



Dear Wellspring Families and Friends,

First of all, Wellspring wishes all families and school colleagues a peaceful and enjoyable Eid. As Wellspring enters its last month of school, students continue to be very engaged with experiential learning, university applications, individual studies and reinforcement plans all aiming to wrap up their exam preparation for Grade 9 Brevet, Grade 11 DP exams, Lebanese BACC, and MYP end of year exams. June is without a doubt, the most exciting school month, yet stressful at the same time! Wellspring is proud of our students and wishes them the best of luck.

For families and students who are planning to travel outside of Lebanon during the month of June, please note that the **last day of school for Mathaf students is June 18th and the last day for MYP and Grade 11 final exams is June 18th.**

Wellspring encourages everyone to continue to visit the school's Facebook/Instagram pages to enjoy the daily pictures and commentary of activities, field trips, experiential learning and bits of important school information. Each experience has an educational purpose with interesting components that capture the student's interest while making real life connections.

### **Class of 2019 University Acceptances**

Wellspring congratulates this year's Class of 2019 students who have received university acceptances from AUB, LAU, Syracuse, McGill, University of Toronto, Concordia University, University of Plymouth, Goldsmiths, Coventry, University of Richmond, and Jacobs. Our students are entering fields of architecture, engineering, economics and medicine. One of our students earned an early admissions acceptance into the Medical Laboratory Sciences program at The American University of Beirut (AUB) as a Sophomore and another classmate has been nominated for the prestigious Lester B. Pearson International Scholarship at the University of Toronto. Congratulations to all!

Our famous mountain climbing student is planning to complete her **7th Summit Climb** by climbing **Mount Everest in 2019-2020** rather than enter university in September. Wellspring wishes her a safe and successful climb during her "Gap Year".

### **2019 Graduation Ceremony**

The Class of 2019 will hold its annual graduation ceremony on Saturday, June 8th at AUB's Assembly Hall. All Wellspring families are cordially invited. The doors open at 5:50 PM and the ceremony begins at 6:15 PM.

### **Class of 2019 - Senior Walk**

As the excitement grows, our 21 graduating students met at CCC on May 30th for their final visit to CCC and Senior Walk at Mathaf. This is a Wellspring tradition where our graduating students received lots of congratulations and best wishes from teachers, staff and students at both campuses.



### **SAT Results Congratulations**

Wellspring's recent May SAT scores for Grade 11 students, earned some impressive math scores: one perfect score of 800, a 740, a 700 and several students scored in the 600 range. Evidence Based Reading and Writing scores also had some great numbers: 770, 710 and several in the 600 range. Another 11<sup>th</sup> Grader scored 1510 on her SAT taken in March. Grade 11 students still have two chances in October 2019 and December 2019 to improve their scores. Several students who attended the WLC Spring Break extra sessions improved their math scores by 20 up to 120 points! The more students practice SAT strategies, improvement happens.

### **Mock Exams for Grades 12**

Grade 12 Lebanese BACC Life Sciences had the second round of "mock" exams on April 8th-12th and then again on May 6th-10th. Grade 12 IB DP students had their "mock" exams on April 1st-10th with the completion of official DP exams on May 3rd-24th.

The Final Exam schedule for Grade 11 DP/LB and MYP students is posted on Managebac along with study material for each grade level. Please find attached to this email, the exam schedule for your reading convenience.

### **International French and Spanish Language Proficiency Exams for Grades 7, 8, 9 and 10**

It's that time of year when our foreign language students go to The French Language Institute and The Cervantes Institute to sit for standardized tests. Language fluency and competency are important skills needed for our global society and a great addition to your child's education and student portfolio.

## **Keeping You Informed**

### **Transitioning from PYP to MYP**

Grade 5 parents met with the MYP Coordinator Ms. Tala on May 29th for their first inquiry into the transition and expectations of the MYP. The afternoon was hosted by Ms. Mirna CCC Principal and Mr. Brett Assistant Principal. For those who were unable to attend, all PowerPoint presentations are available on the school's website under **WPAC** using **Parent** and **Parent\_123** as the password.

### **IB DP News for Class of 2021 (current Grade 10 students)**

For those students who are going into Grade 11 this coming September, Wellspring's IB DP Coordinator Ms. Kathleen presented on May 15th, helpful information regarding the academic requirements facing Lebanese students who may be interested in switching. It was a great chance to learn more about official government requirements needed to join the DP.

- Grade 9 Brevet official exams will continue to remain a prerequisite for Lebanese students whether they continue with the Lebanese BACC program or enter the DP.
- Lebanese students are required to take Arabic A Language and Literature, plus additional classes for civics and history if joining the DP.



### **Socio/ Economics Track added to Wellspring's Lebanese Baccalaureate Program**

- Grade 11 Lebanese students who wish to continue in the Lebanese BACC program may now choose between Life Sciences or Socio/Economics for 2019-2020.

### **University Applications for Grade 11**

Applying for university acceptance is a complicated procedure where our students and families continue to receive professional help and guidance from our Academic Guidance Counselor Angela. With years of supporting students, Angela gave another information packed presentation last Wednesday. For parents and students who missed her May 15th meeting, Angela is sharing her PowerPoint presentation through the school's website under the homepage login section of **WPAC** using **Parent, Parent\_123**.

