

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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مدرسة القديسة مريم الكاثوليكية الثانوية

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OUR REF :

TRN : 100259955100003

DATE: 31ST October 2019

To: Parents of all students from Years 1- 13 : IMPORTANT UPDATES (FLAG DAY 3rd November and WELLBEING WEDNESDAYS)

Dear Parents,

Greetings from Saint Mary's Catholic High School, Dubai. We are writing to inform you that we will be celebrating the UAE Flag Day in school on 3rd November 2019 and to this end we are inviting all our students to come dressed to school in coloured clothes (ANY ONE COLOUR OF THE UAE FLAG or A COMBINATION OF THE COLOURS OF THE UAE FLAG) **and we would also like ALL our students to carry a small Flag with them.** We will be raising the Flag with the rest of the UAE. A gentle reminder to our young ladies to remember to dress modestly and observe the cultural decencies and etiquette of the UAE. Please follow the Coloured Clothes Day Dress Code.

We would also like to share some important facts about the UAE Flag and we would appreciate it if you could spend a little time discussing these with your children.

The **UAE Flag Day** is a national campaign that was launched in 2013 by Dubai's Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid to honor the country's past, present, and future.

Flag Day is usually celebrated on November 3, which marks the anniversary of Sheikh Khalifa becoming the President of the UAE in 2004.

1. The four-coloured flag represents meanings of justice, peace, tolerance, power and moderation.

- The **red colour** symbolizes the sacrifices of previous generations who had laid the foundations for the Union and the sacrifices of the nation's martyrs to safeguard the UAE, its achievements, and gains.
- The **green colour** symbolizes growth, prosperity, green environment and cultural renaissance.
- The **white colour** displays the UAE's charitable contributions and the state's approach to supporting the security and peace in the world.
- The **black colour** reflects the strength of Emirati citizens and the rejection of injustice and extremism.



2) The UAE flag was designed by an Emirati named Abdullah Mohammed Al Maainah. His Excellency Abdullah Mohammed Al Maainah intended the four colors to reflect Arab unity, the theme of which appears in two verses of the Arab poet Safi-u-ddin Al Hali where he describes deeds of benevolence, goodness, and kindness.

3) The UAE national flag came into existence on December 2, 1971. **On December 2, 1971, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan raised the UAE flag for the first time, marking the beginning of a new era.**

4) **The emblem of the UAE was officially adopted in 1973 and later modified in 2008.** It is similar to the coat of arms and emblems of other Arab states in the region. The emblem was designed by an Emirati girl named Dhabiya Khamis from Abu Dhabi.

It consists of a golden falcon (Hawk of Quraish) with a disk in the middle, which shows the barrel-distorted UAE flag and 7 stars representing the 7 Emirates of the federation. The falcon has 7 feathers which represent the 7 Emirates.

5) According to the **Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development**, the UAE flag law states:

"Any person who publicly drops, damages or in any way insults the Union flag, the flag of any member emirate in the Union on the flag of any other country as a result of disgust or contempt of the powers of the Union, the Emirates or the relevant countries, shall be punished by prison for a period of no more than six months and a fine of no more than 1,000 dirhams."

WELLBEING WEDNESDAYS from November 2019 onwards: With a view to improving overall student wellbeing and following through with some suggestions from students themselves, the school will champion Wellbeing Wednesdays as the first in a series of initiatives to improve overall student wellbeing. ***We would request that every child bring in ANY ONE FRUIT of their choice and ANY ONE DAIRY (milk, laban , yoghurt, a fruit juice could substitute for those children who are lactose intolerant)*** for breakfast every Wednesday, that they will have together in class first thing in the morning during the morning registration with their class teachers.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)

