

MESSENGER

Happy 20th Anniversary,
MES Cairo!



FOREWORD

I love to see the expression on the faces of our oldest students when I remind them that I have actually lived in Cairo much longer than they have! Surprising but true!

I first came on a visit to Cairo in 1982 when there were fields leading up to the pyramids in Giza but came here next in the summer of 1990 when the world for many of us had been turned upside down.

Things have certainly changed in Cairo and Egypt during the past twenty years, some for the better but not all. One thing that has not changed at all is the quest for excellence at MES Cairo. The passion and interest from the Directors of the school have been matched by the loyalty and commitment from all the staff. It has been a pleasure being part of such a vibrant team for so long.

From the beginning, MES Cairo has always been striving to make each day for each pupil an exciting and rewarding one. Sadly our first MESsenger was not published until 1999 and now looks as dated as the faded photographs of those early pioneering years in the green and white striped uniform. In those first ten years there was much to be proud of which is recorded only in our memories.

This is MESsenger edition number 34 and yet again we have no problems in filling it with examples of success and achievement. Well done everyone, there is much to celebrate in this our special twentieth year of leading the provision of quality education in Cairo.

Mr. P. T. Godfrey - School Principal



MESsenger: thought for Issue 34

MES Cairo is delighted to be celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year. What better way to make this year, and all our years at MES Cairo, even *more* memorable by ...giving. The pages of this MESsenger are filled with remarkable examples of charity work; showing great dedication and generosity of spirit amongst MES Cairo students and teachers alike – working hard together as a family to help those in need.

'We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.' -

Winston Churchill



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The photographs on this page show images of the amazing MES Cairo 24 Hour Charity Fun Run. For a full report, see page 30.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Representatives of MES Cairo attend the Remembrance Day Service



On the 11th November, 1918 at 11 a.m. the First World War officially ended. Ever since then Great Britain and some of the other countries who lost soldiers, sailors and airmen in that war, have marked this anniversary with a Service of Remembrance. Over the years this service has come to include remembering all those who have been injured or died in any subsequent action in the service of their country. Here in Cairo the day is marked with a short, simple service at The Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery, Heliopolis, organised by the British Embassy.

The pupils of MES Cairo who have a British passport or a passport from one of the Commonwealth countries are invited to attend. This year we took a total of thirty-five pupils from the Primary and Secondary departments. We arrived in good time so that the pupils would have the opportunity to look around the cemetery before the service started. They saw the different countries represented from around the globe, underlining the fact that they were indeed world wars. Many of our students used the cemetery's detailed honour rolls to find soldiers from their own country and, in some cases, from their own locality.

The service was attended by ambassadors from each of the countries whose soldiers are buried in the cemetery, as well as a number of others. We were very proud that students of MES Cairo, were chosen by the British Embassy to greet the ambassadors as they arrived at the cemetery and present them with an Order of Service. Our students were immaculately presented, and treated this role with respect and dignity fitting the occasion.

As part of the service each of the ambassadors laid a wreath to honour and remember the dead and injured. A wreath was also laid by the only veteran in attendance, Major Freddie Townsend OBE of The Royal Marines. At 11 a.m. there was the traditional two minute silence, the end of which was marked by a pair of buglers who played the Last Post.

After the service several of the pupils were presented to Major Townsend and had their photograph taken with him.

Ms. D. Sinson - Primary Learning Development Department

What next after Secondary School at MES Cairo?

BRITISH UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS



Our Senior Students at Modern English School Cairo have been very pre-occupied with mid-year examinations recently and rightly so. But this is also the time to make preparations for life after the final examinations in May and June. Most of the Seniors at MES Cairo are ready for the final stage of their formal education. At MES Cairo we have always advised students to broaden their horizons and spread their wings by flying off to higher education institutes abroad, if possible. We realise the high academic requirements, the absence from family life and the greater expense of overseas universities are not for all, but the benefits are substantial. This year there has been an increase in applicants from MES Cairo to UK universities through UCAS (University and College Admissions Service).



British universities have a strong reputation internationally because of their substantial histories and because of the quantity and quality of their modern research output. Universities in the UK vary enormously. There are the very traditional 'ancient' universities such as Oxford, established in 1096, Cambridge (1209) and St. Andrew's (1410-1413) which continue to produce world class undergraduates and post-graduates in all disciplines. In the nineteenth century, institutions such as University College London (1829) and Durham University (1837) were established and still maintain their excellent reputations. The 'red-brick' universities built in the early 20th century such as the University of Birmingham (1900) and University of Sheffield (1905) compete with the post-WWII 'plate glass' universities such as the University of York (1963) and University of Bath (1966), offering rigorous academic degrees with first class facilities and teaching. New universities, such as Kingston University (1992), often offer more vocational courses to meet the needs of the modern work place.



Thankfully, UK universities recognise a variety of qualifications, not just the traditional A-levels, but also the IB Diploma, and Advanced Placement courses from the American High School Diploma. Needless to say there is stiff competition for places on the best courses and at the best institutions. For all Oxford and Cambridge subjects, and Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science courses everywhere, applications have to be completed by 15th October the year before enrollment.

Twelve applications from MES Cairo have been sent to UCAS so far this year from across all 3 sections of Senior Students. Each applicant can choose up to five courses at five different universities in the UK. The selection process is not only linked to high academic achievements, but tends also to focus on an applicant's Personal Statement and References. Universities in the UK want highly academically able students, but they also want confident and interesting individuals. Experience in team and leadership roles in extra-curricular activities are a distinct advantage to winning a place on a demanding course. Fortunately, MES Cairo students have extensive opportunities to gain this experience in positions of responsibility and in ASAs throughout their time here, whether it be in sports, the performing arts, the visual arts, MUN, NHS or the multitude of other activities on offer.

Sham Al Zahabi (DP12R) applied to study Natural Sciences at Cambridge and received a request to attend an interview based on the strength of her application. This is an incredible





achievement given the competition for places on this course at Cambridge. Sham has also received a conditional offer for Chemistry with Pharmacology from St. Andrew's, which is tremendous. Of our other applicants to date there have been further conditional offers for prestigious courses at renowned institutions, including Business Management and Aeronautical Engineering. Now they just need to get the grades!



All_UK universities welcome students from multi-cultural backgrounds including from overseas. Extensive support is offered to assist international students with settling into accommodation and general student life. Having a Bachelors, Masters or PhD degree from a British university opens doors to opportunities worldwide. No one is suggesting it is easy to complete your higher education in the UK, that's why it is so highly valued. However, at MES Cairo we have the philosophy that every student should reach their full potential. There is still time to apply for September 2010 entry for non-EU citizens but courses are filling up rapidly with conditional offers. So the message to MES Cairo students is – "If you've got it, go for it!"

Mr. S. Perry - Deputy Head Secondary British Section

UK University Advisor for Whole Secondary

You can look forward to a report on American University Applications in our next MESsenger!

MES Cairo students take British external examinations on their own school site

WRITE AT HOME

AT MES Cairo there are many forms of assessment and ways students can impress their teachers with their abilities and effort. In Years 10-12 of the British Section most assessment culminates in external examinations. There are distinct advantages to this which are worth revisiting. Firstly the final examinations set by CIE or Edexcel boards are rigorously standardised and respected throughout the world. Also there can be direct comparison of IGCSE grades between different countries, schools and even classes. For these reasons, all renowned universities worldwide recognise IGCSE, GCSE, AS-levels and A-levels. Secondly, the assessment in preparation for final examinations is very important, but is essentially, a practice for the real thing. Naturally young people improve with practice and are continually given the chance to do this with help and advice from their teachers with a view to reaching their very best for the final stage.

At MES Cairo we are very proud to be an attached examination centre to the British Council and unlike most other Cairo schools with a British education system, we host the final examinations on site. There are indeed distinct advantages for our students because of this. Just like in all the practice tests and examinations MES Cairo students write the answers to the examinations that count in an MES Cairo classroom. Candidates can arrive on MES Cairo transport to register for their examinations in familiar MES Cairo surroundings. Often this also occurs on Fridays as a consequence of the examinations being set in a British working week.



Ms. Sally Naguib -
Secondary British Section
Secretary



A dedicated team of staff prepare the examination venues to the board's specifications just like in the UK. The secretaries Ms. Sally and Ms. Enas are on hand to deal with any student concerns should they arise. Specialist MES Cairo subject staff provide expert advice to the British Council for specific examinations such as in Science and ICT. The safety of students is of paramount importance and this includes ensuring everyone is safely on their assigned transport home after the session ends even at weekends.

Obviously examinations can be a stressful experience (some people enjoy them!), but we are confident that having them 'at home' as we like to think, make this a better opportunity to attain the success that is deserved for all the hard work put in during the practice in lessons.



Ms. Enas Sami Mahmoud
- Secondary British Section
Secretary

Mr. S. Perry - Deputy Head Secondary British Section

National Honor Society (NHS) and

National Junior Honor Society (NJHS is new at MES Cairo!)



On 14th March 2010, the National Honor Society inducted twenty three new members in a formal ceremony held at MES Cairo in the Multi Purpose Hall.

The inductees and veteran members were this year also joined by twenty two new inductees to the new National Junior Honor Society, to be advised by Ms. Christine Flake.

Introduced by student Mina Fouad, student speakers Maha Ahmed, Mostafa Hussein, Donya Sharaawy, Sara Helmy, Malak Shiati, Amina Gamal, and Ferras Hafez did a splendid job welcoming the new NHS and NJHS members.

NJHS has recently had their first meeting to kick off what will surely be an exciting record of service and leadership. Meanwhile, the NHS (now forty three students strong!) has several exciting projects in the works for the new term and next school year, including planning visits to the El Safa Center, work with the Aga Khan Foundation, and helping to create a library for village children in Sakkara.

Ms. H. Crutchfield – English Department American Section



ENGLISH MATTERS

PSAT SCORES ARE UP!

Each Fall, Grade Ten (and some Grade Eleven) students around the world take the PSAT – the preliminary Standard Aptitude Test (SAT). An American test, the PSAT is used to gauge student readiness for taking the SAT in grades 11 & 12, and their college preparedness. SAT scores are widely used in college admissions around the world, including at AUC.



Donya Abouel-Nour - joint second English score

This year, at Modern English School Cairo, we had 82 students taking the PSAT – 19 more than in 2008. This larger group performed excellently on this year's test! In 2009, the percentage of students scoring over 140 (the equivalent of 1400 on the SAT) tripled! While 6% of students taking the PSAT in 2008 scored a 140 or higher, in 2009 the percentage jumped to 18%! More than a quarter of students scored above a 135, a very desirable score for college admissions.

The PSAT has three sections – Critical Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. MES Cairo Sophomores performed best on the Mathematics section, but still did significantly better in Critical Reading and Writing than in previous years. Four incredibly talented MES students scored in the 90th Percentile in at least one section of

the test. That means their score was among the top 10% of all 10th AND 11th Grade students who took the test around the world!

This year's Grade Nine are already preparing for next year's PSAT exam! They have accumulated 100 difficult words in their vocabulary since the start of the school year, are excelling in math classes, and are working hard on critical reading skills through their studies of novels and poetry. In addition, in Term 3, they will begin taking practice PSAT questions in their classes to prepare for next year's test. In the meantime, many Grade Eleven students are taking advantage of SAT prep courses to raise their SAT scores in the Spring, when they will take the SAT for the first time.

Ms. H. Crutchfield – English Department American Section

BIG READ EGYPT LITERARY COMPETITION AT AUC

Several Grade Ten students were recently recognized at the Big Read Egypt Literary Competition ceremonies held on 17th December at the American University in Cairo.

Giulia Ramadan - 1st prize in the artistic book cover

Norhan Mostafa - 2nd prize in the artistic book cover

Marina Maurice - 3rd prize in the artistic book cover

Sarah Dessouki earned a certificate of appreciation for her literary review

The Big Read Egypt program is a project of the U.S. Department of State and the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest, the U.S. Embassy in Cairo and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The program is designed to expand and deepen cultural dialogue and understanding between Egyptians and Americans through shared reading of each nation's literary treasures. This year's competition focused on 'To Kill a Mockingbird'. We are very proud of our students' efforts and the work they put forward for this competition.

Mr. R. Wilkinson – Grade 10 English Teacher



Ibrahim Eid - joint second English score



Ahmed Bahaa-Eddin - third English score



Saif Abdel-Ghaffar - top English PSAT score



Nadim Gergis - fourth English score





MES Cairo IBDP News

Theory of Knowledge Presentations – Critical Thinking in Practice

The Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course is the only subject **all** IB Diploma students **must** take and successfully complete in order to be awarded the IB Diploma. This requirement is central to the educational philosophy of the Diploma Programme. It is a course designed to encourage each student to reflect on the nature of knowledge by critically examining different ways of knowing (perception, emotion, language and reason) and different kinds of knowledge (scientific, artistic, mathematical and historical).

