



التعليم تقليدنا
A Tradition of Excellence
أكاديمية الجزيرة
Al Jazeera Academy

AJA Primary Gazette

Edition 3, February 2012



From the Head of Primary's pen....



This term was off to a good start in January and everyone returned from their December vacations looking refreshed and relaxed – many lucky people even had a tan, having been somewhere down south.

Our wonderful students have been working hard already and I have been delighted to see beautiful work on display all around our school. So much learning is taking place and our students are improving daily and getting stronger both academically and socially. The Learning Walks we have recently implemented help us to keep in touch with what is happening in the classrooms and how learning and progress is occurring.

There have been some positive changes that have occurred in the past few months and there will be more to come: you must have noticed our beautiful new blue fence around the field to keep all our students safe; the day is soon to be 15 minutes shorter which will help with the traffic situation; prayer time may be changed as well to ensure that no teaching and learning is disrupted but that we still observe prayer time within the correct timings. Mrs. Sarah Harrison has recently been appointed Deputy Head to the Primary School and I would like you to join me in wishing her the best of luck in this new position. She is doing a wonderful job and is an asset to the Primary School and to the Management Team in general.

Another big change that has been initiated is a healthy eating regime. My Assemblies have been all about bringing healthy snacks and lunches to school. This is a very important part of growing as a Primary school child and our children need brain food as much as they need nourishment. Healthy snacks mean fruit, brown bread or whole-wheat sandwiches, fruit juice (no fizzy drinks), milk, oatmeal cookies or biscuits. Chocolates and sweets should NOT be sent to school. Fast Food like MacDonald's and KFC and pizzas should NOT be sent to school – these are not good for our children.

There will be *no full 2nd Term Reports* in Primary this term as we will be having our Student-led conferences at the end of the term and the feedback you get from your children about their progress on the day will tell you how they are doing. They will however have a Target Report that they will take home and you will be asked to fill in your own Reflections as a Parent.

I hope that you'll help me in supporting the positive changes that are being made and that all our children will start to bring only healthy food in to school.

Michèle Booyzen

Primary Highlights



Year 1

Year 1- Connecting through Cultures and Celebrations.

Year 1 Team would like to welcome Ms. Tasha to Year 1. Our unit *Where We Are in Place and Time* has allowed opportunities for the students to share their cultures and learn about other cultures. The students have researched countries and cultures while looking at books, interviewing their teachers and peers and exploring artifacts. The students have also brought in personal artifacts about their own culture to share with the class. Most students brought food to school and they were fortunate enough to try food from different countries. The students enjoyed doing art and explored art from different countries. It was great to see how the students are making connections during the unit. Despite all the differences and similarities, the students have discovered it is great to say that all countries are special!!

The students also found it interesting to learn about their teacher's cultures! They were so excited to

know that even though we are from different far away countries. We are all so similar but yet still different.

Example: "My students were surprised to know that I LOVE MOLOKHIA! AYE THAT I DO J! In Trinidad we also celebrate Ramadan and Eid, in fact everyone does! This is the warmth of the Caribbean people." (Ms. Tasha Year 1D)

"My name is Doha, I am from Qatar. In Qatar we celebrate Ramadan. My favourite food is Molokhia."
Doha Year 1D

Reflections about our learning...

"In England we have lots of castles and a Queen"
Horatio Year 1D

"I am from Egypt. I live in Qatar. We like football and speak Arabic. In Egypt we have pyramids."
Youssef Year 1B



Last Wednesday and Thursday as part of our unit Year 1 visited the Fanar Cultural Museum. We used photographs to discuss and stimulate our thinking to begin planning our writing. The students produced some pieces of writing that they would like to share.



"We made a doll at the museum. We pray in the mosque."
Jennifer Yr 1B

"We got gifts. The man wrote our names in Arabic."
Alia Yr 1B

Thanks to all our families who helped their children to share their cultures with others.



Our next unit is *Sharing the Planet*. We will be inquiring into what we throw away, the disposal of waste and its affect on the environment. Recycling, reducing use and reusing materials.

