



LEARNING WELL, ENJOYING LIFE, EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

<p><i>Term 2 - Issue 1</i></p>	<p>Sunday 04 January 2009</p>	<p><i>www.cisdoha.org head@cisdoha.org</i></p>
<p>In this issue: *** <i>From the Head Teacher</i> *** <i>Learning Opportunities</i> *** <i>School Consultative Group</i> *** <i>IPC Units in Term 2</i> *** <i>New for this term . . .</i> *** <i>Admissions 2009 / 2010</i> *** <i>General Information</i> *** <i>Dates for your Diary</i> *** <i>Term Dates for 2009 / 2010</i> *** <i>Miscellaneous</i> ***</p>	<p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>Happy New Year and welcome back to the new term at Compass International School Doha. I hope that you enjoyed the extended break and have come back eager to learn and join in with the many exciting events and activities programmed for the term.</p> <p>The School Calendar has been sent home and additional copies are available in school. You may also have received a copy via email.</p> <p>Inside this edition of the newsletter, you will find information on our new School Consultative Group which was elected at the end of last term. I would like to thank the parents who are participating in the SCG and hope that this will provide an additional communication route for ideas and information to be fed back to the school.</p> <p>Our first School Review takes place this term. This is a learning focussed review and will focus mainly on children's learning and the various factors that influence that learning. Review Team Members will be concentrating on the appropriateness and sufficiency of the learning that is taking place. They will also be looking at other things, such as leadership and management, to establish the impact that these things have on learning.</p> <p>All parents will have the opportunity to contribute to the review through a questionnaire which will be sent out. We will also be asking some parents to meet directly with the review team.</p> <p>Our new Early Years toilets were installed during the holiday and this should help to cut down the journey time for our youngest children. I know that this has been a concern for parents and we hope that this will solve the problem. The new play area is also completed and further developments are on the horizon to improve our Early Years Centre in the near future.</p> <p>John Todd Head Teacher</p>	
<p><i>An international school located in the State of Qatar owned and managed by Education Overseas Qatar LLC (CR No. 33520)</i></p>		

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 this month include:

- Weekly Assemblies - opportunities to find out and celebrate the learning that has been going on in different classrooms
- Dutch Cultural Days - Reading Breakfast
- English Information Evening - for more information on our English programme

School Consultative Group

In November 2008, we invited parents to participate in our new School Consultative Group. Elections were held and parent and staff representatives were elected. The first meeting was held in November and further meetings are planned throughout the year.

The prime responsibilities of the SCG are:

- a) Support the Head Teacher in school strategic planning and in the pursuit of continual improvement and excellence in education.
- b) Support the School in understanding annual priorities in resourcing for learning during the children's time in school.
- c) Support the school in the development of agreed initiatives.
- d) Assist with promoting the School in the local community.
- e) Promote and encourage social activities.
- f) Represent and communicate views, information, concerns and successes and make recommendations to the school, and work with school staff in developing actions to address school issues.
- g) Assist the school with inspection, review and accreditation procedures.



My name is Jeannette Verspui. My family and I have lived in Qatar since August 2008 and came here from The Netherlands. We have three children at Compass. I'm happy to be the Chairperson of the School Consultative Group (SCG) because I want to improve communication between parents and school by bringing together parents, teachers and non-teaching staff gaining feedback from parents and being a spokesperson for these parents. Please feel free to inform us about suggestions you may have. Email ja.verspui@online.nl. Mobile telephone number: 6053645.



Renu Ballantine (Deputy Chairperson) is an Early Years mum. Renu has worked as a Finance Consultant for 12 years, has run her own business as a Personal Chef for 4 years and for the last two years has been mum to 2 children. She plans to be here in Doha for another 3 years as her husband is here with Exxon Mobil and RasGas. She will be the EY Representative for the School Consultative Group. Mobile +974 587 5671. Email r_ballantine@msn.com



My name is Eliza Romaniuk and I come from Poland. My son joined Compass at the beginning of October and is in Year 1. Many of us are satisfied with the education provided for our kids by Compass, but there are still some areas which can be made better. I am happy to talk to parents, and willing to exchange opinions about our children's learning and school organisation. Email: romaniuk1@yahoo.com