The course is assessed in two ways:

1. An essay on a philosophical topic related to knowledge acquisition chosen from a list of ten titles provided by the IBO. Examples of titles from this year's list are: *How important are the opinions of experts in the search for knowledge. To what extent do we need evidence to support our beliefs in different areas of knowledge? "Art is a lie that brings us closer to the truth" (Picasso). Evaluate this claim in relation to a specific art form. "There are no absolute distinctions between what is true and what is false." Discuss this claim*
2. A presentation either alone or in a small group analyzing the knowledge issues of a real life situation

Recently our current cohort of IBDP students conducted their final assessed presentations. There was a variety of different topics displayed by the students. Some of the groups were able to use knowledge learned in their other subjects...exactly what the IB is hoping for!



- Sham Al-Zahabi and Ahmed Omara discussed validity of the Sciences and its application to the global warming debate.
- Nadine Enan, Nouran Gouda, Noha Kandil and Hania Eid discussed the ethics of biotechnology, mobile phones and the media.
- Farida El Deen, Omar Abdelrahman, Shaheer El-Bardisy had an interesting debate about the relationship between legality and morality looking and applied this to examples of illegal downloading of music and deforestation.
- Omar Heriba, Dana Beltaji and Manar Mokadm did an experiment with the group looking at individual differences affecting what we know, like how Beethoven heard music and left and right-brained learning.
- Finally, Farah Diab and Nour Abdallah looked at how societal differences and race can affect the claims that we make about people, especially in the media.

All students are to be commended for the work that they have completed throughout the TOK course.

Attention to Individuals – Mentoring System in the IBDP at MES Cairo.



The origin of "mentoring" comes from, as many other innovative things, the Ancient Greeks. The original Mentor is a character in Homer's The Odyssey. When Odysseus went to fight in the Trojan War he entrusted the care and education of his son Telemachus an old and wise friend called Mentor.

Here at MES Cairo we have introduced this notion of individual mentoring to assist our IBDP12 students with the academic, organisational and emotional demands of the second year of the IB Diploma.



We have allocated an IBDP teacher to each one of the students in IBDP12. These teachers are the students' mentors during the second year of the programme. The mentors do not necessarily teach a subject to their mentees. Mentors are there to act as a trusted, wise and friendly councilor during this very demanding year of the students' educational career.

Mentors meet up with their mentees each week for around 30 minutes to discuss and review how everything is going with their mentee. They talk about what has been achieved in the previous week; if things have not been achieved they analyse why not, and work through a solution. Mentors also encourage their mentees to set weekly goals for themselves and develop a plan in order that they meet these goals.

Mentors assist their mentees with organisation and time management. Drawing up a revision timetable and balancing the work load is an important part of this in these last few weeks before the final examinations.



Sometimes the mentors are just their as a friendly ear to listen to students concerns and allow them to "let of a bit of steam" when needed. We all know the IB Diploma Programme is very demanding and sometimes students feel things are over whelming them. It is times like this where the mentor provides encouragement and support empowering the student to have self belief and an "I can do it" attitude.

Manar Makadm of IBDP12 says of the mentor scheme: "It is really nice to be mentored beyond the merely academic. To have a guide to open my eyes to different perspectives makes my education feel more complete. I think this scheme should be continued and developed further in the future."

It is interesting that Manar, as well as being a mentee, also acts as a mentor for younger students in the student mentoring scheme lead by Mr. McTigue.

Mr. C.O'Connell – IBDP Coordinator

MES CAIRO CLASS OF 2010 VISIT AUC AT THE NEW CAMPUS IN KATTAMEYA



As Seniors, our experiences this school year have been rather different because a new and enormous thought has entered our minds. That new thought is that of... University!

Throughout the year, the Senior students have been asking for advice about degrees and majors, writing up applications and out sending transcripts and teachers' reference letters - all in hope of a achieving a good University place and looking forward to a positive life beyond MES Cairo.

Late last term most of us had a fascinating glimpse of a potential future when the graduating classes visited The American University in Cairo - more commonly known as AUC.

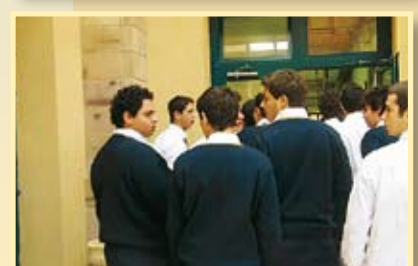
Most students were awe-struck by new AUC campus in Kattameya due to its magnificent layout, design and architecture. We were impressed and felt that we had truly experienced a most favourable student environment.

We were greeted by two young AUC graduate admissions officers. They took us to a lecture hall to attend the presentations on what life is like for an AUC student or "Aucian" as they prefer to call themselves. They told us that as a member of the AUC community we would develop not just academically, but also as a whole person. They explained to us that at AUC, one learns to interact within a broad extra-curricular programme that stimulates students on many levels; whether physically, socially or intellectually.

Our tour of the campus then followed. As we were led around the campus we saw countless examples of why the AUC campus has moved to Kattameya. They took us to their two main lecture halls, the amazing new library, and we explored the athletics village where you can participate in any activity that comes to mind! There they have a gym, a basketball court, a football pitch and an Olympic sized pool.

Our trip to AUC was one to remember as we have seen one of Egypt's greatest and most important Institutions. We caught an inspirational glimpse of the future for those of us who are choosing to stay here in Egypt and attend AUC. I must say it seems that the future of Egypt's Higher Education is in capable hands.

Omar Saloussi – Grade 12 Red



Primary - Getting Creative with the Number 20!

The idea was simple-to hold a competition where the children were asked to decorate the number 20 in a way that would reflect the excitement that is in the air as we celebrate our twentieth anniversary.

Children (many supported by their parents) took up the challenge, using a variety of media and techniques.

Glitter, sequins, paint, crayon and ribbons were just a few of the materials used to bring the number 20 to life visually in a colourful and exciting way.

An amazing range of skills and techniques were used from simple colouring-in to 3D sculptures.

A boy in Year 1 arrived with a Mexican pinâta decorated with the number 20 in MES Cairo colours, full of goodies ready to spill out once it had been broken apart as part of the celebrations.

I hope that you enjoy looking at some of the entries shown on this page.

Ms. J. Bentley - Key Stage One Deputy Headteacher



SPECIAL LDD STAFF INTERVIEW

Miss Ceri and her Special Room

Miss Ceri interviewed by Mrs. Godfrey

If you ever visit the top floor in the primary building, tucked away in a small room, close to the Year Six Pod, you will find Miss Ceri. The entrance to the room is rather unusual so I made my way in and after looking around, found that there were lots of questions which I wanted to ask Miss Ceri about what happens in her room.

Mrs Godfrey: Why do children come to see you?

Miss Ceri: Children come to see me for a variety of reasons but they are all related to improving the child's happiness. Sometimes it may be something serious like losing someone in the family or divorce. Other times it could be that the child has difficulties with their behavior or is over anxious.

Mrs Godfrey: What is your main aim?

Miss Ceri: My main aim is to help the children to express their emotions so strategies can be taught which will guide the children to deal with their own feelings independently. They need their thoughts to be less tied up with emotions so they are happy and relaxed which in turn means they can achieve more in school and at home.

Mrs Godfrey: What methods do you use to counsel the children?

Miss Ceri: I use several methods when counselling the children, apart from listening to them in a safe, confidential haven with essential oils burning, music playing, calm lighting and plenty to feel and stroke. Some of these methods include art, music and movement therapy, the use of life-sized puppets, finger puppets and sand.

Amina Elghazali (5R) wrote this about the finger puppets, "I was delighted when Miss Ceri asked me and my friend Nadia Aboulleil (5R) to help her with a great idea to help children. She gave us some plain finger puppets to create into a family. Miss Ceri said they were not for playing with so this was not clear for me. Just before I could ask her the question, she announced that they were for children to express themselves with, when they had a problem. After lots of thinking I got making them. I would like to thank my Grandma for helping me, Nadia would like to thank her mum and Miss Ceri would like to thank US!



Nadia Aboulleil (5R)



Here is an example of the writing that went with a piece of artwork reflecting a child's feelings: "This is when I want to pull my hair out. I feel disappointed, glum, shocked, fed up, hurt, nervous, shattered and sad. I even feel scared, for some reason scared. Bad dreams get to me and I want to cry. I feel hopeless and like I am going to explode. I can go to my room and sleep and this sends me into dream world. Most of the time the dreams are peaceful. I imagine I am flying high in the sky, protected by the angels."



Amina Elghazali (5R)

Finally, Miss Ceri would like to welcome anyone to her room. Children are either timetabled to see her after they have gone through the LDD referral process or she has a locked up box, outside her room, where children can post their worries and Miss Ceri will respond in different ways. Remember, "A problem shared is a problem halved."



Mrs. C. Godfrey - KS2 Headteacher and Mm C. Davies - Primary LDD



Examples of clay being use to help children express their emotions:

It's never too late to learn!

Contributions from Mrs. L. Dermody (Primary LDD), Ms. J. Bentley (Key Stage 1 Deputy Head), Mrs. M. Jodrell (Lead Teacher) and Mrs. B. Meason (Year 1 Green).

Here at MES Cairo we firmly believe in the concept of lifelong learning. So in the Primary Department we are proud of the fact that this year, alongside teaching the pupils in our care, we have also been able to provide opportunities for parents, and even teachers, to brush up on their knowledge and skills.

Back to school for parents

At a recent Parents' Workshop Dr. Amira, who works with and supports families and children, spoke about the importance of "special time". She pointed out that, as adults, we all look back fondly on our childhood and remember the precious moments that we spent with our parents. Our memories will vary, but what we treasure most is that they found time to spend with us in their busy day. "Special time" is every child's right, like water and food," Dr. Amira commented. "It will nourish their wellbeing, giving them the self confidence to develop into well-rounded adults."

This is what Dr. Amira strongly advises;

- Find twenty minutes in your day for each of your children (this is not to be taken away for any reason).
- Your child chooses the activity that you are going to do together-it may be a game, puzzle, baking a cake, going for a walk, any number of things but not TV or computers-it's a chance for you to talk to your child.
- Give lots of praise and constantly model the behavior that you are pleased with e.g. 'I really like the way you take turns', 'You are such a good listener'.
- Finish the activity after 15 minutes and talk about your positive feelings and ask your child how they are feeling. Lots of hugs are always a good thing!!
- No negative comments during 'Special Time'-if there is any unwanted behaviour TRY and ignore it.

Daily 'Special Time' is ideal, but if you are angry or exhausted do not do it.

Dr. Amira said that her children, who are now in their twenties, still ask for 'Special Time'. They loved the undivided attention of their mum. So, no matter how hectic your daily life is, spending quality time with your child is an investment in the relationship that you will have with him or her for the rest of your lives.



Dr. Amira

Teachers Learn Too!

There are many opportunities for teachers to carry on learning at MES Cairo. This year alone we have had a great number of training days in our quest to become even better than we already are!

At the beginning of this academic year, when children were still at home after their long summer holiday, teachers gathered together in the primary school for a variety of workshops and training days. Some of these included teamwork, developing the classroom environment, the power of positive thinking, and how to go from a good teacher to being an outstanding one. These were a mixture of practical sessions and current educational research and whilst learning, teachers had a lot of fun – much like being in a primary classroom really! In some of our after-school sessions we have focused on target setting, phonics and reading.



Roz Wilson talked to teachers about Big Writing.



Teachers at a training session.

The central aim to all of training sessions in school is to raise the standards of learning and teaching, to ensure that children have the best learning opportunities and that teachers are well equipped to care, **challenge and inspire!**

In Term 2 Barbara Meason (Year 1 Green) attended a Big Talk for Big Writing course. The course was held in Southampton, England, and covered speaking and listening. The ethos of the course was 'If a child can't SAY it a child can't write it.' "I really enjoyed the course, it has given me lots of fabulous ideas." said Miss Meason. She will be providing INSET for the teachers in Primary so that they may benefit from her newly acquired knowledge.



Coral George gave teachers some new ideas about how to teach Jolly Phonics.

Over the past ten years there has been a significant amount of research directed towards finding out how the brain works and how we as individual learners can best learn. For the first time at the MES, children in Year 4 had the opportunity to learn about who they are as learners and about what it means to be SMART. Children learned about the three main learning styles (visual, auditory and kinaesthetic) and carried out their activities playing to these strengths. Most of the children can now tell you how they learn best and they use this knowledge in their everyday class routines. They also learned about what it means to be SMART – rather than the older fashioned sense of IQ. We learned that there are 8 types of SMART – linguistic, mathematical, people, myself, art, music, sport and nature smart.

Of course we are not all just one type of learning style – nor just one type of SMART. We are all a mixture - and these can change as we get older and have more life long learning experiences. Thus we are all truly unique. Now what SMARTs are YOU?



Are you a kinaesthetic learner?

- Doodle when you are listening?
- Want to get started straight on a task first – even if you are not quite sure what you are going?
- Prefer to sit curled up or one leg tucked under?
- Enjoy being busy when you do things?
- Draw diagrams and pictures or make notes when people are speaking?
- Take part in a practical hobby?
- Use your hands to gesture when you are talking?

Are you an auditory learner?

- Like to listen to music or the TV in the background – but not when you are REALLY concentrating?
- Like to talk a lot about what you are doing?
- Like to listen to other people talk about the task?
- Describe something to someone rather than necessarily show someone?
- Remember the sound of people's voices?



Are you a visual learner?

