



SEP | 2019

NEWSLETTER

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TOLERANCE

BY IMAM AYAZ HOUSEE - ISLAMIC DEPARTMENT COORDINATOR

The literal meaning of Tolerance is "to bear." **Tolerance** is a basic principle of Islam. It is a religious and moral duty. It does not mean compromise. It does not mean lack of principles or lack of seriousness about one's principles. It means accepting the fact that human beings, naturally distinct in their appearance, situation, speech, behavior, and values, have the right to live in peace and to be as they are. It also means that one's views are not to be imposed on others. We have to tolerate others according to their point of view.

What Islam says about tolerance

Islam is the religion of mercy and kindness, the religion of tolerance and ease.

Allah has not burdened this ummah (community, nation) with more than it can bear.

Whatever good it does, it will be rewarded for it, and whatever evil it does, it will have to bear the burden of that sin.

One of the most important aspects of the Human Rights issue is the respect and tolerance which society must show towards the religions of other people; this, of course, includes the issue of freedom of religion.

,The Qur'an clearly says that religion cannot be forced on anyone. It says

"There is no compulsion in (accepting) the religion (of Islam)..."

(Surah Al Baqarah)

Islam through the course of its history has granted the people of other faiths the highest degree of tolerance by allowing them to follow their way, although some of their practices might have been in conflict with the religion of the majority. It was this degree of tolerance that the Muslims adopted towards their non-Muslim citizens.

Islam spread to all parts of the world in order to transcend and elevate humanity above racism, ignorance, superstition and injustice. Therefore, there was no need for forced conversion to the true religion of God. It is basically up to people to use the intellect with which God has bestowed them and make their choice.

HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH KHALIFA BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN, HAS DECLARED 2019 AS THE 'YEAR OF TOLERANCE'

His Highness said that the Year of Tolerance is an extension of the Year of Zayed, as it upholds the values of tolerance and co-existence that the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan established among the people of the UAE.

NGS WELCOMES A NEW SUPERINTENDENT & DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

JEEWAN CHANICKA - SUPERINTENDENT



Joining us from his current role in the Toronto District School Board, **Jeewan** brings a wealth of experience that spans over **20 years** as a Superintendent, Principal, Curriculum Developer, and Educator. As a Superintendent, he successfully supervised **13 school** leaders directly and supported **over 4,000 students** in the city of Toronto. **Jeewan's** career also includes work at the Ministry of Education in Ontario in the Inclusive Education Branch. Prior to that, he was a principal, instructional leader and teacher in the York Region District School Board. He also worked in Abu Dhabi to establish Raha International School both as an IB curriculum developer and educator. Additionally, **Jeewan** has been an international speaker, coach and mentor on Instruction, Assessment, Curriculum Improvement, System Leadership and Transformation. He has a **BA in Education** from the University of Toronto

and a **Masters in Education** from York University. He has consulted with the United Nations University of Peace as part of a team to develop a curriculum framework on Peace Education in the Islamic context that is implemented in various parts of the world. **Jeewan** is the **recipient of the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Award** for his work in Education and Community Service, and a **recipient of the Promising Practices Award** from the Character Education Partnership based in Washington DC, for the Helping Hands initiative.

He **received the Mary Samuels Educational Leadership Award** in 2017 and in 2019, **Jeewan** was **recognized as one of fourteen TED Ed Innovative Educators** from around the world and he recently recorded his talk for TED Ed in Edinburgh, Scotland this past summer.

Jeewan is a father of two boys and one girl. In his spare time, you can find him in his garden. He also enjoys cooking, art, photography and travelling that has produced adventures and amazing stories from those travels around the world.

We ask Allah the Most Merciful to grant him success.

"I am excited to join the NGS family. I believe that there is great potential here to transform the old paradigm of education and become global leaders in the type of education that will lead us to finding solutions of some of the biggest challenges the world is facing. I look forward to working together with the students, families and staff to create and mould dynamic, compassionate, global citizens who will go on to make positive differences in the world."

DAVID KINKEAD - DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT



David brings a wealth of experience in teaching and learning, school operations, curriculum and strategic school leadership. **David** has spent the last **four years at GEMS World Academy**, one of the leading IB schools in Dubai. He has been an **integral part of the Senior Leadership Team** who have moved the school to the cusp of an outstanding rating with KHDA. Prior to this role, **David** has served as both a **Head of Senior School** and as **Head of English Faculty**. Prior to moving into an administrative role, he served as an English, History and Theory of Knowledge teacher. For the past **15 years**, **David** has been based in the Middle East, first in Saudi Arabia and then in Dubai.