Regards,

The Year 1 Team

Year 2

Year 2– Getting their feet wet in the ocean.

In Year 2 we have been exploring the oceans and investigating all sorts of things. We inquired into how the ocean is a vital part of our environment and how we are connected to the ocean. We found out that without the ocean, we would not have food, medicine or leisure activities. We should look after the ocean and keep it clean and unspoiled. On visiting the Corniche and exploring the lives of the fishermen, we were told all about the ocean and we discovered new animals along the way. Here are some pictures of our posters about being responsible for the oceans.



In our next unit *How the World Works* we will be inquiring into the weather and how it affects our everyday lives.

We would like to wish all our students and parents a restful and relaxing mid-term break.

Regards,
The Year 2 Team



Year 3

What an amazing start we have had to 2012! Our Poetry Unit was fantastic, as the students learnt about different types of poems such as Acrostic, Haiku, Diamante, Shape and so much more! The students created some amazing poems using their previous knowledge regarding nouns, adjectives and verbs. Some students were even able to publish their own poem using a website online. We are very proud of them for their hard work! We have now started our new unit on Light, where students will be doing experiments. Year 3 teachers are excited to see what new knowledge the students will discover about Light.



In Language we focused on descriptive writing, past and present tense verbs, proper nouns, and apostrophes. These concepts connected really well with our UOI on Poetry.

In Maths, students learned about Place Value, subtraction and addition with renaming, and 2 and 3D shapes. We had a great time playing fun Maths games which encouraged and motivated the students' learning!



Everyone in Year 3 would like to thank you for your continuous support this past term. We love to see students at Al Jazeera Academy smiling, feeling happy and confident with their learning!



Year 4

Before the winter break year fours had an interesting excursion to the Sheikh Faisal Museum. Our visit was very successful and informative. The students could make clear connections with the artefacts they saw and our unit of inquiry 'Hands on History'. We concluded this unit with PowerPoint Presentations about Qatar's history and compared it with Qatar today. What talented children we have in year four! They produced some excellent presentations. The teachers can see how their confidence has grown and their skills have improved since they first came into year four.

After the winter break we embarked on an exciting unit of inquiry, How the World Works – our unit title was 'Earths Movers and Shakers'. The students found this unit fascinating and learned many new things through their research. There was great excitement in the air when they built volcanoes in class and watched them erupting!



Each school day is a busy one in year four; students have been developing their multiplication and division skills. They are learning how to make sentences more interesting through the use of adjectives and adverbs. It's also pleasing to see how many of our students have now become avid readers.

Regards,

The Year 4 Team

Year 5

We celebrated the success of students in Year 5 at the assembly on January 24. These students were selected by their teachers for showing progress in their learning, outstanding behaviour or having positive qualities such as leadership skills.

Unit of Inquiry: 'How We Organize Ourselves' To Market, To Market, We Go!



To discover why people began trading and using currency and how we trade goods and products we went to Souq Waqif on January 25. The children asked the vendors and shopkeepers about their shops and where the products they were selling came from. The children now understand concepts such as profit and importing goods. They were able to see where products come from, and were able to reason that the price of a product could be based on how expensive the materials were, or how much time it took to make the product.

From Left to Right

- Front Row** *Hessa Saud Mohamed Al-Thani - 5B, Mohammed Al-Ansari - 5C*
- Middle Row** *Zeed Abu Samhadaneh - 5D, Al Jazi Abdulla Ghanim Al-Ali – 5E, Siama Teasha – 5A, Ghaliya Al Khater - 5D*
- Back Row** *Hamad Jassim Mahmoud - 5C, Ahmad Jassim Mohammed Al-Nasr - 5B, Mohammed Al Dossari – 5A, Al Waleed Nasser Yousef Abdulghani Al-Abdulghani – 5E*



Loujaien – 5B



Hamda, Al-Anoud, Amna –5E

They also used persuasive language to discuss the price with vendors to ensure they paid a fair price for their goods. The children were asked to spend up to 50 Riyals on a product from the Souq to create their final summative assessment for the unit. The children are now working towards creating an eye-catching and well-designed poster that has a memorable slogan, and persuades the reader to purchase the product



Our next unit is SHARING THE PLANET. We will become informed defenders of wildlife! The central idea the students will come to understand is that the survival of many animals and their habitats may be impacted by nature and human action.

