



# Saints Times



Volume 1 | September - October | 2019-20

12th NOVEMBER, 2019

# Message from the Principal

## Scholastic Year 2019 - 2020



How quickly two and a half months have sped by! I can still remember the eager faces on the first day of this Academic Year, ready to begin a new year and take on new challenges.

I would like each of you dear students to reflect on the theme for this year: “Building Bridges of Tolerance.” Illuminate our world with your God-given talents, the light of hope and the promise of peace and tolerance. Build bridges of peace and tolerance wherever you may go. Be the source of a comforting touch, a reassuring word, a strong faith.

It has been wonderful to go through the many interesting activities and events that so many of you have been a part of, and I hope that you will enjoy reading about these as much as I did.

I wish each and every one of you a very successful year ahead. Use your time wisely and spend at least an hour a day enjoying a good book!

Sincerely,

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**Mr Paul Asir Joseph**

Principal  
St. Mary’s Catholic High School

## Orientations and University Fairs: A Newcomer's Point of View

St. Mary's has always been a wonderful home away from home for many students, and has now extended its welcoming arms to many more. The newcomers to St. Mary's Oud Metha had the opportunity to attend separate orientations according to which grade they study in, organized by the Senior Leadership Team. The students found it very helpful and it helped them to know better about their new school. Evelin (Year 8 D) who came from Primus Private School said that it was really informative, especially on topics like choosing subjects for the subsequent academic year. She also mentioned St. Mary's has a vast stream of study.

Kwado (Year 9 C) and Rennie (Year 10 G) added on, saying that they wish to continue in our school up till their A Levels! The students that attended the university orientation also appreciated the great efforts of this school for a wonderful opportunity to be more aware and informed of the universities in the UAE. They had ample time to ask questions and sign up to know more information about universities like R.I.T. Institute of Technology, University of Wollongong, Middlesex, and countless others – not to mention the free merchandise!

As the Marian family, we are very pleased to know that these new members of our family are well satisfied with the school and find that events like these broaden their horizon of enlightenment and awareness. We are really looking forward to watch how they grow in our school.

# Al Jadaf Cemetery Cleanup

On Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October, I went to school at 7:30 a.m. to catch the bus to the Al Jadaf Cemetery. At school, my friends and I were playing games such as 'Virus' to keep ourselves busy until the bus arrived. At 8.30 a.m., we finally hopped onto the bus and reached our destination 30 minutes later.

The volunteer there told us about the "do's and don'ts". First, we wore gloves and took the tools we needed. I had to use the wheelbarrow. We went in groups so we would stay together and coordinate. We threw all the trash we collected into a large plastic bag. Then, we transferred it to the wheelbarrow which I took out of the cemetery supplies. We were so busy doing all the work till 10:00am. Shortly after, we left the cemetery and went back to school. There, we received juice, cold water, egg and chicken sandwiches. We were chatting about our experience back at the cemetery, how we cleaned the top of the graves, swept all dried leaves from the floor and cleared the path to walk .

We even spoke about the souls that were resting in that very same cemetery. We learned that death is inevitable and that we should enjoy life as it is. Nonetheless we enjoyed a lot cleaning the cemetery.

- Leander (Grade 8 B) & Sam Sequeira (Grade 8 C)



# **A Day of Fun at Our Very Own Town: Children's City Field Trip 2019**

In the month of October, the students of Year One were accompanied by our teachers to Children's City at Creek Park, Dubai, where they attained knowledge on the structure of the human body as well as the solar system.

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*"We learned about space and watched a video about the earth."  
- Kenzie, Year One*

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From another student we heard that they observed the various parts of the body and their functions. They learned in a more interactive, visual and fun manner: playing games, participating in many educational activities. Their team building skills were enhanced by 3 competitions, one of which involved piercing skewers through balloons and one of our very own students, Anishwara, bagged a prize!

At the end of the day it was a very educational and memorable trip for the students of Year One and they look forward to many more expeditions!

