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Seeking the Best of Two Worlds...



Hayah Seeks Additional Accreditation

Accreditation is a way to demonstrate our commitment to high quality international education to parents, students and staff members. So alongside our current accreditation, Hayah has decided to seek additional accreditations. This will ensure to all stakeholders that our school is continually improving and keeping up with leading international education standards.

In 2016 we initiated the accreditation process with MSA (Middle States Association), a reputable agency that authorizes schools worldwide. MSA accreditation is an ongoing process of self-review and improvement whereby we identify areas which we would like to improve and innovate. We began the process as a candidate school with a set of surveys and a rigorous self-study.

Stakeholders may recall the detailed surveys that we administer each spring. These annual surveys enable the school to monitor the changing perceptions of stakeholders and they provide us with a wealth of data on which to base our decisions. In response to the feedback of last two years' survey, we launched into a mission review process in March 2017 as there were several indicators that we needed to elevate our mission to match the challenges of this changing world.

We formed a mission review committee with representatives of parents, teachers, administrators, students and alumni. The first thing they took into consideration was the comments and suggestions that were submitted in the surveys. Since March, they have been engaged in hours and hours of discussion, research, revision, and healthy disputes over grammar and vocabulary; as a result, draft #31 has just been submitted to the board for approval. The revised mission proposal reflects a shift towards focusing on the overall growth of each student and the inclusion of international-mindedness. Statements will be shared as soon as they are polished and approved.

CANDIDATE



CANDIDATE



The MSA accreditation self-study includes self-appraisal of each of the subjects taught in our school, the school climate and the operational systems that support education along with a thorough analysis of student performance results. This year, staff and students formed committees to examine these areas of our school against the rigorous international standards from MSA. School goals for the coming 5-7 years are being crafted from the findings of these committees and they will emphasize improved student performance consistent with the school's mission. A final report and goals will be submitted to the accreditation agency in June 2018 and a visit from the accreditation team will be hosted next November/December. MSA acts as a consulting agency alongside the accreditation and will assist us along this self-improvement journey.

Concurrently, Hayah is seeking PYP (Primary Years Programme) authorization from IB for our early childhood and elementary schools. This transdisciplinary curriculum focuses on the whole child as an inquirer, in school and beyond. Hayah teachers are trained and continually researching ways in which to invigorate learning and teaching through this curricular framework. Implementation of the PYP program has begun and an authorizing team visit from IB will be hosted in October 2018. Further details about the program can be found at <http://www.ibo.org/information-for-parents/>

As can be seen, we are challenging ourselves to continuous self evaluation, review, and improvement efforts each academic year. We want to offer better and better learning opportunities for our students to enable them to reach their potential and make a positive difference in the world. All stakeholders are valuable in this process and we need everyone to share their ideas and grow along with us. One way that parents can contribute to school improvement is by communicating suggestions through PTA representatives – see the article in this issue about their new structure. The accreditation process will strengthen our school as we measure ourselves against some of the highest of standards and requirements and seek external validation.

The Early Childhood Department

The Early Childhood Department kicked off the new academic year with its annual EC Get Together Day. Students, parents and teachers moved through the different stations set up indoors and outdoors and enjoyed the many activities especially prepared for the day. Students enjoyed watching and acting out some of their favorite stories in the Drama and the Arabic Puppet Show stations. They got to move and dance along in the Music and Movement room. Parents as well as students were creative in making edible necklaces and bracelets in the Fine Motor activity station.

They also enjoyed racing and competing in the Obstacle Course and the Parachute game. Some stations focused on teamwork and cooperation where students and their parents enjoyed participating in Balance the Ball Relay and Build the Highest Tower game. The highlight of the day was the picnic time where parents socialized, chatted and enjoyed the menu they had carefully planned among themselves.



Elementary News

Display of Learning

On October 24 from 9-11:45 elementary parents were invited to their child's class to see all of the amazing accomplishments from the first Unit of Inquiry. Student learning and engagement was the focus. It was a fantastic opportunity for parents to see what is actually going on in the classes to connect with their children about learning and build a community of learners with all stakeholders. It was a fantastic morning filled with enlightening conversations, students proudly presenting to their parents, and tons of positive energy. Elementary is hosting four of these events throughout the year. Our next one is Tuesday December 12 from 8-11:45. We are happy to have other faculty members join in the fun to see the awesome learning experiences that are happening in the elementary building.



