



National Day 2016 celebrations at ISC

On Tuesday, 29th November 2016, ISC Dubai held its annual National Day celebrations that commenced at 4:00 PM on our Football pitch. The preparations were well underway from the early morning with an atmosphere of pride and joy in the air, as students and colleagues alike, demonstrated their gratitude towards this great nation of the United Arab Emirates. Our local Emirati students were invited to attend school in their traditional national dress, which added to the overall vibe.

The National Day program opened with everyone standing for the UAE national anthem, followed by a minute of silence for Lieutenant General Khamis Mattar Al Mazeinah, the late Dubai Police Chief. Alia Barakat from Grade 9, began with a speech that was delivered in Arabic, proceeded by Roudha Al Balooshi from Grade 12, who gave a speech in English. Both talked about their enormous pride for their country and all the wonderful values and morals the UAE encourages in every resident. Rashed Al Mansoori from Grade 8 then took to the stage and in patriotic spirit, reciting a poem in Arabic.

The Dubai Police had a special horse performance by the Cavalry Department that appeared to leave every child's face in astonishment as they trotted across the field dressed in their traditional uniform. Next on the agenda was a local dance performance from our Senior girls. This traditional dance is typical in Emirati culture as the girls swing their long hair to the music. The boys then presented their local dance, which is a reenactment of previous combat and prosperous hunting expeditions, whereby they carry long, thin sticks that are of a symbolic gesture. As a special addition to the show, the famous Emirati Singer, Faisal Al Jasim, performed two of his popular songs, followed by Arwa Ahmed, another famous Emirati Singer. Afterwards Mr. Hassan, the School Director, presented both singers with a small token of the school's appreciation for their presence.

All the students and staff involved in the preparations of the event were then invited to come cut the cake, a beautiful masterpiece that nearly looked too good to eat! The Football pitch gates were then opened and everyone was invited to enjoy the different traditional stalls that were on offer such as henna, Emirati food, camel rides, coffee and dates. There were plenty of fun activities for the children such as bouncy castles, art stations, face painting, puzzles and games, football, and a telescope. Later in the evening the Dubai Drummers arrived to invite the children to experience a little musical fun.

The event finished up at 7:00 PM with a tug of war that left everyone full of smiles and laughter. Thank you so much to everyone that was involved in making the National Day event a success. It could not have been achieved without all your support and contributions. We hope that you enjoyed the day as much as we did and we look forward to seeing you at our future events.

