



## “Talent is nothing without persistence”



Dean Crawford

Dear All,

For those who have been into school recently, it is impossible to miss the preparations that are being put in place for the celebrations in advance of Qatar National Day. This annual celebration takes place on Thursday 18 December, the first day of the school holidays but there are many activities to enjoy before and after the actual day.

At Madinat Khalifa, we will be marking the event with our own series of activities on Sunday afternoon and Monday morning. Students will be preparing projects related to Qatar history, language and culture. We will enjoy a Qatari Breakfast under the shadow of the Qatari flag on our new flagpole before enjoying our Qatar National Day assembly. We hope that the students and staff embrace the opportunity to celebrate the rich diversity of our host country and enjoy the fun and entertainment in equal measure. Thanks to our Arabic teachers for helping to organise this.

It was lovely to join our Cross Country team last Thursday and whilst we may not have won all of the medals, our Primary students enjoyed it immensely. Our Year 6 students had a great time at Fujjaira last week and those that remained in school had a great day out and managed to engage with the programmes on the Nord Anglia Education Global Classroom.

This week, we witnessed the 2014 Talent Show highlighting the varied skills of performers across the school Primary through to IB. It was a magical evening, bringing our school community together to entertain and be entertained with music, gymnastics and dance. It was also a time to showcase the Secondary School Choir. We are very fortunate to have so much artistic talent at Madinat Khalifa. Long may this tradition continue.

This is the last Newsletter of 2014 and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support since my arrival in Doha this summer. I have really enjoyed the challenge and fun of being Principal of Compass International School, Madinat Khalifa. At the end of term, we say a sad farewell to Eleni Mannings in Year 6. She has been a great teacher in our school and will be missed. We wish her all the best for the future. I am sure that you will welcome Miss Lovett who returns to us from last year to take over the class in January.

We have achieved a lot in a short time and we are determined to do even more in 2015. We will focus our energies on developing our service across the whole school from the Primary classes in Year 1 through to Year 6. We will spend time refining our curriculum offer in the secondary school, setting out new Option Blocks for IGCSE for the next academic year. We will run information sessions for students and parents who are considering being part of our IB second cohort of IB Diploma students at Madinat Khalifa. Look out for our series of parent seminars and a whole range of educational and social events for parents and families in the new term. Our Community Group are planning to be very active next term.

I wish you all a pleasant and relaxing winter break and look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Sunday 4 January 2015.

Kind regards,

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



# **PRIMARY NEWS**

Next Wednesday will see the end of Term 1 and what a successful term we have had here at Madinat Khalifa Primary. Our new students (and staff) have settled right into our school community and the term has been full of a wide range of exciting learning, sporting and cultural opportunities. One of the most recent of these was this Tuesday's superb Talent Show, where every single one of our Primary participants performed to the best of their ability and demonstrated levels of confidence beyond their years.

As a school we must strive for excellence in everything that we do and if you walk through the corridors you will notice the framed faces of several of our Primary students proudly on display. These are our first 'Pupil Profiles' of the year and showcase students who have demonstrated academic, sporting or personal excellence. A 'Pupil Profile' is a coveted award, and only a handful of students are selected each term. This reflects our desire for every one of our students to 'be the best that they can be - exceeding expectations'.

Thank you for your support during this first term and I wish you all an enjoyable winter break.

## **Doha Junior Cross-Country Competition**



On Thursday 4 December, Compass International School Madinat Khalifa hosted the Doha Primary Schools' cross country competition at Doha Golf Club. Over 40 students from Years 3 - 6 proudly represented the school, with Aduragbemi Olaleye (Y6) and Joshua Okunoye (Y5) both winning bronze medals. Thanks to the organizing team led by Chris Rice and ably supported by staff and the Year 10 IGCSE PE students who acted as race stewards.