The Power of Green 4th Annual Art Competition

Hayah hosted its 4th annual art competition “The Power of Green” last month. It generated a lot of excitement and outstanding artwork from 13 participating schools in Egypt. We would like to extend special appreciation to Art Café for their continuous support and dedication to this annual event and to our sponsors.

Congratulations to all who entered the competition and hooray to our winners who will be invited to an award ceremony on Saturday, December 16th.

In the painting categories for their age group, the winners are:

Mostafa Yousri	Grade 1	First Place
Ameena Shereef	Grade 1	Second Place
Sara Tarek Abdel Samad	Grade 2	First Place
Khadija El Mahrouky	Grade 4	Third Place
Salma Omar	Grade 11	Second Place

In the collage category:

Lara Sherif	Grade 5	Third Place
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Art Competition Participating Schools



Sponsored by:





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HSA



“Sport-based programs have been shown to improve the learning performance of children and young people, encouraging school attendance and a desire to succeed academically,” says the International Platform in Sports and Development.

Sports and physical activities have been proven to be a healthy tool for various aspects of the youth’s lives. Through guided sports activities, children are exposed to various, important character building traits that not only help a child’s physical growth but their intellectual and educational experiences as well.

A complete person is one who takes care of his/her body, mind and soul. The Hayah Sports Academy has been providing the atmosphere for just that over the past 10 years. Giving people from the young age of 4 up until adulthood the opportunity to discover themselves through different physical activities allows the HSA to give back to the community around it.

According to Dr. Wessam El Ghamry, HSA General Manager, “the sports academy has an edge over other sports facilities in the city in that it is age oriented, children are given their sports program according to the age appropriateness.”

Sports activities contribute to these four aspects of a person’s life; physical, psychological, social and mental well-being. Through sports, children gain a strong support for their muscles, help the neural and muscular alignment, build their immunity and improve their overall health.

According to Dr. El Ghamry, sports also help in building the child’s concentration, boosting their reaction speed and in strategy making skills. All of this, Dr. El Ghamry believes, is only possible if the child’s age is taken into consideration when offering the sport’s program.

Sports also helps a child build their self-esteem as they excel through proper participation they gain new abilities and are able to assert themselves and take on new competition confidently. They also become more independent as sports force children to think and act on their own. They are also forced to deal with their peers with their differences and adapt to them as they learn teamwork and cooperation.

“When a child participates in sports activities automatically through the situations they are placed in they acquire these essential skills to a complete individual,” says Dr. El Ghamry.

Through its Basketball, Swimming, Martial Arts, Gymnastics, Rythmic Gymnastics, Soccer, Fitness, Squash and Gym programs, the HSA provides a copious program for a diverse community of all ages, sexes, abilities and interests.

HAYAH SHARKS TOURNAMENTS



Double Delight for the MS Volleyball Girls

On 17th November, our MS Volleyball Girls re-entered the CIS Tournament @ CAC which they took part in and won last year. Last year, Hayah entered two MS teams & their performances were both so good that they ultimately ended playing each other in the finals, resulting in taking 1st and 2nd place. They had one CAC team & Schutz, who were replacing MES from last year, to conquer in order to be victorious, & in an identical manner to the previous year both teams won all games to again finish 1st and 2nd. Congratulations to all the girls involved and Coach Sari on their efforts and hard work.



Elementary Boys Basketball

On November 6th & 20th, our Under 11 Basketball Boys took part in two Basketball Tournaments. The first took place at MES & the second at Hayah. On the back of only a few training sessions our boys went into the tournaments confident of their ability. In both tournaments, Hayah faced two MES teams & a team from Metropolitan. At MES on the 6th, Hayah won all games only conceding two baskets along the way. On home turf, Hayah went into their final game unbeaten again with a final match against Metropolitan in the way. After going surprisingly behind early, Hayah made an excellent recovery to score 5 quick baskets and win 10-2 and the overall tournament again. Well done to all the boys involved and great work from Coach Fadwa.



