

Letter from the Principal

“Talent is cheaper than table salt. What separates the talented individual from the successful one is a lot of hard work.” Stephen King



Dear All,

I was very pleased to see such a positive response from our school communities in raising money for the Nepal Disaster Fund. We were very grateful that the Red Crescent organization had granted us permission to raise funds through the school this Thursday in support of those affected by these tragic events. I am indebted to our staff, students and parents for responding at such short notice to the request for support.

As the full IGCSE examinations are now firmly underway, our thoughts are with our senior school students who are working hard to show what they can do and be the best that they can be. This is an important time in their educational journey because it is the first major assessment of their skills, knowledge and abilities. Whilst the majority of students are in Year 11, we have some students in Year 10 and Year 12 who are sitting these examinations as well. Here's to their success in these testing times.

Last year, our school was granted World School status with the International Baccalaureate Organization. This enabled us to offer the highly prestigious IB Diploma programme to students aged 16-18. In January this year, we were accredited as a Centre for the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, giving opportunities for our students to excel in adventurous activities and community service programmes beyond the school day. This week, after a rigorous evaluation process, Madinat Khalifa has been awarded Member Status of the Council of British International Schools (COBIS). This is a clear mark of quality within the International schools network and something of which our school community should be very proud. COBIS offers a range of high quality professional support for staff at our school and this accreditation is only offered

to those international schools that meet the highest standards in a wide range of areas.

I am pleased to inform you that we are now fully staffed for September and will be welcoming a number of new staff to join our school and help us to enhance still further the opportunities on offer to Madinat Khalifa students. We are ambitious for our students' success. We have high expectations of our staff who in turn have high expectations of our students. Supporting the developments next year, we are bringing in two very experienced secondary school leaders. Mr Chris Share will be joining us as Head of Secondary. Originally from the UK, Chris has worked in London and Poland before moving to his current post as Head of Secondary in our school in China. Mrs Iza Sloczynska is also from the UK, having worked in the Midlands before spending time in Taiwan and then Poland. Iza brings with her many years of senior leadership experiencing and will be supporting various aspects of the school's development, including preparing our IB students for university entrance. Under their direction, I am confident that the school will attain even greater heights and set new standards in education achievement.

Finally, I will be away from school next week because I will be supporting developments with our organization in China. During my absence, David Burt will be Acting Principal. I look forward to being back in Doha in a week's time.

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

Regards,

Terry Creissen

Dr Terry Creissen OBE MA MBA FRSA
Principal, Compass International School
Madinat Khalifa

Primary Week - David Burt, Head of Primary

This week in Madinat Khalifa Primary, we have been reflecting on the recent earthquake that hit Nepal. Year group assemblies focused on this today, followed by an opportunity for Primary students to take part in the bake sale. Thank you to all the parents who gave their time, at very short notice, to bake for this worthy cause and thank you also for the generous donations we have received.



Year 6 Debate



As an exit point for their IPC unit Black Gold, Year 6 held a class debate to discuss some of the themes raised by this unit. The children were put in groups for or against a current energy issue. After researching and forming their arguments they presented their case to the rest of the class who then voted as to who was the most

effective debate team. The children did a fantastic job and enjoyed challenging each other's points of view.



A Special Visit from Amal Al-Muftah



On Thursday, Year 6 was treated to a special visit from Amal Al-Muftah, winner of the THIMUN Qatar Northwestern Film Festival's award for Best Picture and entrant in the upcoming Cannes Film Festival for her film Al Hammali. The touching film about the lives of Souq Waqif's porters, or hammali, and Amal's infectious passion, drive and desire to tell unknown stories kept the children intrigued and the questions flowing.

We encourage you to view the film at:

<http://www.qatarliving.com/forum/qatari-culture/posts/video-al-hamali-porters-souq-waqif>

Primary Science Day 14 May : Book The Date

Our teachers are planning lots of exciting investigations leading up to our Science Day next week. The aim of this day is to broaden the children's scientific knowledge and skills with practical fun work. Students will have the opportunity to share and view other year groups' experiments and work in the afternoon.

Parents are welcome to join us at 12:15 on Thursday in the School Sports Hall, to view and celebrate their child's science work.

REMEMBER: Children can dress up as scientists for the day.



