



Gharaffa Buzz

March Edition



Be Ambitious

Highlights:

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[Book Week](#)

[Milepost News](#)

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Message from the Principal

“If parents want to give their children a gift, the best thing they can do is teach them to love challenges, be intrigued by mistakes, enjoy effort and keep on learning.” (Carol Dweck)

Dear All,

It may be true that Google can answer factual questions (it answered more than a trillion questions last year) but it cannot replace the development of inquisitive minds. It is essential that adults encourage and challenge children to think more broadly and seek further knowledge. With the mountain of information available at the touch of a button, we must teach them, through discussion and questioning to identify, explain and be curious to discover their own answers to questions. Since the time of Socrates in Ancient Greece, this process of nurturing the curiosity of young minds has been championed by teachers who often answer questions with more questions in order to push and challenge the children to think for themselves.

The dialogue that students have with their peers and other adults allows them to develop their understanding, question hypotheses and seek solutions to problems. It is the richness of such conversations that brings out the best progress in learning of students at Compass International School.

The important aspect here is to remember that learning takes place

in many different ways. Sometimes, the learning is focused on academic aspects of the curriculum, facilitated by the teacher inside or outside the classroom. Sometimes, the learning is focused on teamwork, collaboration and sharing. Sometimes, it is more about developing self-confidence and self-esteem. There is a myriad of ways that children can learn in school. Sometimes these are hard to express in words and parents will receive different answers to the age old question, “What did you learn today?” We hope that our children can answer this question with confidence and can give examples of some of the learning activities they participated in school.

Across the three schools in Doha, our students have engaged in fantastic activities ranging from school productions, sports days, science fairs, book week, theatre visits, performances from visiting musicians, a range of trips and educational visits. Each week, something exciting is happening for students at each of our schools. This week, a group of secondary students will be flying off to the UAE for their Adventurous Journey as part of the Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award whilst 6 students from across our schools have been selected to attend the Cambridge Science Fair in Boston, USA.

Learning can take place anywhere and at any time. Our job as educators and parents is to make sure that we give the next



generation the chance to experience a wide range of opportunities so that they can live their dreams and become the change makers of the future.

Kind regards,

Dr Terry Creissen OBE MBA FRSA

Executive Principal

Off to the land of Oz...

After a tornado whisks away a young Kansas farm girl, Dorothy, to the magical land of OZ, she starts her quest to find the mighty Wizard of Oz, who has the power to send her home. Along the way she meets a Scarecrow, a Tin Man and a Cowardly Lion who help her on her journey. Throughout her journey Dorothy battles the Wicked Witch of the West in order to get home.

The children of Compass International School Gharaffa recreated this magnificent production. Tuesday, 15th March was the final performance of the Wizard of Oz for the children. At 5pm the microphones were ready, the children were set in their places and the band began to play. Some

children were nervous, others were excited and others just couldn’t sit still.

Over the past few months, it has been a true pleasure to watch the children grow. They were able to create, adapt and sustain different roles throughout the learning process of the Wizard of Oz. They have been able to sing, dance and act in front of their peers and to a large audience. The children developed their confidence throughout each rehearsal which has been especially rewarding for the teachers involved. It was an amazing show. Well done to everyone involved.

Click [HERE](#) for more photographs.



Dates to remember:

Click [HERE](#) for our Interactive online calendar.

Sunday 10th April

Term 3 begins

Thursday 14th April

Assembly EY1-Y1 Welcome back 7:30am

Thursday 21st April

Assembly Y2-Y6 Doyle/Lyons 7:30am

Monday 25th April

Marhaba coffee morning 7:30am



Book Week at Gharaffa

“A picture paints a thousand words ...”

