



Elementary EXPRESS

Elementary Office Publication

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Important Dates

Sunday, Sept. 20

Eid El Fitr Holiday

No School

Monday, Sept. 21

Eid El Fitr Holiday

No School

Tuesday, Sept. 22

Campus Closed to Students

Wednesday, Sept. 23

Campus Closed to Students

Thursday, Sept. 24

Campus Closed to Students

What's For Lunch

Sunday – Eid El Fitr Holiday (No School)

Monday – Eid El Fitr Holiday (No School)

Tuesday – School Temporarily Closed

Wednesday – School Temporarily Closed

Thursday – School Temporarily Closed

Max's coupons may be used on Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Coupons are available in the ES office or at Max's Restaurant, 10 for 150 LE. All Max's meals are served with fresh fruit and a drink option of milk, juice, or bottled water. Second portions of Max's meals are available at a cost of 8 LE.

Principal's Note

Dear Faculty, Students and Parents:

We have recently received notification from the Governor of Helwan requiring that we (along with all schools under his jurisdiction) close our doors to students beginning with the close of school on Thursday, September 17, through October 3, 2009. Because we do fall under the jurisdiction of the Governate, CAC will comply with this request. We wish to reiterate that from a CAC perspective there is no increased level of risk of contagion, and our current website information and protocols remain accurate from a medical and health perspective.

CAC campus will be closed except to Faculty and Staff for planning purposes. Teachers are expected to return to work after the Eid break on September 22 to provide offsite instruction during this forced closure. Students in the Middle and High School are expected to be on-line using Blackboard starting Tuesday, September 22; and we are making every attempt to insure no loss of instructional time. Elementary School teachers will also begin planning packets of work by grade level, and distribution of this information will be forthcoming.

At this time, we are working on definitive plans for the impact of this decision on the October break as well as Community, Parent, and Student access during this closure. We will inform you further regarding these issues by the end of school today, September 17.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you to stay connected via e-mail and the CAC website for all communications regarding this matter.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and understanding.

In Other News:

"The Peace Chain at CAC," not only words to our ES peace song, but also a perfect visual to use when thinking about our International Peace Day Assembly this morning. If each student and adult present at our assembly represented a link in our "Peace Chain" then envision a chain in excess of 1500 links. We gathered as an entire school community fashioned in our white Peace T-shirts and we were delighted with presentations from the HS Peace Club and International Relations class, Middle School MUN class, and the Elementary School. It was definitely a fantastic whole school event enjoyed by all. "Peace is the gift we give each other" was the culminating statement from elementary students during their portion of the program. What a thought-provoking statement for all of us to think about as we live our daily lives. We would like to extend a special thank you to Liz Wolden for leading us in song and tremendous kudos to our Peace Committee for their efforts in organizing our assembly.

Iftar celebrations have been popular within the ES over the past couple of weeks. Our Grade 5 classes hosted two Iftar celebrations for our custodians over the past two weeks and we have had a number of family grade-level Iftar gatherings which several of you have attended as well. It has been wonderful to have families coming together to share a meal and to make new connections with others within their son/daughter's grade level. Again, we would like to extend our tremendous thanks and appreciation to Samia Wadman for her work in coordinating the various grade level family Iftar feasts.

As you are aware, students in grades 3-5 have been busy with their MAP testing over the past couple of weeks. Grades three and four students have completed their tests, and we will be developing a plan for our fifth grade students to finish their MAP testing once we return to school. Special thanks to Zach Secrist for serving as our ES MAP Coordinator as well as parents Gissu Shehata, HiwotYirgete and Samantha France, who have done an outstanding job over the past 10 days working as proctors for our MAP tests.

While we are on the topic of thanks and appreciation, we would also like to express our thanks to Stephanie Zobay

Please note that all ES planned events on our school calendar will be postponed during this forced closure of school. This includes the ES Specialist Night and Family Picnic which was originally planned for next week, September 23. We all need to work together to remind our students that this closure is not a school holiday. It is important for students to continue to read, write, do math, etc. In the elementary we will be following up with families next week through e-mail and the CAC website with appropriate work for ES students for the period of closure.

Happy Eid El Fitr holiday. Whether you are traveling or staying closer to home, please enjoy your Eid break and your time together as a family. Safe travels to those traveling and remember to try to find some time to read to your children and have them read a "just right book" to you. You won't regret it!!

Regards,

Seamus Marriott

Elementary Principal

ELEMENTARY COUNSELOR'S CORNER

As always, the elementary counselors will welcome parent contact during CAC closure in the following weeks. We can be reached by telephone at 2755-5207. E-mail contacts are pwebb@cacegypt.org and zsecrist@cacegypt.org. You may access information regarding classroom guidance lessons on the CAC website located under the Elementary Counseling tab. Additional suggestions for supporting the guidance curriculum within the home will be provided next week.

We wish you a period of pleasant vacation, home study and family harmony during this forced closure. If we can be of assistance, please feel free to contact us.

Phyllis Webb
School Psychologist/Counselor

Zach Secrist
School Psychologist/Counselor

LITERACY

How to help our children be as literate as can be...

ADVERTISE THE JOY OF READING!



Our goal is to motivate children of all ages (0-18) to read so they will practice reading independently and become

fluent readers. That happens when children enjoy reading. Parents can do for reading what fast food chains do for hamburgers...ADVERTISE! And we advertise by reading great stories and poems to children.

We can help our children find the tools they need to succeed in life. Having access to information through the printed word is an absolute necessity. Knowledge is power, and books are full of it. Reading is more than just a practical tool. Through books we can enrich our minds; we can also relax and enjoy some precious leisure moments.

With our help, as our children begin a lifelong relationship with the printed word, they can grow into adults who read easily and frequently whether for business, knowledge, or pleasure.
Let our Kids See All of Us Reading!

Information Partly From: rif.org

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ES YEARBOOK COORDINATOR

We are in search of an Elementary Yearbook Coordinator to facilitate and design our 2009/10 yearbook. If you have a background in publishing, photography, layout/design, or simply creative with an intense interest in this area, please contact Seamus Marriott to find out more details.