Alhamdulillah, David's background and experience demonstrate that **he embodies NGS's mission and values**. The NGS Governing Board and the learning community are confident **David** will continue to work on the implementation and further development of NGS's Strategic Plan, which will consolidate the school's promise to meld 21st Century learning with Islamic values.

David currently resides in Dubai with his wife Rania, who is also an educator and Head of Senior School at a leading IB school, and their daughter Sara.

We ask Allah the Most Merciful to grant him success.

"I have been impressed by NGS's strong core values, innovative learning and overall community spirit. Professionally and as a Muslim, I am excited to be joining NGS, a school that resonates so closely with my own personal beliefs and educational philosophy. I am very excited for the further implementation of the strategic plan and its transformational effect on student teaming."

TEACHERS WELCOME STUDENTS ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Welcome back to the Next Generation Family. We are thrilled that you have chosen to continue with us as we form an important part of your child's development. At NGS we value "Excellence in academics, excellence in character, and excellence in faith". We want to see this in all areas of our community and understand that the relationship between staff, parents and students is vitally important. It has been wonderful to welcome all of our community back to NGS this week. The warmth and joy of returning students and parents has been palpable. We particularly welcome all of our new parents and students. - David Kinkead



PARENTS JOIN US FOR MORNING MEETS

We were happy to welcome all of our parents this month for our Morning Meets that **Mr. David Kinkead** and **Mr. Jeewan Chanicka** led. All questions and concerns were addressed by both of them and the initial school action plan was shared.

MashaAllah, It was great to see a large number of attendees and we look forward to more parents attending our Morning Meets regularly, inshaAllah.



GRADE 1 EXPLORE DIFFERENT SCIENCE TOOLS AND INQUIRE ABOUT DIFFERENT SCIENCE ASPECTS

MashaAllah, on Thursday, September 4th, Grade 1 team had a science intro for students to explore different science tools and inquire about different science aspects. The students were able to identify and explore scientific tools necessary for scientists, and compared between toys and tools. They also learned about lab safety and the role of the scientist and the scientific method that he follows in a simple way. They had a lot of fun trying out simple experiments!





KIDPRENEURS ARE BACK IN BUSINESS!

We are very happy to announce the return of our successful Kidpreneurs program this year. This program helps to teach real-life skills to our students in terms of fiscal responsibility and entrepreneurship alongside problem-solving. Please visit our website for more information and stay tuned for the opening event in October inshaAllah. If you have any questions, our Life Skills department will be more than happy to help. We cannot wait to see our first NGS Market Day this year and first-hand witness the creativity and ingenuity of our students!

PARENTS ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION IS OPEN



We are now beginning the process of recruiting for the Parents' Association at NGS and are opening it up to parents who would like to be a part of the NGS learning community. The attached document shares information from our current Parents' Association members. Please take some time to read through it and if you wish to participate, complete the application form on our website ngsdubai.ae under Your School > Announcement. Should you be successful, an interview will be arranged for the required positions. **We look forward to hearing from you!**

GRADE 1 HEALTHY FOOD WORKSHOP WITH THE TITLE "YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT"

Alhamdulillah, we had the pleasure to welcome Dr. Hend Elhallag a Doctor of Medicine and Surgery who is a certified professional in health care quality to give a talk to our grade 1 students with the title: "You are what you eat." Main goals of the session were explaining the food pyramids and concentrating on fruits and vegetables, explaining how healthy foods can become unhealthy if we add sugar or mostly fry the food- with emphasis on how bad sugar is for us and finally teaching them how to read food labels and understanding that if an ingredient is difficult to pronounce then it's probably not good for you and that the first 5 ingredients are the majority of the food components.



KG STUDENTS SUCCESSFULLY SETTLE IN CLASSROOMS

During September this month KG 1 & 2 have gone through the settling process, KG 1 faced separation from the parents and learned about the rules and routines of the classroom.

This month, KG 1 were also introduced to the topic on "All About Me", where they were learning different parts of their body and how they are special and unique from their friends. In KG 2, the topic has been "Me and My Family" and students have created family trees and other exciting activities. It has been a bright start to the year for KG 2's. This month has been all about self-discovery and what makes us unique. They have shared stories about their families and talked about why their family is special and important to them.



