

The newsletter of  
Jane Goodall's  
**roots&shoots**

ABU DHABI

Dear Roots & Shoots Members,



It has been an interesting year at our UAE headquarters. With over 60 schools now involved in the programme across the Emirates, I feel we are making great progress.

But there's a question that keeps resurfacing in my many visits to schools when I am speaking to our young members. It is a question that has come up often in the 10 years I have worked for Dr Jane, and indeed a question she is also faced with.

How can we still have hope for the planet, given all the challenges we face?

The simple answer is, that we do.

The reason - because of all of our young Roots & Shoots members who are doing amazing work, not just in the UAE but across the globe, to protect our planet and make our world a place that we can all be proud to live in.

Read on.

Tara Golshan  
Executive Director, Education



*Every day, every one of us makes a difference, and even the smallest acts of care and compassion ripple out to great effect.*  
Dr Jane Goodall



Calling all university filmmakers - Page 4



EAD release endangered Hawksbill turtles - Page 5



R&S Leadership event at Windsor Castle - Page 6

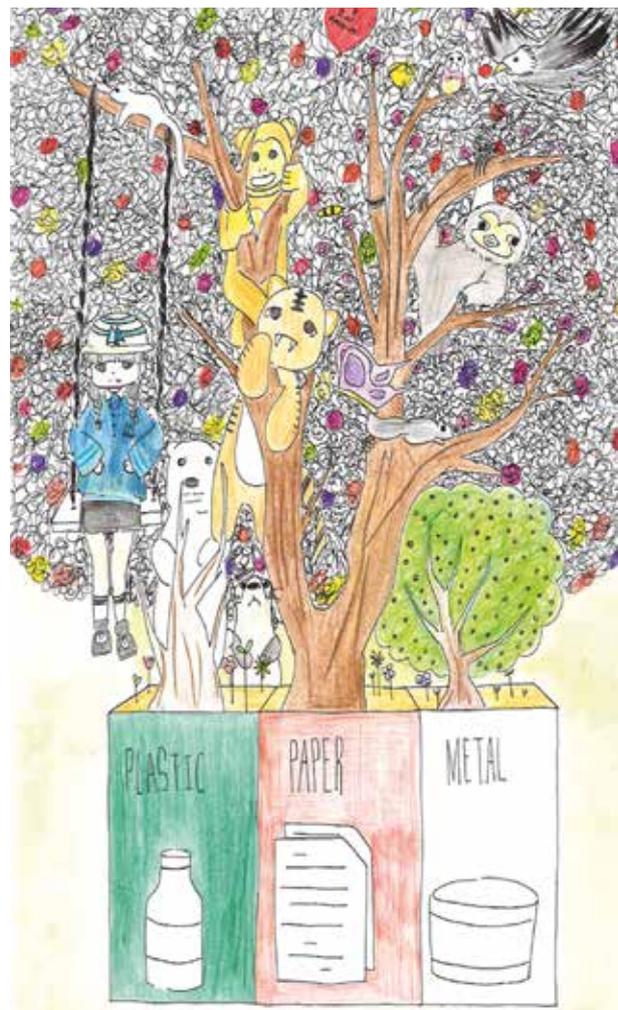
# GEMS American Academy inspires us with their winning Mural

GEMS American Academy recently joined Roots & Shoots, but its students have proven that inspiration and hard work can indeed make a positive change and can turn recycling into fun and in their case, amazing art.

Roots & Shoots members decided that their first project would be to create better recycling stations at the school and to educate the community on how to use the bins correctly.

A competition for mural designs to decorate the recycling areas was created; flyers were made and posted around the school, on the screens and in hallways.

After much deliberation the winner was Yoowon Cho in Grade 6. Just look at this beautiful art piece.



Photos: GEMS American Academy



Yoowon Cho  
Mural Competition  
Winner

GEMS American Academy  
inspires us with their  
winning Mural

# Our Executive Director Tara Golshan's latest tour to the UAE proved a week of hope and inspiration...

Here were just a few of her traffic stop...

