

newsCAST

The Newsletter of Collegiate American School

Tuesday, 23 August 2016 | Issue 66

GENERAL

ELEMENTARY

SECONDARY

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Welcome Back Sandcats!

August has arrived which can only mean that the first day of school is around the corner. The new teachers and leadership have already been working diligently preparing for the new academic year. This week we welcome back our returning teachers as we plan to enrich the lives of the Sandcat students.

In a short five years, Collegiate American has many accomplishments including being the only American school in Dubai accredited by CIS and NEASC. We were granted a strong "GOOD" by KHDA and authorized to offer IBDP classes for students interested in that track. We'd like to thank you for believing in us and keeping our vision alive.

Thursday August 25th is new student orientation; however we welcome all of our families to attend. Students may come in their normal clothes. Please note parents IDs need to be worn on campus at all times, so please have them displayed this Thursday if attending. Class lists will be posted in all atriums to check placement of each student. The uniform shop will also be open daily from 8am to 4pm [Saturday to Thursday] adjacent to the PE atrium until August 30th and then at the J3 Mall.

Orientation Schedule & School Timings:

CAS NEW STUDENTS ORIENTATION DAY: THURSDAY, 25th AUGUST 2016		
GRADES	TIMINGS	VENUE
Pre-KG – KG 2	9:00 am to 10:30 am	Sports Hall
GR 1 – GR 5	11:00 am to 12:30 pm	Sports Hall
GR 6 - GR 11	1:00 pm to 2:30 pm	Dance Hall

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR KG 2 to GRADE 11		
DATE	GRADES	REGULAR SCHOOL TIMINGS
Sunday, 28th August 2016	KG 2 - GR 5	07:45 am - 2:30 pm
	GR 6 - GR11	07:45 am - 3:30 pm
SETTLING-IN SCHEDULE for Pre-KG and KG 1		
GRADES	SHORTENED HOURS	REGULAR SCHOOL TIMINGS
Pre-KG & KG1	07:45 am - 11:00 am Only from Sunday 28th to Tuesday 30th August 2016	07:45 am - 1:15 pm Regular school timing begins on Wednesday, 31st August 2016

We'd like to give a warm welcome to the following new employees at Collegiate American School:

- ◆ Jennifer Hager — *Secondary School Principal*
- ◆ David Platt— *Secondary School Deputy Principal (Academic)*
- ◆ Lindsay Rosenzweig — *Grade 1 Teacher*
- ◆ Mark Patterson — *PE Teacher*
- ◆ Paul Schatzman — *Secondary School Chemistry Teacher*
- ◆ Delanie Seman *Secondary School Mathematics Teacher*
- ◆ Julie Delcroix — *French Teacher*
- ◆ Gretchen Mitchell — *Grade 3 Teacher*
- ◆ Octavia Jefferson— *Secondary School English Teacher*
- ◆ Aunita Brown — *Secondary School Science Teacher*

Curriculum Updates

Academically we made a few refinements to our curriculum and that is the adoption of the New York State Standards and adoption of EngageNY curriculum. During the orientation and Back to School Night you will hear about the robust program that your students will be participating in. Additionally, we have a new state of the art STEM lab for our Grade 3-10 students who will be working with science, technology, engineering and math utilizing leading edge technology. As soon as this lab is complete we will be sure to have you come in and experience what STEM is at Collegiate American. Great things continue to happen at CAS.

Collegiate American School Parents Association (CASPA)

CASPA is an integral component of Collegiate American. This year, we will be working towards getting more of our parents involved as volunteer's in the various activities. I will be working closely with CASPA and a new set of bylaws. Additionally, as we work towards the improvement of Collegiate American, we'd like to hear your voice and ideas about other events we may want to consider. We hope you will consider playing an active role this academic year.

Arrival on the First Day of School...