NGS NEW SUPERINTENDENT MEETS WITH ALL STAFF TO DISCUSS «WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO»

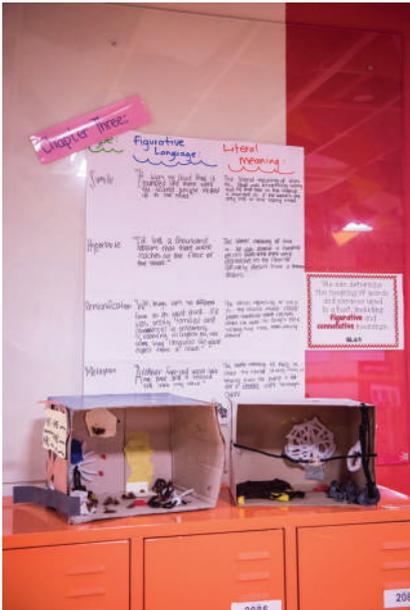
Mr. Jeewan Chanicka our new superintendent has met with all staff this month to share the new strategy and work plans for the next 3 years as well as discuss the vision and mission of NGS in depth. Philosophy of Teaching was discussed and teachers reflected on "why do I do what I do each day"? The meeting also included some discussions and new solutions for operational items and issues raised by parents were discussed. All staff are working very hard everyday to meet expectations and promises we set for our valued families, inshaAllah.



GRADE 6 IS BRINGING NOVELS TO LIFE BY ACTING SCENES & BUILDING 3D ART PIECES

Grade 6A is reading a novel called '**Bud, not Buddy**'. It is rich in figurative language and very descriptive word choice. To bring this to life, they decided to recreate the thrilling scene of Chapter 3 where Bud has been locked in a shed. The author uses figurative language and interesting word choice to create a suspenseful tone and students have to read and interpret the author's word choices very carefully to make a 3D version of the shed. Each object's shape, color and placement is from their reading and interpretation. **This activity really helped bring the text to life.**

Grade 6B is also reading Bud, not Buddy. In this class they decided to act out Chapter 6. In this chapter, Bud misses his chance to eat food from the charity kitchen because he is late. A kind family take pity on him and pretend he is their son so he can join the queue to eat. It's a fun and heartwarming chapter to act out. Students had a great time learning lines, practicing and performing for their peers.



GRADE 4 STUDENTS EXPERIENCE TOLERANCE BY E-MEETING STUDENTS FROM TAIWAN AND LEARNING ABOUT THEIR CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

MashaAllah, **Grade 4 girls** talked to students of English class in Taiwan. It was an introductory session where students introduced each other and their country. They asked each other about their school, the food they eat, the subjects they study, the activities they do during their past time, the famous places in their city.

It was an overall 35 minute session where they learnt about each other and the **differences and similarities**. It was also an integration of social studies and English lessons. We are planning to move forward with some other activities and some other classes from other parts of the world where students can share their work and learn from each other.



NGS ARABIC DEPARTMENT IS LAUNCHING A NEW READING COMPETITION FOR ALL STUDENTS G1-7



Because reading is the first key to knowledge, we at **Next Generation School** have developed a comprehensive plan for reading and will continue to give it high priority within our system, to produce a generation of readers that love their language and are proud of it. We have developed a comprehensive reading plan, both inside and outside the classroom, with an ongoing assessment of each individual student.

We are pleased to launch a reading campaign at the school this year entitled **“Upgrade with Reading”** with the following details:

Target group:

The first stage: from G 1 to G 3

The second stage: from G 4 to G 7

Reading time: 15-9-2019 to 15-1-2020

Mechanism: The student reads the books and summarizes them in special pamphlets.

Prerequisites: From the first to the third grade they are asked to read 15 books. From the fourth to the seventh, 20 books. The students are allowed to read E-Books while Textbooks from their curriculum don't count.

NGS STUDENTS CELEBRATE HAZZAA AL MANSOORI THE FIRST EMIRATI ASTRONAUT

It was a date of achieving the dream of every Emirati!

NGS students were so excited to celebrate the first Emirati astronaut to go into international space,

Hazzaa Al Mansoori

They created amazing art pieces and hung them around the school as a memory of this proud moment.





NGS GIRLS X DUBAI WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

MashaAllah, we're proud of our girls who did the opening ceremony for an event by Fikr Social Club at Dubai Women's Association on the 25th of September.

NGS HOSTS ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

On Monday September 30th we hosted our annual 'Back to School Night' where parents and students had the chance to come and tour departments as well as listen to presentations from teachers and subject specialists. Each teacher presented to their parents in their classroom and answered all the questions that parents had. Our Superintendent **Mr. Jeewan Chanicka** also welcomed all parents with a small presentation.





UPCOMING EVENTS

Welcome October

3rd of Oct

World Dyslexia Day

6th - 10th of Oct

Book Fair

15th of Oct

Irlen Syndrome Day

17th of Oct

- Arabic Poetry Contest (Grade 1-7)
- Breast Cancer Awareness Day

20th - 24th of Oct

Mid-term break
(No School for kids)

27th of Oct

School Resumes

30st of Oct

Morning Meet

31st of Oct

- Crazy Hat Day
- Young Imaam Competition