**Day 1:** An uplifting presentation from the young inspiring students at the American Community School...

**Day 2:** She gave some inspiring lectures at GEMS Cambridge International School

and BISAD and met the up and coming student reps of Roots & Shoots...

**Day 3:** The amazing students at GEMS American Academy gave a detailed and productive presentation on their activities over the last year

**Day 4:** Students at Rosary school grilled our Executive Director with many questions on the work of Jane and JGI

**Day 5:** The Universal American School of Dubai outlined their latest Witnessed Million Solar Stars project. Not to mention visiting the organic gardens at Gems Modern Academy and being privileged to a beautiful production of Frozen. That combined with business, sponsorship and partnership meetings kept the week running at a hectic pace. Phew, all in five days!



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4. GEMS Modern Academy



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Pics: 1 and 2 American Community School. 3 Gems American Academy



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All photos page 2: Roots & Shoots

5 GEMS Cambridge International School. 6 GEMS Modern Academy organic garden. 7 GEMS Modern Academy watching the musical Frozen. 8 Rosary School

# An innovative venture...

Photos: Universal American School



Pie in a Teacher's Face fundraiser

## the Million Solar Stars programme



Universal American School Roots & Shoots students are raising awareness and support to install solar power at UAS in Dubai.

Students recently conducted a rooftop site analysis for solar, and estimate a 3.0 MW system could fit on one of the school's 4 rooftops. Students are jumping for joy that a leading solar installer has agreed to sponsor a pilot solar array, if scaling up to a large system makes sense.

Roots & Shoots students are also bringing solar lights to all 600 students at Mkamenyi Primary, and to install solar power to provide electricity at the school. They are looking at the Mkamenyi Primary School project in Kenya as a Million Solar Stars pilot student service learning initiative. Students are planning and raising support with bake sales, an Aquathon, a Solar Mohawk assembly, and most recently a 'Pie in a Teacher's Face' activity.

Thank you UAS students and teachers for their positive participation!

They are also raising awareness and support to expand solar technologies in Kenya and elsewhere in Africa to help students read at night, as well as offer clean energy science lessons that utilize solar lights, solar education models, and solar arrays on the rooftops of schools. Ultimately, the intent of the student service learning project is to provide education, environmental and economic solutions and opportunities for local communities.

Million Solar Stars is putting together 'Stardust Boxes / Starter Kits' for schools that include:

- 1) 100 Solar lights for students in Africa
  - 2) 10 Solar model cars (with science engineering lessons)
  - 3) 20 Solar model window-mills (with science engineering lessons)
  - 4) 1 Solar array installation (for renewable electricity, data monitoring capabilities, science and maths lessons).
  - 5) Million Solar Stars solar industry partnership and program support.
- Please contact Roots & Shoots if your school is interested in solar power education, or in helping to expand solar lights and renewable energy to schools in the UAE or Africa.



Photo: Love Nature

## Roots & Shoots partners with Love Nature to offer this exciting Documentary Film Competition

As a natural history documentary streaming app, Love Nature believes in the absolute power of documentaries to connect viewers to the environment, ecosystems, and species around the world that are in desperate need of help. That's why they are teaming up with Jane Goodall Roots & Shoots programme to offer current university-goers a very special prize in a competition to show off student filmmaking prowess.

First, second and third placed entries will be announced at the Annual Roots & Shoots Awards in Abu Dhabi, in January. The overall winner will be flown out to join Love Nature's film crews on location in the channel's motherland—Canada—on an official Love Nature shoot. The top three entries will also be broadcast worldwide on the Love Nature Video Streaming App.

Whether you're a budding student naturalist, a creature-loving creative, or a fired-up filmmaker in the making, we're looking for entries for the Roots & Shoots Documentary Competition

(RSDC) from those with a drive to make the most creative amateur natural history documentaries. Entries can be on any topic relating to environmental matters. The finished shorts must be between 3 and 20 minutes long, created by current university students, and on a theme of 'inspiring change'.

