

Qatar Academy Sidra Director's Message



February 2016

Dear Families and Friends of Qatar Academy Sidra

It has been a busy time since the start of the new year with overseas trips for recruiting of teachers to add to our great staff as well as continuing to attend to the many projects and tasks we are working on at QAS .

During January and February faculty and students have successfully completed three-way parent-student-teacher conferences, had two successful sports days and a very inspiring two-day PD session for faculty with Lynn Erickson on Concept Learning. Looking ahead stay tuned in the both the Primary and Secondary Newsletters for information on our primary students participating in Destination Imagination this weekend, as well as our Health Carnival on March 19th.

The project outlines for the move of our primary school have continued to be developed, finalizing components such as IT requirements and outdoor facilities. As I mentioned in the last newsletter the construction of the new Primary Campus will be in two stages. Stage one will see the renovations to the existing buildings, gym and grounds being completed so we can move everyone in for the start of the next school year. The second stage will be the building of a new cafeteria and the possible enclosing and air-conditioning of the interior central courtyard. Not having a cafeteria in our first year will present a challenge to provide lunches in our current format. We have begun meetings with food services this week to determine how we can continue to provide healthy lunches and what options will be available for our children. Once these have been clarified we would like also to involve parents to ensure that we have your voice as we move forward.

This past week we hosted the first of three IB authorization visits that will allow us to offer the full International Baccalaureate program here at QAS. Our initial feedback from the Diploma Visiting Team is that we have 90% of what is needed to offer the program next year, already in place. We are confident that our plans will, over the next couple of months more than fulfill the remaining items to be completed. A large round of applause for our entire secondary faculty for their dedication and commitment to making this happen and a special thank you to Ms. Amanda Shepherd our Diploma Coordinator who has led us through this process. We would not be where we are now without her leadership.

Speaking of leadership, it is with sadness that we bid a fond farewell to Lil Maughan our PTA president as she and her family return to the US. The energy, ideas and commitment that she has brought to our PTA has been invaluable for us in building the community and relations with parents we strive for. She has built a team of parents whose vigor has grown our family involvement in QAS. Lil, you will be missed and we all owe you a sincerely thank you for what you have given to the school.

Sincerely
Stephen Massiah
Director – Qatar Academy Sidra