



التعليم تقليدنا
A Tradition of Excellence
أكاديمية الجزيرة
Al Jazeera Academy

AJA Primary Gazette

Edition 2, December 2011

From the Primary Coordinator's pen....

It's always busy here in AJA Primary and class atmospheres are a mixture of positive and excited as we near the end of our first term. Students are undertaking summatives and providing class presentations, from Year 1 to Year 6 and teachers are making informed assessments of the learning which has taken place during study times.

Of course, learner development is always important and it's been great that we have been able to use our PYP elements this term, in so many different ways. Equally exciting, has been incorporation of our recently started National Curriculum mathematics. It offers so much for all our students, whatever their year group. As we start our next term and approach new topics, we will also start to build even stronger links with the National Curriculum and promote all it has to offer to our students.

I know that your active support here at AJA will help ensure that all of us continue to move forwards and upwards as we approach the New Year. I wish all of you the very best for safe travels over the Winter break.



Mr. Mig Bonnefoy

Year 1

Water, Water Everywhere!

The last 6 weeks have gone by very quickly. The Year 1 students have been very busy inquiring, exploring and creating fantastic art and other projects all about water.

Thank you for all your support and help with this unit. It has been great to see a lot of research and learning going on in and outside the classroom. The students have enjoyed learning about capacity, used different media to create art, looking around their environment and many other inquiring activities.

There have been many opportunities for the students to practise their co-operation and communication skills. A lot of tasks have involved working in groups, sharing ideas, discussing possible answers and then presenting their findings. It has been fantastic to see the level of confidence the students have now. The students' trioramas for the summative assessment demonstrated the level of knowledge the students have gained from the unit. They were very creative and proud to share their learning with each other.

Great Inquiring Minds....

- Where does the rain go?
- How does the sun drink the water?
- What lives in water?
- How does it snow?
- How does the sea water become rain?
- How does the water get to my tap?

Mrs Barbara, Ms Annie, Ms Jaceline, Ms Anne, Mrs Aida and Ms Michelle



Year 2

In English Year 2 children have been learning how to write instructions. We celebrated our last unit by visiting Pizza Express and making individual pizzas. The children were given the opportunity to be a Pizza Chef. It was a great chance for the children to use their social skills whilst they were sitting in the restaurant with their peers. The children were a credit to Al Jazeera Academy and thoroughly enjoyed this experience.

Our next unit is Sharing the Planet and we will be inquiring into how the sea world is a vital part of our environment. We will be looking at the different forms of marine life in the oceans, the importance of the sea to us and our responsibility for our oceans.

Regards,

The Year 2 Team



Year 3

Wow! What a busy time we have had this term in Year 3. After what sounds like a fabulous Eid holiday for everyone we have continued with our Habitats unit. This has been a particular favourite of all Year 3 pupils as we have researched many different types of animals and plants that live in the desert, rainforest and the ocean.

The culmination of this unit resulted in some fantas-

tic diorama models and many very well written reports on animals and plants. To complement the animal theme we enjoyed a fantastic trip to the zoo where all pupils were a credit to AJA.

In Language we focused on report writing, descriptive language, contractions and the long vowel rules.

Data Handling and Number were

the Mathematics units. We had lots of fun finding out about our class mates through conducting surveys and graphing the results using pictographs and bar charts.

Everybody in Year 3 would like to wish you a happy winter break and we look forward to seeing all pupils back to school on 8 January 2012.

The Year 3 Team





Year 4

How time flies when you're having fun learning! This is certainly true in year four. We have been really busy, working productively and having fun at the same time.

Before the Eid break we dressed up as our favourite character for book week. We read books from the library, wrote book reviews to share with our fellow year fours and decorated our classroom doors with pictures from our favourite novel. We visited year twos to do 'buddy reading'; it felt very special to read to younger children. Being entertained by the visiting author, Chris White, was the cherry on the top after a week of reading related activities.

We also presented our posters on being caring and productive AJA students. We learned how to plan and work cooperatively with our partner when designing our posters. We felt a little nervous when doing our presentations but we know we will grow in confidence with each oppor-

tunity we get to perform before an audience.

We have now embarked on our second unit of inquiry 'Hands on History'. We are busy researching information for our PowerPoint presentation at the moment. A highlight so far was a talk we had by an old pearl diver, Mr Ismail. He shared fascinating information about pearl diving in the past, we certainly learned a lot and enjoyed his visit. We would like to congratulate our students on excellent behaviour while listening to Mr Ismail.

The Year 4 Team



Year 5

Since the last newsletter was written the Year 5 team would like to welcome Ms. Macarena to Year 5. It is wonderful for Year 5 to be fully staffed, and for the students to have continuity in their classroom as we all work together to help the students learn. Year 5 is a great team with fantastic students who are always trying to be the best they can be. Recently Year 5 had a wonderful

trip to Gympanze as a fitting finale to our first UOI. We played games, exercised, worked in teams, and measured our fitness. After a healthy lunch we played more games before returning back to school, and then home, completely exhausted. It was a great trip. For our next UOI 'Exploration Explosion' the theme is 'Exploration leads to discoveries and changes and may help us to learn

more about the world'. We are all excited inquiring into all the people and places people explore and learning to understand the reasons why exploration takes place. Perhaps we will have a trip somewhere to explore for this UOI! Watch this space...