- Do you read all the instructions before you do a task and while you are doing it?
- Can you put a face to a name?
- Can you remember the look of pictures and photographs?
- Want things to look nice – even when they don't have to?
- Get confused if you can't **see** the main points visibly somewhere?



PRIMARY LDD NEWS

New initiatives in the Primary Learning Development Department



In the Learning Development Department we are always looking for new ways to help children who are having difficulty getting to grips with basic skills in literacy and numeracy. So we were delighted when Head of Department Arlene Campbell heard about the new 5 Minute Literacy and Numeracy Boxes, which have been developed for use with Primary-aged pupils in the United Kingdom.

Many children at MES Cairo have been involved in the 5 Minute Box programmes so far this year. And the results have been very impressive. Pupils who have been using the 5 Minute Literacy Box are becoming more confident readers and writers as their phonic knowledge, spelling and handwriting all improve.

“The pupil in my class who’s been working on the 5 Minute Box has definitely shown improvements in his literacy skills,” commented Mark Thompson (Year 4 Blue).

“The 5 Minute Box is doing a fantastic job,” agreed Lorna Mallory (Year 4 Violet).

In fact, the new initiative has proved to be so successful that it is now being used throughout Key Stage One, with teaching assistants delivering the programme.

Mrs. L. Dermody - Primary Learning Development Department

SITARA THEATRE COMPANY VISITS MES CAIRO

Rapunzel Shadow Puppet Workshop



Cairo's leading children's theatre group Sitara recently visited MES Cairo. The children in Years 1, 2 and 3 were treated to fantastic days of shadow theatre and puppet making workshops. First came the production, which was narrated by a wicked witch, played by Sitara's theatre director Emma Davies. The story of Rapunzel centres on a beautiful young girl who is trapped in a castle's tower. She is kept prisoner by the wicked witch until she is rescued, using her long golden hair as a rope, by a handsome prince. Apart from the wicked witch all the characters in the show are acted out by shadow puppets handled expertly by Emma's team of puppeteers. Once everyone had enjoyed the show, all the children had the opportunity to draw, cut out and decorate their own shadow puppet. But the fun did not stop there! Once the puppets were made all the children were able to try them out using the Rapunzel theatre setting as their backdrop. Much fun was had by all and everyone is now looking forward to visiting Sitara's theatre in New Cairo to see their latest production - Cinderella.



Mr. S. Jodrell-Key Stage Two Deputy Head

KEY STAGE ONE NEWS

Open Day at Modern English School Cairo

One of the biggest decisions a parent will make on behalf of their child is which school to send them to. For many it is daunting to think that in just a few months their precious treasure will be putting on a school uniform, packing their bag and setting off for school every day. Between then and now parents will be working hard to encourage their child to be as independent as possible, ready for that day when they wave them goodbye.

Here at Modern English School Cairo we pride ourselves in working in partnership with our parents, and we all have the child at the centre of our actions. Our vision is to 'Care, Challenge and Inspire' every unique individual.

The number of parents attending our Open Day far exceeded our expectations; clearly our reputation has spread far and wide across Cairo. Ms. Sasha and I gave our presentation explaining about the 'Foundation Stage' twice, as the theatre could not accommodate the numbers of parents and children who had come along to find out more about the school. In fact more than 400 people visited us on one day! It was the photographs however, taken by Grade 12 students with Mr. Crabb, that really captured the parents' imaginations and they couldn't wait to see the school in action for themselves. A big "thank you" goes out to Ms. Ghada Dajani and her team in the Admission and Student Affairs Office, who organized the event and took the visitors around on tours of the whole school. Many thanks also go out to all the staff who ensured that everywhere was looking fresh and alive with interactive displays and welcoming pod areas.

It is always with pride that we welcome parents to the pods and classrooms and Open Day was no exception. The pods were hives of activity with children so engrossed in what they were doing that they hardly noticed the visitors. Once the parents had satisfied their curiosity, Ms. Sasha and I, along with the Admissions Office team, were on hand for any last minute questions before they completed the application form. Now we are looking ahead to next year, when the children will return to school to begin the next stage of their journey of 'Life Long Learning'.

Ms. J. Bentley - Key Stage One Deputy Headteacher



WHAT'S COOKING?



Term 2 kicked off with a morning of cooking with the classes in Year 1. On the menu were mini pizzas and a healthy fruit salad. We brought in a great many ingredients and started off with a chopping marathon: slicing tomatoes, chopping peppers and cutting olives. We were very careful cutting with knives – many of us already help out in the kitchen at home, and many more of us are ready to start! We then spread tomato paste over the pizza bases and sprinkled a generous portion of cheese over the top. We got to choose exactly what topping we wanted to put on our pizzas next. We had a choice of peppers and olives.



While the mini pizzas were baking in the ovens, we cleaned our chopping boards and jumped into the mountain of fruit we had collected and started slicing once again. Strawberries, bananas, oranges and grapes! We put all the chopped fruit together making a tray full of colours! Taking spoonfuls of delicious fruit pieces, we put them into cups and added some juice. We sensibly washed up all our equipment and put things away in the cookery room neatly, ready for the next class.



With the pizzas cooked and the fruit salads bursting with juices, we were able to take them out for our snack at break time! Yum!

Mr. T. Pickhaver - Year One Teacher



Sparkles in Year One



After much anticipation, Sparkles Cafe finally opened its doors this term in the Year One pod.

The cafe includes a cloakroom, kitchen, seating for 6 customers, an office and waiting area.

Many children have been involved in planning menus, making food and serving customers.

It hasn't been easy. In the first few days one child complained loudly that her order still hadn't been taken and she had been waiting a very long time. Since then however there have been many happy customers in the cafe.

The menu varies from hour to hour, as do the prices. Customer favourites include pizza, fries, burgers and gingerbread men.

Roving reporter Ahmed Badawy from Year One Yellow interviewed some customers. Here are some thoughts on the cafe from Year One.

"I like the colour of the food...it's orange!"

"I like the cafe the best!"

"I made a gingerbread man!"

"I want to be a customer."

"It's hard work making all the food."

"I take everyone's money."

"It's not very loud!"

"The mangoes are good."

'I like writing the menu on the board...sometimes I draw pictures.'

The cafe is open Sunday to Thursday from 9.00 am to 2.00pm.

Well done Year One!

Ms. E. Hall - Year One Teacher



KEY STAGE ONE NEWS

All bugged out – WESC Year One trip.



This term we made our first trip to the Waadi Environmental Science Centre. We arrived on windy, sunny day, we arrived and were arranged into groups each with a WESC group leader. We were off on a bug and insect hunt!!

The first activity was to look for ants - on the dusty ground, at the bottom on the trees and amongst the grass... We looked at larger pictures of them to find out what shape their bodies are and to count the number of legs they have. We got to make our own ant model using plasticine balls for the parts of the body and match sticks for the legs.



After digging around in some wet soil, we found worms! Our leader carefully picked one up for us to touch and look at, talking about its body and how it moves. We then made worms with tights stuffed with paper and tied with string.



Another activity was talking about spiders and where they live. We were asked about the shape of a spider's web

and tried to make one using palm leaves, weaving them together.



The last activity was thinking about an insect that flies - Dragonflies. We twisted pipe-cleaners to make a thin body and added tissue paper for its soft wings.



"It was fantastic... because it teaches us a lot." – Farida Y1 Orange

"It was funny. We did something with materials." – Mostafa Y1 Orange.

Mr. T. Pickhaver – Year One Teacher

KEY STAGE ONE NEWS

FARM DAY FUN FOR FS1

There was a distinctly rural air in FS1 recently as we celebrated the end of our farm topic: 'EE IE EE IE OH!' The children arrived in costume and a myriad of cows, chickens and other farm animals enjoyed a day of farm-related fun. Some of the more unusual activities included: testing the strength of eggs when a pile of books was balanced on them; going on an egg-hunt; pinning the tail on the donkey and even 'milking the cow' (a paint-filled rubber glove actually!)



The children then tucked into their lunch boxes of farm produce. Cheese sandwiches, hard-boiled eggs, fruit and vegetables

were the order of the day. The perennial "Old Macdonald Had a Farm" was sung by all before we mooed, clucked and quacked our way home!

Mrs. J. Bentley - Foundation Stage One Teacher



“Jolly Phonics” in Foundation Stage One

During Term One, Foundation Stage teachers and teaching assistants were given the opportunity to participate in a training session lead by Coral George; a professional synthetic phonics trainer. During this session, teachers were trained to apply Jolly Phonics as a method that teaches children the alphabetic code of English. Teachers’ training included an overview of the main principles and bringing fun and structure to the teaching of phonics. In addition to modelling teaching groups of letter sounds in a way which is fun for the children we were trained in the multi-sensory and blending of letter sounds for reading simple regular CVC words; e.g. run, hat, pod, pin, hot and digraphs as “ai” in rain or “oa” in goat. Moreover, we focussed on the use of practical ideas for the classroom to help phonemic awareness and identifying the sounds in words.



Jolly Phonics is a systematic, sequential phonics program designed to teach children to read. Children learn 42 sounds of the English language, rather than the alphabet! They are then taken later on through the stages of blending and segmenting words to develop reading and writing skills. The system was developed by Sue Lloyd with her colleague Sara Wernham. It is now in use worldwide and is appreciated for its effectiveness and its ability to engender an enjoyment of learning.

This year in Foundation Stage One, children are introduced to letter sounds in an exciting way through songs, stories and drama. They learn in a multisensory way; each letter has a sound, a story and an action related to a song. Children are also introduced to many activities that facilitate their speaking and listening skills and that help develop their awareness of sounds in the environment. Progress is monitored in a pace that is comfortable for the child’s learning development.

At MES Cairo we believe that parental support is very important for all children. That is why a workshop was held to provide background advice for parents, so that they too are aware of the methods of teaching “Jolly Phonics” and they are able to give their children the support and encouragement they need. A very successful two-day workshop took place in December 2009 for all FS1 parents. Parents enjoyed participating in some listening activities and learning some letter sounds and actions.

**Mrs. M. Salama and Ms. R. Zaza -
Foundation Stage One Teachers**



New Teaching Area



Mrs. Abla Shalaby

"Abla, **I LOVE THIS ROOM!**" said Ms. Sasha to me when she first stepped into what I now call 'My Teaching Area' (the shared area between Y2 Green and Red classrooms). Our Headteacher greatly admired it and praised the way I had set up the tables and chairs, as well as the resources which I had put up all around the room. It was not long before she held a meeting for all the lead people in KS1 to convince them of her idea; she had decided on changing all the shared areas into 'Teaching Areas'. Then, she invited teachers and teaching assistants to see my room and use it as a model.



I have always believed that our shared areas are brilliant spaces that should have been used more effectively for the good of the 'Teaching and Learning Process'. They were basically designed to be used for art activities and the sort. However, gradually and as the year got busier, they usually turned into a sort of stockroom.



It was just a dream that had not yet come true until I joined Year Two. Straight away, I decided to carry out my plan. "I'll make something out of this space," I said insistently to myself. "It's time to bring my ideas to life and set a precedent." I had two aims to achieve. Firstly, it had to be a cosy, welcoming and child-friendly room, suitable for learning. Secondly, the children should be exposed to as much print as possible. To achieve my second aim, I had to make use of every single space: the walls, the doors, the windows and even the cupboard doors to display focused resources, relevant to our topics. I also decided to encourage the children to read them by giving out stickers to reward those who would be caught reading and to those who would use those 'WOW' words and connectives in speaking and writing.



love their 'Learning Area' so much and have ownership of it. What's more, they love to come in and explore. Amazingly, they notice every new thing that has gone up on the walls. Their great eagerness and clever comments encourage me to create more and more resources for them, ensuring a fresh new approach to every learning opportunity.

All in all, I am incredibly happy with the development to date and proud of the achievements and successes of the children, aspiring for more future accomplishments. I am also grateful to all my leaders: Ms. Sasha Crabb, Ms. Jane Bentely, Ms. Mella Jodrell and Mr. Michael Jordon, as well as most of my colleagues. Without their support, my 'Teaching Area' wouldn't have been created. A very big THANK YOU goes to them all.



Mrs. A. Shalaby - Year Two Teaching Assistant

FOCUS ON YEAR 3

OUT AND ABOUT IN CAIRO

Year 3 have been "Out and About in Cairo"! **One** of this year's topics has been a study of our locality, so we decided to compare two very different areas of Cairo: El Rehab and Korba, Heliopolis. Before we set out on our trips, we practised our geography skills: reading maps using keys, drawing maps, observing and sketching different types of architecture, surveying traffic and creating sensory maps of what we could see, hear, smell and feel. We also had a big think about what

types of facilities a town should have. When the days came to visit the two localities, everyone was looking forward to putting what they'd learnt into practice. Here's what some of Year 3 thought about their field trips.



"When I went to Rehab, I saw it was clean there. There were millions of trees there and we also saw fire hydrants. In the traffic survey I spotted some black cars and some white ones too. I thought it was beautiful and nice to live in. In Korba, it was boiling! I counted over ninety cars in ten minutes! I also saw trams and a bakery (but it was closed). I liked Korba a lot."

