



LEARNING WELL, ENJOYING LIFE, EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

<i>Term 1 - Issue 2</i>	Wednesday 14 October 2009	<i>www.cisdoha.com</i> <i>info@cisdoha.org</i>
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<p>In this issue: ***</p> <p><i>From the Head Teacher</i> ***</p> <p><i>Learning Opportunities</i> ***</p> <p><i>Rayyan Campus Building Update</i> ***</p> <p><i>News from the Primary School</i> ***</p> <p><i>News from the Secondary School</i> ***</p> <p><i>Primary School English</i> ***</p> <p><i>Dutch First Language Programme</i> ***</p> <p><i>Dates for your Diary</i> ***</p> <p><i>Sun Safe</i> ***</p> <p><i>School Buses</i> ***</p> <p><i>The School Web Site</i> ***</p> <p><i>General Information</i> ***</p> <p><i>Miscellaneous</i> ***</p>	<p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>Welcome back again as school restarts after Eid and the extra break. It has not taken students very long to settle back into school and with our Extra-Curricular Activities now underway, school is an exciting and busy place.</p> <p>Learning is our main focus as always and our students started the year in most classes with units on learning which helps them to understand how they learn. Please make sure you continue to talk to them about their learning, but always try to ask “What did you learn in school today?” - you might be surprised at the conversation this can start with your child.</p> <p>Our School Consultative Group recorded some notable achievements last year and there are now two open slots for new Parent Representatives. Letters have been sent out about the elections on 19 October 2009 and more information is available on the school website.</p> <p>We have a busy few weeks coming up with Book Week followed by Parent and Teacher Conferences. Book Week is packed full of activities and events and we hope that many parents will participate and use this opportunity to read to and with their children. Our latest Book Club catalogue has just been sent out and we will be hosting a number of visiting book shops during Book Week.</p> <p>We are continuing to cooperate with the Supreme Council on Health and full information on our H1N1 prevention programme can be found on our website.</p> <p>John Todd Head Teacher</p>
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An international school located in the State of Qatar owned and managed by Education Overseas Qatar LLC (CR No. 33520)

Learning Opportunities

We will be giving you regular LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES and hope that you will find out more about the programmes we offer at school.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES for parents in October include:

- Book Week - author visit, storytelling, character parade, competitions and much more
- Primary Mathematics information programme
- Secondary curriculum information evening
- Parent Teacher Conferences



Update on Building at the Rayyan Campus

I apologise to parents for not continuing with the regular updates on the Rayyan Campus building programme. I know that this has been a particular concern for primary school parents and we should have kept you better informed. There will be monthly updates in the newsletter and I will let you know of developments as they happen.

The conversion of the palace for the secondary school is complete and was opened for the start of the new school year on 01 September 2009. The building of the classroom blocks for the primary school and additional secondary classrooms has been delayed. We are currently working with the various ministries and departments on planning issues. Unfortunately, we do not know when these issues will be resolved, but it is likely to be another few months and so I cannot give any definite information on when construction will actually start.

News from the Primary School

New Beginnings

What a busy start to the term. We have had a great few weeks despite the disruptions, and the children have settled and have really engaged in great learning.

Below I outline some of our new beginnings:

New families



We have welcomed over 100 new children to the Compass community. We would like to invite all new families to a Coffee Morning this **THURSDAY 15th OCTOBER at 7.30 AM**. This will enable you to ask any questions, meet other new families and just chat and relax. We will meet in the entrance area.

New Student Council

Above are the members of our new Student Council. Apologies to Audrey and Noah who were unavailable for the photo. The children had to present a manifesto to their class, outlining what they would do as a representative and why they would be a good choice. The class then voted and elected one representative. The Student Council reps will attend meetings and get involved in new and existing projects. They will be identifiable by their yellow student council caps and will be available to help students and answer questions and listen to suggestions at break times. It is a big responsibility and commitment and I am confident that we have a great team, eager to make a difference to the school. In the coming newsletters we will learn more about the Student Council members personally and the projects they are involved in.



New library

The new library has received an overwhelmingly positive response from parents, teachers and, most importantly, students. There are hundreds of new books on the shelves covering all genres, fiction and non-fiction. Mrs. Jones has been overwhelmed with offers of assistance and would like to thank all those who have helped. The children are enjoying this new space and using it as a real resource centre for research and relaxation. With the new openings during break times as well, the children will be able to spend more time there to help improve their learning.

