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## WELCOME NOTE

CHARLES GRAYHURST, FOUNDING  
PRINCIPAL

Ramadan Mubarak and welcome to the inaugural edition of our school newsletter. Over the years, this will expand to cover a whole range of topics and events that will seek to inform, inspire and celebrate our community. However, as we begin our school journey, I wish to start by personally thanking you for the faith you have shown in the Arbor School, and for entrusting to us, the education of your child. This is not taken lightly. We are determined to create an outstanding school which places top priority upon an eco-ethical and positive education, one where we go the extra mile and try our very best to provide a premium education that represents excellent value. We therefore humbly ask for your support, and would like to reiterate that you are always welcome at the school. We look forward to welcoming you to an Open Day on the 30th of August, and for the first day of school on September the 2nd, of which we shall send further details over the coming month.

# WORKING WITH FOUNDING STUDENTS

## WEEKLY SERIES OF INTERACTIVE SESSIONS WITH ACADEMIC TEAM

Since moving to the Al Furjan Pavilion, our academic team has developed and launched a series of workshops that are being hosted weekly covering a variety of topics such as creative storytelling, science exploration, maps and using compasses, and many more.

### TUTORING SESSIONS

We have set some time aside to provide individual and small group phonics tutoring in our Admissions Suite at the Al Furjan Pavilion. These sessions last approximately 20 to 30 minutes each and cover some of the initial letter sounds and blends that are key building blocks for early reading and writing.

### RAMADAN READING SESSIONS

We recognise that Ramadan is a special time for many families, so we have decided not to run workshops or tutoring sessions during this period. Instead, Sunday to Wednesday, we are offering children the opportunity to bring a book and read with a member of the Arbor team for 10 minutes or so.

### PERSONALISED LEARNING AT ARBOR

Merushka Hansraj, Director of Personalised Learning at the Arbor School is working closely with parents to identify each child's personal learning journey by developing a joint understanding about their education, their aspirations, strengths and areas for development.



# BEATING PLASTIC POLLUTION

## CELEBRATING WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

World Environment Day is a global day of awareness and action for the environment that began in 1974 covering everything from global climate change to wildlife preservation, sustainable living and mindful consumption. This year's theme is *Beat Plastic Pollution* in response to our massive (and growing) plastic problem, caused by excessive consumption and production of plastics world wide. The average one time use plastic bag can take at least 1000 years to breakdown. In the UAE, more than 80 per cent of shoppers put everything into free shopping bags.

There is a global movement that is on the rise and has seen 15 countries, and some cities, banning many plastic products. Plastic never goes away and is increasingly finding its way into our oceans and beaches. Today billions of pounds of plastic can be found in swirling convergences making up about 40 percent of the world's ocean surfaces. Plastic pollution has a direct and deadly effect on wildlife. Thousands of seabirds and sea turtles, seals and other marine mammals are killed each year after ingesting plastic or getting entangled in it. Nearly 300 species that eat and get caught in plastic litter.

Learning to love the environment and take action for change, through personal and political action, is necessary to move towards a more sustainable and just life on earth.

*"What difference is one bottle going to make?"*

*Say 7 billion people*

# TRANSPORT, CATERING & UNIFORM UPDATES

We are happy to announce that all the arrangements for the provision of catering, transport and student uniforms have been finalised. Parents can learn more about the details for each of these elements by visiting us or contacting our team at the admissions suite.

**slices**

Slices is a home grown food and beverage company aimed at transforming eating habits across the UAE through providing wholesome, nutritious meals.

**STITCHES**

Established in 1995, Stitches has over 20 years' experience in manufacture and retail of school uniforms and is the premier supplier in the UAE. Working with many of the top schools, they produce high quality garments using the best fabrics in consistent sizes at sensible prices.



Provides safe and reliable transport services and management solutions to schools in the UAE with the highest levels of safety, quality and customer service.



## NEW TEAM MEMBERS

### ISIL TUMER-FLODEN

HEAD OF ADMISSIONS & PARENT RELATIONS

Mrs. Floden joins the Arbor School from her last post in the Australian College of Kuwait where she provided direct support to the members of the executive team for the oversight and management of academic and operational affairs of the college, in her capacity as Policies Development and Planning Manager.

Before her time in higher education, she spent more than 16 years in compliance, risk management, quality and strategy within the banking and education sectors in different parts of the world.

Mrs. Floden studied at Denison University in Ohio, USA where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and another in Economics. She also holds a Master of Arts in Economics and Finance from the Bosphorus University in her hometown of Istanbul, Turkey.

A member of the Omicron Delta Epsilon International Honors Society in Economics and the Pi Mu Epsilon National Mathematics Honors Society, she brings international perspective to the Arbor School.

In her role as Head of Admissions and Parent Relations at the Arbor School, she will be the liaison between parents and the academic team ensuring a smooth enrolment process for all.



### LUCILLE KORWIN

HEAD OF PERMACULTURE & ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Mrs. Korwin received her Permaculture Design Certificate from Geoff Lawton's "Greening the Desert" site in Jordan. She finds permaculture to be one of the most regenerative and restorative design practices with very practical applications to everyday life. She was also an active part of the "Food Revolution for Social Change" at Yayed University, where she managed and developed a permaculture garden and sustainable food system for the students.

Also an accomplished sculptor, she completed her Masters in Art Education in Vancouver at the University of British Columbia, where she explored the relationship between art, design and sustainability. Her role at the Arbor School is to inspire the school community to think and act differently, facilitating their engagement with environmental projects both locally and globally.

Her mission is to bring awareness to both students and educators about the urgency of exploring sustainability with the view that both nature and arts are healing, restorative, and in many ways complimentary. She will work closely with the academic team to inspire children to find a dialogue between the human-made world and the natural environment, through ecological literacy and creative project based learning.



# AN EVENING WITH FOUNDING FAMILIES

## INFORMATION EVENING AT THE AL FURJAN CLUB

We invited parents to an evening event with their children at the Al Furjan Club during which we talked about the latest highlights of the Arbor School progress and our ecological focus.



Director of Personalised Learning, Merushka Hansraj spending quality time with visitors



Founding Principal, Charles Grayhurst, Sharing the latest Arbor updates with parents



Director of Education for Sustainability, Emily Bretl, talking about eco-literacy at Arbor

