



# DOHA ENGLISH SPEAKING SCHOOL

Learning Together • High Expectations • Celebrating Success

## NEWSLETTER

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Issue 16 T2/2012

19 January 2012

### HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

It has been wonderful to see so many children taking part in our after school clubs this week. A wide variety of activities, such as sport and art clubs ensure that our children remain healthy, busy and motivated. DESS Orchestra is a new development for the Music Department this term. On Tuesday, a group of talented musicians met for the first time; I'm sure we will be hearing more from them in the not too distant future.

This week, all of the classes in Year 1 have been involved in a DT project, designing and creating a toy with a moving part. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the week and have produced some very effective puppets, these range from mermaids and dolphins to snails and tigers!

We are proud to announce that both our A and B Rounders teams who competed against 8 teams last Thursday won their respective competitions. The children played superbly, once again demonstrating excellent sportsmanship.

Continuing with the theme of DESS sports. On Wednesday of this week, our Year 5 and Year 6 boys were transported to Al Gharaffa training field to participate in the Sheikh Faisal Cup. As always, we were very proud of their effort and enthusiasm. They were all excellent ambassadors for the school.

Also this week, the school was visited by the SEC (Supreme Education Council) inspectors. For two days, representatives from this department visited classrooms, speaking to both children and teachers. High behavioural and academic standards were remarked upon by the team who had an extremely enjoyable and interesting visit.

I hope you all have a relaxing weekend.

**Andy Yeoman**  
**Headteacher**



## New School Signage

New signage went up just inside the main gates this week and we think it looks great, as do our School Council who posed for this photograph.

**NEWS FLASH**

## NATIONAL SPORTS DAY

We have been advised by the Supreme Education Council that there will be a National Sports Day event in February. At the moment we have been given conflicting information with regard to the exact date and whether the day will be a national holiday, held over a weekend or for school participation only. As soon as we have been given a decisive answer we will let you know.

## Staff Vacancies

**French Teacher (part-time)**  
**Teaching Assistant**  
**Temporary Year 4 Teacher (summer term)**

If you are interested in any of these positions and require further information please visit the school website at

[www.dess.org](http://www.dess.org)

## **GATE TIMINGS / SECURITY**

We would like to draw your attention to the gate opening and closing times. Previously, parents were allowed onto the premises before 12.00pm as Preschool finished at 12.00pm. However, now that Preschool timings have changed access to the site is now from 12.30pm.

For security reasons it is very important that unless parents have a valid reason for being on the school premises before this time, we ask that you wait outside the gates until they are opened. Obviously, we appreciate that there are times when parents need to be in school for various reasons during the school day and at these times you will be issued with a visitor's pass by the security guard at the main gate.

<b>MORNING</b>	
<b>GATE NUMBER</b>	<b>TIMINGS</b>
2	07.00 – 08.00
3	07.00 – 08.00
4	07.00 – 07.35
5	07.00 – 08.00
Permit parking (via Al Wabra Street entrance)	06.45 – 08.00
Permit parking (via Al Fajr Street entrance)	07.00 – 08.00
<b>AFTERNOON</b>	
<b>GATE NUMBER</b>	<b>TIMINGS</b>
2	12.30 – 13.15
3	12.40 – 13.15
4	12.55 – 13.15
5	12.45 - 13.15
Permit parking (via Al Wabra Street entrance)	12.30 – 13.15
Permit parking (via Al Fajr Street entrance)	12.40 – 13.15
<b>AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>GATE NUMBER</b>	<b>TIMINGS</b>
3	14.00 – 14.30
Permit parking (via Al Wabra Street entrance)	14.00 - 14.30

# PARENT HELPERS



We are aware that we have many talented parents who possess a range of skills from which our children would benefit. With this in mind, we would like to compile a list of volunteers who would be happy to come into school and help out in classrooms. Please complete the form attached and return it to your child's class teacher if you would be happy to share your skills or simply come in and help out.

Please be informed that you could be asked to assist in any part of the school and that it is school policy that parents do not help in their own children's classes.

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## Parent Helpers

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name of child and class \_\_\_\_\_

Contact details \_\_\_\_\_

I am able to help with (list specific skills or interest i.e. listening to readers, music, gardening, sewing, art and craft, cooking etc)

\_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## Lost Property

The lost property boxes are bursting at the seams with unmarked clothing, most of which has been in there since September.

At the end of January we shall remove all the unmarked items and pass them to the PTA for resale.

Please take a moment over the next week to look through the boxes, you never know, you may find that long-lost PE shirt.

Happy hunting!

## High Value Items in Lost Property

We currently have a number of high value items in our lost property box at the School Office. Any unclaimed items will remain in the school office until 31 January 2012 and then they will be donated to 'Hope and Homes for Children', our school's chosen charity.

## Swimming Teacher Association (STA) Courses in Doha

Celia Scott is a Tutor for the STA and delivers courses in the following disciplines:-

Pool Rescue: - Pool Lifeguard, Poolside Helper, Pool Safety Award

Swimming Teacher: - Level 1(Beginners Teachers), Level 2(Full Teachers),Baby & Pre School, Water Aerobics (Aquacise) Student Teacher

First Aid at work in various forms.