### **Helping Others in Need**

The Grade 11 Service Kitchen with SAWA cooking up some love! On Friday, May 25th a Wellspring bus took 12 of our students and two SAWA members to Bar Elias in the Bekaa Valley where our students prepared and cooked delicious meals to be served at Iftar for refugees in the area.

### **Grade 8 Students**

A Grade 8 service project wraps up with fun and friendship. The City Centre Campus and Grade 8 students hosted the culminating evening activity that started earlier this year with the unit of "Deconstructing Identity" podcasts and interviews about elderly Palestinian refugees living in the local Burj-Al-Barajneh camp. Grade 8 invited the same group of enthusiastic elders to our "Iftar" where more memories were shared. It was a touching experience for everyone.

### **Week Without Walls - City Centre Campus**

From all accounts including student feedback and a week's long photo journal on Facebook, Wellspring's 1st **Week Without Walls** surpassed everyone's expectations. A week's worth of experiential learning that provided students with "outside of the classroom" opportunities to "become confident, resourceful, creative, caring, responsible and thinking citizens prepared to contribute in meaningful ways toward improving society, both locally and internationally". The week was not a week of vacation, but rather a chance to learn about different cultures, study a country's past, practice a foreign language, support the needs of others, support the environment, focus on technology or earn a week of valuable work experience from a local business or profession through an individual internship.

- Turning Disability into Ability (local)
- Sustainable Natural Environment (local)
- Natural and Cultural History of Lebanon (local)
- Robotics in Today's World (local)
- Investigative Advocacy (local)
- Short Film Making (local)
- Surf and Serve (local) - learning to surf (local)
- Technology in Today's World (local)



- Language Practice Trip to France
- Culture and Heritage Trips to Turkey, Jordan
- Nepal Service Trip

## Just read some of the students' reflections!

**Sustainability** - "It made me realize what actually is happening and most of us are blinded and can't notice it"

"I learned how to hike and I improved my knowledge on composting"

**Surf & Serve** - "It made me more confident to do things I am afraid of"

**Investigative Advocacy** - "Visiting MCC caused me to gain insight on reality and the actual harsh conditions of domestic workers in Lebanon. This made me aware that urgent action should be taken in order to help those workers."

**Internship** - "I have learnt to be more patient and responsible while dealing with delicate situations that have to do with customers, I have also become more confident with meeting and communicating with people I don't know."

"I learned what kind of environment I want to work in."

**Turning Disability into Ability** - "I think we're much less of spoiled brats since it taught us how to be grateful." "I learned how to communicate with people like them, now I feel more confident socially, and I'm much more open minded."

**Natural & Cultural History** - "I became more active and learned about many stories that could help in my humanity classes."

**Robotics** - "I will start to do 3D modeling by myself at my home because it was fun"

**Technology** - "Today was perfect, everything was really interesting"

**Short Film** - Teachers were impressed with how our older students - Rami, Karim H., Fadwa, and Thompson really stepped into their roles both as crew and actors to make a great film. They were shining in this context!

"An amazing experience I advise you to try it out next year if it will be one of the choices"

## IB Summative Events

### Grade 10 Personal Projects

During our 6th Annual Personal Project Exhibition, Grade 10 students displayed their work which extended over a 7 month period. Students followed the inquiry cycle of investigating, planning, taking action and reflecting in order to develop and justify a challenging goal that focused on global context. Wellspring is very proud of the 36 projects that were presented this year. For the past 3 years, our students have had 100% completion rate in addition with IB scores being significantly higher than the IB World Averages (as published in IB MYP official statistical bulletin). Congratulations to our 10<sup>th</sup> Graders.



### **Grade 5 PYP Exhibition**

The month of April showcased the annual PYP Exhibition. Our 5th graders participated in the culmination of their PYP experiences through a student-led celebration of learning. Students were excited to present their learning journeys through “on stage” dances, news reports, commercials, poems, plays and shadow puppet shows. Parents wrapped up the event by visiting different exhibition displays to learn more about each individual or group inquiry. This was an authentic example of student agency, reflecting voice, choice and ownership of learning and action.

### **PYP Student-Led Conferences Nursery - Grades 4**

Student-led conferences for students in Nursery to Grade 4 were held on Saturday, April 13th. Each year our students learn to become more critical in their approach to learning while they take pride in sharing their success stories and learning challenges with their parents. This form of conferencing helps create a unique partnership between home and school while celebrating each child’s learning.

## **Parent Contributions**

### **Career Guidance**

Wellspring’s City Centre Campus was honored to have 18 of our moms and dads on March 29th share their professions during Wellspring’s annual Career Day. Students enjoyed listening to career advice while being exposed to many different job opportunities.

### **Grade 5 Parent Mentors**

A special thank you to 5 Wellspring moms and our guest speakers who generously volunteered to mentor our students during their PYPX journey. It is always an amazing experience to support our young learners in their journeys of investigation.

