

# MESSENGER

**INSPIRING INTERNATIONAL  
MINDEDNESS AT MES CAIRO**



**Beladi Britain in Year Three**  
**Primary students connect with students in**  
**the UK and USA**  
**MES Cairo Pioneers go from strength to**  
**strength**  
**Graduation, Results and Scholarships 2014**  
**Art Beat**  
**Sportsdesk**  
**Student Council Elections**  
**Meet our new teachers**  
**... and so much more!**

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# Modern English School Cairo

## American, British and IB Diploma Graduation Ceremony 2014

### A 'Happy' Occasion!

Last June, the MES Cairo family enjoyed a mesmerising ceremony marking the graduation of our Class of 2014. We were welcomed into the Graduation arena by a stream of talented young MES Cairo pianists, as their enchanting solo renditions filled the air and created a sense of occasion. Family and friends, VIPs, teachers and administration staff arrived as the sun was setting on the MES Cairo grounds. The school field quickly came alive with the excitement of the affair, complemented by the warm harmonious sounds of old friends being reunited. The formality and pomp of the occasion was studied by the dazzling outfits of our many elegant and stylish guests.

MES Cairo Graduation ceremonies are filled with emotionally stirring and visually striking moments that add to the thrill of the occasion. Thanks to the hard work of Ms. Ghada Dajani (Managing Director, Educational Affairs) and Mr. Jonathan Todd (Head of Performing Arts) and his team, they incorporate traditional commencement exercises with high-quality theatrical and musical items that reflect the pride the MES Cairo family feels in each and every one of its Graduates.

Our guests were delighted by the entrance of the highly anticipated MES Cairo Flag Corps. Their skilful routine accompanying the popular song 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams, choreographed by Mr. Daniel Tomlin (Performing Arts Department), mesmerised the crowd. The routine incorporated the MES Cairo Graduation Dancers, (students from Year Six, and Year/Grade Seven and Eight) performing their 'Happy' Dance, which was choreographed to perfection by Mrs. Carole Godfrey (Key Stage Two Principal) and Ms. Olivia Morgan (Secondary PE Department). As the students swirled around the arena through the twirling flags, an atmosphere of 'happiness' spread infectiously throughout the arena. In the background, huge projector screens displayed the MES Cairo family's video interpretation of 'Happy', created by Mr. Scott Allsop and Mr. Jonathan Todd, which can now be viewed on the MES Cairo website video gallery. The 'Happy' theme, appropriate for the currently optimistic state of the nation, emphasised a new Egypt and a newly defined path to democracy and economic recovery. It stressed the importance of building a better, happier tomorrow for Egypt.

The Graduating Classes of the American, British and IB Sections were welcomed into the arena by Mr. Peter Godfrey, (Board Member). The Graduates entered in a processional march to the tune of Copland's Fanfare for the Common Man, while the younger members of the MES Cairo family remained on the field, heralding the Graduates' arrival in a







gesture of respect for their achievements. The crowd remained standing for the National Anthem of Egypt, which for the first time this year was captivatingly sung to a special score by the High School and Alumni Choir. Alumni students are invited to participate in the Choir and Flag Corps each summer and this has now become a solid MES Cairo tradition of which we are proud. Students returning from summer holidays from universities all over the world, along with students who are taking degrees here in Egypt, joined us enthusiastically in making this a memorable event for their younger, graduating MES Cairo siblings.

After the close of the routine, Habiba Hussien (G12R) gave a beautiful recitation from the Quran, extending a message of peace and hope.

Next, the High School, Staff and Alumni Choir proudly sang our school song, 'To MES Be True' (by D. Tomlin and G. Dajani), and we were reminded of the MES Cairo Motto: Studiis Gubernatio: Leadership through Education. This was followed by an enjoyable performance of 'Baba Yetu' a famous Swahili song that can be translated as a 'Swahili Blessing', to reflect the international-mindedness of the MES Cairo ethos.

Mr. Godfrey introduced Mrs. Sawsan Dajani (Chief Executive/Managing Director), expressing the universal MES Family sentiment that we are so very lucky to be led by such an inspirational and caring Executive Director, who believes in challenging us all, in order for each and every member of the MES Cairo family to reach his or her ultimate potential and to make a difference to the world around us. Mrs. Dajani, he explained, leads by example and embodies the school Mission; 'Caring, Challenging, Inspiring'.

Mrs. Dajani inspired and motivated the Class of 2014 to reflect



on the incredible changes that Egypt has gone through over the past three years and to believe in each person's individual power to make positive change. "Changing our destiny is possible and is very much a choice that we can make. Once learnt, it is a life-affirming lesson. Possibly one of the most important lessons one can learn but can seldom be taught in a formal setting.' She reminded her students that: 'Moments of such clarity can dawn on you in an instant and yet take painstaking determination, courage and foresight to achieve. It is vital that we appreciate the lessons that life teaches us. Not only so that we do not repeat our mistakes, but more so that history itself can actually mean something.' Mrs. Dajani also reminded us all that mistakes must be made in order for progress to occur and that one must take risks in order to reap positive outcomes. 'After learning from the past and from your mistakes, then and only then are you obligated to choose and/or change your destiny... May you succeed in life and may it





bring you joy, health and fulfilment. May your dreams come to life and bring happiness to you and to the lives of others. May God Bless you and keep you safe.'

Mrs. Dajani introduced to us this year's MES Cairo Graduation Guest Speaker, the esteemed Dr. Mostafa El Fiky; a highly prominent Egyptian figure who is a politician, writer, diplomat (previously Egyptian Ambassador to India), and who served in the Arab League as permanent Egyptian Representative and as a Secretary to the President of Egypt.

Continuing with our 'Happy' theme, Dr. El Fiky told us: 'I was thinking of the reasons why I am happy to be here at your distinguished school. Firstly my thoughts are with Egypt and the fact that a modern Egypt is about to be born. This puts quite a burden on your shoulders as the new generation. All the hopes and dreams of your nation are significant as we take off on the journey towards becoming a modern democratic nation. A second reason for my happiness is that I have much respect for one of the most prominent pioneers of education in the Arab world, Mrs. Sawsan Dajani, who was a true gift to Egypt when she was forced to leave Kuwait and set up this outstanding school here in Egypt. Thirdly I thought of the students who are graduating today – now is a good time to evaluate your past and plan your future carefully. You are at an advantage as you have many privileges. Your education enables you to join universities all over the world.' He advised the students to keep in mind two great models from history - Mahatma Ghandi and Nelson Mandela - as models of great resistance, self-determination, peace and non-violence. 'Keep these role models in your minds as you go through your own struggles, large or small. Let us wish the best for Egypt and the best for humankind: stability, prosperity and peace. Thank you to Mrs. Dajani and to all of your staff.'

We then enjoyed a musical feature sung by the MES Cairo High School Choir: 'Second Hand White Baby Grand'. This song encouraged us to think about learning from our mistakes and making the most of our talents.

It was time for the Class of 2014 to share their thoughts with us. Represented by a student from each Section, they used the symbol of a backpack that is brought in empty on the first school day all those years ago. The backpack has now been filled with knowledge, understanding and skills and is now ready to be taken with them to their next destination. The representatives spoke impressively and there was a poignant mention of fellow student Yehia Arafa, may he rest in peace, who would have graduated with the Class of 2014 today.

Mr. Godfrey reminded us that significantly, most of the students who are graduating today were the very first students to set foot in the new MES Cairo building back in September 2000 and it has been the only school for many of them.

Our Graduation Ceremony would not be complete without a performance by Rula Zaki, who made a magnificent appearance in a dress made out of the Egyptian flag. 'Masr Lazem Telesh' ('Egypt Must Live On') is an optimistic and happy song about building a new future and a new Egypt. This was followed by a moving rendition of 'For Good', performed by Hana Seif El Nasr and Yasmine Afifi, lead cast members from 'Wicked' - our whole school Musical Production 2014.

This was followed by the presentation of High School Diploma and Leaving Certificates by Mrs. S. L. Dajani, Mr. P. T. Godfrey, Mr. M. Kirby, Mrs. N. Singleton and Mrs. R. LeBeau, led by Presentation Reader, Ms. G. Dajani (Managing Director, Educational Affairs).

Mr. Godfrey shared some motivational wisdom with the students, captivating them one more time before releasing them by announcing the closure of the ceremony. In true MES Cairo tradition, the Class of 2014 triumphantly threw their caps up high into the air accompanied by the Recessional March 'The Four Seasons' (Vivaldi).

Their happiness was palpable. The rest of the MES Cairo family also felt happy, and proud in the knowledge that these young adults will always carry a backpack filled with positive experiences and hope for a happier world of peace, prosperity and democracy.







## A Family Awakes to Success

# 2014 British Section Examination Results

**Early** morning, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2014, two gigantic cities awake. In the City of London by 6am the streets outside are already starting to throb with activity for a normal working day ahead. Tears of rain water streak down the window panes of a hotel room for the initiation of another drab day. The faint commotion outside is enough to arouse the occupant within. In contrast, two thousand miles away Cairo is still in semi-slumber after a much more industrious nocturnal period. The dry landscape is already embraced in an early glow of warmth. Spears of sunlight pierce through gaps in bedroom shutters, illuminating the faces of those sleeping within, causing them to stir.

As consciousness becomes reality in these two extremely varied worlds, so too does the day's significance for some of their inhabitants. For 'The Day' has finally arrived. In a London hotel room the Examinations Officer fumbles wearily for his smart phone, checks the time and logs onto the wireless internet to access the CIE Direct website. Similarly, in Cairo and a multitude of other destinations, one hundred and sixty four candidates log onto their own user areas in anxious anticipation. Desktop, laptop, iPad, anything with a modem is utilised. This is it, finally!

Later that morning, clouds begin to open as the EO boards an intercity train. On reaching his seat he finds time to commence the analysis of the downloaded results files. At first it's all a blurred amalgamation of letters as the cursor rapidly descends through each page after page. Then there is a pleasant surprise as Nour Bahaa-El-Ein's (Y10R) results flash onto the screen displaying an amazing six A\* grades and two A grades. Other commendable statements of grades materialise too, but so far no absolute perfection is detected. Onwards and backwards he scrolls searching for any missed splendour, with a hunch something even more wondrous lies within the electronic data.

Not too far from ancient pyramids, Ahmed Leithy (Y10R) yawns and stretches as he too taps in his user access codes. He is confident of success but still anxious for confirmation. He opens the file and the screen flashes into pdf mode in an instant.

The westward bound train from Paddington jolts rhythmically causing screen navigation to be more cumbersome than the EO would like but he perseveres re-checking each of the 97 IGCSE statement pages. Then suddenly there they are. Eight glorious stars twinkling magically through liquid crystal display into the eyes of the smiling observer. Ahmed Leithy's results statement has eight A\* grades. Top grades in every IGCSE subject he took.

Separated by vast distance but not by purpose, two hearts from the same family both skip a beat in jubilation. That family is MES Cairo, a family who had so much to celebrate, wherever in the world its members were.

For at IGCSE level the Year 10 cohort maintained the tradition of competing magnificently with their peers in the UK despite being a year younger and generally having English as their second language. A pass rate of 81.4% in the A\*-C range compares extremely favourably with the 68.8% UK GCSE figure. 40% of grades in Year 10 were the top grades of A\* and A which is an improvement on last year's performance and nearly double the UK figure for this year.

In Year 11, students taking Advanced Subsidiary Level courses achieved an overall pass rate of 89% and a top 'A grade' attainment rate of 22% which is the best performance in four years. It will come as no surprise that the top performing Year 11s with four grade As each, include Nader Raafat (Y11R) and Marwan El-Hosseiny (Y11B) continuing their success from IGCSE. However, it is equally pleasing that two young ladies were hot on their heels with their own flawless achievement of four grade As. They are Malak Maurice (Y11R) and Nour Jaouda (Y11B).

The pinnacle of British Section success has to be at Advanced Level where traditionally three subjects are studied for entrance to top universities around the world. The Year 12s have achieved a 100% pass rate in these demanding courses. In addition, the 2014 cohort





have broken a six year record for the best A\*/A grades. These include, Mohamed Zeid (Y12Y) with grades A in Biology, A in Chemistry and A in Mathematics, Karim Dakroury (Y12R) with grades A\* in Mathematics, A in Applied ICT and A in Physics, and Sief-El-Din Mattar(Y12Y) with grades A\* in Applied ICT, A in Mathematics and A in Physics.

Finally, and of course predictably, genius and British Section Scholarship student, Sameh Massoud (Y12R), did not disappoint at all with an exemplary three A\* grades in A-level Economics, Mathematics and Physics.

When the summer holidays spent in London, Cairo and other parts of the globe expired, the MES Cairo family gathered once more where they belong. As they prepared for the next challenges in unity, there was an opportunity to celebrate together, as all families should, the magnificent news that all started on the morning of 12<sup>th</sup> August.

Congratulations to all the successful MES Cairo British Section students and their teachers!

**(The order of the listed students is by numerical by point score and then alphabetical).**

*Student classes indicated apply to academic year 2013 - 2014*

#### **Year 10 Students who attained the top ten average point score at IGCSE**

Ahmed Leithy (Y10R)  
Nour Bahaa-El-Din (Y10R)  
Aalaa Yassin (Y10Y)  
Farah Abdel Razek (Y10R)  
Salma Farouk (Y10G)  
Sousanna Hakim (Y10B)  
Hussein Rizkana ((Y10B)  
Alia Mazhar (Y10G)  
Farida Swellem (Y10R)  
Mina Atta (Y10R)  
Tarek El Tantawy (Y10G)  
Yasmina El Dairy (Y10B)



Ahmed Leithy (Y10R)



Nour Bahaa EL Din (Y10R)

#### **Year 11 Students who attained the top ten average points score at AS-level**

Malak Maurice (Y11R)  
Nader Raafat (Y11R)  
Nour Jaouda (Y11B)  
Marwan El-Hosseiny (Y11B)  
Mohamed Hamdoun (Y11B)  
Karim Shaltout (Y11G)  
Lamis Azazy (Y11G)  
Habiba Salama (Y11B)  
Nada Mady (Y11G)  
Youssef El Tawil (Y11B)



Malak Maurice (Y11R)



Nader Raafat (Y11R)

#### **Year 12 Students who attained the top ten average points score at A-level**

Sameh Massoud (Y12R)  
Karim Dakroury (Y12R)  
Seif Mattar (Y12Y)  
Mohamed Zeid (Y12Y)  
Youssef Socolovsky (Y12Y)  
Sara Henry (Y12Y)  
Ibrahim Abo-Shara (Y12Y)  
Fady Mikhail (Y12Y)  
Omar Bahig (Y12Y)  
Seif Abdel-Aziz (Y12R)



Sameh Massoud (Y12R)



Karim Dakroury (Y12R)





# American Section Results 2014



Youssef Aboul-Nour (G12R)



Sandy William (G12R)



Karim El Alfy (G12B)



Menora Thomas (G12R)



Reem Khamis (G12G)



Ingie Enan (G12B)

**The** AP results for the 2013-2014 school year were, once again, impressive. The students at MES Cairo have surpassed the Egyptian and Global average for students that earned a grade 3 or better (out of 5) on the AP exams. MES Cairo students had 62.2% percent, and the Global average was 61.3%.

MES Cairo offered eleven AP subjects last year. Forty-five students were enrolled on these courses and registered to take a total of 66 AP exams at the end of the year. The AP courses offered last year were: Chemistry, Biology, Micro and Macro Economics, Physics, Calculus, Art History, Studio Art, World History, Comparative Governments and Politics, and English Language & Composition.

In addition to high scores, seven MES Cairo students were recognised internationally for their performance on the AP examinations, earning the titles of AP Scholar, AP Scholar with Honors, and AP Scholar with Distinction.

AP Scholar is granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams:

**Youssef Abouelnour (G12R)**

**Mahira Ahmed (G11Y)**

**Karim El Alfy (G12B)**

**Sandy William (G12R)**

AP Scholar with Honor is granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more exams:

**Reem Khamis (G12G)**

**Menora Thomas (G12R)**

AP Scholar with Distinction is granted to students who receive an average score on at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams:

**Ingie Enan (G12B)**

The MES Cairo Class of 2014 has been accepted at excellent universities in Egypt and abroad. 59% of our students are attending a university in Egypt. 21% have chosen universities in the United Kingdom. North America was the choice for 13% of MES Cairo students. Europe became the new home for 7% of our students. Going overseas to university is obviously becoming a more popular choice for MES Cairo graduates.

**Mr. D. Tomlin – Dean of Students, Grades Eleven and Twelve**

*Student classes indicated apply to academic year 2013 - 2014*





# International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Results 2014

## BEST PERFORMANCE EVER

## FROM LAST YEAR'S IBDP COHORT

**For** the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, MES Cairo students achieved 100% pass rate in their International Baccalaureate Diploma studies last academic year. With an average score of 33 points (well above the global average of 29 points) and a highest achiever in Nourjahan Khafaga, who scored a remarkable 44 points out of a possible total of 45 points, we had a great deal to celebrate when the results were released by the International Baccalaureate Organization on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

There were some tremendous personal achievements with last year's IBDP Graduates having now taken up offers at some of the most prestigious universities in the world. Our top achievers are profiled below:

- **Nourjahan Khafaga 44 points** – now studying Medicine at St Andrew's University, Scotland
- **Selim El Badry 37 points** – now studying Development at Kings College, UK
- **Laila Farouk 36 points** – now studying Engineering at the University of Manchester, UK
- **Nour Kandil 36 points** – now studying Business at the American University in Cairo
- **Karim Awad 35 points** – now studying Pharmacy at Kings College London, UK
- **Kamal Ghalwash 35 points** – now studying Economics at the University of Nottingham, UK



Nourjahan Khafaga



Selim El Badry



Laila Farouk



Nour Kandil



Karim Awad



Kamal Ghalwash

Our IB Diploma is now entering its 9<sup>th</sup> year at MES Cairo and continues to go from strength to strength. Students currently in the Programme feel a strong sense of confidence in the quality of the educational experience and view the performance of the graduates who have preceded them as strong encouragement to do even better. There is no doubt that the cohesion, support and camaraderie amongst IBDP students at MES Cairo is a significant contributor to the success earned by all who complete it. When the challenges of the Programme tested their resolve, they turned to each other. It is the view of every student in the cohort that their collective success is as important to them as their individual successes.

Congratulations to our IBDP Diploma Programme Graduates 2014!

**Mrs. N. Singleton – Principal, British and IBDP Sections**

**The Board of Directors and Senior Leaders of  
MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL  
CAIRO**

are proud to acknowledge the success of our  
**IB DIPLOMA STUDENTS**  
**Class of 2014**

100% pass rate for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year Highest score of 44 points  
Average point score of 33.6 points Top performance by Nourjahan Kafaga  
(2014 MES Scholarship winner)

Secured offers to top universities around the world including: St Andrews of Scotland,  
Kings College of London, McGill of Toronto and The American University of Cairo.

MES Cairo is an accredited IBO World School which offers a  
well-established, top quality education  
(British, American and IB Diploma Curricula)

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# MOHY ABOU ALAM (DP12R)

## INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

### 2014-2015



Competition within the IBDP is tough. Standing out amidst a group of people who are all academically able, are equally committed to demonstrating their leadership in a variety of ways and who readily give back to the school community is a challenge. Add to that profile the reality that healthy competitiveness creates a climate in which these particular students all thrive, you will understand why Mohy's success at earning recognition as this year's IB Diploma Programme Academic Scholar is a truly significant achievement.



What sets Mohy apart is his ability to turn failure into success; his resilience and fortitude in overcoming challenges and the positive relationships that he builds and maintains with all of his teachers and our student community. At the recent IBDP Open Day he revealed to an audience of two hundred people that mid-way through DP11 he was failing his most challenging course: Mathematics HL. He decided that giving up was not an option as he had his sights set on a career in Engineering. He also decided that he was not at all interested in being a failure. Over a number of months and hard graft, Mohy identified the issues that were preventing his progress in Maths HL. By the end of last academic year Mohy produced a credible Level 5+ in the DP11 Maths HL examination; he has set a course for further improvement this year. He shares his methodology with his contemporaries in the IBDP, as well as younger students who he works with in his capacity at Senior Student Mentor.

He has applied similar determination in his successful captaincy of the Varsity and Junior Varsity Football teams, motivating his team and encouraging them to reflect on mistakes for continual improvement. His leadership capabilities have also benefitted Year Four students on the football pitch as he has served them well in his capacity as sports mentor with the Champions League Football After School Activity.

With a set of straight A\* and A grades at IGCSE when he completed Year Ten in 2013, and his continued academic success as he progresses in his IB Diploma studies, all evidence suggests that Mohy is on track to secure a total point score of the highest calibre at the end of this academic year. He is applying to highly competitive UK universities to pursue his interest in Engineering and will be presenting an impressive application which balances his academic achievements with a sustained commitment to his self-development aligned to the MES Cairo Graduate Profile.

He is most deserving of his scholarship recognition because he has an exemplary attitude. Mohy sets his sights high and strategizes the means to reach his goal. Whilst doing so he serves as an excellent example to others.

**Ms. N. Singleton – Principal, British and IB Sections**





# MAHIRA AHMED (G12Y)

## AMERICAN SECTION SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

### 2014-2015



**I**t is with great pleasure that the American Section announces Mahira Ahmed as the MES Cairo American Section Scholarship winner for 2014-2015. Mahira has been an academic and athletic shining star of MES Cairo throughout her Secondary school career.

As an athlete, Mahira has participated in Varsity Football and Basketball in Grades Nine – Twelve and Volleyball in Grade Twelve including participation in a Football Tournament in Portugal for two years. Her other extracurricular activities include the International Award and working with the stage crew for 'Wicked' in Grade Eleven. She hopes to work back stage again for 'Aida' this year. Mahira was active with the Adopt-a-School group in Grades Nine and Ten. She participated in the Model United Nations Conference in St. Petersburg, Russia and was elected as a member of the Student Council in Grade Ten. Mahira is a Student Mentor and Athletic Mentor coaching MS football. Currently, Mahira is working on fundraising for the Prom Committee. Outside MES Cairo, Mahira has been studying piano for ten years and she also participated in Model United Nations outside of MES Cairo. Some of her other interests are filmmaking and digital animation.

Her academic performance is one to be admired by all of her peers. She has received excellence awards in Sciences, English, Social Studies, Mathematics, PE and Arabic as well as the MES Graduate Profile Award, AP Scholar Award and has been a Principal Scholar. Her athletic awards include "Most Inspirational Female Athlete of the Year" for two years. Mahira

was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society in Grade Eight and then into the National Honor Society in Grade Ten. Her recent SAT results were outstanding thereby assuring her a place at some of the most prestigious universities in the US, where she plans to pursue university education.

In addition to all of her achievements, Mahira is a wonderful person. Her level of maturity is unmatched as well as her ability to find the best in others. She is well-respected by her peers and her teachers. Mahira is definitely a student to watch as her future unfolds.

**Mr. D. Tomlin – Dean of Students, Grades Eleven and Twelve**



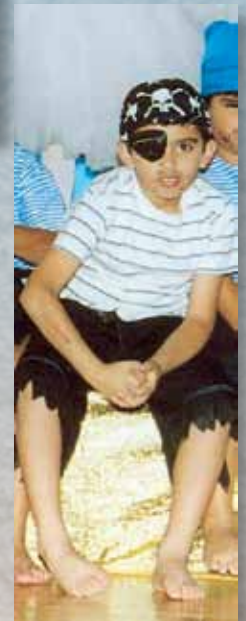


# NADER RAFAAT (Y12R) – BRITISH SECTION SCHOLARSHIP WINNER 2014-15



Nader Rafaat is without doubt an exceptional person, which is why he is the British Section Scholarship winner this year. Academically he is outstanding, most recently gaining four 'A' grades at AS Level. He was awarded 'Best Across Eight Cambridge IGCSEs' (First Place in Egypt) by CIE in June 2013. He was top in Egypt for an impressive stream of subjects: First Language English, Biology, Business Studies and Physics, which can only serve to make all who know him very proud.

Nader's academic success is equalled, if not exceeded, by his extracurricular activities both in and out of school. He plays the piano to an exceptionally high standard, not only achieving Grade Eight in the Trinity exam, but also gaining two Exhibition Awards, which applaud success beyond this level. His commitment to St. Mark's Youth Choirs has been notable, and further evidence of the joy he finds in music. He has participated in two MUN conferences and has been an impressive member of the Debating Club. Nader enjoys being involved in performing arts and



has given freely of his time to support Oliver!, The Caucasian Chalk Circle and worked hard on sound design for Wicked.

A keen and able sportsman, Nader has taken part in a skiing trip, been a member of running club and excelled in Track and Field events. He was also proud to be PE student of the month in January this year.

Essentially Nader believes in community and the individual's duty to the whole, which is why he was voted by students to be a representative of National Council of Student Representatives. He has taken considerable responsibility in Community Service for Year Nine Maths and is an adored Student Mentor in his Year Seven Homeroom. He is a committed member of National Honor Society (NHS) and he takes his service requirement seriously. Without doubt Nader symbolises the MES Cairo concept of family and as his family, we are very proud.

**Ms. S. Clingan**  
Assistant Headteacher,  
Key Stage Five





# MES Cairo Cambridge Examinations High Achievers meet with delegation of UK Lords and MPs at the British Council, Agouza, Cairo.



June 2014

**A**t the invitation of Mr. Mohamed Farid Khamis, an esteemed delegation of UK Members of Parliament from both houses recently visited Egypt as a follow up to an earlier visit made by a core group led by Lord Stone. Mr. Khamis is a well-known industrialist (the owner of Oriental Weavers), as well as the owner and main financier of the British University in Egypt (BUE).

The group met President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi of Egypt and were also briefed by the British Ambassador to Egypt. Immediately prior to our meeting with them at the British Council, they visited Egypt's Grand Mufti, Dr. Shawki Ibrahim Abdel-Karim Allam.

The delegation of British Lords and MPs requested to speak to young persons who are destined to be future leaders/influencers in Egypt and the region. MES Cairo was invited to send delegates to this auspicious occasion because of our reputation for educational excellence. In particular, our students' are recognised for their consistently outstanding performance in British curriculum IGCSE and AS/A level examinations and their committed interest in progressing from MES Cairo on to universities in the UK.

As the only group of student delegates invited to meet such prestigious guests, we were particularly proud that our High Achievers had this opportunity. The following students represented our school: Sameh Massoud (Y12R), Nader Rafaat (Y11R), Marawan El Hosseiny (Y11B), Ramy Awad (DP11R), Salma Amer (DP11R) and Nour Jaouda (Y11B).

