



# Gharaffa Buzz

May Edition



*Be Ambitious*

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# Message from the Principal

Dear All,

In talking to some parents earlier this month, I was explaining our “Be Ambitious” philosophy and why it is important in driving our work in school. The process of allowing children to experiment and take risks in their learning is a fine balance. We may like to play safe but we know that in order to move forwards, we must have some element of managed risk.



The focus on our strategy is to encourage children to move beyond their comfort zone into their performance zone. Imagine this as a set of three circles. At the centre is the safe, easy comfort zone. This is good for when we want to chill out, relax and recharge our batteries. This may involve relaxing in the pool, playing the piano, watching TV or reading a book. This is the area where emotionally, intellectually and physically you feel safe. We all need time in our comfort zone. However, at school, we need our students to be challenged and stretched to learn new concepts, practice new skills and improve their knowledge of the world around us. This places us in the performance zone. Sometimes we move into this area but stay close to our comfort zone and reduce the element of challenge. Our task as teachers is to push children to the opposite edge of this area by setting them high expectations and higher levels of risk in their learning. The best teachers do this without pushing them so far that they end up beyond the performance zone and into the third circle of the destruction zone. When children end up in this third area, they give up and stop learning. Some children think they are in this zone and say things like:

“it’s too hard” or “I can’t do it”. That is when we need to support and encourage them to persevere and show resilience. They may not be able to do it at first but if they keep trying, they probably can achieve the result they seek. The key to this is to let children know the importance of the word “yet”. They cannot do it yet...but they could if they keep trying.

Whilst I have been writing here about emotional and intellectual risk, we also have to be mindful of the need to keep our children physically safe. We know our schools are safe because we undertake regular health and safety checks and two have now been inspected by Civil Defence with the third inspection scheduled in June. However, if you do notice anything that is a potential hazard, please let us know and we will take action to rectify the problem.

We are entering the hottest months of the year in Doha. Everyone needs to keep hydrated and protect themselves against the effects of the sun. Our “no hat no play policy” should be engraved on everyone’s minds and is a shared responsibility for teachers, parents and students. I would also like to ask parents to be very careful when driving in the areas around the school. Our children are vulnerable when people drive without care for others by overtaking where children are crossing the road or driving too fast near the school. We are working with the local authorities here in Doha to provide traffic calming measures but the best solution is for everyone to be courteous and patient. I thank you in advance for your assistance in this.

May you enjoy a safe, happy and challenging final weeks of the school year.

Kind regards,

Dr Terry Creissen OBE  
Executive Principal



## Dates for the diary:

**Wednesday 1, June**

Year 6 Leavers’ Dinner

**Thursday 2, June**

Y2-Y6 Assembly 7:30am Eco Warriors to introduce World Environment Day  
Last day of ECA’s

**Sunday 5, June**

Arabic/Islamic Parent Teacher Consultations 1.30pm to 3.30pm  
World Environment Day

**Thursday 9, June**

EY1-Y1 Assembly Barry

**Wednesday 15, June**

School House Celebration Day

**Thursday 16, June**

Assembly Y2-Y6 (tbc)  
Reports issued to parents

**Monday 20, June**

Parent Teacher Consultations  
1.30-3.30 pm

**Wednesday 22, June**

EY1-Y5 Leavers Assembly 7:30am

**Thursday 23, June**

Y6 Leavers Assembly 7:30am

**Sunday 26, June**

Art Week begins

**Thursday 30, June**

Last day of term



# Real Madrid Trip

**April saw children from Year 5 and 6 travel to Madrid in a party of thirty from across all four Nord Anglia Education schools in Qatar.**

They spent a week in the city and attended training sessions at Real Madrid’s training city. The students put the skills they had learnt to the test in friendly matches played against teams from the Real Madrid Academy. No football trip to Madrid would be complete without seeing a league match in the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium. Children watched Real Madrid defeat Villarreal by three goals to nil.

A second trip to the stadium allowed the extent of Real Madrid’s success to truly sink in. The display of trophies was staggering in its size and glamour, beyond what any of us expected.

Not all the week was about football. The undisputed ‘best day’ was when we visited the theme park in the city. The sun shone, the rides had no queues and we somehow found the energy in our legs to race from ride to ride. We went high, we went fast and we got very wet.

