Dear Integreat Community,

Happy Holidays! As we approach the end of the year and as Integreat Center’s first term of year two comes to a close, we feel energized and proud of the progress our students have made. We are grateful for our dedicated team, enthusiastic students, their supportive parents, and the vibrant community, the Integreat family, we are cultivating and growing.

We are excited that for the first time in Integreat Center’s short life, we are at full capacity, with completely full classes! We currently have a waitlist and enrollment is still ongoing, with the option to open a fourth class in the near future.

This term has seen many positive elements for both the Core program and PEP where we have incorporated further experiential learning components for each program. Additionally, we have introduced some center-wide events to promote further social interactions between all of the students including Spirit Day where we celebrated the occasion of UAE’s National Day as well as the successful Family Sports Day.

While the year is coming to completion, the Center will be operational from December 14th to 21st for the Winter Session which is open to Integreat Center’s full-time students in addition to students who attend other centers.

We are greatly looking forward to fresh faces next term, as well as our much-loved Spring Fair. As members of the Integreat Family, we urge you to take initiative and contact us if there are any initiatives or events you would like to spearhead, or any trainings or further educational opportunities we can organize to provide continuous education for yourselves and the community at large.

We wish you the most enjoyable holiday season and look forward to seeing you rested and energetic in January!

Best regards,

Integreat Center Management
World Kindness Day

Integreat Center celebrated World Kindness Day on November 13th where students learned the concept of giving to others, in line with the importance of developing empathy in students at an early stage of their lives.

Students worked together, as a Center, and decorated the care package boxes, which they then filled with personal care items and food supplies. Upon completion, two students were chosen to hand over the care packages to the construction workers who came by the Center.

It is small acts of kindness like these which help us build a strong community. We encourage you to continue such acts of kindness throughout the year with the students.

Family Sports Day

We had a very successful first Family Sports Day where, after much competition and intensive team spirit, Team White took the winning title, with a close score of 9 – 8. There were four stations including i) the water station with the water balloon toss and sponge game, ii) the dress-up relay, iii) the lemon-and-spoon relay and iv) the basketball shoot-out. The final event was the tug 'o' war where the Integreat team took on the Integreat families and caretakers, proving that both teams were too strong, snapping the rope! We would like to thank all participants and viewers for their enthusiasm and look forward to more such events.
Core Experiential Learning

Integreat Center greatly values experiential learning; it is of utmost importance that students are able to apply the concepts and life skills they learn at the Center within different contexts, whether at home or in public places. Students are consistently given the opportunity to put into practice all their learnings, whether within the center or outside.

Core Y1 visited Mall of the Emirates where they practiced their social and communication skills, time management skills and decision-making skills based on both their tasks and preferences. They also volunteered at the MENA SEN Conference as greeters. Core Y2, as part of their Personal Care module, visited a nearby salon to practice their hair and nail care skills. Their Giordano trip was a success, where students were assigned tasks to pick out and try on specific clothing items based on the weather, occasion and appropriate size. Finally, the class went to the Organic Café and Store where students identified healthy foods and chose their own superfood smoothies.

PEP Experiential Learning

As many of our students are both visual and kinesthetic learners, practical and experiential lessons help them better grasp concepts as well as master the requisite skills, while helping them work with their peers to enhance their social and communication skills. Experiential learning is a growing component for PEP which students are greatly benefiting from. PEP went to both Rotana and Bonnigton Hotels to put into practice their Domestic Skills module. Additionally, the students went to Spinneys to buy healthy grocery items which they used to prepare sandwiches. Finally, the end-of-term picnic to the Barsha Pond Park was thoroughly enjoyable as the pictures suggest!
Coffee Mornings

Over the term, we have had two coffee morning for the Integreat families which are a combination of education elements as well as socializing and networking. Our first speaker was Megan Pickett, a physiotherapist, who spoke about the Special Olympics, along with physical interventions at home, the importance of physiotherapy, and activities around Dubai which exist for physical activities. The second coffee morning was led by Kate Grimes, a behavior and speech therapist from Inspire Therapy, who made a presentation focused around the ABA method and triggers which led to Kate answering specific questions parents had in order to make the discussion more relevant. Please reach out to the Management if there are any specific topics you would like us to focus on for future coffee morning; we would be more than happy to incorporate your suggestions to ensure these sessions are continuously beneficial and interactive.

Cooking & Social Integration

In addition to our full-time programs, Project-Building (Monday), Communication Diaries (Wednesday) and Varsity Games (Thursday) have been ongoing and open to students from other schools as well. This is a great way for students to work on specific skills while improving their social skills in parallel, while also having fun!

Ayukta Thakur, Head of Education Development, has been offering monthly additional cooking sessions which have grown to become extremely popular amongst students, cooking dishes from Mexican quesadillas to Indian kathi rolls. Contact us to learn more about the after-school programs on offer for next term.
Integreat External

Special Olympics

Ayukta Thakur has been appointed to the Board of the Special Olympics Committee, in charge of the Dubai Athlete Leadership Program. The Regional Games are to take place next year, in March 2018 as a precursor to the World Games which will take place in 2019.

All athletes interested in participating as well as individuals interested in volunteering for the games can contact the Center regarding more details on how to register and be involved.

As a Center, we are excited that there is such a push in the UAE toward inclusive sporting and community events.

AccessAbilities Expo & F.A.M.E.

Integreat Center participated in the AccessAbilities Expo which took place in Dubai in November, where we had a dedicated stall, showcasing students’ artwork as well as giving people more information about the programs and services offered at the Center.

Laura Forde-Droy, SEN Educator, participated in the presentation series where she represented Integreat Center and spoke about Transition to Adulthood and the strategies that other educators, therapists, parents, and families can use to support young adults with additional needs to make that transition to independence.

Following the Expo, many of our students participated in the FAME show, where they showcased their talents. Some of our students sang and others walked and modeled in the fashion show. We would like to give our heartiest congratulations to all of our students who participated!

Awards Received

While the biggest award for us is the happiness and progress of the Integreat students, we have also been recognized in the community for our program offerings. Integreat Center was shortlisted for the award of ‘Social Enterprise of the Year’ at the Arabian Business Start-up Awards. Additionally, in Singapore, Integreat Center received its first international award in the category of Life Skills Champion of the Berg Icons of Learning Award.

Integreat Center wishes you a safe and enjoyable holiday season!