



LEARNING WELL, ENJOYING LIFE, EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

28 October 2010

Dear Parent,

Re: School Consultative Group Elections for Parent Representatives

I am delighted that a number of candidates have been nominated for election to the School Consultative Group as Parent Representatives. We currently have two vacancies:

- Parent Representative for Gharaffa Campus – position vacant as Renu Ballantine has completed her two year term
- Parent Representative for Madinat Khalifa Campus – position vacant as Jeannette Verspui has completed her two year term

I would like to thank both Jeannette and Renu for their outstanding service and support over the last two years. Jeannette has served as Chair of the SCG and Renu as Vice-Chair.

The purpose of this letter is to introduce the candidates for the two vacant positions. Once you have read the information sent in by the different candidates, you are invited to vote for the candidate of your choice. You may only vote for a candidate where you have a child at that Campus. Each family has one single vote.

Voting will run from Sunday 31 October 2010 and will close at 9 AM on Thursday 04 October 2010. Voting boxes will be placed in the school entrance area. Please fill in the election form and either:

- Put it in the election box at the reception in the main building; or
- Put it in the folder of your child (the teacher will put it in the election box).

You must hand in the voting form **before 9 AM on Thursday 04 November 2010**.

For the Gharaffa Campus, there is only one candidate, Renu Ballantine. Renu's introduction is attached for your information, and as she is the only candidate, Renu is elected unopposed for the Campus.

For the Madinat Khalifa Campus, the candidates are:

- Peter de Raaf
- Jeannette Verspui
- Veronique Watson

Note that only parents on the Madinat Khalifa Campus will receive a voting form. If you have any questions about the elections, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

John Todd
Head of School

Compass International School Doha

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Gharaffa Campus Candidate (elected unopposed)



Renu Ballantine

My name is Renu Ballantine and I have two girls at the Gharaffa campus, Anita aged 3 and Maya aged 7. Maya, our older daughter has been attending Compass for 3 years now and this will be our 4th year with the school and Anita started EY1 this year. During our 3 years in Doha, I started off as a stay at home mum, but now work at ExxonMobil, where my husband also works.

I have been on the SCG for two years and since its inception. I have very much enjoyed seeing the role of the group change from a more day to day issue resolution type group, to one whose main focus is now on helping to define the strategic direction of the school as well as put forward ideas to help resolve key issues affecting the school as a whole.

As a parent rep I hope to be able to help parents and individuals find the right way to resolve their issues, either through their class parent, through the teacher or through the parent representative for the campus, as well as take the larger issues to the SCG.

My role on the SCG as the Vice Chair has included working on the agenda with the Chair, preparing a number of the communications you receive on the SCG as well as giving advice at the meetings. I look forward to continue the work we are doing and have the opportunity to share many more of the successes of the SCG throughout the year, with the parents.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss an item you think the SCG should discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me on my email r_ballantine@msn.com. Many thanks.

Madinat Khalifa Campus Candidates



Peter de Raaf

My name is Peter de Raaf, born in Holland 1965. I am married with Ame and we have 3 kids Ezy, Fira and Tasya. July this year we moved to Doha. Ezy and Fira joined the Compass school in September this year.

Since 1981 I am travelling around and have spent time on nearly every continent. The last 8 years before we moved to Qatar I was living in Indonesia.

My professional career: I started as a 5th engineer on board deep sea going vessels and worked my way up to Chief engineer which function I enjoyed for 6 years. After having seen enough water I was ready to take a new challenge and took a shore job as a Senior Superintendent/ project manager, I lead different projects in mainly 3rd world countries. Since 5 years I work as an Operations Manager in a shipping company called Svitzer, which is a small part of the Maersk Group. We operate more than 500 tugboats out of 38 countries worldwide. Here in Qatar, we are active in Ras Laffan with 26 of our babies. And with a bit of luck our fleet will expand soon with another 19 vessels.

Things I do in my scarce spare time are of course quality family time, riding motorcycles, photography, computers and listening to blues music.

I would like to volunteer for the SCG because I simply want to get more involved in the whole educational process of our kids. School is a very important period in my (our) kids life, and by being member of the SCG an opportunity will be created to share thoughts and ideas with the school organization and other parents better than just by sitting in front of the television and wait and see.

In Indonesia I was chairman of the parents and friends committee as well and we created a better band and communication between school and parents, what on the end had a positive influence on our kids education. Looking forward to a positive outcome of this "election".

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Jeannette Verspui

I'm Jeannette Verspui and I would like to be re-elected as parent member in the SCG. I have been the founding Chair of the School Consultative Group since November 2008, and now after two years my term expires. I would like to continue the work I do for the SCG and would like your help in getting re-elected.

My family and I have lived for two years in Qatar. Our three children started at Compass at the Gharaffa Campus. This school year we moved to the Madinat Khalifa campus since our oldest daughter Dorien started at Secondary in Year 7. Our son David is in Year 5 (Ms. Leeman) and our daughter Esra is in Year 3 (Mrs. Hasselkvist). With our children at both Primary and Secondary I hope to be informed and involved in the school as a whole.

In the past two years in the SCG we've established a committee that works very well. As Chair, my role is to get all different views and sometimes opposite opinions on the table and discuss them. The school management has been very open to receive different types of feedback on (almost) any subject. Together, we have established several initiatives to improve communication between school and parents. I feel that I have created a trustful and reliable relationship with the school management team. Over the last year we have achieved many things through the SCG by giving input for improving the learning environment and the communication with all people involved, parents and staff.

There is still more work to be done and I'd like to continue improving the work as parent member on the SCG. Vote for me if you would like me to continue my contributions to the SCG.



Veronique Watson

My name is Véronique Watson, and I have a daughter in Year 3 and a son in Year 1. We arrived in Qatar in August from Maidenhead in the UK. My husband is British, I am French and we have raised our children to be fully bilingual and to have an appreciation of both cultures, which has really benefitted their transition to Qatar. In the UK, although I had a job working in recruitment (which I have been able to continue in Qatar), I was heavily involved in children's education and wellbeing. I was involved from the beginning in a new Saturday school, supported by the French government, that taught the French language and culture to bi-national children, and also acted as a classroom aid in my children's primary school, helping with reading and other classroom activities two or three times a week. I was also heavily involved in events to support the school, and helped with the organisation of school quiz nights and school fairs, as well as being a parent helper on school excursions.

I believe it is important for children to understand where they come from, and to learn about their culture and history as well as to learn about and respect that of others, especially in this modern, globalist era. My experience has shown me that children don't like to be different from others in their classrooms, and that it is important that we as adults help them create a sense of belonging whilst retaining their own sense of individuality.

I hope to be able to continue with similar supporting activities at the Compass School here in Doha, where I believe my strong communication skills and the experience outlined above will be of real benefit. Our children are loving their new school, and I would relish the opportunity to be a part of making this new campus a success!

I believe my experience would be an asset to the School Consultative Group and I hope that you will agree with me!

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ELECTION FORM FOR MADINAT KHALIFA CAMPUS

For the new parent member in the School Consultative Group for the Madinat Khalifa Campus

Peter de Raaf

Jeannette Verspui

Veronique Watson

Please fill in the election form by putting a cross or tick in the box for the candidate who you would like to elect and either:

- Put it in the election box at the reception in the main building; or
- Put it in the folder of your child (the teacher will put it in the election box).

You must hand in the voting form **before 9 AM on Thursday 04 November 2010**.

Every family with a child at the Madinat Khalifa Campus has one vote.

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