



# The Rayyan Record

December Qatar National Day  
Edition

## Highlights:

Qatar National  
Day

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Week

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# Qatar National Day

**On Wednesday 16th December we celebrated our very own Qatar National Day at Compass International School, Rayyan.**

It started off with a traditional Arabic breakfast. We had food, fun and a fantastic assembly organised by our Arabic Department. We were entertained by singers, watched traditional dancing and were entertained by our boys performing as soldiers on parade. We also had a special visitor in the form of a falcon! Our campus was an array of maroon and white, transforming our campus into a true Qatar celebration. We were all very proud to be part of this wonderful celebration which you can see on this page.





# We love Qatar...





# Be Ambitious Challenges

**Across our two campuses we have spent the week focusing on our new philosophy – Be Ambitious!**

Children in all year groups have been involved in activities to deepen their understanding of what this means for them and for us as a school.

In short, Be Ambitious is the new philosophy being introduced across the Nord Anglia Education family of schools.

- It is a philosophy that guides everything we do.
- It is a philosophy that encourages every one of you to:
  - aim high,
  - take control,
  - create the futures you want to live.

We are working to create a school where everyone shares the belief that there is no limit to what we can achieve if we work hard together and individually.

Student Councilors from Y1-6 challenged their classes to explain the philosophy to others by whatever means they like – we have had posters, video montages, puppet shows and music videos to name just a few. These will be being used to publicise our message inside our school and across the Nord Anglia family over the next few weeks – keep an eye out for these!

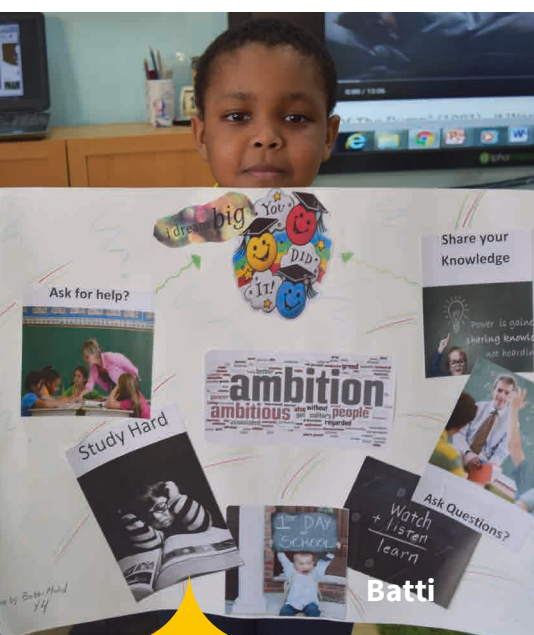
The School Council summarised our vision better than any adult could – the discussions focused on what we at CISD Rayyan and Gharaffa want as our school community – we want people that:

- Aim high, never settle for second best.**
- Look for new things to learn.**
- Always work hard to get better at things they already know.**
- Believe in everyone and help them to be the best that they can be.**
- Make a community that works together to make things better.**

Special mention to Batti and Mohammed in Y4 for amazing posters and home tasks linked to becoming more ambitious – well done boys! And also to Cole in Y2 who was the first, and by far most enthusiastic, class challenge participant. “I loved learning about being ambitious – I like everything. My favourite challenge was the PE one, I made a game for my class to play – rock, paper, scissors tig!”

Thank you to all the parents who supported us this week with our Be Ambitious Home School Challenges too – the children have been awesome!