Over lunch, our students spoke at some length with Mr. Robert Walter MP. Mr. Walter has been the Conservative MP for North Dorset since 1997. He is currently Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. From 2010 to 2014 he was also President of the European Democrat Group, the third largest political group in the Assembly. Since 2013 Mr. Walter has been the European Vice President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and a member of its Executive Committee, having previously been Chairman of the British Group of the IPU. Mr. Walter is Vice-Chairman of the British Irish Parliamentary Assembly and Chairman of its European Affairs Committee. He was also President of the Assembly of the Western European Union from 2008 to 2011. In Parliament he has served on numerous Committees, including the Health (1997-1999), European Scrutiny (1998-99), International Development (2001-2003), and Treasury (2004-2010). He was Conservative frontbench spokesman for Constitutional Affairs and Wales (1999-2001).

Robert Walter commented after the event that he was very impressed by our MES Cairo students. He expressed a high regard for their intelligent ideas and their vision for Egypt's future. He told the staff at the British Council that he found the group discussion very stimulating and insightful. The teachers who accompanied the group, Mr. Allsop and Mrs. Sheehan, were also very impressed by the students and proud of the way they represented the school and themselves as youths with future responsibility for effective leadership and positive change.

The All-Party Parliamentary Group - Egypt delegation consisted of the following Lords and MPs: David Amess MP, The Rt. Hon Alistair Burt MP, The Lord Dear QPM, The Rt. Hon Jeffrey Donaldson MP, Mike Gapes MP, John Glen MP, The Rt. Hon. the Lord Howell of Guildford, The Lord Hylton, Lord Inglewood, Ian Lucas MP (Shadow Minister for Middle East and Africa), Lord Marlesford, Robert Walter MP (Chairman), Meg Munn MP, Lord Ramsbotham, Jim Shannon MP and Lord Stone of Blackheath.

**Mrs. N. Singleton – Principal, British and IB Sections**







## AMERICAN SECTION NEWS

# Students of the Month

## September 2014



Mabrouk Sayer-Dayer and Amina Elkerdani

### Abdullah El Refaie (G7B)

Abdullah sets an excellent example through his positive behaviour. He is always focussed in class and makes good decisions.

### Mabrouk Sayer-Dayer (G8Y)

Mabrouk is a positive leader. He is always focussed, completes all his work and helps others.

### Laila Gamaleldin (G9R)

Laila works to a standard that is above and beyond expectations

in her Honors Biology class. She is an active participant in class, asks great questions, and in many ways exemplifies the MES Cairo Graduate Profile.

### Hana Moamen (G10B)

Hana is confident and asks for ways to develop and improve her work. She is always willing to follow advice to refine her final outcomes. Hana works with excellent focus in lessons and shares her understanding of materials with those around her.

### Kareem Al-Sandouby (G11B)

Kareem has been very welcoming and helpful to his homeroom teacher who is new to MES Cairo. He has helped her to settle in by giving her direction around the school and teaching her a few Arabic words. He is a great example of a well-rounded student. He is also involved in the National Honor Society.

### Amina Elkerdani (G12R)

Amina is punctual and extremely mature and respectful. She is always willing to lend a helping hand to teachers and other students. She is also an outstanding artist and a highly disciplined student.



Abdallah El Refaie



Mabrouk Sayer-Dayer



Laila Gamaleldin



Hana Moamen



Kareem Al-Sandouby



Amina Elkerdani



Laila Gamaleldin, Mabrouk Sayer-Dayer, Amina Elkerdani, Hana Moamen



Amina Elkerdani and Laila Gamaleldin



# Students of the Month

October 2014



Ahmed Askar



Yahia Helmy

## Ahmed Askar (G7G)

Ahmed works well in Art and is always willing to volunteer answers to questions and share his ideas. He also works with great focus and is a key team member when working as a group to tidy away materials.

## Yahia Helmy (G8B)

Yahia is an organised, well-prepared student. His seemingly endless effort and enthusiasm for learning shine through. Yahia is not afraid to ask for help or to provide help and encouragement to his classmates. He strives for excellence in every assignment and lesson.

## Sara Canelli (G9R)

Sara is organised. She always completes her homework and does very well on major assessments. In Biology class, she is respectful and helpful to her classmates. Sara often explains concepts or skills to her classmates in easy, understandable ways that build their confidence. She is a quiet leader that may not always get the recognition she deserves.

## Aya Harharah (G10Y)

She is very intelligent, hardworking, and her work is 'Outstanding' in English.

## Mahinar Galal (G11G)

For bringing a positive attitude and lively but respectful spirit to Pre AP Art class. Furthermore, she is a hard worker and talented designer.

## Nada Mourad (G12G)

She thought she was going to leave DVM and go to Media Studies, but eventually did not. She has worked really hard to catch up with her peers, and had to work a lot independently as we have done a lot of Photoshop.



Sara Canelli



Aya Harhara



Aya Harhara, Mahinar Galal, Sara Canelli, Yahia Helmy, Ahmed Askar, Nada Mourad



Mahinar Galal



Nada Mourad





## American Section News

# Grade Seven Back-to-School Night



On 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014, MES Cairo middle school teachers and administrators were thrilled to welcome parents to Grade Seven Back-to-School Night. The afternoon presented a valuable opportunity to begin building critical relationships and for parents to learn important information about their child's school experience. Having successfully completed their time in Primary School, students face new systems, new routines, new teachers and new challenges. It was with this in mind that all Grade Seven parents were invited to come "Back to School".



After a brief introduction to the Senior Leadership Team, the Middle School Dean of Students, Kasandra Battioni, offered important information and resources about many important topics including student timetables, assessment, grading and ways of communicating with their child's teachers, to name just a few. Following this introduction, Grade Seven teachers of Maths, Science, English and Social Studies gave a brief overview of their curriculum, course objectives and homework policies. Ms. Laura Quarin was also on hand to share details about our rich After-School-Activities programme.

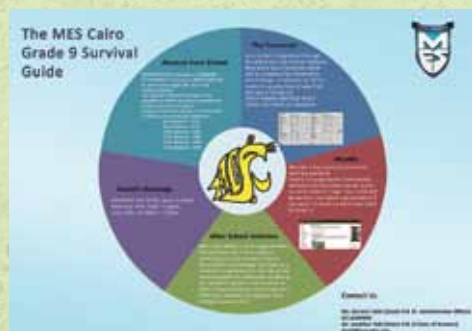
Following this informational session in the MES Cairo theatre, Grade Seven parents were issued with a "timetable" of their child's exploratory courses, which included art, music, drama, P.E., French, Spanish, Arabic, and design and technology. Parents rotated through each classroom where teachers gave a short presentation outlining course content, assessment techniques and the general aims of their courses.

Feedback from parents and teachers was extremely positive. "This experience gave me the opportunity to actually see the world my child inhabits every day and meet the people who make a difference in her life", quipped one parent. The Grade Seven team of teachers is confident that, together with parents, we will help make the most of students' individual strengths and talents, leading them to new levels of self-discovery, academic achievement and personal development. Welcome Back to School!

**Mrs. K. Battioni - Dean of Students, Grades Seven and Eight**



## Grade Nine Parents Go "Back to School"



The Grade Nine Survival Guide

A common feature in schools in the USA, 'Back to School' events give parents the opportunity to gain an impression of their children's daily experience of High School. A relaxed and informative afternoon, it consolidates that most important of relationships that exists between parents, teachers and students. Only by working together can these three groups ensure the best possible outcome for the students over the four years of the American High School Diploma.

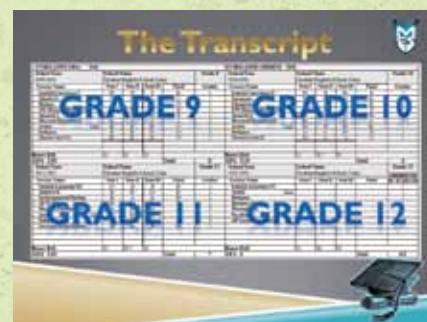
The event, held this year for Grade Nine parents on 29<sup>th</sup> September, began with a brief introduction to the High School in the Theatre. Members of the Secondary Senior Leadership Team directly involved

with the progress of Grade Nine students welcomed the parents, referring frequently to the MES Cairo Graduate Profile, the fulfilment of which is the aim of every student at the school. Parents were also reminded visually of the "everything counts" nature of the High School Diploma with a sample of a completed High School Transcript, proving beyond doubt that pieces of work completed in Grade Nine do have an effect on the final grades a student uses in Grade Twelve when applying to colleges and universities.

With this vital information in mind the parents then proceeded over to our Secondary building to begin following their own, individual timetable of "lessons". During these lessons subject teachers introduced themselves and provided a brief outline of the courses they teach, their assessment techniques and advice on how parents can support their children's learning.

As ever, the afternoon concluded with a group of happy, satisfied parents leaving the campus clutching their "Grade Nine Survival Guide" while offering words of gratitude, secure in the knowledge that their children are in safe, educational hands as they begin the long journey towards that wonderful June evening in 2018 when we all celebrate the Graduating Class of Modern English School Cairo.

**Mr. J. Todd – Dean of Students, Grades Nine and Ten**



The High School Transcript



Mr. D. McKoski, Mr. J. Todd, Ms. N. Saleh, Mrs. D. Ballard and Mr. K. El Metaal welcoming the Grade Nine Parents "Back to School"





# CENTENARY ANNIVERSARY



## Remembrance Service – Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2014

**I**t is the recognition of the sacrifice of men and women who have lost their lives fighting in wars that allows students throughout the world to more fully understand the importance of seeking peaceful resolution to conflicts between nations and between peoples.

On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2014, a group of Primary and Secondary Section students, looking very smart indeed, proudly represented MES Cairo at the Centenary Anniversary Remembrance Service at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery in Heliopolis. Our students, reflective and interested, slowly walked up and then down, row after row, of the graves of Armed Forces from many countries who fought and died in Egypt in the Second World War. They asked insightful questions as they made their way to the Memorial Cross of Sacrifice where the Remembrance Service was to take place.

The British Ambassador, HMA John Casson, graciously and gently greeted our students as they arrived at the Memorial. Our students responded with warmth and confidence. Reverend Chris Chorlton, who conducted the Service, also spoke with our students about the particular importance of former enemies coming together in peace, as well as asking our students what they could do to improve themselves as individuals in order to promote a more peaceful world society.

The Centenary Service itself, reflecting one hundred years since the outbreak in 1914 of the First World War, was melancholy, moving and uplifting, as over twenty military and civilian representatives from around the world solemnly approached the Memorial and laid remembrance wreaths of red poppies at its base, after which two Egyptian military buglers played 'The Last Post' to mark the beginning of a two minute silence.

Throughout the entire service, the bearing of each and every one of our MES Cairo students was superb – calm, focused and respectful. Clearly, all of our students present learned much about life and remembrance as they so honourably represented their school.

**Mr. M. Kirby -  
Whole School  
Principal**





# WIRED

## What is happening in the world of the MES Cairo WIRED teacher this year?



**The** WIRED Teachers are back and ready for an exciting third year of investigating and implementing new technologies to help students attain their own learning goals and inspire them to be self-directed learners. The WIRED philosophy is about engaging and educating millennial and neo-millennial students using a variety of digital tools in an interactive manner. The group focuses on how brain development has changed as a result of the sheer amount of technology our students consume and are exposed to. Because brain development has changed, there are many different ways to teach the millennial and neo-millennial learners. During the WIRED Workshops we will be investigating a variety of different teaching strategies that combine everyday technology helping students to reach their learning goals. This year we will focus on specific levels of the revised Blooms Taxonomy [remembering, applying, analysing, evaluating and creating] used with a variety of learning activities and technologies to help students.

Media saturation, along with convenient access to digital technologies, gives the 'NetGen' distinctive ways of thinking, communicating, and learning. While the 'NetGen' are all about connectivity and being plugged into technology, learning is not about technology. It is about the technology that helps students to learn. They tend to be inductive and non-linear thinkers. The overstimulation of certain areas of the brain due to technology use and the lack of stimulation in other areas does require us to teach this generation differently. In short, the students are quite adept at parallel processing. The mission of the WIRED teachers group will be to continue to develop learning strategies that assist our students develop and grow academically and personally. The digital tools used will allow students to be





more communicative about substantive learning issues.

Thanks go to all of our Secondary WIRED Teachers who have volunteered to be a part of this exciting professional development opportunity: Chris Norman, Jenny Cole, Joanna Lieb, Jonathan Todd, Kamal Ali, and Robert Campbell. Thanks also go to all of our primary WIRED Teachers who are equally excited about the coming year; Maria Shooter, Georgina Dean, Brian McLaughlin, Sam Cole and Dan Mulligan. Special thanks go out to the WIRED Co-Leader, John van der Marel who serves as the Secondary Online Learning Coordinator. Stay tuned to see upcoming news about how we are augmenting instruction at MES Cairo.

**Mrs. D. Ballard – Secondary Principal, American Section**



## SECONDARY E-LEARNING Moodle News

**Do** you think answers to your questions can only be given in school? Do you confine your learning to the four walls of your classroom? In that case I would like to welcome to you to 2014 and make you aware of one of the most important opportunities your teachers and school have to offer you; **MOODLE!**

Moodle is not merely a place on the internet where you can find when your homework is due or download a file. It provides you with the opportunity to interact with your teachers and peers and engage with a variety of resources. All of this you can do whenever you need and want! Moodle allows you to learn at your own convenience and speed. Additionally you can share your valuable ideas, opinions and knowledge and at the same time learn from others who have contributed theirs. Completing quizzes, creating Wikis, starting discussions or conducting surveys are only a few of the other many possibilities Moodle offers you.

When you log into Moodle and before entering a specific course, did you ever have a proper look at your Moodle homepage?

Are you organising a bake-sale? Are you looking for spectators at a tournament you are playing in over the weekend? Do you want to show everybody the medal you won and are so proud of? Do you have anything else interesting to share with your teachers and friends? Then post your message on the message board on your Moodle's homepage to inform us all!

If you have any questions or problems regarding Moodle, then you are welcome to come and ask me in SS19. I am more than happy to help you.

**Good luck and have fun!**

**Mr. J. Marel – Secondary E-Learning Coordinator**





# Year Seven Total Learning 'Me and My Community'

**IN** Year Seven our total Learning topic over the first half of Term One was 'Me and my Community'.

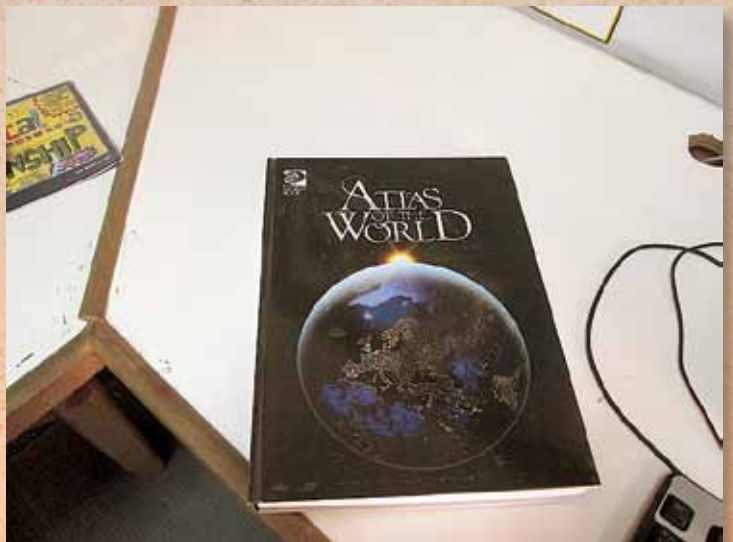
In **English** we connected with this topic by learning about other cities and comparing them to our own Cairo community. We looked at differences and connections between communities. We wrote letters to school children in other countries using descriptive techniques to describe Cairo and Egypt and we also wrote blogs to share with others. We studied persuasive techniques and used those techniques to make group videos which persuade tourists to come to Egypt.

In **Geography** we looked at maps and we enjoyed learning all about the physical features of the world. We created our own cities and we invented the most amazing places anyone could ever visit! We made a model and a map and pointed out where our city would be located. The map skills we studied include contour lines, map symbols, longitude and latitude. Geography was fun because this is the first year for us to study Geography as a full subject. Our teachers are making it super fun!

In **History** we have been learning about the past and how that affects the future. As well as that we have been learning about people who made a difference in the past. We listened to Billy Joel's song 'We didn't start the fire', which is a song based on what happened throughout his lifetime - then we made our own version about what has happened in our lifetime; e.g. 'selfie stick', 'iPhone 6' and Justin Bieber! We then recorded our songs in our groups and we made a video of what is in our song. It has truly been a great learning experience to work together and create such brilliant music videos.

For **Mathematics** we studied patterns which the architecture in Islamic Cairo has to offer. We noticed that patterns were everywhere around us. We identified beautiful geometrical patterns on the walls, ceiling, floor, doors, windows etc. When we carefully chose our favourite pattern, we were asked to make a sketch of it. This sketch served as a basis for the accurate copy of the pattern which we had to construct in class. Thanks to the Maths department for enabling us to appreciate the magnificent beauty the community has to offer us and translating that into our own creations!

**Ali Kamel (Y7R), Aisha Mazen (Y7Y), Farah Rady (Y7B), Nada Kamel (Y7G) and Hana El Badri (Y7B)**  
**MESsenger Club Journalists**





# Year Seven Trip to Islamic Cairo



On 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October, four courageous Year Seven classes journeyed into the busy streets of Islamic Cairo. This trip related to the Year Seven Total Learning topic: "Me and My Community". Our teachers chose this location because they wanted us to learn about our own community and to investigate how it was in the past...

What is Islamic Cairo, you ask? Well, it's a large town located in Old Cairo on a hill. There you will find many mosques and souks filled with sellers and buyers. Normally, you can hear a tumultuous roar of the engines of cars and motorbikes but on some days it is quiet. As you enter Islamic Cairo you will see that it is surrounded by a wall which we were asked to investigate as our **History** assignment.

For **Maths** we went into the mosque where a sultan is buried. At the mosque we drew out some of the patterns that we could see, so that when we return to our Maths classes we can draw out the pattern in detail using the correct measurements. Mr. Marel kindly came along to help us with Maths on this trip.

For **Art** we drew out sequences on the other side of the mosque where we drew them from a close point of view then from a distant point of view. In class we will be discussing the sequences and drawing them. Mr. Simpson came with us to support us with Art.

For **English** we walked on the streets of Islamic/Old Cairo and used our five senses to describe our surroundings. When we get back to class we will share our ideas amongst our peers and use our notes to develop our writing. We would like to thank Ms. Sliney for coming with us and helping us with English.

Thank you to all the members of staff who came - they were truly dedicated to helping us on our learning journey. Thank you to all the teachers who kindly volunteered to come along and help us. Thank you Miss McTigue and Mr. Macauley for helping us with our **Geography** task. We would also like to thank our **Senior Student Mentors** for helping us and guiding us throughout our journey through Islamic Cairo. In addition we would like to thank our loyal security guards for escorting us. Finally and most importantly a huge thank you to **Ms. Downey** for organising the entire trip and making it all happen.

**Ali Kamel (Y7R) and Farah Rady (Y7Y) - MESsenger Club Journalists**





# A YEAR SEVEN PERSPECTIVE ON SOME VERY IMPORTANT ISSUES!

By Aisha Mazen (Y7Y) – MESsenger Club Journalist

## MORNINGS...AND MOVING AROUND

**One** of the differences in the mornings now that we're in Secondary is that we do not have to line up in the hot sun anymore. Our fear of sunburn has now left us! We now go straight to our homeroom. The first thing we do in Homeroom Registration time is to listen to the National Anthem.

In our Homeroom, we watch 'Kids News', we meet with our Senior Mentors and we read books. We look at the bulletin and find out all the school news we need to know. Registration is a time that is interesting, quiet and peaceful.

Homeroom is a very new thing to us because it's such a different start to the day and we are going to various rooms around the school. We are not all in the same pod and this makes us feel independent. Moving around is really fun because we have a bit of freedom. We get to have a little walk and maybe have a little secret chat to a friend. It felt a bit scary at first because we worried that we were going to be late for class. Soemtimes it feels like a movie where the bell goes and all the big kids start coming out ....

We run (walk!) up to our class but the thought in our minds is to makes sure we avoid a blue slip, yellow slip, or detention. We have to make sure we are there before the second bell or we're in big trouble! We have to get there on time and get our stuff out of our bags as quickly as possible.

## LOCKERS!

Getting our own locker was something we were all really looking forward to because we had seen students use them in movies! Having your own locker means you are more grown up and responsible. Lockers are important to Year Seven students because to us they represent the move from Primary to Secondary.

Everybody in Year Seven was very excited as we waited to collect a key and to be assigned a locker! We had to line up to get the keys to our lockers; the queue was too long because we felt impatient and couldn't wait to get the key. Luckily for my class, Year Seven Yellow, the Music room is close to the office so we were first in the line!

## Advantages of having a locker

Lockers mean no more backache from carrying heavy books around at school and also not having to carry so many books home. Another advantage is that we can keep helpful information in our locker, like our timetable and any forms we need to take home at the end of the day for our parents to sign.

## Disadvantages of having a locker

The only disadvantage of having a locker is that you may forget something in there before a lesson. The keys are a worry because nobody wants to lose their key but that's part of learning to be more responsible!

## Personalising your locker

Some people in Year Seven had the idea of decorating their lockers. Some have even made them into little homes, with a carpet, white boards, pen holders, and all sorts of amazing decorations!

## Comments from locker owners:

"Very useful!" - Rawan Abo El Fadl (Y7B)

"They are great but bigger would be better." Hana El Badri (Y7B)

"They're really good!" Fady Essam (Y7Y)



Ali Kamel's (Y7R) locker



Nada Kamel (Y7G) and her locker



# YEAR NINE HISTORY - DRAGON'S DEN!



**Year** Nine were faced with the 'Dragon's Den' when presenting their group work on the League of Nations this week. The students created their own League of Nations after World War One and presented and assessed the strengths and limitations of their Leagues. The 'Dragons' in class were challenging with their questions and together the group was successful in understanding the aims of the League of Nations and the many issues that it faced and displayed key critical-thinking skills. Well done Year Nine!

## Year Seven History - 'Me and My Community'



This term Year Seven students have been using their creativity to make a timeline of significant historical events that have happened in their lifetime. They have used Billy Joel's 'We Didn't Start the Fire' as inspiration and have made their own updated version of the song. They successfully collaborated with other members of their class and worked together to overcome any problems that they encountered.



The final songs were played at the Year Seven celebration exhibition on 5<sup>th</sup> November. Well done Year Seven!

## Year Seven Geography - Me and My Community



After a fantastic trip to Islamic Cairo, Year Seven students have

been busy planning their own cities and designing maps. Students were encouraged to make them as geographically accurate as possible, including grid references, a key and symbols, compass points and scale. The designs that Year Seven have created have been creative and have some wonderful geographical features. The quality of work has been exceptional, and we were proud of all of the students who contributed. Some of the work will be displayed in the Humanities department until parents' evening so if you get the opportunity come and see the fabulous work!

**Ms. S. Dixon – Head of Humanities Department, British Section**





## Welcome Ms. Lee Hedges and Mr. Ben Myers

Thank you to all the staff and students that have given me such a warm welcome to teaching at MES Cairo. Prior to MES Cairo I was teaching in an inner city school in Gloucestershire, where I also grew up and went to University. I am very excited by the new life I have started and look forward to the years ahead.

I studied for my Bachelor of Art Degree in Painting and Drawing at the University of Gloucestershire, where I used a wide range of materials, developing my painting, drawing and artist book making skills. During my final year I specialised in sculpture and how work interacts with a space. I continued on at the University of Gloucestershire to complete my Master of Art, during which time I explored photography and film making, abstractly documenting my surroundings.

During my teaching career I have encouraged the exploration of a range of techniques and materials, which inspires and builds enthusiasm in my students. I hope to continue this enthusiasm here at MES Cairo by allowing students the opportunity to experiment with drawing, painting, print making and three dimensional skills.

**Ms. L. Hedges – Art Teacher**



This is my first year at MES Cairo and I am very excited about the new life I have in Egypt. Since 2002 I have been occasionally entering my own artwork in shows and auctions. Though my university degree was in Painting and Drawing, I have since dabbled in many other art media. For a while I invested myself primarily in ceramics, and then metal-smithing and printmaking. Most recently I am getting into photography.

Before coming here I worked at three very different schools with fantastic students, teachers, and administrators. Also, at public and private institutions in the US and abroad, I have taught just about every visual art media. Here, I teach Grades Eleven and Twelve Photography, Pre AP and AP Studio Art. It is my sincere hope that through my time, care, and efforts, the students at MES Cairo will become more capable artists. I have a fascination with societies foreign to my own and a passion for all study. I feel it is my duty to share this passion and my knowledge of art with others, especially teenagers, whom I find it such a joy to teach.

**Mr. B. Myers – Art Teacher**



### Year Seven Make Magnificent Art in Medieval Mamluk Mosque

As part of Year Seven's TOTAL learning project 'Me and My Community', all students visited Islamic Cairo on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October. Each class was split in half and then led through a carousel of four activities by their Senior Student Mentors. At each activity students used the amazing environment of the streets and mosques to explore different aspects of English, DT, History and Maths.



For Art, Year Seven were based in the Mosque and Madrasa of Sultan Barquq. The building is an incredible example of Islamic architecture and design, and Year Seven's first task was to simply observe and take in the beautiful scene before them. Once they had had a good look round they discussed how the environment made them feel. 'Calm', 'peaceful' and 'reflective' were some of the words used.



For their practical task students had to produce a drawing of a small detail of some part of the building that interested them, these included drawings of patterns, tiles, and stained glass windows to the highly detailed ceiling. Once they had done their close up drawing, students were then asked to take a few steps back and draw a viewpoint from further away, encouraging them to use their sketching skills to put their first drawing into a context. Every student produced some fantastic studies of what they observed in the mosque, and these drawings along with the many photographs taken will be used as source material for their Art work this term. We're looking forward to showing the outcomes exploring line, pattern and colour in the next edition of Messenger!

Mr. L. Simpson – HOD





### Year Nine IGCSE Photography

Year Nine IGCSE Photography students have made an excellent start to the year, working really hard to understand all the functions on their digital single lens reflex cameras. Experimenting with light, movement, tripods and depth of field, they have begun to appreciate the technical requirements necessary to create a photograph which is aesthetically pleasing as well as creative. Students are working both in front of and behind the camera to gain a deeper understanding of how to create the 'decisive moment' and take the photograph at the perfect time.