The Year 5 Team



Year 6

How fast the school year seems to be going. We are already approaching the winter break and four months are behind us. We would like to bid farewell to Mrs. Ola and wish her good luck at the Al Maha girl's school and welcome Ms. Shabena into the year six team. She is a dedicated teacher who we all know will do a great job this year.

Our second unit of inquiry "May the

Force Be with You" has come to an end. The students worked hard inquiring into the forces of gravity, friction and magnetism. They brought all of their research and knowledge together and used the scientific method to create an experiment aimed at answering a forced based question they devised themselves. We are now beginning our new unit "Let's be Civilized" in which the students will inquire into ancient civilizations and learn how

they are still influencing us today.

A huge congratulations goes out to our year six boys and girls football players. At recent tournaments, the boys took third place while our girls managed to place both first and third. The year six teachers and all of AJA are proud of the hard work these athletes put in. Have a happy and safe holiday.

The Year 6 Team

'Special' news

ART

Students have been amazingly busy in Art this term. Here is a brief summary of the works they have created. The words don't do them justice though, so the best thing for you to do is to come and see all the wonderful artwork on display around the school.

Year 6

This term year 6 have completed the most wonderful Monochrome Self-Portraits! They achieved this by using a photograph, pencils, black watercolour and ink!

Year 5

This term year 5 have used printing techniques and colour paper to make some vibrant collage Portraits!

Year 4

This term year 4 have been working on collage based on pearl diving. The outcomes are looking fantastic. Well done guys!

Year 3

Year 3 have taken inspiration from their Unit of Inquiry Habitats and produced some wonderful clay creatures! We have had hedgehogs, Owls, snakes and ladybirds. Well done year 3!

Hayley Miller

P.E.

Things are in full swing in the PE department! The first half of the term was very successful. The children were able to practice and improve their ball skills while playing matches and working together as a team. The PE teachers were delighted to see so many children working hard through different roles to help their team along. Currently, the students are learning different skills in our unit called "Adventure". The students have been learning new skills in map reading, obstacle courses, parachute games, and general team building activities. Outside of PE we have

been able to participate in several different tournaments, including indoor athletics and football. It has been wonderful to see the students representing our school well in the community, both by their behavior and participation. Special recognition goes out to our Year 5/6 Boys Football Team for placing 3rd in their tournament, to our Year 5/6 Girls "A" Football Team for also placing 3rd in their tournament, and to our Year 5/6 Girls "B" Football Team for bringing home 1st PLACE in their tournament! These tournaments are put on by QPPSSA and consist of 16 English speaking schools from across Qatar so needless to say, what our students have achieved is fantastic. We are very proud of the hard work and dedication they have put in and hope to see it continue along into the events to come.

The PE Dept.



FRENCH

Year 1 will be continuing to hear and practise new French sounds and words in their next unit. Since constant repetition is a means to learning they will continue to practise and learn the vocabulary covered in the first two units.

Year 2 will be learning about cele-

brations and the important dates on the calendar in France, Qatar and their own countries. They will learn about the cultural importance and implications of different cultural celebrations.

Year 3 has just finished learning about clothes and using adjectives correctly to describe them. For the next unit Year 3 will be looking at physical features and describing people. This will involve using a wide range of vocabulary, as well as words to explain positions.

Year 4 has learned basic compass points and directions as a part of the last unit. The students will now learn how to talk about the weather and read a weather report.

Year 5 will be learning a different aspect of food – going out to a café or restaurant and, having understood the menu, will order a meal. They will learn how to make a booking and invite someone to dine.

Year 6 has learned about sports, leisure and holidays in their last two units. Now the hard work begins and they are off to school. Lessons taught in France and the students' own countries and timetables will be the main areas covered in this unit.

ACHIEVEMENT CENTRE

Children working with Ms Elena at the Achievement Centre have had great fun this term recycling an old packing box into a play house. They have used this activity to strengthen their fine motor skills, and it has helped to develop better language skills through talking and writing stories about their work.

The Achievement Centre Staff would like to wish all the Children and their Families a very refreshing mid-term break.



Heather Smith

Achievement Centre Coordinator

'Special' news

Library

It's been a very busy term in the Library with Book Week, Author Visit, Buddy Reading, ISPY Book Fair and all sorts of interesting activities. There have been some very caring and enthusiastic students who have shown that they can be enthusiastic and committed to being active learners during our library times. Students have also demonstrated that they are responsible AJA community members; looking after library books with care and carefully considering how we look after/transport library books so that they can be enjoyed by others and shared by everyone. Year 6 library monitors are working very hard in processing lots of new books and shelving them

ready for student use and helping to design a warm conducive and welcoming atmosphere in our primary library, which makes a huge difference. Thank you!