In addition, Children's City, on behalf of the Dubai Municipality, hosted the Science Film Festival from the 21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> October 2019, which was attended by our students of Year Five, accompanied by their teachers. The students enjoyed their time there, engaging in many activities and games, as well as enjoyably deepening their knowledge on scientific aspects of our world, and broadening their perspective to its role in our daily lives.

The students were taken to the planetarium, and were explained the importance of global warming, how it affects us, and explored ways of what they can do to contribute in helping reduce it.

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*"We were shown things that has now helped me understand science."  
- Juliana, Year 6*

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The students were very pleased with the experience, as it allowed most of them to discover their passion towards science.

# PRIMARY PREFECTORIAL INVESTITURE 2019

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of October, St Mary's Catholic High School held its Primary Prefectorial Investiture at the Bishop Gremoli Main Hall for our proud young leaders to uphold the Marian promises and foundation of the school.

Mr. Paul, the Principal had graced our fellow students with kind words of leadership and fellowship, "let today be not just the start, but the continuation of that desire you have to serve in your own humble and little ways, your fellow students and the school community."

Afterwards, our Vice Principal Ms. Lise Anne Pinto, led our primary captains Rhianna Rosario and Mel Marcus Flores as they pledged their commitment to the school community to "remain humble in a spirit of fellowship, mutual respect and through the exercise of fairness in promoting commitment happiness and pride, such that **THE END CROWNS THE WORK.**"



The pledging of the oath for the vice captains, Wellamary Casinillo and Aroon Keshave subsequently took place, led by our Pearson Edexcel Examinations Officer, Mrs. Vichitra Gabriella, as they "pledged to uphold loyalty to the school."

**In designation of their leadership, former captains Rosy Leo, Kyle Fernando, Gabrielle de Guzman and Eudric Bryce Hernandez entrusted the newly elected Head Captains and Vice Captains respectively, with their roles of leadership.**

**Our newly elected Head Boy Dave Menezes and Head Girl Kimberly Arango shared their insights and experiences about leadership with our young students leaders to carry out their legacy and light the way for their journey ahead.**

**The anticipation was overcome with excitement as the primary prefects vowed to “strive for excellence and support the school, staff and administration”, which was led by Head of Secondary School, Mr. Warren.**

**And in chorus, we proudly sang the school anthem with honor, dignity and joy!**

**The stage was filled with excitement, as they eagerly waited for that shiny badge!! It was finally time for the awaiting parents to proudly pin a symbol of our schools foundation and trust which they are to carry forward in their quest.**

**Our newly elected Captains then delivered their speeches as they enlightened their peers with promises and made clear their roles and responsibilities for this new academic year.**

**Everyone’s attention was then fixated at the stage by a wonderful performance by Year 4C which shared with us significant aspects of leadership. The ceremony then came to a close as Sr. Mary Barboza concluded with a word thanks to all the supportive parents who could make it to this joyous occasion.**

**The primary prefects are ready to embark on this new challenge with enthusiasm, devotion and determination to new heights such that**

**THE END CROWNS THE WORK!**



# Senior Prefect Investiture Ceremony

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of October, 2019, many of our senior students were given the title of Senior Prefect of Saint Mary's Catholic School, for the academic year of 2019 to 2020.



The solemn entrance of the students from both Years 11 and 12 commenced the reverent ceremony of badging the selected Prefects, Sports Captains, Assistants, and the Head boy and Head Girl. The Head Girl Kimberly Aranja and

the Head Boy Dave Menezes confirmed their positions through the traditional oath, while holding the school flag, in which they promised to satisfy the responsibilities in leading the school whole-heartedly; willingly accepting the authority and duty of inspiring and motivating each and every student.

In order to help the chosen prefects dedicate themselves to their given tasks, our Assistant Head Girls - Natalya Michael Cherriath and Trisha Pais Prabhu - and Assistant Head Boys - Shawn Rodrigues and Nathan Nunes - swore their newly-elected positions to ensure aid was given to prefects in their times of need.



