



# HIGHLAND HAWK HAPPENINGS

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*"Fostering Excellence. Forging Character. Favoring Care."*

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear UCA Parents and Guardians,

As we near the end of this school year, I kindly ask for your continued support in ensuring that your children remain focused on their school responsibilities, particularly HOME PRACTICE. Learning entails grasping concepts and models through consistent practice, which is crucial for transferring knowledge to the long-term memory. Without regular practice, information tends to remain in short-term memory and is quickly forgotten.

I would also like to emphasize the significance of healthy nutrition for our students. To encourage positive eating habits, I kindly request that students refrain from bringing candy or chocolate to school in their lunches or backpacks. While occasional treats are permitted during special events such as bake sales, our focus on regular school days is to prioritize nutritious snacks that support our children's well-being.

We are currently preparing for our upcoming Spring Festival scheduled for Sunday, June 2nd. This event provides a great opportunity for our entire community to come together, enjoy fun activities, and strengthen the sense of belonging. I warmly invite you to join us for this fun event.

Thank you for your dedication to making UCA a nurturing environment for our students. I am excited to conclude the year on a positive note and create lasting memories.

Warm regards,

Rola Malaeb  
Director

## UCA ANNUAL BOOK FAIR

April was a month to celebrate literature and the joy of reading at UCA! We kicked off with our Annual English Book Fair, bringing together students, teachers, and parents to explore an impressive selection of books. Whether it was classic literature or contemporary bestsellers, everyone found something to spark their interest. It was truly inspiring to witness the enthusiasm and passion for reading within our school community.

Following the success of the English Book Fair, we held our Arabic Book Fair, which featured a diverse range of Arabic books. This event also generated a high level of excitement, with students, teachers, and parents eagerly diving into the collection of books on offer. It was wonderful to see that our love for books spans across languages and genres.

We want to express our gratitude to everyone who made these events possible and to all who participated with such enthusiasm. We can't wait to bring you more opportunities to celebrate literature and learning. Keep an eye out for upcoming book fairs and other literacy events at UCA!

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## SENIORS WALK – CLASS of 2024

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, UCA campus was vibrant with energy and enthusiasm as our seniors participated in the annual Seniors Walk. The atmosphere was filled with joy and nostalgia as students from all grades came together to cheer on our graduating class. It was a remarkable scene, showcasing the spirit of unity and the bonds that tie our community together.



As the seniors made their way around campus, their peers applauded and celebrated their accomplishments. The walk was a beautiful representation of the passing of the torch, with seniors sharing stories and creating memories that will last a lifetime.



In the midst of the excitement, there was a tinge of bittersweet emotion as we realized that this marked the beginning of their journey beyond UCA. While we will miss their presence, we are excited to see where their paths lead.

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## IMPORTANT DATES

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|---|
| <b>May 16</b><br>Progress Report Distribution (Q4)                  |
| <b>May 17, 20, 21, 23, 28</b><br>Reading Period for 12SE & 12ADP    |
| <b>May 17, 20, 21, 23, 27, 28</b><br>Reading Period for 12LS & 12GS |
| <b>May 22, 24, 29</b><br>Trial 3 for 12LS & 12GS                    |
| <b>May 22, 24, 27, 29</b><br>Trial 3 for 12SE & 12ADP Finals        |
| <b>May 31</b><br>Preschool EOY Performance & Last Day               |
| <b>June 2</b><br>UCA Fun Fest                                       |
| <b>June 3 - 5</b><br>Elementary EOY Performance                     |
| <b>June 3, 4, 5, 11, 13</b><br>Middle & High School Reading Period  |
| <b>June 6, 7, 10, 12, 14</b><br>Middle & High School Finals         |
| <b>June 14</b><br>Last Day of School                                |

## HEALTH CLINIC

UCA Health Department would like to bring your attention to an essential matter – Balanced Diet. Parents face a complex landscape in raising children, where promoting positive habits is paramount for their well-being. Amongst this, a concerning trend emerges: the abundance of diets marketed towards children. This article explores the potential harms of such practices. To learn more about this disease, [click HERE](#).