I hope that you enjoy the forthcoming winter break, and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year. Please enjoy reading lots of books during the winter break! As one of our library monitors suggests:

"Keep Calm and Never Stop Reading!"

Alternatively, here is a saying from the great American Writer Horace Mann

"A house without books is like a room without windows." Mrs. Yukiko Bonnefoy



Arabic

نشاط قسم اللغة العربية والدراسات الإسلامية

السادة أولياء الأمور الأعزاء :

مرحباً بكم في النشرة الإخبارية الجديدة للأكاديمية ، وترحيب خاص من قسم الدراسات العربية والإسلامية ، هذا القسم الذي يعمل فيه منسوبوه على تحقيق الرؤية الأعمق لتعليم دولي بريطاني بروح عربية إسلامية ، فكان من أجل رؤاه التي يعمل لإنجازها :

□ إعداد أجيال متشعبة بروح الثقافة العربية الإسلامية ،ومتواصلة مع الإنتاج الفكري والحضاري في أنحاء العالم. والعمل على تزويد أبنائنا الطلاب بكل ما من شأنه أن يمكنهم من معرفة جلال ورفعة ثقافتهم بين الثقافات العالمية. ومن ثمّ تنمية معارفهم في علوم اللغة والأدب ، والأخذ بيدهم ليواكبوا الاتجاهات الحديثة في الدراسة والحوار مع الآخر.

□ إكساب الطلاب المهارات التي تمكنهم من القدرة على القراءة والفهم والتعبير والتذوق ، و تنمية مهارات البحث العلمي ، والتفكير الناقد ، والإبداع الهادف، والعمل على غرس و تنمية روح الانتماء للوطن والأمة والاعتزاز بعقيدها ولغتها القومية، والقيم الإنسانية النبيلة.

وقد كان نشاط الشهر محاكاة لقدسية المناسبة التي أضفت بأنوارها على مسلمي العالم ، وهي مناسبة الحج ، فكانت تأدية مناسك الحج والتدريب عليها من خلال تخطيط مدروس مركز = هي النشاط الأبرز للقسم ، وقد نجح النشاط في توصيل رسالة جلييلة تعود بطلابنا إلى منبع الجمال والبهاء في ديننا العظيم ، ولكم هذا الجانب من النشاط من خلال هذه الصورة التي تتكلم بمعاني الروح والارتقاء والسمو .



مدير قسم اللغة العربية
فضل الحميدان

منسق اللغة العربية
محمد علي عيادة

'Special' news

Music

After the departure of Mrs. Amrita, our Music teacher of 5 years, we are fortunate to have found another teacher who has such great passion for music and teaching. I am sure you will join us in welcoming Mrs. Maryna to the AJA community...

The Editor

“A society without the fine arts is fundamentally impoverished and subsequently leads to an impoverished society”. Through Al Jazeera Academy I have the opportunity to be an instrument to equip children with the skills required to enrich their lives. I encourage them all to listen carefully to instructions, to participate spontaneously with enjoyment.

This term, the area of focus has been Active Listening to Music through instrumental play and skills to sing beautifully. During playing with non-melodic percussion instruments, they follow a graphic chart whilst listening to the music. They play different instruments in various ways and at the same time they improve their fine motor skills. As they are making music together, they learn to start and stop together. They have learnt to work as a group by listening to themselves, as well as to their fellow-players. They are learning to express themselves and become familiar with various musical concepts and practically experience these elements in a very gratifying way.

In the area of singing they have learnt that the voice is the most important instrument. They will continue to learn to sing with the correct posture, breathing and mouth position, to be able to produce a clear voice. They have been practicing in groups of 2 and have learnt to assess each other. They have enjoyed performing in front of the class whilst the rest of the class has learnt to behave as an audience. The learners improved their readiness to be a communicator, a risk taker and to be responsible.

Did you know Music contributes to the following?

Mathematics - Develop counting

Develop spatial intelligence – which helps with advance mathematics

Develop creative thinking – learn to think to solve problems

Language - Promote understanding of language & reasoning

Builds vocabulary

A mastery of memorization – constant use of their memory (learn songs, imprint information on young minds which help to recall information)

Develop math & pattern recognition skills in a fun way

Builds imagination & intellectual curiosity

Builds character

Thank you,

Maryna Potgieter



I.C.T.

As the first term winds down many students are finding a little more time to use the computers at school for their favourite activities. Yes, you guessed it... GAMES!!! Not so for the Year 4 students. They are putting the finishing touches to their PowerPoint presentations and frantically rehearsing them so they are ready to present to parents, peers and teachers before the end of term. An exciting, and for some, nerve-wracking experience. It has been a busy term with multimedia movies produced and media rich web pages created by the upper primary, while lower primary have been developing keyboard and mouse skills and experimenting with text and images. I wish everyone a happy tech-filled holiday and look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Mr. Spencer