Wesam Desouky - 3 Green

"Why did we go to Rehab and Korba? We went to the two places to compare them! In Korba we did a car survey and there were many more cars there than Rehab. There was so much traffic! We also saw lots of old architecture. El Rehab is much cleaner than Korba because it has lots of rubbish bins. El Rehab is much newer than Korba and has many more villas."

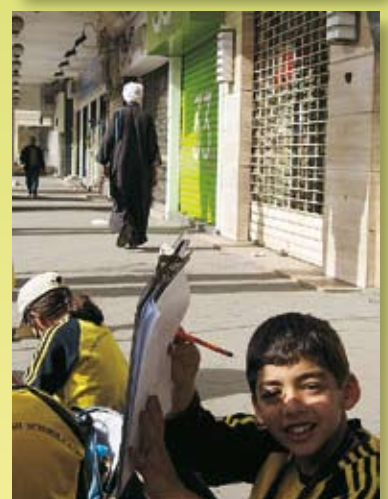
Darcy Tomlinson - 3 Blue

"When I went to Rehab, it was very different from Korba. The air was very clear and the streets were not that crowded. The reason we went there was because our topic was "Out and About in Cairo" and we had to find the differences between the two places. I also found out that Rehab has lots of shops in the Malls and lots of houses. I have to say I loved it when we did our traffic survey. We learnt a lot that day."

Maya Lababidi - 3 Orange

"The day we went to Korba it was boiling! There were tons of cars and since there was a lot of traffic, it was very noisy! We found out that most of Korba is commercial, but I thought it would be a good place to live after all! We went to Rehab on a beautiful day. I felt glad to be there even though I was starting to boil and sweat like crazy! I thought it would be a very nice place to live in one day."

Zahra Aly - 3 Green



KEY STAGE TWO NEWS



"It was a lovely day because I had to go on the trip to Rehab. I rode on the bus and I sat next to Karim. We sat, looked out of the window and played a bit too. When we all arrived I wrote down a lot of things: what I could see, all the things I could hear, how many cars and trucks there were and what shops and schools were there. I liked the day because my mum came with us but what I hated was that it was very, very hot and sunny."

Omar El Sharkawy - 3 Yellow

"We went to Korba on Sunday. When we were there, it was very hot, very busy and lots of cars were passing us by in the streets. I really enjoyed the trip because we had to draw some buildings and write down what we could hear, see, smell and feel. We also wrote down all the facilities that we could see. It was a wonderful trip and I'm sure you would enjoy it too."

Mariam Ramadan - 3 Yellow

AmAZiNG AFRICA!



Lions, tribal warriors, explorers and exotic birds in the Key Stage 2 playground? Surely not?! If you looked closely you would be able to see what was really going on: underneath these wonderful costumes were eager seven and eight year old children, looking forward to the first day of their topic: Africa! And what a great learning experience it was!



In the following few weeks, the children had a lesson in African drumming (*thank you, Miguel!*), played team games, challenged others with their knowledge of African countries, performed African plays, read and wrote fables set in Africa, painted sunsets, drew and cut out silhouettes of Africa's wildlife and found out about what it was like to be in different parts of this diverse and wonderful continent.

All of Year Three are also very grateful to the teachers who gave up their time to speak to the children about their time in different parts of Africa. Kenton Tomlinson, Dan Fahy, Sam Peyton and Mark Thomson gave great presentations to the classes as they recounted their experiences in Congo, Lesotho, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. A big thank you to them for giving us even more of an insight into some of the countries that are part of Amazing Africa!

**Ms. C. Nash - Year Three
Year Leader**



Shhh!

It's Library Time...

Many MES Cairo primary students are fortunate enough to visit the well-resourced Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2 libraries each day, whether it is to read a book or conduct research for a school project. On your visit to the Key Stage 2 library you are more than likely to have met two of our illustrious librarians, Miss Jacqueline and Miss Katie, who have both worked at MES Cairo for the past 2 years.

Contrary to the belief of quite a few Primary students, a librarian's job does not entail just sitting on a swivel chair, peering sternly through reading glasses at children who raise their voices. Miss Katie said although this is minor part of her job, she doesn't just sit at her desk all day! There's far more to it.

With this in mind, and as part of our ongoing efforts to improve our written and spoken English, I called upon the creative talents of Youssef Hegab and Ahmed Kebir in Year 6 Yellow to think of questions that would shed some light on what Miss Jacqueline's and Miss Katie's job entails and her general thoughts on a variety of subjects.

So, without further ado, Youssef and Ahmed present....

An Interview with Miss Jacqueline and Miss Katie

Q: What do you usually think of first thing in the morning?

Miss J: I wonder what the weather is like.

Q: Did you always want to be a librarian?

Miss J : No, but I love my job.

Q. What are your favourite hobbies?

Miss K : Listening to music, reading (of course!), relaxing on a beach in the sunshine.

Q. Would you say MES Cairo students are generally well behaved in the library? (Be careful, Mrs.Godfrey may read this.)

Miss J: Of course! Always!

Q. Do you prefer to be alone in the library or with children?

Both: With children.

Q. Approximately how many books are there in the library?

Both: Over 10,000!

Q. What's the most enjoyable part of your job?

Miss K: Watching children really enjoy what they're reading.

Q. What takes up most of your time in the library?

Both : Organising the books on the shelves .

Q. What is your favourite book?

Miss K : Cirque de Freak

Miss J: Twilight

Q. What is your favourite reading genre?

Miss K : Science Fiction

Miss J: Mysteries

Q. Have you ever shouted in the library?

Miss J: Never

Miss K : Once or twice!

Q. If you had a superpower what would it be?

Miss J: I would love to be invisible.

Miss K: To fly

Q. Outside of work, do you prefer peace and quiet, or hustle and bustle?

Both : Peace and quiet.

Q. What do you usually think of last thing at night?

Miss K : Is it a working day tomorrow?

Miss J : I wonder what the weather will be like tomorrow.

Ahmed Kebir and Youssef Hegab

Year Six Yellow



KEY STAGE TWO NEWS

YEAR SIX FIELD TRIPS



In February, Year 6 went on two field trips related to their Humanities topic, "Tourism in Egypt". The first trip was to three different tourist sites, the Egyptian Museum, Sakkara and the Mohamed Ali Mosque. This time however, they did not go as tourists themselves, but to interview the tourists visiting, in order to evaluate these sites. A lot of preparation went into the questionnaires the children formulated and, as a teacher, it was very interesting to see those who were confident enough to go up to strangers and politely introduce themselves. It didn't take long though for everyone to be seen asking questions and writing responses. I was very pleased to receive comments from the tourists, praising the behaviour and standard of English of our pupils.



The second trip was to the Giza Pyramids, where we were met by the staff or WESC who ran interesting and thought provoking activities about sustainable tourism and the irresponsible behaviour of some tourists and local residents. From these observations and responses, the children wrote letters to the Minister of Tourism with their recommendations of how to improve and sustain tourism, in Egypt.

Youssef Hegab in Year Six Yellow wrote, 'We as MES Cairo students suggest that the quality of services should improve. This could be accomplished in various ways such as adding more labels and signs to indicate the purpose and description of the monuments. Moreover more rubbish bins could be placed at

the pyramids plateau to ensure that the tourists dispose of their litter properly therefore maintaining the area in a good, clean condition. Security and police guards should always be on duty to enforce the pyramids regulation which bans visitors from climbing the pyramids, collecting rocks as souvenirs and littering etc...'

These have been very worthwhile trips which I am sure will be repeated in the years to come.

Mrs. M. Glancy - Year Six Team Leader



KEY STAGE TWO BUCKLE UP!

A frequent topic of discussion, both in and out of school, is that of the multitude of dangers and terrible accidents that take place on our roads on a daily basis.



The realisation that we are all responsible for making our environment a safer place for all to live in prompted Mrs. Godfrey to use a house competition to set the Key Stage Two students the challenging task of designing a poster to promote safety on local roads. Rules were made clear and the competition was on!



As well as drawing people's attention to the inevitable dangers encountered by reckless drivers and passengers, the students came up with several invaluable ideas and innovative poster designs to promote safety awareness around school. Throughout corridors and pods, the message from Key Stage Two was loud and clear: '**Buckle up!**'



The standard of designs and effort applied was tremendous, but in the end the teachers had to narrow it down to the winners: Amina El Ghazali and Nadia Aboueleill (5R), Salma Wafa (5O), Ali Khadr (6O), Mariam El Gabalawy (5V), Salah El Din Tarouty (5V) and Marsha Yasmadi (4R).

Congratulations to everyone who took part for their outstanding designs and to all the students for their great efforts and invaluable message.

Ms. D. Riddell - Primary Learning Development Department



KEY STAGE TWO NEWS

Library Competition!

'Captain Underpants' has become one of the most popular series in the KS2 Library, so it was an obvious choice to have this hilarious character at the centre of our first ever library competition.

Children were asked to design a whacky pair of underpants for the most unlikely superhero in children's modern literature.

The response was overwhelming, with a total of 267 entries from Key Stage 2.

The creative ideas were incredible, some were even 3D, whilst others used fabric, glitter, sequins, macaroni and even hair!

Choosing the winners was a very difficult job, but we the librarians tried hard to select entries that were obviously completed by the children.

The winners were:

Year 3: Maya Asser El-Lababidi



Year 4: Adham Amin Azab

Year 5: Salma Fakher Dakroui

Year 6: Ali Akram Khadr

All winners received a book bag containing a book, colours and plasticine along with other goodies.

All the pupils who entered have received a house point and should feel extremely proud of themselves.



Thank you for supporting the library.

Ms. J. Samir and Ms. K. Todhunter – Key Stage 2 Librarians

Watch out for the next KS2 library competition-
Coming soon!

KEY STAGE TWO NEWS

EXERCISING AFTER SCHOOL!

There have been many opportunities for Key Stage Two students to get fit and active after school this year.

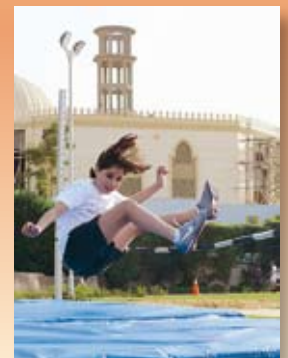
Fifteen teachers from the Primary Department have offered 5 months' coaching in a whole variety of sports (basketball, athletics, netball, swimming and football) for those children who would be representing MES Cairo in the BSME Games held in March.

Additional basketball sessions, provided by a visiting coach, have taken place every day. Mahmoud Kotb (Year 5 Green) has really enjoyed going along to basketball after school. "We learn new things, and play lots of games," he said. "It's amazing!"

Children interested in dancing could choose between 2 very different types of dance, with both ballet and street dancing classes taking place. Omar Yownes (Year 3 Yellow) has been enjoying street dancing. "We learn lots of moves and I love the music," he commented.

And even the teachers seem to have got in on the act, with many of them staying behind after school to enjoy aerobics or water aerobics sessions.

Mrs. L. Dermody - Primary Learning Development Department



KEY STAGE TWO NEWS

NILE CRUISE TRIP!



On Sunday the 8th February, 92 Year Five children went on cruise on the Nile in Luxor. The children visited many different temples, such as: Karnak, Edfu, Valley of the Kings and the temple of Philae. They stayed on board a cruise ship for three nights and experienced the middle course of the River Nile, including passing through the lock at Esna.

Here are some of the diary entries that some of the students wrote during the trip.

Day One

When I arrived at the airport I saw Mr. Jodrell. He was standing in front of a great pile of suitcases. I picked up my suitcase and went to Mr. Cox. When we got to Luxor we visited the temple of Karnak. It was amazing. It was immense and great.

Next we went to the boat. Mr. Jodrell let us go and see our cabins. It was nice but small. The beds were comfy and we had our own bathroom. We had lunch after that. It was delicious. We could choose lots of different types of food. My favourite was roast lamb.

For dinner we sat down and had a three course meal. When we went up to the meeting place the staff on the boat sang to Mr. Cox because it was his birthday. Later that night we had a quiz. Guess who won? We did!

It was the end of the day. I was tired but I had lots of fun.

Doris Merhom - 5 Yellow

Day Three

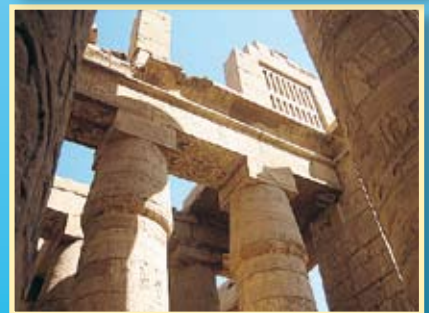
Today we woke up at 8:00 am and we had breakfast. After that we went to the temple of Horus in Edfu by bus. We came back after an hour. Then had lunch on board. Next we went to the temple of two gods Sobek and Horus in Kom Ombo. We arrived at the cruise ship in the afternoon so we had lunch. Later we did our group activities with the teachers while we cruised along to Aswan. Finally the day was over so we had the disco. Then we went to bed. I was so tired. Luckily it was time for bed.

Day Four

Today we woke up at 8:00 a.m. We packed our bags and left them next to our room door. Then we had breakfast. When we finished we went on the buses on our way to the Philae and the High Dam. After we finished we got on the buses. When we arrived at Aswan airport we took our tickets and went on the plane, arriving in Cairo at 4:15 p.m.