Ms. K. Tapsell – Art and Photography Teacher



Abdelaziz Said (Y9R)



Sherif Toma (Y9G)



Abdelaziz Said (Y9R)



Sherif Soliman (Y9Y)



Youssef Erian (Y9G)



Shahd El-Sonni (Y9B)

Aly Samy (Y9R)



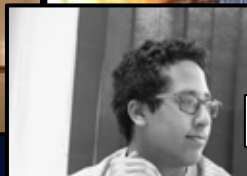
Marwan Seoudi (Y9G)



Marwan Seoudi (Y9G)



Sherif Toma (Y9G)



Aly Samy (Y9R)



Zein El Zarki (Y9R)



Ezzeldeen Elmaghraby (Y9R)





## Yousef Sabry (Y12G) Summer Art Experience

This summer I spent a month at UCLA, Los Angeles California. I took two, two-week courses, one in painting and another in drawing. This was my first exposure to what is considered a higher education. I didn't really know what to expect. Before going there I had always considered myself to be quite westernised but once I arrived I realised I was not as westernised as I thought. As a community we sometimes live in a very opaque bubble. We've always lived in our groups of friends and have always felt very comfortable and perhaps a bit too comfortable. My experience educationally was not as frustrating as my experience socially.

The three pieces that are presented to you are portraits of complete strangers. I chose the subject of strangers because I felt this is how we all start off, as complete strangers to one another. This is how I felt when I arrived there, a stranger not only to others but mainly to myself. Once you're exposed to an environment with so much freedom you question how you've lived your whole life before. What I personally feel like I've gained as individual is experience and the yearning for more. There were definite ups and definite downs. But in the end you look back to the smiles, laughs and especially the few cries you have with the very few people you learn to cherish. I've made friends, and I've made even more memories.

For me, the trip was a learning experience. I've observed that the human mind will learn to adapt, and the human spirit can easily be crushed or can swiftly influence others. Once again my travels around the world have confirmed that the more you learn, the less you know. *Ars longa, Vita brevis.*

Yousef Sabry (Y12G)





## Grades Nine and Ten

Grades Nine and Ten have made an exciting start to the year, focusing on the theme of man-made vs natural forms. They have been developing their observational drawing skills in a range of different mediums. Students started by creating first hand observational pencil drawings looking closely at the form and tone of real insects, they then moved on to experiment with the application of oil pastel. Working on a larger scale the students demonstrated their understanding of shape within their drawing and colour with the vibrant finish of their work. The students will now explore 'drawing with wire' in the style of the artist Cathy Miles and will later develop their drawing into a painted final outcome.

Ms. L. Hedges – Art Teacher

Malak El Ahwal (G9R)



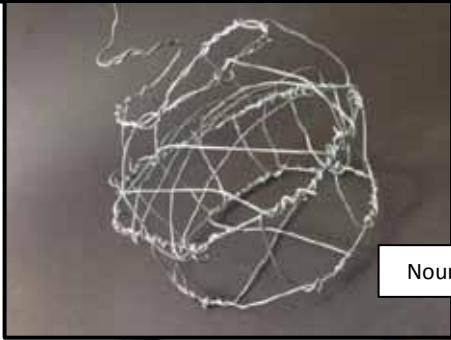
Ismail Heiza G9R)



Nour Rizk (G9Y)



Nour Rizk (G9Y)



Ahmed Radwan (G10R)



## Grade Twelve

Grade Twelve have made a dynamic start to the year. They have been focusing on experimental drawing techniques and gaining confidence with a range of materials from drawing with pencil to drawing with paper. They have been looking at the interesting forms of pumpkins and peppers, watching them change over time and developing their drawing to suit the organic change. Grade Twelve students are currently researching different artists whose ideas will later influence their own design ideas as they progress into final outcomes.

Ms. L. Hedges – Art Teacher

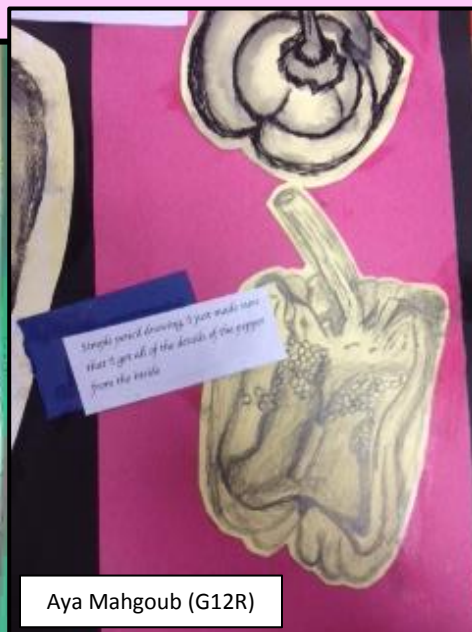
Habiba Farrag (G12R)



Aya Mahgoub (G12R)



Aya Mahgoub (G12R)



Aya Mahgoub (G12R)



Habiba Farrag (G12R)





# Art Beat

## American AP Art and Photography

### Photography

This year in Photography we have started by exploring various camera functions while learning useful composition techniques for creating great shots. Lately, we have begun studying the impact that shutter speed can have on a photograph and how we can use it to create fascinating action photos!

Mr. B. Myers – Art and Photography Teacher



Nada Omera (G12R)



Sherien Shatta (G11B)

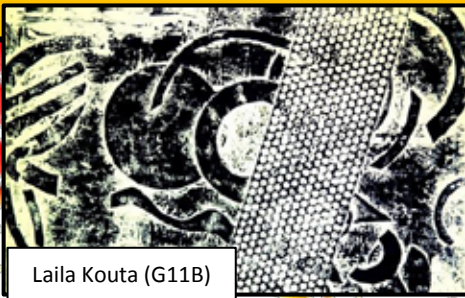


Mariam Keros (G12Y)

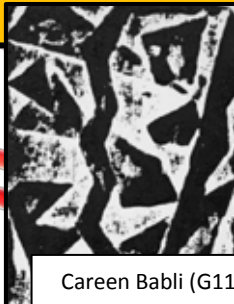
### Pre AP Studio Art

In Pre AP Studio Art we kicked things off by learning how disorder and order play a role in artistic design. Carrying this theme forward, we are now creating prints that show different degrees of unity and variety. We are really looking forward to creating works of art in a broad range of media this year. Up next...drawing!

Mr. B. Myers – Art and Photography Teacher



Laila Kouta (G11B)



Careen Babli (G11R)



Sara Mattar (G11R)

### AP Studio Art

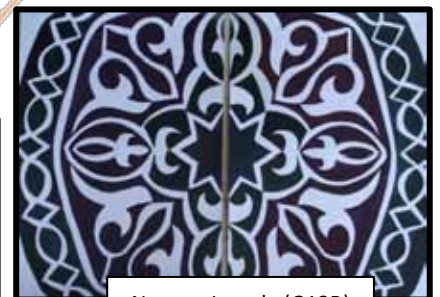
AP Studio Art has been a whirlwind of information and artwork. We have been working our way through a study of the Principles of Design, and are currently discovering how a sense of rhythm can be expressed in a work of art. Also, we are learning how one can create an evocative work of art by manipulating the relationship between foreground and background. Very soon we will each begin creating our own series of images that explore a single concentrated theme.

Mr. B. Myers – Art and Photography Teacher



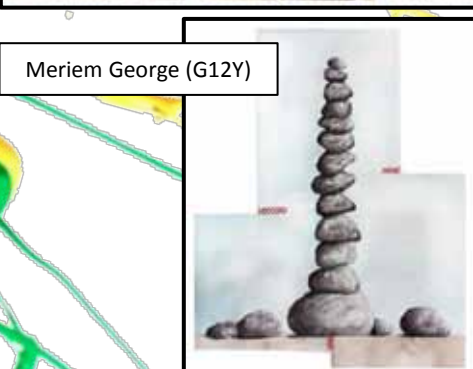
Meriem George (G12Y)

Amina El Kerdani (G12R)



Nouran Jaouda (G12B)

Meriem George (G12Y)



Meriem George (G12Y)





### DVM Grade Twelve

Grade Twelve students are experimenting with basic Photoshop techniques such as layering, cutting, pasting and filters which give a range of visual effects. Working from their contextual learning on Photoshop use in media such as advertising in both print and digital media students have used their creativity and skills to come up with an image that conveys a message based on the theme 'Let Us Think For You'.

Ms. K. Tapsell – Art and Photography Teacher



Hana El Sayad (G12B)



Omar El Ghazaly (G12R)



Ali Sharkawy (G12G)



Mariam Kerolos (G12Y)



Shahd Abed (G12B)



Nada Mourad (G12B)



Aliaa El Far (G12G)



Narima Ibrahim (G12Y)



Omar Sharkawy (G12R)



# OUTDOOR LEARNING IN THE FOUNDATION STAGE!



## Foundation

Stage children are very lucky to have access to a variety of learning areas outside of the classroom. There is the Pod, where children can dip in and out of a wide range of activities, the sensory corridor, which also has a range of activities to support Foundation Stage learning, and there are the playgrounds, which allow the children plenty of space and a different range of activities to support Outdoor Learning.

Learning outside allows the children to experience the natural elements as well as giving space for activities to support gross motor development and use of larger equipment.

As we are lucky to have such beautiful weather in Cairo, children are constantly able to use the waterways to explore running water and help to develop their coordination and strength. Filling up water jugs and carefully pouring the water down the pipes takes a lot of strength and concentration – especially when you are only four or five years old!

Other activities which are currently popular are cycling on the bikes and scooting around on a wide range of push along scooters. Some of the bikes have more than one seat and it isn't unusual to see children offering lifts to their friends in their 'taxis'. Another interesting way to travel is on the walking blocks – just getting your feet onto the blocks whilst negotiating the string can be a major achievement for some children and then they go from a quick shuffle along the playground to a full run to catch their friends! Or if these methods of travel are just too dull, there is always the option of Space Hopping your way around the Outdoor Learning yard.

One of the areas of learning that is being supported in Outdoor Learning is writing. Teachers try hard to ensure that fine and gross motor skills are being developed in all activities, to help the children get ready for the writing process. Writing and drawing on blackboards and painting with brushes (even if it's just with water on the soft flooring) all help to prepare the children for the great task of communicating ideas through print.

### Other Outdoor Learning areas include:

#### Sand Pit

For sculpting, digging and enjoying the sensory qualities of sand.

#### Role Play

This is currently a bug investigation area which displays many interesting images and information about insects.

#### Construction Zone

Large wooden blocks to encourage creativity, building, team work and role play.

#### Balance Beams

To help with the children's physical development, they can set up a range of stepping blocks and balance beams to help them control their bodies around the track.

*Please watch for our article focussing on Outdoor Learning for Years One and Two in the next MESSenger Magazine!*

**Mrs. C. Jodrell – Primary Headteacher, Key Stage One**





## Key Stage One News



# PIRATES in Foundation Stage Two!

Foundation Stage Two came back from our half term holiday to a great shock – an enormous pirate ship was found in the pod and there were pirates fighting next to the swimming pool. Captain Louis and Shipmate Jordan were arguing fiercely. Shipmate Jordan was convinced that he was a great pirate because he never

uses manners, hurts people, makes them walk the plank and steals treasure from them. Captain Louis was not impressed! He told Shipmate Jordan “because you never say please and thank you – I’m going to have to take away your hat”. Shipmate Jordan had SUCH bad manners he didn’t even care, so Captain Louis had to tell him “because you don’t try everything on board the pirate ship – I’m going to confiscate your bag of gold”. Shipmate Jordan just replied with a series of “grrrrrrr” noises. Captain Louis then declared that “you’re a bad pirate because you don’t say sorry when you hurt someone by mistake – so I’m going to take away your pirate hook”. By this point, Shipmate Jordan was starting to feel sorry for himself and realised that perhaps he had not been the world’s best pirate....but Captain Louis was not finished. Captain Louis declared that Shipmate Jordan was unfit to be a pirate and asked the children in Foundation Stage Two whether we should make him walk the plank into shark infested waters? Foundation Stage Two are a kind group of children but even they agreed that Shipmate Jordan needed lessons in piracy, so they elected for him to walk the plank.

Luckily the sharks in the pool must have been asleep that day and so he escaped unscathed. Captain Louis ordered him to visit Foundation Stage Two and learn some key pirate skills of risk taking by trying a whole range of new and challenging activities, of saying sorry if you hurt someone by mistake and most importantly USING GOOD MANNERS!

Foundation Stage Two Red performed an assembly for the rest of the year group and for parents in which there was a little boy pirate who showed Shipmate Jordan how to be a good pirate with his EXTREMELY good manners. We are pleased to report that no further incidences of walking the plank have been recorded in this topic!

**Ms. M. Shooter – Foundation Stage Two Year Leader**



## FOUNDATION STAGE TWO POD

**Foundation** Stage Two pod is sparkling with creativity this year, under the care of Miss Yasmine and Miss Amira. The pod space is a joy to look at with exciting displays, an enticing entrance inviting children to come in and get involved; and a range of areas and activities to support our curriculum and ensure that our children really do explore through play.

Assistant Head for Early Years, Vikki Esplin has been working with the Pod teachers to create opportunities for reading and writing within the pod environment so that as the children are playing, they don’t even realise they are reading; or they are writing for fun within a role play context.

On any day in the pod children have access to the computers, to number or shape based activities, to construction, dress up and role play, books and stories, art, textures and creative activities, to sensory and tactile experiences. There is even a skeleton here at the moment.

Class teachers and pod teachers engage in a range of activities to support the children in making the most of their learning time in the pod – challenging the children in play and with open ended questions, getting involved in role play as well as interacting with and observing the children to help them take their obvious next steps in learning. Children love their pod time and the atmosphere buzzes with excitement and purpose. If you are in need of a creative buzz, step inside the Foundation Stage Two pod and see what learning looks like in Early Years.

**Ms. M. Shooter – Foundation Stage Two Red Teacher**





# YEAR ONE

## CAN YOU HEAR US ROAR?!



This term Year One has been going on safari in deepest Africa. We have had the chance to study the wonderful animals found there and have had such fun! In the pod we have a safari tent set up where the children can become explorers and use their imaginations to the full.

Our classroom lessons usually work as rotations with a variety of activities in the classroom. The teacher always works with one of the groups and our trusty teaching and learning assistants with another. As the Year One children have settled very well into the new school year we know we can expect them to work sensibly and thoughtfully.

One of our favourite activities so far has been finding out about herbivores and carnivores. Finding out that enormous animals such as hippos only eat vegetation was quite fascinating. We also enjoyed writing our own animal riddles and the Year One teachers are delighted to see such great progress in letter formation, spelling and handwriting this early in the year.

Much of our teaching in Year One involves cooperative learning techniques. We use these methods to enhance the children's understanding as well as their ability to work together. We recently enjoyed a 'jigsaw' activity that allowed children to learn facts about African countries and share this information with the class.

The Year One teachers are delighted with the progress the children have made so far and are looking forward to a fantastic year.

**Ms. N. Bancroft - Year One Orange Teacher**







## Year Two Orange Art Exhibition

The Year Two Orange class has been hard at work studying Roald Dahl's 'The Enormous Crocodile'. The students have been writing character depictions, sequencing the story and working on extensions. This Literacy work was developed into a cross-curricular







project with Art, where the students of Year Two Orange worked with clay to successfully create their own CROC'Tricks, as depicted here. The students then used powerful 'WOW' adjectives to describe their CROC'Tricks. These brilliant creations were displayed at our first Year Two Art Exhibition this year. We were delighted to receive various visitors from around the Primary School. Everyone who came to our exhibition enjoyed viewing our work and the feedback we have had has been extremely positive!

**Ms. G. Dean – Year Two Orange**



## HAVING FUN WITH KEY STAGE ONE AT THE GOLDEN TEA PARTY



**A**T MES Cairo our 'Golden Buddies' have the very important task of ensuring that everyone follows the Golden Rules. They also make sure that the other children remember their manners, line up properly and most importantly, that they are a friend to anyone who needs one.

In Years One and Two, our 'Golden Buddies' are rewarded for all of their hard work by being invited to the amazing, the astounding, the fabulous 'Golden Tea Party'! You may ask, "Why is it golden?" The answer to this question is that they drink tea from delicate golden teacups, tea which has been poured from a delicate golden teapot by the golden and sparkly Librarians, Miss Mimi and Miss Nancy. So far, the children have eaten koshary and drunk tea whilst listening to the great musician, Om Kalthoum. The theme of the parties this year is countries around the world, so the children will be introduced to music, dancing and food from around the world. Can you guess which country we have already had a taste of?



The tea parties are not only a reward for being such super buddies but they are a chance for us to see how incredible the children's manners are whilst attending such an auspicious event. It is also a fantastic opportunity to make new friends from different classes.

**Mrs. B. Meason – Deputy Headteacher Key Stage One**  
**Miss Nancy Nabil – Key Stage One Librarian**



## KEY STAGE TWO NEWS

### YEAR THREE

# 'Impact Day' Beladi Britain

The introduction of a new topic is always a cause for excitement on the part of our children, and our new topic has been successfully launched with the traditional 'Impact Day', characterised by vibrant colour and plenty of fun.

The children came to school dressed in various costumes depicting well-known British and Egyptian figures, ranging from Egyptian pharaohs and British kings and queens, to one staff member dressed as Wayne Rooney!

During the day the children were involved in a variety of activities associated with life in the United Kingdom. In the tradition of the English Afternoon Tea, the children made sandwiches, not forgetting the hot tea of course, followed by a game of rounders which is a British team sport played in UK schools.

Later, they learnt a few traditional Irish and English dances. Naturally, the children joined in all of the activities, in their usual high spirits, and they are now ready to build on their knowledge of the similarities and differences between the two countries.

**Ms. T. Nissan – Year Three Leader**



## ENGLISH AND MATHS WORKSHOPS



The Primary department hosted a number of parent information workshops for English and Maths. We were delighted to welcome so many parents to these workshops. All of the parents showed a very keen interest in learning about the teaching approaches we use at MES Cairo.

The English workshops focused on Speaking and Listening and Grammar. Parents were reminded about the important role Speaking and Listening plays in the progress of reading and writing, and that they can help enormously by taking part in their child's "Talk Homework". Parents were given an overview

of all the objectives their children would be learning as part of the grammar curriculum. They were also given the opportunity to try activities related to Speaking and Listening and Grammar. These activities demonstrated different teaching approaches and enabled parents to experience how fun learning is at MES Cairo!

The Maths workshops focused on the changes to the British National Curriculum and how they are being implemented at MES Cairo. The expectations in all year groups are now higher and pupils are focusing on more formal calculations at an earlier age, which many of us were used to learning at school ourselves. Parents had the opportunity to practise these formal methods and were given guidance on the progression between the different methods.

Thank you to all the positive comments and feedback that we received from parents regarding the content of the workshops and the hard work our teachers at MES Cairo put into delivering the curriculum. The information shared with parents is available on Teacher Web for any parents who were unable to attend.

Finally I would like to thank Mr. Dave Barton, Mrs. Maureen Glancy, Mrs. Barbara Meason and Mrs. Cath Jama for their hard work and contributions to the planning and delivery of the workshops.

**Miss A. Clarke – Assistant Headteacher Key Stage Two**





## KEY STAGE TWO NEWS

# MES Space Academy (MESSA) blasts off into Space!



**On** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October, pupils in Year Four were awestruck when Buzz Aldrin, who had literally popped in for a flying visit, landed in the Year Four pod to launch the start of the Year Four MES Cairo Space Academy topic.

After talking to the children about the technical design of his space suit and answering some of their thought-provoking questions about his journey to the Moon, Buzz went on to explain how the children could progress from MES Space Academy Student through to Astronaut by successfully completing a series of weekly tasks, with the opportunity of blasting off into Space!

During Curriculum Diversity lessons this term, the Year

Four students have completed a number of tasks and developed their writing skills through using and applying the structural and presentational features of newspaper reports. They have also developed their collaborative learning skills by writing a group newspaper report and designing and building a space rocket to take them into Space.

**Mr. S. Boswell and Mr. P. Downey –  
Year Four Teachers**





# YEAR FIVE STUDENTS ARE AN 'OPEN BOOK'



**Strings** are being tuned and the nervous anticipation of 156 pupils as they await their biggest fans entering the theatre. Cheers, waves, smiles, photos, nervous chatter... ..and then.....silence.

All of this can only mean one thing.

## The Year Five Concert!

As the first year group to kick off the concert season at MES Cairo, Year Five pupils were tasked with wowing parents, teachers and pupils alike by singing songs related to their book project earlier in the year. Under the expert guidance of Mr Briggs and the music team, pupils produced some beautiful sounds to sing 'Gotta Keep Reading', 'Does It Really Matter', 'The Book of Life' and 'Everyday People'. It was the final song, Paperback Writer, that really raised the roof as pupils really belted out the classic Beatles track.

The spectacle didn't stop there. Between each song, each class had to perform a scene which involved reluctant readers being encouraged to read by the characters of the books Year Five studied; The Witches, There's A Boy In The Girls' Bathroom, The Iron Man, Journey To Joberg and Diary Of A Wimpy Kid. All of the performers were brave and clear voiced and really threw themselves into their roles.

"The Year Five concert was a blast! All of the singing and acting glued it together as one thing. But this isn't my main point. My main point was the cooperation and the fun. The costumes were exquisite, plus they looked so realistic. To sum it all up, it was an amazing experience!" **Leilah Shady (Y5Y)**

"The songs were amazing and also the acting parts were spectacular. My favourite song was Year Five Violet's song. I loved the drawings in the background. As well as the audiobooks, we definitely won't forget the animations." **Tamara Ahmed Azmy and Laurina Rafik (Y5G)**

The concert that Year Five performed was an amazing moment to remember. Mr. Briggs copied the first song that we sung and it was a clever idea. After singing every song, the parents clapped with smiles, it was the best day ever!" **Lily Bowley (Y5R)**

A huge thank you must go to everyone involved in the production of the concert. All in all, 'Open Book' was a huge success and judging by the cheers and positive comments from parents, pupils and teachers alike, Year Five should be very proud of their efforts.

**Mr. G. Lavelle – Year Five Year Leader**





# PRIMARY HOUSE CAPTAIN ELECTIONS 2014-2015



In September, all the Year Six children returned to school knowing that this would be their final year in Primary. Being part of Year Six comes with big responsibility; the children are role models for the younger pupils in our school demonstrating impeccable behaviour, excellent manners and a positive attitude to school life. The Year Six students demonstrate these attributes on a daily basis which meant that choosing the House Captains to represent Horus, Anubis, Ra and Thoth for the academic Year 2014 -15 would be an almost impossible task!



The students were informed about the roles the House Captains would be expected to undertake and the responsibilities that came as part of this important position. In true democratic election style, Year Six were asked to nominate the children they believed would be good House Captains. They spent time reflecting on the qualities their peers had and which were importance in leading a team successfully. All of the nominations were anonymous however children were asked to state a reason for their nomination. The Year Six teachers were very impressed with the reasons given for nominating individual candidates - many focusing on the individual's communication, organisational or leadership skills.

Following the nomination stage, the nominees were required to write a one minute speech explaining why they would be the best candidate for election. The potential House Captains worked hard to think of the best way to convince their Houses that they were worth voting for. Each candidate clearly spent time at home practising their speech, all showing great determination to win this prestigious title. Each candidate delivered their speech to their house who then voted for one boy and one girl to represent their house. These speeches were confidently spoken and persuasive - a tough decision for the Year Six's who were voting.

It was important to the children, and the staff overseeing the elections, that these were fair and democratic. The children of Year six conducted themselves sensibly and responsibly, displaying a mature attitude towards the whole process.

I am delighted to announce that the House Captains for 2014 -15 are:

- Horus:** Salma Amere (Y6Y) Yellow and Adam El Din Nagy (Y6R)
- Anubis:** Kenda Chamssi (Y6R) and Michael Aziz (Y6Y)
- Thoth:** Laila Haikal (Y6V) and Omar Abdelhassib (Y6B)
- Ra:** Seif Farouk (Y6R) and Fatma Morsy (Y6O)

These House Captains were nominated and voted for by their peers in a democratic and fair election process. When looking back at some of the nomination comments for these individuals it is clear to see why the Year Six children believed them to be the best people for the job. Here are some of the nomination quotes for our new House Captains.

- "I nominated Adam because he is trustworthy."
- "I nominated Michael because he is a good role model."
- "I nominated Omar because he is responsible and loyal."
- "I nominated Kenda because she will do the job responsibly."
- "I nominated Laila because, from my experiences with her, she is a good leader."
- "I nominated Salma because she is a confident speaker."
- "I nominated Fatma because she is kind and helpful."
- "I nominated Seif because he is responsible."

We wish the House captains every success in their important role this year as they develop their leadership and relationship skills by steering their House to victory!

**Ms. A. Kirby - Year Six Year Team Leader**



Horus House Captains



Anubis House Captains



Thoth House Captains



Ra House Captains



# 'Greece Lightning'

June 2014



**During** the initial ideas stage, the Year Six teachers knew this production was going to be epic! We brainstormed all possible ideas for our production and finally decided on the theme of 'Ancient Greece' to link to our Year Six curriculum topic. We wanted to engage all of the students thoroughly in our production vision so we decided to put a modern spin onto this historic theme. I'm pleased to say - it worked! The students were enthusiastic about the production and couldn't wait to get started.

The vision was simple: a modern day TV show – complete with presenters, news, weather and special guests – with one purpose: to inform the audience about life in Ancient Greece and its famous myths.

The audience met mighty Gods and Goddesses, brave Heroes and Heroines and great Athenians, Spartans and Trojans. Each class performed a 'mini myth'. Six Violet portrayed the story of King Midas and his obsession with gold. Six Yellow introduced the audience to many famous Greek characters from Talus, to Dedalus, to Icarus. Six Orange wowed audiences with the story of Medusa, some parts told through expressive dance and Green class shared the pain and suffering of the story of Heracles, adding a modern twist. The audience followed the myth of Pandora, portrayed by Blue class, who was battling with a difficult decision and they saw Red class display the genius of the Athenians as they outwitted the Trojans. It was an action-packed show!

In addition to these myths with a modern twist, video advertisements featuring students from the choir were recorded and displayed during the show. These adverts were a work of genius reflecting the Ancient Greek opinions in a humorous modern style showcase.

The songs for the show were written and taught to the students by the talented Music Department and the catchy lyrics had all of those working on the production singing them constantly! 'Greece Lightning' was a big production involving many departments and the Year Six team were extremely grateful for all the support they received.

Rawan Abu El Faal, previously of Year Six Yellow, talked about her part in the show, "I had the role of Elena, the TV presenter. I have really enjoyed this spectacular experience however it hasn't always been easy. It has been hard work but we have had lots of fun moments too."

Aly Shakankiry, previously of Year Six Red, had a slightly different view of his role: "I am the male TV presenter, Christos. I love my part because I get to sit on a sofa and wear a dashing suit. I had a lot of lines and I wore a head mic which had to be taped to my face!"