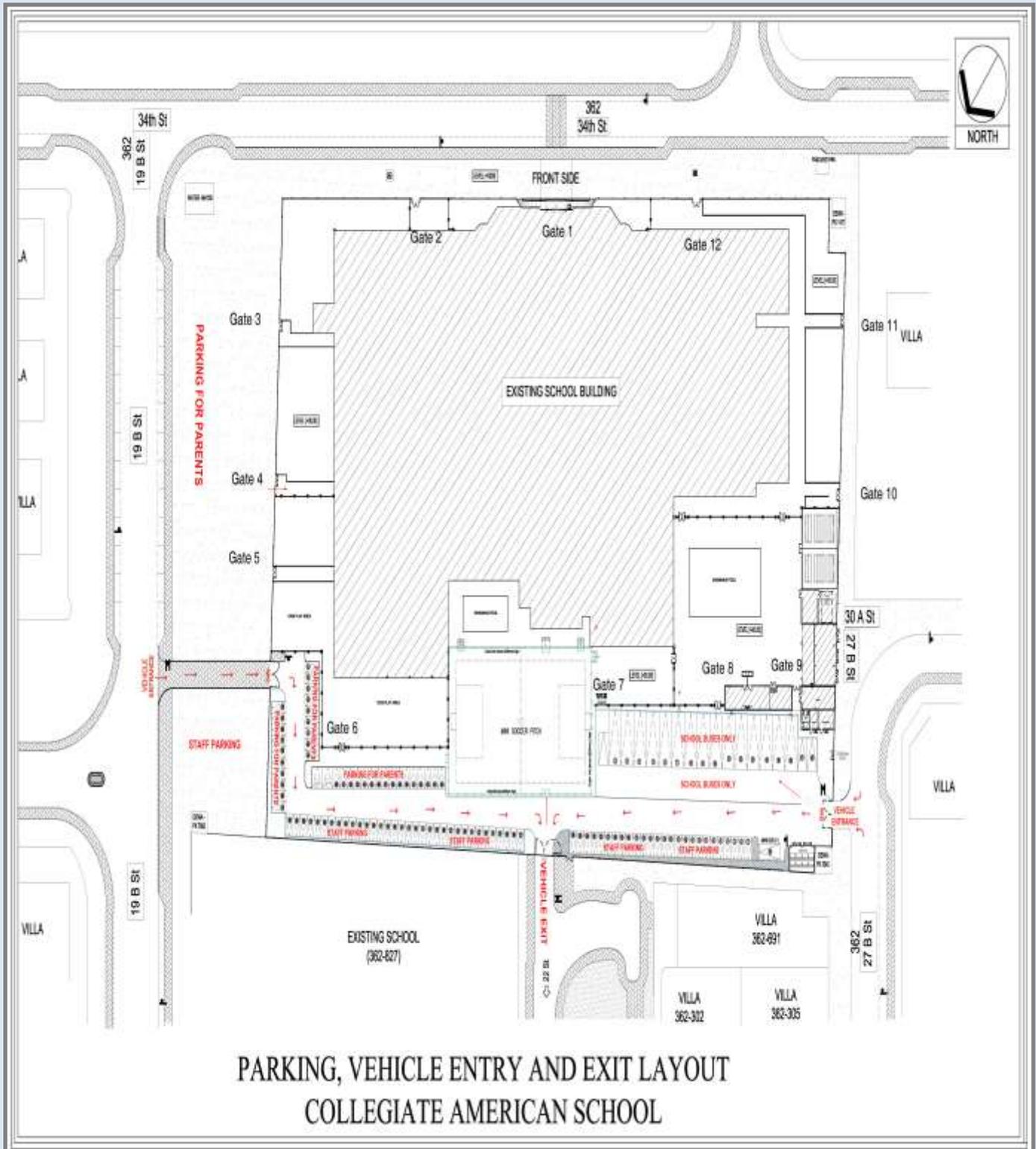
Sunday the 28th is the first official day of school. Below you will find a traffic map as we are confident that there will be congestion surrounding the school. Our priority is student safety first. Please try to arrive early to alleviate some of the congestion, follow the traffic pattern and if redirected by security or school personnel please take a note of the requested change. Classrooms will be open at 7:30am.

We look forward to seeing you all in the next few days and wish everyone a successful academic year!

Regards,

*Tammy Tusek
Head Principal*

CAS Parking, Vehicle Entry & Exit Map



PARKING, VEHICLE ENTRY AND EXIT LAYOUT
COLLEGIATE AMERICAN SCHOOL

Dear Families,

I am so glad that you chose Collegiate American School for your child's education. We have an exciting year planned!

This is my second year as Elementary School Principal at Collegiate. Prior to moving to Dubai, I worked as a school administrator in the United States for 18 years and as a classroom teacher for almost 13 years. I am the mother of three adult children and I served as their school principal for most of their school years!

I love being a Sandcat. As you begin to spend time on our campus, I hope you get a feel for the unique qualities of Collegiate American School. There is an energy and sense of caring that permeates. We pride ourselves on being a welcoming community of learners. Here, students can reveal their unique selves and explore their potential.

Our faculty strives to help students become young men and women of character who are self-motivated, intellectually curious, and confident. In the elementary school, we believe that building a strong academic foundation in Reading and Math is paramount for success in the later years. We encourage our students to cultivate the values and integrity needed for responsible decision making. We want them to become aware of themselves and others as we build a brighter future in the United Arab Emirates and for life.

Your first line of communication and assistance is through your child's classroom teacher. Please visit our website at cas-dubai.com for specific contact information. In addition, please visit the site and download our Elementary School Handbook.

If you have any questions related to any aspect of our program or need to discuss your family's needs, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to meeting you and to getting to know your child.