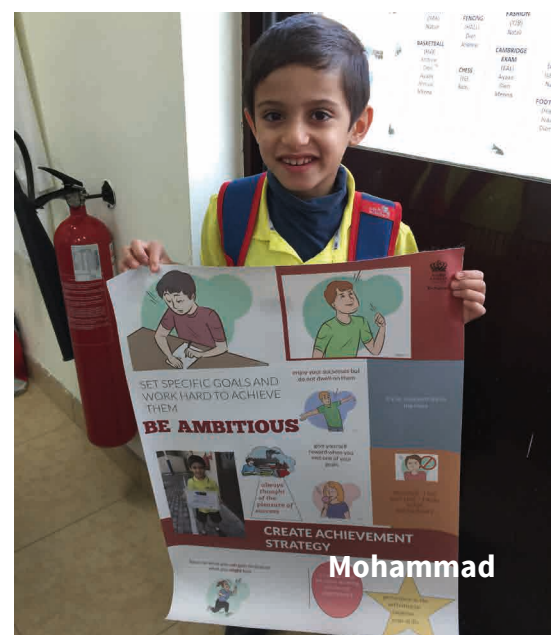
**Joanna Gilbert English Coordinator**



Batti



Cole



Mohammad



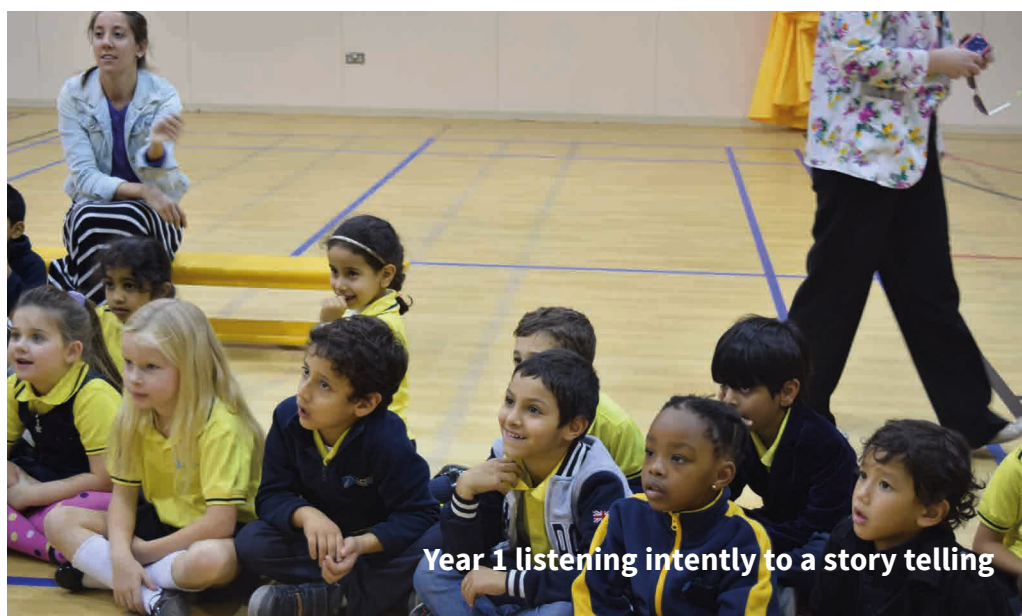
Story workshop



Year 2 Group Poem



Alan



Year 1 listening intently to a story telling

## Alan Gibbons - Author Visit

Our visiting author, Alan Gibbons, has helped the children put our new 'Be Ambitious' philosophy into stories on various themes that show ambition. He also helped many of the children to view writing as a challenge that they can conquer with inspiring guided writing sessions.

"I loved the funny stories he told us - I liked being a grumpy gorilla!"  
**Year 2**

"Alan helped us to make ambitious word choices to make really exciting stories - I want to use show not tell all the time now!"





# Early Years

Excitement was at an all-time high in the EY 1A and 1B classrooms on Thursday morning! The day had finally arrived for our trip to the Intercontinental beach...to complete our unit on "Sand & Water".

Warm clothes, flip-flops, sun screen and beach toys were all packed, in anticipation of great fun by the sea. From the moment we boarded the buses, the children's excitement and enthusiasm set the tone for the day. The children, staff and parents had a wonderful, fun and happy time.

Despite the cold morning, the temperature heated up quickly so we started our adventure with a lovely, picnic in the shade.

Then we were ready to explore

and have fun. Everyone certainly made the most of their time! We hunted for treasure in the sand. We collected shells and made sandcastles and roads! We dug holes and filled them with water. We paddled in the sea but didn't go out too far!

After more fun in the playground we boarded the buses. The return trip was quiet. Tired, exhausted children had to be coaxed back to class! They just about made it; a true sign of a very successful EY1 trip!!

Early Years 2 also a wonderful trip to the Intercontinental Beach to dig for treasure for their Pirate exit point. We have been learning all about pirates and buried treasure and the trip was a fantastic and fun

way of ending this exciting unit. We played lots of exciting games in the sand, built sandcastles and went digging for treasure! Everyone had **SO** much fun eating our lunch on 'Treasure Island' and finishing off our day in the playpark.

Florian – "I loved playing hide and seek on Treasure Island."

Rafael – "My favourite thing was when the pirates forgot their treasure and we got to find it and take it back to school. I found lots of gold and coins."

Isla – "My favourite thing was **EVERYTHING!!**"

Felix – "I liked playing in the sand."

Nefeli – "I loved making sandcastles and different patterns in the sand."



# Year 2a: People of the Past

This half term, Year 2 have been looking at 'People of the Past'. After finding out all about significant individuals in history, Year 2 are finishing the unit by thinking about the future.

At the start of the unit, each child dressed up as their chosen significant person from the past. We had Cleopatra, Amelia Earhart, Elvis, Oscar Wilde and many more. The children researched each person and shared interesting facts with the rest of the class.

As an exit point for the unit, Year 2 have been thinking carefully about themselves as individuals, and to tie in with our 'Be Ambitious' week, have tried to figure out what they would like to achieve in the future. As part of this, the children have created amazing time capsules to fill with information and pictures about themselves now, for their future selves to dig up and look at later on in life. They have included advice, which will remind them to 'Never give up', 'Keep on trying your best' and 'Be Ambitious'!