All of the children in Year Six displayed determination and dedication to make this production a success, many offering ideas and improvisations to enhance the script. They worked hard to learn their lines, many commenting on how difficult they found it, and to memorise staging or choreography for their scenes.

Khadiga Afifi, formerly a member of Year Six Orange, played the part of Medusa in her class scene. She had this to say about her experience, "We have had to work really hard to put this show together but we eventually made it because all of Year Six worked together as a team. This is definitely a great







way to end Year Six and start our journey into Secondary." This opinion was seconded by Sarah Sabek, formerly of Year Six Violet, who said, "Everyone in the show took a risk and working as a team we actually did it! Thank you for the opportunity, it has been so much fun!"

The Year Six students encompassed the 5Rs so commendably throughout the rehearsal process and through their hard work and effort made the show a success. They recognised the importance of their teachers and support staff in ensuring their production was a triumph. Kirmina Sadek, previously of Six Green commented, "It was a tough responsibility for all of us and for the teachers who did their best to make it perfect." While Khadiga Afifi, formerly a member of Six Orange said, "I would like to thank all the teachers in Year Six for all their effort and hard work in putting this extraordinary production together."

As Year Six Team Leader, I was proud of the achievements of this cohort during this production and throughout the whole year. The Year Six team worked extremely hard to make it a success at all stages and the students, with their hard work and dedication, made this a reality. 'Greece Lightning' was a huge success and everybody involved is extremely proud of what we achieved.

**Ms. A. Kirby - Year Six Team Leader**



## YEAR SIX BOOK STUDY – READ FOR YOUR LIFE!

What better way to start the new academic year than getting stuck into a good book! For the first three weeks of term, each Year Six class teacher selected a class reader that they thought would get their class excited about reading. In Six Yellow, we read about Robbie Ainsley's tragic car accident in Michael Morpurgo's 'Cool!' Six Blue and Six Red, Mr. Andrew's and Mr. Justin's classes respectively, dared to be scared with Melvin Burgess' 'The Ghost Behind the Wall'. In Six Green, Miss Annie used two books for inspiration: 'The Day the Crayons Quit' and the wonderful 'Hugo'. In Six Violet, Mr. Nick's class was transported to the Isles of Scilly in 'Why the Whales Came.' Finally, Six Orange and Miss Cathie stepped back in time to World War I with 'Private Peaceful.'

The book was the basis from which the students were introduced to some of their thematic topics and literacy genres for the year. In Six Yellow, we used the event of the car accident in order to write a newspaper report. We also wrote poetry for performance – peer assessing against agreed success criteria such as: varying pace and volume, using expression for emphasis and using pauses for effect. Furthermore, we used Robbie's memories from before his accident in order to write our own stories with flashbacks. In addition, the pupils practised dramatic conventions and utilised i-pads as part of the talk phase before doing their independent writing.

The most important aim of any Book Study is to help foster a love of reading. Reading widens our knowledge and increases our understanding of the world around us:

*"A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only one."*  
**George R.R. Martin**

Reading is arguably the best way to help improve a student's written and spoken English. In Year Six we believe that every child should enjoy reading every day by making this part of the family routine. A comfortable place with no distractions should be found and reading should be enjoyed at a sensible hour of the day. Whenever possible, the child should read to an adult and discuss the content. This helps children to enhance their comprehension response skills.

Encourage your child to visit the school library today!

**Mr. S. Cole – Year Six Yellow**



Performance poetry about Robbie's accident



News interviews about Robbie's accident in preparation for journalistic writing



Using iMovie to create films with flashbacks in preparation for writing stories with flashbacks



# INTERNATIONAL MINDEDNESS – SOWING THE SEEDS OF PEACE IN THE MES CAIRO PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Making Global Friends

As a new expatriate to MES Cairo and Cairo, Egypt I was asked by my previous Global Studies Director to connect two schools through interactive Skype lessons. The first two teachers from MES Cairo to participate were Ms. S. Iskander, Year One Blue Teacher and Ms. L. Young, Year Three Blue Teacher. They were greeted by Ms. S. Reid, Grade One and Ms. E. Katz, Grade Two respectively, from Providence Day School in Charlotte, NC, USA.



On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October, Ms. Sara's class (Key Stage One) met their new friends just after 2:00 pm Egyptian time or (8:00 am USA time). They greeted their new friends with a large Egyptian flag saying "Hello and welcome to Egypt!" They also sang the Good Morning Song. In return, Ms. Susanne's class greeted our MES Cairo students with a large American flag and sang the Hello Neighbour's song. It was a happy start to a fun and upbeat lesson. The classes then took turns asking questions to their new foreign friends. There were many great questions exchanged by the two classes. Next they played a game called 'Just Like Me'. Students from both sides would name something that they liked, for example; puppies or ice cream. If students on either side agreed, they could shout out "Just like me!" It was a great way to show the students who live on different continents, with different cultural norms, just how alike they really were. It was a fun and interactive lesson.



On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October, Ms. Lucy's class (Key Stage Two) welcomed Ms. Erica's class, Grade Two at the same times. They also greeted their new friends with both the Egyptian and American flags. The students exchanged questions to get to know one another. The US class sang a patriotic song. In return, Ms. Lucy's class performed the hip hop song 'Jump', by singing and dancing. Everyone had so much fun! Both students and teachers were excited about the experience and shared the following comments:

Ms. Sara's class comments included: "I was excited the first time to see them.", "They were very pretty.", "I liked making new friends.", "I liked what they were wearing.", and "I was so shy, and then it came up and they were amazing." "I like the idea of making friends in another country."

Ms. Sara said, "My class loved every part of it! They said it was good fun". It was an amazing experience for them and for me too."

Mr. Bruce said, "The students had a ball. It was so nice."

Ms. Susanne's class comments included: "I enjoyed learning that they wear uniforms. I also enjoyed learning that the time is different in Egypt.", "I learned that they speak English.", "I liked playing Just Like Me.", "I learned that they put on a hat at school for celebrating birthdays." "I learned that they were studying about safari animals.", "I learned that the class had PE and Music.", "I enjoyed singing "Hello, Neighbour!" to the students in Egypt."

Ms. Lucy's class said: "They were cute and adorable.", "Very nice", "good English", "very confident", and "everyone enjoyed the experience".

Ms. Lucy and Ms. Sally said, "Everyone had fun and can't wait to skype again soon. We enjoyed it so much and the students were excited to share. It was a wonderful experience."

Ms. Erica Katz said, "The kids loved the opportunity to skype with Three Blue. They were excited to talk to kids so far away on another continent and the opportunity really supported our social studies curriculum. Students were really struck by the similarities they noticed in the classrooms. They really connected with the students in Ms. Lucy's class through the dance they performed. My kids noticed that the children at MES Cairo spoke with a different accent. This is how they really identified them as being far away, and not close by. They really sought out the similarities, more than the differences."



In the end, it was apparent that students on both sides of the globe were "Just Like Me"!

**Mrs. P. Hamlett – Year Three LDD**





# WHAT'S GOING ON IN PRIMARY PE?



Year One pair balance

Across the Primary school, students are working very hard in PE lessons with progress being made throughout!

At all levels, we provide our students with a variety of activities. The building blocks of our programme are; fun and safety. We have established these principles as a foundation from which we believe we can give every student the possibility to learn and develop at their own

pace. Throughout the year we focus on different subjects within our sports programme.

This term in our Foundation Stages we have settled very quickly and children are becoming increasingly familiar with their respective PE teachers! In our Foundation Stage PE lessons we are working specifically on ball skills and developing our agility, balance and coordination. We are also focussing on ABC development. We see hand-eye coordination as an important part of our curriculum, not only is it necessary for a lot of games, but it also supports writing skills and learning in other stages of maturing, as multiple studies have shown. The ABC skills are not only basic motor skills needed for PE or sports, but are rudimentary for all physical development. Skills like jumps, balance, run, skip, climb and body posture are part of this subject.

In Years One to Four, we are working on gymnastics. Children have been responsible for their own learning by setting up their own gymnastics equipment. We focus on the basic gymnastics skills like jump and land, balance stationary or in motion and rolling. The older the students get the more we expect of them. In Year Four, we want students not only to understand how movements work, but also to create their own moves or poses for gymnastics. They generate ideas and conditions first before we enable them to work in groups. We make them understand how to use equipment and how to work safely with each other.

In Years Five and Six we started this term with dances. In order to give our students more than just a couple of moves, we have selected multiple dances from around the world. For instance the Haka from New Zealand and the military two step from Scotland. We provided the students with a bit of information around the origination of the dance and what it was used for. We also gave them the opportunity to add or modify moves, as long they were in par with the original dance. The students performed these dances in front of each other in their own classes, with and without their own moves.

**Mr. J. Currie – Head of Primary PE**



Year One gymnastics balance



Year Five Haka



Scottish Country Dancing!



Year Two group balance



## TEAM COUGAR FOOTBALL

**On** 27<sup>th</sup> October, the bell had just gone for second break and the Team Cougar football team were running as fast as they could to the PE Office to collect their Team Cougar kits. The excitement was clear! It was, of course, the very first game of the football season.

On that day we welcomed two teams from NCBIS to our school as it was decided by coaches that as many of our squad as possible would play. Mr. Alex and Mr. Darren had chosen two separate squads for the games. Every player that had been selected had been very dedicated with their training with not a single training session being missed.

Our opposition arrived with an air of confidence having already played once this season and emerged from this with a convincing victory.

The games themselves were played at a fast pace. With only twenty minutes being played in each half there was no time to sit back and allow the opposition to keep possession. Both teams demonstrated composure on the ball and the ability to look for the best possible pass. In the 'A' game MES Cairo raced into a 2-0 lead through excellent team goals, scored by Michael Aziz (Y6Y) and Omar Abdelhassib (Y6B). However NCBIS responded with steely determination and managed to score twice before the end of the first half. The second half began fairly cagey, with both teams struggling to retain possession. Both teams' goalkeepers were being tested however with the MES Cairo goalkeeper (Ahmed Mohamed Y6V) saving his team on more than one occasion. In the end, the game was decided with a heart breaking last minute goal by NCBIS. In the end MES Cairo lost 3-2, however they can be very proud of their efforts and look forward to what looks like a very promising season.

The 'B' team confidently showed their footballing abilities, with "Real Madrid-esque" attacking football! Time and time again they caught NCBIS in possession and countered attacked with pace and precision. MES Cairo finished with a convincing 4-0 victory. There were excellent performances throughout; the defence and goalkeepers performed admirably to keep a clean sheet. The midfield and attackers combined well to score four well-taken goals. Goal scorers were: Aly El Kalyoubi (Y6Y) with three goals and Huseein El Feki (Y5V) with another.

All in all, a great start for the Team Cougar team, who look forward to what is hopefully an enjoyable and successful season!

**Mr. J. Currie – Head of Primary PE**

## SWIMMING GALA AT BISC 6<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER

**The** MES Cairo swimming team had only been in school for three days before Miss Lauren summoned them for an intense training block before the Swimming Gala on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

The Swimming Gala included both primary and secondary children with events for Under 10's, Under 11's and Under 13's. We were very fortunate that it was clear our team had not spent their entire summer holidays resting and instead had been keeping religiously to their training routines!

The event was in a 50 metre pool which in case you hadn't realised is twice the size of our pool at MES Cairo. Along with the unfamiliar 50-metre pool, our pupils were competing against swimmers from seven other Cairo International schools.

However, our MES Cairo Cougar team were most definitely equal to the task by securing victory in ten races! Mostafa Tarek (Y6B) posted fantastic times in both the 200m individual medley and the 50 metre butterfly to achieve first place in both Under 11 races. Abdallah Mohamed (Y5B) demonstrated his potential by winning the Under 10, 50 metre breaststroke. Mohamed Barakat (Y6B) stormed to victory in the Under 11, 50 metre breast stroke race. Every single team member swam with great determination and this was key in gaining some fantastic positions in very strong races. Omar Bassam (Y5B), Abdelrahman (Y6G), Malak Ramadan (Y4Y), Laila Haikal (Y6V), Ali Saleh (Y5V), Malak Altaf (Y4R) and Mohamed Tarek (Y6G) all managed 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> in their respective races.



Mostafa Wael (Y6O) has a shot on goal



Michael Aziz (Y6Y) plays a pass to Omar Abdelhassib (Y6B)



Some of our winning Primary Team with our trophy. From L – R, back row: Abdelrahman Gemeiye (Y6G), Mohamed Barakat (Y6B), Mostafa Tarek (Y6B), Mohamed Tarek (Y6G), Abdallah Mohamed (Y5B), Omar Bassam (Y5B). Front row: Jessica Masarany (Y6G), Mariam Bedair (Y6O), Malak Ramadan (Y4Y), Malak Altaf (Y4R), Laila Haikal (Y6V)



## Primary Sportsdesk

If the individual results were impressive, then our performances in the relay events were truly outstanding. Every single member of our team contributed to our successes in the relay events. We achieved 1<sup>st</sup> place in the under boys free style relay, 1<sup>st</sup> place in the under freestyle relay, and first place in the Under 11 relay boys medley relay. Whilst it was fantastic to gain these first places, a special mention has to go to the girls' team. The girls' team was missing team members due to illness and consequently girls from the younger age group had to step up in order for the team to be able to compete at all.

Overall the team had a very successful swimming gala and look forward to posting similar results throughout the year. A special thanks to Miss Lauren and Miss Lize as without their hard work and dedication the team wouldn't have been so successful.

The swimming gala team: Mostafa (Y6B), Mohamed (Y6B), Mohamed (Y6G), Abdelrahman (Y6G), Ali (Y5V), Omar (Y5B), Abdallah (Y5B), Adham (Y5B), Hassan (4G), Mariam (Y6O), Jessica (Y6G), Laila (Y6V), Malak (Y4R) and Malak (Y4Y).

**Mr. J. Currie – Head of Primary PE**

## Basketball Tournament at CAC

### October 2014

A squad of thirty-four children was invited to take part in a Primary Basketball Competition at CAC. The competition included separate competitions for boys and girls and included children from Year Four, Five and Six!

For the MES Cairo students this was quite a challenge, as this was our very first match of the school year. However the children had been working very hard in training sessions and those selected deserved the opportunity to take part.

In training we had been working specifically on our defensive structure and securing the ball from a rebound. In our matches all four of our teams demonstrated these qualities and proved to be very difficult teams to beat.

The Year Five/Six boys' team was very unfortunate not to make it to the final. They missed out due to having a lower point difference after having drawn a pulsating group game with NCBIS. Key performers were Yehia Tantawy (Y5Y) and Aly Tantawy (Y6G). Both boys showed great composure on the ball and made some great baskets in all three of their games.

The Year Five/Six girls' team improved with every game in their competition. Despite finishing in 4<sup>th</sup> place, the girls demonstrated their potential with some determined basketball, particularly in their last game against NCBIS (who won the whole competition.) The stand-out performer in the girl's team was Fayrouz Badr (Y6B) who was dominant throughout.

The Year Four competition was run slightly differently. With no finals, every game was important. Our Year Four boys did incredibly well, managing to win two of the three games in their division. The boys displayed great courage to win twice in the very last seconds of their matches. Key to their success was Ali Sawan (Y4G), Mourad Elzaher (Y4Y) and Ezz Eldin Ehab (Y4V).

Mr. Hashem was particularly impressed with the Year Four girls who despite never having played a competitive match before managed to make it very difficult for their opponents. The girls showed great Team Cougar spirit. They competed for every ball and pressured the opposition's attack with great energy.

All in all there were some fantastic performers across the MES Cairo Basketball teams. This bodes well for the rest of the season with plenty more fixtures planned in the coming weeks.

**Mr. J. Currie – Head of Primary PE**

## MES CAIRO ACHIEVERS

### SUPER SCUBA DIVER - Mohamed Hazem (Y5O)

Mohamed started to explore diving with his instructor when he was only four years old. His instructor is also his Dad! Now aged nine, he has accomplished twenty successful dives! Mohamed has reached the '2-Star' level in diving, which is a great achievement for someone of his age.

Incredibly, he has mastered the 'Buddha' position and he can do mask clearance - skills which only expert divers usually have.

Congratulations, Mohamed! Keep up the great work. These achievements are outstanding and we will be watching your progress with great interest.





# SWIM MEET

**The** MES Cougar Secondary Swim Team had their first meet of the season on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September. Our Middle School swimmers joined up with the MES Cairo Primary swimmers to make a strong team comprising of Under 10's, Under 11's and Under 13's. The Middle School swimmers had been working hard in training and were eager to start the competition. Seven other teams from Cairo were also ready to compete and gain as many points as possible for their team.

The Primary swimmers took to the pool first and opened the meet with many exciting individual sprint races, gathering points for the MES Cairo Cougars. It was now over to the Under 13's to continue the promising start. Up first was the 200m Individual Medley, where the competitors are challenged to swim 50m of each stroke; Butterfly, Backstroke, Breaststroke then Freestyle. The MES Cairo swimmers showed excellent form and determination. Rawan Abou El Fadl (Y7B) and Yassin Tolba (Y7R) finished 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> respectively.

Individual 50m sprints were next on the race schedule. Adel Serry (Y7Y) finished 3<sup>rd</sup> and Nadia El Zaher (G7Y) finished 1<sup>st</sup> in the Freestyle race, collecting more points for the team. In the 50m Breaststroke, Adel Serry stepped up again with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish, and Rawan Bassam (G8G) swam her first race of the meet finishing in 4<sup>th</sup> place. Spirits were high and the team was cheering each other on during the races. The last two races before the team relays were the 50m backstroke and 50m butterfly, both challenging events. Yassin Tolba and Rawan Abou El Fadl represented the team in the backstroke race, with a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> place finish respectively. The last individual sprint was Butterfly. Youssef Mazloum (G8Y) finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Rawan Bassam finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place.

The swim meet was brought to a close with the most exciting races – the team relays. The swimmers displayed excellent teamwork and confidence as they organised and motivated each other. Some of the finishes were very close, however the MES Cougars had some top three finishes!

The swim meet was an excellent opportunity for all of the swimmers and the atmosphere throughout the competition was thrilling. The MES Cougars had an excellent competition and the team finished in 1<sup>st</sup> place overall! Well done to all swimmers involved. Special thanks to the MES Cougar Swim Coaches and to the parents and friends who came to support the swimmers.

**Ms. O. Walker – Secondary PE Department**





## ATHLETIC MENTORS IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL



**This** year, the MES Cairo Cougar Athletic Programme has seen a very welcome addition to its offerings in the Athletic Mentors Programme. The programme has essentially made official and more available, what was already casually happening in previous years. At the end of last year, the Athletic Department nominated a list of roughly twenty Grade/Year Ten and Eleven students who contributed positively to the Athletic Programme through their participation on a number of athletic teams, as well as demonstrated positive leadership qualities in the athletic realm and around school. Once nominated, these students, who are now in Grade/Year/IBDP Eleven



and Twelve, have the option of participating in as many or as few opportunities as they can, depending on their interests and schedule. The opportunities provided already this academic year include a coaching clinic, an officiating clinic, coaching and officiating opportunities in Middle School Football and JV Basketball and officiating opportunities in Primary basketball and football.

The Mentors who are actively engaging in this programme are far exceeding the initial expectations of the Athletic Department. The reports from head coaches about the Mentors who have taken on assistant coaching positions, is that staff members often forget that these young men and women are in fact still students, as their level of dedication, initiative and the appropriate and constructive rapport they have with the younger students they are leading is exceptional and far beyond their years and training. Likewise, with our Mentors taking on refereeing duties, coaches from MES Cairo as well as from visiting schools have all commented on the poise and professionalism demonstrated by these confident and capable students.

Perhaps the greatest benefit of the programme, is the reciprocal relationship that develops between younger student athletes and our Mentors. The Mentors have bought into this programme admirably, and as a result have increased the quality of their behaviour, leadership and positive influence around school. Our younger student athletes look up to the Mentors as the positive role models that they are, learning firsthand from them the many ways to positively contribute to school, as well as of course, gaining vast improvements in athletic performance!



The Athletic Department is thrilled with what we see occurring on a nightly basis on the fields and the courts and excited about the further potential of this programme. We are also extremely proud of this first group of Mentors who have bravely taken risks and extended themselves and their time to be such positive contributors to the Athletic Programme and the school in general. This is the beginning of a great tradition!

**Ms. L.Quarin – Secondary Athletic Director**





# BOYS' VARSITY FOOTBALL BACK WITH A BANG!

The boys' Varsity football season got off to an excellent start in the CISSA tournament held at Choueifat with a very respectable 6<sup>th</sup> place finish. The two pool group stage got off to a great start with a 1-0 victory over NCBIS with some superb football being played and a good goal scored by Youssef Eissa (G12G). A second game defeat by Choueifat left MES Cairo needing at least a point from their final group game against BISC. Despite totally dominating the match, MES Cairo fell victim to a breakaway goal and lost the match 1-0. This resigned the team to 3<sup>rd</sup> place in their group and a 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> place playoff against Choueifat (6<sup>th</sup> October). Once again, despite playing some fantastic free-flowing football, the team were unable to find the magical finishing touch to give them the win they so deserved. Comments were made by many of the other coaches that the brand of football that is now being seen in the MES Cairo teams is great to watch and of a style they would like their teams to be playing. A great start to the season which will hopefully be built on in their upcoming tournaments.

**Mr. J. Currie – Boys' Football Coach**





## MES CAIRO ACHIEVERS!

# OLYMPIC SUCCESS FOR MES CAIRO STUDENT!

Handball Hero – Yehia Omar (Y12R)



I was blessed to be selected to compete in the Youth Olympic Games in China this summer, where I represented Egypt in the Handball team. I felt that it was a huge privilege that I was able to go and represent my country. I was really excited when we won 2<sup>nd</sup> place, which gave us the Silver medal. The experience gave me a sense of leadership and I felt like I had honoured my commitment and met the challenge presented to me by my country.

It was an honour receiving the Silver medal. I met the President of Egypt and the Minister of Sport after the tournament. I also felt pride in my school when the people in China said that my friends and I had very good English! They were surprised by the level of our education as they had the misconception that the whole of Egypt was undeveloped.

I felt proud that I was able to show what Egypt is really like. It was a truly remarkable experience. We stayed at the Olympic village which was a terrific place to be with a lot of activities. Everything was very well-organised and I was honoured to meet people from all over the world.

**Congratulations, Yehia! The MES Cairo family is extremely proud of you. As you and your teammates continue to take Egyptian Handball from strength to strength, we will be watching your progress with great interest.**





# Nour Bahaa-El-Din (DP11R) Fantastic Fencing Champion!



## International Gold Medalist for Egypt and Olympic hopeful

Nour Bahaa-EL-Din (DP11R) has trained as a fencer for several years. She has participated in many Egyptian national competitions and has earned national medals in the sport.

Recently, she was delighted to be selected to join the Egyptian Fencing Team and to represent her country! On 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> October, Nour participated in the Junior Arab Fencing Championship that took place in Jordan.

She earned two Gold medals!

This was the first time that Nour represented Egypt in an international competition. She told us, "I felt like there was a huge burden on me but this made me even more eager to win and earn a Gold medal. I am glad that I was able to focus and that I found the resilience and perseverance to keep going and do my very best for Egypt."

Competing were fencers from countries including Jordan, Qatar, Lebanon, Iraq, Bahrain, and Emirates. Nour won all of her matches in the pools and made her way through to the final, in which she competed against Lebanon. The final match was very tense and challenging but she did us proud and won 10/4!

"One of the best moments was when the audience in the hall was cheering and applauding as I scored my final point and won the match. Then, standing on the podium with the Egyptian national anthem playing and flag hoisted above was an unforgettable and extraordinary experience that motivated me and my teammates to go on and win in the team competition. Although tired and exhausted, we beat the Bahrain team 36/19 in the final match."

Fencing is a demanding sport, both physically and mentally. Like other sports it requires dedication and commitment. Nour manages to balance her International Baccalaureate studies at MES Cairo with a rigorous training programme. She trains for three hours, four days per week at the Maadi club.

"The competition was an incredible experience for me. I got to know people from many countries and learn more about other cultures. I look forward to representing my country in other competitions soon and hopefully participating in the Olympics."

**Congratulations, Nour! The MES Cairo family is extremely proud of you. As you and your teammates continue to take Egyptian fencing from strength to strength, we will be watching your progress with great interest.**





# **IBDP student Youssef Ismail (DP12R) tells us all about his summer Internship at Baker & McKenzie International Law Firm in Cairo**

**A**s universities applications were coming towards me, I had the urge to find my passion and actually experience what it feels like to be part of the inner workings of a professional international law firm. This summer I decided to do something different, to grasp new experiences that would make me a more active member of society and have my goals set out in a coherent manner. I applied for a summer internship programme at one of the world's largest international law firms, Baker & McKenzie. This was a challenge, since I had to write up a CV and go through an interview in order to get accepted. There were many aspects of the internship that truly changed my outlook on work experience as a whole. I matured greatly through interactions I experienced with different people and learned much about how they each got to their positions in the legal field. The ability to share experiences with others gives you vital insights into a future career life that a regular student would not be able to grasp solely through classwork.



This internship showed me the inner constructs of a functioning worldwide law firm, in addition to granting me the opportunity to personally get involved as a training lawyer in many sorts of cases and legal tasks. A series of duties were given to me in the period I worked at the law firm; from drafting legal memos for clients to visiting Egyptian ministries for legal inquiries.

One day a lawyer came and gave me the task of independently visiting the Ministry of Labour to ask a legal question about Labour laws for expatriates in Egypt. This was rather challenging but with guidance from colleagues I was able to complete the task. Office-based work is a very important and fundamental part of working in a law firm, sitting for hours revising Egyptian Laws and writing up legal memorandums for clients in English was a major part of my work, in addition to drafting sales and recruitment contracts. One very fundamental part of working in the firm that I did not expect to be so vital was being fluent in Arabic. This showed me that no matter what sector of employment I am in, it is fundamental for one to be able to speak, read and write Arabic at a professional level. Since this branch of Baker & McKenzie is situated in Cairo, it was of great importance for one to be able to work with Arabic originated laws and contracts.

This experience underlined for me some clear distinctions between academics and work experience. Both are fundamental for success but cannot be replaced by the other. Both are very different but they build upon each other.

The opportunity to work at an international law firm showed me the good and the bad in the field I am aspiring to prosper in. I had the ability to reflect and consider issues of global importance and it raised my awareness of other legal systems around the world. The summer programme offered at Baker & McKenzie provided me with a clear vision of the type of challenges I might be facing in the future and gave me the ability to analyse and amend decisions that I will take in the near future about applications to university courses. The experience has helped me to set goals in my mind and has driven me away from certain aspects of the legal career that I have not found very interesting. I am hoping that this internship will strengthen my university application and I will rise up and compete with other students from all over the world. The internship at the world's biggest law firm will not only affect me personally but will grant me many other opportunities that arise from it.