Courses start on Sunday 5th February at DESS. So anyone who is keen to participate should have contacted Celia by Sunday 29th January.

Celia will be teaching these courses in several locations and at different times from early February until the end of June.

If you are interested in participating in any of these courses and would like more information, then email Celia on [celiadoha@gmail.com](mailto:celiadoha@gmail.com), or phone or text her on 55882706.

# EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITES

The ECAs are now underway. Whilst most children have been allocated a place on the activity of their choice it should be remembered that some may have been turned away due to oversubscription. It is therefore very important that your children are encouraged to complete the course once they have embarked upon it.

Please remember.....

before all ECAs the children should eat their snack in their classroom garden, then make their way to their activity at 1.15pm once the bell goes.

Please remind your child that Gate 3, or the Secure Parking Area should be used for collection from afternoon activities ending at 2.15pm, not the main office area. Gate 1 should be used for any activities that end later.

Any children who are attending a later ECA, from 2.15pm onwards, must be supervised by their parents until the ECA begins. Alternatively, we have a privately run After School Child Care Club.

Thank you for your co-operation



## DESS Uniform Shop Opening Times

Sunday 7.00 – 8.00am

Tuesday 12.30 – 1.30pm

Thursday 7.20 – 8.20am

# PRET-A-PORTRAIT



**Tuesday 24 & Wednesday 25 January 2012**

## CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS

The photographer will be in school on Tuesday 24 and Wednesday 25 January to take class photographs.

## SIBLING PHOTOGRAPHS

DESS siblings can be photographed on Wednesday 25 January during school time. Please book a slot with Elaine Drury in the school office. Please note that there are a limited number of time slots available and they will be issued on a first come first served basis.

## FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS

On Tuesday 24 January, from 1.30pm – 3.25pm, the photographer will be available to take family group photos. There will be three booths available which can be pre-booked for 5 minute time-slots. If you would like to book a time-slot please contact Elaine Drury in the school office. Please note, that there are a limited number of time slots available and they will be issued on a first come first served basis.



## Nurse Caroline's Spare School Uniform

If your child has come home from school in borrowed uniform we would kindly request that it is returned to the school nurse. Additionally, the school nurse has asked that if you have either spare dresses or shorts that your child has outgrown she would be happy to accept these for emergencies.

DESS After School Child Care Club fees are now due for this term. If you have yet to pay the fees please do so at the accounts office as soon as possible.



**DESS After  
School Child Care Club**

# Year 2 Seaside Day

## Sunday 5 February

**Oh, we do love to be beside the seaside!**

As part of this term's History and Geography topics, Year 2 are bringing the seaside to PESS.

On Sunday 5 February could Year 2 parents please dress their children ready for the seaside in shorts and t-shirts or similar. If your child would like to look as good as their teachers, here are some ideas for Victorian bathing costumes.....



### Year 2 Victorian Bathing Costume Ideas





# Doha English Speaking School

## P.E. DEPT NEWS

### Year 5 & 6 Mixed Rounders Competition

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January saw DESS hosting the annual QPPSSA Rounders event, with some 9 teams competing for the coveted recognition of being named as the best team in Qatar.

DESS was fortunate enough to be able to take TWO teams to this competition who had been practising rigorously for the entire duration of Term 1. Teams were split into two leagues with 5 A teams and 4 B teams playing in a range of matches.

The DESS A team faced some very stiff competition from other schools, but held their nerve to secure a victory in each of their matches. The DESS B team were equally well prepared and demonstrated organisation and teamwork in each of their matches to progress through to the final round.

By close of play, both the DESS A team and the DESS B team emerged as the overall winners in their respective leagues, finishing 1<sup>st</sup> and collecting a gold medal / certificate.

We are very proud of both our teams, who played well, demonstrated commitment in all of their training sessions as well as the usual exceptional behaviour we have come to expect from all of our teams.

Congratulations to:



**DESS A Team – 1<sup>st</sup> Place**



**DESS B Team – 1<sup>st</sup> Place**

<b>TEAM A</b>		<b>TEAM B</b>	
Tom Crook	5B	Joshua Christie	5D
Ross Crook	5B	Sally Williams	5B
Teddy Tyler	5B	Alexander Cardozo	5C
Harrison Storm	5B	Molly Hamilton	5C
Rachel Goff	5D	Oliver Turkman	6A
Adam Scott	6D	Tristan Hamra	6C
Ebrahim Algosaibi	6A	Tino Astley	5B
George Ball	6A	Archie Todd	6D
Adam Bettit	6D	Mahdi Dahir	6C
Molly Sell	6C	Anjaneya Suden	5A
Ben Brown	6D	Elly Perez-Selsky	5D
Charlotte Hay	6D	Jacob Walker Morecroft	6D

## PE/Swimming Change Over Dates

Please be advised that P.E. / swimming lessons for all Key Stage 2 classes will be changing over, week commencing **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2012**.