“We really enjoyed making and decorating our time capsules.”





# Milepost 2...

For Be Ambitious week, Year 3B thought about their dreams and aspirations. Pupils were asked what they would like to be doing when they were 25.

The theme of the week was to think about what it meant to be ambitious – whether those are big dreams or small. We used the iPad App ‘Green Screen’ and the photo editing App ‘Afterlight’ to make our dreams come to life!

We also looked at some famous ambitious people and set ourselves our own ambitious targets. We researched what qualities made people ambitious and we set ourselves our own SMART targets (Specific /Manageable /Realistic / Timely).

We hope you enjoy our Be Ambitious project as much as we did making it!



## ...Year 3B are ambitious





# Milepost 3 update

## Read on to find out about the busy few weeks in Year 5 and 6.

Miss Cat has been training to be a trendy teacher! She has been teaching English and IPC in Year 6 and maths in Year 5.

“She has been an exceptional teacher,” commented **Nathan**.

**Lucas and Faris** stated, “She has been trying very hard to help us and improve on her learning.”

“I think she did very well in her teacher training skills”, explained **Angelina and Erin**.

Overall, the children believe that Miss Cat will soon make an excellent teacher...

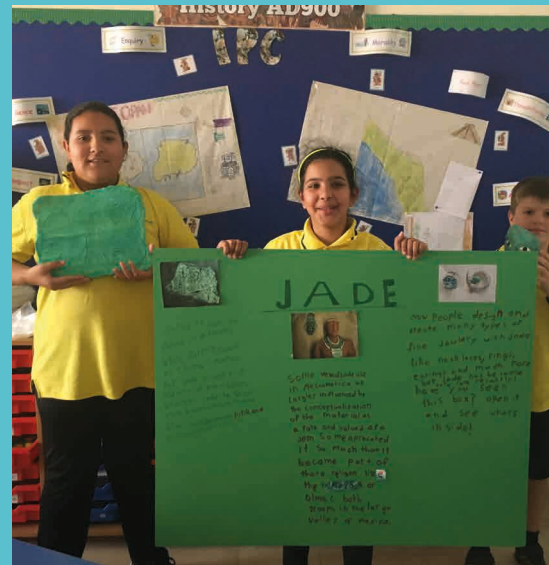
Recently, a spectacular Dutch film crew, Oogpunt, appeared in Year 6 for a day. They are filming scenery

from Doha and writing and recording raps about the city with the children. Now they must edit our wonderful video. We look forward to viewing it in 2016.



In Year 6, we have enjoyed investigating ancient civilisations that existed in 900 AD. We started by assembling a timeline from 15,000BC/BCE to present day; this helped us to understand how life has evolved.

We have enjoyed these few weeks and we hope that we have more candy and Golden Time next term! Mrs. Mulligan hopes that we continue to have great learning experiences and make even more progress.



## Spot the Mascot Competition...

Well done to Ethan last month's winner!



Where is Ray hiding in this month's newsletter? Look carefully to find him and then email [ray.ry@nais.qa](mailto:ray.ry@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!



# PE Update



Rune - Ballon d'or

**In PE this month we have continued to work on our athletics skills so we are ready for sports day next term, and of course have thrown a few fun games into the mix!**

'We have been doing a lot about athletics stuff and timed ourselves doing it. We timed ourselves jumping the hurdles, measured how far we could throw a rugby ball while sitting down, measured how far we could throw a frisbee, a javelin and a soft small ball. We also threw beanbags at some cones and into hoops. We did something called speed jump where you needed to jump over a 10-20 cm high wall. In one session we needed to make up our own a game in groups and then played the different games.' - **Jeppe Year 5**

'We have been training for sports day. We did lots of sports including throwing a rugby ball as far as we can but we had to sit down. I had fun writing our names on a sticky note and jumping to stick it on a wall. We all had to throw a frisbee as far as we can. Throwing bean bags on cones and into hoops was good! Jumping sideways on a soft cone/mat was really hard! One time we needed to get in groups, make a new game, and we had to try it out in front of everyone!' - **Sepi Year 5**

'I have had fun playing 'Stuck in the Mud!' - **Aiden Year 1**

'We have done throwing and jumping and running. This is called athletics!' - **Unami Year 1**

'Our catching competitions were fun! I did really well!' - **Jort Year 1**

'I like the running game where we touch the cones.' - **Mariana Year 1**

'I love dodge ball because it's really fun.' - **Dylan Year 1**

'I am really good at jumping because I jump so high!' - **Aditi Year 1**

'I have had so much fun playing dodge ball.' - **Ayoub Year 1**

Next term we look forward to learning a range of bat and ball games!

