



In the name of God

Towheed International School

Newsletter 1

Here's What's Happening in Kindergarten!

Dear Parents,

We are very proud to inform you that the academic year 2010-2011 started with a bang for the kindergarten. The Kindergarten program is designed to help children build on their prior knowledge and experiences, form concepts, acquire foundational skills, and form positive attitudes to learning as they begin to develop their goals for lifelong learning. Learning expectations are given for six areas of learning – Personal and Social Development, Language, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Health and Physical Activity, and The Arts.

Overview of the Kindergarten Curriculum (core subjects)

The kindergarten curriculum has been developed using themes to teach subject areas. A thematic unit integrates reading, writing, mathematics and art. The core subjects are the following:-

Language Arts:

For KG 2 we are using Scott Foresman “Reading Street” comprising of 6 books. This program introduces students to alphabets and they learn to recognize the letters of the alphabet, lowercase and capital letters, the sounds of the letters (phonics), initial and final consonant sounds and rhyming patterns in words. These books use pictures to tell a story, identifying story elements of characters, identifying setting as well as a character’s problem, retelling the story from memory and reading independently at the emergent reader level. The books are designed to strengthen letter/sound knowledge, listening skills, oral language expression, rhyme, letter formation and cooperation.

For KG 1 we are using Mr. Bug’s Phonics 1 and Pockets 1 workbook. Mr. Bug’s is an excellent book which also includes the Audio CD to give the children sufficient practice to improve the phonological awareness needed at this stage. Pockets 1 workbook will help to improve the general skills and the vocabulary needed to make headway at this level.



Math:

For KG 2 mathematics we are using McGraw-Hill Math Connects. The curriculum provides students with mathematical experiences that help them develop number sense and a positive attitude towards mathematics that will continue through their school career and their lives. We employ a hands-on, problem solving approach.

KG 1 Mathematics curriculum is organized around engaging, hands-on problems. The curriculum is rich in connections of basic ideas and concepts of mathematics, between mathematics and its applications in other school subjects, and mathematics and its applications outside the classroom in real world settings. By the end of kindergarten 1, our students will acquire the initial concept of small numbers, quantities, and simple shapes in their everyday environment. They will count, compare, describe and sort objects and develop a sense of properties and patterns. The children will begin to develop mathematical understanding through experiences with a wide variety of real objects and practical situations (e.g., blocks, pegs, buttons, snap cubes).



Science:

For KG 2 we are using Scott Foresman Science Activity Book. The focus of the kindergarten science curriculum is on developing an awareness of the world in which we live. Through scientific inquiry, concepts will be presented in the life and earth sciences, including the study of animals and plants, the five senses, weather, general health and the other scientific topics. These areas will be explored utilizing a literacy based, hands-on approach.

Kindergarten 1 Science curriculum contains only the initial and basic introduction of the concepts expected at this level and it lays a solid foundation for continuing study and engages students in a challenging, interesting and meaningful study of themselves and their world. We help the children to grasp all the concepts with hands-on approach and reinforcement worksheets.

Monthly Themes:

Every month we have one monthly theme and four weekly themes. Many of our weekly themes and art projects are centered on these themes. With the help of these themes the children grasp the concepts very quickly.

Technology:

Using Technology – aided instruction is the best part of kindergarten curriculum. Each lesson which is taught to the children is either introduced or reinforced by our audio-visual classes in which a variety of videos and power-point presentations are shown to the children on the

projector to further strengthen the concepts .These sessions are a great success and the children show tremendous interest in these classes and the outcome is fantastic.

Art and Craft:

Apart from the craft work done in the class by the teacher we also have one specialized art class taken by an experienced Art teacher. During this session the children will learn to develop their fine motor skills by making different art projects.

Gym Sessions:

Health and physical activities are a vital part of school life. The kindergarten students have one gym session with a trained teacher once a week. During these sessions the trainer will make them do different exercises to develop the skills of the children.

We are sending the books home (except for the KG 2 Science Activity Book and KG1 English and Math Writing Practice Books) which will be sent later. Please have a look at the books and return them by Sunday so that the work can commence. Please plastic coat all the books sent home to avoid any damage done to them when the children are using them.

Thank you