



Dear Wellspring Families and Friends,

Wellspring welcomes all new and returning families to our unique community of learners. As the school year is fast approaching, I would like to share some of our accomplishments along with Wellspring's strategic goals for 2018-2019. With the addition of several new leaders and teachers, Wellspring's faculty and staff are eager to begin the school year with enthusiasm and passion. As the school continues to grow and develop, our new initiatives and department goals for continued improvement and academic rigor coincide with the need to be competitive with standardized testing and global expectations.

Wellspring congratulates both the Class of 2018 and the 2018 Brevet class for their hard work and success. Our student success stories are really the stories of our learning community. Wellspring will remain an environment that empowers students to work hard, raise their own expectations and aim for success. The word "community" means that everyone including parents, teachers and students commit to their share of the learning responsibility.

Class of 2018

Although the class of only 9 students was the school's smallest in its 12-year history, it certainly made Wellspring proud of their efforts and IB accomplishments. Out of the 7 students who registered as Full Diploma students, 5 were awarded, 1 student will sit for a retake and 1 student chose to enter university at the Freshman level. Wellspring students continue to have 100% matriculation into the universities of their choice.

Brevet Results for 2018

Sincere congratulations go out to our 10 Grade 9 Brevet students for the 6th year of 100% pass rate. Special recognition was earned with 5 "Bien" and 2 "Tres Bien" marks and performance.

Personal Project Results-Grade 10 MYP

IB Official Personal project results were released on August 1st. Wellspring is very proud to announce that all of our students passed their Personal Projects. Average Wellspring grade is 4.77 which is significantly higher than the Average grade world-wide of 3.76 out of 7.

- 100% of our students completed the IB requirements for Personal Project.
- 71.4 % of our students got 5 and above
- 5.7% of our students got 6 out of 7
- 10 out of 35 achieved 4 out of 7 (28.5%)
- 23 out of 35 achieved 5 out of 7(65.7%)
- 2 out of 35 achieved 6 out of 7 (5.7%)

International DELF Testing at the French Cultural Centre

Congratulations to our students who sat for the DELF Junior exam this past May. Wellspring is proud of the 99% pass rate. We believe this international recognition of French proficiency helps our students to build their accomplishments on the path to French proficiency. Based on the same international standards used in 164 countries (CEFR), each certificate of accomplishment is an official document recognized worldwide that is an addition to each student's school language portfolio.

Congratulations to Tarek Solemay Grade 10

Wellspring congratulates Tarek for being chosen from Lebanon to complete his 2 year DP studies at the United World College in Costa Rica. Tarek joined Wellspring 3 years ago and we wish him the best of luck in his new learning adventure. Wellspring is honored to have Tarek as our 3rd student who applied and was selected to be a part of this amazing worldwide UWC scholarship/academic program. As your child reaches middle school you may be interested to apply for this wonderful opportunity. Please check www.uwccostarica.org for a look into this global organization.

Exciting Authorization News for Monitoring and Evaluation

Wellspring is now qualified to administer the PSAT/NMSQT during the next school year as a result of our recent CIS Accreditation status. For all students, regardless of their nationality, PSAT is essential for them to begin their SAT preparation for university. PSAT provides practice in a strict testing environment in order to become more familiar with standardized testing. Their results can be used to start more targeted SAT practice preparation for when they take their official exams in the spring of grade 11.

- The PSAT/NMSQT or the Preliminary SAT is co-sponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). It is a standardized test targeting grades 10 and 11 students. Essentially, it's an SAT practice test, which mirrors the SAT in regards to content, structure and scoring. Taking this exam is a critical piece in supporting students SAT preparation for university. PSAT testing will begin in October for Grades 10 and 11.
- By taking this exam, Grade 11 students with US Citizenship are also eligible to qualify for the very prestigious National Merit Scholarship.
- For more information about the National Merit Scholarship, see the link below: <https://www.nationalmerit.org/s/1758/interior.aspx?sid=1758&gid=2&pgid=398>

Governing Board

Wellspring is now guided by a governing board and a set of school wide "Key Results Indicators" (KRIs) that will guide the board's continued vision and strategic direction of the school. Along with KRIs there will be a set of clearly defined policies to ensure that the school's performance and our students' achievements match the vision, values and expectations.