The Sports' Captains followed the badging and oath-taking ceremony, promising to utilize their leadership qualities and determination to bring out the best of abilities within their Houses.

The Immortal Phoenix House is led by House Captains Andrea Fernandes and Dwayne Almeida, with the help of their Vice Captains Sumiksha Chakraborty and Chanuth Ranasinghe.

The Legendary Gryffon House is championed by House Captains Jessica Fernandes and Rafat Islam, with the assistance of Vice Captains Janithya De Silva and Jason Singh.

Davina Davis and Fardeen Mahmood were elected Captains of the Swift Pegasus House, with trusted assistance from Vice Captains Trisha D'Souza and Craig Fernandes.

Lastly, the magical and mystical Unicorn house declared Andrea D'Silva and Darren Furtado as its House Captains, along with Anaika Lobo and Clyde Fernandes serving as its Vice Captains.

After this prestigious commemoration, the remaining prefects raised their hands to act with integrity, obedience, selflessness and responsibility. As they did so, they accepted the power and authority to satisfy what was expected of their title.

Once done, our Head Girl Kimberly delivered a truly mesmerizing and deeply powerful message that resonated strongly in the hearts of every student present; in which we decided to better ourselves and help others while doing so. Our Head Boy proceeded to deliver a comical yet earnest speech that emphasized on the duty of the Prefects and our personal roles in the betterment of the school.

The ceremony ended as a flawless success. The seniors walked in as students and left as prefects with a heightened sense of respect for school rules, discipline and criteria that they will live up to. With this in mind, they hope to 'make happiness happen' in every aspect of the scholastic year.



# HEALTHY SCHOOL SQUAD

In a packed auditorium, 300 hands went up in the air, and 300 voices rung out in solemn pledge and in unison:

**"I promise to stay healthy, strong and happy. I am a part of the Healthy School Squad!"**

In the relentless pursuit to inspire kids to live a healthier life through fun fitness programs, our school partnered with the Dubai Municipality and Abu Dhabi & Dubai Sports Councils, supported by health-oriented brands like Mai Dubai Water, Arla Organic Milk and UFC Gym. The results were on the beaming faces of the little ones.



The session included representatives from the Dubai Municipality Nutrition Team who gave tips on Healthy Eating to the young ones from Years 3 & 4, even going through an engaging 'How to Pack your own Healthy Lunch Box' activity with the ever eager kids.

Moreover, in sync with the ongoing Dubai Fitness Challenge [30x30], the Dubai Sports Council also organised a fun-filled "10/10 program" that included a dance + aerobic workout in ten moves. It was a thrilling, refreshing experience for the children!





At wind-up time, the enthusiastic squad of 8 to 9 year-olds conveyed their sincerity, by taking a pledge of loyalty to live a healthier life. Their little hands that stretched out proudly and their words of promise, were far from just an obligation.

Days had not passed, before the student council body, inspired by the actions of these little ones, passed into action, the much exciting "Wellbeing Wednesdays" program which has been a grand success.

With a bottle of Arla Organic Milk & Mai Dubai water in either hand, a drawstring bag across their shoulders and a huge, squishy mascot giving them big smiles, a proud squad of kids left the hall with an enlightened mind.

Through a short, yet engaging and educational one-hour session, a new level of understanding had been opened in the minds of those who shall lead tomorrow's future.

As the proverb goes:

*“He who has health has hope, and he who has hope has everything.”*



By: Divine Benson

# International University Fair

**O**n September 26<sup>th</sup> 2019, universities from the USA, UK, Canada, Wales, Scotland and Ireland reached out to St. Mary's Catholic High School, Dubai, presenting great opportunities for the prospective young scholars. Universities such as Iowa State, Manipal, Aberystwyth, Huron, etc, were present and the representatives from these universities provided students with appropriate advice and insight in accordance with their future and their desired path or career.

Students from Years 9, 10, 11 along with A-levels 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years were given the privilege to use this event as an opportunity to gain the required knowledge for their further education.

