



# المدرسة الإنجليزية الحديثة THE ENGLISH MODERN SCHOOL

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## CAMBRIDGE

International Examinations

Cambridge International School

### Parents' To Do List:

- Check school website
- Check homework
- Check week ahead
- Email school with any query
- SMS with any query
- Read to your child daily
- Say thanks
- Praise your child for all their hard work
- Pay school fees.
- Eat well and exercise
- Get plenty of rest and have a great day!

## Message from Head of School



Ref: sst/LW/0170/1617

15.12.2016

Dear Esteemed Parents,

Welcome to volume one of our newsletter for this academic year. We have had a smooth start to the school year, with lots of learning in and out of the classroom. Our new and improved school environments continue to have a positive impact on students learning and behavior.

This year, our school has had a significant facelift to the playground which is now fully shaded, with artificial grass flooring. The construction of our Gymnasium is now fully completed, and we hope to continue using the gym space to its full capacity and functionality for sports and school events.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our board directors for their immense support to the growth and development of our school.

We are very excited about the new learning platform implemented this academic year. We have added programs/platforms such as:

Second Step Character program  
I Read Arabic  
Show My Homework  
Cambridge Reading Adventure  
Cambridge Global English, Math & Science textbooks. .

As we strive to educate our students in becoming lifelong learners, I urge you to continue to support your child/children at home in their education and work in partnership with us to help your child/children develop their full potential.

This year we have appointed new members of the student council; we wish them all the best for the rest of the year. Members of our Student Council will be assigned the responsibility of raising the Qatar National flag, while we play the National Anthem at the beginning of our assemblies.

The North East South Asia Conference (NESA) was held in Doha this year. Myself and Ms. Sandra, our ECE Assistant Principal, were in attendance. It is always an excellent opportunity to meet with colleagues from other International schools around the world, to share innovative and 21<sup>st</sup>-century learning ideas and opportunities. As always, we will continue to look for ways of improving the education we offer students in a fast-paced world of technological advancement.

This year's Head of Schools Summit took place at The Qatar National Convention Centre. It was a forum where all Heads of schools in Qatar gathered to discuss how we can make improvements to the education we offer students in schools in Qatar. The forum discussions and workshops were very enlightening.

We will continue to evaluate our practices, school environment as well as the learning and instruction that teachers implement in the classroom. I want you to know that we value and appreciate your feedback as esteemed parents. Please feel free to stop by my office anytime to share innovative ideas with us; we want to hear from you.

Our teachers and Senior Leadership Team are continuing to attend professional development training off campus at Seraj Learning Centre and other venues, outside Qatar. The English Modern School prides itself in promoting a professional learning community by providing ongoing professional development to all staff as well as collaborating with colleagues in other International schools.

Thank you for working in partnership with us.

Omolola Wright-Odusoga

Head of School.

## **ECE**

Welcome back our children seem to have settled very well in their new learning environment. It has also been a pleasure to watch how quickly the new KG1 children have settled into Term 1. It was great to have the opportunity to meet and greet so many parents who attended the parent workshop and coffee morning this term.

We introduced the 'Second Step' program, which the staff and children have really taken on, learning new songs, stories and games as well as strategies to manage our feelings and work and play in a positive way with all our ECE friends.

The new outdoor equipment is something the children the children have really enjoyed exploring. They are learning how to manage the equipment in a safe way. We have also introduced indoor activities to the outdoors now as the weather has cooled down, and we have the luxury of shaded areas.

## **Assessments and Reports**

This is a busy time of year, when the teachers are busy collecting assessments to write the end of Term 1 reports. In order to make a clear report on your child's learning it is important that your child attends school regularly and always arrives on time.