A week of Anthony Browne picture books for Book Week

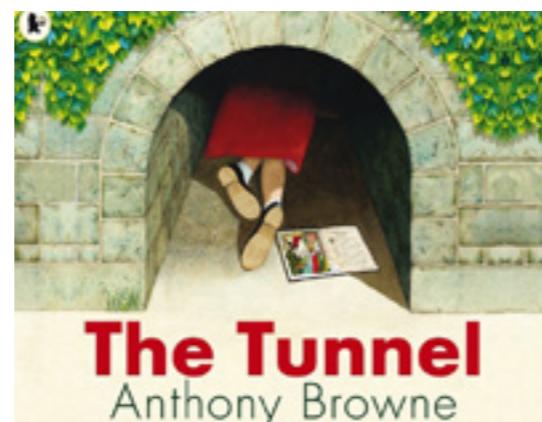
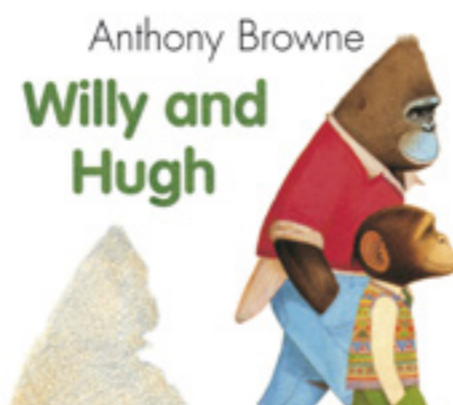
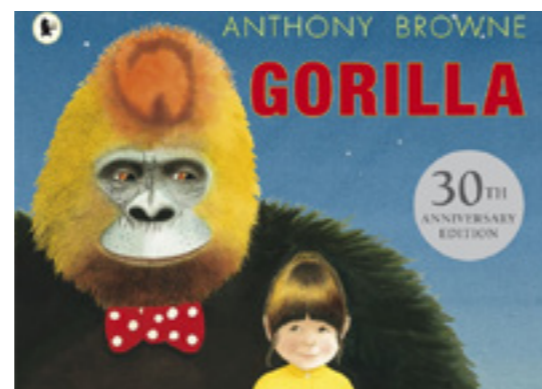


'DEAR' with Anthony Brown monkey masks

This month we had another hugely successful Book Week across our Rayyan and Gharaffa campuses. To coincide with World Book Day we ran in school activities from Sunday 6 to Thursday 10 March. Character parades, dropping everything to read, sharing favourite books and wearing pyjamas to name a few of the activities with everyone participating- it was yet another example of how good our school community is.

Our focus this year was on the work of English author and illustrator, Anthony Browne. We kicked off the week with an introduction to the author and a reading of one of his most famous titles, 'Willy the Wimp'. A story with a simple message, confidence is key. The beauty of picture books is that they prompt discussion far beyond the words on the page and Anthony Browne is particularly good at not telling you everything in the written sections. Willy and his journey to prove he was not a wimp is an excellent story to teach children the importance of being proud of yourself and to be resilient when things are not going as we might expect.

Each class focused on one of his picture books in their English lessons with class sets of the books being purchased, as well as enjoying many of his others as class reading. Early Years shared the book 'How do you feel?' - a great starting point for talking about emotions. Year 1 shared books about important people 'My Dad', 'My Mum' & 'My Brother.' Year 2 'Willy and Hugh' - another adventure for Willy, this time to make a friend! Year 3 read another classic Anthony Browne title 'Gorilla' - the story of a lonely girl's dreams of gorillas and spending time with her dad. Year 4 studied the tale 'The Tunnel' - the story of two very different siblings who discover a tunnel while playing together. Year 5 read the Grimm's fairy tale 'Hansel and Gretel' illustrated by Anthony Browne to give it a new element to this famous cautionary tale. Finally Year 6 read Anthony Browne's version of the story of 'King Kong'. Each class enjoyed their books and were able to talk very animatedly about what they thought about the titles. We now have some excellent Guided Reading and library books for the children of CISD to enjoy for many years to come.



Other key events of the week were the PJ day and DEAR day. On a rainy Tuesday, the whole school wore their pyjamas and shared their favourite stories with the class. It was the perfect conditions for wearing pyjamas too with an indoor break! Parents came in to read with children and we had lots of opportunities to encourage reading for pleasure. Later in the week, we had a DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) set time in our class while wearing monkey masks! Every member of the school community had a book at the ready and when they heard the signal they picked it up and read for 5 or 10 minutes wearing their monkey mask to tie in with our theme.

We had two competitions linked to our theme this year; Early Years and Milepost 1 were asked to design a new jumper to help Willy keep his confidence and the Milepost 2 and 3 children were asked to create a super friend who could help them like the Night Shimmy. As always the children rose to this challenge and myself and the class teachers had a very difficult task of choosing winners.