The documentaries can also be filmed on any device, in any format—the focus being on the creative process of effective and impactful storytelling rather than big budgets.

To enter, simply send an email to [chiara.mckee@blueskyentertainment.com](mailto:chiara.mckee@blueskyentertainment.com) from your university email address with a link to your completed work, alongside a covering letter outlining the title of your entry, what the documentary is about, and why you were inspired to focus on that particular subject. The deadline for submissions for the 2017 awards is the 31st December 2016. Further details can be found on the Roots & Shoots website. Good Luck!

*"I am really very pleased that Love Nature has become the official sponsor of our Roots & Shoots Awards programme. They provide a wonderful way of bringing the beauty and complexity of nature into the lives of people through documentaries that are both educational and inspiring."* Dame Jane Goodall

## St Joseph's School committed to a better world

St Joseph's celebrated the World Habitat Day this Autumn. The event was organised by the Verte Club, who planned this for weeks in order to bring to young minds, the importance of preserving our natural habitats. All teachers and students were requested to tie a blue ribbon around their hand to symbolize the greatest habitat of all, Mother Earth. Students from grades 1 – 5 created beautiful posters.

Global Hand washing Day was celebrated with great zeal and zest by the students and teachers. The event was organised to increase awareness and understanding about the importance of hand washing with soap. All students and teachers were urged to develop a regular habit to counteract illnesses and diseases. They were requested to sign on the pledge paper. The campus security and bus transport staff also participated.



Photo: St Joseph's School

Taking seriously their commitment to make this World a better place filling in boxes on World Food Day

To mark World Food Day 2016, St. Joseph's School organized a food donation campaign in the school campus. At the end, 40 food boxes were donated to the West Coast Women's Labor Camp, Mussafah in October. To mark the 12th death anniversary of Sheikh Zayed and to remember his vision and beliefs, St. Joseph's had turned off all the classroom lights from 12 pm to 1 pm on 2nd November, 2016. All students and teachers showed their commitment to the planet by switching off the lights and relying on the natural sun light for one hour thereby reducing carbon footprints.

Our very own, Mariam Sultan Al Qassimi visited St Joseph's school and met Sister Carmen, Ms Megha and some very keen excited students who work hard on their Roots & Shoots projects. The girls were asked interesting and knowledgeable questions about the new movie 'Before the Flood' and were already impressively clued up about environmental issues.

Keep up the good work! We are so proud to have you as part of the Roots & Shoots family!

# Hawksbill Turtle in the spot light

**Worldwide, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List classifies the Hawksbill turtle as critically endangered.**

At the Windsor Annual Conference, regional groups were created to discuss Migratory Species. The UAE, alongside China, Singapore, Australia, Malaysia and South Korea selected the Endangered Hawksbill Turtle with the idea to trace its migration route and patterns.

The first 'Zoom' (skype) call was held between R&S coordinators from Singapore, Malaysia, China and the UAE. After researching the status of the Hawksbill turtle in their respective countries, all members realised that since it is an endangered species, it has very few nesting sites.

In the UAE, the Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi has a turtle rehabilitation programme and a satellite-tracking programme to trace their migration route.

This year, EAD released 13 young critically endangered Hawksbill turtles and 1 young Loggerhead turtle on the beach of the Park Hyatt hotel, Saadiyat Island earlier this year.

The event was the result of a successful rehabilitation prior to the release of the yearlings into their natural habitat. With the help of members of the public, fishermen, EAD rangers and stakeholders, these turtles were rescued over the last winter and kept under the supervision and research of EAD.

Dr Shaikha Al Dhaheri, Director of Terrestrial of Marine and Biodiversity at EAD, said 'The turtle release shows EAD's commitment towards conserving endangered species through involving the community and the younger generation. By getting them closer to the species, they can connect to our natural heritage and become players in the conservation arena. Together we can do it.'



