AMS PARENT NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPALS UPDATES

4TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Dear Ash Mount Community,

Our First Week and Looking Ahead

What an exciting first week it has been for Ash Mount!

Although we were disappointed not to open our campus as planned, we quickly focused on finding the best solution for our children. Thanks to the flexibility of our staff and the support of our families, we began the year together at COA and Victory Heights Nursery.

It was wonderful to welcome families on Sunday and see the children meeting their teachers and one another. Throughout the week, I have loved watching friendships develop and seeing the children become more settled and excited about school.

Monday's trips were the perfect start, giving the children an opportunity to work together, trust one another and build relationships. This was particularly valuable for our older students, who are already walking through the corridors between lessons, chatting and laughing together.

It has also been lovely to see our Grade 6 students make a gentle transition into Secondary. Being together at COA means they feel older and more independent while remaining close the primary grades. Our younger children are also beginning to see the older students as role models. Our vision has been clear throughout the week. Our children have learned with purpose, lived with compassion and led with courage as they have embraced new classrooms, new friendships and an unexpected start to the year.

A huge thank you must go to our staff, who have created welcoming temporary classrooms, supported the children and continued preparing the Ash Mount campus. Behind the scenes, we are working hard to complete the final approvals and open our campus as quickly as possible.

Looking Ahead

Our teachers are already planning exciting opportunities for the year ahead, including live music at school events and possible staff events for staff from across the region. Our first week may have taken place in temporary locations, but Ash Mount has already begun. Our children are learning, friendships are forming and our community is growing stronger every day. Once we move into our new campus, we will hold our official Ash Mount First Day celebrations. It will be a special opportunity for our children, families and staff to celebrate the beginning of this exciting new chapter together.

Thank you for your patience, trust and support.

AMS PARENT NEWSLETTER

PYP UPDATES

What a First Week!

What a week it has been for our Primary community! Opening a brand-new school, in another functioning school has certainly kept us on our toes, but I could not be prouder of what our students, staff and families have achieved together.

Our children have embraced Ash Mount with curiosity, courage and excitement by making new friends, building relationships and, most importantly, arriving each day with smiles on their faces.

Our staff have been incredible. With arrangements changing almost daily (sometimes hourly), they have shown remarkable adaptability, positivity and teamwork, always keeping our children at the heart of every decision.

It has also been truly humbling to receive so many wonderful messages from our parents. Your patience, trust and encouragement have meant a great deal to us. This week has reminded us that a school is not simply a building – it is the **community** we create within it.

Looking Ahead: Who We Are

Next week, we officially begin our first PYP Unit of Inquiry, Who We Are. Across Primary, students will explore identity, relationships, wellbeing, values and belonging through meaningful questions and inquiry.

There could not be a more fitting way to begin our journey. While our students explore who they are, together we are discovering who we are as Ash Mount.

We have achieved so much in just one week – and this is only the beginning.

AMS PARENT NEWSLETTER

MYP UPDATES

Dear Parents and Families,

It is a privilege to introduce myself as Head of Secondary at Ash Mount School. I am originally from the UK, but after living and working in the UAE for 13 years, I very much consider it home.

I am passionate about working in partnership with you and your children to ensure they feel happy, safe and supported. When students feel secure and valued at school, they are best placed to maximise their academic potential.

Our First Week

I would like to thank all parents for your patience, understanding and support during our first week.

Our priority has been building relationships and helping students settle into Secondary School. Students have explored the IB Learner Profile and developed their understanding of our approaches to teaching, learning and assessment. They have also begun designing aspects of our after-school activities and rewards system, ensuring student voice is at the heart of how we build our school community together.

Looking Ahead

Next week, students will begin their formal lesson rotations and follow their individual schedules. Students received paper copies on Thursday, and we anticipate schedules will also be available to view through Madrasa from next week. I look forward to working closely with you throughout the year as we create a Secondary School where every student can thrive. I look forward to meeting you in person over the next couple of weeks and building our AMS community together.

Thomas Nelson

AMS PARENT NEWSLETTER

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, INCLUSION AND WELLBEING UPDATES

Inclusion

Our first week has been filled with exciting activities and new discoveries. We started with the “All About Me” theme, where students shared their favorite things and created colorful posters about themselves. These posters are now proudly displayed in our classroom.

Our first week has been focused on **settling in, building trusting relationships and creating a strong sense of belonging** for all our children at Ash Mount.

We have spent time getting to know each child as an individual, understanding their interests, strengths and what helps them to feel safe, happy and ready to learn.

MOE Department

Our first week has also been a wonderful opportunity to build connections through fun team-building activities and interactive discussions.

Students were introduced to greetings in Arabic and explored age-appropriate Islamic values and classroom expectations.

Students’ also worked together to create a Class Agreement, focusing on respect, responsibility and creating a positive learning environment.