



# Gharaffa Buzz

April Edition



*Be Ambitious*

## Highlights:

Cambridge Examinations

Second Chance Visit

SEC Award

Milepost News

Dr Terry Criessen

# Message from the Principal

“ I never teach my pupils.  
I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn.

(Albert Einstein)

Dear All,

Why do we make our children go to school? Is it because we have to, what we ought to do, or is there a reason behind this? How often do we ask ourselves the question; “why do we make our children attend school?” Is the aim to pass on centuries of knowledge and wisdom so that children can take their rightful place in the world? Is that it? Or is there more.

At Compass International School, we think there is more to education than just learning facts and figures. It is about learning how to be a good communicator and learning how to work collaboratively with others. It is about understanding the opinions of different people from different backgrounds and accepting different opinions with tolerance and understanding. It is about “educating the whole child”. This is at the heart of every good school that does not teach things, but educates children to be effective learners.

One of the ways that we do this is to make learning as enjoyable as possible and to extend opportunities beyond the classroom. Walking around the campuses, I see exciting learning taking place where children are working independently, in groups and alongside their teachers and support staff. I see them in the playground, enjoying a game together or engaging in conversations on a whole range of

topics. In and out of the classroom, learning is taking place on an academic, personal and social level.

Some of our students have been able to take this to a greater depth by joining with students from other Nord Anglia Schools. They attended the Cambridge Science Fair and spent time at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). It was an opportunity for students from across the Compass International Schools in Doha to be one of the 13 schools selected to send representatives to this event. You can read all about this on our website.

Another cross-school event was the trip to Madrid for our keen footballers in the Primary school. The students followed a full agenda with early morning training session and late night visits to live football games. They also had the opportunity to meet up with some of the students at our sister school in the city.

More opportunities like these are available through the summer with local programmes at our campuses as well as residential programmes in Switzerland and Oxford, UK. Browse the website to find out how you can open up these opportunities to your children to support their holistic learning experiences.

Kind regards,

**Dr Terry Creissen OBE**  
Executive Principal



## Dates to remember:

### Wednesday 4, May

Year 4 Pizza and Games night

### Thursday 5, May

Assembly Y2-Y6, 7.30am  
Wiese/Fathers/Omar

### Thursday 12, May

No Assembly

### Thursday 19, May

Assembly Y2-Y6, 7.30am  
Kenny

### Monday 23, May

Marhaba coffee morning, 7:30am

### Thursday 26, May

Assembly EY1-Y1, 7.30am McMenamin  
and Green

**Sunday 29, May- Monday 30, May**  
School Holiday

### Tuesday 31, May

School resumes



# Exam Success!

**Throughout January, February and March 2016 a group of CIS Gharaffa students took part in ECA sessions with Mrs. Anna Andrzejewska to prepare them for the Cambridge English Young Learners Exam.**

The students who took up the Movers Exam challenge were Ahmed Haitham Al Salama, Soleh Aqlan Aldzar, Mohammed Haitham Al Salama, Heyam Albatayneh, Luijain Assamman, Faisal Melhim and Sadiq Melhim.

In March, the Gharaffa Campus was approved by the British Council representative as an exam centre and the exam was held on 22 of March 2016. The British Council examiners

and invigilators were welcomed to our school and were impressed with the students' performance.

The certificates showing high results and achievements were issued in April and handed out during an assembly.

Congratulations to the Young Learners of the Compass school.

Join us next school year for the Movers and Flyers courses. Start your practice towards proficiency in English and your IELTS exams in future.



# Second Chance Rescue

**On Tuesday 19 April, Compass was visited by Amy who wanted to thank the Year 6 pupils for their work and dedication on raising awareness of Second Chance Rescue.**

We were delighted to find out that our favourite cat, Hemingway, has found a new home. Amy told us that the family who adopted him were so impressed at how well he behaved when he was in a busy school surrounded by inquisitive children, that they thought this was wonderful.

She told us that the food we collected was able to feed 150 animals for two days, which saved the shelter 1200 QAR. We learned that the scratch tower that was donated is very popular among all the cats.

She thanked us for raising the awareness of Second Chance at our school.





