



Head of School – Kathleen Battah

Dear Wellspring Families,

As our 2021-2022 school year has gotten off to an enthusiastic start, I would like to truly thank our Wellspring teachers, staff and leadership who came to work during their summer vacations to prepare for the challenging year ahead. They came with positive attitudes despite the daily difficulties that we all face. We thank them for their determination and dedication.

Although, a few parents did voice their preference to begin in October, Wellspring wanted to take full advantage of these first few weeks in September to support our students mentally and physically as they make enormous social and academic changes in their daily lives. In fact, last week's limited return was heartwarming to say the least.

The school's decision to begin with face to face classes on September 2nd was clearly within the guidelines of the Ministry of Education. Wellspring has a "Plan B" for days when it will be necessary to stay home and return to the use of virtual learning. Obviously, fuel and electricity continue to remain problematic whether students are at home online or at school. Thankfully, our fuel supplies continue to be adequate enough at both campuses to run AC's, lights and the school's internet. If fuel becomes totally unavailable in the country then all of us will have problems whether learning from home or school. The coming weeks will be challenging yet we must move forward with learning.

COVID Measures

Our Wellspring nurses continue to have strict Corona guidelines and protocol for students, teachers and staff who display symptoms of illness during the school day. As for morning arrivals and dismissals, anyone who enters the campus does have their temperatures checked. Anyone whose temperature is above 37.5 will not be allowed to enter campus. The nurse will immediately be notified to take further action and to record all details for further follow up. Bus-riding students will not be allowed to enter the bus before a temperature check. If a child displays a temperature above 37.5, he or she will be asked to return home. It is imperative that the person who is responsible for the child, remains with the child until the child is given an "ok" to board the bus. For further details regarding Wellspring's health and safety guideline, please [Click Here](#) for the Nurses' letter.

Celebrating the Academic Year

As we look back at this year, we must celebrate our student successes and the amazing work that was accomplished during our virtual world.

Grade 12 Lebanese Official Exams

First of all, Wellspring is extremely proud to have all of our Grade 12 Lebanese Baccalaureate students pass their official government exams with two earning Bien! Congratulations to their teachers and students for their amazing dedication! Another 100% pass rate for Wellspring!

IB Full Diploma Results

Although this year's IB students in Lebanon were granted an exemption from taking the physical exams, students were not automatically awarded the Full Diploma! Students were awarded the Full Diploma according to their International Assessments (IAs) and IB external moderation. Congratulations to our students who earned the Full Diploma with grades ranging from 26-42. Besides 100% of our Full IBDP students earning the Diploma, Wellspring had one student who earned IB's Bilingual Diploma. Remember how our students complained bitterly at first, about the unfairness of taking the exams, but became very confident and serious at the end? Hard work from year to year does pay off! We are proud of all.

Grade 9 Official Exams

As the official Brevet exams were cancelled by the MEHE, all Brevet students were promoted contingent on them passing their MYP subjects. A special mention to the Brevet teachers who continued to provide support and extra-classes to our students until hours before the cancellation was announced.

Grade 10 IB Personal Project Results

Wellspring is equally proud of our outstanding Grade 10 Personal Project results. In total, 43 of our students completed projects with the Wellspring school average of 4.88 which is almost 1 full grade above IB schools' world-wide average of 3.90. Our highest grades were 7s along with 26 projects earning 6s and 5s. Our MYP students continually surpass the IB World average. Congratulations to all students,

Mentors, teachers, staff and the MYP Coordinator who supported our students. Please [Click Here](#) to revisit our MYP Personal Project Exhibition.