## **Children's Learning**

This term the children have been learning all about their families and their neighborhood, and enjoyed a tour of Wakra. The children have especially enjoyed the theme '*People who help us*' and have immersed themselves into this topic by dressing up (learning to dress themselves, sharing and looking after each other.) We were fortunate enough to have a parent who is a fireman to come to talk the children about what a fireman does, and it was lovely to see all the children wearing their firemen helmets that they made in class.

## PRIMARY

### Outdoor learning at EMS Wakra!

If you have visited the EMS Wakra campus this year, then you have noticed many improvements in the school grounds which include several new covered/shaded areas as well as new play equipment! Not only do these new additions add to our students' enjoyment and options during break time, they also expand teaching opportunities for both P.E. teachers and classroom teachers.

Research shows that outdoor learning opportunities can transform children's educational experience by:

- Increasing the quality and quantity of their outdoor experiences
- Increasing the students' engagement, making the lesson more interesting to them
- Increasing the students' connection to the world around them
- Making the lessons more child-centered, allowing the students to learn through discovery
- Making learning more enjoyable, challenging, and exciting

Year 1 students are engaged in a cross-curricular English/Science lesson, reading *In the Tall, Tall Grass* by Denise Fleming to the class. Teachers used the opportunity to have the students practice their reading skills by having them read the word on the card (*all*) and then they used their understanding of that word to read the word *Tall* in the book's title.

Because the book tells of things found in the Tall, Tall Grass, teachers used the opportunity to have to students discuss the "grass" on which they were seated and related the discussion to a previous Science lesson: Living things and things that are not alive. The students quickly pointed out the "grass" below them and explained that it was not living. Finally, some of our year 2 students enjoyed a Rounding Relay game to reinforce rounding numbers to the nearest 10. They students stood in two lines with the numbers 10, 20, 30, 40, ...100 written on papers at the other end of the field. The teachers would say a number such as 27 and the two students at the front of the lines had to run down to the papers and find the number to which they would round 27.

In all of these outdoor learning activities, the students were engaged and excited about what they were learning and how they were learning it!

## SPORTS

During the PE lessons we have concentrated on general co-ordination skills as well as specific skills in preparation for our calendar of sport for Term 1. Team work during the activities is as important as the individual skills that the students possess.

The students worked on their Indoor Athletics skills and there were some very good efforts in the different skills. They also took part in an Inter- House co-ordination skills competition which was won by the Pearl team.

The year 5 and 6 boys and girls took part in Football competitions in Mesaieed. There were mixed results but a good time was had by all the students. The year 3 and 4 boys and girls will have their competitions at Gems Wellington School in Al-Wakra.

The competition for places on the school teams is very strong. Students are encouraged to work hard on improving their own skills as well as improving their academic performance in the classroom. Every classroom has a copy of the QPPSSA calendar and students can keep themselves updated on the different activities for each term.

Our students were treated to a trip to the National Football stadium in Al-Saad where they watched a friendly match between Qatar and Russia. A good time was had by all the students especially since Qatar won the match.

In our bid to try to get our students to take part in different sports, the Qatar Rugby Federation has invited some of our students to be part of a welcoming party which will meet and greet the Rugby 7's World and Olympic Champions, Fiji, to Qatar.

This has already been a full term of sport for our students and the next two terms will be just as full.

## LIBRARY

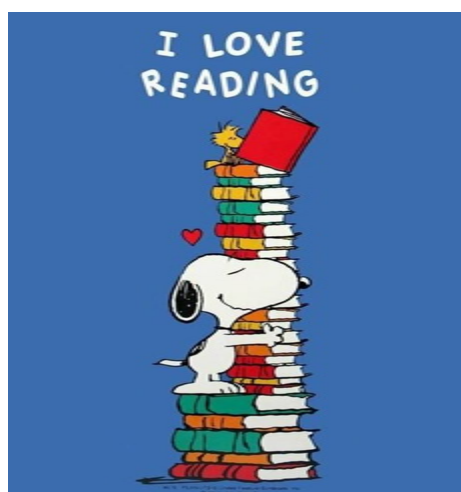
Reading is fun and it will make you calm!