MS/HS Boys Water Polo

On September 20th & 30th, Hayah visited CAC for Middle School & High School combined Water Polo games. As two of the only schools to operate Water Polo teams, both were keen to impress & show their worth. Both games mirrored each other as teams played out cagey first quarters. However, as both games moved into the latter stages Hayah imposed their dominance and come out winners twice, winning 14-9 on the 20th & 19-14 on the 30th. Congratulations to the boys on both their performances and Coach Karim for his guidance.



Career Fair

on Saturday, November 18 in the school's fruits of their life and work experiences. student organizing team with the classmates to learn about different who work in these fields.

"I hope to learn about what possible us, and hopefully discover what by Aisha El Leithy, a member of the team member, Ameena El Agha idea of what I want to do, the simple hear will help me understand myself and With the support of advisors from the staff

began their work by surveying students to learn about their top career interests. Then word went out to the Hayah community and beyond asking for speaker volunteers and a day long program of presentations was put together. On the day of the event, the Middle and High School Building was transformed into a busy fair of students going in and out of presentation rooms and of presenters staying beyond their presentation time to answer questions and chat with students. We hope that the Career Fair becomes an annual tradition of inspiration for Hayah's students. Special thanks to all our presenters.

Career fair logo designed by talented student Mostafa El Ghandour G11

"There is no background music...Life is what is happening in your most dull moments." This was one of the life tips that were shared by our keynote speaker, Hoda Rashad, an educator-author-blogger-vlogger-mother. Hoda was one of 26 speakers —many of whom, Hayah parents—who volunteered their time

first Career Fair to share with Hayah students the The idea of the Fair was initiated by the aim of providing an opportunity for their career options first hand from speakers



careers this spectacular world has to offer path is for me." These words were shared Career Fair organizing team. Another added, "Even if I don't leave with a clear act of deciding which speakers I want to the vision I have for my future better."

and the PTA, the Career Fair organizing team began their work by surveying students to learn about their top career interests. Then word went out to the Hayah community and beyond asking for speaker volunteers and a day long program of presentations was put together. On the day of the event, the Middle and High School Building was transformed into a busy fair of students going in and out of presentation rooms and of presenters staying beyond their presentation time to answer questions and chat with students. We hope that the Career Fair becomes an annual tradition of inspiration for Hayah's students. Special thanks to all our presenters.



MRC English Book Fair & More...

MRC activities in the first quarter of the 2017 – 2018 academic year were numerous. Initially, MRC held its annual Stationery fair from August 22 to September 7. In addition, G 8 went on a trip to the citadel with the MRC museum program in collaboration with Ms. Hanan Deyab, Middle School. November was the busiest month, hosting numerous events. MRC started the Arabic book club from the beginning of November after school on Monday. Additionally, on the 5th and 9th of November, MRC coordinated a trip for G5 to visit Biet El-Senary for Q1. This trip was a collaboration of MRC with the Arabic department and Elementary School. On November 8th, MRC hosted the American author J.C. Michaels, author of Firebelly, who gave a talk to grade 7 students on his book and the philosophical concepts behind it. J.C. Michaels is an award winning writer from the U.S.A.

The MRC also held its annual English book fair from November 19 – 23, 2017. The book fair hosted well-known names in the Egyptian publishing industry catering to a wide variety of books suited for every age group. Elementary students were scheduled to visit the book fair twice during the week of display. We would like to thank all the publishers for their great effort.



Be a World Scholar

For the first time ever in Cairo, the World Scholar's Cup will be coming to Egypt & Hayah International Academy will be joining the competition. The Cairo round will run in CAC this April.

Now in its 10th year, the WSC was founded by Daniel Berdichevsky who started a very small competition in Korea involving just 3 participating countries. The

WSC is a global event which had almost 30,000 scholars took part during last year's competition. After participating in local rounds, if students are successful they then go on to compete at international levels & can even progress to the Tournament of Champions at the world famous and prestigious Yale University in the USA.

