



DOHA ENGLISH SPEAKING SCHOOL

Learning Together • High Expectations • Celebrating Success

NEWSLETTER

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16 February 2012

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Change is an inevitable process which, depending upon our own personal experiences, can be resisted, feared or welcomed with open arms. As our children grow and develop, there will be some who look forward to the challenges and adventures that their future holds, whilst others will be left feeling a little more apprehensive.

At DESS this half term, we have experienced many changes, some more apparent than others. As Year 6 children sat their Doha College Entrance Exams a couple of weeks ago, anxious parents watched their children cross the threshold from primary to secondary school, their anxiety not only a result of whether their child performed to the best of their ability but also whether their child will settle into their new school environment.

Our children continue to experience activities and events which will enable them to grow and see life from a more worldly perspective. Currently, Mr Yeoman and a few members of our DESS staff are skiing in Switzerland, exposing our Year 6 children to an exciting, yet chilly, memorable life-time experience. You can see them celebrating this episode in their lives on our DESS 'Facebook' page. Our Year 4 children, who performed their play 'Little Red Riding Hood' today will also have been positively impacted as a result of their time in the spotlight this afternoon, the success of their excellent theatrical performance will have given them the confidence to approach new experiences in a less tentative way.

Over the past few weeks, personnel changes have been made within both our PTA and Governing Body. At our recent PTA AGM, Jackie Robertson, our fantastic Chairperson and two exceptional members of the team were replaced and at a recent Governing Body meeting Emad Turkman MBE, our trusted friend and Chair of our Board of Governors stepped down.

The diversity of response to change is inevitable and the greater the predecessor the more difficult any transition can be. Luckily, at DESS we have so many talented people who have a clear vision and are genuinely excited about change and progress, ensuring our school remains an exceptional learning environment. In the words of Herakleitos, a Greek philosopher, 'the only constant in life is change', it is therefore important that we embrace it.

From all the staff and children at DESS, have a happy and peaceful holiday.

Karen Wilson
Deputy Headteacher

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

VACANCY – BOARD of GOVERNORS

We are pleased to announce a new vacancy on our Board of Governors. We are looking for a specific set of skills to complement our existing Board, in order to align with the plans we have for further development of DESS.

With this in mind, we would like to invite applications from Parents who have specific experience within the construction industry. This may include project management of building projects, experience of design and management of contractors.

Being part of the Board of Governors is a rewarding experience and involves a significant time commitment – all Governors are involved in regular meetings, (generally early mornings or evenings), both at full Board level and within the various subcommittees which are in operation at any one time.

If you believe you have the right skills for the position and have the energy and commitment required, we would love to hear from you.

To apply, please send your CV and a covering letter outlining your experience to Sonia Peate – Clerk to the Board of Governors

gov@dess.org

The closing date for applications is 1st March 2012.

STAFF VACANCIES

Class Teachers
(for September 2012)

**Clerk to the Board of
Governors**
(40hrs per month)

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

www.dess.org

**Please
don't bring
your dog to
school**



To ensure the safety and wellbeing of our children we would be very grateful if parents could refrain from bringing dogs onto the school premises.

Thank you for your cooperation



Environment Day Monday 19th March

More details of the competition and other information on the event will follow after half-term, but in the meantime, get those thinking hats on and start collecting the materials for your fabulous creations.



WORLD BOOK DAY



Thursday 1 March 2012

Reading is radical so come to school dressed up as your favourite book character. Interviews with authors and illustrators, awesome activities, listening to super stories, drama, imagination and a whole school coming together to appreciate reading will be the order of the day!

Lots to look forward to, so get a head start by visiting www.worldbookday.com.

Arabic Speakers Required For Year 5 Project

Monday 27th February

Parents can you help?

Year 5 have a pottery workshop with a group of Qatari ladies and we need two adults to translate from Arabic to English for our children.

This is a special workshop which ties in with the Year 5 trip to Al Zubarah on Wednesday 29 February.

If you are able to help please let the school office know on Sunday 26 February.

I Spy Book Shop

BOOK FAIR

**28, 29 February & 1 March
DESS Playground, 12.30 onwards**

A huge selection of books will be available for sale on the playground after school.

Buy at the Book Fair and receive a promotional 10% discount card for use on future purchases at the I Spy Book Shop, City Centre.

Please come and have a browse!!