Sight-seeing and shopping trips gave the children a taste of Spanish life. We witnessed the Madrid marathon, watched street entertainers in the Plaza Mayor and ate the finest paella the city had to offer.

On our final day, we visited our sister school in Madrid. Staff and children from International College Spain, welcomed us and invited children to participate in a multi-sports event.

It was an exceptional week, one the children will always remember.





# 'STEAM'ing ahead with MIT

## An exciting Venture.

Earlier this term, Nord Anglia continued their commitment to inspire learning and instil the belief to 'Be Ambitious' by developing a new collaboration with one of the world's leading institutions MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

The collaboration would see 105 students, from 13 International schools, meet in Boston, Massachusetts to engage in STEAM activities, culminating with a grand demonstration at the Cambridge Science Festival 2016.



## What is 'STEAM'?

'STEAM' stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths. The objective of 'STEAM' is to integrate these subjects and get students to think creatively across these disciplines rather than learning about these subjects individually. The intersection between these subjects is where the greatest number of discoveries are being made. This way of flexible and interchangeable thinking will prepare students for a future where there will be jobs that don't exist today.



## Experience of a lifetime

For six students, chosen across Compass International School Doha, the trip was a memorable and inspirational experience.

The students worked alongside MIT professors, pioneers and leaders in their field, during exciting workshops; from Bio engineering Beta-Carotene in petri dishes, experimenting with how to create robotic fish, to working collaboratively with students around the world on designing and building a giant chain reaction.

Scan the QR code on this page to watch the amazing experience the students had.







# The Jungle Book

On Monday the 25 of April, children in Year 3 enjoyed a trip to the Royal Plaza Cinema to watch 'The Jungle Book.' This served as an Exit point for our Rainforest IPC unit as well as linking really well with our current unit 'Chocolate', which also grows in the Tropical Rainforests. This film was a great opportunity for children to see what forests and jungles really look like.

characters come to life on screen was fascinating.

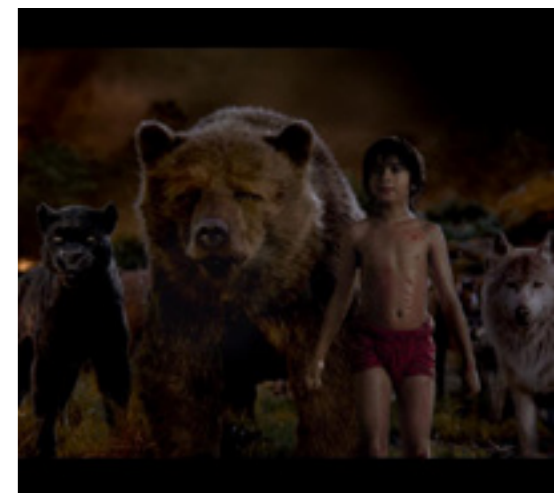
Right from the get go we were laughing at a funny talking animal in the opening scene and throughout the movie we chuckled at numerous parts, mostly from the silly Baloo. There were also some startling jumpy fight scenes that kept us on the edge of our seats.

Once the film started we were all hooked and taken by all the amazing scenery and wild animals that we have learned about. This was also a long awaited trip by everyone as we read the story of 'The Jungle Book' back in term one. We learned about Mowgli, Bagheera, Sheer Khan and all the interesting characters in this story. So seeing these incredible

Definitely a memorable trip for all of us in Year 3.

"We had the whole place to ourselves so I felt like I was watching it in my living room", Alyssa 3GD

"It was so exciting I couldn't look away the whole time", Hamza 3GD.



