

Qatar Canadian School Newsletter

April 2011
Volume 2, Issue 5

Principal: Mike O'Leary
Email: mike.oleary@cna-qatar.edu.qa



Contents

Principal's News	1
Upcoming Events	1
General News	2
Recent Events	3-5



Mr. Mike O'Leary
Principal

Mr. Fred Ripley,
Vice-Principal

Mrs. Samah Al-Sabbagh,
(PAC Chair)

Principal's News

Greetings:

Another month has come and gone.

As you will notice in this newsletter, April has seen many field trips and cultural events. Students continue to be busy with many academic, athletic and artistic events at QCS.

The Parent Advisory Council is busy getting ready for the Spring Fair on May 13. If you are interested in helping organize or assisting at the event, please contact us and we will forward your name to the PAC.

Enjoy your Spring break.

Best regards,

Mike O'Leary
Principal

QCS Celebrates Earth Week!

As you may know, April 22nd was Earth Day and so the students of QCS decided to celebrate our beautiful planet from April 24 – 28, 2011. The Earth Week HOPE Club, comprised of 22 junior high students, spent 6 weeks planning the events. Our theme was HOPE (Helping Our Planet Earth) and we spent the week at school talking about the people, places, and activities that make us hopeful for the future. In Art Ms. Forsey had students create projects out of reused materials. In music class, students sang songs about our beautiful planet, and all homeroom teachers had students create part of the QCS Hope Quilt (stay tuned!). After the fun of the week, it is our hope that the QCS student body continue to stay hopeful about our planet!

~Ms. Camille & Ms. Nicole Penney on behalf of the QCS Earth Week HOPE Club



Thomas McKinnon and Ameer Saeed find a crab during their trip to mangroves.



Helping Our Planet Earth

Upcoming Events

May 1 – 5 Spring Break.
Classes resume on May 8.

May 10 – PAC Meeting
May 13 – Spring Fair



The Grade 5's perform their Earth Day songs



Taha Kubbar and Mackenzie Stack were our Masters of Ceremony

Elections at Qatar Canadian School

The students of Qatar Canadian School (QCS) recently availed of the opportunity presented by the Canadian Federal Election slated for May 2nd, to study in detail the parliamentary electoral process. They participated in a mock election activity which saw Grade 9's turn themselves into the five main political parties (Conservative, Liberal, NDP, Bloc Quebecois and the Green Party), running to represent the District of Qatar Canadian School East - Very East in the House of Commons.

From there, they selected their candidates, completed nomination signings, conducted press conferences, participated in Question and Answer forums and discussed in debate the great - and not so great - issues facing Canadians today. The halls of QCS were festooned with posters of policy, leaders, local issues and even some aggressive (but tasteful) attack ads. Many of the issues clearly reflected the real debate taking place in Canada - taxes, health care, foreign policy issues, and education.

Election Day was April 26th. The Grade 6's reflected their Democracy component of Social Studies by essentially turning themselves into Elections Canada and being responsible for conducting the election. They collected the nomination papers, constructed the ballots and voting lists, built screens and ballot boxes and turned their classroom into a polling station. They were poll clerks, tally counters and returning officers. And they ran the election with an iron grip and masterful efficiency.

Then after the tally the Chief Electoral Officer (Emile Joly) made the results known; there were winners and losers. The New Democratic Party candidate (Mackenzie Stack) with support from the NDP Leader of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, and possibly reflecting the mood back in Canada (!), was successful.

Of course, there were no losers. The exercise was successful in having the students of QCS take ownership of the process. To show that they care and are passionate about the issues. They showed that they are prepared to take part as full citizens of whatever country they call home. For those who were witness to the recent activities, all would agree, democracy is in good hands.

Fred Wood
Social Studies Teacher



Liberal leader Batoul Alkhateeb announces her platform



Mackenzie Stack, leader of the NDP, signs her Nomination papers.



The Bloc Quebecois led by Devon Piercey looks confident.



Mr. Wood and Mrs. Penney at Grade 6 polling station.

Pictures at an Exhibition

On April 12th, Grade 6 students presented "Pictures at an Exhibition" at an assembly for students and staff. They studied the work of Modest Mussorgsky in Music class and the work of Victor Hartmann in Art class with Ms. Forsey. They mimed a person visiting an art exhibit (their own fabulous art work!), and also mimed the subject of the art itself. I congratulate the students on a wonderful and creative performance.

Ms. Kelly
Music teacher



Students in Grade 6 presenting "Pictures at an Exhibition."

Musical Moment

On April 14th, Grade 7 and Grade 9 students performed for students and staff at a short assembly. The Grade 9 students sang "Erie Canel" and "Farewell To Nova Scotia", complete with the beautiful sounds of a loon. They performed under the direction of Ms. Colleen Anstey.

Grade 7 students played "Twinkle Twinkle" and "Squid Jiggin Ground". With that fine Newfoundland tune we could finally call them "fiddles". Congratulations to all our Jr. High Fine Arts students. You are truly awesome!

Mrs. Kelly
Music Teacher



Grade 9 students are accompanied by Mrs. Anstey on the keyboard.