# Year Two visit Aspire Park

**During our 'Super Human' IPC topic the children were learning about their body and how it is a bundle of bones, muscles, senses and nerves all connected together to make you a human.**

In class, the children were learning about our five different senses, healthy eating and exercise.

The children of Year 2 headed away from their familiar environment and were provided with new perspectives which lead to fresh discoveries at Aspire Park! Fortunately the rain stayed off for the day trip and the children had a sense of adventure and ownership of their learning at Aspire Park.

Throughout the day, the children had to complete different challenges by using the five senses or their body to complete a fitness task. Each

task was something different and engaging which was an excellent reason to venture out of the classroom.

Some of the challenges included running up different hills and timing themselves. This challenge showed the children supporting their fellow team mates whilst developing their running skills.

Yasmina highlighted "I prefer running down the hill. Running up hill is a bit difficult."

The Year 2 children used their sight to focus on the different shapes of the trees in Aspire Park. After discussing the different parts and shapes formed by the tree, they then sketched the tree in front of them. All of the children produced excellent sketches of the different trees. While walking around the park the children

used their sense of smell to describe different plants to their partner.

The day ended with Year 2 children playing in the park. The boys were very excited to play football with an Al Saad footballer. They had an excellent day at Aspire Park.



# Early Years Two

**The children in EY2 had a fantastic time last term for our 'Let's Pretend!' topic.**

We looked at a different story every week and focused our learning around it. The books included 'Cinderella', 'Little Red Riding Hood', 'Jack and the Beanstalk', 'The Gingerbread Man' and 'Snow White'.

We started our topic by having a fairy tale fashion show where the children were allowed to bring in stories to share and dress up as something imaginary. We had a lot of princesses, queens and superheroes in school that day.

Throughout the term, we had a fantastic time pretending and imagining our way through lots of stories. We made gingerbread houses, imagined we were climbing beanstalks and wrote letters to the prince to ask for his help to save Snow White.

Our exit point was a 'Fairytale Ball'. We had another chance to dress up and celebrate our topic by watching an imaginary story of the children's choice. It was a fantastic day that we all enjoyed thoroughly.



# Year Four Sheraton Park trip

On a beautiful Wednesday morning, Year 4 travelled to Sheraton Park which is located in Doha's famous waterfront promenade. This was as part of an entry point to our new IPC unit 'Land, Sea and Sky'.

Apart from producing beautiful artwork of Doha's cityscape from under the shade of a tree, the children also enjoyed the well-shaded and well-equipped playground. They had fun with beanbag challenges and exciting parachute activities. Year 4GB enjoyed a delicious picnic, with the hustle-bustle of West Bay behind them. The children were a credit to our school by showing impeccable behaviour throughout the day.

"I really enjoyed when we threw our beanbag from the hill and the exercise playground" Aqlan

"I liked the exercise equipment as it was so much fun" Matthew

"I enjoyed playing with my friends on the playground" Tayla

"I enjoyed the fun parachute activities" Elizabeth



*"I enjoyed the exercise park and sketching the city buildings"* Nicholas



# Oil Spill

What a messy morning! Monday 11 April saw us begin our new IPC unit, Black Gold, and as always we started with our Entry Point.

At Compass, we try to design these in a way that stimulates the children's curiosity and makes them enthusiastic for the coming learning. This day was no different!

In groups of four, the children were given a variety of materials: a foil tray, water, sand, toy animals, paper, tissue paper and card. At the beginning, the task was simple; to use the equipment provided to create a beach scene. After some time reviewing each group's creation, it was time for a twist... OIL SPILL!

After the nasty, mean teachers poured oil over the creations, groups were given the unenviable task of cleaning up the oil spill and minimising damage to the environment. They were given a variety of materials to use to do this and assessed their effectiveness for the task, after which we made the link with some of the real life techniques to clean up oil spills.

Great learning took place during the lesson and the children worked brilliantly together while having a super time!



# Our Wonderful Mrs Enaam

Congratulations to Mrs. Enaam Taweel for receiving an award from the Supreme Educational Council for the excellent coordination of Islamic Studies in all three Compass campuses.



## Spot the Mascot Competition...



Well done to **Mirithika Ramachandran** 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!