## **Year 2 MIA Trip**

Year 2 spent a lovely morning in MIA Park as part their IPC 'Buildings'. The children observed and sketched the Doha skyline and created outlines of the buildings using lollipop sticks. They later had great fun in the playground and enjoyed a picnic in the sunshine. Behaviour was excellent and the trip was thoroughly enjoyed by both the children and their teachers.



## **Year 4 Zubarah Fort Trip**



Our Year 4 classes visited Zubarah Fort on Tuesday as the Exit Point of their IPC 'Treasure' unit. Students had a guided tour of the Fort, it's surroundings and Zubarah Village, which is an excavated UNESCO Heitage site. An enjoyable day was had by all.



## **Y1 Egan Assembly**

Miss Egan's class treated us to a truly fantastic assembly this morning, entitled 'All about ourselves'. As well as sharing their learning on the importance of a healthy diet, there was a lovely International theme to their performance, celebrating the diverse background of students in Y1 Egan. The students spoke with confidence and performed a number of songs and dances brilliantly. It was lovely to see so many parents attending today. Thank you for your support. Further photos will be displayed on our website shortly.

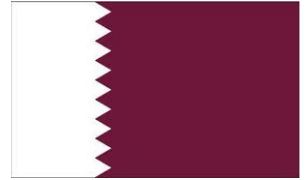


*Primary Certificate Winners*



**Qatar National Day Celebrations**

We will be holding our own Qatar National Day celebrations on Sunday and Monday 15 December. Children are encouraged to wear Qatari National Dress or clothes in the colour of the flag of Qatar. The day will commence with a Primary National Day assembly at 08.00, led by our Arabic department. Whether you are Qatari or an expatriate, this assembly promises to be an enjoyable cultural event showcasing our own Madinat Khalifa students, and all parents are invited to attend. Following this, students will have the opportunity to enjoy an Arabic Breakfast.



**Healthy Eating**

On Monday night we held a Nutritional Seminar, led by UK Nutritional Consultant Mrs Nathalie Gudgeon. The focus of the session was 'What should I feed my children?' The parents who attended found the seminar extremely interesting and beneficial. We are now hoping to work closely with Nathalie and run a nutritional cooking class for parents during Term 2. Further information regarding this offer will follow shortly.

**SECONDARY NEWS**

**National Day in Thailand**

Siri from Year 10 was invited to take part in the National Day celebrations for Thailand last week. She was invited onto the Main Stage and had her picture taken with the Thai Ambassador.



**Lost Property**

Please can we urge parents to check the lost property boxes before the end of term? Any items left after 17 December will be sent to charity groups.

**The Journalism Club**

The Journalism Club have produced their first 'Infocus' newsletter of the year with a special focus on how to be more organized. Students meet once a week and have the opportunity to do everything a real journalist would do: interview students and staff, write about topical school issues and research topics of interest. Those who enjoy editing and design work can do the lay-out and decide where articles should go. This is the first issue of this academic year and we are already hard at work on Issue 2. We are always keen to use more writers. There is a special sheet with revision tips for Year 11 students, going out with this edition. You can read a copy of the magazine on line on our school website under Newsletters.\

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

<b>Sunday 14 December 14.00 – 18.00</b>	Parent Teacher Consultations
<b>Monday 15 December</b>	Qatar National Day Activities
<b>Tuesday 16 December</b>	Qatar National Day Assembly Class Parties Y1 – Y6
<b>Wednesday 17 December</b>	Last day of term
<b>Sunday 4 January 2015</b>	First day of Spring Term



## ***OUR SCHOOL HAS TALENT***

Students and staff at Compass International School, Madinat Khalifa showed the audience that they really do have talent performing as instrumentalists, dancers, singers, actors, gymnasts..... we had it all. Even Mr Prout was encouraged to recite poetry, literally standing on his head. Thanks to all of the staff and students who made it such a great evening for all concerned.



The winners from our Primary and Secondary Schools all received a special trophy and a gift voucher from Virgin Megastore, presented by our panel of high quality "celebrity" Judges.