Sincerely,

Ms. Cindy Davis,

Elementary School Principal

RAISING THE BAR FROM WHERE WE ARE...

Message from the Secondary School...

On behalf of the Secondary School Leadership team I would like to extend a warm welcome to students and parents of the 2016-2017 academic year. Collegiate American School has a dedicated team of educators and specialists who work every day to ensure that each student has the opportunity to reach their highest potential. We invite and encourage parents to be part of their child's learning journey by working in concert with our teachers to promote the Collegiate American School Core Values – achievement, collaboration, integrity respect and responsibility. Communication between students, parents and teachers is highly valued at CAS and we look forward to maintaining the already established relationships and meeting those who are new to the school.

This year we will continue to build upon our best practices and also integrate the following proven curriculum into our everyday lessons: STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. We recently adopted the New York State Standards which will help to prepare our students for a rigorous university experience. Please mark your calendars for September 6th from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm where we will further discuss our curriculum and answer any questions you may have about a STEM education.

One important document I would like to bring your attention to is the Secondary School Handbook which can be found on our website under the 'student services' section. This piece of information should be your go to guide for everything from the student dress code to the mobile electronic device policy. While much of this information will be disseminated to the students during the first week of school, we kindly request that you and your child take some time to read through the handbook and become familiar with the policies and procedures. This will ensure a positive learning environment that is productive for all.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any questions or concerns. I am thrilled to be part of the Collegiate American School family and look forward to an amazing school year.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hager



THE GIVE INITIATIVE HELPS NEPAL

Dear Parents and students of CAS, RIS, DIA, RWA and Raffles Nurseries,

The GIVE Initiative was created in 2014 to pool together all the fundraising efforts of our various campuses. The aim of its creation was to help the Innoventures Education family make a concrete impact in some of the underprivileged parts of the world. Its creation also took place to help our students measure and oversee the effect of their efforts on a community over time.

When our students were surveyed they responded that “Education” and “Water Conservation” were the two areas that the GIVE Initiative needed to support the most. Two years and numerous fundraising activities later, we are now able to make the wishes of our students come true. Thanks to kind contributions of all students, parents and even the Innoventures Education board, we are now able to make a real difference.

In January of 2016, the GIVE Initiative submitted its application to be a part of the “Adopt A School” project with Dubai Cares. As a part of this noble project, Innoventures Education will be sponsoring the construction of primary schools in western Nepal starting from November 2016. The schools will aim to cater to the less fortunate communities of the region and will provide a safe, durable and comfortable learning environment for over 100 students and countless adults of the nearby villages. The great benefit of these schools is that they will be able to host lessons during monsoon season and also at night, this was not possible in the past.



A previous visit from adult Buildon volunteers in Africa

Our first cohort of student builders and teachers will visit Nepal in November to break ground and begin construction of the foundations of our first school. They will be supported by Buildon, an American philanthropic organisation that has helped to construct schools in third world regions for the last 25 years. While there, our students and teachers will live with the communities they are helping and will get a chance to see where all our funds are going. They will be our pioneers in this venture! This expedition group consists of 8 students from DIA, 2 students from RWA, 1 student from RIS and 3 teachers. Our teacher chaperones are Mr Jennings (RWA), Ms Turnbull (RIS) and Ms Wojtowicz (DIA). We hope that in future trips all schools will be represented.

The students representing Innoventures Education on this trip are:

- ◆ Adheesh Kataria: DIA
- ◆ Rahimeem Shirazee: DIA
- ◆ Ashali Kataria: DIA
- ◆ Matthew Cairns: RIS
- ◆ Ali Hilal: RWA
- ◆ Praniti Mirani: DIA
- ◆ Sara Ravenna: DIA
- ◆ Jacob Tulberg: DIA
- ◆ Leo Ahmad: DIA
- ◆ Thani Al Mehairi: RWA
- ◆ Marco Castellano: DIA



Previous student volunteers who have helped Buildon in construction projects in Africa

Plans to sponsor a third school have already been initiated and we hope to send a second cohort of students to emulate what our first cohort is doing come November 2017.

As you can see, this is a long term philanthropic project that Innoventures Education is a part of. We are essentially adopting a community and year after year improving their quality of life. Our yearly trips to the region will give our students a front seat for them to see how big a difference we are all making together. All schools and nurseries will be fundraising with this great project in mind from now on and it is our wish that we can sponsor one school every year indefinitely.



Some members of the communities already helped by Buildon in Nepal

The GIVE Walkathon will be taking place in November 2016 in all our campuses. This is one of the most important fundraising activities of the year and it is my sincere hope that schools will put 100% support behind this event.

As GIVE coordinator I wish to thank all of the Innoventures Education family for your support in the upcoming events and projects. Let us all make a difference together!

Colin Scicluna
Events and GIVE Coordinator
Innoventures Education