




***LEARNING WELL, ENJOYING LIFE, EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS***

<b><i>Term 1 - Issue 3</i></b>	<b>Wednesday 22 December 2010</b>	<i>www.cisdoha.com</i> <i>info@cisdoha.org</i>
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<p><b>In this issue:</b> *** <i>From the Head of School</i> *** <i>Admissions</i> *** <i>School Consultative Group</i> *** <i>From the Gharaffa Campus Principal</i> *** <i>From the Madinat Khalifa Campus Principal</i> *** <i>From the Head of Learning</i> *** <i>Secondary School Science</i> *** <i>Primary Mathematics</i> *** <i>Art and Design</i> *** <i>Learning in Dutch</i> *** <i>2011 / 2012 Term Dates</i> *** <i>Mission, Vision and Definition of Learning</i> ***</p>	<p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>At the end of a very busy term, it is always good to reflect on the learning experiences we have enjoyed and celebrate our successes. It is also necessary to reflect on the things we could do better and set challenging targets for the new term. Please take time to do this with your child after you receive their end of term report. Whilst the reports are addressed to you, the parent, they can also give vital information to your child—the learner. You do need to give them feedback and reflect with them about their term. Of course, it is up to you to decide whether your child may read the report, but this is certainly something we would commend to you.</p> <p>Our teachers and support staff have done a wonderful job this term and I would like to thank them for exceeding expectations to make our school a learning focussed environment. Great schools are dependent on great teachers and we are committed to recruiting and retaining the best possible teachers because we know that this makes the vital difference.</p> <p>If you are moving on at the end of term, take our best wishes to your new home and school. I look forward to welcoming students and families back in January 2011 and offer my very best wishes for the holiday season and a Happy New Year.</p> <p></p> <p><b>John Todd</b> <b>Head of School</b></p>
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### **Admissions for both Campuses**

We still have limited places available on both the Gharaffa and Madinat Khalifa Campuses, although not in every Year Group. We are also taking applications for September 2011. Please contact our Admissions Officer, Sam Ford, for more information or check out the Admissions Page on our school website: <http://www.cisdoha.com/Admissions>

### **School Consultative Group**

The newly constituted School Consultative Group met for the first time on 30 November 2011. new members were introduced and elections held for Chair and Vice-Chair. The members are:

- Jeannette Verspui, Chair (Madinat Khalifa Campus Parent)
- Renu Ballantine, Vice-Chair (Gharaffa Campus Parent)
- Deon Ellis (Madinat Khalifa Campus Parent)
- Jill Chomowicz (Gharaffa Campus Parent)
- Liz Holloway (Staff Representative)
- John Todd (Head of School, ex officio)
- Pauline Markey (Gharaffa Campus Principal, ex officio)
- Donna Brackstone-Drake (Madinat Khalifa Campus Principal, ex officio)

### **Learning Beyond The Gharaffa Campus Walls**

Over the last few weeks, the Compass students from Gharaffa have been involved in a variety of learning opportunities beyond the classroom. A number of excursions and activities have ensured that students have been able to apply and extend classroom learning experiences beyond the school walls into the real world. Their learning has been real and in context, as well as most enjoyable.

### **Some of the learning experiences . . .**

Our youngest children have been learning through the IPC Unit Sand and Water. A day at The Intercontinental Hotel had the children exploring in the sand and water. The children were learning the rules of playing near water and keeping safe. They also improved their skills in playing together and working in groups. They investigated how the sand changes when water is added to it and made sandcastles and shapes in the sand. The children had a great day full of fun and learning and the hotel was very accommodating. Early Years 2 will be visiting in December in connection to their learning about pirates.

On their trip to the Fruit and Vegetable market, Year 1 put into practice many of the skills they had been developing in class. They had made shopping lists prior to the trip, and clutched these in their hands along with their money and set about finding the items, checking they have the correct money, paying and checking their change. They learnt about new fruits using all 5 senses and how to tell the difference between a fruit and a vegetable. Back at school they used their purchases to make fruit kebabs.

