



# Gharaffa Buzz

February Edition



*Be Ambitious*

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# Message from the Principal

**“The purpose of education is to replace an empty mind with an open one.”  
Malcolm Forbes**

At the heart of all good schools is a relentless focus on learning. At the heart of the very best schools is a group of dedicated teachers who relentlessly focus on their own learning. Our teachers have the determination to go beyond, each and every day to push learning to the very limits for each child. That requires us to recognise our impact on students and how we must inspire children to find out much more than we know. It is not about having all the answers, it is about knowing the questions to ask.

In order for us to do this at Compass International School, everyone needs to be an effective learner. If we want our children to commit to asking the right questions and having an open mind, we must do this too. This is why our schools offer a programme of continuous professional development for our staff. This comes in a range of formats from on-the-job training, coaching for improvement, external training programmes and in-house opportunities to engage with others to share best practice.

This week, the teaching and support staff across our schools in Doha were delighted to take time to work with Sir John Jones, an exceptional school leader and a passionate advocate for learning. He led focused training session with middle leaders and senior staff from Rayyan, Gharaffa and Madinat Khalifa campuses. After school on Monday, we were all delighted to hear him

speak to the staff from our three sites. He reminded us why we do what we do and how we can always be better, going beyond each and every day. It was a great opportunity to be in the company of like-minded people who wanted to be the magic weavers of learning.

We frequently remind our students and staff to be ambitious and set ourselves challenging targets. This was evidenced in the determination of students at the Primary Sports Days and the amazing displays of dancing at the Arabian Night at our Gharaffa campus. The determination of our students to succeed was seen in the sparkle in their eyes. We witness the commitment of those who want to embrace additional opportunities through the ECA programme of after school activities or those who engage with our expeditions programme. We see the commitment of those posting ideas and comments on the Global Classroom discussion pages or signing up to be part of the group attending the Cambridge Science Fair at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Whatever strikes the imagination, we need to find a way to harness the enthusiasm and work out how to nurture that ambition. At the heart of Compass International School is the desire to see everyone thrive and develop a passion for learning that will stay with them throughout their lives. Be the dream that you want to be and be ambitious to achieve it.

Kind regards,

**Dr Terry Creissen OBE  
Executive Principal**



**Thursday 3rd March**  
Year 6 Fujairah trip returns

**Sunday 6th March**  
Book Week begins

**Thursday 10th March**  
Book Week Assembly and Character Parade  
Family Film afternoon

**Monday 14th March**  
School production - 12.00pm

**Tuesday 15th March**  
School production - 5.00pm

**Wednesday 16th March**  
Year 5 Desert Trip

**Thursday 17th March**  
Reports out to parents  
Y5 Desert trip returns  
Last day of ECA's

**Monday 21st March**  
2.00pm-5.00pm Parent Teacher Consultations  
Marhaba Coffee Morning

**Thursday 24th March**  
End of Term 2



# Arabian Nights

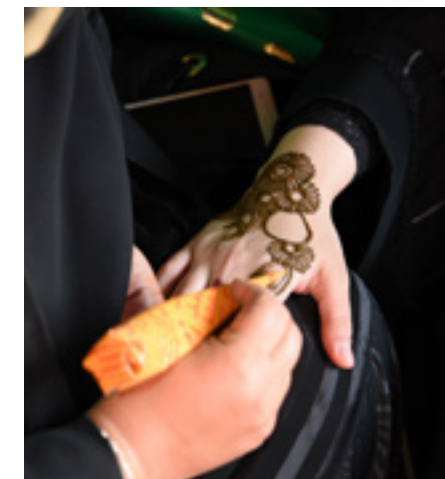
On Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> February, all three campuses celebrated our annual Arabian Night. We were treated to an evening of amazing dancing and singing performances from our talented pupils. There was delicious traditional food, face painting and henna.

We had local traditions of handicraft on show such as box and dhow boat making. The school was transformed into a traditional souk with carpets, stalls selling an array of local goods and Bedouin tents for people to relax. One of the highlights for the younger children was the camel who was happy to have photos taken.

A special thank you to our Arabic department for the organisation of this wonderful event.

Mr. Burt “I’m having a fantastic time at this whole school cultural event”

For more photographs click [here](#).





# Animals!

Early Years Two have had an incredibly busy start to 2016 as they began a brand new topic – Animals!

The children started their topic by learning all about the pets they have at home and as an entry point talked about their favourite animals.