The character parade finished off the week in style. Each year the quality of costumes seems to get better and better. The staff also joined in, dressing as characters from The Wizard of Oz in preparation for the school production which took place a week later. Dragons, lions, Pinocchio, Peter Pan, Little Miss Chatterbox were seen walking the corridors. Each class voted and awarded a best dressed - these children won a certificate and book prize. Well done to all, and a special thanks to parents for creating such amazing costumes.

As an extra element to our week this year we had a whole school challenge. This launched two weeks before Book Week and children were asked to find extreme places to read.

The idea being, 'We are so excited about books that reading does not ever stop!' The quality of entries were very good and winners have been selected - these will be announced in an assembly after the holiday. Thank you for the efforts you all went to for this.

There are lots of photos and videos of the week that I have made available in the folder below - some will be shared on Facebook.

<https://drive.google.com/folder-view?id=0B4YoNZ1t5oJ2MDBxRX-l6dGpDOWs&usp=sharing>

I am incredibly proud of the efforts of everyone during this week and I hope that you all enjoyed the week as much as I did - now to plan 2017!



And a final thought, from another famous author whose birthday was celebrated recently.

“You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back, relax all you need is a book.”

Dr Seuss.

More Book Week Photographs...



Second Chance - Design for Change

A group of children from Year 6 took part in an SEC project called Design for Change this term.

During this time, they helped an important community project called 2nd Chance Rescue. This is a not for profit organisation that takes care of more than 150 dogs and cats in Doha. The children organised for a collection of food, toys and blanket donations for these animals.

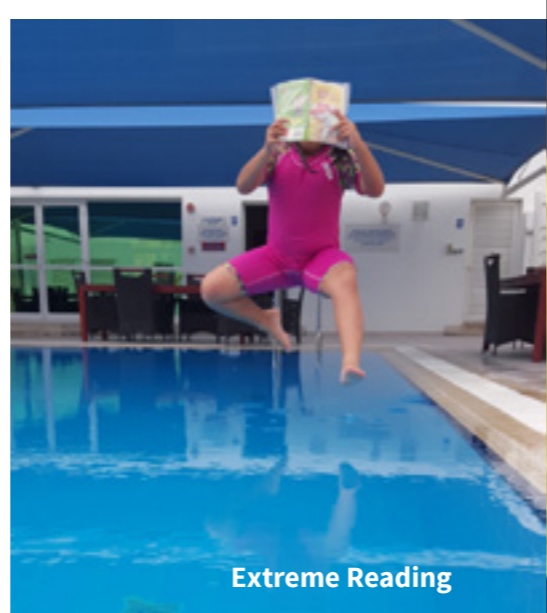
As a school, we would like to thank everyone who helped and we will continue to assist this wonderful charity throughout the year. The project has been submitted to the SEC for the next stage of the competition and we would like to wish the students involved for their amazing work.

"I loved the way Amy from 2nd Chance treats the animals" Haya

"I enjoyed the way that we got a chance to help animals that aren't fortunate enough to have a home" Makena

"I enjoyed making and editing the video" Rami

Click [HERE](#) to find out more.



Extreme Reading



Bears

In Early Years 1, we have been exploring the world of "Bears" this term.

As an entry point to the new theme we invited Mums and Dads into school to join us for a very special 'Teddy Bears Picnic'. The boys and girls could not wait to bring not only their parents, but also their teddy bears into school.

We have been learning all about different types of bears, from grizzly bears to polar bears. We looked at where they live and what they like to eat. In our classroom, we have a specially made Bear Cave where we enjoy listening to and joining in with stories such as 'Peace at Last', 'Goldilocks and 'The Three Bears', and 'We're going on a Bear Hunt'. The Bear Cave outside the classroom has been a huge success allowing the children to build it and dismantle it themselves on a daily basis. They have learned how to problem solve, work collaboratively and added their own version of cave paintings to the project. The children particularly enjoyed making Goldilocks' face from paper plates, using a variety of materials available in our design area to create their masterpiece. Another great term, with lots of exciting learning having taken place.

"We learnt about Mummy Bear, Daddy Bear and Baby Bear". Freddy

"Goldilocks eats the porridge and sleeps in Baby Bears bed". Hamza

"The cave is so big with lights". Calista

"My bear came to the picnic". Elizabeth

"We learned about Mummy Bear, Daddy Bear and Baby Bear!"

Freddy



Bear Cave outside



Teddy Bears Picnic



Spontaneous Cave Paintings



Indoor Bear Cave

The Sound of Music...

As part of our Super Humans unit, Year 2 have been investigating how we hear sounds.

