



The Gharaffa Buzz

October Edition



Be Ambitious

Highlights:

Happy
Handwriting

Liz McColgan
Visit

Student Council
& Eco Warriors

World Maths
Day

Fire Safety
Day

Happy Handwriting

Winners

Year 1A: Philine Van Asdonk

Year 1B: Alexis Joinson

Year 1C: Idela Mohsin and Elias Back

Year 2A: Nicholas Antonio

Year 2b: Mahmoud Ghonim

Year 2c: Sinemis Boztepe

Year 3a: Mahnoor Baig

Year 3b: Anna Every

Year 3C: Alyssa Lydevik and Hadeef Azrey

Year 3/4: Marlouie Paredes

Year 4a: Okke Tjallema

Year 4b: Noah Meekings

Year 5A: Nour Abullah

Year 5B: Estella Weis

Year 5c: Oliver Braddock

Year 6a: Maeva Oerum Depray

Year 6b: Aryssa Azrey

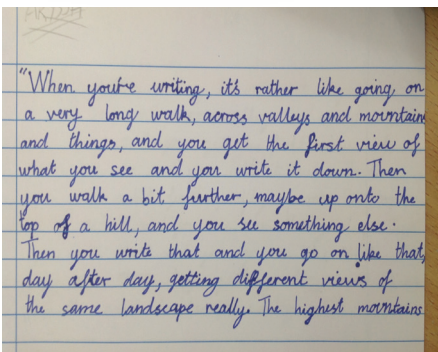
In the first few weeks of the new school year we have been setting our expectations for the year ahead. During the week beginning 27th September all classes focused on improving their handwriting in our annual Happy Handwriting week! From the baseline pieces of writing all children worked with their teachers to develop their style and speed to hopefully improve our overall presentation of work. Then came the difficult decision of choosing the most improved – some classes voted,

some teachers chose their winners and others asked for outside help but having looked at all the winners I can vouch for their decisions.

We want our writing to be clear, consistent in size with developing fluency and style. How would your writing do?

A winners video will be on the website shortly – and keep your eyes peeled for the first pen license holders.

Jo Gilbert - English Coordinator



"My writing used to be too big for the page - my class helped me to write smaller"

"I can join now!"



Maths Day

This year children at Compass International School took part in World Maths mornings in order to celebrate World Maths Day.

On Wednesday 14th October, children from all classes took part in activities and challenges that saw them bring Mathematics to life. On Thursday, we embraced technology as we invited children to bring in their own devices or use existing school devices to complete a wide range of online activities.

In addition to the activities, children were invited to create Mathematics themed clothing to wear on the two mornings. There were lots of brilliant creations and it was good to see the great ideas that the children have.

In Year 1, children participated in a 'shape walk' to further contribute to their in-class learning of 2D shapes. Furthermore, children explored the

school grounds and recorded their findings by taking pictures of both 2D and 3D shapes.

During the morning, Year 2 made 3D shapes using marshmallows and barbecue sticks. Children also went onto complete repeating patterns whilst thinking about symmetry and made 2D shape monsters.

For World Maths Day, Year 3 and 4 combined to complete a wide range of activities. These were performed through a carousel of learning activities, including a challenging Maths trail in the school grounds and games to aid children in their learning of the 3 and 4 times tables. Also, children went on to create their very own Maths Art that was inspired by Paul Klee.

In Year 5, children completed a carousel of learning activities that saw children create their own moving clocks that will aid them

when completing upcoming class activities and homework. Further to this, children completed Maths quizzes such as Sudoku.

Year 6 participated in team Maths quizzes which focused on many parts of the curriculum. In addition to this, children used the game 'Battleship' to develop their knowledge of coordinates.

Well done all year groups, it looks like lots of fun learning took place!

Matthew Hannon

“The only way to LEARN maths is to DO maths.”

Olympic Champion Liz McColgan

We were delighted to welcome the former 10000m Commonwealth, Olympic and World champion, Liz McColgan to both of our Gharaffa (Tuesday 13 October) and Rayyan (Thursday 15 October) campuses for a special athletics themed assembly this term.

Liz talked to us about how she started her career in running and we all enjoyed watching video clips of her races and when she received her gold medal at the Commonwealth Games and her silver medal at the Olympics. Liz is also a former marathon runner and has won the London, Tokyo and New York marathons.