Hoda Gendya - 5 Green

Ms. S. Turner - Year Five Leader



KEY STAGE TWO NEWS

Year Six Production

BUGSY MALONE

I just love production nights! The children arriving excitedly back at school in their own clothes, putting on the costumes and make-up and finally being able to show family and friends the fruit of all the hard work and effort they had put in over the half term.

This year was no exception. The Year Six production of Bugsy Malone took the audience to New York in the 1920s when gangs were vying for power and a host of characters entertained us with great singing, dancing and acting. This production was longer than our recent ones and the main characters had many lines to learn. I was so proud, watching them from the wings, as they knew exactly what they were doing and seemed to enjoy every minute of it. We certainly have some future singers and actors to look forward to!

There are always many people involved in the success of a production. I would like to thank all the music teachers, particularly Mr. Smart, for the wonderful music and songs which we all went away humming! Thanks, as well, should go to Mrs. Jodrell, Mr. Clement and his team for producing an eye-catching set and to Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Crabb and team for designing and constructing the wonderful splurge guns. Finally, I would like to thank all my Year Six Team for living up to their name, working together so well and with such good humour, to produce something we can all be proud of. Roll on next year!

Mrs. M. Glancy - Year Six Team Leader



YEAR 5 CONCERT

In November 2009, Year 5 performed their concert, 'Music and Dance in the 20th Century'. The title was inspired by the topic that Year 5 were studying at the time called 'Changes'. For the first half of the term the children were learning about 'Changes in the 20th Century'. This focused on a range of different changes in the lifestyle of people living during that time. Not only did we look at the effect technology had on their lifestyle and transportation, but we also looked at fashion, music and dance.

During music lessons the pupils learnt a range of songs from throughout the different decades; from the 1900's to the 1990's. Mr. Richard Smart and his team chose a sample of songs that would encompass the feel of music during each decade. Songs such as 'By the light of the Silvery Moon', 'Pack up Your troubles in your old kit bag' and 'Shiny Happy People' were just a few that the children learnt. In addition there was a musical interlude with Mark Guirguis and Omar Helmy, who played 'All you need is love' on the piano and drums.

Dance was also very important in these decades and many developments have been made during the 20th century. Not only

have the moves and pace of dancing changed but the social element is very different. People used to dance with partners but over the years there have been different formations such as line dancing and break dancing. These dances go hand-in-hand with the developments in music, and that is why we included dances in the concert. From the *Charleston* to *Night Fever*, selected children learnt to dance the different styles to demonstrate how dance has changed.

Ms. S. Turner - Year Five Year Leader



SECONDARY PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

THEATRE



Ms. Crutchfeld's Grade 9 & 10 Theatre II class, known as 'Crutchy's Company', has just completed a run of their very first independent production "The Fwog Pwince," directed by Ezzeldin Dabb with Assistant Director Nour Khazindar. The production tells the tale of a fairytale prince who is not very nice, and certainly isn't charming! The prince is turned into a frog when he offends a witch and is sent to the well of another royal...

Princess Petulant, who as her names sounds, is also not your typical, nice fairytale princess.

Everyone in the theatre company had to pitch in, under the guidance of Producer Giulia Ramadan and Assistant Producer Nahed Nabil. The students made the set pieces, found props, put costumes together, designed the programs and created light and sound effects for the performance. As a teacher, it was great to watch the students really step into their roles and take leadership and ownership of the various aspects of the production.

Because of their great work, 'Crutchy's Company' will perform a scene of 'The Fwog Pwince' at the upcoming MES Cairo Literature Festival as an encore to their great run while they will be in the midst of planning their next production!

Ms. Heather Crutchfield

MUSIC

The students of Music at MES Cairo presented a Musical Showcase on 17th February. The Showcase was their chance to show what they have been working on in their Grade 9 and 10 Choral and Instrumental classes, the Year 9 IGCSE class and the IB Music class.



The audience was treated to a wide range of musical styles. The Grade 9 and 10 class treated us to their beautiful choral singing accompanied ably by the Instrumental students of the same class. The IGCSE Music class performed one of their own compositions as well as 'Complicated' and came across as a very accomplished band. Dana Beltaji of DP 12 then performed, with some members of staff, her own composition.

The afternoon's recital was a delight to attend and we are all looking forward to the next showcase and to the Choral Class' performances in the yard during the Literature Festival.

Mr. J. Todd – Head of Performing Arts

SEASONAL CONCERT



In a break from tradition imposed by the school closures in December, the annual Modern English School Cairo Seasonal Concert took place on 5th January 2010. As ever, guests were treated to an entertaining and moving celebration of the festive season in the school's theatre.

The concert began with a candlelight procession through the auditorium to the beautiful sound of 'Veni, Veni Emmanuel' sung by members of our Grade 9 & 10 Choral class and our Staff Choir. It was a real treat to

hear this popular piece delivered in Latin by the staff and students.

Next to take to the stage were the newest 'stars' of MES Cairo. Key Stage One's version of the story of the nativity is always a treat and Ms. Barbara Evans produced another wonderful performance. This year we were witness to the story of 'The Gigantic Star' who did not realize that she was the guiding light for those in search of the baby Jesus. With a plethora of jolly and energetic songs, the traditional story was a delight to watch.

In fine voice again this year were the Key Stage Two singers who treated us to a traditional selection of Christmas songs. Under the direction of Mr. Richard Smart the Key Stage Two students performed 'Once In Royal David's City', 'Away in a Manger', 'Silver Bells', 'Silent Night', 'Starry Night', 'Ding Dong Merrily on High' and a very clever medley to finish, stitching together three Christmas classics seamlessly. It was obvious from the quality of the voices that the students enjoyed their performance as much as the audience.

The Secondary students offered us a range of styles of music. 'Oh Holy Night' was sung with strength and passion by Mina Fouad. Hyun Min Lee stunned us with a jazz rendition of 'Silent Night' on piano. Members of the Grade 9 & 10 Choral class returned to delight with 'Gloria Canon' and 'Carol of the Bells'. The students sang extremely well and had certainly controlled the nerves they felt before their first public performance.

The Staff Choir were as impressive as ever with their amusing rendition of 'Various Themes on Fa-La-la', challenging the audience to identify the classical pieces woven into the traditional 'Fa-La-La' song. They followed this with a very powerful version of 'Do You Hear What I Hear?'

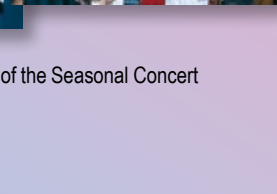
The afternoon was rounded off in traditional style with everyone, performers and audience alike, joining together in 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas'.

It takes more than Swine Flu to stop Modern English School Cairo celebrating together and the staff and students of the Seasonal Concert should be applauded for delivering such a high quality concert under such trying circumstances.

Mr. J. Todd – Head of Performing Arts



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MES Cairo students take centre stage at the British Embassy

In the run up to Christmas each year students in Key Stage 2 prepare for the Seasonal Concert. Year 6 and selected students from Years 4 and 5 were also asked to represent the school at the British Embassy's annual Carol Concert. Thirty students were thrilled by the opportunity to unite in a joint choir with children from other leading international schools from Cairo. Wearing their smartest school uniform with a seasonal twist of holly or tinsel, the choir entertained a large contingent of parents, friends and well wishers with a variety of carols and Christmas cheer. Mr. Richard Smart, our Head of Primary Music, took centre stage conducting a number of carols to great effect. The audience holding mince pies, seasonal drinks and lighting up the night with Christmas lights were left wanting more. The British Ambassador, the Honourable Dominic Asquith CMG, declared the evening a great success, with all proceeds going towards Egyptian charities.

Mr. S. Jodrell-Key Stage Two Deputy Head



MES Cairo Charity News

24 Hour Charity Fun Run - February 2010

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES!

Thank you.



What a difference a day makes...?



On 24th February this year we held the second MES Cairo 24 Hour Charity Fun Run. The excitement had been building for months and when the day came there was an explosion of pent up enthusiasm from the children and staff who took part.

The day got underway with a symbolic send off for the 'sash'- carried initially by Mr. Dan. The whole primary school lined up on the field to start the 24 hour countdown clock and set the 'sash' running. Mr. Dan was helped by Alfie (FS1 Red) and Jasmin (FS1 Orange), the two youngest children in the school. Mr. Dan found it quite hard to keep up!



The Primary School then went back to class as the sash carried on it's 24 hour journey. Every year group had the chance to go around the track for at least half an hour-starting with FS1 who really got the show going. It was difficult to stop the children even after their time on the track was up! This enthusiasm carried on all the way through the day with secondary students joining in during their PE times, HRCF and long breaks times. The runners were trying to get as many laps done as possible in order to gain house points for the house competition.

One of the most defining moments of the day was when there were Years 4 and 6 from Primary, DP11 and Grade 12 from Secondary as well as Secondary House runners carrying banners for the competition all on the track. Apart from causing a bit of consternation amongst the teachers due to the congestion, it was an amazing whole school moment and really wonderful to see all of the children and students from across MES Cairo joining in an event to raise awareness and funds for good causes here and abroad.

As the school day came to an end, the sash kept on moving! It had been carried by various students during the day and it was now the turn of staff members who had volunteered to take the sash all through the night. Great spirit was shown throughout the evening and following morning and a big thank you must go out to all who came to carry the sash and to just provide support - tea and chocolate brownies!

The Primary School came out in force to cheer on Mr. Dan who was carrying the sash for the final few laps. Come the end of the 24 hours the sash had gone around the track for just under 800 laps. It had been carried by teachers, students, parents, admin staff, security guards and senior management. There were runners in fancy dress, running in pairs or singly and even a command performance from the award winning (and now mobile) Felukeeles!

Thank you again for supporting us and helping us to raise so much money. Mr. Dan will be flying off to Morocco at the end of March to run the 250km Marathon des Sables so if you would like to donate to the chosen charities



MES Cairo Charity News

this year there is still time. Special thanks must go to Andrew Hainsworth, Ruth O'Connell and the Secondary PE staff, Michael Cox, Richard Phillips, Traci Odom, Randa Ashour, Andrea Webb, Jonathan Todd and the whole of the Senior Management Team for supporting the event and making sure it ran smoothly - and of course the Year 6 helpers who made sure everyone was properly hydrated throughout the school day!

THANK YOU!

What a difference a day makes....!

Mr. D. Fahy - Foundation Stage Two Teacher

Organiser of MES Cairo 24 Hour Fun Run



'Have A Heart' Month

Did you get involved and Make A Difference?



"There was certainly a lot of fundraising in 'Have A Heart' month, with incredible success. The secondary school's chosen charities for this year were Operation Smile Egypt and 57357 the Children's Cancer Hospital; both charities that are committed to caring for children here in Egypt. The fundraising actually started back in December, when our staff got together and had the staff movie night which raised **3097 LE**. This was closely followed by a non-uniform day, which raised **3850 LE**.

For the students, the 'Have A Heart' month really 'kicked off' with the **Grade/Year 7 Football Funday** which raised **5600LE**. This was a superb day for both the older students organizing the event and for the Grade/ Year 7 and 8s who had great fun playing some excellent, competitive football. See the article on how much fun we had!



'Have A Heart' month itself was exceptionally busy, with many events such as bake sales, a 'Have A Heart' social, badge sales and a House toy drive. It was brilliant to see student-led activities for fundraising, such as 'Scoops for Smiles' organised by Grade 7 Orange and Grade 7 Green's extremely successful bake sales! These two exceptional Homerooms raised **over 5000LE!**



'Have A Heart' month came to a close with the biggest fundraising event of the year- THE **MES 24hr FUN RUN!** Not only great fun, but a true school community event with everyone getting involved!

In addition, staff, parents and students have also kindly made individual donations to sponsor a cleft palate operation for Operation Smile Egypt. This really Makes A Difference and we have actively promoted this through our MES Cairo World of Smiles in the S Building, which shows smiles sponsored by classes and individuals.

1 operation = 1300 LE 😊

Please see the article on Operation Smile Egypt if you would like to **sponsor a smile** 😊

A big thank you to the 'Have A Heart' ASA who organized and supported many of these events, providing advertising, and time and effort on a weekly basis to get involved. They were always there to help with events from badge sales, to setting up the

😊 MES Cairo World of Smiles 😊 to baking cakes. You have been a delight to work with!

The total raised so far (*and counting*) is:

Over **30,000 LE** for Operation Smile Egypt and **10,000 LE** for 57357 the Children's Cancer Hospital

The grand total will be announced when the 😊 MES Cairo World of Smiles 😊 closes at the end of April 2010!

By Mariam Hamza and Ms. A. Webb



How I Made A Difference in 'Have A Heart' month...

by Yassin Helmy, Grade 7 Green

"We brainstormed a lot of ideas at the start of the 'Have A Heart' ASA on how we could raise money. The ideas we came up with ranged from bake sales to Smiley Clothes day. It's great that we have seen a lot of our ideas put in to practice!

The main projects took place in February, which was 'Have A Heart' month; with the biggest hit so far being Football Funday, which raised about 5600 LE. That is enough for 4 operations with money to spare! We've also collected toy donations. These will go to the children in the Cancer Hospital and for the children undergoing cleft palate surgery in Operation Smile. Including all the bake sales that took place throughout the month we have raised a lot of money and there is plenty more to come in the school year..."



