, on need basis, as advised by the Heads of Sections. Our TCSI staff and school leaders attended as many sessions as they could in order to benefit from this wonderful initiative organised by KHDA.

The Wellbeing festival was highly beneficial for TCSI to understand the Wellbeing Survey result and plan to improve the wellbeing and wellness of students and staff.

## ADNEX STEM WORKSHOP

### Ms Saima Ali Khan - Science Teacher

The City School International has always practised a diverse and versatile approach towards education, accepting new ideas and developing in accordance with the times. Professional development opportunities are abundant and teachers are motivated to participate in a variety of workshops. This, in turn, enables the staff to improve their teaching strategies, thus benefiting our students.

This year some of the TCSI staff had the honour to attend the ADNEX workshop. It was primarily with regards to STEM challenges from Year 2 to 10.

The team discussed several insightful ideas to integrate STEM in our overall curriculum map as well as everyday lesson plans topic wise in accordance to 21st century skills. They also spoke about strategies to make out classes more tech savvy with the use of STEM activities.

It was a lively workshop and a productive learning experience for the teachers. They learnt more about STEM and how to make use of STEM resources in the classroom. Ms Saima Ali Khan and Ms Sabeen, the representatives of TCSI, had the opportunity to share the school's achievements and progress in the field of STEM especially in Year 1 and 2 with everyday resources. They were impressed by the ideas and appreciated the input.



## STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS AT TCSI 2021-2022

### Ms Consuelo Navarro - Head of Inclusion

In the continuous promotion of excellence amongst the staff and teachers of TCSI, a well-planned PD schedule and sessions were once again implemented. This time, it was more organised, more productive and more relevant to the needs of teachers and students. In addition, they were more applicable to the current academic demands after the challenges caused by the pandemic.

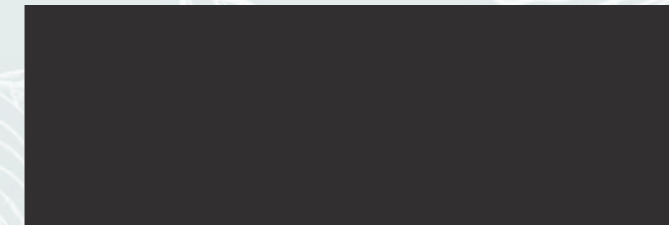
PD sessions every 3rd Saturday of the month have been scheduled accordingly when staff and teachers are required to attend General Staff Meeting with the Senior Leadership, different relevant training and department-based training led by their Heads of Department.

The PD sessions started from August of 2021 (one week before the students come back to school) with the staff orientation, followed by AIMS and Education City training. In January 2022, a CAT-4 Training was conducted by Ms. Farah Azeem which was followed by Ms. Qirat's (School counsellor) discussion on PASS (Pupil's Attitudes to Self and School). The following were the Training and PD Sessions Topic by each department held on January 22, 2022.

Maths Department - Century Resources and lesson Planning; Science Department - Year 1 & 2 Lesson Planning and Stem Activities, Year 3-12 - Century Tech Resources, differentiation and questioning skills; English Department - Century Resources and Effective Use of Other online resources, Gaps in Learning (especially on the basis of reading age) and how to fill them, Critical Thinking embedded lessons and augmenting questioning skills; Humanities Department - Activity Based Learning, Interactive Classroom, Smart Lesson Planning, Time Management; Islamic Department - Curriculum Adaptation, Critical Thinking, Differentiation, Questioning Skills, Target Setting; Arabic Department - Differentiation, UAE Curriculum Expectations, Effective Strategies to Develop Writing Skills, KHDA Criteria; ICT Department - Differentiation and Critical Thinking and FS Department - Project Based Learning

On February 19, 2022, Part 2 of the CAT-4 Training was once again discussed by Ms. Farah. Ms. Consuelo, Head of Inclusion together with the Inclusion Team, Ms. Apple and Ms. Grace provided training focused on "Specific Strategies and Accommodations for Specific Behaviours."

The following were the Training and PD Sessions Topic by each department held on February 19, 2022.



## STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS AT TCSI 2021-2022

## INDUSTRIAL DAY WITH DURDANA ANSARI

### Ms Consuelo Navarro - Head of Inclusion

Maths Department- Reflective Teaching and Department meeting; Science Department - Identify the weak students and Intervention plan (Review century tech to identify the weak areas) and department meeting; English Department - Critical Thinking Embedded Lessons and Augmenting Questioning Skills, Department Meeting; Humanities Department - Importance and Effectiveness of Plenary; Islamic Department - Questioning Skills and Use of Bloom's Taxonomy in Questioning skill Department Meeting; Arabic Department - Active learning strategies using padlet to improve writing skills for students beginner's cover work, differentiation; ICT Department - Reflective Teaching and Bloom's Taxonomy in questioning skills and FS Department - Presentation regarding the sounds most students mispronounce

On March 19, 2022, a teacher's licensing briefing was held to assist those other teachers who were aspiring to get a licence with the steps and procedures on how to acquire it.

The following were the Training and PD Sessions Topic by each department held on March 19, 2022:

Maths Department - Planning for PTM and PISA Continued CPD (Reflective teaching & Interventions); Science Department - Preparation for PTS and Science week and Review of Intervention and students' progress; English Department - Critical Thinking Embedded Lessons and Augmenting Questioning Skills; Humanities Department - Management of Classroom Dynamics/Planning of Humanities Week; Islamic Department - Preparation for Ramadan activities, Continued CPD Questioning Skills and Techniques; Arabic Department - Differentiated instruction; ICT Department - Reflection and Feedback and FS Department- Prepare classrooms and lesson plans

Due to Ramadan, PD sessions for April were cancelled and on May 21, 2022, Assessment Policy and Teaching and Learning Policy were thoroughly discussed and explained to all teachers for better implementation. Each department also prepared their Term Plans, Scheme of Work and Yearly Overviews.

We are looking forward to having more PD sessions next academic year.



### Ms Hadia Riaz - Computer Teacher

Miss Durdana Ansari is a British-Pakistani speaker, entrepreneur and women empowerment speaker. She is a former honorary Lieutenant Commander in Royal Navy of England and currently works as Adviser Royal Navy. She currently works as an adviser to the Royal Navy, holds community events nationwide for young individuals between the ages of 18 to 35 to meet naval officers and recruitment officials to learn about careers in the Royal Navy. She also works with community leaders, local councilors, borough mayors, academics, teachers and parents of young individuals who have shown an interest in naval careers.

Being an entrepreneur and women empowerment speaker, the guest speaker highlighted the current industrial demands and needs from human resource point of view and elaborated the desired attitude and skills required by industry newbies to survive and face the challenges.

The talk was composed of two sections: the current personnel requirements as per work attitude, personality, skills and challenge acceptance and what capabilities and skills a person entering any industry should have in order to survive and compete in a competitive environment

The guidelines, suggestions and discussion by speaker opened a debate forum where students of TCSI did interact and expressed their own problems, suggestions and doubts and shared their ideas with each other. This led better understanding of desired attitude and skills to enter in the industry as well as students' doubts were rectified.



## EYFS GRADUATION - CLASS OF 2022

### Ms Nosheen Ali – EYFS Coordinator

Graduation is such an important milestone in a child's life. This ceremony is a great opportunity to celebrate learning and to recognize a special milestone, one that may be the first of many milestones. It is a big accomplishment for a 5-year-old.

This year's EYFS Graduation ceremony took place at The City School International, Sharjah, on Tuesday, 28th June 2022. The chief guests at the event were Mr Hassan Afzal Khan (Consul general of Pakistan) and Mr Peter Winder (General Manager Academics, City School Holdings). The Senior Leadership Team of the City School Dubai also attended the event along with the parents of the graduating students.

The event started at 10.00 am with the recitation of Holy Quran followed by UAE National anthem. DR Frank, Principal of the City School, gave his Welcome Speech. The theme of the event was Around the world.

The show started with three students discussing globalisation and their wish to see the different countries around the world. Same night one of the three students had a dream in which she visited countries Brazil, African continent, Russia, China and Spain. She came to know important facts about all of these countries and also saw their folk dance. She also got the chance to see the folktales of Africa, Russia, China and Spain.

All sections of FS2 represented different countries. FS2 A represented Russia, FS2 B represented Brazil, FS2 C represented Africa, FS2 D represented Spain and FS2 E represented China.

Next morning, she went back to the school and shared her dream with her friends.

