

# Two new schools to open in Dubai soon

BY A STAFF REPORTER

**DUBAI:** The Arcadia Preparatory School, when it opens in Jumeirah Village Triangle, Dubai in August 2016, is also striving to be one of the eco-friendliest by instigating a range of “green” building initiatives into the construction and operation of the school.

With up to 20 new private schools set to open in Dubai in the next academic year, competition is heating up for parents’ business.

Being developed under the group’s Arcadia EduPlan model, The Arcadia Preparatory School has already won recognition for its innovative design. It was shortlisted for last year’s “Education Project of the Year” category at the annual Middle East Architect Awards. The sleek, state-of-the-art school has been designed and built with environmental sustainability firmly in mind for which it’s hoping to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (Leed) recognition.

Meanwhile, Ladybird Early Learning Centre in Dubai’s Jumeirah Village Circle, is aiming to go one step further in its own green crusade: by becoming the first dedicated, early years setting in the Middle East to be Leed gold-certified for its eco-friendly building initiatives.

Set to open in July 2016, the pre-school has been designed and constructed with

environmental sustainability and reduction of carbon footprint firmly in mind. Throughout the building process 25 per cent of the nursery’s construction material is recycled, with 25 per cent of the actual construction material itself having been imported within an 800km radius, thereby saving on carbon emissions.

Post-construction, the AC will be switched off automatically upon opening windows, AC drain water is recycled and re-used for irrigation and each of the 15 classrooms will incorporate energy-efficient fans and lighting.

“The importance of sustainability – whether it’s recycling, reducing CO2 emissions, using energy-efficient fans and lighting or efficient water usage – is vitally important to instill within the young generation since they are the future guardians of the planet. By pursuing the stringent Leed-accreditation process we are committing ourselves not only to positive climate change but to the well-being of our children, staff and wider community,” says Navin Valrani, CEO of The Arcadia Preparatory School.

“Research is now pointing to long-term respiratory illnesses that can arise as a result of sick buildings and we want to ensure that our children will be protected from those sorts of effects with the creation of Ladybird Early Learning Centre,” adds Monica Valrani, CEO of Ladybird Nursery and Early Learning Centre.