*Library on The Go!*

*Story Time!!!*

**Every week, a new story will be read to the ECE kids.**

This week, ECE students enjoyed the story **Caps for Sale**, for them it's an amazing story



since the peddler has to maintain his body straight every time so that it will not upset the caps on his head.

## *Reading Time!*

*“Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.”*

ECE kids are prepared to be a leader someday! At their young age they are now reading. **Go Go Go KIDS!**

## **QATAR NATIONAL CURRICULUM**

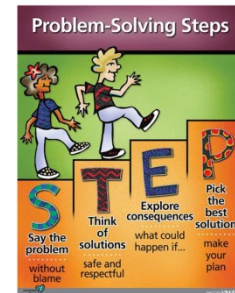
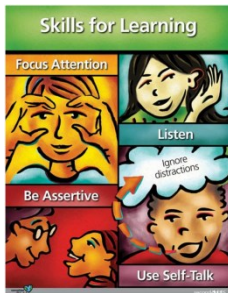
Qatari National Curriculum department started this term with the Diagnostic test for the three subjects, Arabic, Islamic and Qatar history. For the first time, the students in primary stage took the Developmental Reading Assessments (DRA) in the Arabic language in order to identify the students' level in Reading. Several steps resulted from the DRA tests records: the Remedial Reading Program to support students in reading which is implemented twice a week during the first 15 minutes of each lesson, focusing on the basic rules of reading; letter sound awareness and writing. The students are interested and excited during the Remedial Reading Program sessions. In addition, the school provided wide sets of Arabic leveled boxes and stories for using in the classroom, distributed to all classes depending on the students reading levels. For outside the classroom, the school provided the iRead Arabic Program with a Username and Password for each student. The students can access a lot of leveled stories at home, listen, read, record and send their voices to their Arabic teacher. The Arabic department also implemented the Visual Words strategy, which helps the students recognize specific words each week. This will enhance the students' speed and fluency in reading texts. The Arabic department is now preparing to participate in the Arabic Reading Challenge competition. You will receive a letter about this soon.

The KG Arabic Curriculum has been changed this year. We are using a new Arabic text books and workbooks with a CD for each student to be aligned with our plan in improving the Arabic Language for all of our children in the school.

The students were learning Islamic Studies and Qatar History during the activity based learning lessons, they represent and display their ideas in different classroom projects. We received a lot of participations in Holy Quran competition, and the teachers are working on register them on the Quran Memorizing Unit system. We are looking forward to achieve excellent results as every year. The school has participated in Poetry and Qatar Media competitions and still waiting the results. Qatar National Curriculum department now are working on preparing the students for the coming National Day celebration event.

## **GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING DEPARTMENT**

EMS Al Wakra School has introduced a new program called SecondSTEP along with Expected School Wide Learning Results (ESLRs). The Second Step program for Early Learning through Year 6 (K-5) is a classroom-based social-emotional learning program with lessons and reinforcement activities designed to increase children's school success and decrease problem behaviors. It teaches skills that strengthen children's ability to learn, have empathy, manage emotions, and solve problems. When children have Second Step skills it creates a safer, more respectful learning environment that promotes school success for all.



The school counsellor works with students, parents, teachers and administrators to help make your child's school experience a success. Reinforcing the ESLRs/SecondSTEP is a large part of the counsellor's job. In the month of November, EMS Al Wakra focuses on "What does it mean to be a Global Citizen?" Being a Global Citizen means, "I am accepting and respectful of others. I care for the environment and am socially responsible."

### Parents Remember:

Student success depends on home and school working together to develop Independent Learners, Effective Communicators, Global Citizens, Ethical Individuals, Critical Thinkers, and Dynamic Achievers.

To learn more about SecondSTEP/ESLRs, please visit our website at [www.emswakra.net](http://www.emswakra.net) and click Parent.