We are excited to see the animals at Doha Zoo as our trip

The Year 5 team hopes you have an enjoyable and restful half term break.

Ms Zahra (Year Leader) - 5E, Ms Sheila – 5A, Miss Tori – 5B, Ms Macarena – 5C, Ms Claire – 5D

Year 6

The school year continues and more positive change has come to year six. We have added a new member to our teaching team and would like to give him a big AJA welcome to Mr. Rohan who hails from the land down under Australia. Mr. Rohan is taking the AFL boys class and we know he will do a fine job.



Our third unit of inquiry “Let’s Be Civilized” has come to an end. The students put together a fantastic *Living Museum* in which they became a character from the historical fiction stories they worked so hard on.



There were characters from ancient Egypt, Rome and Greece and all of the students who took part work hard and put on a great show.

We are now beginning our new unit “City Limits” in which we will be investigating how cities evolve to meet the ever changing needs of their citizens.

On behalf of Mr. Aaron, Mr. Rohan, Ms. Shabena, Mrs. Merle and myself Mr. Scott we would like to encourage the students continue to work hard and make the next term a successful one.

'Special' news

ART

Here is a brief look at the ways our students have been demonstrating their creativity this term

Year 6

Year 6 are continuing to work on their City Scapes. The students have designed some very exciting ideas of what the Doha Sky line will look like in 2022!

Year 5

Year 5 are continuing to work on their woven circles. The students have worked so well on this unit showing a wealth of enthusiasm for the topic.

Year 4

Year 4 have excelled themselves while collecting materials for their practical work. They are continuing to work on creating a 3D mixed media Land Form Tile.

Year 3

Year 3 have been working on some very exciting Art to do with poetry! We made and decorated our very own Poetry books and spent some time illustrating the Dr. Seuss Poem A Wocket in my Pocket.

Hayley Miller

ICT

It never ceases to amaze me how fast the weeks pass us by. It seems such a short time ago that I was writing for the newsletter and yet here we are again.

The last 6 weeks have some fantastic work done in ICT :

In the lower primary Year 1 have been tackling digital cameras and word processors for the very first time, while Year 2 have been conducting simple internet research and presenting their findings in a concept map.

At the other end of the scale Years 5 and 6 have been exploring data modeling by creating simple spreadsheets using basic mathematical formulae and creating graphs.

With the mid term holiday upon us and many of you travelling, I would like to share a couple of websites with you that will may offer an alternative to video games during the break. Take a look at:

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

<http://www.abcya.com/>

The first offers Oxford Reading Tree books online to support your child's school reading scheme and the second has a wealth of cool tools, many of which are available as apps for your iPads!

Enjoy 😊

Spencer Curtis

ACHIEVEMENT CENTRE

Through cooking the students are learning about measurement, word recognition, reading, following instruction, turn-taking, sensory integration and sequencing. Later the session was followed up with photo sequences and written activities.

Throughout the term our teachers support students in the regular classrooms with short term learning difficulties through small group instruction. These learning support classes include developing Literacy skills, English Language development, Comprehension skills and various areas in Mathematics. Congratulations to all those students who have worked hard to improve their skills this term. We look forward to helping you all next term!

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



Students in the Achievement Centre enjoying hands on learning activities

'Special' news

Library

As always, it's been a very busy and exciting term here in the Library. Our super team of Library monitors have been assisting me and working hard to ensure that our Library is an inviting place to visit. We have also welcomed two new members to the team, from years 5. We know their dedication to keeping our Library shelves tidy is always very much appreciated.

This term also saw the arrival of new reading material, including: Fantasy, Science Fiction and Adventure Stories. All of which should be very popular with our students throughout the school.

Book reports will be starting shortly and we are expecting that the standard of student writing will be even higher than last year and that our older students will be sharing their reports with the younger students in the weeks ahead.