I encourage all students to undertake work experience in the summer before their Senior year.

**Youssef Ismail (DP12R)**





## IBDP News

# CREATIVITY, ACTION, SERVICE (CAS)

## IBDP TRIP TO FAYOUM



**IBDP** students got their academic year off to an excellent start with their CAS programme launch residential to Tunis, Fayoum. Undeterred by scorching temperatures and the promise of rustic accommodation, twenty-seven students from both DP11 and DP12 set off for Fayoum. Throughout an action-packed three-day break, the students were exposed to a number of scenarios, many of them unfamiliar to them, that would contribute towards achievement of the CAS outcomes. Accompanied by the Dayma organisation which specialises in environmental activities, the students were to develop their knowledge and understanding of bio mimicry (taking a principle from nature and applying it to real life objects). Following our introductory evening, day one consisted of students taking part in horse riding and bird watching. Neither of these activities were overly familiar to the IBDP students, however all threw themselves into the challenge and made excellent progress.

The whole trip was interspersed with opportunities for students to display their creativity through observation of their surroundings and transference onto a number of sources. Creativity was further enhanced with a visit to a local pottery school. All students had the opportunity to experience pottery making first hand, ably guided but the young potters themselves. Many of the students, having never tried pottery making before, were taken aback by the level of difficulty in creating their own pieces. The pottery making experience was then followed by an opportunity for the students to carry out some community service with the local potters. MES Cairo IBDP students working in small groups, had the opportunity to advise and work with the potters on new designs for their pottery with the idea being to focus on designs from the bird watching and bio mimicry activities.

The creativity didn't stop there; what followed was a trip to the gallery and workshop of famous artist, Mohamed Abba, a full evening was spent in the completion of art activities and cooking dinner for the whole group, no mean feat when you consider there were over thirty-five people!



The following morning, students took to 4 x 4 vehicles and headed out into the desert. Wadi El Hitan is an area of natural outstanding beauty and a superb spot for MES Cairo students to explore and learn about. Despite high temperatures, hot water and for some, a lot of tiredness, students showed excellent reliance and were quite happy to take on the next challenge of sandboarding. A superb afternoon surfing the sand dunes capped off an exhausting day and the whole group headed back to the camp for a night to be spent in tents in the desert.

Over the course of the three days, all students were challenged, engaged and exposed to a whole range of activities, new and familiar. The trip served as a powerful starting point for the students CAS programmes which will continue to develop over the coming months. I look forward to seeing how these develop in the future.

As a whole, Fayoum was a very new experience and because of it, I did things I thought I would never do." **Maryam Toma (DP11)**

'Interesting, different and environmentally challenging.' **Farah Gouda (DP11)**

'Fayoum was an interesting, different experience. I undertook challenges I wouldn't have considered before and I enjoyed the trip.' **Mahum Asif (DP11)**

'I got to experience new challenges. The experience was wild!' **Sara Labib (DP11)**







'I really enjoyed it; I think it's an essential kick start to the IB Programme. When we arrived we were unfamiliar with each other and shy but when we came back we were more comfortable. We all had great experiences and bonded with different people.' **Yasmine El Shaer (DP11)**

'Fayoum was a great experience. I got to know the DP12s and DP11s much better. I really enjoyed all aspects of the trip, especially horseback riding.' **Hamzah Abdel-Majid (DP11)**

'Once I got involved and started to take part in activities, I started to love it and I really enjoyed this experience. It has changed me a lot. I loved the warm water and learned how

to live with no air conditioning, it was amazing.' **Abdullah Kilaney (DP11)**

'Fayoum provided a very rare bonding experience.' **Zubaydah Jibrilu (DP11)**

'I enjoyed Fayoum because I got the chance to try new challenges such as horseback riding and sandboarding. It allowed me to put aside technology for two days and still enjoy my time.' **Yasmina El Dairy (DP11)**

'Fayoum was a really fun experience and what I enjoyed most was horseback riding near the beach.' **Rami Fleifel (DP11)**

'The experience as a whole was unique and unforgettable. The three days were packed with activities that were challenging and new to most of us. I got to know my peers and teachers more and learn about a place I knew very little about.' **Nour Bahaa (DP11)**

'Fayoum was a really nice experience. I've learned a lot from it, for example horseback riding. I was able to engage myself more with the environment and learn about bio mimicry.' **Sousana Hakim (DP11)**

'Fayoum was a very enjoyable experience. I was happy to engage in different activities which I have never done before. We had an amazing time and we were able to do different things together that we wouldn't usually do.' **Iman Saleh (DP11)**

'I found Fayoum really enjoyable because of the new experiences like sandboarding.' **Abdelrahman Dessouky (DP12)**

'I enjoyed trying new experiences while finding out and appreciating the lifestyles of the locals.' **Ramy Awad (DP12)**

'Even though I had been to Fayoum many times before, it was still a new experience. I really enjoyed the horseback riding and the camping as I had not done either of these before.' **Farida Karawia (DP12)**

'I really enjoyed the horseback riding even though I was terrified but the sandboarding was a bit of a disaster for me. Overall it was a great trip and I enjoyed getting to know my peers in DP11 and 12.' **Rita Nassif (DP12)**

'This trip provided lots of new experiences and got the whole of the DP programme more synergised.' **Mo'men Taher (DP12)**

'Fayoum was an extraordinary experience as I tried new things such as horse-riding.' **Mohy Aboualam (DP12)**

'Fayoum was a challenging but enjoyable journey. I learnt many new skills which I thought would be beyond my expectations. Activities I enjoyed were sandboarding and horseback riding. This was a great trip to experience the beauty of nature.' **Hany Salama (DP12)**

'I enjoyed the activities we did and the food was very good.' **Ahmed Said (DP12)**

'I enjoyed many new activities and was exposed to new concepts.' **Salma Amer (DP12)**

'Fayoum was an amazing and different experience. We had so much fun.' **Merna Youssef (DP12)**

**Mr. L. Fearn – IA and CAS Coordinator**





# MES Cairo **Pioneers**



The MES Cairo Pioneers initiative was founded in 2011 by our Managing Director of Academic Affairs, Ms. Ghada Dajani. Her desire was to introduce a programme which connected the Primary and Secondary schools with one common purpose. Alongside this, it was Ms. Ghada's vision to bring to life the school's motto 'Leadership Through Education' with a programme for selected individuals who stand to benefit most from such an opportunity.

Although we are one school, a student roll of over 2100 makes maintaining that sense of family, which is so important to our community of students, parents, staff and directors, an ongoing challenge. There are various initiatives in Primary and in Secondary which work towards the realisation of this aim, but prior to the introduction of our Pioneers Programme, there was nothing which led from one to the other. Having identified this need, Ms. Ghada Dajani worked with the Heads of Sections and conceptualised an approach which, from its introduction in September 2012, has gone from strength to strength to strength; much like the first cohort of Pioneers who graduated from the programme last academic year themselves.

The purpose of MES Cairo Pioneers is to provide participating students access to a rich programme of personal challenges, which they commit to and complete. Modules can be compared to small steps on an inclining stairwell which take the MES Cairo Pioneer on a journey to graduation from the programme at the end of Grade/Year Eight. Badges earned along the way help students identify their successes and motivate them towards the final outcome. It has always been Ms. Ghada's aim, shared with all teachers who contribute to the programme in a myriad of different capacities, that each MES Cairo Pioneer who completes the programme will be able to reflect back on a journey that has allowed them to begin to recognise in themselves the qualities articulated in our MES Cairo Graduate Profile.

## **Awards Ceremony-June 2014**

Last June, we held a Pioneer Awards Ceremony to present awards of recognition to our successful Pioneers. Pioneer Coordinators and students presented facts and views about the Programme.

### **Mr. P. Downey's MESsage to the Year Five and Six Pioneers at the Awards Presentation – June 2014**

'This was my first year as Coordinator of the Primary Pioneers at MES Cairo. I am very proud of all sixty students in Years Five and Six for their commitment, attitude and achievements this year – particularly their team work and leadership qualities.

Thirty students from Year Five students joined the Pioneer scheme in September 2013. They have developed many new characteristics and qualities, which will help them in their future studies at MES Cairo. They completed ten badges over the year and many teachers from the Primary section commented on the polite, enthusiastic and mature attitudes they demonstrated towards their learning.

The Year Six Pioneers completed another ten badges and their second year as Pioneers. A highlight of their year was a Camp Craft day, when they were mentored by Senior students to learn camping techniques, survival skills, and teamwork skills. Their new skills, both practical and academic, will be a valuable asset for them when they start Year Seven.

The Pioneer scheme is a Whole School initiative and these students are given the opportunity to continue in Year/Grade Seven under the enthusiastic and trusted guidance of my Secondary Pioneer colleague, Miss Vallarino. I would like to thank all those who have helped the



Year Five Pioneers 2013 - 14



Year Six Pioneers 2013 - 14



Pioneer Programme to be a success. When organising the badges, trips and various events that take place in both Primary and Secondary, a lot of people have helped us behind the scenes.

I would like to thank Mr. Tom Maurice, the first teacher to coordinate the Primary Programme in 2012. Mrs. Godfrey and Mr. Poad supported the Programme and encouraged the students throughout the year. Every single Primary teacher working at MES Cairo has participated in the Primary Pioneer Programme in some way, providing activities after school. I would like to thank Mrs. Sawsan Dajani and Ms. Ghada Dajani, without whom these opportunities would not happen. Finally, I would like to thank the Primary Pioneers who are receiving a well-deserved award tonight. You have provided us with fun and laughter whilst also learning. Well done!

#### **Ms. B. Vallarino's MESsage to the Year Seven and Eight Pioneers at the Awards Presentation last June**

'Integrity. Commitment. Reflectiveness. Resilience. Resourcefulness. Pro-activity. These are just a few of the many words that define students who participate in the Secondary Pioneer Programme at MES Cairo.

This year, 57 Secondary Pioneers in Year and Grades Seven and Eight chose to participate in the Programme. Students participated in over forty two different after-school or off-campus activities during the course of the school year. While these activities ranged greatly in depth and breadth, they all suited the categories of Service, Adventurous Journey, Physical Recreation, and Skill - Categories essential to the Programme's core.

Students were able to push themselves on an intense and physically demanding twelve kilometre hike through Wadi Degla. They walked through the desert, even suffered through punishing heat, yet still had enough energy to work on training a dog. Comments such as: "I never thought I could do it...", "It was tiring, but I loved it..." echoed throughout the valley... as well as through the hearty crew of Pioneers.

Secondary Pioneers were able to take big risks during a visit to the Al Sorat Farm in Sakkara. Some saddled up and rode on horseback for the very first time. Others held baby goats in their arms. Comments such as "the goats were bony but cute,"... "I was so scared, but it turned out to be really fun," and, "After brushing the horse, I was covered in hair, but I loved it..." were heard throughout the day. Pioneers were even seen helping to prepare and set up a delicious lunch for the entire group.

The students were also lucky enough to participate in a Programme-wide Sandboarding trip. We met at school, climbed into 4x4s, and headed out to the pristine sand dunes past the 6<sup>th</sup> of October. It was a perfect day—the desert sky was blue, there was a cool breeze and most importantly, we were surrounded by friends. Comments like: "sand flew into my face and into my clothes, and I laughed...", "I sandboarded down the hill, and it was the best feeling ever...", and even "this is way better than Playstation!" resonated throughout the desert's sandy expanse.

The Secondary Pioneer Programme truly strives to give students new opportunities. However, the meaning of the word 'opportunity' is up to them to define.'

'I'd like to thank our teachers for helping us to face our fears and to become better people.' Lara Salem (G8B)

'Being a Pioneer has provided us all with many opportunities and enabled us to enhance our teamwork and Leadership skills.' Yassin El Gazzar (Y5R)



Year Seven Pioneers 2013 - 14



Year Eight Pioneers 2013 - 14



## 2nd Annual End of Year Pioneer Scavenger Hunt



**On** Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June, a marvellous event was prepared for the Secondary Pioneers. We participated in a Scavenger Hunt challenge full of risks, problem-solving, and adventurous moments. It was a great way to spend an afternoon developing skills of cooperation and teamwork. We met on the track at 3:00 pm and changed into our P.E. kits or Pioneer Gear. We were ready to go!



Earlier in the day, each Pioneer was sent their first clue - a note addressed to each student. These notes were printed with a celebrity photo. We had to identify the celebrity pictured on our letters, then we had to find our group members based on what celebrity photo we received. About 35 students participated in the event, making a total of seven groups. Once all of the Pioneers found their groups, the Scavenger Hunt was officially ready to begin!

Ms. Vallarino, the Secondary Pioneer Programme Coordinator, had arranged for a set of twenty clues to be given to each group. One representative from each was called upon to receive their first clue. The clue was then shared with the rest of their team mates. Right from this moment, we were ready to begin our adventure.

The skills needed to figure out the answers to the clues included; specialised knowledge, speed, teamwork, resourcefulness and risk-taking. We also engaged in map and country identification and hieroglyphic puzzles. We were running around the MES Cairo campus to find answers to clues - then taking selfies for proof! We designed an outfit made out of recycled paper; collected a bouquet of flowers; and even jumped into the pool in order to retrieve a certain object. It was a fun-filled afternoon. Once a clue was solved, the group had to run back to Ms. Vallarino in order to exchange their finished clue for a new one.

Time flew by. Before we knew it, it was already 3:50 pm and there was not one group who had yet completed their stack of clues! Ms. Vallarino stopped the activity, and counted all of the clues each group had left. The group with the least remaining number of clues would be regarded as the winner. After a few tense and stressful moments, the winners of the 2014 Pioneer Scavenger Hunt were finally announced. They were: Arwa Kheir (Y7B), Salma Khalil (G8B), Adam Shady (G8B), Shehab El Fadi (Y8B) and Yasin McKay (Y7R). All members of the winning group received a crown and a golden cup.

Even though there was only one group that officially won the event, all other Pioneers were rewarded with ice-cold Coca Colas, M&Ms and chips. We quickly enjoyed our refreshments before heading home. It was an exciting afternoon spent with friends and it gave us a chance to discover new things together. Students were also able to show off and develop their leadership skills. Unforgettable moments were enjoyed and special memories were made.

We would like to thank Mr. Davies, Ms. Lloyd, Ms. Posovich and Ms. Quarin for helping to supervise the event; as well as the entire SSLT for their guidance and support.

**Malak Hegab (G8B), Salma Khalil (G8B) and Ms. E. Vallarino - Secondary Pioneer Coordinator**





## SECONDARY PIONEERS WINDSURFING EXPERIENCE

**What** could be better than spending the weekend going to the mall, shopping or sticking to the same old boring routine?

### ADVENTURE!

This weekend, I really discovered what adventure means. I spent this weekend on a windsurfing and beach trip in Ras Sudr with forty-eight other Secondary students who participate either in the International Award or Pioneer Programme. This was the first trip of the year, and we were very lucky to be able to participate.

We left school early on Friday morning and drove under the Suez Canal through the Ahmed Hamdy tunnel. After a three-hour bus ride and chatting with our newfound friends, we arrived at the hotel called Paradise Resort. We changed into our beach gear, ate a delicious lunch and then went down to the beautiful beach.

We relaxed at a wooden beach hut while we organised ourselves into groups. The sun was shining, wind blew through my shirt and the golden sand was glimmering. It really was the best atmosphere ever! Once in groups, we all got a chance to kayak, windsurf, stand up paddleboard (SUP) or play beach volleyball. The windsurfing was difficult! It was, however, extremely amusing as many of us had never had an opportunity to do it before and it was funny to see people splashing into the water. After we participated in the beach activities, we all got a chance to have fun on the bean bag chairs that were strewn about the sand.

After a great afternoon in the sand and sea, we all went back to our rooms to shower and rest. A little while later we gathered for a barbeque dinner and were treated to a birthday cake to celebrate the birthdays of Mariam Shehata (Y10Y) and Ammar Heider (G7R). Once they blew out their candles, we gathered in a Bedouin tent! The atmosphere was special with a campfire in the middle. We feasted on a delicious desert of s'mores (roasted marshmallows, chocolate, and cookie sandwiches!) and bonded with each other. After a long and fun day, we finally went to sleep.

The next morning, we got up early, had breakfast, and walked to the beach. It was pretty early, and there was absolutely no wind. The ocean was very calm and it was extremely peaceful. We got back into our groups and spent the morning practicing our skills again. We perfected our beach talents and spent our last hours having the time of our lives!

It was finally time to go. We bid a sad farewell and shook out the sand from our swimsuits. We returned to the hotel to pack up and shower. Then it was time to get back on the buses for our return home.

It was a long journey to and from Ras Sudr, but it was the most amazing weekend ever. This is what I call real adventure.

Thanks to all of our chaperones: Ms. C. Posovich, Mr. D. McKoski, Ms. E. Vallarino, Mr. J. O'Conner, Mr. K. Ali and Ms. L. Castleberry.

**Omar Kamel (G11B) and Ms. E. Vallarino, Secondary Pioneer Programme Coordinator**





# SECONDARY PIONEERS - WADI DEGLA HIKE EXPERIENCE



**On** Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November MES Cairo was buzzing with activity. Thirty-six Secondary students, eight teachers and four MES Cairo security guards met and participated in the second annual Pioneer Programme and International Award trip of the year: a three-hour, twelve kilometre hike in Wadi Degla. Many of the students had participated in last year's trip and readily exhibited superb leadership and guidance to the first-time participants.



Returning hikers Ziad Ayoub (Y8Y), Mahmoud Badawy (G10Y) and Sherif Zikry (G11R) were spotted leading the way down the precipitous desert cliffs. They helped out and assisted their mates in a scramble down a steep rock face into the wadi's canyon. Their conscious and purposeful efforts allowed safe passage for all. Yousif Al Harbi (G11B) directed students to safer spots as the students carefully manoeuvred their way down a boulder strewn path. Rami Fleifel (DP11Y) took matters into his own hands and spent a good part of the hike picking up rubbish, fulfilling some International Baccalaureate's 'Community Action Service' hour requirements.

Laila Gamaleldin (G9R) and Hana Mattar (G10Y) led the pack with their non-stop singing. Malak Arafa (G10B) and Hoda Sherdy (G10B) supplemented their workout with enough sprinting to escape the tunes. Boys and girls from Year and Grade Seven through Eleven were mingling and getting to know one another. Friendships were sparked and renewed, smiling faces were evident and much laughter was had under the morning desert sun. Before we knew it, we were already upon our last six kilometres—and took a group break in a shady spot under a ledge. Ali Atia (Y9B) took out a book and proved to be the ultimate multi-tasker by walking and reading at the same time!

After the break we were ready to get back on the trail and continue on the desert floor. There was a rumour that Nadine Abougabal (G10B) and Mahmoud Badawy (G10Y) placed bets to see who could make it to the buses first. After a "Tortoise and the Hare"-esque showdown, we were left in the dust—and are still unsure as to who the winner was!

Abdallah Khalil's (G8R) positive attitude and general excitement was brought down a bit by a "pain in his leg" and we were all feeling a bit sorry for him after a long morning of walking. Shortly after, at the remaining three kilometre mark, he spotted another patch of shade, and the pain in his leg mysteriously disappeared as he sprinted to be the first to claim a cool and shady rock to lie out on.

After our second break, we were a short distance from civilisation and walked on over to the Maadi side of the wadi where the buses were waiting for us. At the exit lots of handshakes and hugs were exchanged. Can't wait for the next trip!

I would like to sincerely thank the other eight chaperones for making the hike possible: Ms. A. El Rify, Ms. C. Posovitch, Mr. D. Erbach, Mr. K. Ali, Ms. K. Battioni, Mr. R. Battioni and Ms. Sarah El Rify.

**Ms. E. Vallarino – Secondary Pioneers Coordinator**





# PRIMARY PIONEERS - TERM ONE NEWS!



**Miss Jordana - Primary Pioneers Coordinator**

This is my first year as coordinator and so far it's been a fantastic start with lots of fun activities in Primary Pioneers!! We've introduced lots of new activities such as the 'Relaxed individual' and the 'Life-saver'! The relaxed individual was designed to show everyone the importance of getting that much needed down time after a busy day at MES Cairo! The life-saver is a combination of swimming and lifesaving techniques such as treading water and holding onto floating objects for as long as possible! I've had a great time so far and I'm looking forward to the rest of the year!



**Moritz Breiteringer (Y5G)**

I love Pioneers! We do lots of fun activities like orienteering and life-saving. I never want to leave Pioneers, it is so much FUN!

**Bakry Hisham (Y5O)**

When I first started I didn't know life-saving would be this much fun; wearing other clothes, jumping in the water or holding onto an empty bottle. I love this awesome badge!



**Sanwal Hasan (Y6B)**

I really enjoy Pioneers. I have learnt new skills and really enjoyed the sandboarding trip! It was so much fun. I can't wait for this year's trip!



**Omar Sabbour (Y6G)**

I've always wanted to join the Pioneers. It was my dream to be in it. Now it's come true. I'm trying to earn all the badges with skill and intelligence.

**Famous Pioneers who have changed the world:** Maria Montessori (Education), Martin Luther King Jr. (Human Rights) Albert Einstein and Thomas Edison (Science) and Coco Chanel (Fashion).



**Lara Karim (Y6R)**

The Pioneer Programme gives you an amazing opportunity to participate in exciting activities such as surviving in the wilderness, learning to twist and sandboarding to name a few. You also get to make great friends along the way. There are many more topics we learn through fun and Pioneers teaches us that knowledge can be fun!



**Karim Asad (Y6R)**

I think Pioneers is very fun and teaches us important skills to have in life. I am always looking forward to every week of our Pioneer badges.



**Nahed Elberry (Y5B)**

Hi I am Nahed. This is the first year for me as a Pioneer. I have really enjoyed everything so far. Pioneers helps you learn and at the same time makes learning fun! All the teachers make Pioneers better! If you were a Pioneer you would never want to leave school!



# Marvellous Mentors at MES Cairo!

Suddenly, there I was, faced with a mountain of applications for the Senior Student Mentor Programme in which Year, Grade and DP12 support our younger students during their first year of Secondary. The deadline was set and the applications flowed in – there was nothing else to do but devise a system for ‘grading’ the applications! Letters were scoured, references collected and processed, photographs checked – then onto a mammoth session of reading and ‘grading’ the letters of application. What we look for every year during this process is what the applicant can bring to the programme; it is not so much about how it is going to benefit the mentor but how they are going to benefit their mentees and this was the basis of my ‘grading’ system.

This time the applications were so strong, the decision making process had to involve Ms. Clingan, Mr. Tomlin and Mr. El Metaal in order to finalise our successful applicants. We then interviewed most of the applicants to find out what makes them ‘tick’. We were especially blessed with the calibre of our applicants and the numbers. Some students were naturally disappointed that they didn’t make the list this year – we have managed to find other important projects for them to get involved in, they just don’t get to wear the flashy red polo shirt! We have appointed 35 student mentors and the programme has now grown to include supporting Year and Grade Eight homerooms.

We started the year with an induction session the day before all of the other students were back in school. We were impressed that the mentors willingly gave up the last day of their holiday! As I write this article, some of our mentors are giving up more of their spare time to prepare for the Year Seven visits to Old Cairo. The mentors have really impressed the teaching staff with their commitment and enthusiasm.

## Thoughts on the Mentoring Programme from Senior Student Mentors

**Nader Raafat (Y12R):** ‘Year Seven is a tough year for many reasons. Whether it’s the increased difficulty of the subjects, the need to quickly come to terms with your newfound independence or even the onset of the emotional rollercoaster that is puberty; the first year of Secondary is hardly a walk in the park. Yet despite all these things (or possibly because of them), Year Seven has the potential to be one of the most exciting years of your life, a time for self-discovery and exploration, as well as offering you numerous opportunities to shine, thus setting the pace for your many years to come at Secondary school. That is why I have chosen to become a Senior Student Mentor this year, not only because I look back at my own time in Year Seven with a satisfied (and somewhat nostalgic) smile, but also because I remember just as much with a twinge of shame and regret; if only my own student mentors had given me the correct pointers back then, it would probably have made Year Seven even more enjoyable and fulfilling for me. In short, I became a mentor so that I would be empowered to make a difference in the students’ lives and help advise and guide them so that they can make the most of their time here in Secondary.

If I needed any confirmation that mentoring would be one of the highlights of my Senior year, I had it in the form of the Year Six Induction Days. During these two days, I had the privilege of working with a wonderful group of students, all bursting with enthusiasm and looking forward to Secondary. For the first day, the students were introduced to some of the lessons they didn’t have in primary, such as DT and Drama, as well as being given a tour of Secondary and taught how to find their way around. However, it was the second day that teachers, mentors and students alike found more fun! Leaving the familiar walls of MES Cairo behind them, the Year Six students headed out into the harsh desert of the Waadi to see what challenges Mr. Fearn and Mr. Walker had prepared for them there. In order to develop their teamwork and get to know their new homeroom groups, they were asked to organise themselves into a team, with each person receiving a specific role, and then asked to build a maze in the ground using the materials provided. It was my absolute pleasure to motivate them and encourage them throughout the day, and even more remarkable than their ability to achieve the task despite the scorching heat was the way in which they overcame their differences and conflicts and developed not only as a team, but as individuals too, over the course of the day. Sweaty and exhausted, they then headed back to the cool haven of the school theatre and presented





what they did and learned throughout the day with a commendable confidence and maturity. At the end of the induction programme, I had gotten to know the future Year Seven students better, and the students themselves now eagerly anticipated secondary. I can't wait to work with you more this year, Y7R!

**Mohy Aboualam (DP12R):** 'I applied to become a mentor mainly to be able to help our younger students in answering the questions that I wanted answers to when I was in my first couple of years as a Secondary student. The big transition from Primary to Secondary school is one of the greatest obstacles that a student meets in their school lives.

Younger students gain several benefits from the mentoring programme, which provides them with reassurance and takes away the anxiety they feel as the youngest students in Secondary. The relationship between a student mentor and his mentee (in this case the younger students) is one that does not necessarily have the kind of formality which exists in the relationship between a student and their teacher. Therefore, this allows the younger students to express themselves more freely.'

**Mahira Ahmed (G12Y):** 'With the endless opportunities and programmes that MES Cairo offers to its students, I can easily say that the mentoring program is amongst my favourites. One of the most impressive things about this programme specifically is that it not only benefits the younger students who need support, but it also provides the mentors themselves with skills that are undoubtedly useful for everyday life in the future.

