



LEARNING WELL, ENJOYING LIFE, EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

You are invited to be involved in Enjoying Life, Learning Well, Exceeding Expectations

A warm "Welcome" to those of you who are new and a hearty "Welcome Back" to those of you who are returning. For all of us, it is a new year full of opportunities to participate in the living and learning community of Compass.

The Campus Principal wrote to you recently: "To ensure our children really enjoy their time at school and receive the very best education possible, we firmly believe in working in partnership with parents and the wider community."

This memo serves as an introduction to the structure and opportunities for parent involvement at Compass. On Monday 18th October 2010 at 7 pm we will hold an information night in the Sports Hall at the Gharaffa Campus for parents of both Campuses. Our aim is to give you the opportunity to meet other parents involved in the Compass Community and to learn more about some of the opportunities that welcome your participation. Some are formal committees, some are individual efforts.

Please fill out the attached "PARENT INFORMATION SHEET".

This is a 'no obligation' first step in expressing your interests – either in existing initiatives or perhaps you have some ideas of your own. Send it to school with your child and we will use it to develop a database for current and future needs as they arise. Feel free to update your interests and fill out a new sheet at any time. Simply send it in to your child's classroom parent.

Existing structured parent involvement opportunities include:

The School Consultative Group (SCG)

The SCG was formed in 2008 to provide a formal process of providing parent input to the school's strategic planning and priorities. This year the goals of the SCG will continue with three main focus areas: communication, setting up the right groups to help the school and strategic direction. It consists of the Head of School and Campus Principals, a teacher – elected by their peers, and four parent representatives (two from each Campus) – elected by the parents at the school. Each year at least two parent representative seats are held up for election. For more information about the SCG please contact the chairperson: Jeannette Verspui (ja.verspui@online.nl) or look on the school website: www.cisdoha.com/newsandinformation/SCG

Class Parent Network

The Class Parent Network – consists of one or two class parents from each class, a class parent coordinator (selected by the Campus Principal) and the Campus Principal. This group is the primary mechanism for informal communications – such as feedback, school improvement ideas, general concerns – and for coordinating volunteer efforts that support learning in the classroom. The class parent coordinator regularly gathers feedback from the class parents and meets with the Campus

Compass International School Doha

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Principal to discuss concerns and improvement ideas. The coordinator also facilitates meetings with the entire class parent group and Campus Principal. This provides a group forum for open discussion of issues and initiatives of common concern at the campus. At the moment the class parent coordinator at Gharaffa is Jill Chomowicz (jilldotchom@gmail.com). At Madinat Khalifa this coordinator will be selected soon out of the group of class parents.

The Social Committee

The Social Committee was initiated last year (2009/2010) and is comprised of parents that are interested in promoting the Compass Community – by organizing and holding social events for the parents and children of both Campuses. This committee needs new parents from both Campuses to start planning and organizing these events. It is very rewarding to help our school in extending our Compass Community by bringing families together and having a good time.

The Welcome Committee

This committee was also initiated last year. It is comprised of parents willing to welcome families new to Compass and Doha and to support their assimilation into the community. This group develops a welcome package and a welcoming environment. Among the resources it provides is a network of native language speaking parents that can help new families for whom English is not a first language. (you need not be on the committee to be a resource.) New parent volunteers are needed to give this committee a fresh start since a few members have left over the summer.

Individual Interests

Compass welcomes individual volunteer efforts. You don't need to be part of a committee or group to be involved in lending your time or talents to the learning community. There are a number of special departments and resources that welcome Parent Volunteers: Library, Art, Music, Physical Education, Extra Curricular Activities, Reading, Maths, Swimming . . . or perhaps you have an idea of your own!

You are invited to participate. How do you get involved?

1. Provide parent input to the School Consultative Group in the planning of long term strategies and shorter term priorities for continual improvement in the learning environment at Compass.
2. Serve as a Parent Representative on the School Consultative Group.
 - In the last week of October 2010 SCG elections will be held for two new parent members (one member for each Campus). If you are interested in being a member of the SCG, please contact John Todd, Head of School, or attend the evening meeting where the SCG parent members will give more information. Nominations forms to put yourself forward as an SCG candidate will be sent out in two week's time.
 - Vote for your representative in the election
 - Give your feedback to any of the SCG members. Talk with or email one of your representatives – giving your opinion regarding the learning environment at the school.
3. Volunteer your time or input in the Classroom:
 - Volunteer to be a class parent.
 - Let the class parent know what interests you have in volunteering in the classroom.

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- Give your feedback to the class parent – suggestions for improvements or new initiatives for your child's class, year, or campus.
- 4. Help organize social events with the Social Committee:
 - Contact Jamie Honey at jameshoney54@yahoo.com. Parents from both Campuses are asked to step forward to help making new plans and organize these events. Please attend the evening meeting to give this committee a fresh start for this school year.
- 5. Be a resource to new families and volunteer for the Welcome Committee.
 - Would you be available to spend time making it easier for new families to start at Compass and getting settled in to Doha? Please come to the evening meeting to form a new group of volunteers for this Committee.
- 6. Volunteer your time or skills as you like – once, twice or repeatedly. Fill out a **Parent Information Form** to express your interests in contributing to the exceptional learning environment at Compass.

Please come to the evening meeting on **Monday 18th October 2010 7.00 pm Gharaffa Campus**

- to get involved as volunteer at school;
- if you need more information about a committee you like to join and meet their members;
- to give the committees a great start to the school year.

Yours sincerely,

Jeannette Verspui
Chairperson
School Consultative Group
Parent member at Madinat Khalifa

Jill Chomowicz
Class parent coordinator and
Parent member at Gharaffa
School Consultative Group

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PARENT INFORMATION

Children's name(s) _____ Class _____

Mother's Name: _____ Nationality: _____

Mother's Mobile No: _____ Company: _____

Father's Name: _____ Nationality: _____

Father's Mobile No: _____ Company: _____

Home Tel: _____ email: _____ Fax: _____

Main language/s spoken at home: _____

KINDLY TICK ALL THE RELEVANT BOXES AND RETURN TO THE CLASS TEACHER

I would like to be a class parent for class: _____

I would like to be volunteer for activities in school:

.....on a regular basis (weekly) occasionally
.....just on trips other

I would like to help with

Reading – English Swimming – water
Other language with dressing
Art projects: Cooking

.....helping new families settle into CISD/Doha (Welcome Committee)

I can offer an extra-curricular activity(ECA) _____

I can help by giving talks to the children about _____

I would like to be part of a social committee for parents _____

I can help with (other ideas) _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____