Designed as an academic event, WSC is much more about sharing knowledge and meeting new people than simply competing. Working in teams of 3, students are then separated by the two age categories of under & over 14. Students are then involved in four different events; team debate, collaborative writing, scholar's challenge and the scholar's bowl. All these events are based around different yearly themes, based within six categories which are Science & Technology, History, Social Studies, Art & Music, Literature & a Special Area. On Tuesday 31st October, Ms. Isabel Hahn came to visit Hayah to explain more about the programme and introduce its ideas and concepts to our Grade 8 students. Isabel was once a scholar herself but is now an ambassador for competition and tours globally spreading the good work. Her visit was very beneficial and has definitely generated more interest from our students in academic based after school activities.

If you are interested in joining the World Scholar's Cup, please contact Mr. Gareth for more information.



MUN

During the last week of October, 35 students from Hayah participated in CACMUN. Our students performed admirably winning four of the eight awards.

On the other hand, preparations are currently in full swing for the upcoming HIAMUN in February, the theme for this year's conference is "Pulses" denoting both the human pulse and the crops from which seeds are harvested. This is to signify the importance of reviving humanity, as well as promoting growth and sustainability. To read more about the topics being discussed in the upcoming conference please visit hiamun.org



Hayah Parents Teacher Association (PTA)

Hayah PTA started off the academic year with elections for the new PTA board. We are delighted with the enthusiasm among parents from all grades to join the PTA and contribute to Hayah community.

We are honored to present you with Hayah PTA board for the coming two academic years:

Ms. Kenzie Mortagy, Lead Parent for EC

Ms. Seem Tabbaa, Lead Parent for Elementary School

Ms. Salma Dawood, Lead Parent for the Middle School

Dr. Nora Saif, Lead Parent for High School

Ms. Amira El Sherie, Treasurer

Ms. Mihan Samy and Ms. Manal Saad, Community Service and CAS coordinators

Ms. Shaza Salaheldin, Character Education Coordinator.

Hayah PTA body comprises 42 class moms and 3 class dads, all eager to bring new ideas and initiatives to our community.

Stay tuned and join our FB group for our coming activities and events.

www.facebook.com/groups/HayahPTA



A Sad Goodbye

On October 26, 2017 at 11:30 pm, Hayah International Academy lost our dear student, Ahmed Sherif Said at the age of 15, to a tragic car accident on the NA road.

Ahmed is survived by his mother the head of our Events department, Sherien Abdou and his father Sherif Said, owner of JET factories, and his two sisters, Laila Sherif Class of 2014 Alumnus and Lara Sherif grade 5. Born on July 6, 2002, Ahmed came to Hayah from the Baby Room when his mother came to work. Ever since, his smile has brightened up the hallways from the baby room to early childhood then elementary, middle and high school.

Remembered by people of all ages, Ahmed touched the lives of not only his classmates and friends but anyone he came across. Anyone who knows Ahmed and his family know that they are the definition of kindness and generosity. As a staff child many times he was on campus after school and as a high school student he made sure the younger elementary staff children were included in games on the field.

Ahmed was known among his friends to give the “best hugs”. He turned situations that can be stressful into light hearted ones. His empathy was noticeable with all who he came across from the help in his own home, neighborhood (Nasr City, Orabi & Ghazala) and school, to his close family and friends. He would make friends with random people and get to know anyone, making them feel special with his attention.

Students remember him for his tendency to go out of his way to help them even though he barely knew them. One student, he did not know, says he helped her look for her phone even though he did not even know her and the next day checked on her to make sure she found it.

His perseverance is a trait that his teachers remember him for. As he faced a challenge he tried to overcome it with effort. Grade 10 was no exception with some of the difficult subjects, he pushed forth. All with good spirits Ahmed’s teachers all speak of his politeness and kindness in their classes, despite any obstacles with the subjects.

Ahmed is known for his love of Amr Diab songs, on the bus, with his friends, Amr Diab and shaaby were his specialty. On his way to and from school he would also remind his peers on the bus to say the prayers as they pass the grave yards every day.

Ahmed’s generosity lives on through the overwhelming number of community service and charity projects in his name. Hayah, students, teachers and family, miss Ahmed in the hallways every day but his smile and character has made a lasting impression on all those lives he unknowingly touched.

“To Allah we belong and to Him we return.”

In our next issue



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