

Dear Parents,

Sub: The Year of Tolerance

The Kindergarten Starters will be introducing several new initiatives to mark the year of Tolerance.

"The highest result of education is tolerance." wrote Helen Keller and we want to be the pioneers leading the way in embedding this in our children.

Tolerance is a deep understanding of the universe and creation. It is the highest form of existence embracing all that we know and all that we don't with the same amount of love, respect and dignity. So if we must teach our children tolerance, we must live it.



Tolerance
Asha Alexander



Here are some of the initiatives we will be undertaking this year.

Media	Using the hashtag #kgstolerance to tweet and post student voice and activities on social media and use tools like Flipgrid to share videos of activities and student learning.
Assemblies	All students who wish to learn the National Anthems of all communities in our school will have the opportunity to sing them at every morning Assembly- one anthem alongside the UAE anthem. These include the anthems of Philippines, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, China, Eritrea, Kenya, Myanmar and Sri Lanka.
Sports Day	Students of DIS and Al Saleh Private School will send contingents for our March Past. SEND students from all our schools as well as students from Al Noor and Manzil will also send contingents for the March Past on the KGS Sports Day. Races will involve students from all these schools alongside our own students.
Right to Read	Our Right to Read hour every Thursday will include our ancillary staff reading along with us. It will also include Dubai International School on every day our students read in Arabic. The stories will be drawn from different cultures like the refugee story- Stepping Stones about a Syrian refugee.
Makers Day	Parents will be invited to make artifacts and work with technology during Makers Day alongside their children. This year parents will be invited to work with other children besides their own.

Making Friends	Students who have best friends from other nationalities will invite their parents to school on one day so that their parents can get to know each other.
Tolerance in the Curriculum	KGS has been following an articulated curriculum of Tolerance and Generosity which has been followed for the last two years and has been mapped with the Moral Education, Moral Science curriculum as well as English. Students learn tolerance, inclusion, peace and generosity through activities and stories which are an ongoing part of the curriculum and activities are mapped into the student diaries.
Twining Program	KGS has ongoing activities with Dubai International School and Al Saleh Private schools that support the learning of Arabic and English in both these schools in an ongoing manner. We will involve these schools actively in all the activities in our school and invite them to be a part of the same.
Art Activities	Students will create murals and do art activities throughout the year and include students from Special Needs Schools as well as other schools with which we have ongoing association
Concerts	The school will stage 2 concerts for Grades 1 and 2 around the theme of Tolerance this year in March.
Diary	The student diary will have a cover designed by students that depicts tolerance.
Engaging with the community	Students will visit old age homes and orphanages to read to children and adults. Students will teach ancillary staff skills in technology as well as teach them English. Teachers will give free classes in Arabic to parents.
Dubai Cares	KGS has Adopted a School in Palestine this year to enable refugee children from Syria to have access to education.

I look forward to your support and cooperation to make our school's curriculum a truly unique one. We are all born tolerant, accepting and inclusive but as we grow we lose it because our minds are taught to think in terms of race, country, ethnicity and differences. We are unique and our differences must be valued and respected. I urge all parents to support the school and this nation in learning and practicing tolerance.

If our children are to learn tolerance, we must embody it both at school and at home. I look forward to the support of all our wonderful parents in helping our children lift their minds to the freedom that Rabindranath Tagore talked of 'where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls.... Into that heaven of freedom my father, let my country awake.'

Warm regards,



**Asha Alexander
Principal**