For the younger students, having a mentor is having a backbone of support. The students are going through a transitional phase in their lives where they're trying to make sense of what's going on around them. Needless to say, they sometimes seem lost. As mentors, we give them the opportunity to ask for help and support from students just like them; students they can relate to who have gone through the same experience. It was only a few years ago that we were in their position and got through it, and now we're here to show them how to do the same.

Mentoring is a time when you need to put all your personal issues and difficulties behind you to completely devote yourself to helping those who need your help the most, and it's definitely worth it.'



**Farida Karawia (DP12R) and Habiba Salama (Y12B):** 'Mentoring has become one of the things we look forward to during my mornings. On the days we go to our Year Seven homerooms we are always more motivated to go to school in a positive mood. Being a Senior Mentor continues to be a fantastic learning experience, as well as the fact that it is a pleasure to spend time with the younger students. I was extremely excited when I found out that I was accepted onto the Senior Student Mentoring Programme. It is a great opportunity to get to meet the younger students and to help them get through their first years of Secondary.'

All I can say is – it's going to be a great year for our Marvellous Mentors here at MES Cairo!

**Ms. M. Ingham – Secondary HRCF Coordinator**





# MARBLE MADNESS AT MES CAIRO!



Every fortnight on a Wednesday, as it has always been, the whole of secondary attend HRCF; Homeroom Community Forum. It is an opportunity where we can forget about other subjects and focus on ourselves and fellow students in our Homeroom. However, the first HRCF session of the academic year involved a little surprise! Every student in Year, Grade and DP11 reunited to participate collaboratively on an activity organised by Mr. Campbell. The aim of the activity was to encourage the cohort to bond across the three Secondary Sections.

Each student was given a country to represent during registration. This was an intriguing mystery as we didn't know what was going on at first and I wasn't sure why I was representing America, Hussein was representing Egypt, Nour was representing France and one hundred and twenty others were representing different countries. We endured three periods of eager curiosity!

At last it was time for HRCF, a moment we had been inquisitively debating the entire morning. Our homeroom teachers directed us to the field.

We gathered on the field, each group holding their flags high, waiting for instructions. The talk was hushed as soon as Mr. Campbell cleared his throat.

Alongside him were eight other teachers. He picked up a longitudinally cut half of a plastic pipe and held it up for everyone to see. The field had been split into six areas; each part was the territory of a particular country. Our fellow peers had become a population. We each held a pipe and lined them up so that they created a channel for 30 marbles to pass through from and to each country. Each pipe was no more than two metres long and within each population there were approximately twenty determined students. In other words, we had to get the marbles from one 'territory' to another. 'Challenging' is the best word to describe the task we were set. We all assumed the inevitable, that it would be impossible, we were just too many students scattered

all across the field and there was bound to be misdirection and lack of communication – it just was not going to work. We were quickly reminded that we had been brought together to prove that the impossible was possible.

Collaboration was needed to achieve the continuous flow of marbles. We turned the football pitch into a marble run. The only sounds we could hear were the voices of students prompting each other to keep the marbles moving. There was a huge amount of enthusiasm throughout that tense hour which brought out the best in all of us. We all had the same objective, driving us to achieve success. The activity taught us different things about each other such as who the leaders are and who is more clumsy than others! People who had never spoken to each other before were now engaged in a common goal; people who doubted the outcome of this activity were proven wrong; students were united and there was no longer a sense of division between the three Sections.

You don't need much to bring out the best in people, a pipe and some marbles will do the job! What really matters is the concept of cooperation and communication with others. The most important concepts that I learnt during this hour-long experience are that success is attained through listening to people around you and that it is essential to think of the consequences of your actions.

We should all learn from this: an activity to us students but an example to the world. You see, the marbles represent peace. The objective was to pass on peace to each country without falling. This should be applied to the real world, not with marbles of course but with actual harmony and peace. If countries were meant to be separated then each country would have its own planet. The fact of the matter is that we all share one world just as we students share one school. There should be some form of collaboration and harmonious relations between one another.

Overall, the marble activity helped us to improve our communication skills, our teamwork skills and our leadership skills; all of which are skills that we will use in the future. It was actually great fun when we started rolling the marbles and everyone had to be ready. This activity would have been impossible to complete if we hadn't talked and helped each other. Also, it was a really good idea to gather our whole year group together and make us participate in this activity. I made us get along and we saw the people that we will be graduating with.

**Collaboration is the key to success!**

**Samuel El Metaal (Y11B), Youssef Abaza (G11Y) and Yasmine El Shaer (DP11R)**





# SENIORS GO MAD FOR MARBLES!



**One** of the many unique aspects of MES Cairo is its determination to take education beyond the classroom in order to help broaden its students' skills. A prime example of this would be the recent team working activity in HRCF.

This year's Seniors were split into groups and named after countries, from the USA to Egypt. We were given pipes with the objective of using them to pass down marbles from "start" to "finish". It isn't as easy as it sounds. With around one hundred and sixty students spread across the vast field, it was quite a challenge! Eventually, with hard work and communication, we managed to get ourselves organised; first as countries, then as one whole unit. It turned out to be a great success.

Many students would agree that this experience was beneficial to us. Teamwork helps to develop both social and personal skills.

"Working together has made this goal possible!"- **Hana Alim (Y12G)**

The 'countries' did have to listen to each other and articulate their own ideas, as well as offer constructive criticism in order to pass the marbles around. This mutual support and encouragement helped us to reach an objective that would have been impossible on our own. We demonstrated the actions we would need to take when resolving real life conflict.

"It gave me a chance to make friends with students in the American section." - **Osama Boushy (Y12B)**

'Each country had a section of the field, which was "their land" and the aim of the activity was to pass marbles around from country to country. The objective of the activity was to teach us the importance of good communication skills and teamwork, which could only be achieved with a lot of patience. If just one person were not cooperative, the whole system would fail. This is true in many real life situations. However, it turned out to be a lot of fun and a great way to get to know better many people in our year group.'

**Shams Arafa (G12G)**

It was the first HRCF we spent as a year group in secondary and at first we were all confused. First we were sorted into countries and each country had a mix of American, British and IB section students. The next stage was what I believe to be the experiment. Throw the year group into a chaotic situation and hope we act out animal instincts and group together. Although not as dramatic as I put it, it was quite hectic and confusing. To my own surprise, out of this chaos of a situation and with no guidance from teachers, we were able to establish order. The situation itself may have seemed trivial, but was much more symbolic in nature. There was co-operation between different countries and people that may never have interacted. I learned something I had not observed before! Like ants, we work well in numbers as a team.

**Yousef Sabry (Y12G)**

We got to converse and interact with people whom we may not have had the opportunity to talk to before. This exchange of new ideas and ways of thinking helps expand personal viewpoints on subjects and improves innovation skills. Each student contributed something which helped create a more efficient way of reaching our aim rather than having only one person coming up with a solution.

For Seniors, this exercise prepared them for upcoming events of this year, such as the Prom and the Senior Trip for which we will need to work together and plan.

For me, this exercise was a metaphor for the world as a whole. During this brief time, we illustrated how countries should work in unity, together, to achieve international goals and objectives. MES Cairo is preparing us for the future.

**By Gina Osman (Y12R)**





# STAFF AMAZING RACE AND STUDENT EXTRAVAGANZA



The

2014-15 MES Cairo Secondary House competition was eagerly anticipated as soon as the new Heads of House were announced in the summer term. Ms. Stern (Selket), Ms. Walker (Kheper) and Ms. Vallarino (Edgo) were keen to impress and apply pressure on Mr. Marel, the veteran leader of Amun.

The House Competition got off to a flying start in the first week of September before the students had even registered for the year. Staff took time out from their busy planning schedule to take part in the Inaugural New Cairo 'Amazing Race'. All members of staff gathered on a hot Thursday afternoon to compete against each other, completing various 'treasure hunt' tasks. The aim was to complete as many tasks as possible and for everyone to finish at a designated eating establishment.

Heads of House tactically split their teams in order to delegate tasks and cover more ground in the limited time. Some tasks could be completed around the MES Cairo campus, including taking your picture with a bus driver and searching for the locations of administration staff. Once completed there was a flurry of activity in the bus chute as staff wrestled with each other to get on the first buses to leave. Staff proceeded to collect various supermarket carrier bags, business cards, flowers, fruit and other requested items from many hotels, golf clubs, restaurants and shopping malls in the New Cairo and Rehab area. Some challenges needed photographic evidence including staff posing in a dental clinic and a barber's shop. They even had to dive into a swimming pool and complete the ice bucket challenge!

After a couple of hours of sweat and mayhem, staff congregated at a local eating establishment to complete the final task which was to produce a map of the New Cairo area using their new found knowledge. Some of the results were colourful if not totally accurate!

Kheper, led by Ms. Walker and her enthusiastic team, managed to claim victory, closely followed by Selket. In third place was Amun and bringing up the rear was Edgo.

On completion of the Amazing Race Secondary staff were joined by Primary colleagues to celebrate this event and to also congratulate each other on the successful completion of their first hectic but rewarding week at MES Cairo.

## Student Extravaganza

At the start of each school year there is always a flurry of House Activities in order to initiate new staff and students into this exciting and innovative area of MES Cairo life and to revive all the skills and talents that we witnessed last year when Kheper triumphed. So, in glorious sunny conditions, Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September witnessed the legendary and hugely popular annual House Extravaganza.

The House Extravaganza once again proved to be a huge event, involving all Secondary staff and students on the school field participating in a series of testing physical and mental events.







**Amun were victorious! Kheper came a close second, Edjo third and Selket finished in last place. This Amun victory saw them reclaim their crown after a recent dip in their dominance of the Extravaganza event.**

### **Beat the Keeper**

Every dog has its day, or enjoys their fifteen minutes of fame. Kheper enjoyed a dramatic victory when they won by a single point. This victorious performance was inspired by a simply stunning performance from general sporting lightweight Mr. Shooter, who displayed remarkable athletic ability and agility - reminding older spectators of the famous Gordon Banks' save from Pele in Mexico. The final result was as follows:

**1st Kheper 68 - 2nd Selket 67 - 3rd Edjo 62 - 4th Amun 60**

Kheper edged into the lead by just one point but in the end there was only one winner . . . football.

REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR HOUSE T-SHIRT EVERY WEDNESDAY and follow Mr. Shooter's inspirational lead. Budding statistician, Nader Rafaat (Y12R), worked out Mr. Shooter's save percentage was a phenomenal 81%. Scheduling difficulties meant that Mr. 'Total Football' Marel was absent from this competition but he was replaced by a student who played with great heart and typified what it means to be a team player. Mr Ofosu also caught the eye with some acrobatic dives – but there was no catching Mr. Shooter, who was last heard discussing offers from Accrington Stanley with his agent!

### **Speed Stacking**

Yet again, the SPEED STACKING House activity proved to be a popular and entertaining event. There were many great individual performances and it was nail-biting until the last cup was stacked. At the end of the student challenge, Amun had the lead with six victories, Edjo and Kheper with four and Selket with just three. Heads of House then competed with each other which saw the return of Ms. Stern, the caped Selket crusader. There were whispers on the circuit that Ms. Stern had spent the whole summer in an altitude training camp in the Black Hills of Dakota. Well, whatever the rumours, Ms. Stern unleashed her speed and dexterity, (like Wyatt Earp at the 'OK Coral'), to claim three victories and power Selket through to second place with six victories. Amun held on to first place with seven, with Edjo and Kheper finishing all square on five each. Well done to Mr. Marel and his imperious Amun army! Maybe we have finally discovered a new sport that the Dutch can excel at!

### **Student Council**

As ever at MES Cairo, school life is constantly evolving. The House Extravaganza, because of its popular mix of fun and long-standing tradition of organised mayhem has always been a firm fixture on the calendar. However, more importantly, the MES Cairo Student Council now also occupies a crucial and important role in student life representing democracy and student involvement in important decisions. Last year the executive committee of the Student Council met with SSLT to discuss student concerns over on-site catering. After lengthy discussions, the Student Council helped shape the new catering options. The Student Council is becoming a respected and mature body and provides an excellent platform for MES Cairo students to apply and develop the key skills from the MES Graduate profile.

Congratulations to all the students who took part in the Student Council elections. The standard of election speeches from all candidates was once again extremely high,







reflecting the seriousness and importance that students attach to this prestigious honour. After vigorous debate and impassioned public speaking, we are able to announce the final results.

### The MES Cairo Student Council 2014/ 15 is:

SELKET	AMUN	KHEPER	EDJO
Jana Amr Talaat (Y7R)	Farida Effat (G7R)	Rawan AbouEl Fadl (Y7B)	Ziad Ahmed (G7G)
Farida Naser (Y8R)	Ibrahim El Miar (G8B)	Youssef Fikry (G8B)	Yassin Massoud (Y8G)
Tala Mosalam (Y9R)	Ali Attia (Y9B)	Nay Assem (Y9G)	Malak El Ahwal (G9R)
Zeyad Hussein (Y10G)	Bahira Elkerdani (Y10G)	Samy Shelbaya (G10B)	Youssef Hanna (G10R)
Farah Abdelsalem (Y11R)	Norhan Madkour (Y11R)	Sara Gameldin (G11R)	Sherien Shatta (G11B)
Ahmed Heiba (G12B)	Meriam Hatem (G12Y)	Nesreen El-Halawi (Y12R)	Nader Rafaat (Y12R)
		Nada Rizk (G12Y)	

The 2014-15 MES Cairo Student Council elections attracted almost 80 student candidates this year, all keen and eager to represent their fellow students and 'make a difference' at MES Cairo.

The Student Council elections were advertised through the student bulletin, HR time, on the House boards, and at various other locations around school. The elections were also promoted on Moodle, during assemblies and by word of mouth. This year's nominees were also asked to produce a poster, which saw some thought-provoking artwork, slogans and campaign promises festooned around the Secondary school.

Heads of House did a wonderful job promoting the elections to students and gave up a lot of their own time to check speeches, or vet posters, make videos, recruit previous council members for assemblies and support their candidates. Apart from the quality of the final speeches, Heads of Houses also noted that the promotional day in the yard was great way to increase student interest. This naturally produced more candidates who were committed and enthusiastic. Many teachers welcomed the opportunity to engage their classes in high quality debate concerning democracy and national pride. The elections promoted vital skills for our students who we hope will one day have a prominent role in leading their own countries.







## SECONDARY HOUSE NEWS

### Kheper

This is my first year as Kheper Head of House and it has been a very positive, rewarding and successful start. We are fighting hard to defend our title as House Champions 2013/2014. The house competition is now in full swing and the points are adding up. Kheper achieved first place in the Staff House Extravaganza and Beat the Keeper. Not only did the Kheper students score more goals than all of the other houses, the Kheper keeper also made some legendary saves and we conceded the least amount of goals!

Performances in the Student House Extravaganza and Musical Intros Quiz have earned us second place and third place in the Speed Stacking. The Kheper representatives have also been working hard and putting forward lots of interesting and creative ideas to the Student Council. I'm really looking forward to see what the rest of the year has in store for us. "Keep it up, Kheper!"

**Ms. O. Walker – Kheper Head of House**

### Amun

Discussions at the beginning of the school year confirmed that Amun House was the favourite to win this year's MES Cairo House Competition. As Amun's Captain, I thoroughly agreed and I am confident that Amun will be victorious at the end of the year too! I am extremely proud that all members of Amun are living up to the high expectations and not collapsing under the extraordinary pressure. During the House Extravaganza on the field, members of Amun were shown to possess a wide variety of exceptional talents. Students revealed their physical dominance over the other Houses at the athletic stations whilst confirming their academic talents at the 'Pictionary' station. The beauty of Amun is that this demonstration of excellence continues during the House activities every Wednesday at second break on the yard. I also admire Amun's staff members who have also shown to have an equal amount of dedication and enthusiasm to win this year's competition.



Thank you Amun for your contributions and enthusiasm so far! Let's give it all we have got on Sports Day and the activities on the yard! Let this be our year! Let historians conclude that 2014/2015 was Amun's year! Let's hold this trophy over our heads at the end of the year! Let's win the trophy!! **COME ON AMUN!**

**Mr. J. Van Der Marel – Amun Head of House**

### Edjo

The House competition is now under way and at the start of the term, following a few House announcements to welcome our newest Grade and Year Seven Edjo members, we broke up into our smaller teams and scattered onto the field for the House Extravaganza. Edjo got off to a fantastic start with lots of positive attitude and excitement reverberating throughout the afternoon. Malak Arafa (G10B) particularly enjoyed sprinting through the field with a wet sponge in her hand. She gained valuable house points as she squeezed out water into a bucket. "It was fun because the Extravaganza gives us an opportunity to get out of our school routine," she said. Hassan Sheta (G10G) wholeheartedly agreed. "I can't wait to do it again next year!" The House Extravaganza gives students an opportunity to forge new friendships with students from all sections of Secondary and this event is a wonderful way to start the year.

**Ms. E. Vallarino – Edjo Head of House**

### Selket

Selket has started off the year as true scorpions, strong and ready to strike. The Annual Autumn Music Intro contest was great fun. Selket was the only team to correctly identify 'No Light No Light' by Florence and The Machine. Our hip team of music lovers were also able to recognise songs by The Doors, Arcade Fire and Kings of Leon. Their hard work clenched us a third-place finish. The Selket performance at the House Extravaganza was full of spirit, energy, and enthusiasm. Selket always builds the tallest 'Jenga' towers, excels at blanket volleyball, score hundreds in corn-hole, shoots the most baskets and jumps rope better than any other house. We even succeeded at the water break stations. At the end of the day, it truly felt like a win. Our equally solid performances in the Beat the Keeper, Speed Stacking and the Staff Extravaganza have put us in good position to advance as house champions this year. I can't believe the amazing spirit and energy of the Yellow Machine.

Congratulations to this year's Selket student council representatives: Jana Talaat (Y7R), Farida Naser (Y8R), Tala Mosalam (Y9R), Zeyad Hussein (Y10G), Farah Abdelsalem (Y11R) and Ahmed Heiba (Y12B). They promise to represent Selket proudly and work to help introduce ways to enhance student life at MES Cairo.

### GO SELKET!

**Ms. G. Stern – Selket Head of House**





# Secondary ASAs are Up and Running!



**T**erm One Secondary ASAs are up and running with a bang. Students were given twenty-five different ASAs to choose from in a range of areas including the Arts, Academics and Physical activities. The uptake from students has been excellent with 205 signing up to the different activities. Participation from the students has been excellent with outstanding engagement witnessed across the range of provision.

MES Cairo students have once again demonstrated their desire to show care for their local community with over forty students signing up for the 'Adopt a School' ASA. The participants involved are currently planning a whole range of fundraising events to take place over the remainder of Term One and into Term Two. In addition, creativity has been flowing in the Power of Print ASA, Creative Crafts and Dungeons and Dragons, where students have had the opportunity to express themselves and unleash new ideas in a variety of fashions.

The ASA Programme has also provided opportunities for students to keep up with and get ahead with their academic studies. Homework club has proved to be as popular as ever and senior students have also taken on the opportunity to use staff expertise for extra SAT practice. It has been a pleasure to watch the staff and students developing such a diverse ASA programme during Term One and I look forward to seeing this develop as we head into Term Two.

**Mr. L. Fearn – Secondary ASA Coordinator**





# PRIMARY AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES (ASAs)



The Primary ASA Programme for Term One 2014 was met with great enthusiasm from children and staff alike. The range of activities offered to children from Years Two to Six has been vast, capturing the interest of many children. In fact, there are 366 children participating in an ASA this term!

Staff dug deep into their creative and imaginative minds and as a result the students have the opportunity to select an activity that will enhance many different areas of their development. These areas are education, technology, arts and crafts, performing arts, cooking, physical movement, languages and social skills.

It is a pleasure to walk around the various activities from 3.00pm until 4.00pm and see the children interacting with the staff and other children, fully engaged and thoroughly enjoying the activities. I have seen Year Six students working with Ms. Mona (FS2 teacher) to create some amazing glass paintings. Years Three and Four students have been working

with a gymnastics coach to learn new skills and create routines. Lots of students from Years Five and Six have been busy creating art and craft pieces, with some making some very spectacular beaded jewellery, which takes much patience and focus as the beads are tiny and very fiddly! We also have a French cooking group which I am very keen to visit and see what delicious treats I can sample! These are just some examples of activities that are taking place as we have 26 different ASAs running each week.

**Ms. Lauren Fearn – Primary ASA Coordinator**

## SPOTLIGHT ON THE MESSENGER ASA!



This Term, the MESsenger news room has been buzzing with activity every Tuesday after school. Journalists from Year Seven, Grade Eight and Year Twelve have been working on articles in a simulated live newsroom environment. We have been drafting, editing and working on the layout of our articles. We have also been taking photographs, holding interviews with people around the school and chasing up contributions from other students and teachers.

It's like a real newsroom. Sometimes there is a lot of pressure to meet deadlines and we wish we had more time to finish things off. We usually take our articles home to complete them in our own

time. I have really enjoyed working on the MESsenger this term and have helped to supervise the younger students as part of my Community Service. We plan articles together and then edit them carefully to make sure the language is accurate. Mrs. Sheehan and Ms. Boswell help us with the editing and give us suggestions, ideas and advice. It was great when the Year Seven students brought in a fantastic MESsenger-themed cake to celebrate the completion of this issue and to show our appreciation for this term's club.

"MESsenger Club has been so much fun!" Ali Kamel (Y7R)

"I loved seeing the final print of my article." Aisha Mazen (Y7R)

**Gina Osman (Y12R) - MESsenger Journalist**





# ADOPT A SCHOOL

MES Cairo helps Katameya Primary School make a great start to the Academic year



**Service** is all about reaching out to others to provide support either to individuals or to a community. In a marvellous annual display of service, on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September, a keen group of Secondary Section British, American and IBDP students coming from the National Honor Society, the Junior National Honor Society, and the Y/G Seven and Eight Pioneers, travelled to Katameya Primary, our MES Cairo 'Adopt a School', in order to help distribute over 2,000 'School Supply Backpacks' to each and every one of the children there, as well as to the children of the school staff.

Each of the classes, up to and including Year Six at Katameya Primary has between seventy and seventy-three students sitting three to a table side by side, and the anticipation of the children awaiting the arrival of our students was intense. Wonderful smiles and exclamations of delight were the order of the day as our MES Cairo students happily and confidently came into classrooms and began to distribute bright red 'School Supply Backpacks'.





Notebooks, colouring books, pens, pencils, erasers, sharpeners and a water flask were all emptied on to desks as delighted children carefully examined each and every item from their backpacks, and then carefully placed them back.

It was a great honour for all MES Cairo participants to be at Katameya Primary where, without exception, the children were patient, polite and appreciative as our students went from class to class. Katameya Primary was, moreover, spotlessly clean, and the colourful murals which the MES Cairo IBDP11 students had painted on the school yard walls two years ago remain vibrant, cheerful and inviting.

To Ms. Ghada Dajani - MES Cairo's Managing Director, whose superb organisation of the visit was marvellous to behold - a thousand thanks for making it all happen so beautifully.

**Mr. M. Kirby - Whole School Principal**





# Supporting a Local Orphanage



**Giving** back to our community is an integral part of being a student at MES Cairo. *Go To Know* ([www.go-toknow.com](http://www.go-toknow.com)) is a company that helps to organise some school trips. We contacted this company and they told us that a part of their income from trips organised for MES Cairo students will be dedicated to providing trips around Cairo for students who are less fortunate. We were delighted to hear this!

Following discussions, a decision was made to dedicate these trips to Dar El Yousr Orphanage in Tagamoa Al Khamis. Dar El Yousr is an orphanage that opened its doors to eight young boys about ten years ago. It caters for boys of around ten

years of age, until they had their latest unexpected addition, Badr, who showed up on their doorstep when he was just a few days old. Now he is two years old and he brings nothing but joy and laughter to his brothers.

Together with Ms. Salwa, the kind lady that oversees the orphanage, Mohamed Yahia from *Go To Know* started working on a programme of trips for the boys, with their first trip being to Alexandria, 'The Pearl of the Mediterranean', on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

I went to visit the boys to see what they thought of the trip. They were jumping around with joy trying to tell me about everything they did. They started their day by going to visit the Qaitbay Citadel. Some of the children commented, "I loved seeing the Citadel, I remembered everything we studied in class about the fights and started imagining we were soldiers. We were pretending to hide from imaginary arrows!" "I loved the Catacombs of Kom el Shoqafa", jumped in Abdallah, "seeing it all was like living in a book!" Ashraf then squeaked, "The Pompey's Pillar is BIG, you can't imagine how big it is, it is very, very, very BIG!"

I then asked them if they had gone to the beach and they all burst into spontaneous giggling. Alaa then explained, "We had promised Mama we would not go into the water and only stand at the shore holding hands, but then a small wave hit and we got wet a little, so we took a step in. Another bigger wave hit and we got wetter, we looked at Mama and pleaded and she told us that it's alright and we could play as we liked". I looked at Hoda who said, "I couldn't possibly say no!" They then ended their day with a seafood lunch which they thoroughly enjoyed and made their way back to Cairo.

On my way out, the boys asked me to pass on their gratitude to the Modern English School Cairo family for giving them this opportunity. We have more trips planned for the boys and we will keep you all updated, because YOU are the reason they are getting the opportunity to go on these trips.

Do you have any ideas on where the boys should go next? If you do, then let us know!

**Ms. Randa Ashour – Assistant Business Manager**





# WELCOME!

## MEET OUR NEW MES CAIRO TEACHERS!

### Ms. Vikki Esplin – Key Stage One

Hello everyone, my name is Vikki Esplin and I am very excited to be here in Cairo. I have joined MES Cairo as the Assistant Headteacher for the Early Years Foundation Stage. I was born in Devon in the United Kingdom and grew up in the countryside by the sea. I completed a BSc in Applied Psychology at Cardiff University in Wales, where I did a placement year with a Forensic Clinical Psychologist and worked in a Prison. I have worked in special needs schools as a teaching assistant and as a volunteer for the National Autistic Society. I studied my teaching PGCE and Master's Degree at Cambridge University where I specialised in Primary teaching and I completed a thesis on Maths and creativity. I have worked overseas in Hanoi, Vietnam for the British Council and at The British School of Kathmandu in Nepal. However, the majority of my teaching career has been spent in inner-city London. I moved to Egypt with my Canadian partner and I'm looking forward to camping under the stars in the desert and to exploring the depths of the Red Sea. I love to travel, cook, cycle and trek. Also, having taught Ancient Egypt as part of the Primary curriculum, I am excited by the opportunity to explore the archeological wonders of Egypt and see the tombs and artefacts at first hand.