## Food, Glorious Food!

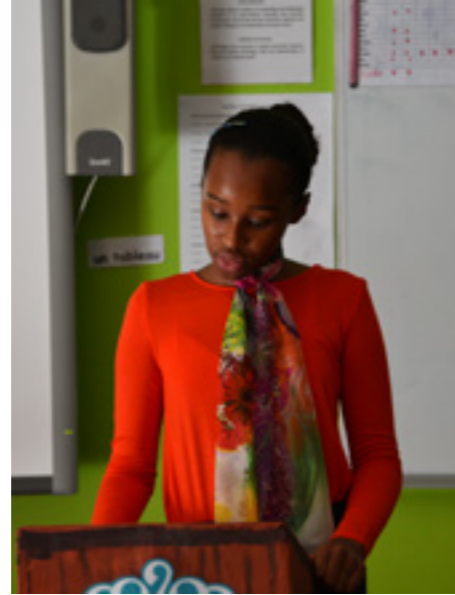
**In Early Years 1 we have had a super term learning about food.**

The children really enjoyed the Entry Point to our topic where they learnt how to make ice lollies. They enjoyed eating them too on a particularly hot afternoon. Each week the children have been making different healthy snacks as part of the topic such as apple cars and food faces. Throughout the topic, the children have loved learning some new stories, especially 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', 'Eat Your Peas' and 'The Enormous Turnip'. The children are really excited about performing their assembly which will be all about food.

In Mrs. Barry's class they have been learning how to take care of and grow plants, particularly bean plants. Many children took a plant home and have been taking care to water it and watch it grow. They also mixed colours to make green and used this new skill to create leaves for a fabulous beanstalk in the classroom that nearly reached the ceiling, and to paint some wonderful caterpillar pictures – all very individual in design. We have also been learning about healthy eating and the children are removing the more unhealthy items from the snack boxes independently and taking them home with them at the end of the day.







## Year 4 Pizza and Games

**On Wednesday, 4 May, Year 4 had a fantastic Pizza Games Night. This gave a wonderful opportunity for the children from all three of our campuses to socialise together, whilst undertaking some challenging, yet incredibly fun activities.**

The evening started off with some delicious pizza and a picture quiz. The children had to identify as many chocolate bars as they could. This promoted lots of discussion and fun dialogue. Afterwards, the children did a carousel of activities which included ICT, street dance, team building activities and a popular chocolate eating game. The six teams rotated around the activities spending 15 minutes at each. They behaved impeccably at each centre

“ I loved it because we could make friends from other schools ”

and worked together as a team.

The children finished the evening by performing their street dance to their awaiting parents. It was a fantastic success and everyone went home happy and excited.



“It was fun and there were lots of games” Evie

“I liked the paper building and eating pizza” Nicholas

“I loved pizza night because it was so much fun, the chocolate game was brilliant” Asmeh

“I really liked the dancing and games.” Aryan



## Milepost 3: Year 6 GA Debate

Hydraulic Fracking? What is that you might ask? Well, as part of the IPC unit Black Gold, Year 6GA studied all about how oil companies use hydraulic fracking to extract gas shale rock underground.

The process though has caused a lot of controversy in the world, with many saying it causes great harm to the environment and causes pollution. But others say it provides much needed energy sources to otherwise deprived areas.

That's where we came in. We split up into teams and had a grand

debate:

**Fracking – A Global Answer**

Six teams faced off with three proposing the above statement and three opposing the motion. The arguments were fierce and well researched. The teams used great debate strategies like hyperbole, anecdotes, rule of three, rhetorical questioning and terrific oral and physical expressions. Reasons for fracking included job creation, gas being a cleaner source of energy and the economical developments. The opposing side focused on the contamination of rivers and lakes, wasting valuable water and increased earthquake activity at

fracking sites.

The audience of parents, fellow students and Mrs Pilkington were left pondering which side to agree with and everyone was in awe of the terrific oratory on display.





# QPPSSA Swimming Gala - Year 3-6

**Nervous, excitement, determination, strength, athletic prowess and team spirit are only a few words to describe the children who competed in the QPPSSA Swimming Gala.**

Year 3-6 boys demonstrated resilience and determination during the QPPSSA Swimming Gala held at Al Jazeera Academy. Compass has a strong squad of boy swimmers and this event was a good challenge for them. They were competing against boys who represent the Qatar National Team and came in at an astounding 2nd place, picking up silver medals.

Year 3-6 girls demonstrated great team spirit, hard work and a hunger to win gold. Compass girls scooped up, bringing home the QPPSSA gold

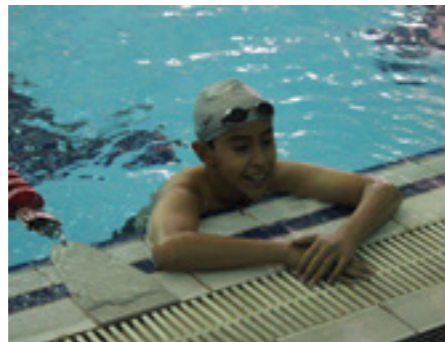
medals. The girls came 1st in almost every race.