How I Made A Difference in 'Have A Heart' month...



By Youssef Tarek Yousri, Year 7 Red, all the way up in W3!

My job in the Operation Smile Egypt and 57357 The Children's Cancer Hospital fund-raising was the badge and earrings sale. I collected a lot of money and so did my friends by running round and persuading people to buy smiley badges or earrings.

Each person went to a different location in either the S building and even N building; so 1 person would sell in all of SG another SF and so on...and I sold in the W building because I was the only person from that homeroom in the ASA.

It was hard work to sell all those badges and earrings, as we went every day to persuade people. Fortunately, we managed to sell successfully and we raised enough money for more than 1 operation.

Personally, I was exhausted because I had to keep running up and down the stairs of W building everyday! It was definitely worth the time though as *it was good exercise* and for a good cause!

How I Made A Difference in 'Have A Heart' month...

The Power of Cup Cakes and Cookies!

By Deema Azab, Year 7 Blue

Helping out with the bake sale was an amazing experience. We had fun and we were even happier because we were able to raise a lot of money.

Ms Burnside and Ms Jackson volunteered our time at the '30 Minutes Meals' ASA, to make the icing for cookies to sell for a bake sale. It was fun, but slightly messy! We had green, blue, yellow and red icing. We already had cookies and brownies made for us so our job was to cover everything with icing and put chocolate chips on them so that they would look like smiley faces! Each one of us had a small bowl of icing; I thought it was pretty easy, until I came to do the brownies, when suddenly the whole brownie fell inside the yellow bowl of icing. This definitely made everyone laugh!

After the ASA, I hurried home to make more stuff for the bake sale and after baking a cake and some cupcakes, I taught my mom how to make the icing.

Finally, it was the day of the bake sale, we only had one break to sell most of the food, but we managed to raise **550le** in only 1 break!



😊 MES World of Smiles 😊

We are proud to be supporting:

This year for 'Have A He❤️rt' month we adopted the SMILEY face logo 😊

As we were raising money for both Operation Smile Egypt and 57357, the Children's Cancer Hospital, Cairo, we were definitely hoping to improve children's lives 1 smile at a time 😊

Operation Smile Egypt- provides free operations to correct cleft lip and cleft palates. Cleft lips/cleft palates are a genetic deformity that children are born with, but can often be corrected with a life-changing 45 minute operation - just think how easily we can change a child's life! <http://egypt.operationsmile.org/>



Operation Smile Egypt can provide 1 operation for 1300LE, because the doctors, surgeons, nurses and hospitals give up their time and skills for free, flying in from around the world to help. There has just been an extremely successful mission in Aswan with 108 operations completed.

We have already had one fantastic donation for 10 operations by an anonymous donor which will truly change the lives of 10 children here in Egypt. If you are interested in sponsoring a smile or donating money for Operation Smile Egypt, please contact Ms Webb, CAS Coordinator.



57357 the Children's Cancer Hospital



57357, the Children's Cancer Hospital, Cairo- offers free cancer treatment for children from all over Cairo. It is an amazing place, with fantastic facilities and provides treatment that the families of these children could not normally afford. www.57357.com

A few facts...

- The hospital started operating in July 7, 2007 and now has 170 beds fully operational
- All care is free of charge for all patients including outpatient medications.
- The hospital takes children between 0 and 18 years of aged who are suspected of cancer or are newly diagnosed and have not received any form of medical treatment previously,



Grade/Year 7 and 8 Football Funday!



The idea behind Football Funday was to allow students an opportunity to organise a fun event for themselves, whilst raising money for our secondary charities. What better way to do that than through football!

The Seniors were keen to get involved right from the start and took on the task of coordinating the event and themselves with true professionalism, while the younger students organized their teams in record time with Mohamed Seregeldin and Ahmed Assem the fastest by far!

By Saturday 30th January 2010, there were eleven 8-a-side boys' teams and four 8-a-side girls' teams raring to go! 120 excited Y/G 7-8 footballers with over 30 senior students to coordinate the event, descended on the football pitch of MES. Students had chosen their own captains and team names, which included: 2010 Warriors, Le Aquile Giallo, the Black Jacks and Livestrong.

The younger students listened carefully to instructions from the seniors, particularly the overall event coordinators: Farah Derbala, Hania El Banhawi, Mohamed Bassiouny, Tomasso Tournet and Yomna Mamdouh. It was fantastic to see the students acting with such maturity and responsibility while having fun.

The seniors (G/Y 10 and above) took on every task from team managers to referees to timekeepers. Each team had a captain, sometimes peer managers, but also a senior student to help manage the team. For the first time, many of the seniors realized quite how stressful football managing can be- watch out Hassan Shehata!

Mr. McTigue and I are extremely proud of how both Senior students and Grade/ Year 7 and 8 performed on the day. There was awesome football, excellent team spirit and some great leadership- definitely a Football FUN-day! Thank you to all our students involved, especially for raising such a large sum of money (over 5600LE) for Operation Smile Egypt and 57357 the Children's Cancer Hospital. A BIG congratulations to the two winning teams and their worthy rivals who reached the finals-

Girls

- 1st The Best Team
- 2nd The Doubt Fires

Boys

- Morgito
- The Red Devils

Ms. A. Webb - Secondary CAS Coordinator

Now, over to our Senior Students...

Yasmeen Hindawi & Mona Gaber, IBDP 11 Yellow

"Ms Webb and Mr McTigue initially planned Football Funday, and then handed on the reins to Senior and older students to take on organizational roles for the day of the tournament. This gave us a perfect opportunity to learn about charity and fundraising and allowed us to take on leadership roles and learn to cooperate with others.

The day consisted of each team playing soccer matches as a round robin tournament in their groups, with each team being coached/ managed by a senior student. This was a brilliant opportunity to allow the older students to meet and work with the younger students.

We raised over 5600 LE, for Operation Smile Egypt and for 57357 the Children's Cancer Hospital. After a long day of hard work, we were able to raise enough money for 4 operations. This wonderful experience helped us realize that we can make a difference, with even the smallest gestures. Just volunteering for one day, you can help change people's lives."

Saad Nassar, Team Manager, Year 11 Blue

"The day went well in terms of organization by the senior/ older students and there was some skilled football by the year 7 and 8 students. There was a real sense of spirit in my team and I'm surprised to say that it made me realize that winning a game can mean more to managers than to players!"

Moataz El Sherbini, Team Manager, Grade 10 Blue



"I truly enjoyed the Football Fun Day, it was a great experience. I found it exceptionally exciting working with the Grade 7 and 8 students and making sure that they had a great time. Given their enthusiasm, it was easy motivating them to be fully engaged in their teams. In my opinion, it was a great idea organizing such a day, as it gave us (the Seniors), the opportunity to improve our leadership skills and to feel what it's like to organize events such as these.

Furthermore, everyone was proud for raising over 5600 L.E. for charity. I hope the school organizes such events in the future, as it is of great benefit to everyone who participates in it."



Skipping Day 2010

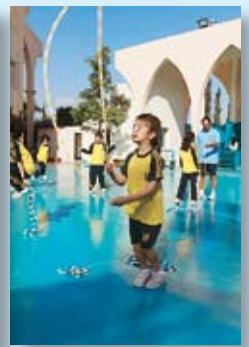
Our annual skipping day was enjoyed by the Primary pupils recently. All of the children from Stage One up to Year Six spent a lesson learning and improving their skipping skills.

Skipping is used by athletes across the world from footballers to long distance runners and even dancers to improve co-ordination and stamina.

The children learned new games to play at playtime, some of which were individual games and some which were team games which involved 2-10 children!

A great time was had by all and hopefully the playground will now be a blur of spinning ropes and skipping games!

Mr E. Price – Head of Primary PE



Bolton Wanderers Football Coaching

On 17th January, 2010 Primary School students from Year One to Six took part in a three day football coaching clinic. The Bolton Wanderers, football coaches from the UK, thoroughly enjoyed the enthusiasm and passion for football these children possessed.

As the 95 Year One and Two children in their special red and white T-shirts approached, the coaches' enthusiasm grew and they had a great deal of fun coaching and seeing the potential these children have. The children developed their ball control and their general match play skills which enabled them to have a tournament in teams at the end of the course.

The 57 Year Three and Fours and the 55 Year Five and Six groups were able to learn more concentrated skills of movement while gathering spatial awareness, furthering their ball control and delivery. The children showed great team work and cooperation and by the end they were able to show a much greater confidence in football.

On the final day all the children got certificates. Ten children who showed wonderful enthusiasm, effort and improvement, were chosen from each of the three groups.

It was wonderful to see children with a range of abilities trying their hardest. The school is looking forward to seeing these stars in future MES Cairo football teams.

Mr. M. Cox – Primary PE Department



MES Cairo Primary Athletics Competition



On Friday 5th February, MES Cairo hosted a primary athletics competition against both NCBIS and El Alsson schools. Once again an outdoor sporting event at MES was affected by rain! I never thought I would be writing that, but as the athletics began the rain clouds arrived to make conditions more difficult. Some of the squad had already helped the school by turning out for the swimming team in the morning, so there was definitely a water theme for the day.

Spirits were high among the children as they used this opportunity as an excellent build up to the BSME games. Initial nerves were turned into smiling faces as each of the children received their MES Cairo athletics top to wear for the day.

These smiles would remain on the faces of both children and staff for the remainder of the day.

Early on it was clear that we had a strong sprinting line-up; Farah Faidhi (Y6V) and Adam El Bordiny (Y5R) both dominated the 75m event, whilst Bahira El Kerdani (Y5G) did likewise in the 300m. Clearly the hard work Miss Holmes (Y5G) had put in with the children was paying off and it got the children off to a fantastic start.

The biggest plus point from the day had to be the attitude of the pupils. They rose to the challenge of representing the school and showed pride and enthusiasm in their performances. Aly Karam (Y6R) and Rozan Saber (Y5B) have a brilliant team attitude and are a joy to have in the group. They not only perform admirably in their own events (Aly came 2nd in the shot put and Rozan won the long jump) but cheer loudly from the sides when their friends are competing, great to see and hear.

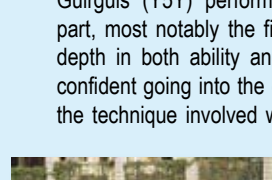
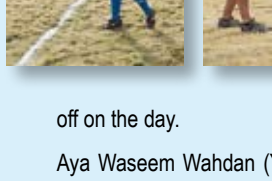
The excitement was also evident in the reactions of the teaching staff, with Mr Maurice's (Y3Y) vigorous raking at the long jump resulting in a broken rake. Mr Maurice was not the only person unaware of his own strength - I was delighted to see Sheikha Al Thani's (Y6V) effort in the cricket ball throw, only to be informed by Sheikha later that she had thrown even further once I'd gone away!

Before the relays we saw other excellent performances where, despite the rain, Adel El Bendari (Y5O) won the high jump. Mr Bradley (Y4O) was delighted with Salma Bahaa Dessouki (Y6Y) who, despite not being able to train before the day, was still convincing in the girls' throwing events. Both of these competitors showed that the hard work they had put into developing their event's techniques paid

off on the day.

Aya Waseem Wahdan (Y6B), Seifallah Ibrahim (Y5B) and Mark Guirguis (Y5Y) performed brilliantly in each event they took part, most notably the final relay. This is where our strength in depth in both ability and character was most apparent. I was confident going into the event after the previous sprint races but the technique involved within a relay can cause problems even at Olympic level. The baton seemed to fly around the track with both the girls' and boys' teams. I hope there are more fantastic athletics results to write about in future as I believe these are a group of children whose attitude proves they have a brilliant future ahead of them.

Mr. M. Thompson - Head BSME Athletics Coach and Year Four Blue Teacher



Primary Ski trip 2010



On Saturday 20th February fifteen excited students met up at Cairo airport to travel to Switzerland for the Primary ski trip. After last minute goodbyes to anxious parents we were on our way. Tired but looking forward to the week ahead we got fitted with our ski boots and skis. Arriving at our hotel we met up with the other International School which was also having their annual ski trip – Brookstone School from Port Harcourt in Nigeria. Hot chocolate sent us all off to bed ready for our introduction to skiing the next day.

Experiencing falling snow for the first time is something very special and we were very fortunate that this happened not only on our first day but also the last and the children were very lucky to be able to throw snowballs and to build snowmen when having a rest from learning to ski.



Activities are organised each evening after dinner and Sunday night saw us using very small sledges to slide down a fairly steep hill. After a scary first run there was no stopping us and some pretty fast times were recorded. Exhausted and cold we returned to the warmth of the chalet and much needed sleep.

Day two of skiing saw us making those first tentative moves – stopping, starting to make left and right turns and much fun was had watching each other fall but get up again and again to have another go. By the end of that afternoon we were nearly all ready to tackle the steeper hill with the added excitement of being transported up the hill on the rope tow. This was a lot harder than it looked but we soon mastered the techniques ready for run after run with the wind whizzing past our ears.



We were real skiers now and the next day saw us all on the chair lift. We felt a real sense of accomplishment when we all skied off without the operators having to stop the lift (which does happen more often than you would think!) We skied in fresh powder with just a few stops for hot chocolate refreshment.