WORLD BOOK DAY - YEAR 4

In Year 4 we are holding a 'book swap' on World Book Day - Thursday 1st March.

If children wish to take part in this, they need to bring in a book (fiction or non-fiction) that they no longer need or want. All books brought in will be placed in a box and each child will reach in and take out a different book to keep and take home.

Cubby Toys

Just a quick reminder that children should only bring in small, inexpensive, non-electronic toys for break-times and they must take full responsibility for any toys which they bring to school.



YEAR 4 TUDOR DAY



THURSDAY 15TH MARCH 2012

As part of our Tudor topic we will be having a whole day where the children will undertake a variety of activities linked to life in Tudor times. In order to enhance this learning experience, we ask that children come to school dressed as a Tudor for the day.

We have a **very limited number** of costumes available for hire at a cost of QR50.

If you wish to hire a costume or require any further help or information, please call into Year 4 from Sunday 4th March, after 1pm

WORLD BOOK DAY

1 MARCH 2012



Reading
is
radical!

SPONSORED BY



1 MARCH 2012

Pick a book. Read a book. Share a story.
It's **WORLD BOOK DAY!**

READING IS RADICAL so let's tell everyone about it!

Design a poster to:

- Advertise World Book Day on the 1 March
- Promote a love of reading

Be cool, be creative, sell your favourite book, attract attention
and spread the word.

Bring your fantastic, finished poster to school on Sunday 26 February.

Get more great book ideas, play games and download
fun activities at www.worldbookday.com



Doha English Speaking School

P.E. DEPT NEWS

PE/Swimming Kit

Please can all parents ensure children have the correct P.E. and Swimming kit with them on the appropriate days. All children need suitable swimwear, preferably a DESS swimsuit/shorts, towel, goggles and pool shoes for walking to/from the pool. A swimming cap will also help keep long hair dry and children warmer when returning to class. For PE lessons your child will need DESS red shorts & white polo shirt, trainers, hat and water bottle.

We do have spare kit for those that have forgotten theirs, but please remember to return it after use to ensure it is available for others.

Also, if you have kit at home that your child has outgrown or if you are leaving school, we are always very grateful for donations.

DESS SWIMMING BADGES

Children in Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 (split A) will be assessed for their swimming awards during their normal swimming lessons, in the 3 weeks following half term.

Badges and certificates will then be available to purchase at drop off and pick up, in the shaded playground on Monday 19th, Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st March.

Good luck to all swimmers!

Preschool, Reception, Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 (Split B) will be held over the coming month.

P Partnership T hrough A ction N ews

Bake Sale

It's our favourite time again... 'The Bake Sale' with lots of yummy treats! We're sure that even the most avid sweet tooth amongst you will be satisfied! **Cakes, cookies & refreshments** will be on sale at pick-up on the playground on **Thursday 1st March**.



FAB
Club



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
Bake Sale		Thursday 1st March, at pick-up

Your Committee

Vacant	Chairperson		ptachair@dess.org
Cathy Winter	Vice Chair	5592 9968	ptavicechair@dess.org
Anne Blessley	Treasurer	5571 4204	ptatreasurer@dess.org
Katie Moylan	Secretary	3321 4684	ptasecretary@dess.org

REGATTA SAILING ACADEMY

P.O. BOX : 18104 – DOHA – QATAR

Telefax : +974.44424577

Mobile : +974.55507846

E-mail : regatta@qatar.net.qa

Web : www.regattasailingacademy.com



SPRING BREAK COURSES

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5 Day Morning Courses 10am – 1pm
Sunday 19th – Thursday 23rd February 2012.
QR950 per course

- Complete beginners
- Intermediate
- Advanced / Racing
- Yachting for teenagers

Register with our Instructors at the Boathouse or telephone
Alex 66641804 / email: regatta@qatar.net.qa

EASTER HOLIDAY COURSE

8th – 12th April 2012

REGATTA SAILING ACADEMY

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Mobile : +974.55507846

E-mail : regatta@qatar.net.qa

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EASTER COURSES

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5 Day Afternoon Courses 2pm – 5pm
Commencing Sunday 8th – Thursday 12th April 2012.
QR950 per course

- Complete beginners
- Intermediate
- Advanced / Racing
- Yachting for teenagers

Register with our Instructors at the Boathouse or telephone
Alex 66641804 / email: regatta@qatar.net.qa

Ask our Instructors for details of Schools Activity Classes