



# Qatar Academy Sidra Director's Message



March 2016

Dear Parents and QAS Community Members

I believe the theme for this month's letter is ..... "And We Keep Moving Forward!"

Last month I wrote that we had completed the first of three IB authorization visits required for us to offer the full International Baccalaureate program here at QAS. Last week we received notification from IB that we are now officially an **'IB WORLD SCHOOL'** authorized to offer the **"IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME"**. This is a significant achievement on our journey as a school and officially gives us the go-ahead to teach the programs we have planned and put in place in our secondary school for next year. A huge round of applause for our entire secondary faculty for their dedication and commitment to making this happen and a special thank you to Amanda Shepherd our Diploma Coordinator who has led us through this process as well as the support of Tim Chute our Secondary School Principal.

The second note of progress for QAS is that the renovations and construction on our new primary school campus here in Education City has begun. Two weeks ago supervisors and construction workers descended on the primary school's new home with backhoes, jackhammers and dumpsters and have begun overhauling this facility. It took a bit of time getting plans in place however the renovation progress so far is significant and the updated completion date has been moved up to July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016. We will be attending weekly meetings with the builders to track the progress and plan the primary school move to this facility.

Aligned with an increased capacity for enrollment because of this additional facility is a change in our admissions policy. As of now, children whose parents work for the Qatar Foundation are eligible to be considered for admission to Pre-3 to Grade 11 at QAS. Although we are already at capacity in many of our grades there are still a few grades such as KG and grades 9, 10 & 11 that we are accepting applications for. With our authorization for the IB Diploma Programme, if you know of a child who will thrive in a demanding learning environment, QAS may be the school for them. We are expanding our secondary school program next year adding Grade 11 and Grade 12 the following year. We offer small class sizes, with individual attention and support by top international teachers recruited from around the world. For more information on grade level availability please contact Mrs. Nijoud Mussallam in our Admissions Department at [nmussallam@qf.org.qa](mailto:nmussallam@qf.org.qa).

This past month we also hosted for four days, CIS/NEASC officials who as a result of their visit gave us the go ahead to enter the next stage of authorization. In the fall of next year we will begin an 18-month school-wide self-study that will involve faculty, parents, staff, students and board members. This will help us set goals for the future and ensure that QAS remains on the track of educational excellence.

Wishing everyone well and a restful time during our upcoming holiday break.

Sincerely

Stephen Massiah  
Director – Qatar Academy Sidra