Grade 5 Exhibition

Wellspring's Grade 5 Exhibition was equally amazing. A true culmination of IB PYP learning wrapped into group and individual projects. As the second year of in-depth research and talent graced our social media, parents and teachers alike were amazed with the display of student knowledge, student agency and the coordination of interaction and live engagements. Congratulations to our students, mentors, teachers, and support teachers who made our second VL Exhibition an outstanding event. A special congratulations to our PYP Coordinator for her passion! Please [Click Here](#) to revisit the event. The new school year has already "kicked off" to a good start. I hope you get the chance to meet and congratulate our new teachers and leaders who are joining Wellspring in our 15th year anniversary. Mathaf parents have already received my letter introducing new colleagues who have joined Mathaf in leadership positions. If you did not receive my letter, please [Click Here](#). Congratulations once again to Randa Basho Jawad Mathaf Principal and her entire team.

Welcome to New Department Leaders at the City Centre Campus

ACTING MYP COORDINATOR-JOANNA BARRAK

Joanna joined Wellspring in 2016 by teaching MYP Biology until she was appointed as our Academic Advisor. She holds an MS in Physiology and Biomedical Sciences with a focus on Neuroscience. Joanna also holds a Premed and BS in Medical Laboratory Sciences from the University of Balamand. She will continue training with Dr. Rita Zgheib as she steps into her new role mid-year.

CAS/SERVICE LEARNING COORDINATOR-MARIA MANOK

Maria Manok is joining our community and bringing 26 years of experience in education and social action. She has served in leadership roles in several schools in Lebanon: designing curricula, creating inclusive education spaces, collaborating with teachers and staff to align school practices to international standards. In both her professional and personal life, Maria has engaged with local communities and civil society organizations with the purpose of creating positive social change and educating students for lives of effective action. Maria is a graduate of the American University of Beirut with a BA and a Teaching Diploma in Education.

CCC SCHOOL COUNSELOR-GRECE CHAMI SATHER

Grece has a B.A in Psychology with a minor in Music, M.A in Educational Psychology, (Guidance and Counseling) with a Teaching Diploma in Elementary Education at the American University of Beirut. Grece has over 38 years in the educational field. She pursued her doctorate (Ed.D) in Curriculum and Instruction (emphasis on ESL and Early Childhood Education) from the University of Cincinnati. She has taught across the curriculum in IB and AP programs, starting from early childhood through to tertiary education, in Lebanon, Oman, Greece, Ontario, Vancouver, and the USA, to end at universities in the UAE. As an educational psychologist, Grece created the concept of gs4ci, the guided search for career identity.

CCC LEARNING DIVERSITY COORDINATOR MANAL BANAT LAWAND

Manal Banat Lawand earned her degree in Special education from AUB in 2005. Shortly after her graduation, she began working as the head of a learning difficulties department in a private local school. After gaining intensive experience in the field, she moved to Wellspring in 2009 and worked as a Special Needs Liaison for elementary students, where she had the opportunity to apply her teaching skills in PYP inclusive settings. After three years of maternity leave, she decided to return to her career and work for another five years in another well-known school as the learning support coordinator overseeing all grade levels.

Manal returned to Wellspring and has been working passionately in the learning diversity department for three consecutive years as a PYP LD teacher. As part of her professional growth, Manal has attended various workshops, courses, and conferences about teaching, supporting, and supervising struggling learners with learning needs.

CCC ACTING ACADEMIC ADVISOR-MANAL JABER

Manal has a Master's Degree in Analytical Chemistry from the Beirut Arab University along with a diploma for Coordinators and Division Heads with a focus on developing leadership skills, professional development, supervision of instruction and curriculum planning from Haigazian University. Manal's academic leadership experience includes holding the position of Elementary Head of Department and Science Coordinator for Cycles 1 and 2 regular and special intervention program classes at a local school along with being a laboratory and teaching assistant at the Faculties of Science and Engineering at the Beirut Arab University.

CCC LIBRARIAN-MARLIE BSAILBESS

Marlie earned a BA in Information Management and Libraries from the Lebanese University. Her teaching experience at the Evangelical School for Boys and Girls helped her make real life connections to the research needs and the reading needs of students.

I wish all Wellspring students and their families good health, happiness and success for 2021 – 2022.

KITTY

HEAD OF SCHOOL

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kitty', written in a cursive style.