Learning about Buildings was brought to life for Year 2 with a trip to the Aspire zone to check out all the different shaped buildings at the start of the unit and a trip to The Pearl at the end. The children have learned about homes and buildings in their own countries and compared them to the ones spotted in Qatar as well as planning and building their own structures.

Year 3 have been engrossed in Rainforests this term. Their learning has taken them through the layers and creatures of the forest and fruits that grow there. Their learning has extended their scientific skills with fair testing and photosynthesis on the menu. They have learnt that Rainforests, though beautiful wonders of nature, are being destroyed at a rapid rate through deforestation and the effects this has on the people indigenous to the regions. This prompted the students to hold a Rainforest cafe to raise money to buy an area of Rainforest. Overall, the students raised in the region of 4,500 QRs! Their exit point trip to Jungle Zone was definitely a well deserved learning break. They are currently studying Clarice Cliff, a famous potter and so a trip to Cafe Ceramique is a great way of learning about how pots are fired as well as having a go themselves.

Year 4 visited the excellent Sheikh Faisal Museum to extend their learning about Treasure and investigated the Treasures housed there across a wide range of topics. This visit is always so exciting for the children and is always changing as new 'treasures' are added all the time. They were also fortunate enough to learn more about the instruments of the orchestra on a visit to hear the Qatar Philharmonic orchestra play and in discussion with the musicians afterwards.

Year 5 have been learning about historical issues and their effects on people's lives through oral history. They used a trip to Sheikh Faisal Museum to consolidate learning in their unit on Here and Now, There and Then and discussed the items in the museum, how different they are from now and what impact they had on life then. Their unit learning about changing materials has been brought to life with a trip to Cafe Ceramique.

27 Year 6 children from both campuses spent a week in Fujairah on an outdoor Adventure camp. They were involved in activities that included abseiling, kayaking, snorkelling and GPS navigation. As well as learning new skills, they were able to develop their ability to work as a team, developing their group work skills, how to assist and help others, what skills they have that can be of use and to identify who have various skills and traits. All the students and the accompanying adults faced and overcame great challenges and returned feeling suitably proud and invigorated.

Our regular sporting events calendar continues with learning taking place with students visiting other schools and participating in activities such as indoor athletics, Girls on the Go, football and the Cross Country running competition held at the Golf Course. As always the reports we receive back highlight the exemplary behaviour and manners of our students.

Our weekly assemblies have continued to showcase the learning taking place in classes. In addition to

our usual class assemblies, the French, Arabic, Dutch and PE department have all showcased learning in their subjects. We will be rounding off the term with two musical assemblies.



Water Aid Fun Run at Aspire Park

Super Learning Day – Maths was enjoyed by all students and teachers as all set to work to solve a variety of problems in many disguises. Our Road Safety Day was enjoyed by all with all sorts of activities to re iterate the important message of wearing seatbelts and holding children’s hands when near traffic. Water Aid – Ann Djedid organised a great family event at Aspire Park. Children and adults participated in a Fun Run to raise awareness and money for the Water Aid charity. Water Aid uses practical solutions to provide clean water, safe sanitation and hygiene education to the world's poorest people. It works in 26 countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific region.

### **Learning is not only for the students!**

**Parents** - As always we have continued to run a programme of workshops for parents on various topics. So far this term we have offered a session on the International Primary Curriculum, Reading and the Mother Tongue.

**Staff** - We have just completed a week of Staff Professional Development with teachers participating in First Aid Training, Teaching children to write, Assessment for Learning, ICT in the classroom, Management Information Systems and Looking for Learning. We still have a group of 10 members of staff completing a 9 week course on English as an Additional Language in the Mainstream.

Proof that Compass Community are Learning Well, Enjoying Life and Exceeding Expectations as they continue to be lifelong learners.