### Ms. Theodora Carydias – Key Stage Two

My name is Theodora Carydias and I am teaching Key Stage Two French at MES Cairo. Before moving to Cairo, I was living in London for five years where I did my French and Spanish degree at University College London. During that time I also had the amazing opportunity of living and studying in Lyon (France) and in Valencia (Spain). So far I am enjoying teaching French at MES Cairo and also doing a Spanish ASA on a Monday! In addition to that I am very much looking forward to French Day which will be happening later on in the school year.

### Mr. Drew Bullough – Secondary Science

Hello, my name is Drew Bullough and I am teaching in the British Section Science Department. I am originally from the UK, where I studied Biochemistry and Physiology, but have been working overseas for over twenty years, including a lot of time teaching here in Egypt, both in Cairo and in Alexandria. I like living in Cairo a lot but I LOVE Alexandria and spend a lot of weekends there, visiting friends and fishing. My first impressions of being at MES Cairo are positive and I have been impressed with the students' knowledge and interest in Biology and Science in general. Out of school you will find me at the stables, racing horses in the desert! I look forward to getting to know you all better and hope we all have a great year.



### Ms. Cath Jama – Deputy Headteacher, Key Stage Two

Well, it's good to be back! I'm an avid traveller and as Egypt was one of my first ventures (almost twenty years ago) I was interested in coming back and seeing how the country has changed. I was also keen to show people back home that Egypt is still a great place to visit. However, as I am a member of the Senior Leadership team, the travelling will have to take a back seat for a while as I know I will be extremely busy at school. So far, the MES Cairo family has made me feel very welcome. Whether it has been pointing me in the right direction on the (many) occasions I have looked lost, showing me a few sights in the city or simply giggling at my dreadful attempts at speaking the local language, my colleagues have been wonderful. I have never seen so many smiles in one place. My previous post in Ghana, and my travels around that part of the continent, have definitely left a little part of Africa in my soul, so I am looking forward to all that MES Cairo, Cairo and Egypt has to offer.



### **Ms. Amy Clarke – Key Stage Two**

Hello, my name is Amy Clarke. I am the Assistant Headteacher for Years Three and Four in the Primary Department. I am very excited to be here in Cairo and to be working at MES Cairo. I am originally from Oxfordshire in the UK; however I moved to Brighton, in East Sussex, to attend University and remained there for ten years, enjoying the sea views and exciting lifestyle that Brighton offers. I have been teaching for the past seven years in schools just along the coast from Brighton and this is my first job in an international school. Previously I have taught in Years Three, Four, Five and Six and I have led lots of different subjects including ICT, Religious Education, Art and Maths. I have also been part of school leadership teams and I really enjoy supporting teachers in developing their practice and helping schools to move forward with their educational thinking. I am really looking forward to my year ahead at MES Cairo and to working closely with the Year Three and Four teams, sharing all my skills, knowledge and passion for education - as well as getting to know all of the students and their names!



### **Mr. Benjamin Myers – Secondary Photography and AP Studio Art**

My name is Ben Myers and I teach Photography and AP Studio Art classes to Grades 11 and 12. So far, my experience at MES Cairo has been such a thrill! I have enjoyed getting to know many of the staff here and I like how they are very different from one another yet so similar in their professionalism and kindness. Before coming to MES Cairo I taught Secondary Art for eight years to hundreds of students, but here I find the drive and giftedness of my pupils to be right up there with the best that I have seen. I have been truly enriched during my short time here, and I look forward to working with the gifted young men and women in my classes and seeing the art they create!

### **Mr. Joe O'Connor – Secondary PE**

Hello everyone, my name is Joe O'Connor and I'm excited to be a new member of the MES Cairo team. I am one of the new members in the PE department and can't wait to get winning with the Cougars. This will be my third year teaching, but my very first time in an international school. I am a huge basketball and football fan and will be leading the basketball programme at MES Cairo. I am really keen to help our students improve their sports skills and also their games knowledge with the aim of developing well-rounded sports stars. Get ready for a year of winning!



### **Ms. Cathie McKay – Key Stage Two**

My name is Cathie McKay and I am teaching Year Six Orange at MES Cairo. I have been teaching for 32 years, 24 in Britain and eight in international schools here in Egypt and also in Thailand and Vietnam. I was born in the North of England and have spent much of my life living by the sea and I love anything about the sea. That is why I am a keen SCUBA Diver because I want to see everything the sea has to offer. I have always loved the history of ancient cultures, especially Egypt, so I am keen to explore the rich history that can be seen in Egypt. I chose teaching as a career because I love working with children and being surrounded by them. You never have the same day twice! Most of all, I am really looking forward to a great year of teaching at MES Cairo!

### **Ms. Amira El Rify – Secondary Maths**

Being a part of the MES Cairo teaching staff, I bring five years of teaching experience from London, UK. I was born and raised in London along with my six siblings. Studying Computer Aided Mechanical Engineering at King's College London has allowed me to follow my passion for Mathematics to a higher degree, merging my Mathematics knowledge with various elements outside of the Mathematics curriculum. At Goldsmith's University London, I completed my teacher training and secured a teaching job at my placement in the same year. I am passionate about experiencing new cultures and travelling. My passion started when I went solo travelling around South East Asia and has continually grown ever since. I enjoy working with charity organisations and working first hand with less advantageous individuals. I am looking forward to a great year full of excitement at MES Cairo.





### Ms. Elizah Barnes – Key Stage Two

My name is Elizah Barnes and I am teaching Year Four Violet at MES Cairo. This will be my third year teaching Year Four and this is my first international teaching job! I was born in a town near Birmingham called Redditch, where I lived with my parents after graduating from the University of Gloucestershire. I completed a three year Psychology degree before continuing at university to undertake my Post Graduate Certificate of Education. I really enjoy sport, especially playing netball and working out at the gym. I am also a qualified swimming teacher. I enjoy swimming myself as well as teaching others. I have settled quickly into life in Cairo and I am really enjoying all of the exciting adventures I've had while exploring my new hometown. I am looking forward to many more! I am thrilled to be teaching at MES Cairo and looking forward to a fantastic year!



### Ms. Yasmin Elharrak – Key Stage Two

Hello everyone, my name is Yasmin Elharrak. I am very excited to be joining the MES Cairo team. I am working in Foundation Stage Two where I have taught for the last three years. I am no stranger to Cairo, as before coming to MES Cairo, I worked in a school in Sheikh Zayed for three years. I was born in a town just outside of London called Horsham, which is in West Sussex. I taught there for two years before coming to Egypt. The Foundation Stage Two team made me feel very welcome straight away. Everyone has been incredibly warm, helpful and friendly. When I am not teaching I enjoy cooking. I am a 'foodie' and I like to cook for friends and family, whether they like it or not! I also enjoy musicals. I have seen The Lion King in the theatre more than seven times! I absolutely love living in Egypt and there is still so much to see and do. On top of my list is a visit to Luxor, which I am very much looking forward to. I am also really looking forward to a great year of teaching at MES Cairo!

### Mr. Kamal Ali – Secondary Computer Science

Hello everyone, or as it is said in Welsh: 'Bore Da!' My name is Kamal Ali and I have moved to Cairo from Wales in the United Kingdom. I am teaching Computer Science here at MES Cairo. I have been teaching for the past eight years in some great schools and colleges and I have also lectured in universities. I have studied up to Masters level in Product Design. I have taken design ideas from concept to production in China to international sales in over sixty different cities and twenty different countries. I have moved to Cairo for its rich history, the food and the people. I look forward to teaching the students of MES Cairo and passing on some of the knowledge and skills I have acquired over the years.



### Ms. Lee Hedges – Secondary Art

Hello everyone! I am Lee Hedges and I will be teaching American Section Art in Grade Seven through Twelve. This is my first international teaching post and my first time in Egypt. Before MES Cairo I spent the last two years teaching Art at a Catholic Secondary School in Gloucestershire, where I grew up. During my degree course, I explored a wide range of painting and drawing skills and then specialised in sculpture. I continued at University to gain my Master of Arts where I used film and photography to record and observe myself and my surroundings in an abstract format. My true passion is art and I look forward to sharing that passion with the students at MES Cairo.

### Ms. Melissa Gannon – Key Stage One

Hello everyone, my name is Melissa Gannon and I'm delighted to join the MES Cairo family. After many years teaching in our home country of Wales in the UK, my husband Nick and I decided to venture a little further afield. As a result of this we have spent the last five years working hard, travelling and having many adventures in Nigeria, Lesotho and Egypt. At present we are thoroughly enjoying living in Cairo and experiencing the friendliness of the welcoming people here. During my career so far I have worked with all Primary age groups from Foundation Stage to Year Six and this year I am very happy to be part of the Year Two team at MES Cairo!







### **Ms. Kasandra Battioni – Secondary - Middle School Dean of Students**

مرحبا (Hello!) I am Kasandra Battioni and I am the Middle School Dean of Students in the American section. I teach Grade Eight Social Studies, as well. I am thrilled to be here in Cairo and working at MES Cairo! I moved here with my family from our last post in Southern China where we lived for five years. For the past twenty-five years, I have been working as a middle school teacher and administrator in international schools in Mexico, Paraguay, Czech Republic, Syria, China and now Egypt. My husband, Roberto, is an Italian chef and we have two children. Alex is in his second year at university in the United States, and Nina is in Grade Seven. We also have a little dog named

Luna who is very excited to be here. Besides teaching middle school students, I love sports, reading, listening to great music (especially rock-and-roll), hanging out with friends, travelling, camping, eating my husband's gourmet Italian cooking and being with my family. I also love animals, especially horses, cats and dogs. I am especially interested in learning more about, and making a difference to, the lives of other living beings and to our planet earth. Thank you to all of my students, parents and colleagues who have made us feel so welcome in our new home, Cairo!

### **Ms. Manar Taqi – Secondary Maths**

Hi - my name is Manar Taqi and I am very happy to be here in Cairo and especially at MES Cairo. I moved to Cairo in August with my two children to start my new position at in the British Section Mathematics Department. I studied BA Accounting at the London Guildhall University but my love for mathematics needed more than just accounting; this is why I then went on to do my PGCE at the Institute of Education in London. I have been teaching for over twelve years at the same school in London. There I managed to take on many roles which included working with Gifted and Talented students and introducing a Maths Club. I have also been Assistant Head of Department, Key Stage Four Coordinator and Acting Head of Department. I am a keen traveller and would love to visit as many countries as possible. I have pretty much conquered Europe, driven through the USA, skipped through the Middle East and said hello to Africa. My next travel destination has to be the Far East. I am looking forward to being able to share my life experiences, enthusiasm for mathematics and subject knowledge with the young people of MES Cairo.



### **Mr. Nick Gannon – Key Stage Two**

Hello everyone! I am Nick Gannon, I teach in Year Six and I'm both very happy and proud to be part of the MES Cairo family. After many happy years teaching and managing in schools back home in Wales, my wife Melissa and I embarked on the adventure of teaching overseas. We have had a thoroughly rewarding time working in Nigeria and Lesotho before coming to Egypt last year. I have found nothing but friendliness and cheerful support during my time here and everything confirms the fact that Cairo is a wonderful place to live and MES Cairo a great school to work in!



### **Mr. Steve Ronson – Secondary English**

Hello everyone. I'm Steve Ronson, teacher of Grade Nine and Eleven English in the American Section. I am from Staffordshire in England and I have been teaching in the Middle East since 2005. Although I qualified as a teacher of English, I have also been teaching History for many years and have an MA in Medieval History. I enjoy all sorts of music, literature, film and sports. I am here with my wife Joy who is an LDD teacher here at MES Cairo. We love this region and plan to remain here until we retire.



### **Ms. Pearl Wright – Key Stage Two**

I am delighted to be living in Cairo and working here at MES Cairo and so far everybody has been very friendly and helpful towards me. The children in my class have already provided me with handy hints regarding the best places to eat, shop, relax and sight-see. I have lived and worked in various countries such as Taiwan, Brunei, Abu Dhabi and Saudi Arabia whilst working at international schools. Each place has provided me with many happy memories and I am sure that my time in Egypt will be equally as fulfilling. I look forward to meeting you all in the near future.





### Mr. Justin Singleton – Key Stage Two

Hello, or as we say in my native New Zealand, Kia Ora and G'day! It is great to be here in sunny Cairo and at MES Cairo. I have recently completed my first half-term in Key Stage Two, or more specifically - Six Red. It has been a whirlwind of fun, hard work, laughter and learning names, and I have loved every second of it. I have recently arrived from the UK, where I have been teaching in North London and in Surrey. Before teaching, I worked in the aviation industry, which took me all around the world, to places as far off as Rarotonga, Curacao and Nagoya. Besides travelling, I have a love of language. Over the years I have learned Portuguese, Spanish, French, Latin and even Chinese! I also look forward to learning some Arabic over the coming year.

One final thing about me; as a boy I learned the capital city of every country in the world and I am quite sure I can still recall them all; so if you see me around the school – challenge me and we'll find out if I can still remember!



### Ms. Patricia Hamlett – Primary Learning Development Department

Hello everyone, my name is Patricia Hamlett and I am the Year Three Learning Development Department teacher this year. I am new to MES Cairo from the United States. I have taught seven and eight year old students as a classroom teacher for thirty years. I am very excited about using my experience as a teacher to support the Year Three team. I come from a school with a Global Studies programme and I love to travel! I have travelled with students to Costa Rica, Spain, Honduras, South Africa and China. After teaching my entire career in the States, I was ready for a real adventure!

Fortunately, my husband was also ready for an adventure after working in the business world his entire career. Although he originally joined me to play golf and relax, he is now working as a TLA in Year One. We have two grown daughters and three grandchildren. Working at the school together has helped us to not miss them as much. We are loving the life and culture here in Egypt. Working here at MES Cairo and living in Egypt has exceeded both of our expectations.

### Mr. Steve Cooney – Key Stage Two

My name is Steve Cooney and I am teaching Year Five Red at MES Cairo. I have been teaching for twenty six years and of those, ten years have been spent in international schools. I was born in the great City of Liverpool, in the north-west of England (which coincidentally houses the most successful football team in the UK!). I taught in Amsterdam for three years where I completed a Masters degree in International Education. For the last five years I have been teaching at one of the most popular and successful school in Abu Dhabi - Al Yasmina. I have also taught in Egypt before, at El Alsson for two years and I enjoyed my time in Egypt so much that I have decided to return. I am a keen runner, particularly 10km and half-marathons and, without wishing to boast, normally end up on the podium at the end of a race for my age group.



### Ms. Kate McTigue – Secondary History

Hi there! My name is Kate McTigue and I am a teacher of History for Key Stage Three and Four, IB and A Level. I am very excited to be working in this wonderful school and with such engaging students. I have been a humanities teacher in London for the past three years, teaching mainly History, Philosophy and Current Affairs. I have also completed my MA in Education. Cairo is a fantastic city for a history-lover and I am enjoying getting lost among the beauty and culture that Cairo has to offer. I look forward to getting some great tips on exploring Egypt from all my students and fellow colleagues, and being involved in all aspects of school life.

### Ms. Teresa Nissan – Key Stage Two

My name is Teresa Nissan and I have just joined the MES Cairo team as Year Three Leader. Originally from Kent in the UK, I have more than thirty years of continuous experience in the field of Primary School education, both as a teacher and as a school leader. I have taught in Kent, London, Kuwait and previously, in Egypt and have spent the vast majority of my professional years in the Middle East. I am therefore able to identify and empathise with the cultural traditions and customs of this part of the world. My hobbies include reading, travel to exotic locations, dance and drama. I am looking forward to making a positive contribution to the life of our school.







### Mr. Muntadher Taqi – Secondary Business Studies

It's an absolute pleasure to be here at MES Cairo working with you all to achieve everything that we can together. I have come here from London, where I was teaching for the last eight years. I taught Business, Economics and a small amount of ICT. I will be teaching Business Studies this year at IGCSE and AS Level and look forward to developing strong working relationships with my students to ensure that they all achieve to their highest ability. I will be running the boxercise and intensive fitness ASA this year as it was something that I was heavily involved in at my last school and I want to bring that positive experience to you all at MES Cairo. It's a massive passion of mine and I hope that we can all push each other along to attain a great fitness level. I'm really looking forward to meeting you all personally and hope that you have a good year.

### Mr. Ben Higgs – Secondary Design and Technology

My name is Ben Higgs. I have moved here with my wife and two children. This is my first time teaching abroad, however we are no strangers to the Middle East having been to Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Qatar and Dubai. I have travelled extensively throughout Africa, Asia, Australasia and a little bit through Europe and I have many more places on my list that I'd like to see! I teach DT because I love making things. I love the idea of starting with some raw materials and ending up with a functioning product, especially now that we have a new laser cutter here at MES Cairo. The house I left in England was full of things I'd made, and in fact, I even built the house! Previously to moving here I was living in Somerset, near Glastonbury, about an hour's drive from Stonehenge.



### Ms. Dawn Lovig – Primary Music

I am originally from Minneapolis, Minnesota in the United States. Once I finished college, however, I immediately began teaching in international schools. I have taught music in Mexico, Tunisia, Vietnam and Germany. I also lived in Hawaii for three years while I completed my graduate studies in Polynesian music and dance. The highlight of this time was doing fieldwork on Tahiti and the islands of southern French Polynesia, as well as on the Hawaiian Islands. Many talented musicians and dancers have shared their knowledge with me over the years, and I strive to pass this passion and knowledge on to my students. I consider myself fortunate to have had such a variety of wonderful homes in my life. No matter where I live, I enjoy learning about the language and culture(s). I am excited to be here in Egypt now, and I have already started taking Egyptian Arabic courses. *Ana kuwayissa wa mabsuuta!* I love attending concerts of all kinds of music, and have been exploring Cairo's music performance venues. I am excited to be a part of the MES Cairo Music Department and have really enjoyed leading the Year Six Pioneers Musicians and the Samba Ensemble after school.

### Mr. Euan Macauley – Secondary History and Geography

My name is Euan Macaulay and I am originally from Glasgow, Scotland but have been living in England for eleven years. I have been teaching for seven years in the UK – three in Leeds and four in London. After completing my PGCE at York St. John, I taught GCSE and A-Level Philosophy & Ethics, A-Level Sociology and coordinated PSHE and Citizenship in Leeds. In 2010, I moved to London to become Head of Citizenship and PSHE.

As the picture suggests, I am a keen road cyclist and brought my bike with me from the UK. I have been out and about on the roads in and around Cairo every Friday morning so as to beat the traffic.

So far, I am really enjoying teaching Key Stage Three students at MES Cairo. Both my History and Geography classes have settled well and I look forward to them producing some fantastic work for their first TOTAL learning project in the coming weeks. I am particularly enjoying being Homeroom teacher for Year Seven Red. They are a great bunch and I'm sure our new HR merits competition will motivate them to achieve great things. GO, Year Seven Red!



### Mr. Stuart Boswell – Key Stage Two

Hello, my name is Stuart Boswell and I am extremely excited to be part of the Year Four team at MES Cairo. My wife and daughter have also accompanied me to Egypt.

Following a fourteen year career in the Construction Industry, I retrained as a teacher and have been teaching for the past five years in schools in Derby and Nottingham in the UK.

I have always been a keen sportsman. When I was fifteen, I represented Great Britain at athletics (hammer throw) in the European Games in Belgium, where I finished 5<sup>th</sup> overall. As a football referee, I made it onto the National List of Assistant Referees. Nowadays, I enjoy coaching various sports when I get the chance.

So far, the MES Cairo family has made me and my family feel very welcome and we hope that this, our first international experience, will encourage us to explore all that Egypt has to offer!



### Mr. Malcolm Howe - Secondary IT and Computer Science

Hi, my name is Malcolm Howe and I am delighted to be joining the MES Cairo staff. I live in the North East of England and have two children who are both adults and a grandson. I also have two lovely dogs, Cagney and Lacey! I have been teaching for about fifteen years now and before that I did a variety of jobs. I love sharing my IT knowledge with others and I believe that MES Cairo has an extremely fertile learning environment. I have taught ages between seven and seventy years on a range of programmes from beginners through to degree courses! Last year, for a new challenge I decided to teach abroad and spent the year working in Kuwait gaining a vast amount of useful experience. I have never been to Egypt before and look forward to exploring its many exciting aspects. I was really pleased to obtain a position at MES Cairo as I have heard many excellent reports and I am looking forward to being part of the MES Cairo family, to which I have had such a warm welcome.



### Mr. Dave Erbach – Secondary Social Studies

Hi everyone! My name is Dave Erbach and I am a new Social Studies teacher in the American Section. Drawn by the rich history of this country, I moved to Cairo from my home in Ann Arbor, Michigan. I attended the University of Michigan and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in History and Psychology. This year, I will be teaching Grade Nine World History as well as Grade Eleven US History. I cannot tell you how excited I am to explore a land so different from my own, gain new experiences, and learn how to live in Egypt. I feel very lucky to be here!



## BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH OCTOBER 2014



The month of October is **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**. In recognition and in support of this important cause, MES Cairo staff were given the opportunity to wear pink ribbons in school on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. The ribbons were available from the school front desk throughout the day for a small donation. Donation boxes were set up on tables in the School Reception as staff arrived for work in the morning.

Staff were also encouraged to wear something **PINK** on that day and it was good to see the male staff getting involved too and wearing both ribbons and pink clothing with one male member

of staff even resorting to a very bright pink wig!

All proceeds from the day will go to **The Breast Cancer Foundation of Egypt**.





## TEACHER FAMILIES

# KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY!

Did you know that several MES Cairo teachers are related? We will be focussing on different MES Cairo teacher families in each MESsenger issue this year!

**Ms. Alison McLaughlin (Year Two Teacher), her brother Mr. Brian McLaughlin (Year Three Teacher) and his wife, Mrs. Ciara Kearney (Foundation Stage One Teacher)**



Brian McLaughlin, Ciara Kearney and Alison McLaughlin

I began my teaching career in London having completed my PGCE at the University of East London. I worked in a large Primary School in South East London for four years working in both Year One and Year Three.

I started to think of moving abroad after talking to friends who had just moved to Dubai and were telling me how amazing life was there. My sister in law Ciara had already been living in Cairo where she has been teaching at MES Cairo for a number of years. I hadn't thought about living abroad before this although I did enjoy hearing stories about life in Egypt.

In the summer of 2012 I talked to my brother Brian and Ciara about the idea of working abroad and Ciara explained all about life at MES Cairo and encouraged me to apply. One snowy Saturday in 2013, I ventured across town to a hotel where my interview with MES Cairo was held. I accepted the job, said goodbye to my friends and family back home and travelled here to Cairo.

It is an interesting experience working with your brother as I have to see him as a professional now and not just my 'annoying little brother' but I am very glad to have Brian and Ciara with me here and without them I wouldn't have made the move to Cairo at all.

**Mr. Euan Macauley (Secondary History and Geography) works alongside his mother in law**

My name is Euan Macaulay and I am originally from Glasgow, Scotland but have been living in England for eleven years.

I have been teaching for seven years in the UK - three in Leeds and four in London. After completing my PGCE at York St. John, I taught GCSE and A-Level Philosophy and Ethics, A-Level Sociology and I coordinated PSHE and Citizenship in Leeds. In 2010, I moved to London to become Head of Citizenship and PSHE.

I was the Educational Visits Coordinator and ran the Duke of Edinburgh Award in London so I look forward to going on many exciting visits with MES Cairo students. I'm particularly looking forward to getting out into the desert – a real curiosity for a Scotsman!

I was also leading the life-long learning skills programme at my old school and look forward to getting involved with Key Stage Three TOTAL learning at MES Cairo. I really enjoyed the impact activity I did with my homeroom during the first week.

As the picture suggests, I am a keen road cyclist and brought my bike with me from the UK. I have been out and about on the roads in and around Cairo every Friday morning so as to beat the traffic. I recently tackled the Mokattam hill and my legs are still recovering!

I was really lucky that I got to visit MES Cairo in October 2013 before joining this year. My wife's mother has worked in the Primary section for two years and highly recommended moving to Cairo and working at MES Cairo. The school environment has an excellent atmosphere amongst staff and students which helps create a family friendly work-life balance. I am just back from paternity leave in the UK and look forward to my wife and new baby daughter, Maeve joining me in Cairo.

So far, I am really enjoying teaching Key Stage Three students at MES Cairo. Both my History and Geography classes have settled well and I look forward to them producing some fantastic work for their first TOTAL learning project in the coming weeks. I am particularly enjoying being Homeroom teacher for Y7R. They are a great bunch and I'm sure our new HR merits competition will motivate them to achieve great things. Go Y7R!





**Ms. Therese Sliney (Secondary English – British and IB Sections) works alongside her daughter, Mrs. Ruth Campbell (Year Four Teacher) and her son-in-law, Mr. Robert Campbell (Secondary English – British and IB Sections)**



There's a nomadic streak in my family. We have been travelling to and living in different parts of the world for a long time. I suppose it all started when we moved to France while the children were young. They became used to adapting to new cultures, learning new languages and meeting many different kinds of people.

This has continued into adulthood. My daughter, Ruth, and her husband, Rob, initially decided to teach abroad in Thailand. Although it was sad that they were on the other side of the globe, this gave the whole family wonderful opportunities to explore a new part of the world. They then taught in Mexico and Canada and also spent a year in the UK.

Meanwhile, I had decided to follow their example and teach abroad, and came here to Cairo. Finally, they decided to come here too. It is lovely to have them here while our lives are running on parallel lines. It may not happen often, so I'm making the most of it. A nomadic life is good, but you still need your family!

**Ms. Maureen Glancy and Mr. Hashem Gad Abdallah (Mother and Son)**

Having taught for over thirty years, I was extremely pleased when my older son, Hashem, discussed the possibility of training to be a teacher. I come from a family of teachers going back to my great aunt. My cousin currently teaches in Scotland and my sister is a deputy headteacher at a school in London.

We are very lucky at MES Cairo to have the facility to allow student teachers to undertake their teaching practice with us. As Hashem's passion has always been sport, he was given a job in the PE Department while he trained with Sunderland University to become a teacher. I do think that three degrees is enough now though!

Hashem was actually taught by me in Year One, back in the days of having only one class in each Year group. He managed this quite well and even started calling me

Mrs. Glancy at home! I hate to admit that I had to write in his final report, "Hashem needs to spend more time on his homework." I found that after a long, busy day at school he was really not in the mood to do anything else at home, other than read a book. He did, however, become an avid reader and also worked as an editor for a while as his writing skills are so good.

I have added two photos for you all to see. One was Hashem in my Year One class. He is the last on the right in the back row. The other is one taken at his Master of Science graduation ceremony at Bristol Cathedral.

**Ms. Maureen Glancy – Primary Assistant Headteacher**

I always wanted to be a teacher. It was a mixture of seeing my mum's passion and dedication to her career and seeing how much fun PE teachers used to have when I was back at school. Having very recently completed my teaching qualification, I was lucky enough to be offered a job at MES Cairo, the school I attended my whole life and have such happy memories of.

