



**“Follow effective action with quiet reflection.
From quiet reflection will come
even more effective action”**

Peter F. Drucker



Dear All,

The sign of success in teaching is when the students in our care show the characteristics of being great learners. There are many ways that we measure the attitude of students towards learning. Being prepared for lessons, making sure that homework is completed to a high standard, wearing correct uniform and behaving in a respectful and civilised manner around school form part of this. However, we really know that we have inspired a child when we see their curiosity to discover new ideas and concepts through independent study. Great learners are those who demonstrate the skill of reflecting on what they see, hear and experience. Reflective learners are those who are able to step back and evaluate what is set before them before making a decision on where they stand on the issue.

The test of a good school is very similar as we pursue a relentless enthusiasm for improvement. The best schools have staff who are willing to look at what they do with a critical eye, reflect on feedback and take action to improve. Knowing our school is a vital starting point for taking us forwards.

Our school aims to be the school of choice for parents in Doha. We want to build on our strengths and set out strategies to resolve our areas for improvement. Evaluating our developmental needs as a school is equally as important as students identifying what needs to be done to move to the next stage in their learning.

This week, I was given the opportunity to attend a well-structured and very interesting training day organised by the Supreme Education Council (SEC) to introduce us to the Qatar National School Accreditation process. This offers schools the chance to reflect on what they do in a formalised and structured programme and leads to formal accreditation with the Evaluation Institute of the SEC.

As we continue throughout the school year, we will listen and engage with staff, students and parents to enable us to reflect on what we do well as a school and what we need to improve. The process began last week when I met with parents of children in Years 8 and 9. Their positive comments about our staff were warmly received alongside ideas on how we can take our school forwards and how we can open doors for our students in their academic and social development. We hope that everyone in our school community will help us through the process to challenge us so that we can grow to be the first school of choice in Doha.

Yours,

Dr Terry Creissen OBE MA MBA FRSA
Principal
Madinat Khalifa



PRIMARY NEWS

Year 6 Mrs Elvin Class Assembly

Year 6 Elvin treated us to a thoroughly enjoyable assembly based on 'Feelings'. Students spoke and performed with confidence, showcasing their learning in IPC and Music. The assembly closed with a well-produced video showing students from Year 6 Elvin, along with teachers and assistants from our Primary School, performing to 'Happy' by Pharell Williams. This performance highlighted the fact that our school is indeed a 'Happy' place. As staff, we are determined that happiness remains at the forefront of everything we do. See our website for further photos.

No Hat, No Play

We are all fully aware of the dangers of the sun and understand the importance of keeping heads covered to protect us. It is for this reason that all three of our Compass International Schools are 'No hat, no play' schools. However, we are experiencing more and more students coming to school without their caps, even though this is an important part of our school uniform.

As of Sunday 23 November, if a student does not have their cap with them, they will not be allowed to go outside for their breaks and will have to stay inside the building, supervised by a teacher. I sincerely hope that this will not apply to any of our students and thank you for your support in this matter.

Parent Seminar Series: English As An Additional Language

We will be holding our next Parent Seminar for Primary parents next Thursday, 27 November at 07.45am. This will focus on how parents can support their child learning English as an Additional Language and will be led by our EAL specialist, Mrs Olga Alonso.

Mathematical Success

Well done to Julie Siccard in Year 6 Mannings and Gi Jin P Year 5 Brick for featuring on the 'Mathletics Hall of Fame' (www.mathletics.com). This is quite some achievement as thousands of students across the world compete daily in an attempt to break into the Top 100. Gi Jin reached number 10, whilst Julie reached number 72. Let's see if we can have more students from Madinat Khalifa featuring on this prestigious site.



SECONDARY NEWS

Ice Bucket Challenge

To raise awareness and in support of the Maua School and Orphanage in Tanzania, teachers and students are nominating each other to take part in the daily ice bucket challenge.



Year 9 Bake-Off

A team of Year 9 boys led by Mohammed Orabi displayed great initiative and independence in organising and delivering a delicious array of cookies, cupcakes, marshmallow treats and smoothies, complete with whipped cream. Students and staff indulged gleefully, showing great enthusiasm in support of our project work in Tanzania.

Many thanks to all who generously supported the Year 9 bake-off on Tuesday.



Cake celebrating the recent Philae lander detecting organic molecules on the comet.



DUTCH NEWS

Skating for Water

If you were in Villaggio on the 13 November, you might have seen a lot of Dutch speaking people on the skating rink. More than 60 students and their parents from the program for Dutch speakers in Compass International School and 'The Globetrotter' were gathered to do one of the sports for which The Netherlands is famous: skating. But, this wasn't just for fun. The event is organized in the Netherlands by Plan Holland (part of the INGO Plan International) to raise awareness about water and the lack of it in some parts of the world. Therefore it is called "Skating for water".

It was not a coincidence that it was this week. All over the Netherlands many children were participating in the same event on many ice rinks all over the country. It was special in another way because Compass International School and 'The Globetrotter' was the first school abroad ever to participate in this event.

During the past month, all Dutch-speaking children from Year 2 through to Year 7 have had lessons about water in their extra hour of Dutch on Sunday. We learnt about water in the world and in our part of Europe, salt and sweet water, why we need to be careful with water and how water from the sewer is cleaned for recycling through an interesting process. We learnt about the time that a big flood hit the South part of the Netherlands, Belgium and the UK in 1953.

In Dutch we have many expressions with "water" in it, which are difficult to understand if you don't use them often, like here in Qatar. Therefore we teach the children these expressions.

To prepare for the event, we arranged a special lesson with help of 'Plan Holland'. Through a Skype connection, students were taught by a teacher in The Netherlands about the project and why it is helping this year in Zambia. 'Plan Holland' offers water wells, toilets and gardens in schools around the country, to help all children (and especially girls) go to school.

All participants were really enthusiastic about the event, it had a great atmosphere. Some students from year 4 commented: "I am really proud what we did it and that I skated 17 rounds!" and, "I think we learnt that water is something to be careful with. Girls in Zambia sometimes need to walk two hours to get fresh water!"





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 24 November 17.00

Fujairah parent meeting at the Gharaffa campus

Tuesday 25 November 13.45 – 15.00

Year 11 Revision Skills for students and parents in the IB Learning Centre

Thursday 27 November 07.45 Sports Hall

Primary Parent Seminar: English as an Additional Language, led by our Primary EAL specialist, Mrs Olga Alonso

Wednesday 26 November

Year 5 Trip to watch 'Horrible Histories' at Doha College

Thursday 27 November 18.00 – 20.00

Secondary Film Night

Thursday 27 November

Year 8 and 9 Trip to watch 'Horrible Histories' at Doha College

Sunday 30 November – Thursday 4 December

December Year 6 residential to Fujairah