A huge thank you to our swim coaches for making this a fun memorable day and a special mention to Miss Chelsea for the planning of the squads.

"It was so much fun and I like how we got to compete against other good athletes." - Jess

"This is the first time Compass has ever won gold medals in the swimming gala and we won it." - Mexx

"AJA had 5 national team swimmers, so coming second and getting a PB was good." - A.R.  
"It was a great day." - Adam



*"I was so nervous, but excited"* Cecile



# Library News

*"Reading is like dreaming with open eyes ..."*

**During the Spring break, we carried out some exciting renovations to our library. A brighter colour was added to the walls, as well as a new carpet, the addition of working spaces and a new layout. The children tell us that reading at the library became more comfortable and enjoyable.**

Additionally, since the beginning of April, all children can have access to the Qatar National Library online resources from their school laptops. Qatar National Libraries' online resources include the latest bestsellers, classical works, top academic journals, academic documentaries and more.

We also acquired more than 3000 new books to enrich our already big collection of fiction and non-fiction. More specifically we now have more than 10,000 books, a ratio 1 to 20 for every child, which according to international standards it's just amazing.

At the beginning of May we had the pleasure to have a visiting author for our Early Years children. Hana Rogers presented her book "Everyday Wishes" to the children and they enjoyed some activities together. The children were amazed by having a real author reading to them.

All children in our school have access to our library weekly with their class. They check out one or two books depending on their year group. We encourage all children who are taking part in the Accelerated Reading Programme to change their books as many times as they want.

Parents are more than welcome to visit the library and have a look at our collection.

The library is open every day from 07:15 to 13:45. On Tuesdays, as part of our ECA program, the Library Club runs from 13:30 - 14:30 pm.





# Healthy Eating Policy at CISD

**It is the policy at CISD to promote a school ethos and environment which encourages a healthy lifestyle. The School Nurse also plays a key role by promoting health and well-being in the school.**

## Snack Time

Children's lunch boxes should offer balanced nutrition and provide a healthy snack for children.

We recommend:

At least 2 portions of fruit or vegetable every day.

An energy giving food such as bread, pasta, rice, cereals, couscous or noodles.

Dairy foods such as cheese, milk or yoghurt.

Water or fruit juice.

Children are required to bring in a water bottle so that they can refill it and have easy access to water throughout the day.

The school community is aware of the possibility of food allergies within the student population, particularly nut allergies. The school has a 'no nut' policy and parents are requested not to send snacks with nuts or nut products in them which include peanut butter and Nutella.

Some children have special dietary requirements or specific food allergies, so for these reasons, students are not allowed to swap food items or share packed lunches.

We are aware that parents are the primary role model in children's healthy eating choices and believe that we can promote healthy eating through building a positive and supportive relationship with you through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation.

Amy Lim  
School Nurse



# Short Tennis Triumph

On Tuesday, 3 May students from Year 3 and 4 were selected to participate in the QPPSSA Short Tennis Competition at Doha British School, Wakrah.

The students selected were split into three pools, two in each pool, and played six games each against students from Lyodence Academy, Nord Anglia Al Khor and the hosts, DBS Wakrah. At the end of the final game, each school's win tally was counted and the school whose students achieved the most overall wins would be crowned champions.

Pool 1 saw Lujain Assamman and Noah Meeking play some

outstanding tennis winning five games each to bring Compass' win tally to 10. Aaron Spencer and Meno Van Maanen dominated pool 2 winning six games each and coming out with a perfect score to increase Compass' total wins to 22. After overcoming some initial nerves, Puck De Vries and Wiep Couwenberg went on to collect a total of nine wins in pool 3, giving Compass a total of 31 wins out of 36.

After all the results were checked and counted Compass were crowned Champions and brought home gold medals. We are all extremely proud of all the students involved.



# Spot the Mascot Competition...

Well done to  
Spot Buzzy competition

this month's winner of the



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!