Understanding and establishing "good" governance is an ongoing process where school policies are born and implemented. Each policy has been well thought out,

thoroughly discussed and reviewed in specific committees before final approval and the introduction to the greater school community. Along with each board policy, the school creates procedures to support the transparent implementation.

Governing Board Training

Since the governing board is a relatively new entity for Wellspring's leadership, Mr. Richard Detwiler, who is a well-known authority and instructional leader for the development of governing boards, led a two-day workshop on June 9 and 10th for Wellspring's governing board membership, advisory members and the head of school.

It was an educational and enriching learning opportunity. During the sessions with Mr. Detwiler, board members worked on several school goals that are strategic in nature yet were implemented immediately for the continued vision and mission of the school. A third session was given to senior leaders, programme coordinators and subject leaders outlining everyone's responsibility to the Wellspring Board.

The Wellspring Parent Advisory Committee Report

WPAC shared their end of year report which high-lighted many positive school accomplishments along with opportunities and areas of growth for the coming 2018-2019 academic year. As Wellspring continues to build upon student success and academic achievement, the school is adding new senior leaders who along with our existing team of dedicated Wellspring members, will help facilitate the new strategic goals for the coming year.

Wellspring School Wide Goals for 2018-2019

- **Academic Improvement from Nursery through Grade 10**
Document and review horizontal and vertical alignment in each subject and each grade level, academic deliverables and learning expectations in Math, English, French, Spanish, Music and ICT.
- Test with WIDA and establish individual language profiles for each student in PYP and MYP for tracking improvement and areas needed for increased development.
- **Focus on reading and writing in English and Arabic-Nursery->Grades 6**
Exciting News-Lucy Calkins Writing Program 2018-2019
Professional Training Workshop September 3, 4, 5, 6 Mathaf campus.

This year Wellspring will focus on improving students' writing skills by the implementation of **Lucy Calkins** writing and coaching program developed at Teacher's College (Columbia University NY). This method of instruction is based upon four principles: students will write about their own lives, they will use a consistent [writing process](#), where students will work in authentic ways, and they will develop independence as writers.
<https://readingandwritingproject.org/about>

- Overall updating of the Arabic language curriculum content
Wellspring's Arabic subject leaders and IB programme coordinators with the support from local experts are using Lebanon's "Committee of Educational Research and Development (CERD)" guidelines and learning outcomes to update the school's Arabic language deliverables, required language skills, the expectations of Wellspring's Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) program ensuring student success in official exams. The goal of updating our MSA program extends horizontally and vertically from elementary until Brevet.
- Embed more experiential learning, relevant field trips, inquire where and when the experience will enhance learning. Institute pre/post student discussions relating to each field trip experience by using an established protocol. On school starts in September, Wellspring will be requesting from each family to sign a "**General Field Trip Permission**" slip that will cover all field trips and walking excursions during the school year. Parents will be informed about upcoming trips but no longer asked to sign. Biweekly Wellspring electronic newsletters will continue this year.
- Improve SAT scores
Our plan is to start with PSAT in Grades 10 and 11 this year and then roll it out to Grade 8 and 9 in 2019-2020 so it becomes a regular test every year from Grade 8 onwards. The school will track scores and target action on the areas needing improvement. PSAT is a good indicator of possible SAT scores.
- Review and update the school behavior policy
Positive Behavior Intervention Program (PBIS) embedded into the 2018-2019 school wide Student Handbook and implemented into the daily classroom routine-PBIS school committee set up to implement.

Homework Policy is currently being reviewed school wide for expectations, content and student/parent follow up.

Promotion Policy is under review by the board and will be formally introduced by the end of September 2018.

Assessment Policy will have an additional policy joined to support student success and achievement. "Monitoring and Evaluation" where the expectations, numbers and types of assessments will be outlined for each programme.

Two New Policies introduced by Wellspring's Governing Board for 2018-2019

- **Parent Concerns and Communication Policy**
The creation and rationale behind the "Parent Concerns and Communication" policy (formally introduced to all stakeholders by the end of September), is the belief that improvement comes from the systematic collection, review and use of real data. Wellspring will institute a new "call in phone" menu to better track and monitor all requests, concerns and inquires.