I was always involved in theatre productions whilst I was a student at MES Cairo and was lucky enough to be cast as "Marouf" when I was in Year Four. However, my character had to fall in love with a princess who happened to be in Year Ten, leading to a very comedic moment! I also enjoyed sports and was proud to captain both the Football and Swimming teams. Joining the MES Cairo family as a teacher was very special to me as I was able to follow in the footsteps of my mother and work alongside her in the Primary School.

Working with your mum has its advantages! I can share lifts to work, always have a great packed lunch and if I'm ever short on laminating pouches, she always has some to spare! But there is also that feeling that I never actually leave home to go to work. MES Cairo has always been proud to be one big family. I felt that as a student, and even more now as a teacher.

**Mr. Hashem Gad Abdallah – Primary PE Teacher**





# FROM MES CAIRO STUDENT TO MES CAIRO PARENT AND NOW... AN MES CAIRO TEACHER!

Deena Abu Hassan joined the MES Cairo family as a student way back in 1993 before graduating in 1998 and going to AUC to study Biology and Chemistry. A move to Germany followed as did getting married and having two children before coming back to MES Cairo, first as a parent and now as a teacher. She completed her UK Post Graduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) from Sunderland University with the full support of Mrs. Dajani and the MES Cairo family!



At MES Cairo with my friend, Randa

I joined the MES Cairo family in 1993. It was MES Cairo's third year in Cairo and like MES, my family and I had left the Gulf to escape Desert Storm. Adjusting to life in Cairo after living in a quiet area of Saudi Arabia was no easy task and like most of us in the situation, we struggled. My siblings and I managed three years at an Egyptian Language School before we discovered MES Cairo. Starting at MES Cairo felt like coming home. It felt safe and we immediately knew that this was our school.

I loved every day at school. Driving thought Gesr El Suez to Sarai El Kobba you would never imagine that in the middle of all that hustle and bustle of

people and cars and all else Cairo, there would be a little oasis of peace and calm that was our school. I quickly made friends, many of whom like me had recently moved to Cairo. Our similar circumstances brought us quickly together. Led by Mr. Cowlshaw, our teachers felt like family and all had huge influences on our lives.

Our days of struggling were over! Once we got through those gates (greeted by Am Gadallah, who continues to greet me now, twenty years later), our days were full of fun. I was reminded that learning was fun and I could be creative and use my mind to think for myself instead of being told what to do and what to think. I landed the lead role of Audrey in our whole school production "Little Shop of Horrors" and joined all three of our sports teams. We loved being bussed around Cairo to compete against the other International Schools. We were proud of our school and were happy doing everything we could in its name. School debates, trips, parties and ASAs; we were never short of things to do.

Watching the school grow was incredible. Where and how MES Cairo expanded in that little zone in Sarai El Kobba still amazes me. I remember having French, Geography and History up in the Treehouse! That's what we called it because yes, you guessed it they were built on stilts up in the trees! We thought it was great. Madam Mondani, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Smith followed by Mr. Barton had the honour of being in those rooms.

Then the school expanded and we had tin classrooms! It was like being in a tin box. But in true MES Cairo style, if it was going to be a tin box it was going to be the best tin box in town! We came to school one morning to find all four classrooms had been fitted with AC units overnight!

There was never a dull moment at school and I felt truly blessed in all my years as a student there. We were allowed to think big and were always supported and encouraged by our teachers. When I think back to those years the one thing that comes to my mind the most is how simple and easy school life was. There was a wonderful light-hearted feel around school and everyone was happy. Our teachers were our mentors but also our friends and that had a huge impact on us. I remember babysitting Mr. Duggan's gorgeous little



girls and playing basketball with Clement, watching in awe as he slam dunked and shot endless three pointers, were regular events.

Our first overnight trip was to Ras Sidr and what an unforgettable trip it was. Playing rugby with our teachers and diving off a beautiful yacht into the sea and spending the evening telling stories around a campfire are just some of the memories from that trip. The years went by and people came and left but the MES Cairo spirit remained.

Graduating in 1998 was tough because it meant leaving MES Cairo behind and moving on.



Ms. Deena with Year One Yellow this term



At MES Cairo with my fellow students

I decided to stay in Cairo and go to AUC to study Biology and Chemistry. After graduating, moving to Germany, getting married and having two beautiful children, embarking on a complete career change, I found myself walking through the MES Cairo gates again. Firstly as a parent, as my daughter Salma joined Foundation Stage One. A career change saw me achieve my teaching degree with the support of MES Cairo and two years later I walked through the gates again but this time as a teacher!

Time really does fly. This is my third year teaching at MES Cairo. My son and daughter are now in Years Two and Four, and as I walk through school it still amazes me how much

MES Cairo has grown and how much history these walls hold. Mrs. Dajani, Ms. Ghada, Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey, Ms. Glancy, Ms. Mira, Mr. Shaker, Ms. Mimi, Madam Bata, Mr. Clement and Mr. Hana and, of course, Am Gadallah, have all been here from the beginning and remained constant through the years of growth and development.

MES Cairo continues to nourish children and young adults and give them countless opportunities to lead them to greatness.

I am lucky to have attended MES Cairo in its infancy, proud to be a graduate of this school, to have my children in this school and to now be a part of the learning journey and experiences of the coming generations of MES Cairo graduates. I am sure it will continue to flourish and our children will be proud and make us proud.

**Ms. Deena Abu Hassan – Year One Yellow Teacher and MESConian Class of 1998**



Taking part in a school show



# MESCONIAN HELMY SAEED (CLASS OF 2007) FIRST EGYPTIAN TO CROSS EUROPE BY BICYCLE



Map of route cycled

bicycle, Helmy set off for Northern Italy to complete an 800km cycling expedition, pushing himself to his limits. Upon completion of this feat, Helmy was encouraged to go further and travel across Europe.

On 15<sup>th</sup> June 2014, Helmy embarked upon a remarkable journey cycling across Europe. In just 70 days, of which 60 of these were cycling and just 10 were resting, Helmy travelled through 62 cities in nine European countries totalling a staggering 6,541 kilometres. Helmy's travels took him from his starting point in the north of Norway through Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, France and finally Spain.



Arctic Snowstorm in Norway

Without booking any accommodation in advance along the route, Helmy embarked on his trip with nothing but himself, his courage and his determined spirit. He was resourceful and worked for his food and board, often sleeping outdoors in his tent, which was one of the few luxuries he allowed himself.

Helmy is someone who is passionate about what he does and accomplishes things that most people only dream of by extraordinary willpower, physical fitness and being mentally strong. Part of Helmy's fitness regime is running, something else that he is passionate about. He tries to walk everywhere if possible so that means no driving, no taking the subway or riding on a bus!

As you can imagine, cycling across Europe drew much attention especially as the kilometres fell away. "As I gathered more distance, there were more and more surprised faces," Helmy recalls of the people



Reaching the southernmost point in Europe



Highest waterfall in Sweden -  
Fullufjället National Park



Marbella, Spain - just one day from  
the finish in Tarifa!



Finland here we come!



Avignon, France





Near Ijusdal, Sweden



French Vineyards



Finnmark Plateau, Arctic Norway

he met along his journey. Some of these friendly and surprised faces turned into friends who Helmy regularly keeps in touch with via Facebook and email.

Cycling is not the only sport Helmy enjoys. He moved to Canada after spending three years studying economics at the American University in Cairo and promptly took up the physically and mentally challenging sport of cross-country skiing. Once Helmy had mastered skiing he needed to feed his thirst for more challenges! He joined an international ski team and headed towards the Finnmark Plateau in the Arctic regions of Norway to ski 130 kilometres in harsh winds and freezing temperatures, sleeping in tents, in an extremely harsh terrain. "I get rushes from extreme environments," Helmy explained, so getting stuck in snowstorms and rain was actually very exciting for him.



Small Pyrenees Village - French-Spanish Border



Camping somewhere inbetween Valencia and Albacete, Spain



Hamburg, Germany

Helmy's family has always been very supportive of his passion for extreme sports but the reaction is sometimes a bit hesitant whenever he plucks up the courage to tell them the extent of some of his trips.

Although his cycling journey demanded complete commitment and very high levels of fitness and stamina, it was about much more than that. It was a spiritual journey as well. The trip wasn't always easy and there were times when Helmy went to sleep hungry - not easy after an epic day of cycling. What Helmy found the most difficult was the mental struggle. "Situations that create anxiety that put me in a bad, non-productive mood for the whole day and make it an absolute struggle to complete the daily cycling goal but in the end it is those situations that count because you push your limits and realise that you can do much more than you thought you could."

When asked about his time at MES Cairo, Helmy said "I enjoyed school very much. After being out of school for a while, you reminisce. A special memory is getting a Photography award in Grade 11 and regarding teachers, I prefer not to name my favourites as others would get jealous! MES Cairo influenced the person I am today. I believe that the person I am right now is a result of all my life experiences put together, and MES Cairo was a very significant part of my life."

Helmy is a shining example of a young man whom Egypt should admire and be proud of. His determination to succeed should be commended. From building his own bicycle to filming and editing all his own footage and living a completely self-sufficient life, Helmy is an inspiration to young people today.

He has shown that anything is possible if you put your mind to it.

**Ms. C. Boswell - Publications Assistant**



Swedish Wilderness



# Annual Primary Vs Secondary Staff Football Match

It was the first week of the new academic year 2014-2015 and the moment had come that all teachers were anxiously awaiting, and rigorously planning for, during the extensive summer holiday. This is what university, teacher training, nights of research, various external courses and in-school development days prepare us for. This is why we are proud and keen to be part of the MES Cairo family. It was time for the annual Primary vs. Secondary Teachers' football match!

Under the fierce and impartial supervision of referee, Mr. El Hoss, Primary and Secondary teachers gathered on the pitch to play an intense game of football. Thanks to the tactical insights and inspirational speeches of Secondary's Captain, Mr. Shooter, combined with some gorgeous and phenomenal team-play, the Secondary teachers celebrated a smashing 7-2 victory over their Primary colleagues.

Despite their loss, we wish our Primary colleagues a positive and productive year ahead. We also wish them the best of luck and hope they will find plenty of time to get prepared for next year's game (they will need it)!

**Mr. J Marel – Secondary Mathematics Department**



## Mr. Andrew Hainsworth returns and all is right with the world!



**Mr.** Andrew is delighted to be back at MES Cairo after a four-year absence to begin his third momentous tour of duty. Upon his return, Mrs. Dajani decided to increase security for her prize goldfish, for reasons we don't need to discuss here.

My mastery of foreign languages remains undiminished, as my old sparring partner Mr. Metwal will confirm. As ever here at MES Cairo, 'Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.' Many of the teachers I knew have left although there are still a few of us that can remember the fun and happy times from the old site at Serai al Kobba. And although my Arabic is rusty, it has been a delight saying hello to all the rest of the MES Cairo community – especially Mr. Mahmoud who still keeps me going with his delivery of koshari.

Incredibly, I shall be fifty in December and although it appears my memory is fading, I can assure my former students that this is not the full reason I don't remember them. I taught you in Year Four when you were cute, angelic and about a metre shorter than you are now. You have blossomed into bright, articulate confident young men and ladies.

Perhaps the world of MES Cairo is not for everybody. Already I have starred in the Primary vs Secondary football match and now remember why I dislike Mr. El Hoss so much! I have trodden the boards in a modest play in the theatre, pestered poor Ms. Riham for some free Arabic lessons on the bus

home, signed up for a desert trip and am battling manfully with Year Six Blue in the quest for an arrow-straight and silent line.

But to 'paraphrase' Samuel Johnson, "When a man is tired of MES Cairo, he is tired of life."

**Mr. Andrew Hainsworth – Year Six Blue MES Cairo 1998 – 2002, 2006-2010, 2014 -**

*The word on the streets:*

*'Welcome back, Alan' - Mr. Godfrey*

*'I was about to close the school until Mr. Andrew decided to return' – Mrs. Dajani*

*'I don't want him in any of my shows ever again' - Mr. Todd*

*'Who?' - Mr. Morris*

*'Welcome back, Al Batikh.' - Mr. Metwal*





# Exploring Egypt!



Exploring is one of the primal urges of primates, one of the ancient urges that bring us pleasure and satisfaction. Egypt is a remarkable place for exploring, one of the best in the world, blessed as it is with natural, cultural and historical treasures. I came to Egypt two years ago with the intention of seeing as much of the country as I could. I had the good fortune to bump into a fellow explorer the first year I was here, another MES Cairo teacher and history buff named Jamie Hay. Together and on our own we have had a couple of adventures stepping off the sidewalk to see hidden treasures of Egypt.

My basic attitude in life is that I wake up in the morning hoping to experience something new

about the world. When I say “new” this means new to me. Millions of others have already been to the Dashur pyramids, but the first time I saw them for myself it was tremendous. I tell the students I teach “be careful when you walk out your door, you never know what adventure you’ll have.”

One of the most amazing places Mr. Hay and I have walked is in the Red Sea Mountains, on the South Galala Plateau, from St. Paul’s Monastery to St. Anthony’s Monastery. We have done this twice, the first time with a guide that the monks at St. Anthony’s recommended to us. The guide took us on a longer than expected, non-standard route, then tried to sell us a taxi ride to shorten the walk! The second time we went on our own and found the hydrothermal vents on the top of the mountain, an unexpected and marvellous discovery. In October 2014 we arranged another walk into the South Galala to visit the Leopard Hunter’s cave. We hired a tour company to show us the way, and a group of MES Cairo teachers walked 12 km up a wadi to see prehistoric rock art.

One of my attitudes is that just because you have been there doesn’t mean you have seen it all. I have been to the Saqqara pyramid field six or seven times now, and every time I go there I see tombs and ancient art I had not seen before. At the beginning of the 2014 school year MES Cairo provided a bus and Mr. Hay and I went to Saqqara with a group of teachers new to MES Cairo. When we got there the group fragmented and everyone went off exploring in their own direction following their muse. From the reports I heard on the bus on the way back to MES Cairo, everyone was excited about the exploring they did, and most saw features I have yet to discover! We organised another outing for new teachers to the Africa Safari Park on the Alex Desert Road. We discovered







this hidden treasure driving back from Alex one day when we spotted a five metre tall concrete giraffe standing beside a similarly sized elephant along the Desert Road! We pulled in and found that they let you pet hippos, hyenas and kangaroos! Who knew?

Most tourists that visit the Giza Pyramids and read their guide book discover that there are 138 pyramids in Egypt. Mr. Hay and I have made it our business to visit as many of them as we can. We have been to all of the major pyramid fields, including Giza, Saqqara, Dashur, Meidum, Abou Sir and Hawara. We recently completed our first round of visiting all the pyramids when we found the unfinished pyramid of Djedefre at Abou Rawash. This pyramid is fantastic for seeing the guts of a pyramid. It really helps you imagine how pyramids are built.

One of my favourite questions to ask people is "What is your most remarkable experience?" I frame it in different ways on different days. I recently asked Sarah El Rify, another teacher new to MES Cairo, "What is the most amazing thing you've done since coming to Egypt?"

She responded "I watched the sunset from the west end of Moqattam Ridge." I loved that she knew! For me the most amazing day I have had in Egypt was on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2013. I had been walking in Wadi Degla for two years by then, and every day I walked there with the sun beating down on me I wondered if I would ever see the wadi run water. That day there was a rainstorm which caused flash flooding in all of the wadis near Wadi Degla. I went for an all-day walk in the rain, from the visitor's centre at the Katameya end of Wadi Degla, over the hill to Wadi Hof, then down Wadi Hof, finishing on the Autostrad in Helwan. I saw waterfalls in Wadi Hof that I would not have believed possible!

I hope you enjoy your exploring in Egypt!

**Mr. Greg de Nevers - American Section Science Department**





**Halloween Social  
- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>  
October 2014**

**Year and Grade  
Seven**

# BOO!

**The** Halloween Social was a perfectly organised affair this year with everything going with a BANG! There were witches and vampires, goblins and ghouls galore, groups of grim reapers and numerous murdered souls with axes in heads or knives in necks. In short, the costumes were stunning!

Keeping the students entertained was a trusty group of seniors! Gina Osman (Y12R) was a positive whirlwind of organisation and coordination, keeping tabs on everything and sorting details out beforehand. Andre Andrawes (Y12R) was an amazing one man band, showing off his versatility and musical talent and Nader Rafaat (Y12R) was a quick-fire host.



There was a treasure hunt and, most importantly, a costume competition with every entrant taking to the catwalk and 'strutting their stuff' before the panel of three expert judges. All these activities made even the worst witch hungry! As well as the usual fare, there were delicious cupcakes with beautiful decorations – my favourite were the ones with the grave stones!

All in all a very enjoyable evening but don't just take my word for it....

The Halloween party was on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2014. The party was organised by the Seniors of MES Cairo. The Halloween party started at 6:00 pm and ended at 8:30 pm. It was the most awesome event so far this year mostly because there were many fun activities. As well as that we had a fantastic time because of our amazing teachers and we would like to thank the Seniors and our awesome teachers! Without them we wouldn't have had such an entertaining, fun and outstanding Halloween party.

**Nada Kamel (Y7G), Farah Rady (Y7B) and Hana Badry (Y7B) – MESsenger Club Journalists**

This year's Halloween party was a great success, thanks to this year's Seniors. They helped a lot, especially with the food and drinks and they put a lot of hard work into making the most delectable treats such as cake pops and cupcakes. They even ordered pizza, not to mention the different variety of drinks such as Fanta Apple, Coke, Sprite, juice and water. We enjoyed activities such as a treasure hunt which we all enjoyed taking part in.

**Ali Kamel (Y7R) – MESsenger Club Journalist**

**Ms. T. Sliney – Secondary English Department**





# MES Cairo Kids Club enjoying the delights of Cairo



The MES Cairo Kids Club is a regular meeting of teaching staff with their children on weekends as a way to enjoy each other's company as well as explore a little of Cairo with our families. There are many MES Cairo teachers here in Egypt with young families ranging from a few months old to young teens.

This term, three fun family outings have been scheduled and enjoyed. The first was a picnic in the green lung of Cairo...Al Azhar Park. Our children enjoyed the play area and climbing to the highest point of the park which has panoramic views of the city where we sat and enjoyed a healthy picnic in the shade of a pagoda.

The second was a taste of culture with a visit to the Children's Museum of Cairo. We enjoyed the large manicured gardens with a river and animal sculptures that represent the course of the Nile River, as well as playing in the children's area and exploring the museum exhibits. The children learnt about Ancient Egypt with a guided tour of one floor of the museum which had different activities such as a video about the Pyramids

and an interactive map of the Pyramids archaeological complex. There was even an opportunity to do a paper rubbing of a reconstructed obelisk with hieroglyphs as well as a wall mounted hieroglyphs jigsaw and a simulation of an archaeological dig in the sand.

The third outing which takes place mid-December is to celebrate Christmas with a festive felucca on the Nile and a visit from Santa and his elves...

All of our children are looking forward to more Kids Club adventures in the New Year.

**Mr. S. Cole - Year Six Yellow Teacher**



## MES CAIRO LADIES GO CHRISTMAS SHOPPING!

**One** of the many great experiences in Cairo is a visit to the bustling Khan El Khalili for a spot of shopping and haggling for a bargain. New staff to MES Cairo who live in New Cairo and Rehab joined in on the annual Ladies Christmas shopping trip to the Khan for a mint tea and falafel at Fishawy's as well as being shown some of the great things on offer by some colleagues who have been at MES Cairo for a while.

We visited the tentmakers alley, as well as exploring the winding alley ways of the Khan in search of Christmas gifts for friends and family back 'home'. From glass baubles to alabaster candles, pashminas to appliqué cushion covers...there was something for everyone. A wander down one alley filled with spices was a delicious assault on the senses!

It was a great day out!

**Mrs. J. Cole - Secondary LDD**





# LOOKING FORWARD TO MESSENGER 49!

A taste of what's coming up in the next issue ...

Our first IBDP Open Day was a great success with a large number of parents and students coming along to learn more about the IBDP and experience lessons.



We also had our first ever Secondary Middle School Production in early December.... *Cinderella* in all her finery!



Concert Band Joint Concert – our joint concert band performance with Maadi British International School was a fantastic success – more details to follow.



Finally, look out for information and articles celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year.



*Wishing the whole of the MES Cairo family a restful and peaceful winter break.*



# ARE YOU 'BY BUS'?



**Read all about MES Cairo's super school buses!**

**By Gina Osman (Y12R) – MESsenger Club Journalist**

**MES Cairo** never fails to provide the best for its family. School transportation to and from most areas of Cairo is available for students. This year all the buses have been upgraded to provide an even more comfortable journey to and from school. The school has also purchased new, luxurious buses that are fully equipped with state of the art technology – ensuring the best safety standards and a comfortable ride for everybody who uses them.

These days it feels like summers are getting hotter and winters are getting colder! Thankfully, our new buses are air-conditioned and have better heating systems. Above each seat is an air-conditioning unit, which the students can either turn on or off depending on their individual needs.

We all know how bumpy the Cairo roads can be. The school has upgraded all of the bus suspension systems, which means more efficient shock absorbers (mechanical devices designed to smooth out vibrations and jolts) and springs. This allows our vehicles to be more flexible, making the ride smooth and comfortable.

The sleek-looking buses reflect the quality of our school and are a reflection of MES Cairo's constant drive to make improvements and to enhance the students' experience of school life as a whole.

Our transportation administrators Mr. Emad, along with Ms. Omnia, Ms. Rehab and Mr. Osama, work very hard to maintain high standards. They are supervising buses, drivers, students and teachers on their large number of journeys well before school starts and long after the school day ends. To find out more about our slick fleet of buses and about the safety measures installed, I interviewed Mr. Emad Hamdy, Transportation Administrator.

**How many school buses does MES Cairo have in its fleet?**

140 Buses

**How many of these buses are full size buses?**

We have 109 full size buses and 31 mini buses.

**Do we purchase new buses annually?**

We usually purchase buses every two years but it depends on the school's transportation needs and the number of students we have on roll.

**What is the lifespan of one of our buses?**

A sensible lifetime for a bus that has been well-maintained is six years.

**What safety measures are in place on the buses and are these new?**

We have always had set safety rules such as the seatbelt rule. Seatbelts must be worn at all times and students may not move around on the bus during the journey. Some new safety measures we have introduced include monitoring the students, as well as the driver's speed and location (via GPS) using cameras.

**That sounds really high-tech! Could you explain a little more about the GPS readings of the driver's speed and location?**

Yes of course. Each bus is monitored on every journey and route. We have a technical expert stationed at school who is able to see live readings of all the buses and their speed and location. That way we can ensure that drivers do not speed. If in the unlikely event of a bus stalling or experiencing a technical issue, we can reach it very quickly and send a replacement bus to continue the journey if needed.





## How do you make sure that students remain seated on the bus?

As well as there being a bus matron supervising the students on every bus, each bus is equipped with a video camera. This way we can monitor and double check the activities of the students on the bus. If a student forgets the rules and decided to move seats or take off his or her seat belt, the matter is treated very seriously and my colleagues will follow up with the students and their parents.

## Tell me about the bus behaviour contract

The contract outlines the rules and procedures that ensure the safety of our students on every journey. Parents and students sign this contract with the understanding that any student who does not comply with these rules will not be able to use the service. Fortunately, it is very rare that students break the bus safety rules. As I have explained to you already, the safety of our students is paramount.

## Do our school bus drivers undertake any sort of training before they start their jobs?

Yes, they must have the best level of driving license and they receive annual training with Lieutenant Sherif (Traffic) on how to handle emergency situations, such as accidents and protests. Before employing our drivers, they are required to pass an examination and have at least one year of experience beforehand. They need to have good references from previous employees. We do not employ drivers below a certain age.



Some of our staff and students spend a long time on the buses due to where they live. What do you have in place on the buses to make the journey as comfortable as possible?

The seats on the buses are very comfortable. We also have air conditioning and heating.

Are our drivers proud of their buses? Do they keep them clean and wash the outside or is that someone else's job?

After the journey, the bus drivers clean the bus and we also have special staff, both from within and outside the school that help clean the buses. Our security guards search the buses after each journey just in case anyone leaves belongings on the bus. Found items are immediately taken to the lost property office.

## Student and Staff Quotes

*"The journey home is much more comfortable now with improved suspension on the buses."*

**Nouran Al Serw (Y12G)**

*"I've noticed the buses pollute less now due to a better exhaust system. I am glad the buses are more environmentally friendly."*

**Mohamed Dahroug (Y12B)**

*"My bus driver is very nice. He is kind and reliable and he does his job well."*

**Ms. T. Sliney**

*"There are many advantages of travelling on the school bus. You get to know people from different sections of the school in a social rather than an academic setting. The buses are spotlessly clean and air-conditioned making the drive to and from school a far more comfortable experience considering the distance some of us travel home after a long school day."*

**Sousana Hakim (DP11Y)**



# MESMERISED





# MESMERISED



## MESsenger 48 Team

Ms. S. Sheehan, Ms. C. Boswell, Mr. P. T. Godfrey, Ms. G. Dajani, Gina Osman (Y12R), Aisha Mazen (Y7Y), Ali Kamel (Y7G), Farah Rady (Y7B), Hana El Badri (Y7B), Nada Kamel (Y7G), Mennatallah Abdullah (G8B), Ms. R. Sharkawi, Ms. O. Mawla.  
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# Modern English School Cairo



Modern English School Cairo is a learning community which provides a high quality education for children from Foundation Stage One to university entrance level, serving the needs of Egyptian and international families in Cairo. Our broad education is based upon the British Curriculum in Primary. In Secondary, we offer a choice between a British Curriculum, an American Curriculum and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Arabic and Religious Studies are taught throughout the school.

## Our Mission

**Leadership through Education: Caring, Challenging, Inspiring**

### We believe in:

- recognising the value of each individual and his/her relationship with others;
- promoting international understanding and responsible citizenship in a multicultural context, reflecting the best of Arab, Western and other world cultures;
- providing a supportive, inspiring environment which encourages learners to aim high and achieve their aspirations;
- creating opportunities for all to develop confidence, responsibility and integrity.



*IB World School*

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*CfE Fellowship Centre Status*

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*DfE - Department for Education (UK)  
Number 7036316*

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*Member of British Schools in the Middle East (BSME)*

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*Associate Member of European Council of International Schools (ECIS)*

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*Fully accredited by Middle States Association (MSA) Commission on Elementary and Secondary Schools*

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*Fully accredited as an International School by Ministry of Education, Egypt*

\*

*Member Near East South Asia (NESA) Council of Overseas Schools*

\*

*NCA Accredited - AdvancED*

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*ICT Mark UK (2010)*

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*Accredited as 'Outstanding' by British Schools Overseas BSO*

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