Thursday saw the traditional races with Mohamed Genena winning the medal for the fastest MES Cairo time. The evening highlight was tubing. I think everyone would be in agreement that if you ever get the chance to try this you should. Screaming along carved routes in the ice, on a tyre, at breakneck speed. Don't worry we all wore our helmets! Some of us even went down in twos and threes. Nobody wanted to go to bed that night.



All too soon the last day of skiing dawned. The temperature had dropped dramatically and it was snowing heavily but intrepid as ever we all set off. A rather long lunch was taken at midday to shelter from the storm and I think that was probably the most welcome hot chocolate of all.



The trip is not all about skiing – we got to experience a new (very cold) country, we were away from our parents for a whole week, we had to tidy our rooms every day and share our lives not only with children from our school but from a different school. MES Cairo children held up the high standards demanded when taking children on a foreign trip and we look forward to a highly successful Primary Ski Trip 2011.

Mrs. J. Hainsworth - Primary LDD



CISSA Middle School Basketball Tournament Boys Basketball



The CISSA Middle School Boys Basketball Tournament was hosted by ISC-Choueifat in the middle of January 2010. The final group of boys began training for this event in October after a late start to the year.

During round-robin play the boys played extremely well and represented MES Cairo in a way that we can be proud of. In the opening match MES played a very strong team from CAC. The boys came out on fire and took the early lead. This game came right down to the wire. With 10 seconds remaining, with MES Cairo up by 2, CAC hit a 3-pointer to take the lead and win the game. Despite the loss, the boys played well in the remainder of the round-robin games.

Despite the hard fought games earlier in the day, the boys played in the 5th/6th place game just narrowly missing out on the Semi-Final. Despite just missing out on the Semi-Finals, the boys' efforts were immense. All boys showed signs of major improvement from the first day of training.

With all team members contributing a strong effort and hard work both individually and as a team, the future of MES Cairo Boys Basketball looks very positive.

Coach Gross and O'Connell would like to thank all of the boys for a strong and productive year!

Girls Basketball

"A COMPLETE DOMINATING TEAM EFFORT BY A HARD WORKING GROUP OF YOUNG GIRLS"



After months of preparation, training and cancelled dates due to Swine flu, the Middle School Girls basketball team was ready to take on the elite International Schools in Cairo. The girls travelled to ISC-Choueifat to compete on a warm sunny January day. The team was comprised of a mix of both Grades and Years from 7-9.

The final squad was one of the hardest working teams Coach Gross and O'Connell had ever experienced. Their hard work ethic and solid team play left MES Cairo feeling extremely confident about their chances.

The girls started their run by defeating an overmatched team from El Alsson School. This match had many spectators watching from other teams who were extremely impressed with the teamwork that the girls were displaying. The girls continued their dominating play in the round-robin stages of the tournament. Throughout the round-robin play all girls demonstrated strong fundamental skills and confident play which led to an outstanding team performance.

Despite winning all games in the round robin very convincingly, the girls entered the Semi-Final with their minds focused on the upcoming game against a very strong team from ISC-Choueifat. Like MES Cairo, ISC-Choueifat had cruised through the round robin play setting up what could have been the final game of the tournament. The game was a see-saw battle both ways with both teams fighting for baskets which were far and few between. At the beginning of the second half, MES Cairo came out very strong but were unable to finish their shots to complete the scoring play. The game came down the wire where the strong team play of MES Cairo prevailed by the score of 14-13.

In the final game MES faced a strong team from BISC. From the jump ball and onwards, MES showed tremendous team work and excellent team defensive which completely unnerved BISC. Strong play was shown by all girls in the final game in which MES won.

The team would like to thank members of the SSLT and more specifically Mrs. Singleton who treated the champions to a meal at McDonalds. At this meal the girls voted on the teams Most Improved Player as well as Most Sportsmanship Player. Nour Mashhour was voted as Most Improved Player while Leila Farouk was voted Most Sportsmanship Player.

Both Coaches Gross and O'Connell would like to thank all the girls for their hard work and strong determination. With such a strong nucleus returning, the future is very bright for MES Cairo Basketball.

Mr. A. Gross – Boys Basketball Coach



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CISSA JV BASKETBALL



Another Dominating Performance by JV Girls
After three years of great achievement, the JV girls do it again and are crowned

CISSA BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS!

From the beginning of the season the JV girls from MES Cairo were considered favorites due to their experience and past performances at CISSA tournaments. This year the experience once again paid huge dividends as they were able to outplay and outwit all opponents. The girls showed up to CAC with loads of confidence, spirit and great determination.

The girls began their day a little sluggish and played a strong team from El Alsson. During the first match it took the girls a bit of time to overcome the morning tiredness. As the match wore on, the MES team began to slowly come into form. The team was able to withhold El Alsson by using a strong defensive game which included tremendous man on man coverage by Malak Souedi. At the final buzzer, MES Cairo was victorious by 1 point by the score of 22-21.

Moving on into the tournament the team played a team from BISC. The team started strong and never looked back. They played as a team displaying great team work and excellent passing skills. The team was led by the excellent point guard tandem of Malak Shash and newcomer from Year 7 Salma Amer. This pair made it easy for Sara Eissa, Hania El Benhawi, Yasmine Akef and Year 8 Merna El Abrashi to rack up the points. Strong shooting efforts were also displayed by Amina Gamal. The MES girls played strong throughout and ended up winning the game by the score off 40-13.

After winning the second match in the round robin MES girls looked like the team to beat. With a small number of teams in the tournament, the 2 wins placed the girls into the Semi-Final where they played a strong team from ISC-Choueifat who defeated the girls in an exhibition game the week before. The girls were excited and looking for revenge but did not enter the game feeling over-confident. Using the extra motivation the girls played a strong team game and were able to defeat ISC-C by the score of 31-17.

The girls had once again made it into the finals. The final match was to be a rematch between MES Cairo and El Alsson. The girls were very keen to show their dominance. After playing El Alsson in the first match both the coaches and girls knew what to expect. With a tireless attack on the El Alsson defense and a total team effort in defense, the outcome was never in doubt. With some key shots made at some key times, MES Cairo was well on its way to another Championship title! At the sound of the final buzzer, MES Cairo was once again victorious by the score of 38-28.

Coach Gross and O'Connell would like to thank all the girls for their hard work and strong determination. For those of you who are entering Varsity - *Good Luck* - and for those of you staying in JV, the future looks very positive.

Ms. Ruth. O Connell – JV Girls Basketball Coach



JV Boys Basketball

Despite a shortened practice schedule in the first term, the boys Junior Varsity basketball team took early season wins at NCBIS, CES and at home against AIS. Carrying this momentum into a home match against CAC, the Cougars fought valiantly before losing in the closing minutes of the game. Preparations continued in advance of February's CISSA Junior Varsity Tournament at CAC.

The one-day tournament started with an electrifying overtime win against El Alsson. The boys stepped up the pace in the second match against NCBIS, where the Cougars rolled to an authoritative victory. The day's third game brought out quite a crowd as the boys found themselves playing the home team, CAC, for control of the group. Emotions ran high and despite some valiant defense in an extremely physical game, MES lost. Despite the loss, two wins were enough to get the Cougars through to the semi-finals where they were matched against a strong BISC team. In a very unusual turn of events, Cairo rain made the outdoor courts unplayable and the semi-final match was moved to a small indoor court. The emotional and physical toll of the CAC game was apparent, as a frustrated Cougar squad struggled for a place in the finals. The game came down to the wire with BISC edging out our Cougars in the closing seconds. Heartbroken and exhausted, the boys finished the tournament in fourth place, taking home the Fair Play Award as consolation.

I have often heard that tough losses teach us more than easy wins. The Junior Varsity boys faced a great deal of adversity this season, and have matured both as individuals and as a team. We began the season with a group of inexperienced and untested boys. We finished the season with a team of committed young men. In addition, I am proud to say that the future of the MES Cairo basketball program looks very bright because of all their hard work this season. Congratulations gentlemen!

Mr. J. Tomlin – JV Basketball Coach

Girls Middle School Festival Team 2010

Amina Gaafar (Captain), Bana Al Bitar, Nour Mashhour, Mahira Ahmed, Laila Farouk, Sarah Bahaa, Sam Baldwin, Tala Baldwin, Salma Amer, Yasmeen Debees

I would like to say a big thank you Mr. Smyth, Mr. McTigue, Miss Webb, all the students who took, the entire transportation department, all our support staff, our IB students and all the MES Cairo students who hosted our international visitors. It was a very successful tournament with a very successful result for both MES Boys' and Girls' teams. Each day our team worked hard and played fairly to win EVERY SINGLE MATCH of the Festival. That is 15 matches over three days! Winning every single one! This has been the most enjoyable team to work with, developing Football, Basketball and Volleyball with a fabulous group of girls.

Day One - Football

We knew this would be Bana Al Bitar's goal scoring day! In total Bana scored 12 goals over our 5 matches. I am sure if given more time on the pitch we would have seen more of the goals which she produced. We watched a fabulous opening game against Qatar Academy ending with a 6 – 0 win. The ladies worked well together in a 2 – 1 – 2 formation. It worked well for us all day allowing the girls to build the play passing and moving up the pitch as a unit. Mr. Williamson our referee paid the girls a very big complement saying it was the best performance of a middle school team he had ever seen, all due to the shape they kept.

It was in our second match against AIS Abu Dhabi where we conceded our only goal of the day, but we scored a great one. Bana was playing in defense, and we kept encouraging her to test the keeper from our half. Bana stepped up to take a free kick from inside our half and scored with a well-placed lob that just sailed over AISA's keepers head right into the back of the goal. Awesome!

Another memorable goal was scored by Amina Gaafar, in our final game against Raha International School Dubai (RIS) we found ourselves finding it hard to score any goals. Mr. Godfrey was very frustrated with the high level of play and the unfortunate lack of goals! RIS kept our score to 1 – 0 by half time, but it wasn't until Amina's goal in the second half that we kept the score going up. She was waiting for a corner cross to be kicked into the box, as it came in she jumped and knocked a beautiful header in.

In total, we scored 23 goals. Plenty by Sam Baldwin who ran so much in every game playing, it seemed like she was playing every position on the pitch! A mention must go to our most determined player Tayla Baldwin. Taylor played in our central position and on the wings. She worked tirelessly to chase the ball control it and pass it off. Without her we not have been able to improve our passing and game play.

It was a very easy day for our goalie Yasmeen Dabees who was always there for support and was always concentrating when our team where on the defense. It must be hard to watch all the great sport and cheer for a team who keeps the ball away from the goal!

A great birthday day for Nour Mashhour, you must agree!

Day Two - Basketball

We knew that our Basketball was excellent! We are CISSA Champions, so entering day two we were calm collected and played to enjoy ourselves. Again, we won all five of our matches very convincingly. I was so lucky to have very competent ball handlers in Salma Amer and Bana Bitar who were confident to drive the ball up the court and give strong passes for our excellent guards. Laila Farouk scored 8 baskets. This gave all our other players great opportunities to score all our points! Our top scorer, the 'lay-up queen' was Sam Baldwin. She was always in great positions to receive passes and make easy baskets by doing the simple things well. In total, Sam scored 18 points over the five games.

Our captain, Amina, has really developed as a player and scored 14 points throughout the day. I look forward to Nour Mashhour's basketball career as she is becoming more and more confident on the court.

Day Three - Volleyball

Our last day ended with Volleyball and it was to be Sarah Bahaa's day! She is a fabulous setter and enjoyed herself taking control on the court and making plays for the rest of her team. She was piped at the post by Tayla with the number of Aces scored off service. Tayla had 7 Aces throughout the day, her service has really improved, it is flat and powerful, very difficult to return! This is one of the reasons the girls won all of their games, only losing one set all day to AIS Egypt (beating them in the third set).





It is clear to see we have a great wealth of talent in the middle school. The whole team of ten students was able to serve, set, and link, three touch volleyball. I am really looking forward to the Middle School Volleyball Tournament here in Cairo, I think we have a real chance of doing well.

I was very impressed with Mahira Ahmed who has a natural dig and an accurate service, it was only after the seasonal holiday that Mahira started learning and developing her volleyball skills and she is already a player to watch out for.



It was a tremendous competition, which we dominate from Thursday morning till Saturday evening. All the girls who took part either playing for MES Cairo, playing for SAS, playing for RIS or hosting learnt plenty about the three sports we played, learnt plenty about themselves and developed great friendships with other students from all over the world.

The Middle School Festival is one of the best weekends you can get involved in next year so look out for the training dates and find out how you can help by hosting.

Ms. R. O'Connell – Middle School Festival Sports Coach

Boys Middle School Festival Team 2010



The Middle School Festival is the highlight of the sporting year for MES teams, as it the tournament we host, and for the past few years both boys and girls teams have won convincingly.

This year was no different, and a very powerful MES boy's team dominated the event from start to finish. The competition was better than previous years, with several travelling teams fielding extremely strong teams. From the onset it became clear that one of four teams could win it, with strong challenges coming from Qatar, UAS Dubai and AIS Egypt.

The festival is a three day sporting tournament where teams compete in three sports, football, basketball and volleyball. The squad is selected by players, who have ability in all the sports.

