Greetings Parents,

I am hoping that the parent coordinator group will have a big number of volunteers joining them while preparing for the winter carnival. I assure you that the Carnival will be thoroughly enjoyed by the Early Years children and I thank you in advance for your willingness to give some of your time to this community event. The coordinators will be in the Lower School Auditorium starting Tuesday, December 1st from 8:00-1:30. One of the items they will be working on is an igloo with big water bottles (1.5 L). Please send your empty bottles with your child this week.

To support the event and defray costs, we would like you to send in a contribution of L.L.10,000 per child by Dec. 7th. The amount will be covering food, games, class picture with Santa and a gift. Please send the amount in an envelope marked Winter Carnival, with your child's name, to your homeroom teacher by December 4th.

Please note that this event is for the children only, but parent volunteers are also needed on the carnival day on Dec. 11th but not during their children’s sessions i.e. if your child is in KG1, you’ll be helping out during the Nursery or KG2 session. Kindly contact Mrs. Nadine as she is in charge of putting a volunteer schedule together nadineabdulhay@gmail.com

Each grade level will attend the carnival as follows:

- KG1 8:15-9:45
- Nursery 10:00-11:30
- KG2 11:45-1:15

Activities to volunteer for:

- Gift decoration
- Games
- Arts & Crafts
- Decoration
- Packing up

Children who ride the bus sometimes eat on their way back home. As their safety is our utmost priority, please refrain from packing food that requires eating with a fork as such cutlery is hazardous eating with while the bus is moving.

As the holiday season approaches, I’d like to share with you the ACS Gift Policy:

For Teachers' Day, Christmas, and any other special occasion, we strongly encourage parents and children to simply send cards to teachers or to give student made gifts. If parents feel that they want to do more, they may, but no gift is to exceed $25 in value. Teachers will be asked to return gifts in excess of $25. Additionally, there are to be no group gifts unless made by students and approved by Principals in advance.
If you know of anyone applying to ACS Early Years for 2016-2017 or if you have a child that will be starting next year, Admissions is receiving applications and we will interview on January 29th, 2016.

Seeing children over the years I sometimes see children who are afraid of dirt and getting dirty. The followings are some comments from the book “Why Dirt is Good”.

“Just like any other muscle in our body, the immune system needs to be exercised in order to fully develop and become strong enough to resist illness and disease. Eating dirt as a child turns out to be the ideal training to build your immune system’s overall fitness.

Dr. Ruebush, the “Why Dirt Is Good” author, does not suggest a return to filth, either. But she correctly points out that bacteria are everywhere: on us, in us and all around us. Most of these micro-organisms cause no problem, and many, like the ones that normally live in the digestive tract and produce life-sustaining nutrients, are essential to good health.

“The typical human probably harbors some 90 trillion microbes,” she wrote. “The very fact that you have so many microbes of so many different kinds is what keeps you healthy most of the time.”

Dr. Ruebush deplores the current fetish for the hundreds of antibacterial products that convey a false sense of security and may actually foster the development of antibiotic-resistant, disease-causing bacteria. Plain soap and water are all that are needed to become clean, she noted.

To read more about dirt and its benefits, the below link will take you to a 2009 New York Times article

Respectfully,
Sawsan Yaseen
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Upcoming Events & Dates to Remember
Dec. 11 Winter Carnival in the Lower School Auditorium
Dec. 18 Last Day of School—Dismissal at 12:00
Dec. 21 - Jan. 6 Winter Break
Jan. 7 Classes resume
Jan. 15 Information Session for New Parents
Jan. 21 PD ½ day, 1:00 Dismissal
Jan. 25 Teachers’ Reflections on Children’s Learning Out
Jan. 29 New Student Interviews—No Classes