Once the system is in place, Wellspring will announce the change. We value everyone's support in implementing this new policy.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation Policy**

The constant monitoring of student achievement is a cornerstone to everyone's success at Wellspring. Because our students must compete in a global environment where standardized testing is an expectation rather than an option for academic success, Wellspring students will be monitored even more closely as this new policy becomes part of building on individual strengths and areas for individual student improvement. With this new policy, a systematic calendar across all grade levels in PYP, MYP and Brevet schedules where more opportunities and school expectations of reporting and the documentation of informal and formal assessments will be implemented.

School News

Exciting new play spaces for elementary students

An additional 257 sq. meters on the Mathaf roof top play space is currently under construction. The school has finally received permission to add reinforced steel posts and fencing to the roof of the Mathaf campus building. Once completed, the areas will be very safe and shaded for student enjoyment. The project is scheduled to be finished by the end of September.

Time changes for student arrival and dismissal for 2018-2019

- Mathaf accepts students beginning at 7:15 am
- City Centre Campus accepts students beginning at 7am
- Nursery-Grade 12 students are considered late at 7:41 am
- All Nursery-Grade 12 students begin learning and classroom work at 7:30 am

School Rationale for Time Changes

A Wellspring decision has been made for the 2018-2019 school year to dismiss all students a bit earlier (except on Wednesdays) at each campus.

The reasons behind the decision:

- shorter bus riding time in the afternoons-due to a little less traffic to navigate the streets
- a little less traffic for parent/driver picks to navigate
- more free time for after school activities/homework/play and family
- more efficient planning of school daily timetables-quantity/quality of education and break times are not jeopardized in the plan
- current early morning bus arrivals for students not being productive-just waiting
- parent requests
- shorter afternoons for teachers to end the school day

Wellspring believes that the slightly modified dismissal schedule will bring a little more balance into the lives of your children.

Significant Change for KG2 Students

- KG2-school day extended to 2:30pm (except Wed. early dismissal)-more time for inquiry, activities, learning
- KG1/ Nursery end every day at 12:55pm for bus riders (except Wed early dismissal)
- KG1/Nursery parent pick up/driver pick up begin at 1:15 pm (except Wed early dismissal)
- Nursery to Grade 4 will be dismissed together at 1:30pm during Early Wednesday dismissal.

New Leaders joining Wellspring

Julia Kozak-Assistant Principal Mathaf Campus

was born and raised in Canada. She completed her BA (Russian Language and Literature Studies) and teaching certificate at McGill University. Miss Kozak is a Specialist in Special Education. She has eleven years of experience as a Pre/Elementary school principal in Canada. Miss Kozak moved to Lebanon sixteen years ago and took on the position of Elementary School Director at International College (IC), Ras Beirut. While in Lebanon, she earned her Master's in International Teaching from Framingham State University. Miss Kozak openly expresses her excitement and motivation about the upcoming opportunity to join the Wellspring team and family as the Assistant Principal.

Mirna Raslan-Principal City Centre Campus

whom most of you know as assistant principal, has been appointed as the new CCC principal. Mirna has over 20 years of teaching and school leadership with 9 of the years being in IB schools. Familiar with the British system and the American high school system, she holds a B.Sc. in Chemistry, M.Ed. in Curriculum planning and instruction, and is currently working on an M.Ed. in School management and policy writing. Mirna is an IB Workshop leader, school visit team member and IB reader and a CIS school visitor.

Aline Bazerly Keyrouz-Learning Diversity Coordinator

mother of a boy, and a competent psychologist with proficiency in working within a multicultural environment in different settings. She has more than 15 years of experience in a variety of specialties, such as counseling, and special education in Lebanon and Bahrain. Aline strongly believes that each child has the right to flourish emotionally, physically and cognitively in his/her proper environment. With her work with students, she always strives to collaboratively ensure their well-being, and therefore their success. Finally, she is thrilled to join Wellspring Learning Community and be part of this amazing learning journey.

Shereen Beydoun-Instructional Teaching Coach at Mathaf/CCC

will be joining our staff this year as an Instructional Coach. She has rich training and expertise working in leading American independent schools for over thirty years as a classroom teacher and senior administrator. Some of you will recall seeing Shereen on our campus in June, observing our classes and engaging in conversations. She is looking forward to returning to our campus and supporting the Wellspring faculty and staff in their classrooms and in their teams as a partner and mentor.