To start we listened carefully to many sounds and had to identify if they were natural or man-made sounds. Next, we investigated many musical instruments to find out how they made sounds. Inspired by the musical instruments, we decided to design and make our very own. We had to think about whether we wanted to pluck, shake or bang our instruments and draw the ones we wanted. Then, using junk materials we made and decorated them. Finally, we made our own Pop Band and created a song or poem to play our instruments with.

"I liked making the instruments because when I finished making them I could play them. To hear the sound, I had to pluck the string to make it vibrate. The vibrations then travelled through the air to my ear. Then I could hear the sound." Kris

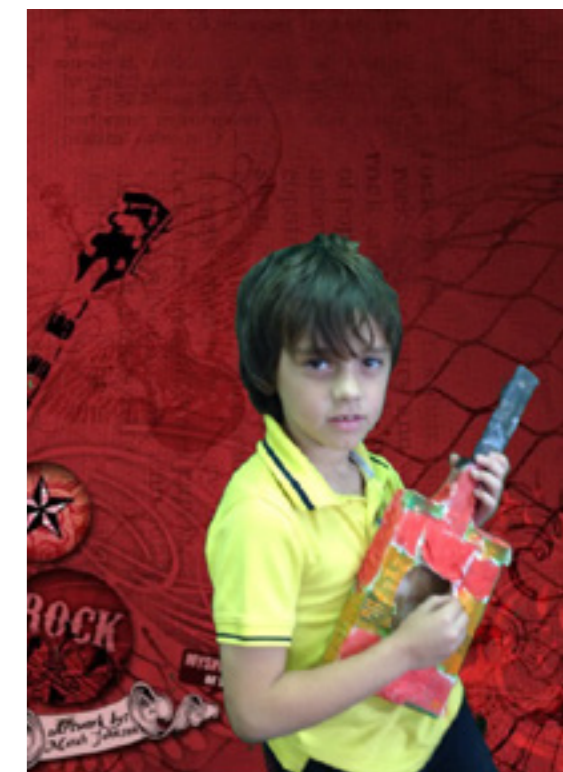
"I loved making the instruments

because it was fun. I made a guitar with a cereal box, some card to make a tube and some elastic bands for the strings. When you pluck the strings, they will vibrate with sound." Molly



"To hear the sound I had to pluck the strings to make it vibrate"

Kris



Gorillas everywhere...

Our Gorilla Writing Project in Year 3GA

Book Week in Year 3GA began on a high note when one of our Learning Assistants, Nicky Voysey visited our class.

Nicky had just returned from a holiday of a lifetime in Uganda visiting Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, home to half the world's population of mountain gorillas. Bwindi is directly southwest of Uganda, bordering Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Nicky was lucky enough to observe gorillas in their natural habitat. The children were enthralled to learn about these truly amazing creatures, see some fabulous photographs and find out why gorillas are endangered.

Linking with our IPC unit, 'Saving the World' (Rainforests) the children went on to complete a writing project. First, they practised research and note-taking skills by finding out more about gorillas and their habitats. At home, parents were

involved through a 'Talk Homework'. The children searched the internet and practised their note-taking skills.

In class, they worked in groups on different design ideas by making first drafts and used 'peer assessment' to improve their ideas. They thought carefully about how they could make their headings and sub-headings 'stand out' by studying non-fiction books. In this way, they learned to identify how non-fiction books inform and entertain the reader. They supported their writing with carefully chosen photographs and captions. The children are very proud of their finished zigzag books, which are excellent.

"I really liked doing the gorilla research. We learned how to take notes and I didn't know how to do that before" Ameera

"My favourite part was thinking of great design ideas. I tried to make my heading really stand out." Reuel



Lovely Lesley Walker Pays a Visit

Children from Year 5 were visited by journalist, Lesley Walker, who spoke to them about a career in journalism.

Druv from Mr. Gilleran's class wrote an article about her for our newsletter.

"Lesley Walker is a journalist from the UK and now lives in Qatar. She works for Doha News and has been working as a journalist for 17 years.

She has interviewed Prince Philip (Queen Elizabeth's husband), the ruler of Saudi Arabia, Bjork, Robert de Niro, David Beckham (football star) and his wife Victoria Beckham.

Lesley can speak French, German and Japanese.

