

# Qatar Academy Sidra Director's Message



May 2016

Dear Families and Friends of Qatar Academy Sidra

As I mentioned in last month's letter, the renovations and construction at our new primary school campus here in Education City are in full swing. Each week the administration team conducts a site visit and each week we are impressed by the amount that has been accomplished. There is however still much to do. Throughout this month we will continue to closely monitor progress as we plan the startup of the primary school in this new location. This means we are moving almost every classroom in each of our buildings. Grades one to five and the Bani Hajer campus are moving to the new site and at the same time we are relocating all of our secondary school classes within the original campus. During the summer, movers will relocate the classes so in those weeks before school begins, faculty can unpack and be ready for the first day of school on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

Looking back we have accomplishments to celebrate. I would first like to honour the great work, time, effort and successes of our outgoing PTA team. You moved parent involvement at QAS to a new level and helped us learn and celebrate. Thank you sincerely; Samira Sidani - Chairperson, Khansa Nowir - Secretary, Richard Lavoie - Treasurer, Carly Daniel and Jennifer Van Belle - Teacher members. I would also like to welcome our new PTA for next year and thank them for volunteering to continue the great work that was begun this year. Welcome Mariam Darwish - Chairperson, Hanna Taher - Vice Chairperson, Ayat Taha - Secretary and Anissa Jrad - Treasurer.

Secondly I want to share with you how absolutely proud I was to be a part of QAS as I watched the completion of our first Grade 5 PYP Exhibition. I had the privilege to see our grade 5 students over two days demonstrate what deep learning is about. They shared with us not only what they learned but also just as importantly, how they learned. With poise they sang together and presented individually. With confidence and conviction they spoke with students and adults about their learning journey and what they had learned. It was exceptional to see grade 5 students demonstrate this level of sophistication; I was truly impressed. I also realize that behind them were talented teachers able to guide and support them in their inquiries and learning. I speak to people often about the importance of team, it was evident in the exhibition.

With only five weeks until the close of school, we can see there is still a great deal to accomplish. In early June our hours of operation will change with the start of Ramadan but our focus on learning will not and full attendance during these hours are crucial for every student. Each student is working on his or her final unit of study and each of these units is as important as the first. It is imperative we finish the school year with the same focus on excellence as we began.

Sincerely  
Stephen Massiah  
Director – Qatar Academy Sidra