My name is Richard Gort, married to Joyce and father of 2 children at Compass. We arrived in Qatar in August prior to the start of the new school year, and have lived as a family in South Africa, The Netherlands, Germany, the UK and now Qatar. I've always enjoyed staying in touch with education, and have been involved in similar activities as the SCG in the Bonn Int. School in Germany. I hope to be able to support the rapidly evolving and dynamic Compass school with some of my talents, energy and contacts, but will also enjoy engaging with the international community that supports the school. Email: rjmc.gort@hotmail.com



Our Head Teacher is John Todd. Originally from the United Kingdom. He has worked in schools around the world for over 15 years. John began his career as a Primary School Teacher and Administrator in the United Kingdom; he then spent three years in Singapore, two years in Kenya and 6 years in Nigeria before moving to Qatar in August 2007. John has one child in Early Years, and one who will start at Compass in September 2009 Email: head@cisdoha.org



My name is Pauline Markey, the Deputy Head Teacher at CISD. I joined Compass in January 2008 after working in Doha for 4½ years. I have 2 children aged 6 and 9 years old. I have been teaching in the Gulf for over 8 years after spending 8 years teaching in the UK. My door is always open if you have any suggestions, questions or concerns or feel you could help in anyway. Email: p.markey@cisdoha.org



Hi, my name is Jan Leeman and I am a teacher here at CISD. I arrived in Doha in August 2007, after teaching in international schools in Chile and Brunei. Before my travels began, I trained and taught in the UK for 9 years and I have experience in all the year groups within a primary school. Outside of school, I am a keen supporter of football and can often be heard cheering on Liverpool F.C, from the confines of my compound! So feel free to say hello and stop me for a chat, whenever you see me around the school (especially if it's about football!). Email: j.leeman@cisdoha.org



I'm Hilary Oldham. I'm British and I'm a Learning Assistant in Early Years. I started my career as a chemical analyst. I worked for several years in a pre-school playgroup and I am also a qualified teacher. I came to Doha from The Netherlands where I was a science technician at the British School of the Netherlands. I can converse in reasonable Dutch although my accent leaves much to be desired. I have a daughter who has just graduated from university. When she was younger I was involved with her school's Parent Teacher Association. I've been at Compass since the school opened. Email: h.oldham@cisdoha.org

Alternatively you can contact the SCG via email scgcisdoha@yahoo.com

What will your child be learning in IPC this term ?

Early Years 1	Let's Pretend	The children are going to be learning about all kinds of different ways to make up stories and to pretend to be someone or something different.
	Clothes	They are all going to become knowledgeable, decision-makers about what to wear, when and why!
	Plants & Flowers	They will learn about plants by growing seeds, by having their own gardens, by listening to stories about growing things, etc.
Early Years 2	Animals	The children are going to be learning about wild animals - the kind that live in the jungle or sometimes in a zoo.
	Patterns	They will learn about patterns around them in nature, in different materials, in words and in music.
	Houses & Homes	They will learn about different kinds of homes – animal homes, special homes, homes made from different materials.
Year 1	Day & Night	The children will understand something about the nature of light, that light is needed for plants to photosynthesize. They will begin to understand about the movement of the planets causing day & night.
	Transport	They are going to find out about different types of transport around the world
Year 2	Our World	Children will learn more about the different places that people, animals and plants live.
	Saving Water	Through activities in geography, science and technology the children are going to become water waste detectives and promoters of water conservation.
Year 3	Paintings, Pictures & Photos	The children will investigate the many different ways that the world can be represented visually. This work will help them to appreciate closer observations and perhaps to look at the world in a different and new way!
	Dinosaurs	They will be learning about the world of the dinosaurs, what the earth looked like, what lived at that time and how to identify the different kinds of dinosaurs. They will be acting as detectives and palaeontologists, looking for clues and making deductions from them.
Year 4	The Active Planet	Children will be learning about volcanoes and earthquakes
Year 5 & 6	Mission to Mars	Children will investigate what conditions would be required in order to go and live on Mars.
	Here & Now, There & Then	They will be finding out about the past and present of Qatar and of their own home countries.
Year 7	Astronomy	The unit focuses on the Earth, its Moon and Sun. It looks at the planets of the solar system and perhaps even the other stars in our galaxy.
	Rulers & Governments	Children will learn about different ways countries are ruled and governed and about some significant leaders.

For more information log on to www.internationalprimarycurriculum.com

Mhairi Gibson - Leader for Learning

New for this Term . . .