Swimming pool

The new shading over the pool has made a huge difference. This along with the new swimming assistants means that all our children are benefitting from a much improved learning experience when participating in swimming lessons. The start of the term is always difficult while we assess each child's swimming ability and ensure they are still learning and having fun. A big thank you to Mr. Nijkamp and his team for all their hard work so far.

PE teachers

The addition of our two PE teachers has made a huge impact on the learning experiences of the children in Physical Education. It has also impacted on the sporting chances and opportunities they experience beyond the classroom. Last week our Milepost 2 (Years 3 & 4), represented the school at a schools Athletics tournament, where they were a credit to the school with their excellent behaviour and sportsmanship. Well done, a great team effort. This week the older children in Milepost 3 will participate in an athletics tournament too, so will be all rooting for them. Please remember, parents are always welcome to go along and support our young people when they represent the school at these country wide events. A big thank you to Mr. Brett and Mr. Perry for all their hard work and organization to make this happen.

Art and Music

We are fortunate to be experiencing specialist help from the secondary department in the area of Art and Music. All the children will participate in lessons run by Miss Mhairi McAinsh and Miss Davina Wright, benefitting from their huge experience. We look forward to this throughout the term.

Parent Information Sessions

We ran a Maths Information evening on Tuesday 6th October and again on Wednesday 14th October. Thank you to all who attended. We plan to have more sessions covering reading, writing and the IPC.

So keep watching the website for dates. Please let us know if you have any suggestions about these sessions. It is as a result of your comments last year that we now offer the sessions in the daytime and evening so all have the opportunity of attending.

Once again we thank you for all your support in helping your children settle well to their learning and really engage with it. We look forward to working together to ensure that our children learn well, enjoy life, and exceed expectations.

Pauline Markey
Head of Gharaffa Campus

News from the Secondary School

It's good to be busy and our students are certainly busy and busy learning!. The ECA programme started last week and many of our students have elected to engage in two or more activities. We have on offer, music and drama, debating / global issues, football and ball games, art club and table tennis. We have two table tennis tables outside now and the competition at break times is becoming quite fierce. The cooler weather means it is more pleasant to be out at break times and the grounds are looking very attractive as plants and grass grow at an amazing rate and flowers bloom.

If you have been in school in the last week, you will have seen these signs around school. Last week was International 'Learn to Sign' Week. We started the week with a fun and informative presentation from Miss Wright, teaching us all sign language and then teaching us some songs with signing. In lessons, staff greeted students with signing and students have been given a sheet showing the 'signing' alphabet. Please have a go at learning the language with your children. It is important to have an appreciation of those who live with disability and challenge in their lives every day. It is also mentally stimulating and good for our brains to learn new skills as well as being good fun.



This week we are marking the United Nations 'Child Poverty Day' Mrs. Gould and 7A are taking a lead with this and the week will culminate in a book and home bake sale on Thursday 15th October. Parents are invited in to school between 0730 and 0800 to make purchases and support this event. This day will also be a MUFTI DAY, money raised from both events will be used to support one of our link projects working with children living in poverty.

Some points of information: a reminder that parent/teacher consultations for Rayyan take place on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st of October. Please note also that because of restriction to our activities in respect of the H1N1 virus, the 'Extended Curriculum Day' scheduled for October 29th will be postponed until a later date.

Julian Cottenden, Head of Rayyan Campus

Primary School English

Welcome back to an exciting new year of English at CISD. Children have been busy learning English using the new revised National Curriculum units which we have now matched to our IPC units to improve learning and create cross curricular links. For example, Year 4 have just completed an English unit on stories with a historical setting. We learned about features of stories set in the past and then linked this to our Treasure Unit by studying footage of Howard Carter when he discovered Tutankhamen's tomb in Egypt. We also learned about pirates and tomb raiders and used this knowledge to plan and write our own adventure story, set in the past. In this way, learning in English is more meaningful and consolidates work done in the IPC units. Teachers have all planned their lessons in this

way, where appropriate, as well as continuing with reading, spelling, punctuation and grammar alongside these lessons.

