



# MES Cairo

## Primary

# Newsletter

Issue 2

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## Every Child is an Artist

Art classrooms are magical places, full of creativity, colour and activity! At MES Cairo, our Art classroom is no different ... except it does seem to be going through a spectacular transformation at present. Using the ideas of Lichtenstein and Warhol, the Year 5 students are creating enormous, oversized flowers and insects as they create their very own jungle installation! We believe firmly that every child is an artist and that if the right opportunities are presented, that everyone can be creative and successful! It's great to see the Year 5s demonstrating this so well, with all students contributing ideas, skills and energy to their incredible project. This latest edition of the Primary newsletter is full of examples of all children participating successfully in the fantastic opportunities that are constantly on offer at MES Cairo ... enjoy!

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## In FS1 Orange...

...we have had a lovely time learning 'All About ME!' We have especially enjoyed learning about the bones inside our bodies and we have learnt new words like skeleton, skull and muscles. We practised moving our muscles when we did our skeleton dance. Our classroom is decorated with beautifully crafted skeletons made from white paper straws and cotton buds that we carefully glued on ... what a work-out for our fingers! Our favourite book this week was 'Funnybones' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg; we liked it "because it has a skeleton dog," "because those skeletons are silly," and "because a skeleton is spooky."



## In FS2 Orange...

...we have had a lovely week, continuing with our topic, 'Beasts and Bugs!' We have really enjoyed learning about the lifecycle of a butterfly and then creating butterfly pictures by mixing and exploring primary colours. We have also enjoyed looking at information books about different insects and mini-beasts, describing what we can see happening in each picture and asking lots of interesting questions.





## In Year 1 Orange...

...we have been focusing on Egypt as part of our first Topic: 'Hello, I'm New Here!' We looked at where Egypt is on a world map and then where Cairo is. Our first set of maps showed where we find the Nile River, Giza Pyramids, Modern English School Cairo, City Stars and Kidszania. We had to work with partners to place these main sites on the maps. Then we started to look a bit closer at the different areas we live in within Cairo and, in teams, had to make large scale area maps for Rehab, Maadi, Zamalek, Sharouk and New Cairo. We got to use pictures of things we see in those areas and other tools like lego, blocks, cars and small world toys to complete our area maps. It was so much fun and lots of great teamwork by Year 1 Orange!



## In Year 2 Orange...

...we have immersed ourselves into the wonderful world of Oliver Jeffers. We had fun using drama to learn the story of 'How to Catch a Star'. We had to be resourceful when it came to finding roles for everyone in the group because there's only one main character in the story. Miss Hanna was super impressed with our imaginative portrayal of the objects, animals and people in the story. Can you spot a tree? A life belt? A star? The sea? Year 2 Orange brilliantly acted all of these!





## In Year 3 Orange...

...we continued our scientific start to the term! We visited the science laboratory to test the properties of different rocks. We even dressed up in lab coats and goggles like real scientists! We used pipettes to drop water onto samples of rocks to see if they are porous. We also tested to see if any rocks floated. We used vinegar, which is also known as acetic acid, to check for the presence of chalk, and checked how hard different rocks are by scratching them. Our next investigation will be to discover the difference between igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks.



## In Year 4 Orange...

...it has been a hectic but wonderful start to the year and we have done so much already. The summer holiday is a distant memory as we have thrown ourselves right back into our learning, with lots of hard work and vast amounts of enthusiasm. In English, we have been studying 'Living on Ice', a story about dilemmas. We have had lots of fun acting out the story, hot-seating the characters and phoning Basher B to ask why his friend Reilly is so unkind. It is clear that all of the Talk for Writing lessons are having great impact on our writing. Some of our work has been very good indeed, with many students using powerful adjectives and effective adverbs in their work.

In Science, we have been using MES Cairo as our classroom and have been into the atrium and onto the field to look at the wide variety of plants that we have growing around school. We used the iPads, in our Pod, for a really interesting lesson. We scanned the QR codes that Mr. Shilley had created for us using QRafter. This took us directly to some amazing websites about the function of different parts of plants.

One of the best parts of the week was when we engaged in independent learning. From the quality of the work, it is obvious that when we are enjoying ourselves and working hard, we can produce some very good work!





## In Year 5 Orange...

...we have very much enjoyed learning about the apartheid in South Africa and the work of Nelson Mandela. We have been reading and studying the famous book, by Beverley Naidoo, 'Journey to Jo'burg'. In it the children, Naledi and Tiro, travel to Jo'burg to find their mother, having adventures along the way. We wrote dialogue and then practised a chapter of the book as a drama activity. We were proud to showcase our drama work to Year 5 Blue, who were an appreciative audience. We certainly have some budding actors and actresses in Year 5 Orange!



## In Year 6 Orange...

...we had plenty of magic moments last week. We witnessed amazing artwork and some wonderful pieces of emotive writing about flashback stories about World War II. One lesson that has stood out in Year 6 Orange was the incredible multiplying treasure hunts around the school! It's been a great week but it doesn't stop there ... we're going to be cooking up some tasty World War II meals next week! You can see us below, looking happy and ready to learn!





## In Cougars...

...last week, trials took place for the netball, swimming, football and basketball teams. 350 eager students took part representing Years 2 to 6. There were some brilliant performances by all students and everyone worked hard to get themselves selected. Once the trials were over, the coaches had the impossible task of selecting the teams. It took a lot of time to make the decisions but, finally, the teams were chosen and now the hard training begins in preparation for all the fixtures and tournaments coming up in the year ahead.



## App of the Week

As improving our English is one of the big targets at MES Cairo this year, the Year 5s wasted no time challenging their technological skills to help them respond creatively to their class book, 'Journey to Jo'burg', which was set in the time of apartheid in South Africa. Using the QRafter App, students were able to watch one of Martin Luther King's speeches live on their iPads. Having been inspired to use powerful words and memorable phrases, they then wrote their very own speeches about 'freedom'. Students used great language and grammar techniques in their writing, but also challenged their technological skills resourcefully using new software to learn in an enriched and meaningful way. What are the other ways you can inspire your children using applications like QRafter at home?



### Coming Up Next...

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October**

Arabic Day – 'Youm Al-Amanie'

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October**

Year 5 Concert

**23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> October**

Half Term – School Closed

**30<sup>th</sup> October – 3<sup>rd</sup> November**

Winter Uniform Changeover

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

Primary Parents Day

**6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> November**

FS1 Family Focus Week