The students then talked about the UAE Expo while FS1 Students performed on EXPO song. After that all students of FS2 along with FS1 sang the song "It's a small world". Then Head of FS and Primary, Ms Lina, gave her speech. A behind the scenes graduation practice video was shared with the audience. A memorable learning journey video of FS2 students gave a beautiful glimpse of the whole academic year.

Lastly, students walked on the red carpet with their class teachers and went up the stage to receive their certificates class wise. The day ended with all FS2 students and teachers along with Ms Lina singing the song "I am ready to go" on the stage. It was a wonderful event thoroughly enjoyed by all the attendees.



## TCSI DELIGHTS ITS STAFF WITH A DELECTABLE DINNER AND FUN-FILLED ACTIVITIES

### Ms Sridevi Sriram English Teacher

The 29th of June, 2022 was yet another memorable day for the staff of The City School International as they had their Annual Staff Dinner at Pullman Deira City Center, Dubai to celebrate the completion of a successful academic year.

All members of the staff were dressed exquisitely as the theme for the evening was 'Bling and Glam'. The Principal, Dr Frank Fernandes, along with the organising committee planned a plethora of fun-filled activities which made the evening a memorable and an exhilarating one. The entire evening was meticulously planned and carefully organised which ensured a seamless flow from the beginning till the end. The staff were made to enter the party hall as pairs, dancing to the groove of the music, which set the right mood for the party to begin.

Dr Frank made it a serious agenda to keep his staff engaged and involved throughout the evening such that different sets of music in different genres were played at frequent intervals which served as the right way for the members of the staff to dance out all the accumulated work stress.

The entire evening unravelled a plenitude of surprises: a thematic entrance, lucky seat wherein some staff members found a gift under their chair, awards and recognitions, heart thumping music and dance, choosing the King and the Queen of the evening, performances by the Senior Leadership Team and so on.

Appreciation and awarding are the best motivating factors. The Senior Leadership Team has well-understood this. Various teachers, teacher assistants, admin staff and house-keeping staff were awarded under different categories. For the first time, the Inclusion Department also awarded teachers for demonstrating best inclusion practices.

'Time flies but moments remain'. It's these moments that we cherish and hold close to our hearts in the form of memories that help us sail through thick and thin. Memories of yester-years serve as an anchor for the years ahead of us. Every one present that evening had to buckle their seatbelts as it was a rollercoaster of emotions when a beautiful video was played that brought back all the lovely moments that encompass this academic year.

The Senior Leadership Team displayed a heart-warming gesture by giving an inspiring message in the form of a performance called 'community singing'. The principal sang a Portuguese number which was his dedication to all the staff members of TCSI.

With a delectable dinner, abundance of surprises and a motivating and inspiring speech from the principal of the school, the evening turned out to be a day to remember and cherish.



## CLASS OF 2021-2022



## CLASS OF 2021-2022



## CLASS OF 2021-2022



## CLASS OF 2021-2022



## CLASS OF 2021-2022



Year 1A - 2022



Year 1B - 2022

## CLASS OF 2021-2022



Year 1C - 2022



Year 1D - 2022

## CLASS OF 2021-2022



## CLASS OF 2021-2022





## CLASS OF 2021-2022



## CLASS OF 2021-2022



## CLASS OF 2021-2022



## CLASS OF 2021-2022



## CLASS OF 2021-2022



## CLASS OF 2021-2022



## CLASS OF 2021-2022



## CLASS OF 2021-2022



## CLASS OF 2021-2022



## CLASS OF 2021-2022



## CLASS OF 2021-2022



## CLASS OF 2021-2022



CLASS OF 2021-2022

YEAR 11A & 11B



## OUR TEAM IS OUR STRENGTH



Senior Leaders



Middle Level Leaders & Coordinator

## OUR TEAM IS OUR STRENGTH



Administration Department



Department of Arabic



## OUR TEAM IS OUR STRENGTH



**Department of English**



**Department of French**

## OUR TEAM IS OUR STRENGTH



**Department of Mathematics**



**Department of Science**

**OUR TEAM IS OUR STRENGTH**



**EYFS Team**



**Department of Islamic**

**OUR TEAM IS OUR STRENGTH**



**Department of Humanities**



**Department of PE**

**OUR TEAM IS OUR STRENGTH**



**Department of ICT**



**Department of Music**

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**SENDCo Department**



**Teacher Assistant**

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Security Team



Support Team



# CITY CONNECTION

## YEAR BOOK 2021-2022



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