*Pauline Markey, Gharaffa Campus Principal*

### **Madinat Khalifa Campus**



Monique Lee and Jenny Parenteau hatched a plan to make our playground both more attractive and to enable educational play.

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December a group of teachers, parents and their spouses painted the sketches which had been drawn the previous day by a parent who is an artist.

We spent a most industrious and fun day choosing which colours to use for the mermaid, fishes and Alphabet snake and there was only one mistake on the 4 square drawing – the name of the teacher who cannot count remains a secret! Our primary students are now playing ‘Fishy Fishy’, Hopscotch and statues.

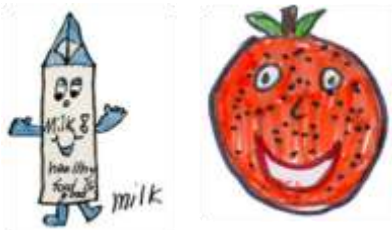
The P.E. teachers are using the paintings in their lessons too and I have observed several of the Secondary students asking about the rules of the games so I expect to see them swapping their footballs for marbles any day now!

Thank you very much to those who gave of their time and creativity.

*Donna Brackstone-Drake, Madinat Khalifa Campus Principal*

## Healthy eating and optimum learning

At Compass we encourage healthy eating. Diet plays a huge part in how we feel and behave, and this is especially true for children. The right nutrition can help to alleviate learning and behavioural difficulties. Here is a sample of Patrick Holford's plan to help your child balance their mood and improve their concentration. Patrick Holford is a nutritionist and founder of the institute for optimum nutrition.



### 1. Take your child off foods with additives or added sugar

Sugar creates imbalances in energy that can contribute to erratic behaviour and mood changes. Sweets, chocolates, cakes, biscuits, some breakfast cereals, soft drinks, puddings and many other foods all contain sugar in one of its many forms. So avoid giving your child processed foods and opt instead for natural and sugar-free alternatives.

### 2. Increase fruit and vegetables and foods rich in nutrients

White bread, rice and pasta have the nutrients stripped out, so opt instead for wholemeal varieties, which are also more filling and contain fibre to encourage healthy digestion. Ensure too their diet is rich in fresh fruit and vegetables which provide vitamins and minerals essential to support their health while they are growing.



### 3. Boost levels of essential fats

Some fats, like saturated varieties found in processed meats and fried foods, are bad for health, but others are essential and a deficiency could negatively impact on your child's behaviour. For example, the brain and nervous system needs a good supply of fat to function and develop effectively. Sources of essential fats are:

- A heaped tablespoon of freshly-ground seeds on their cereal or sprinkled on soups or in salads every day.
- Oily fish three times a week, e.g. Salmon or Sardines
- Supplement essential fats. This could either be a fish oil, (which contains omega 3 fats) or a seed oil (which contains a blend of omega 3 and omega 6 fats).



Some more ideas for healthy snack boxes:

- *Ants on a log (celery with peanut butter and raisins)*
- *Carrots, celery, and pita triangles with Hummus dipping sauce*
- *Banana Pops (dip in yogurt, roll in crushed grains, and freeze)*
- *Frozen grapes*



*"I'm celery. I am great with cream cheese"*

Kid's favourite lunches:

- Lebanese bread with hommos and tabouli rolled up.
- Orange juice
- An apple
- 4 Wholemeal biscuits
- A Slice of cheese
- A Slice of ham
- A small bowl of salad
- Orange juice
- Water
- A sandwich of multi-grain bread, with a filling of crunchy lettuce, a slice of cheese and mayonnaise.
- A few banana chips.
- A bottle of apple juice

Learn more about healthy options from this interactive website

<http://www.nourishinteractive.com/kids/scrolls.html>

Sarah Johnson, Head of Learning

## Secondary School Science

Our Year 7s began their Key Stage 3 Science and started by learning more about measuring and investigating. Measuring accurately turns out to be harder than it looks and our students had to get used to using new equipment such as a variety of measuring cylinders, sensitive balances accurate to one tenth of a gram and stop watches that work to one hundredth of a second. It all raised the question “How accurate can you really be?” The investigations saw them try to find the best design for paper airplanes and simple paper helicopters and again, it got more complicated than it looked – as well as more noisy! Next on the agenda is the classification of Living Things.