When Lesley came to school she had lots of activities planned for us to do but we were bursting with questions so she was happy

to answer them instead. As Lesley said at the beginning of her talk journalists are packed with questions. She excited us with an exquisite retell of her life. We obediently sat on the carpet and when we got up my legs felt like rubber bands and my knee caps felt like jelly."

Year 6 Fujairah Trip

What do you get if you take 25 students on a plane to Fujairah in the UAE?

Exuberance, excitement, joyful squealing, endless questions and nervous anticipation.

From the moment we arrived at the camp the children had amazing fun. The activities were designed to challenge them. The most fearsome was the enormous climbing wall which is the very first sight for everyone as you enter the camp grounds. But once kitted up in harnesses and safety helmets, the children proved that they are up for the challenge. With great agility, everyone clambered up to the very top.

Mountain biking was a favourite as

everyone peddled over the bumps and lumps that make up a wadi basin. The looming mountains added to the excitement... and the stiff wobbly legs at the end. The GPS tracking through the wadi is another favourite as the children use the GPS machines to hunt down clues in a giant open air treasure hunt.

No camp trip is complete without water. Snorkelling in the ocean is a definite highlight... especially spotting a giant SHARK gently cruising past. Don't worry – this was a Black Tip Reef shark, and they are completely harmless.

The Dhow trip added to all the fun and excitement. Jumping off the Dhow into the ocean remains one of the best experiences for most of the children.

Survival was the activity that will live long in the children's memories. From learning about the five key elements for human survival, we got our hands on some fresh tilapia fish. Before we could eat, we needed to descale, cut and gut the fish so it was prepared for cooking. Messy, a little scary, but lots of fun. Next, we collected fire wood and made campfires to cook our fish over. It was delicious!

A final stop in Children's City in Dubai ended a fantastic trip. We learned so much here and would have loved to stay a lot longer but we had a plane to catch.

Well done to all the Year 6 students for rising to the challenges, digging in deep to find the courage and excelling at every activity presented.



Spot the Mascot Competition...



Well done to **Hamza and Ismail Ksila** 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 with his location. There will be a prize for the first family to spot him and they will be featured in the next edition!

Basketball

As the basketball term comes to an end, Compass Year 4 basketball team demonstrated all of the hard work and effort they have put in during the QPPSSA Year 4 Basketball Tournament. The team sailed through the group stage beating Nord Anglia Al Khor, Loydence and Qatar Finland to see them top the table.

They moved onto a challenging semi-final against a tough Loydence A team but came out victorious beating Loydence 4-2.

The final saw Compass facing the hosts, Qatar Finland in what was an extremely competitive match. Unfortunately, the Compass side had met their match and even though our team created many

chances they were not able to convert. The match ended 3-2 to Qatar-Finland, crowning the hosts champions and Compass a well-deserved runners up.

With everything considered, our team can be delighted with the result and can look forwards to a very successful Compass Basketball Team in the future.



Juilliard and General Camps

Collège du Léman Sàrl, Switzerland

There is no limit to what you can achieve.

Nord Anglia Education is pleased to be able to support a number of exciting, educational initiatives for our students to work together as part of our network of schools. Collège du Léman Sàrl in Switzerland is offering two summer camps at their beautiful school.

The first is the Summer Performing Arts with Juilliard for students between ages 10-18. Students will follow a transformative programme designed by the world-renowned Juilliard School. They will learn from Juilliard-affiliated artists in one-to-one lessons, coaching, rehearsals and masterclasses in their chosen discipline, surrounded by students who share their passion for the performing arts. The two week programme will inspire and stretch every child's artistic horizons and will culminate in a final celebratory performance.

The second is a summer experience that lets you design the camp of your dreams. Collège du Léman's Summer Camp is for international boys and girls from ages 8-18. You can create your ultimate camp experience by choosing one activity in the morning per week out of 11 possibilities and one activity in the afternoon per week out of 20 possibilities.

A 10% discount is exclusively available to all Nord Anglia families, and if you introduce a friend,

they will also benefit from a 10% discount.

We have an exciting opportunity to speak to a representative from the school, Mr Niccolò Martini, on 11 April 2016 from 09:30 to 12:30 at the Madinat Khalifa Campus in the reception area. This will give you the opportunity to find out all the details you may require to finalise your decision.

For further information on these camps go [here](#).

To register interest in the camps, please email Mrs Denise McManus, Marketing and Communications Manager denise.mcmanus@nais.qa