## PARENTING DISCIPLINE TIPS

Encouraging reading in children is essential for their holistic development and continuous learning journey. You can foster a love for reading by creating a cozy reading corner at home, engaging in shared reading sessions to strengthen your bond, and more. By incorporating these strategies, you empower your child with a lifelong passion for reading.

At UCA, we believe it is important to address this matter and share some tips to help you encourage your children reading.

[Read Article HERE](#)

[For additional guidelines, click HERE](#)

## UCA ACADEMIC FAIR

This month at UCA, we held two exciting academic fairs that showcased the remarkable talents of our students across all grades. The Middle and High School Academic Fair brought together our ambitious students to present their innovative projects to parents, teachers, and peers. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to demonstrate their hard work and share their knowledge.

Similarly, our Elementary Academic Fair was a vibrant event where our youngest students displayed their creativity and enthusiasm for learning. Their projects ranged from science experiments to art displays, reflecting a diverse range of interests.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who participated in these events. A big thank you to the students for their dedication, to the parents for their continued support, and to the teachers for their unwavering commitment to guiding our students. We look forward to more opportunities to encourage and nurture our young scholars throughout the school year.

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## JAWDAT HAYDAR



The Jawdat Haydar Poetry Competition is a highly anticipated annual event at UCA. This year, we were delighted to welcome three schools to participate, and the students delivered outstanding performances. We were honored to have distinguished guests in attendance, including an esteemed jury, which added an extra layer of distinction to the occasion.

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## SPIRIT DAY – BOOK CHARACTER

To continue our ongoing celebration of literature and reading, UCA hosted Book Character Spirit Day on April 27. This special day encouraged students to let their imaginations run wild by dressing up as their favorite characters from classic storybook heroes to contemporary literary icons.

By encouraging our students to embody their favorite literary characters, we hoped to foster a deeper appreciation for reading and storytelling. It was wonderful to see how creative and inspired everyone was.

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## ARABIC WRITING COMPETITION

Congratulations to Karim Khaddaj, Noursine Mkhieber (Grade 5), and Yasmina Hani (Grade 6) for their achievements. We are proud of you all!



## READING WEEK

Reading Week was an enormous success, bringing energy and excitement to our school. Teachers organized a wide range of activities, both inside and outside the classroom, to engage students in reading. Some students visited other classes to read stories, creating a sense of community across different grade levels. This cross-classroom interaction fostered a sense of community and encouraged students to engage with reading in a fun way.

Others participated in book-themed games and workshops, which made learning fun and interactive. The students were enthusiastic and eager to participate, demonstrating that Reading Week had a positive impact on our school culture.

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## RECYCLING COMPETITION

Our Grade 12 student Razan Faisal, participated in the Green Design Recycling Awareness Contest. Out of 550 participants from Lebanon schools she ranked among the top five.



## EASTER EGG HUNT

We wrapped up April with an Easter Egg Hunt for preschool and lower elementary students. It was a beautiful day, and the kids had a great time searching for hidden eggs throughout the place. They were so excited to find them and even more excited to share their discoveries with friends. The event was filled with laughter and joy, and it was a wonderful way to end the month.

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## MEHE GYMNASTICS COMPETITION

Congratulations to UCA students who won in MEHE Gymnastics Competition: Ellena Mahmoud Grade 5, Clarissa Younis Grade 3, and Joy Itani Grade 6.

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## MOUBARAT L OLOUM

Congratulations to our Grade 7 students: Vanessa Tarabay, Lena Shehayeb, and Reine Zeidan who participated in the Moubarat L Oloum competition held at the Lebanese University – Hadath and achieved the third place with their Gene Therapy Project. Congratulations to all participants. We are proud of you!