English as an Additional Language

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Glover to the EAL department. He will be working with Mrs. Maher and Mrs. Todd (Rayyan Campus) to ensure that your child gets the support they need. They have already tested new children and began lessons to enhance their learning in the IPC units. Children will work on key vocabulary and develop oral language skills to increase their understanding of work done in class.



Mrs. Maher (Gharaffa)



Mr. Glover (Gharaffa)



Mrs. Todd
(Rayyan)

Library

I hope you have already had a chance to visit our new library. Hundreds of new titles have been added in the last two weeks so there is now a fantastic selection to choose from. As well as visiting the library once a week with their class, children in Milepost 2 and 3 can now visit the library at break time to change books if they have read them.

MP2- Monday 12.00-12.30pm

MP3-Thursday 12.00-12.30pm

The Gharaffa Library is also available online at:

<http://www.cisdoha.com/Students/SchoolLibraryOnline>

School Book Club

You should have received a Book Club letter this week. As well as being an opportunity to purchase books which are not always available in Qatar, it's also a great way to support the library. We get free books for school, which means that children have the opportunity to read the new books too.

Orders, accompanied by the correct money, should be returned by Wednesday 22nd October 2009.

Book Week

We are really excited about this forthcoming event on the calendar. Book Week will take place next week 18-22nd October 2009 and we have a great programme planned for children. There will be book shops in school, character parades, competitions and the author Nick Toczek will be at CISD for two days, including an evening performance. You will receive further details of all the events in a separate letter.

Not only will children have a fantastic time in school, but they will also be learning to enjoy a wide variety of books with the theme '**Feed your brain: devour a book**'

Ann Djedid

English Coordinator

Dutch First Language Programme

First of all welcome to the new school year, and especially a warm welcome to our new Dutch and Belgian families. We started our Dutch programme with 98 Dutch speaking children. We hope to reach a 100 this year and celebrate this with a huge orange cake. Besides our new families, we welcomed three new teachers, juf Sofie Koot, juf Melanie Kleijn and juf Wies Mooij. They are doing a great job and we love them already. Meester Fred has moved to the Rayyan Campus to teach our secondary school students. We miss him a lot, but happily he visits us on a regular basis to teach Years 5 and 6.

It's going to be a challenging year with the Dutch Inspectors visiting us in November and a group of Dutch speaking students facing their first year in secondary school.

This week all the NTC parents received the NTC Parents' Guide. In this guide we inform you about our Dutch programme. In the coming months, I will be explaining some of the subjects to give you a clearer picture of how learning is taken place on a daily basis during our Dutch lessons.

This time I would like to tell you something about the academic wellbeing and development of our children's learning, which we call in Dutch de leerlingenzorg. This is a broad subject so let me focus on reading.

To offer children good learning we have to know what they are able to and what we should offer them to learn well and exceed expectations. There are different ways to find out:

- observe the children in their learning
- talk to them about their learning
- check their work
- and assessment

For NTC we use two regular kinds of assessment.:

1. Method focused tests: they test the children's learning on a short term basis, like every two three weeks.
2. C.i.t.o. tests. The C.i.t.o. is a well known test system and used by 80% of the schools in Holland. They give us the possibility to compare the level of our NTC students with the standards of learning in Holland and Belgium and they give us an objective picture of the learning of our children.

Using the above mentioned steps we can get a clear picture of what we should offer our children to develop and how to take care of their academic well being.

Let me give you some examples of how we put this into practise with reading:

EY and year 1:

In our EY programme we offer children activities to prepare them towards the reading process. We focus on developing vocabulary, sentence making, active and comprehensive listening and enjoyment for books and reading.

When you look at vocabulary like numerals, which are very important in the reading process (first word, last letter, etc.) we can offer the learning in different stages/levels.

- 1st: We make a line with children and count the children with the use of numerals. In this way young children feel and see what is meant by numerals.
- 2nd: We use objects to count in numerals. This makes the learning already a little bit more abstract.
- 3rd: We use a worksheet or pictures to work on numerals, like put a circle around the third animal in the line, etc. Working with pictures and worksheets makes the task for young children with their little life experience very abstract and distant and in that sense more difficult.

In Year 1 we start offering the children letters and sounds in a very playful way. We choose the letter of the week and offer them in different stages / levels.