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*"This international university fair helped me understand the differences along with advantages and drawbacks of various universities in different countries and helped me gain an idea of where and what I want to do in regards to my future"*  
*- Vernon (Grade 11), on his hunt for his future*

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Another prospective student present was Priya from grade 12 who said, "For me, the university fair provides a ground where I can really understand what I aspire to do. The universities that are brought are not only some of the best but are also affordable and provide a wide variety of courses I can pursue. the representatives of these universities are kind and generally supportive and provide great insight on what they offer and how to achieve admission and not to mention the friendly environment and support they give us."

Some notable universities are the University of Waterloo, Suffolk University, Saint Mary's University and University of Winnipeg. They provided information that allows us to understand how and what we have to change or maintain, such as subjects and extra-curriculars that are required for a student who aspires to pursue commerce.

The fair was held in the main hall and mini hall present in the church compounds, thus allowing students of the various years to take turns in their “hunt” for a higher education. This would have not been possible without the senior leadership team who continuously strive to work for the betterment of the students’ future. Alongside, the orderly manner put forward by our prefect team has allowed this university fair to run smoothly keeping in mind that the university fair had contained about 500 students.

Finally, through the advice lent by representatives of the wide range of universities, it is up to students to ponder upon their career choices and higher education and take a “leap of faith” into their futures with a strong foundation through the universities that were represented.

# *USA University Fair*

We at St Marys recently had the amazing opportunity to host representatives from some of the top universities and colleges in the United States, an opportunity that I hope all those who wish to study in the States have exploited well. On the 13th of October, 2019, we welcomed representatives from several universities including: University of California, San Diego; Iowa State University; Duke University; Manhattan College; East Carolina University; The University of Utah; VERTO Education; and HULT International School of Business.

## Duke University

Duke University is a private institution that was founded in 1838. It has a total undergraduate enrolment of 6,682, and the setting is Suburban. It utilizes a semester-based academic calendar. Duke University's ranking in the 2020 edition of Best Colleges is National Universities, #10. Its tuition and fees are \$58,198.

This as well as much more information was shared by the amazing representative from Duke who were nothing short of delightful. Of course I would expect nothing less from a representative of a school with such a high Stature.

## University of California San Diego

University of California—San Diego is a public institution that was founded in 1960. It has a total undergraduate enrolment of 30,285, its setting is urban, and the campus size is 1,976 acres. It utilizes a quarter-based academic calendar. University of California—San Diego's ranking in the 2020 edition of Best Colleges is National Universities, #37.

UCSD was quite interesting to discover, due to their large cultural and academic history. One of the most special parts of the US University fair was the VR campus tour that was showcased by the representative; and the representative himself who was quite charming and answered all our unending questions.

## University of Iowa

The University of Iowa is one of the nation's premier public research universities with 32,948 students from 114 countries and all 50 states. Founded in 1847, it is the state's oldest institution of higher education and is located alongside the picturesque Iowa River in Iowa City.

This prestigious university was portrayed with charisma and gusto by their representative. He extremely helpful and played a few games with us. We had to recall some facts about Iowa State University and we were rewarded with a few small prizes. This was by far the most interesting stand on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

University Fairs give students a great chance to review and find out about many colleges in one location. I am sure that students were delighted to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Attending this fair would have definitely brought them one step closer to a brighter future.

# WETEX 2019: Dubai Solar Show 2019

21st October, 2019

The exhibition aims to achieve integration between all sectors of the energy industry and bring together trade and technical sectors whilst facilitating the creation of new trade opportunities, enhancing an exchange of ideas and experiences and showcasing the latest innovations.



## A sustainable learning experience

The students of St. Mary's had the opportunity of attending DEWA's Solar Show, and gaining an unparalleled education into the finer details and innovations behind the future of electricity supply as we know it. Held at the World Trade Centre on Sheikh Zayed Road, we joined several other schools as well as key industry leaders, governments, manufacturers, suppliers, traders, contractors and partners from across the globe in observing an exhibition of sustainable technologies using renewable energy, covering over 14,000 sqm.