And finally, we have also started running a reading CAFE in the Library which is showing just how well our younger students are reading and are advancing their Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency skills and Expanding Vocabulary. Please pop into the Library to check this out for yourself. You'd be most welcome and very welcome to join us!

Regards,
Yukiko Bonnefoy

Arabic

نفحات من رُوح العلم

أعزائي أولياء الأمور :

يطيبُ لنا في قسم الدراسات العربية والإسلامية أن يتكرّر لقاءنا بكم ، وفي اللقاء تثبيتٌ للمعاني التي آمنَ بها القسمُ وعملَ من أجلها ، وهي خلقُ جيلٍ مؤمنٍ ملتزمٍ معَ تعليمٍ أكاديميٍّ بريطانيٍّ متقدّم .

أمّا في الأولى فلنا أن ننقلَ لكم صورةً من ذلك الجمال الذي ارتسم على محيّا أبنائنا الطلبة ، وهم يجتمعون على الأذان الذي يرتفعُ في ساحات الأكاديمية عند صلاة الظهر ، لتجدهم متراكضين متحابين ، يرفعون أكمامهم ، ويستبشرون بالنور المنبعثٍ من ضياء الموضوع ، ثمّ إن لمحتهم وهم يكبرون = كثرت لتكبيرهم فرحاً بأن اجتمعوا على شعيرة هي من أجلّ الشعائر ، في مكان هو من أقدس الأماكن ، ألا وهو مسجد المدرسة . وفي طرف هذه الكلمات صورةٌ من ذلك الجمال المهيّب الذي أصله في الأرض ، في أكاديمية الجزيرة ، وفرعُه في السماء .

نعم ، لم نجد أجملَ خبراً ، أو أمتعَ عملاً ، نتحسّسُ معه البركة والنفع لنخبرَ به الأهالي ، ولنرصدَ لهم من خلال جزءاً من برنامج القيم الإسلامية ، في قسم اللغة العربية ، في هذا الجزء الأول من رؤيتنا = من الصلاة ، تربي النفس ، وترفع الهمم ، وتعلم المكارم .

وسيكون الجزء الثاني في حديثٍ يمتدُّ أكثر مما كان ههنا في الرسالة الإخبارية القادمة ، وإلى ذلك اللقاء نستمطرُ الرحمة بأن تطوى الأيام لنلقاكم ، وفي الحقيبة عندنا منجزاتٌ وأخبارٌ ومسرّات

مدير قسم الدراسات العربية والإسلامية

فضل محمّد الحميدان



'Special' news

Music

In my Music class, the students learn to communicate their activities. They learn that communication is sharing information (verbally or non-verbally) in a clear, understandable and pleasing manner to others. They first need to understand the activity to be able to convey/share it with others.

As part of this unit, one of the activities was Active Listening to Music through dramatization. The aim is to get all the students in class actively participating in the listening process. During this activity, listening, movement, dramatization and creative thinking take place simultaneously.



The pictures illustrate how the students have to listen very attentively and with considerable concentration to perform characters in a story. The music instructs and embraces them in how to perform the character. They express their thoughts and own ideas physically and I am able to see how concepts of the elements of music are being understood.

Through the activity of performing, playing melodic percussion instruments, they have grasped the skills to play the instrument correctly, then to be able to communicate a pleasing, aesthetic sound.

They have learned that they have to listen carefully and with concentration to keep the rhythm pattern whilst the teacher is playing the melody.



These pictures of the different year groups demonstrate the fun and calm minds that enable students to focus and channel their concentration. They feel "smart", experience a "sense of achievement" which contributes to their overall sense of confidence.



Through the process of peer assessment and opportunity to be a "teacher" themselves, the students have learned the skill to play with absolute precision.

The question - why playing instruments? ...It improves their language skills and enhances the brain's sensitivity to speech sound!