For example we learn the letter 'a'. We play visual and auditory games and sing a song to introduce the new letter. After warming up we start with the more difficult part, we try to find the letter in spoken words. When children experience difficulties we offer them words of three letters, that we break and glue (hakken en plakken) and if they need more challenge we can offer them words up to 5 letters. When they have to find the letter in a visual way, they can search for the letter between other single letters and for children who need more challenge they can search for the letter in words or a story. In this way we all focus on the same learning goal but use different learning levels / strategies.

Year 2 up to 7

On Sunday afternoons we focus on developing technical and comprehensive reading skills. At the moment we read in pairs using books and tasks connected to the books on different levels. For this we use the method Estafette. Besides this we discuss reading difficulties in small groups and read words and a text with a focus on the reading difficulty. For this we use the folder "De Speciale Leesbegeleiding" van Luc Koning.

To develop our children's comprehensive reading skills we offer them "Nieuwsbegrip", a program we download from the internet. Every week, "Nieuwsbegrip" offers an up to date subject in three different comprehensive reading levels. So we discuss the subject with the whole group and split up in different levels afterwards.

To get a clear picture about our children's reading development we use AVI and DMT tests which are well recognized tests in Holland and Belgium.

In November we will make a start with our cultural events and take off with our Saint Maarten celebration. We will soon send you more info towards the day.

Christa Sterk
Dutch Coordinator



Dates for your Diary

Copies of the calendars are available to download from the News & Info section of the website.

Please note that all assemblies have been cancelled until further notice following guidelines issued by

Gharaffa Campus

Week 6

Awards: Mathematics

Thursday 15 Coffee Morning 7.30AM

Week 7 BOOK WEEK

Awards: Book Week Certificates

Monday 19 Staff Meeting 1.45 – 2.45pm

Tuesday 20 Author visit
Story Telling Evening

Wednesday 21 Author visit

Thursday 22 Character Parade

Week 8

Awards: Science

Monday 26 Parent Teacher Consultations
2.00 PM – 4.30 PM

Tuesday 27 Parent Teacher Consultations
2.00 PM – 4.30 PM

November 2009

Week 9

Awards: Resilience

Monday 02 Staff Meeting 1.45 – 2.45pm

Wednesday 04 EY 2 Corr Assembly 7.45am

Thursday 05 MP3 Leeman Assembly 7.45am
School Newsletter
Family Film Night 5PM

Rayyan Campus

Week 6

Awards: Mathematics

Monday 12 Staff Meeting 1.45 PM -
2.45PM

Wednesday 14 Maths, English workshop
for parents 6.30 PM

Thursday 15 World Food / Child Poverty
Day
Mufti Day

Week 7

Awards: French / Dutch / EAL

Sunday 18 School Council review of
'Code of Conduct

Tuesday 20 Author visit
Parent teacher Consultations 2.00
– 4.30 PM

Wednesday 21 Parent teacher
Consultations 2.00 – 4.30 PM

Week 8

Awards: Morality

Monday 26 Staff Meeting 1.45 PM -
2.45PM

November 2009

Week 9

Awards: Arabic

Monday 02 Staff Meeting 1.45 PM -
2.45PM

Wednesday 04 School Newsletter

Sun safe

The weather is starting to cool down and we are allowing all students to play outside at both breaktimes. We do review this daily, particularly for our younger students. It is vital that whenever students do go outside they wear a hat—this includes walking into and out of school. Our School Nurses will speak to every class in the school about the importance of drinking water throughout the day. Please continue to talk to your children on this subject to avoid any problems in the hot weather. If school hats are not available from the uniform shop, please ensure your child wears a different hat. We rigorously enforce our **no hat - no play** policy.

School Buses

Our school bus service is run by TriLogistics and full details can be found on the website at www.cisdoha.com/Students/BusService

For parents who have children at both campuses, we will be running a bus to help. The bus will leave the Rayyan Campus at 7.10 AM prompt—we will not wait for latecomers and would require parents to take responsibility in such cases, but there will be some extra time allowed in the first week. The bus will have a monitor to take care of the students. The bus will leave the Gharaffa Campus at 1.40 PM to return to Rayyan Campus. If your child is coming from home on the bus, it may be easier for them to use the Gharaffa bus service directly.

We are aware that there have been some issues with the timing of buses, particularly for Rayyan Campus students. We are in regular contact with the bus company and we know that they are making every effort to resolve the issues. If you do have an issue with the bus service, please contact TriLogistics directly, but let the school know as well so that we are aware of the issue.