Grade 7's playing the fiddle!

Science News

The Junior High classes have been busy this month.

The Grade 7's have been learning about ways to reduce their ecological footprints. I challenged them to reduce their footprints during a 3 week period and I am proud to say that all of them were successful. Some of us took shorter showers, turned off the lights when we left the room, decided what to eat before opening the refrigerator, and used reusable containers for our lunches! At the end of the three weeks, I put the class to the ultimate challenge: to eat a fast food meal without creating any waste. We had a blast and I'm proud to say that all together we created 2 napkins, a straw, a plastic spoon, and 4 receipts worth of waste. Please read Kurtis Rodgers' account of the field trip experience!

The Grade 8's have been learning about saltwater systems and so we took a trip out to the Al Thakira mangroves. This habitat is one of the most productive and important ecosystems in Qatar. We tested the pH of the water and examined the various adaptations of the grey mangrove. We also enjoyed seeing shore crabs, bubbler crabs, worms, cone shells, herons, and even an osprey!! After our muddy exploration, we cleaned up the coast line to make it a safe and healthy environment or all.

The Grade 9's have been learning about chemical changes in science and they have had the opportunity to observe reactions first hand. We've made solutions bubble, created precipitates, and observed exothermic reactions. Chemistry Rules!

Ms. Camille, Junior High Science



Grade 8 students traipsing through the mud at Al Thakira mangroves.

The Spring Parade

On April 19th, students from JK-Grade 3 took part in a Spring parade to welcome spring. Decked in their finest spring bonnets and other creative head gear, the parade wove its way around the school making lots of musical noise! Some of the teachers also got into the spirit with very creative headwear. Mrs. Kelly and her puppet Jo Jo lead the parade. We owe a big thank you to the parents for your fine support in helping to create some wonderful looking hats and instruments. I think the children had a great time. They received lots of encouragement and support from the Jr. High/Elem. section of the school when we passed through their area. They cheered and clapped as we passed by, as did our support staff who were all out to watch the parade. We ended the parade by singing a few songs together in the school yard.

*Mrs. Kelly
Music Teacher*



Mrs. Kelly and Jo Jo lead the parade.



The school was alight with bright spring colours!

Grade 6 Social Studies

The Grade 6 Social Studies students were very busy during April month preparing for the QCS East Elections as part of their study of Democracy. They thoroughly enjoyed working with the Junior High Social Studies classes with a 'mock election campaign' that has been paralleling the Canadian Federal Elections.

Mrs. Penney, Grade 6 Teacher



Jacob, Brenna, and Sarah prepare the ballot boxes for election day.

Red Cross Red Crescent Youth

Members of the RCRC Youth spent time during their meetings learning the seven fundamental principles that guide their humanitarian work. Student posters will be displayed throughout the school.

Mrs. Penney and Mr. Wood



Aisha Abdella proudly displays her poster featuring one of the principles of the International Red Cross Red Crescent.

Kick Ball at QCS

The grades 1-3 Kickball Team had a great 5 weeks of fun during After School Activities! There was great sportsmanship, fantastic catches and kicks, and a lot of fun had by all. Thank you to all of the boys and girls that came out to play. We enjoyed the high 5's, the team cheers and especially the handshakes at the end of each game. You guys are awesome!!!

Ms. Sara & Ms. Boone
SK Teachers



The QCS Kickball Team celebrates a successful end to their After School Activity.

Tackling a Waste Problem at the Landmark Food Court!

Sunday, April 17th 2011, our grade 7 class took a field trip to the Landmark Food Court. Our goal: to order lunch with the restaurants in the food court with no waste. Most of the restaurants were very interested in the Grade 7 project and wanted to know more. They participated well and were pleased to deliver us our meal in our reusable mugs and tupperware. However, there was one negative restaurant that refused to give us our meal in reusable containers and mugs, but they will hopefully learn in the future. Overall, our field trip was a success and we all managed to accomplish our goal.

I found that we learned a lot from this field trip, there was a big change in the amount of waste when we used our tupperware and mugs, compared to what would have been the effect on the environment if we used the cardboard boxes and paper cups. The difference was huge and my classmates now realize how simple it is to avoid a huge amount of waste at the food court. I really hope that all grades here at the Qatar Canadian School will get the opportunity to take a trip to a food court and experience the simplicity of using Tupperware and mugs instead of cardboard boxes and paper cups to eat a meal. With this understanding of how easy it is to avoid this waste, I hope that all of us here at QCS will reduce our Ecological Footprint one step at a time.

Kurtis Rodgers - Grade 7 student

Egg-cellent Design Contest

Congratulations to the winners of the Egg-cellent Design Contest. These were Kayleen Brewster (Grade 1), Hassan Amin (Grade 2), Uzair Muhammed (Grade 3), Christelle Naimah (Grade 4), Brenna Riome and Arwa Saed Aldien (Grade 6) Winners enjoyed receiving a giant chocolate bunny. Thank you to the judging panel of Ms. Forsey, Miss Haines, Mrs. Anstey and Mrs. Boone.



Hassan, Christelle, Kayleen, Uzair (above), Arwa and Brenna below proudly holding their prize.