Year 5 Wassily Kandinsky Art

During the week, Miss Brick's Year 5MA class worked on their IPC unit 'The way we see the world' by re-creating interpretations of Wassily Kandinsky's Art work. The students used their own initiative and colours while listening to Richard Wagner. An art-music-culture day, showcasing some of our wonderful blossoming talent.

The class is sitting at the top of the leaderboard for the school in Mathletics. Well done to all our mathematicians.



Nord Anglia Short Story Competition Winner's Announced



As part of the Global Classroom, Nord Anglia runs a competition to acknowledge creative writing. This year's theme was 'An Unforgettable Place' which could be real or imaginary. All students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 were expected to participate. Year 11, as it is their examination year, were given the option. There were some incredible entries, showing a depth of description and a real understanding of how language can paint a picture in words.

We are proud to announce that two of our Year 8 students have been selected and will see their work published. Congratulations to Nukaiya Hatherley and Gilla Mohamed. You can read their work in the 2015 Year Book.

The First English Residential Course A Great Success

Students were invited to attend an all-expenses paid residential course at the Millennium Hotel in Doha from April 30 to May 1st. English, in a new environment, was the order of the day and students rose to the challenge magnificently. Following an intensive programme worthy of any conference scenario, students were expected to attend sessions which would underpin and refine all the skills they will need for their forthcoming IGCSE written and listening examinations.

Students participated with enthusiasm and gained numerous tips on how to face their examinations with confidence. We wish them well in their studying efforts.

For more on this story go to <http://www.nordangliaeducation.com/our-schools/doha/madinat-khalifa/article/2015/5/7/year-11-first-english-residential-course-a-great-success>



Duke of Edinburgh International Award – Service Section Update



The Service section of the Award encourages young people to volunteer their time and to understand the benefits of this type service to their community. Participants are required to give service (volunteer) over a set period of time that enables them to experience the benefits that their service provides to others.

Our students are currently involved in a number of service projects including help and support for Second Chance Rescue, a local animal welfare group and providing support within our school community by helping our lab technician during break times.



**PRACTICE
CYBER
SAFETY**

Secondary Cyber Safety Seminar

The secondary Cyber Safety Seminar was held today at 13:30, led by Secondary ICT Leader Sajid Mahmood. The session commenced by asking parents how their children use the Internet at home and to consider both the benefits and risks involved. Parents were then provided with a range of strategies and links to minimize the risks. Keep a look out on our website for an update to the Parent Essential, Cyber Safety section.

Annual Parent Satisfaction Survey

Our annual parent satisfaction survey helps us better understand how we are performing in key areas - what we are doing well and the areas where we can improve, this allows us to continue to provide the best possible educational experience for your child.

We would greatly appreciate if you could take the time to complete the survey before the closing date of **Wednesday 20 May**, you are only required to complete the survey once on behalf of all your children.

Please click <http://parentsurvey.nordanglia.com/survey/selfserve/5a0/150301> to start the survey which should take no longer than 15 minutes, your responses are anonymous and will be combined with those of other parents at our school to help guide and inform our strategy for continuous improvement.

Nepal Earthquake Fundraiser Bake Sale

The Fundraising event for the Nepal Disaster, was a great success. Cakes and savories were sold throughout first and second break. Secondary and IB students, as well as many Compass parents contributed by baking for this worthy cause. All monies raised will be handed over to Qatar Red Crescent to support them in their efforts to the victims of the earthquake in Nepal. Thank you for all your support.



Sport at Madinat Khalifa

Girls Basketball Glory



I am delighted to announce both the Year 3 & 4 and the Y5&6 Girls basketball teams have gained silver medals this week in the QPPSSA tournaments.

Both teams performed outstandingly, displaying great determination, team work and skill in a nail biting tournament.

The Y3&4 Girls beat Doha college, Qatar Academy and EMS Al Wakrah and played in a very close game against ISLQ

The Y5&6 Girls beat Dukhan, EMS Al Wakrah, Qatar Academy and lost to Doha college by 1 basket in the final.

Congratulations to all the girls, Medals will be presented in assembly on Thursday 14th May.



First ever cricket fixture for CISD.
Outstanding performance from the boys.

Dates for your Diary

Sunday - Thursday, 11 - 14 May	iGCSE Examinations Continue
Thursday, 14 May	Primary School Science Day