As part of International Week the classes focused on the continent Africa. The children learned all about the animals who live there and went on Safari in a big green Jeep they made themselves. They were very excited to find elephants, lions and giraffes in our school. The children had an opportunity to take part in

African dancing, chanting, fruit tasting, art making and songs. After their busy week the children presented what they learned in assembly to their families and other classes – did you know that lions sleep for most of the day?

On Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> of February as an exit point to our unit, we invited QAW's animal shelter to school to show the children some of the animals they had learned about. They had a lovely time making friends with Peter Rabbit, Shelley the Tortoise and Cupcake the Kitten. Cupcake was very adventurous, she even rolled over for everyone to tickle her tummy!



# Year 1 GC update

This week we have started our new IPC topic – Flowers and Insects.

As our entry point we decided to come to school as gardeners and to plant our own flowers. We chose our seeds and planted them in our own pots! The class had lots of fun and we look forward to watching our seeds grow, along with our knowledge of flowers and insects.

We have learned that our flowers will need water and sunlight to grow.

Here is what the class have to say about it:

*"I think it is fantastic and I hope they all grow"* – Reya

*"I like planting because it's so much fun"* – John Cameron

*"It's my favourite thing to grow things"* - Cathy



*"I think it is fantastic - I hope they all grow"*  
Reya





# Year 3GB

The students in Year 3 GB have had a very eventful start to the New Year. In English, we have read a variety of Fairy Tales and once confident with the features of this genre, we created our own original stories. To make it more exciting, we learned how to fold and cut paper to create castle books to write our Fairy Tales in. We were so proud of our work, that we dressed up as fairy tale characters and had a book reading.

Here are some highlights from our Fairy Tale Unit:

"It was really fun making castle books and seeing how everyone's book was different." Ellie

"It was so cool to fold and cut a castle book. I was good at it and helped other people." Ibrahim

"I liked sharing my story with the class and it was also nice to hear everyone else's stories." Zerrin

"It was really fun to make castle books and see how everybody's was different"

"I liked to illustrate my fairy tale book. I was proud to share my story out loud." Somie

"It was fun to dress up as a Fairy Tale character and read my story out loud." Anna

In IPC, Year 3 has been learning about the Rainforest. We have used maps to locate the different rainforests around the world, we have learned about the layers of the rainforests and the animals that live there and we have compared our lives to the lifestyles of the rainforest people.

Here are some of our highlights in this unit:

"I liked making our rainforest display because we all worked together." Ibrahim

"We made butterflies for our Rainforest display, it was fun!" Eva

"It was fun learning about animals from the rainforest. I made a chimpanzee from the Canopy Layer." Zain

"I learned facts about animals from the understory. I made an anaconda." Aydan

"I worked in a group to draw a large monkey. It looks really good and it's on our display." Judy

"I learned how to make a flower out of tissue paper. All the flowers we made look fantastic!!" Tipu.

"Making tissue paper flowers were hard in the beginning but then it got easier to make. They look nice on our display." Jack

"I liked painting the different rainforest animals." Minna.



## Feeling the Force at the Fairground!

On Tuesday 15th, Year 6 took part in a fun filled trip to Gondolania as the Entry point for their new IPC Unit, Fairgrounds. This unit is packed full of Science, Technology and ICT, and of course culminates in the magnificent Y6 Science Fair. As always, the children represented Compass impeccably and they were able to see a variety of forces in action (and have a lot of fun of course). But don't just take my word for it; here are some comments from the students themselves:

"It was extremely fun and we learned a lot through this experience. Personally, I really enjoyed the Red Rollercoaster because the forces were able to create really quick loop movements." Haya (Y6GB)

"I had a great day. I saw gravity, air resistance and electricity in the Drop Tower." Sena (Y6GB)

"We saw a bunch of forces, including air resistance, gravity, electricity and magnetism. We

were also able to experience acceleration, deceleration forces that were balanced." Rithwik (Y6GA)

"I think it was awesome because we got to try out lots of rides and we had so much fun. Yesterday, made me excited to study my new IPC Unit." Sara (Y6GA)



# Anti-Bullying Day!

**What can we do as a school to take a stand on bullying? This was the question on our minds when we all came to school wearing pink on Wednesday 26th February.**

The idea to hold this special day was put forward by Friends of Compass parent Cindy Spencer. In Mrs Spencer's home country of Canada a 9th Grade boy was bullied for wearing a pink t-shirt to school. In response to this, bystanders went out and bought pink shirts for themselves and others. The movement spread and each year the day is held across schools throughout Canada to create awareness on bullying. Everyone wears pink and we decided to bring it to Compass.