Those classes who have been swimming up until now will be participating in P.E. activities and as such will require their full P.E. kit, trainers, hat and water bottle for future sessions.

All classes who have been participating in P.E. up until now will be swimming and as such will require a full swimming kit including costume, towel and goggles for future sessions.

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Date Change</b>	<b>Activity</b>
3A & 3C	Wednesday 01.02.12	PE
3B & 3D	Wednesday 01.02.12	Swimming
4A & 4B	Sunday 29.01.12	PE
4C & 4D	Sunday 29.01.12	Swimming
5A & 5D	Sunday 29.01.12	PE
5B & 5C	Sunday 29.01.12	Swimming
6A & 6C	Monday 30.01.12	PE
6B & 6D	Monday 30.01.12	Swimming

This programme will run for 8 weeks and end week commencing Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2012.



**1A Jessica**



**1B Matthew**



**1C Natasha**



**1D Yusra**



**2A Sofia**



**2B Cooper**



**2C Rachel**

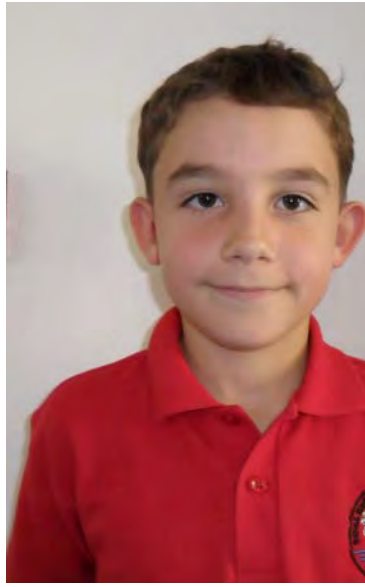


**2D Elysia**

**STAR OF THE WEEK**



**3A Mariam**



**3B Rayan**



**3C Naythan**



**3D Jack**



**4A Lily**



**4B Muneeb**



**4C Alexander**



**4D Rohan**

**STAR OF THE WEEK**



**5A Ike**



**5B Megan**



**5C Rachel**



**5D Eisha**



**6A Megan**



**6B Sophie**



**6C Tristan**



**6D Sam**

**STAR OF THE WEEK**



## BBQ at Pickup

We hope everyone enjoyed their tasty burgers and hotdogs today as much as we enjoyed bringing this event to you!

## Internet Security for *Surfing Angels*

The internet can be a dangerous place. You need to protect yourself. However, a lot of people kid themselves that they are not at risk.



Our guest speaker Susie Billings is quite passionate about Internet Security and she would like to share her knowledge of this subject with you.

So come and join us on **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January** after drop off in the room above the MPH hall, for coffee and cake. Bring along your iPod touch, ipad and iphone so Suzie can show you a few of their security features and learn how to keep yourself safe while surfing online...



## Pizza Day

Is taking place on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**, an order form has already been sent home with your child and should have been returned today. **However, as the slip states that pizza orders are allowed until 26 January we will still accept orders until then.** Please remember that we cannot accept any late orders (the only exceptions to this rule are children who have been absent from school). Children who haven't submitted their orders are welcome to bring in their own pizza on the day.

## **PTA AGM**

**WHEN** : 6th February 2012  
**WHERE** : DESS School Library  
**TIME** : 7pm



The DESS PTA is a vibrant and active committee, made up of both parents and teachers. If you would like to join the PTA or find out more about what is involved, please speak to Jackie Robertson or any of the office holders listed at the end of the newsletter. Perhaps you and a group of your friends would like to join the committee, working together as a team?

As well as three non-office bearing positions, office holder positions are also becoming vacant at the AGM, these are:-

**Chairperson**

**Secretary**

**Treasurer**

Please send any nominations for these positions to [ptasecretary@dess.org](mailto:ptasecretary@dess.org)

# P Partnership T hrough A ction N ews



**FAB**  
Club



## **Gained a few pounds over the festive break?**

Join us in FAB Club, a friendly support group for those who want to lose weight  
Weigh-in is confidential, then we get together over coffee  
swapping advice, recipes etc

We meet above the MPH, immediately after drop-off, Thursday mornings

**Not Sure? Just come along and say 'Hi'!**

**Drop off, Drop in, Drop a size..!**

**Cost:** QR50 to join then QR20 each week

## **DON'T FORGET...**

FAB Club		Every Thursday after drop-off
Internet Security for <i>Surfing Angels</i>		Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January
Pizza Day		Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February
PTA AGM		Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> February, 7pm

## **Your Committee**

Jackie Robertson	Chairperson	6661 5173	<a href="mailto:ptachair@dess.org">ptachair@dess.org</a>
Cathy Winter	Vice Chair	5592 9968	<a href="mailto:ptavicechair@dess.org">ptavicechair@dess.org</a>
Fiona Best	Treasurer	3321 6030	<a href="mailto:ptatreasurer@dess.org">ptatreasurer@dess.org</a>
Yvonne Brown	Secretary	7720 4676	<a href="mailto:ptasecretary@dess.org">ptasecretary@dess.org</a>