Year 8 and 9 have continued to build on what they learned last year, studying Cells and Organisms and Keeping the Body Working. With Year 8 the unit on Cells and Organisms has given us the chance to use our increased selection of microscopes to look at different plant and animal cells, including onion and human cheek cells, as well as dissecting flowers to find out that they are both female AND male, much to the student’s surprise. Year 8 have now moved on to finding out how heat travels and have seen its effects on solids (conduction) in liquids (convection).

Year 9 have produced a display listing the contents of the food that they eat, studied the uses to the body of the various types of nutrient and learned the stages of digestion – including how you can drink while upside down. Looking at respiration gave them the chance to monitor their heart rates at rest and after exercise. This, in turn, led Year 9 on to the dissection of Lamb’s hearts. Although some went a little ‘off colour’ at the thought, almost all managed to see complete it and even enjoy it!

Year 10 have started their IGCSE courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and are coming to terms with the increased detail that they need to know and understand. Subjects covered so far include the systems of the body, including water and heat regulation; Solids, liquids and gases leading into the Periodic Table; Forces and motion and static electricity. ‘So far so good’ would be an apt summary of the progress to date, although it can come as a bit of a shock to find out that so much of what you thought you knew was actually only an introduction. It all gets more complex and interesting from here.

*Clive Bomford, Science Teacher*



## Mathematics Super Learning Day

Our Maths Super Learning Day took place on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and was a great success. The focus for the day was ‘Problem Solving’ with all pupils taking part. A wide variety of fun problem solving activities were carried out, developing the children’s learning in areas of team work, logic, systematic thinking, reasoning, shape and calculation.



*Year 1 Taylor working together during the Maths Trail.*



*Aron, Year 5 Leeman, solving a shape problem.*



*“We had to make as many squares as we could using 20 straws” Vina and Danielle, Year 4 Djedid.*

A PowerPoint presentation displaying further images from our Maths Super Learning Day can be found in the Primary Mathematics section of our school website.

*'Progression In Written Calculations'-Parent Information Morning*

On the morning of November 30<sup>th</sup> we held an information session outlining the steps that your child will go through when learning informal and formal written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division here at Compass International School. The meeting was well attended and I would like to thank those of you who did attend for helping to make it such a successful session. If you were unable to attend, information provided during the session can also be found in the Primary Mathematics section of our school website under 'Parent Meetings'.

*Problem of the Month*

The winner of last edition's Maths problem was Aidan Schumann in Mrs Father's Class (Year 2) who submitted the correct answer of 'twenty two ten' 22:10. Congratulations Aidan!

This edition's problem is contributed by Charles Floden, Year 4.

*Six students won during a bingo tournament. Each student was allowed to pick 6 stickers of their choice from the teacher's sticker collection. After all the students made their choices, how many stickers were given out in total?*

Please submit your answers on a piece of paper to me (MP2 Burt). I will be pulling one of the winning answers out of a hat to win a prize, so don't forget to put your name and class on your contribution. The winner will be announced next edition.

*David Burt, Learning Improvement Leader for Mathematics*

## **Art and Design Department**



This month has been exciting for the Art and Design Department. Ms Leeman's Year 5 class and both Year 8 classes were invited to attend a Drawing Workshop with a visiting artist from the UK at the Museum of Islamic Art. The aim of this visit was to introduce the students to Orientalist painting following a visit to a new exhibition called "A journey into the World of the Ottomans" which has just opened at the museum. Following the exhibition, the students visited Souk Waqif to sketch and draw the kaleidoscope of colours and diversity inherent in the Old Souk and within. Students then took their sketches back to the education classrooms and

experimented with printing techniques on small panels which will form a large panel which will be on permanent display in the museum.