We kicked the day off with an assembly that focused on what bullying is and how it makes a person feel. All children were given a white crisp piece of A5 paper. They were instructed to crumple it, stomp on it, everything except rip it. After, they were asked to smooth it out and try and get it back to its original state. They were told to reflect on what they had done to the paper and apologise. The children realised how even though they had apologised and did everything they could to return the paper to its original state, that there are still many scars that their behaviour had left on the paper and those scars will never really go away completely. For the children, the message was clear that this is the same principle that happens to people when they are

bullied. Even if there is a heartfelt apology the scars never completely go away. The children from Y4GA then performed a song called 'As One'. Everyone was invited to join in.

The day was filled with activities centred around the message of "No more bullying!" Children made video role plays, music videos and some fantastic posters which have gone on display all around the school and classrooms. As a school we were pleased how everyone pulled together for this wonderful cause. The school was awash with pink as students, teachers and even the security guards came wearing their brightest pink clothes. Today really had an impact on us all and we will be working together to become better friends to each other.



# Basketball

**On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> of February the Year 5/6 Boys Basketball Team competed in the annual QPPSSA Basketball Tournament against the International School of Finland, DBS Wakrah, Al Jazeera Academy, Loydence International School and Compass Al Khor.**

After a slow start, which saw the boys lose to a very strong DBS side, the eventual winners of the tournament, the team quickly found their feet with two convincing wins over Compass Al Khor and Al Jazeera Academy which saw them take 3<sup>rd</sup> place and return to school with bronze medals. A huge achievement for the boys and a great addition to the Compass trophy cabinet.



# Football

**On Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> and Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> of February Compass International School took part in the national GOALZ Football Tournament and competed against various other schools in Qatar.**

Thursday's Tournament saw our Year 1's go up against two schools who fielded students from Year 2. This however, did not phase our boys as once they got past some initial nerves they went on to comfortably win the final two games of the competition.

The day wasn't as successful for our Year 3/4 team as they came up against some very strong opposition which resulted in them finishing 5<sup>th</sup> in the competition. This did not ruin the

day for our school though as their hard work and determination was recognised by the referees and they were awarded the Fair Play Trophy. Something the team should be very proud of.

Friday saw our Y5/6 Team compete in what turned out to be a very competitive competition. Our team fought hard to come 4<sup>th</sup> in their group and qualify for the plate final of the competition (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> place). Hard work saw our team take a well-deserved 2 goal lead and hold on to finish the game 2-1. A huge achievement for the team. A special well done must go to Jowarha Al Thani, the team Captain, for her hard work and inspiring words on the day/field.





# Ready, Steady, Go...

“ I tried my best! ”  
Charley

## Early Years Sports Day

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February, we had our Early Years Sports Day.

Throughout the morning, students took part in a range of fun activities and games. From throwing bean bags into hooped targets to getting chased around the field by a crab, made sure all of our Early Years skills were put to the test in a thoroughly enjoyable day for all. A special thanks has to go out to all Year 6 students who ran each activity and proved to be an integral factor to the success of the day.



The third and final day of our Sports Week saw our MP2 and MP3 classes compete in a range of activities at Al Sailiya Sports Club, looking to win points for their house. Activities tested skills such as running, jumping and throwing which challenged students in a fun environment.

Finally all at Compass would like

to send out a special thank you to Al Sailiya Sports Club for their co-operation with the school and allowing us to use their facilities on such a fantastic day.

“ I enjoyed everything about Sports Day” Cecilie

“ Everything was awesome” Francesca



## Milepost One Sports Day

The following day saw our MP1 classes compete in the same activities but in a competitive format, looking to win points for their houses on each activity. Once again our Year 6 students showed how important they are to our school by leading each activity and most importantly keeping the day fun for all involved.



## Spot the Mascot Competition...



Well done to **Fahad Al Naemi** Year 1 this month's winner of the Spot Buzzy competition



Where is Buzzy hiding in this month's Newsletter? Look carefully to find him and then email [buzzy.gh@nais.qa](mailto:buzzy.gh@nais.qa) with his location. There will be a prize for the first family to spot him and they will be featured in the next edition!