Brett Warfield-Assistant Principal City Centre Campus

comes from the US and is a graduate from Missouri State University. With several years of teaching and leadership positions overseas, Wellspring is excited to have him join the City Centre Campus. Brett teaches MYP Individuals and Societies along with having held other positions of assistant principal, NGO director, subject coordinator and head teacher. Brett will take on the roles of MYP teacher and assistant principal while at Wellspring. Brett will take a leading role at CCC in the PBIS implementation of Wellspring's discipline policy.

Nahed Jaber-Middle School Arabic Subject Leader/Arabic Teacher

who is joining Wellspring as Arabic Subject Leader has a BA in Arabic and Social Studies along with a Master's degree in Education (with an emphasis on thematic approach and Arabic) and is currently working on her PhD in Education and curriculum development. Ms. Jaber has over 14 years of extensive local school experience teaching Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) and Arabic as a foreign language (AFL).

George Mandaly-MYP/PHE Subject Facilitator/Teacher

is joining Wellspring with a Bachelor's degree in Education from AUB and over 14 years of educational and teaching experience as an athletics coach, basketball trainer, teacher, and PYP coordinator with his most recent position at the Qatar Foundation-Qatar Academy Sidra. George has been a Physical Education and Activities instructor in Bahrain and local schools in Lebanon. On top of his vast experience in education, George is a professional basketball player who was voted "Best Player" Award in 2002-Final Four tournament of the Lebanese Basketball Championship, 2nd Division.

Nemr Abboud-Assistant Administrative Manager Mathaf/CCC

joined the Wellspring Administrative staff this past summer in the capacity of Assistant Administrative Manager. Nemr is an architect by training with years of professional experience in the field of architecture both in Lebanon and the region, as well as experience in teaching computer classes and being a Senior Administrator on local educational projects in Lebanon.

Jennifer De Knight-CAS/Service Learning and Student Life Coordinator

is joining Wellspring as the CAS/Service Learning/Student Life Coordinator. She has a background in international education and has worked as a study abroad advisor and project manager in Lebanon, the US and Greece. Jennifer is currently conducting research on a civic engagement program in higher education in Lebanon for her MA in Education Administration and Policy Studies at AUB. She is a graduate of the IB Diploma Program and has a BA in History. Jennifer is excited to bring her experience and passion to her work with Wellspring students.

Jenna Assaf- Marketing/Public Relations Officer

comes from an interesting background of business and education. Jenna graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Business and Administration from AUB. She has also taught English and has a CELTA Certificate to teach. Joining Wellspring as our Marketing and Public Relations Officer, she has a wonderful vision of experience to enhance Wellspring's communications, website and social media.

Nisreen Al Aridi-MYP/Secondary Humanities in Arabic Facilitator

Wellspring is proud to announce a new title and additional responsibilities added to our colleague's position. Congratulations Nisreen!

Joanna Barrak-Assistant Academic Advisor

has stepped down as an MYP biology teacher to support student achievement and success. Joanna will be monitoring and continually evaluating student performance per subject across all MYP grade levels. Congratulations Joanna!

Lastly, I would like to recognize school colleagues who have dedicated a minimum of 5 or more years of service to Wellspring during their employment and have chosen new challenges in their professional careers. Their contributions and innovations have become part of the school's fabric and culture. Collectively, Tharwat Abdul Sater, Lara Molaeb, Xiao Wakim, Farah Fawaz, Dr. Ghassan Nemr and Steve Marpole have over 46 years of service. Wellspring wishes our colleagues the best of luck in their new endeavors. Dr Lina Kouzi has stepped down from her Arabic subject leader's responsibility but she will continue her teaching relationship with Wellspring as DP Arabic Language teacher.

In closing, I wish everyone a healthy and prosperous new 2018-2019 school year.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Battah
Head of Wellspring Learning Community

Please find the following links to important information that has been sent out via school Info. If you have not received these previous emails, please inform the front desk about your new email address. It is vital that your ability to receive school messages is current and functioning!

2018-2019 September dates, meetings and school days

<http://www.wellspring.edu.lb/Portals/0/Calendar%202018.pdf?ver=2018-08-16-224814-957>

2018-2019 School Vacation Calendar

<http://www.wellspring.edu.lb/Portals/0/final%20cal%2018-19.pdf?ver=2018-08-16-230448-073>