Our group consisted of some eager students from Year Nine and Year Ten, as well as a representative collection of Science and Commerce A Levels students. As soon as we were admitted entrance, we quickly scoured the expanse of the enormous exhibition hall, absolutely overwhelmed by the pieces of innovation being exhibited by a plethora of brands, familiar and new.



Perhaps the most salient structure amidst the crowd was the Dubai Municipality's Station, wherein there were several advisors informing students of the history of DEWA's progress towards providing sustainable energy sources, the measures taken to implement these ambitious objectives and the science and economics concerned with capacitating such a large-scale project in the short term and long term.





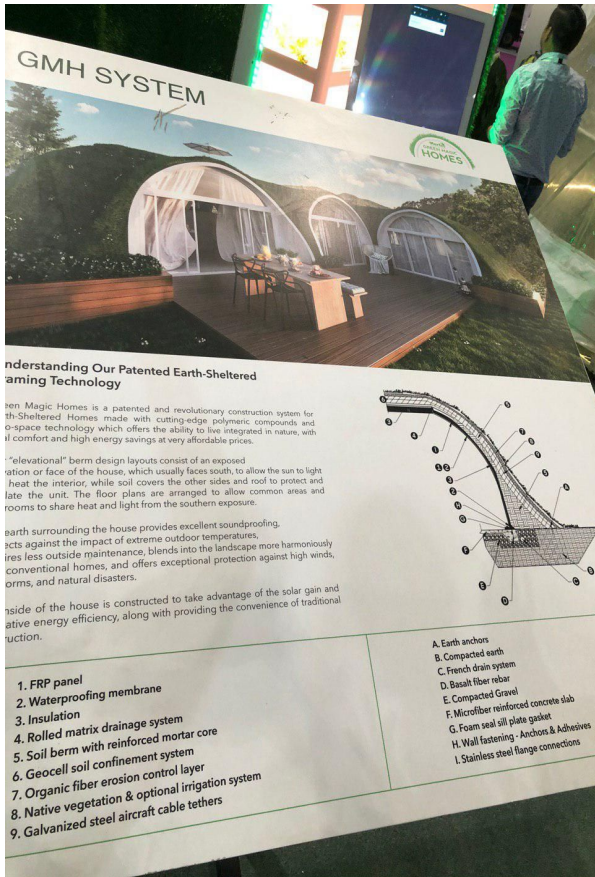
The conference also provided students with practical information about their own ecological footprints, and their impact on sustainability within Dubai. As illustrated in the diagram above, the Pioneering Initiative launched by DEWA in 2016-2017 produced electricity savings worth 902 MWh, water savings worth 18 MIG and carbon emission reductions of 850 tonnes. This report proved the effectiveness of their home model initiative, thus creating a more cemented pathway for everyday residents to go green!



Along with the useful information, the DEWA hub stall also provided students an opportunity to win an iPhone X! The catch - they had to gain a high score on a general knowledge quiz about DEWA, and they had to leave their chances to luck, as their names would be entered in a raffle draw. Nevertheless, the exercise was informative and stimulating, as we learned a lot more about the energy we consume everyday - the highest wastage of water occurs in watering plants, as opposed to using a washing machine, and similar others.

Early arrivals to the DEWA stalls also snagged a goodie bag, filled with portable chargers, merchandise and other useful things.

Apart from the DEWA information hub, we had access to several innovative models and prototypes that attempted to solve the problem of implementing a sustainable and productively efficient means of regular processes. For example, we learned about Green Magic Homes, which is preventative model for the concept of earth-sheltered homes, designed to make efficient use of solar energy to heat floors and excellent soundproofing and protection measures against natural disasters.



Overall, the exhibition was a valuable learning experience for us all - we laughed, snagged a lot of free ice cream, talked to interesting and forward-thinking people, and gained a better understanding of our role in the future of energy as we know it.