The School Web Site - www.cisdoha.com

Our school web site has been extensively updated over the last few months and we are continuing to add additional information. The content in some areas has been reorganised for easier access. All the information previously under the Parent Login has been relocated. The main areas of the web site are:

About Our School

- Message from the Head Teacher
- Mission and Vision
- Accreditation and Reviews
- Dutch First Language Programme
- FAQs
- Staff Lists
- Year in Review 2008 / 2009
- CISD Year Book 2008 / 2009

Classroom Experience

- Differentiation
- Teacher Student Relationship
- International Atmosphere
- Curriculum

Admissions

- Application process and forms
- School Tours
- Year Group entry information
- Enrolment procedures

Students

- Student Council 2009 / 2010
- Bus Service - TriLogistics
- Extra-Curricular Activities
- School Library Online
- Class Timetables

News & Info

- Recent News
- H1N1 Information
- School Newsletters
- Term dates 2009 / 2010
- School Consultative Group

- Parent Handbooks
- School Policies
- Withdrawal Information

Calendar - events calendar

Employment - opportunities and policies

Contact Us - details and location maps

- Who to ask - a guide when you don't know who in school to ask

General Information

Arrival Time The school gates open at 7.00 AM and staff are available in covered areas to supervise students. The bell rings at 7.20 AM and students may then move to their classes. Please note that school starts at 7.30 AM and children are expected to be in their classrooms ready to learn by then. We do understand that traffic in Doha can be a challenge, but arriving late can not only disrupt your own child's learning, but also the learning of other students. Please make sure that your children arrive at school on time.

Absence If your child is absent from school for any reason, please inform the Class Teacher / Form Tutor or call the school office. This should be done before the event in the case of a planned absence (e.g. holiday / visit to the dentist). For sickness, or other unplanned absences, please send an explanatory letter when your child returns to school.

Clothing We do expect all students to attend school in the appropriate school uniform. Please ensure that all items of clothing and other personal belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name. Personalised iron-on labels are available from Zaks, the uniform suppliers.

Snacks Please provide your child with something healthy to eat at break times (e.g. fruit, cereal bar, etc.) in a suitable container marked with their name. Please provide drinks in containers other than glass, which can be dangerous. Children are encouraged to drink water during lessons to ensure that they remain fully hydrated for optimal learning.

Sun Safe We operate a NO HAT - NO PLAY policy. Make sure that your child brings their hat to school otherwise they will not be allowed onto the field to play. Please ensure that your child knows that they need to drink regularly to remain properly hydrated in the hot weather.

Lost property There is a lost property box in the bus office by the gate at school. If you lose something, please check there in the first place. There are many items waiting to be claimed.

Parking Please take care when parking at the start and the end of the school day and ensure that you follow the instructions of our security personnel. The car parks in front of the Gharaffa Campus are for the use of school buses and staff only. Parents are asked to use the roadside parking areas at the Rayyan Campus and the land next to the school at the Gharaffa Campus. Please do not park opposite the Gharaffa Campus entrance as this upsets our neighbours.

Email Communications

If you did not get this newsletter by email, then please speak to Mrs. Cheryl Paladino (gharaffa@cisdoha.org) or Mrs. Kay Tilley (rayyan@cisdoha.org), our School Secretaries, and we will add you to the mailing list.

Miscellaneous

We are always available to consult with parents about your children, so please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any queries. If you do wish to speak to your child's Class Teacher, the Head of Campus or the Head Teacher, then it is advisable to make an appointment. Teachers cannot come out of classes except in an emergency. Your cooperation in this area is appreciated.

Head Teacher: Mr. John Todd head@cisdoha.org
Telephone: +974 6869304

Gharaffa Campus:

Head of Campus: Mrs. Pauline Markey p.markey@cisdoha.org
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Head of Campus: Mr. Julian Cottenden j.cottenden@cisdoha.org
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School Website: www.cisdoha.com

Thank you for your continuing support.

John Todd
Head Teacher

Compass International School Doha

The School's Mission Statement:

**Learning Well, Enjoying Life,
Exceeding Expectations.**

The School's Vision Statement:

**To be a successful school, recognised
around the world for excellence.**

The school's Definition of Learning:

**Learning is making connections
between new and existing knowledge,
skills and understanding to adapt to
our changing world.**