Students from Years 9 and 10 also enjoyed a "Calligrafitti" workshop at the Museum of Islamic Art led by Tunisian Artist El Seed. His work incorporates contemporary graffiti with traditional arabesque lettering styles. The different year groups worked on two different panels: one taking inspiration from the tree of life and the other panel using contemporary spray techniques to redesign the Compass Logo with the students names forming the background of the piece. This panel will be add colour to the outside social space of the Madinat Khalifa Campus from next term.

All students thoroughly enjoyed their experience at the workshops and used their new learning in their ongoing projects in Art and Design.

### *Futuristic Golf Fashion Show at the Qatar Masters*

Following the success of last year's Fashion show, Art and Design students from Years 7-10 have been asked to take part in a fashion design and manufacture competition to design a golf outfit for the future. Students have been submitting their ideas and the 15 winning students along with their designs chosen, will work hard in the month of January to create their designs and take part in a fashion show to showcase their creations at the Qatar Masters event in collaboration with Ian Poulter, world professional golfer who will judge the best designs and hand out prizes. Well done to all students for their hard work and enthusiasm as the event is already causing a stir at Madinat Khalifa Campus!

### **Learning in Dutch**

Enjoyment in learning is essential to motivate children in their learning and to make them become life long learners. A festive, cultural event like Sinterklaas can bring that spark towards their learning. In the week of November 28th our Dutch lessons had a strong focus on this celebration. The children loved it. Our youngest NTC students listened to stories about Sinterklaas, learned a lot of new vocabulary and made beautiful paintings to decorate the hall where we were going to welcome Sinterklaas on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. This made the learning fun, but also sufficient and appropriate. Our Year 1 children worked with the letter S of Sinterklaas and the P of Peter and the Year 2 students worked in a special Sinterklaas workbook that helped them with their reading and spelling. Also the older children took part in different activities towards the celebration. Besides the academic part there was also a cultural aspect towards their learning and a strong sense towards identity awareness. On Thursday December the 2<sup>nd</sup> this was shown in a Sinterklaas assembly. It was really great to see them perform with so much enjoyment and pride.



On the 3<sup>rd</sup> we welcomed Sinterklaas with the Dutch community on the premises of Compass International School. Sinterklaas and the Peters arrived on Harley Davidsons! It became a spectacular opening of a fun filled day. A lot of work was put into the celebration and thanks to the DSA (Dutch Speaking Association) and the help of lots of volunteers it became a celebration to remember.

The next big event taking place will be the celebration of our Queen's Birthday at the end of January. Activities on the agenda are e.g. a hat parade and a

talent show. So boys and girls if you want to show us a spectacular act start practicing. A letter with more details will follow in the first week back in school.

I would like to wish you all a wonderful festive month and lots of love and good health for the new year to come.

*Christa Sterk, Assistant Principal*



## January 2011

Please note that Term 2 begins on Sunday January 02 2011.

### Proposed Term Dates 2011 / 2012

Term 1:	Sunday 11 September 2011 6 - 10 November 2011 Thursday 15 December 2011	Term starts Eid Al Adha* End of Term 1
Term 2:	Monday 02 January 2012 19 – 23 February 2012 Tuesday 03 April 2012	Term starts Half term holiday End of Term 2
Term 3:	Sunday 15 April 2010 24 May / 27 May 2012 Thursday 28 June 2012	Term starts Half Term weekend End of Term 3

*\*Dates subject to change in line with declared official holidays in Qatar*

*Term dates for 2011 / 2012 are subject to approval by the Supreme Education Council*

### 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.

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Telephone: +974 6686 9304 Fax: +974 4487 7446

#### *Gharaffa Campus:*

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#### *Madinat Khalifa Campus:*

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Thank you for your continuing support.

**John Todd**  
**Head of School**

# **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.**