### **Grade 5 Picnic hosted by Wellspring’s Parent Advisory Committee (WPAC)**

Just before the start of Spring Break, Grade 5 students were treated to an amazing picnic of delicious homemade food, lively music, dancing and lots of fun! Thank you to our Wellspring moms and WPAC for another successful event.

### **Mathaf Spring Book Fair**

The school’s librarian hosted Mathaf’s annual Spring Book Fair where local book wholesalers offered a wide range of reading material and educational games to promote the love of reading. Students, teachers and parents supported the event while fundraising for additional books to be added to the Mathaf library. A big thank you to all who continue to support this annual event.



### **The Wizard of Oz - 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual CCC Musical**

This year's annual musical "The Wizard of Oz" took place on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at the newly renovated "Theatre du Boulevard" at Chiyah Forum near CCC. Each night our students sang, danced and acted their hearts out to a packed audience of enthusiastic parents, teachers and friends. Several of our senior students earned CAS credit during the production by either working backstage with the set, backdrops and costume changes or in the director's box controlling the lighting and sound. It is always an event that exposes the hidden acting and singing talents of students who seem to flourish when given the chance to be in the spotlight! The IB programme values not only academics but the visual and performing arts.

### **Literacy Week at Mathaf - April**

To celebrate "The Book Inside of Me" (Literacy Week), Wellspring students and teachers wore pajamas, dressed up as their favorite characters, joined buddy reading events and participated in DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) sessions. Pippi Longstocking, Harry Potter, Spiderman, Amelia Earhart, Mary Poppins and Mrs. Gorf were just a few of the book characters who came to life at the Mathaf campus.

### **Mathaf's Students' News Channel**

Our PYP students are very excited about their newest endeavor into the world of social media and broadcasting. Under the watchful eye of Mathaf's librarian, students are investigating school events, writing their own scripts, reporting and broadcasting on social media. Click on the link below to catch past broadcasts. The news broadcasts started when several Grade 4 girls planned to create a newspaper as a summative for the unit **Sharing the planet**. The great idea of social media popped up and the idea developed quickly. Grade 1 to 4 students can share and participate in the news with different subjects, ideas or activities.

<https://sway.office.com/jBuvTT3WSFGaj4kT?ref=Link&loc=play>

### **KG2 Students' Musical Morning**

A big thank you to the music department for encouraging Ms. Leen to join the students and demonstrate her musical talent on the flute while students explored the sounds of xylophones and percussion instruments.

## **Upcoming Action and Dates to Remember**

### **Graduation Celebrations for KG2 and Grade 5**

- **June 14<sup>th</sup> - KG2 Graduation Ceremony at Mathaf - 8:30 AM – 10 AM**
- **June 14<sup>th</sup> - Grade 5 Graduation Ceremony at CCC - 6:15 PM - 9:30 PM**

### **Official Government Exam Dates**

Official BACC Exams are on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>

Official Brevet Exams are on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>



### **Exam Days for MYP, Grade 11 DP/LB**

- Monday, June 10th - Early dismissal 12:30 PM - MYP students
- Wednesday, June 12th - Early dismissal 12:30 PM - MYP students
- **Thursday, June 13th - Early dismissal at 10 AM - (Grade 11 DP/LB students only)**
- Friday, June 14th - Early dismissal 12:30 PM - MYP students
- Tuesday, June 18th - Early dismissal 1:00 PM - MYP students
- **Reading days are June 7th, 11th, 13th and 17th**

### **Accounting has moved to new offices**

As of May 2nd, Wellspring's accounting department, uniform sales and HR offices have moved to newly renovated offices behind the City Centre Campus. To facilitate better service, Wellspring parents or drivers who want to make check payments, make credit card charges or purchase **Wellspring uniforms**, are asked to use this location on Pierre Gemayel Street (which is next door to CCC's back gate). The building is white and red with parking right in front. All cash payments over \$100 need to be done through Bank Audi.

- Mathaf campus no longer accepts cash or check payments.

### **Important IB Dates for Programme Evaluation**

Our first five years of offering the IB Diploma Programme, Middle Years Programme and the Primary Years Programme have been rewarding in many ways. As parents, you have witnessed the amazing ways in which our students continue to demonstrate creativity, self-reliance, higher level thinking skills, research, presentation and reflection skills.

As in any authorized school curriculum or accreditation membership, review, reflection and forward thinking become an exciting time where visiting teams of academic colleagues and organization membership visit for a regularly scheduled assessment of school practices. As in the past, Wellspring stakeholders have become valuable members by serving on self-study committees, participating in surveys or interviews. Evaluation visits are always exciting, challenging yet rewarding. Wellspring looks forward to our upcoming IB 5-year Evaluation visits.

**IB PYP - March 18th, 19th and 20th, 2020**

**IB MYP - April 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 2020**

Today, as our Class of 2019 students tried on their caps and gowns for the last time before their graduation, it reinforced the reason why Wellspring is an amazing community, and for me, it continues to be an honor and a privilege to be a part of the daily lives of our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Battah'.

**Kathleen A. Battah**  
Head of School