Liz is now an international coach and has trained several British champions and Olympians, including her own daughter Eilish, whom we

all look forward to cheering on at next year's Olympic Games. Liz also talked to us about how she was hoping to find the next Olympic champion in Qatar and was working with just two schools here to set up their own after-school athletics clubs. Compass International School is one of those lucky schools!

The CIS ABC Athletics Club will start from next term and will run from 1.30 to 2.30pm on Tuesdays at Rayyan and Thursdays at Gharaffa. Letters will be sent out with the details shortly. This club will be open to Year 3 pupils and above. Book your space early as it will be very popular- Liz McColgan herself will be coaching at our schools.



Book your place to join Liz McColgan's athletics club next term!





Fire Safety Day

On Tuesday 6th October, the US Air Force fire fighters came to visit us at Gharaffa campus. They brought along their special mascot, Sparky, to help tell us all how to be safe in the event of a fire. Ahmad and Estella from Miss Day's class tell us what they learned below:

"At the fire assembly I heard what a smoke alarm sounds like and that firemen have extremely heavy gear! The fireman that showed us his suit told us it weighs almost ten pounds! A fireman's job is very hard and requires supreme strength. I also learned that if your clothes ever go on fire, don't freak out... all you have to do is stop, drop and roll, like your life depends on it. Firemen are awesome!" Ahmad

"On the day the firefighters came to school, we were split into three groups. In the first group we learned about smoke alarms and what you need to do when you hear that

noise. You should go on your hands and knees and crawl out of the door. But even before this, you need to arrange with your mother or father where you will meet outside of your house. If you don't crawl down on your hands and knees, the smoke above you could kill you.

In the second group we learned about STOP, DROP and ROLL! If your clothes catch fire for any reason then you should stop, drop and roll to put out any of the flames.

The third group was about speed and clothing. The firefighters put their trousers in their boots to help them dress quickly. They also wear oxygen masks and tanks with a suit that makes them look like astronauts. They also wear special gloves to protect them from fire.

The best part for me was about learning new things and how to be safe if there is a fire." Estella





We love to play with water!

Early Years

As you can see from the wonderful photos, we have been having lots of fun in our newly organised classrooms. The new layout in our Early Years 1 and 2 classrooms gives children the space to access resources and activities independently. The EY2 classrooms are both now open plan, as will be two of the EY1 classrooms. A lot of thought has gone into this, and the setup of the classrooms, to ensure that children have the opportunities to develop cross-curricular skills in all seven areas of the Early Years curriculum. This play based environment encourages independence, self-confidence, initiative and problem solving opportunities. The children have lots

more room to construct, build and investigate.

All children begin the day with phonic activities to help them listen to sounds and recognise letters. They have whole class input from their class teachers for Maths and English, and then work in small groups on focus tasks with the class teacher and learning assistant.

We have great outdoor areas for both EY1 and EY2 children. These are our 'outdoor classrooms'. Children have the same opportunities to learn and apply the skills taught indoors, but on a larger scale and different context. We are looking forward to using these areas as the weather gets cooler. Our main aim is to have fun and learn!



Milepost 1: Y2 Focus on Learning

As part of our Year 2 English curriculum the children have been using the much loved traditional tale of the 'Gingerbread Man' to help them with their learning.

This wonderful fairytale provided the perfect theme to help us with our written and language skills. We learnt all about recurring language patterns and we particularly enjoyed using the character masks which helped us to act out various scenes from the book. Our performance skills were legendary!

To make our writing more interesting and exciting we started to develop our understanding of adjectives. We used lots of adjectives to describe the gingerbread man and the fox and created an adjective gingerbread man board. Our writing skills were then put to the test when we had

to write out our own step-by-step gingerbread recipe instructions and our own version of the story. We were very creative in our story writing and the poor 'Gingerbread Boy' had some very interesting experiences in our version of events!

Our artistic skills were also called upon and we designed some fantastic 'Gingerbread Man Wanted' posters.

To complete the theme we introduced maths in to the story and used gingerbread men to help us with our number bonds.

We loved this whole way of learning, but the best bit of the of the topic was when we decorated our gingerbread men and ate them.



“Run Run as fast as you can...
You can't catch me I'm the Gingerbread Man!”



Milepost 2: Fun with forces Y4GB

During this unit Year 4GB investigated forces, including friction and gravity, through a sports theme.

We started the unit by playing tug-of-war games, beginning with small groups, boys vs boys, girls vs girls and then had a whole class tug-of-war.

We had an amazing amount of fun, excitement and healthy competition.

We learned that all forces are either a 'push' or a 'pull'.

We also discovered that a force called 'friction' played a key part in the tug-of-war game. Friction between our hands and the rope stopped the rope from slipping and friction between our feet and the ground stopped our feet from slipping.

Other forces, as well as friction, were also at work while you played tug-of-war. We discovered that a force called gravity pulled us to the ground.

Without forces to push and pull us along, nothing on Earth or in the wider Universe would move. Forces are so important that it is almost impossible to imagine a world without them – and yet, they are invisible. We can't see them but we can feel and experience them.



“ We learned that all forces are either a 'push' or a 'pull'. ”



Milepost 3: Year 6

Year 6 have got off to a fantastic start. Bas Bruneel and Wan Arief Putra have shared their thoughts on starting the new school year:



“I think that I’ve had a great start to Year 6. I’m really enjoying working with Mr Lyons because he always helps us to be creative and sets us work that is challenging but is still quite fun. My favourite part of Year 6 so far was our IPC Entry Point. I enjoyed this so much because we got to learn about different feelings. We had happiness at the beginning when we found out we would have a party. This quickly changed to embarrassment when we were told off about our behavior (a joke). The strongest feeling was at the end when Mr Lyons told us that it was all a big lie. I hope he won’t try to trick us again!” Bas Bruneel

“The start to Year 6 has been extremely fun. Although at the beginning I was quite nervous, now I am really confident in my new class. I feel that I am working and improving in all subjects. I have a number of highlights – playing games to get to know each other, the class party in IPC and I’ve also loved PE. I am looking forward to learning about Science in our new topic and the amazing trip to Fujairah.” Wan Arief Putra

“
We got to learn about
different feelings
”



News from PE

Wow, what an exciting first half term we have had in PE! We are very pleased to welcome our new members of staff; Coach Tom, Miss Deb, who runs Flourish and Coach Chris, who runs Happy Feet to Compass International School!

There has been so much going on in PE this term:

Early Years children have been extremely lucky to have Miss Deb from Flourish and Coach Chris from Happy Feet teaching them PE. Flourish works alongside schools to develop fundamental movement skills. This programme has demonstrated proven results in the areas of agility, balance & coordination. Happy Feet is a programme delivered by Future International Football Academy. Their aim is to deliver fun based sessions using football. It focuses on the child's developing motor skills and introduces them to the basics of following instructions.

Abdulla in Early years told us, 'I love to play with balloons with Miss Deb!'

Years 1 and 2 have spent the first half-term working on their fundamental skills by playing a range of games, helping them to develop through play. We have been working hard on following instructions and Miss McDonald and Mr Steve have been very impressed with

how fantastic they are when it comes to working in a team!

Bobby in Year 1 says he loves to play games in PE and particularly likes to be the tagger!

Years 3 and 4 have had lots of fun improving their basketball skills this term. They can now dribble, pass and shoot like Pros!

Evie in Year 4 said 'I love basketball because everybody can get involved and it is so much fun shooting the ball into the hoops!'

Year 5 and 6 have been extremely lucky to have Goalz working with them this term, playing lots of football games with them and having lots of fun!

Zephyr & Timea in Year 6 love Goalz because they have really friendly coaches, it is really fun and there are good games that teach you how to play football well!

Our after school clubs started last week and have already proven to be a big hit! We have lots of fun sports clubs happening! We hope to get some teams together this year so make sure you sign up next term to help represent Compass International School in our competitions!



News from the Library

There has been lots of exciting learning taking place in the library this term!

In this article Krystallia Syrigou, librarian for Gharaffa explains a little more about Accelerated Reader, a reading programme for Y3-6.

Accelerated Reader is a fun, but effective way to improve reading comprehension. Initially all the children are tested to get a starting level. Afterwards the children choose and read books at the level identified. Each book comes with a short quiz to demonstrate comprehension.

This year the children will have an even greater variety to choose from with over 800 new books being added between our two campuses.



Opening Times

Children, come and change your library book:

- **During your class library time and also from 7.20-7.30am**
- **Children can change their AR books during the day at appointed times.**
- **Or after school 1.20 – 1.45pm, and Wednesdays until 14:30.**



“Over 800 new books!”



Library Rules

- Books can be borrowed for two weeks maximum and they can be renewed for one more week.
- Accelerated Reading books can be changed twice per week.
- Y3 to Y6 can borrow 1 library and 1 AR book.
- EY1 – Y2 can borrow 1 book per week.
- If a book is lost or damaged the fine of 100 QR should be paid. Until the fine is paid the children will not be able to borrow any books.

Library card /shelf marker is MANDATORY for everyone (students, staff,parents)

Ambassadors for the School!

Introducing our new Student Councillors and Eco Warriors for 2015-2016!

Student Councillors:

Year 2: Zeinedin Saad
Year 2: Ahyem Harwood
Year 2: Navya Singh
Year 3: Otto Bentum
Year 3: Eva van't Hoff
Year 3: Ameera Hunashi
Year 3/4: Eddy Weis
Year 4: Phoebe Muniz
Year 4: Aaron Spencer
Year 5: Oliver Braddock
Year 5: Annabelle Kohn
Year 5: Malak Ghonim
Year 6: Christian Tham
Year 6: Lisa Kenrick

The Student Council act on behalf of the student body as their representatives.

Eco Warriors:

Year 2: Altan Hacisalihoglu
Year 2: Sinemis Bopztepe
Year 2: Hanna Basha
Year 3: Jayna Van Helden.
Year 3: Somie Onwusogh
Year 3: Aarav Vallamkatt
Year 3/4: Orestis Zissis
Year 4: Noah Meekings
Year 4: Chloe Muniz
Year 5: Jess West
Year 5: Ahmad Yousuf
Year 5: Lia Maragha
Year 6: Mya Arora
Year 6: Lidiya Marr

The Eco Warriors organise Eco Week and help to keep us environmentally friendly.



Friends of Compass!

We are delighted to announce that we will be forming a new 'Friends of Compass International School' (FCS) committee for each of our Rayyan and Gharaffa campuses.

FCS will be a social committee and offer willing parents the chance to really get involved in our school community through helping to organise social events. We have lots of ideas for possible events for children, families and even some parent-only events, which will allow us to meet up and enjoy some relaxed time with other adults.

Please volunteer to become a member. It needn't take up much of your time and you can be as active in the group as your time allows. We are keen for both mums and dads to volunteer their services.

FCS volunteer sign up forms are available at your school reception desk or from the main Admissions Office at Gharaffa. The deadline on the forms is 20 October, but we can extend this until after the half-term break to give everyone a chance to become involved.

As well as general volunteers we are also on the look-out for a Parent Chairperson and administration team for our FCS committee.

If you have any questions please direct them to our Marketing and Admissions Manager, Kathryn McCulloch, who sits in the Admissions Office at Gharaffa

YOUR SCHOOL

NEEDS

YOU

SIGN UP TO JOIN

Friends of Compass School, Gharaffa Social Committee
Sign-up forms available from Reception

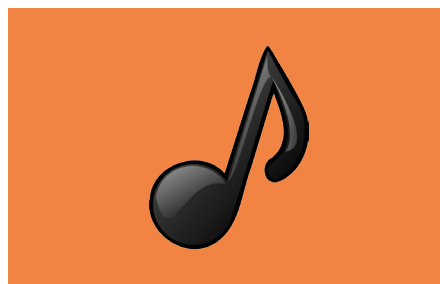
fcs
GHARAFFA
FRIENDS OF COMPASS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Check out our facebook and blog...

Click on the images below or go to our website!



[Regatta sailing visit](#)



[Sign up to our new music programme!](#)



Mascot Competition

Winning Design

Introducing Buzzy our new campus Mascot...

Well done to **Zerrin John Y3GB** for her winning design and input into the name of our newsletter. The judges loved the simplicity of her design and the use of school colours. It was also felt that the suggestion of 'School Buzz' as a new name for the newsletter fitted well with her mascot concept. In the end the judges decided that the new newsletter would be called the The Gharaffa Buzz to distinguish it from the Rayyan Edition.

The design for Buzzy will now be sent to the tailor to create a real life soft toy mascot for our campus!

Look out for pictures of Zerrin and the runner up James receiving their prizes as well as the first 'Spot Buzzy' competition in next month's edition!

Newsletter Competition
Deadline Tuesday 13th October

1 Draw your mascot design in this box and name it.
Your mascot can be any animal or imaginary creature. The winning design will be made into a soft toy and feature in a 'Spot the Mascot' monthly newsletter competition.



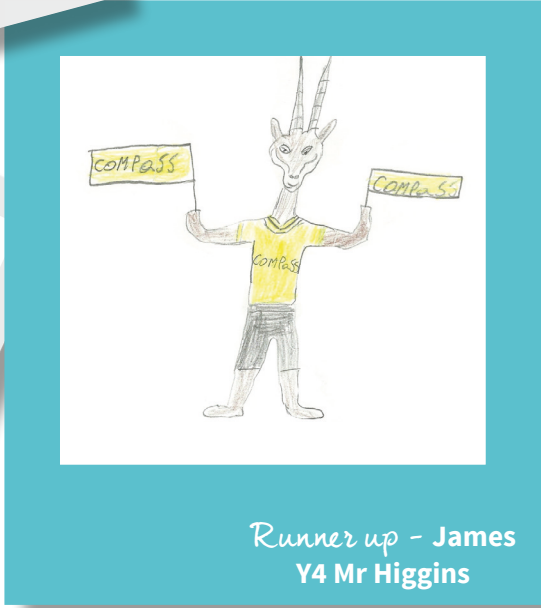
Buzzy

2 Think of a new name for the newsletter

School Buzz

Name: Zerrin John
Class: Y3GB

COMPASS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
DOHA, KATIFAN & GHARAFFA
A MIDDLE ANGLES EDUCATION SCHOOL



SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS



Pret-a-Portrait will be coming back to school to take individual and group informal pictures from Wednesday 18th—Thursday 19th November 2015, including some pre-bookable family shoots.

SCHEDULE

18th—19th November 2015 Individual & Group Informal Photographs
Sporting & Extra Curricular Group Informal Photographs

Sibling and Family Photo's

VIEWING

A short while afterwards you will be sent viewing instructions explaining how you can purchase and order using our cash system or online.

PICTURES

For each individual photograph you will receive one of Pret-a-Portrait's distinctive shots.

BOOKABLE FAMILY SHOOTS -

If you wish you can also book a 5 min slot for sibling pictures only, or a 15 min slot for a whole family shoot. No sitting fee applies. Have lots of great pictures taken. View securely online and order your favourites at school photography prices. **To book, please contact the school to reserve your time slot.**

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT

Promptly placed orders will enjoy a 10% discount.

PAYMENT

Orders can be paid for via our secure online card payment or by bank transfer. We will also be offering a cash order system.

DELIVERY

Deliveries will be made directly to the school or alternatively you can arrange for pictures to be sent to overseas addresses.

If you would like to find out more about Pret-a-Portrait and how they work please see www.pret-a-portrait.net

... and finally

I am delighted to be writing a few words at the end of this first edition of our new monthly newsletter. I hope you have enjoyed reading it as much as I have.

I am writing this in Geneva airport as I wait for my flight back to Doha. I have been in Switzerland this week at the Nord Anglia Education Senior Leadership Team Conference in Villars. The 42 principals and the members of the EXCO got together to discuss the future direction of the company and the schools we run.

One of the themes that we kept coming back to was the thorny issue of exactly what our purpose was in running international schools as we prepare children for an uncertain world.

It became clear that the world that our children and grandchildren will inherit from us will be characterised by the acronym VUCA. It will be a volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous world. We decided as a

group to continue our conversation about this during the year but we were united in the belief that it is our moral purpose to try to prepare children by helping them to become agile and innovative, resilient and adaptable. Ensuring that our children gain the softer skills of emotional intelligence, team working and an understanding of the value of every human being is going to be an essential role for us.

It is no longer a given that getting the top academic grades will get you into the best university or into the top job of your choice. Universities and employers are looking for more.

Having thrashed this issue about for several hours this week we have all now returned to our schools to begin the same discussion with parents and staff and indeed students. What will this mean for how we do things at Compass? Well, I didn't want to seem smug but we have always prided ourselves on really working hard to develop a full

range of skills in our children. We have the personal goals from our International Primary Curriculum for example which are woven through all of the work we do in class with our children. These goals of Adaptability, Communication, Cooperation, Enquiry, Morality, Resilience, Respect, Thoughtfulness and International Mindedness are themes we build our school story around.

They are also themes we will be coming back to during the course of the year as we continue our conversation about how best we can prepare our children for an exciting if uncertain future, giving them the knowledge, skills and attributes to be a successful member of the VUCA World.

Graham

Graham Horton - Principal



Graham Horton - Principal

Key Dates for the Diary

**Sunday 25th October -
Thursday 29th October:**
Half Term Holiday

Friday 13th:
Bugs and Butterflies family picnic
8.00-10.30 am

18th and 19th November:
school photographs

23rd November:
Coffee morning
7.30am



COMPASS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
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