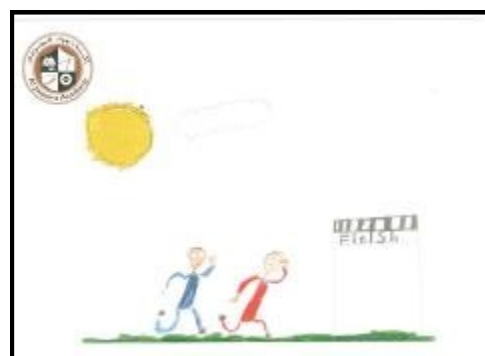
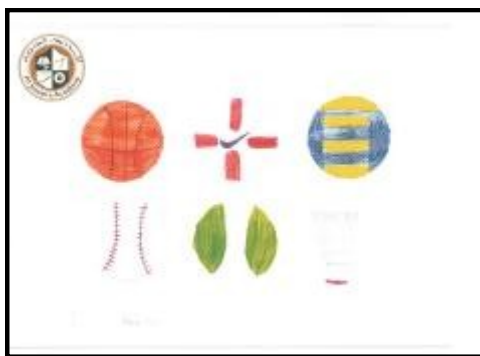
I am thrilled to see how the students are performing the skills with great proficiency!



'Special' news

P.E.

The PE department has had a lot of exciting things going on this term. In our PE classes at school we are working through a unit on Athletics. The students have been working hard to learn the proper forms for hurdling, long and high jump, throwing javelin, discus, and shot put, running relay, and short and long distances. The PE teachers have seen many promising athletes and we hope to showcase some of their talent in the upcoming Sports Day February 15th and the Year 5 & 6 QPPSSA Outdoor Athletics Tournament at the end of February.



We are very excited to announce that we have a new rewards system in the PE Department! Students can earn PE "postcards" by doing things such as showing excellent behaviour, fantastic listening skills, and by showing improvement in all aspects. These postcards are a special award that the students must be working their hardest to receive. The designs on the front of the postcards are the result of an art contest held earlier in the year. We would like to recognize these students for their artistic ability – the winners of the contest are: Omar Abdelzاهر (5B) Ahmed AlAbdalla (5C) Ahmed Sultan (4C) Laith Akram (4C) and Reema Al-Kuwari (3B). Well done, young artists! We hope that each and every student will have earned at least one postcard by the end of the year - we are keeping a close eye!

'Special' news

It is very rewarding to have such an enthusiastic and hard working band of students throughout the Primary School. I would like to recommend that they also visit the languages online website where they can practise all their skills through games, songs and exercises. You need to type **languages online French topics** in Google to access this website or ctrl-click on the link below:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/languagesonline/french/french.htm>

Year 1 have been singing French songs and have learned about the parts of a house. They have been introduced to the rooms 'le salon', 'la chambre' and la cuisine and have learned the names of the furniture. In the coming weeks the students will study sports, numbers up to twenty and reviewing personal identity.



The students of Year 2 have successfully completed their study of celebrations and their card making. Now they will study telling the time in French. They will make their own practice clocks and look at their daily routine.

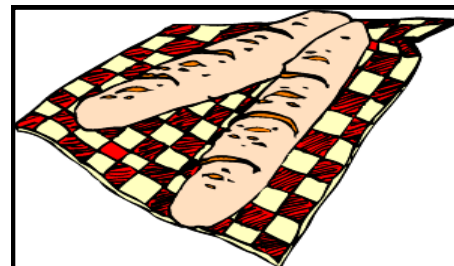


In Year 3 we had fun describing people, their features and their clothes. For the next few weeks we will be looking at pastimes and entertainment and compare the activities people enjoy in France and other countries.



Year 4 worked very hard to learn and prepare the language and resources for their weather forecasts and performed them with confidence. For our next unit of study we shall be looking at objects around us, describing them and saying what they are made of and hopefully set up a shop to practice buying a selling.

Year 5 are on a culinary journey this year and have learned how to make a restaurant reservation over the phone. They will now research French cuisine and its influence on other cuisines, learn the vocabulary to describe what a dish is made up of and the processes used in cooking. Hopefully we shall be able to go to one of the French restaurants in Doha to sample some French cuisine.



School's out for Year 6 students. They have studied timetables and lessons and how to comment about their classes and teachers. From this month they will be learning about the world of work, peoples' professions and where they go to work.

Mme. Lorraine