- We will be splitting our Assemblies - Milepost 2 and Milepost 3 will have their assembly at 12 noon - 12.30 PM and Early Years and Milepost 1 will have their assembly at 12.30 PM - 1.00 PM. You are, of course welcome to any and all assemblies and we will have some whole school assemblies as well. Details will be in the calendar and newsletter.
- We will be renaming our Early Years classes from Nursery to Early Years 1 and Reception to Early Years 2. We think this brings them more into line with our IPC programme.
- Mr. Shaha Uddin, Year 6 Teacher, has been appointed as Mathematics Coordinator and will begin his extra duties from January.
- Bags with wheels will not be allowed in the new building. They are destroying the staircase and also take up too much space.

Admissions for 2009 / 2010

Admissions for 2009 / 2010 are now being accepted. If you would like to apply for a place for your child for the new academic year, please collect an Application Form from the School Office, or download it directly from our website (www.cisdoha.org). Please let your friends and colleagues know as we expect demand for places to be greater than ever. Please make sure that you send a copy of your child's latest school report with the application. You do not need to reapply for children who are at the school.

General Information

- Absence** If your child is absent from school for any reason, please inform the Class Teacher 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** 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.
- 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.
- Coffee and Chat** Please join us in the Library on Thursday mornings, 7.30—8.30 AM for coffee and an informal chat. I will be there along with Mrs. Markey, Deputy Head Teacher and we look forward to meeting you.

Dates for your Diary

January 2009

Week 1

Awards: Cooperation

- Sunday 04 Resumption
Monday 05 Staff Meeting 1.45 PM - 2.45PM
Wednesday 07 School Newsletter
Thursday 08 Coffee and Chat in the Library 7.30 AM
Whole School Assembly 12.30 PM

Week 2

Awards: Art

- Monday 12 Staff Meeting 1.45 PM - 2.45PM
Tuesday 13 School Consultative Group Meeting 6.30 PM
Thursday 15 Coffee and Chat in the Library 7.30 AM
MP3 Leeman Assembly 12 noon
EY / MP1 Assembly 12.30 PM
Saturday 17 Staff INSET Day - English as an Additional Language

Week 3

Awards: Respect

- Sunday 18 Staff Training 1.45 PM – 2.45 PM
Monday 19 Staff Training 1.45 PM – 2.45 PM
Tuesday 20 Staff Training 1.45 PM – 2.45 PM
Thursday 22 Coffee and Chat in the Library 7.30 AM
School Photographs
MP2 / MP 3 Assembly 12 noon
EY / MP1 Spragg Class Assembly 12.30 PM
Saturday 24 Dutch Cultural Day – Reading Breakfast

Week 4

Awards: Geography

- Sunday 25 Extra-Curricular Activities (ECAs) begin 1.45 PM – 2.45 PM
Monday 26 Staff Meeting 1.45 PM - 2.45PM
Wednesday 28 English Information Evening 6.30 PM
Thursday 29 Coffee and Chat in the Library 7.30 AM
School Photographs
MP2 / MP 3 Assembly 12 noon
EY / MP1 Taylor Class Assembly 12.30 PM

February 2009

Week 5

Awards: Enquiry

- Sunday 01 Inter-School chess match
Monday 02 Staff Meeting 1.45 PM - 2.45PM
Wednesday 04 School Newsletter
Thursday 05 Coffee and Chat in the Library 7.30 AM
Mufti Day
MP2 / MP 3 Assembly 12 noon
EY / MP1 Shave Assembly 12.30 PM

Term Dates for 2009 / 2010

Term 1 2009 / 2010

Sunday 30 August 2009	Resumption
Sunday 20 September – Thursday 24 September	Eid il-Fitr*
Wednesday 25 Nov – Tuesday 01 Dec (inclusive)	Eid al-Adha*
Thursday 17 December 2009	Term ends

Term 2 2009 / 2010

Monday 04 January 2010	Resumption
Sunday 14 February - Thursday 18 February	Half Term
Thursday 01 April 2010	Term ends

Term 3 2008 / 2009

Sunday 18 April 2010	Resumption
Sunday 30 May – Tuesday 01 June (inclusive)	Half Term
Thursday 01 July 2010	Term Ends

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

Email Communications

You may have noticed recently that we are sending out more information by email. To save paper, time and energy, we hope to stop a lot of our paper based communications. If you did not get this newsletter by email, then please speak to Mrs. Paladino, our School Secretary, 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 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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School Fax: +974 4877 446
School e-mail: head@cisdoha.org
School Office: admin@cisdoha.org
Website: www.cisdoha.org

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.**