Dr Himansu Das, Unit Head for Marine Threatened Species and Habitats at EAD and Dr Shaikha Al Dhaheri, Executive Director of Terrestrial Marine and Biodiversity Sector EAD.



Three Hawksbill turtles are released.

Ayesha Al Blooshi, Director of Marine Biodiversity, said 'It's wonderful to see the excitement on people's faces as they get a rare opportunity to interact with these beautiful and critically endangered sea turtles

up close. It's important that the public understands that as wonderful as they are, these are endangered wild animals and must be treated appropriately and handed over to authorities for expert care.



We urge the public to call 800-555 if they encounter any stranded turtles or marine life. When rescued, turtles should be kept in sea water in a container or bucket and in the shade until collected by the authorities.'

Loggerhead turtle

All photos page 2: EAD

**Coming Soon:**

Our website content will soon be launched in Arabic. Adventure trips to Al Wathba are on their way.

# Roots & Shoots Youth gather to discuss International Environmental Issues



Roots & Shoots International Leadership event – by Mariam Al Qassimi



Roots & Shoots Youth gather to discuss International Environmental Issues Mariam with JAPS

Photos: Roots & Shoots

*This summer, I attended the Roots & Shoots international Leadership event, which is annually hosted at Windsor Castle and supported by the British Royal Family.*

*Coordinators and youth that are part of the Roots & Shoots programme from all over the world gathered for a week to discuss many pressing environmental and societal issues. The group consisted of people from: Uganda, Nepal, Australia, Japan, Argentina, South Korea, Tanzania, Malaysia, Singapore, Colombia, China, Austria, Belgium, Puerto Rico, Spain, UK, Italy, USA, Taiwan, Canada and last but not least...the United Arab Emirates!*

*I work for the Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi, which is a government entity committed to protecting the environment, and which sponsors the Roots & Shoots programme.*

*Each day, we had presentations from different countries. It was*

*It was definitely a highlight to spend time with Dr Jane Goodall for a week and getting to ask as many questions as we wanted to. This was a very insightful week and I look forward to many more exciting Roots & Shoots projects.*



Roots & Shoots Global leaders at Windsor 2016

*fantastic to hear about each one's perspectives from all corners of the globe, as we all have a different outlook. Many issues were discussed. However, we all seemed to have the same vision and goals at heart.*

*Every afternoon, we had a different theme for our ThinkTank group discussions. These ranged from the status of refugees to species migration, forests and oceans and endangered species.*

## Around The World – UK: Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots Peace Day Parade at TASIS – September 2016

Students from TASIS, Surrey hosted the 2016 UN International Day of Peace Parade on their school grounds, last September.



Photos: TASIS

Around The World – UK TASIS Surrey, UK Peace Day 2016

Students from TASIS, Surrey hosted the 2016 UN International Day of Peace Parade on their school grounds, last September.

Students flew a beautiful white Peace Dove, created wonderful Peace Day posters and at the end of the Parade exchanged doves with meaningful messages written on them.

Dr. Goodall established Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots Day of Peace in 2004 to encourage Roots & Shoots members and other interested individuals to promote peace in their communities and around the globe. Members craft Giant Peace Dove Puppets from reused materials and fly the Doves in their communities to symbolize their commitment to peace. In past years, Giant Peace Dove Puppets have flown in almost 100 countries in city parks, backyards, convention centers and even refugee camps. Held high by young hands, the Doves have spread their wings everywhere including the Coliseum in Rome, a monastery in Mongolia, the base of Mount Fuji and even the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro.

*“With so many challenges in the world today that stem from war and more recently terrorism not to mention our heartbreaking refugee crises, it is even more imperative that young people channel their energies towards positive activities that highlight the importance of peace and give them a sense of unity and collaboration in our society, as well as hope for the next generations” said Tara Golshan, Executive Director, Education.*