On a final note, we would like to congratulate the Year 3 and 4 football squad who came runners up in the QSL Goalz tournament this weekend! They showed terrific teamwork and skill. In particular, Rune in Year 4, who won the Ballon d'or (player of the tournament!) Well done, boys!



# Music Assembly

**On Thursday morning Years 1 -6 at Compass Rayyan presented items from this term's music lessons.**

It was lovely to see so many parents and friends in the hall to enjoy the musical performances.

The assembly opened with a whole school rendition of the Disney song 'Zip a dee doo dah'.

Years 3/4 and 4 had composed a 'painting in sound' of a journey on percussion from Egypt, across the desert, crossing the sea and arriving in China.

Year 1 sang a 'Special Me' song written specifically to complement their IPC topic about themselves.

Years 3 have been exploring the rhythms of words and playing them on the djembes. They retold the story of 'The Happy Hedgehog Band' playing rhythmic patterns on djembes and percussion.

Three instrumentalists then performed, Paige Y2 who

performed a Mozart piece on the piano; Nathan Y6 the theme music of 'Pirates of the Caribbean' on the violin; and finally Amir who collated a number of Arabic short pieces to play on the Oud.

Year 5 have been playing pentatonic melodies on the glockenspiels and xylophones. They performed a lively 'Pentatonic Sol-fah Jazz'

Year 6 performed twice, firstly 'I believe' on hand bells. They have been exploring the diatonic scale in music and this piece was a good example of a melody based on an ascending scale. They also performed 'Lazy Bossanova' on glocks and xylos as the rhythmic focus this term was on Latin Rhythms.

The Finale was 'The Gingerbread Man' song/mime by Y2. This is not the usual known story and it was sung with lots of enthusiasm, they even repeated the performance while the school and parents were leaving. It was a lovely start to the day and well done everyone.





# ... and finally

Dear Parents

Well, here we are at the end of a very exciting and challenging Term 1. We welcomed a lot of new students to our campuses at Rayyan and Gharaffa this year and they have added their unique individual contribution to our school.

The year has ended with a vibrant and colourful set of National Day Celebrations which were led by the wonderful teachers in our Arabic department. Thank you all! I certainly feel proud and privileged to have been part of these celebrations again this year.

Living in Qatar has certainly been an exciting and interesting experience and as I come to the end of another year it started me thinking about just how fortunate we are here. I know everyone grumbles about the traffic and the continuous building but it really is very easy to get into the habit of just looking inwards and thinking about how our lives are impacted by such trivial matters.

At Rayyan and Gharaffa this term we have been spending a lot of time thinking about how we can be ambitious, how we can set goals and work towards them to achieve personal success. We have some wonderful videos and animations that I hope you have seen that have recorded our thoughts and dreams. Many of our children had decided that their ambitions lay in serving other people and their communities. Many of them want to be doctors or surgeons, policemen or teachers. They have a real sense of wanting to help make a better world and I find that quite admirable.

Seeing things from another person's perspective isn't always easy but I had the chance recently to join a group of individuals who are embarking on a truly ambitious project which they hope will in time change their whole country for the better and improve the lives of children and young people.

I travelled to Kilifi County just outside Mombasa in Kenya to see the work of the charity Many Hopes. Many Hopes or Mudzini Kweto in Swahili works to support homeless and abandoned street children.

Taking these children off the streets and giving them a safe and loving home is just the first step. The home was built to make sure the girls feel like what they are: members of a family, not orphans in an institution. Each floor of the main house has four bedrooms, a living room, kitchen, house-mother and family of mixed-age children. This is their home and their family until they choose to leave and make their own lives.

Now Many Hopes is building its first



Graham Horton - Principal

school. Not an ordinary school for poor kids that you can probably see in your mind's eye, brick walls, tin roof, loads of children in each class, no glass in the windows, but a truly inspiring high quality school that will have places for children from all communities, a school where the children can learn to see each other as human beings of great worth and potential. The aim of the school is to grow a generation of young Kenyans who believe in equality and justice for all and who will in the future be the leaders of their communities and indeed of their country.

Now, that is ambitious!

For more information about Many Hopes visit [www.manyhopes.org](http://www.manyhopes.org)

Have a safe and happy holiday!

## Graham

### Key Dates for the Diary

**Sunday 3rd January:**

School reopens

**Thursday 7th January:**

Drop in for coffee 7.30am

**Sunday 10th January:**

FOC meeting 1.30pm

**Thursday 14th January:**

Road Safety Day

House Meeting

**Sunday 17th January:**

ECAs start

**Wednesday 20th January:**

Marahaba Coffee 7.30am

**Thursday 21st January:**

Y3/4 Assembly

**Sunday 24th January:**



COMPASS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
DOHA, RAYYAN & GHARAFFA  
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL