



# LEARNING WELL, ENJOYING LIFE, EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

## School Consultative Group Year End Report for 2010/2011

Dear Parents,

This letter is from your elected representatives to the School Consultative Group (SCG) -Jeanette, Renu, Deon and Jill to keep you informed of our work on your behalf. Our primary purpose is to provide parent perspective to the school's leadership as they pursue continual improvements to affect "Learning Well, Enjoying Life, Exceeding Expectations".

The SCG met formally six times during the 2010/2011 school year and three of these meetings were devoted to our review of the School Improvement Plan (SIP). The minutes from all of the meetings are available on the school website for your review.

The School Improvement Plan (SIP) is a strategic, working document that maps out a three year action plan aimed at reaching identified objectives for improved learning. John Todd, Head of School, asked the SCG to review, discuss and give input to the plan. The four of us studied the document in detail, met with school representatives to understand the actions and objectives of the plan and met together to discuss our perspective, prioritize and consolidate our feedback. We were favorably impressed with the plan which is ambitious in scope yet attainable in detail. It addresses all the key areas important to our children's education and identifies and prioritizes specific goals considered essential to improving the learning at the school. John demonstrated a unique commitment to the process by opening the internal document to our review. Our input is reflected in refinements to the document and elsewhere in school practice and policy.

### **Feedback on our Feedback**

Per John Todd: "The School Leadership Team has been very pleased with the positive and constructive feedback received from parents via the SCG and hopes to continue and deepen this moving forward. We do need to hear about how we can further improve the learning at our school and are very aware of the issues raised by parents concerning facilities. We do value the support and feedback of our community and will continue to strive to offer the best learning from the most experienced teachers."

### **Summary SCG Activity**

Agenda items in 2010/2011 year included:

- Detailed review, feedback and discussion of the SIP with resulting refinements to the plan itself and/or actionable items as appropriate elsewhere in the school's policies and practices.
- Detailed review and feedback on the Arabic improvement plan
- Facilities were consistently on our agenda particularly with the start up of the Madinat Khalifa Campus. We discussed unmet expectations regarding delays to improvements at the MK campus. There were also a number of successful improvements for learning at both campuses - notably with new class spaces for music, technology and languages and a new science lab.
- Class sizes and resource allocation –anomalies associated with the relocation from Rayyan to Madinat Khalifa presented some temporary challenges at the start of the year. The SCG supported the schools resolve to preserve improvements to resources for specialty classes
- Various curricular and extracurricular matters were discussed
- Communications -. In review of the year, we note that communications was a common thread to our discussions. For their part, we commend the School Leadership Team for consistently acting to

improve communications. As another matter, we see an opportunity to improve communications and better coordinate the volunteer efforts of parents involved with the school – as class parents, on the social committee or on an ad-hoc basis.

#### **Additional Involvement:**

- We met with WCL Director of Learning and Education Management, Ann McPhee and joined her on a ‘learning assessment’ tour of the Madinat Khalifa campus.
- We interviewed candidates for the Director of Learning position and provided feedback to John Todd of our impressions.

#### **Results:**

We appreciate the careful consideration the School Leadership Team gives our feedback. They have incorporated our input into their strategic and operational plans so that we can expect:

- improved learning, in particular a special focus on differentiating work so that students are challenged at their own level
- introduction of an updated English programme in primary with a greater focus on skills development
- continued review and improvement to the Arabic program with the aim of enhancing the learning opportunity for both first and second language learners –possibly separating or segmenting classes (Note: any improvements must meet the requirements of the Supreme Education Council)
- improved sports and PE programme with more robust curriculum, more ECA offerings and competitive teams
- an internet portal for the whole school with more online information including school reports
- an SMS messaging system
- introduction of a new Curriculum Committee in school to ensure a smooth transition across all levels of the school
- improvement in facilities at both campuses
- backup planning for unexpected delays to improvements in the future - such planning will acknowledge unmet expectations with alternative solutions
- more online information on Health and Safety policies

In the coming year, you can expect the SCG to work to:

- improve channels of communication among parents and support more effective coordination of the multiple opportunities for parent involvement
- provide a channel for regular feedback to the School Leadership Team from a greater population of parents and students

#### **A note of appreciation and a fond farewell:**

We are sad to report that Renu Ballantine is leaving Doha this summer and will no longer serve with us on the SCG. Renu was a ‘founding’ parent representative to the group and is substantially responsible for establishing it as a relevant and respected source of feedback and support for the school leadership. We are particularly thankful for her work on the SIP this year. Renu set up the process of our review and managed the consolidation of our various feedback, input and ideas in its various forms and our various styles from our various perspectives (a true challenge.) It was a very big effort that we all appreciate. Her insight and business acumen will be sorely missed. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Respectfully yours,

Jeannette Verspui, Jill Chomowicz, Renu Ballantine, Deon Ellis

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