Day one was basketball, and the MES boys started well beating Qatar in a very close game before convincingly winning their next three games. The final game of the day put the unbeaten MES boys against the unbeaten UAS Dubai team. This was the big game where a very fierce, but fair rivalry had become established as many of the MES boys had Dubai boys as guests. As often has happened over the course of the year, when it comes to crunch games MES raised their game, and UAS Dubai were not able to compete with the hard pressing MES Cairo team.

Day two for the boys was volleyball, and MES started where they left off with the basketball. They won their first three games comfortably however it did not all go their own way, with a careless loss to Schutz American School. As with every good team, the boys had to put their disappointment behind them as next game yet again they faced rivals UAS Dubai. Yet again, the MES Cairo boys proved too much for the Dubai team and they finished the day with a strong performance to beat Qatar, and win the volleyball tournament.

The final day of the festival is always the toughest day for the boys. Everyone is tired, and it is football, a sport that is most competitive. MES Cairo boys started well against Raha Dubai, winning the first game 4-0, before being held to a 0-0 draw against a very good Schutz football team. Then came the big game, MES Cairo playing against UAS Dubai who boasted a varsity player in their team. As with every occasion over the weekend though MES raised their game to a new level, and outclassed the Dubai team winning convincingly 2-0. With the good, often comes the bad, and after the ecstasy of the Dubai game came disappointment of carelessly losing a local derby against AIS Egypt. A game that should have taught every participant the need to fully concentrate until the final whistle has blown. MES Cairo brushed themselves down, and won their final game 6-1, finishing joint winners of the football day.



The Middle School Festival was a very successful event for the MES Cairo boys, an event that proved how much talent is available in the lower school.

Mr. P. McTigue - Middle School Festival Sports Coach



CISCA Girls Varsity Football - Attack of the Clones

Players and coaches left training at 5pm on Tuesday 9 February calmly confident about their competition prospects for the following Friday. After numerous after-school and Saturday sessions, never before had a squad been assembled at MES Cairo with so much talent in every position. There were veterans from the Qatar campaign, with the addition of the JV champions who won at BISC in November and a couple of senior students itching to prove themselves again. Most importantly, each of the 8 players in the starting line-up had an almost clone like equivalent to replace them if necessary – even injuries and illnesses could not defeat us this time.

The opening game against Choueifat saw a slow start in the first half but with a 1-0 lead at half time thanks to our wonder winger, Nour Hussein G12Y swiftly passing the dazed defenders and slotting into the far corner of their net. Super Sam Baldwin Y7Y added 2 more before the end of the game to make an excellent start in our group. It was nice to ensure all players had a turn on pitch without affecting our performance, especially Nesma Deghady G10B, Habiba Omar G11G, Farah Omar Y11Y and Mai Garas Y11Y, who replaced the other players in their positions like they had been cloned for the very purpose. Only Hania El Banhawi DP11R spent the whole game as an outfield player and was definitely player of the match.



Just over an hour later we had the unusual experience of facing CES who had a squad of 6 players. MES Cairo graciously loaned them 2 squad players for the game and less sympathetically then thrashed them 8-0. Star striker Bana al Bitr G8V had to be pulled off to prevent the score going into double figures! Sam added 2 goals including a tremendous free kick from the edge of the box. Goal keeping legend Sarah Salhab G11V was given a rare opportunity to shine on pitch and there was an equally competent Giulia Ramadan G10B filling in for her between the sticks.

The semi-final opponents we faced in BISC were undoubtedly more superior to the 2 teams we had beaten in our group. Captain Alia al Baker G12Y couldn't play due to injury, but Giulia stepped into her boots so effectively at centre back there was no difference to the quality of our defence. It was a tense close game as expected, both teams found the woodwork of the goal an obstacle but the goalkeeping from Sarah, tackling from Malak Shash G10B, Giulia and Tayla Baldwin Y8R, and creativity from midfield allowed Bana to put us 2-0 up only to see BISC pull one back. The final 5 minutes, with MES Cairo implementing 'intelligent tactics' of denying our opponents much possession finally passed and we were into the final for the first time since the 2007 ISAC tournament against the same school – the hosts and local rivals AIS Egypt.

Playing your local rivals has one advantage - you know who you're playing very well. Sam and Tayla had 1 important job – to take their best 2 players out of the game with close marking, which they did so superbly that the usually dangerous AIS players were subbed off several times as being ineffective. MES Cairo had the better of the first half with most of the pressure on the AIS goal. But the opposition defence had the best record in the tournament and did not concede a single goal in normal play. At half time we felt like the best team in Cairo!

The second half was a different prospect, Nour went off with cramp but the versatile and superbly fit Sara Eissa G11G stood in superbly. Then Captain Aliaa starting sprinting up and down the touch line – "Can I come back on?" she cried. She sensed a last chance to lead her team to a victory. MES Cairo managed to hang on, drawing on every ounce of energy left. Both teams agreed 5 minutes of extra-time was enough before penalties. The score did not change.



Penalties are never a nice way to settle a final, but all games must end somehow. The young and old stepped up from the MES Cairo squad to shoot from

the spot. All 4 players from MES Cairo missed their chance against the narrow 8 aside goals. Fortunately Sarah saved an equal 4 penalties from the AIS players too. Hania was the last penalty taker for MES Cairo before it went to sudden death. Hania knew the best spot to aim for and coolly stepped up and slammed the ball into the top right hand corner of the net. No one could have saved that! Our players and fans went wild. The last AIS player placed the ball in the same spot from which Hania had just scored. She stepped up and shot....Sarah reacted with cat-like speed and palmed the ball away to safety. And away we went with our celebrations. We are the best team in Cairo!

Thank you to all the participating players, to Hania El Banhawi especially for being player of the tournament and to my co-coach Ms. Webb.

Mr. S. Perry – Varsity Girls Football Coach



Varsity Boy's CISSA Football Tournament



The CISSA Varsity football tournament was an eagerly anticipated event on this year's calendar, with MES Cairo able to field a very strong team and having had some positive results in warm up games including a 9 -1 demolition of local rivals NCBS there was a quiet confidence within the players. As soon as receiving the draw for the tournament it became clear it would be a tough event to win, with MES being placed in the same group as two of the favourites. They were placed with last year's Varsity boys champions AIS, and last year's Junior Varsity boys champions El Alsson.

First game pitted the boys against El Alsson, and MES Cairo started the game strongly making several chances. However, El Alsson hit back with both teams attempting to win the midfield battle. As with the recent trip to Qatar, small lapses of concentration proved costly to MES, and El Alsson benefitted. A ball was crossed in, and not dealt with resulting in the El Alsson striker finishing from close range.

It stayed 1-0 until the final few minutes, with MES Cairo pushing for an equaliser El Alsson broke to make the final score 2-0.

The result of the first game meant that in order for MES to qualify for the semi finals they would have to beat an AIS team that have won every game at Varsity level for the past two seasons, and that had themselves just beaten El Alsson. MES could not have got off to a worse start conceding two early goals. This could have signaled a collapse from the MES team, and in the past it could have. However in the past year the players have grown as both people and players and they refused to give up hitting the post with a fabulous free kick and going close on several other occasions. Then came the breakthrough with the MES Cairo team scoring a deserved goal. AIS were physically shaken, and the MES Cairo team drove on, dominating the game, and looking dangerous on every attack they mounted. Time however was running out, and AIS looked to be holding on for victory. With just two minutes left MES Cairo broke and scored causing mass cheering from the watching crowd. Sadly, a very shaken AIS held on for the draw meaning MES Cairo were to compete in the 5th/6th place play off, a game which the MES Cairo team convincingly won 3-0.

The eventual winners of the tournament were AIS beating El Alsson 2-0 in the final. It was little consolation for the MES Cairo team who were so close to qualifying for the semi finals and who represented the school magnificently throughout the whole tournament. They were however rewarded by receiving the fair play award.

Mr. P. Mc Tighe – Varsity Boys Football Coach



SECONDARY HOUSE UPDATE

The House Competition thunders on with Kheper currently in first place. Edjo are not far behind in second with Amun in third and Selket in fourth both nipping at their heels. Any House event over the next few months could be the decider in this year's competition and House Representatives are busy drumming up support to ensure victory in June when the House Trophy is presented to the victorious team.



This 20th anniversary year at MES Cairo has seen some new House events and games during Secondary's extended second break on Wednesdays. **Where in the World** made its first appearance in February, a mind-bending challenge to identify places in the world by their unique qualities. Would you be able to identify where you can find the greatest number of plants, animals and insects? Or where Dodos could be found before they became extinct? The teams' responses to these and other challenging Geography questions were given by placing coloured pins onto a giant map of the world. The game was great fun with staff and students alike scratching their heads over the questions.



Also 'new for 2010' was the first round of **Staff & Senior Students Volleyball Tournament**. There was great tension in the Sports Hall as the first two matches of the tournament were played. Kheper played Amun and then Edjo took on Selket. With two more rounds to play this high-scoring event could make a huge difference to the Houses' competition totals.

It was with great anticipation that Homerooms sat down one morning to watch the first ever **House News**. Presented by our House Captains, the broadcast was a brief round-up of recent House activity and some information about the pending 'non-uniform day'. The presenters did a fantastic job and the show was so thoroughly enjoyed that more broadcasts were demanded and, over time, the House News will become a regular feature of life at MES Cairo.

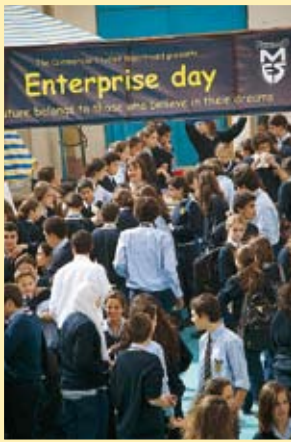
January saw the return of an event that was introduced to the House calendar just last year – **Junior Dodgeball**. Competition was fierce during the two weeks of matches but the might of the Amun team was unstoppable and they emerged Junior Dodgeball champions at the end of play. A second round of the ever popular **Mental Minute** also took place in January with students once again attempting to answer as many mental maths questions as they could within one minute. **Litterbugs** also made a return this year during the Enterprise Days with teams collecting the litter generated in the name of House glory. Not only did they earn valuable House points but the yard was wonderfully clean at the end of the break!

Still to come in 2010 we have **Poetry Slam**, **Battle of the Bands**, **Senior Dodgeball**, **Sports Day** and many more. The competition is still wide open and any one of the four Houses could have the trophy adorned with their colours at the end of the year.

Mr. J. Todd – Secondary House Coordinator



MES CAIRO ENTERPRISE DAYS FEBRUARY 2010



2010 saw the fifth annual event formally known as Shopping Days. The name was changed to Enterprise Days this year to reflect the new emphasis on encouraging the students to think in a broader context.

This year, only 13 licences were available. As you can imagine competition to get these was very intense, and by the end of the first day of offering the licenses they were sold out.

Each business consisted of a team of three students; it was particularly pleasing to see students come together from different Sections and Year Groups.

As with all large events the planning that goes on in advance of an event is hidden from public view. The students had to commit to attending after school training and information sessions each Tuesday for three weeks prior to the event. The intention of these sessions was to implement changes that had been agreed following previous events.

Each group would have to offer a balanced selection, if they intended to sell "fast food" they would have to sell this as a combination with a healthy alternative (juice, fruit etc).

Initially students were reluctant to embrace this initiative and it can be argued that this is due to the fact that they understand their market (a fundamental requirement for business success)! The point was made, however, that even the mighty MacDonal'd's has had to react to pressure from its stakeholders and offer healthier options on its menu. In addition we wanted to reduce the amount of litter and packaging associated with take away food to promote a more "green" event.

Mrs. Brown, Mr. McGrath and Ms. El Hout were involved in the preparation sessions; advising students, helping them prepare their menus and agreeing on the specific roles of the group members and pricing strategies. It was very rewarding to see the enthusiasm of the groups and the competitive spirit that evolved over the weeks.

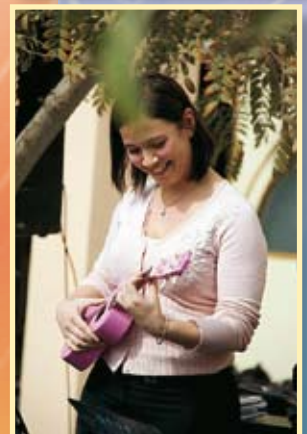
Day One

Wednesday 11th February brought a fine clear day, ideal for the event. The group members were released early from lessons to set up their stalls. This was done in a very professional way with the students demonstrating a mature approach. All the stalls and boards had been prepared by Mr. Clement Peter and his team. Once again a big thank you goes out to them for their efforts in another job well done. Additionally, we offer our thanks to Ms. Vivian for her coordination of food collection and other administration associated with the event.

The first break bell rang and the crowds arrived, monitored by teachers from across the school to ensure orderly behaviour. The teams worked hard, with many of the groups having to consider restocking for the second break. Students across the school behaved well with most being prepared to wait their turn.

Naturally those stalls selling burgers and pizza saw large demand, the business owners were quick to take advantage of this with high pricing of their premium products. It was nice to see healthy food on sale *and* being sold.

The second break saw the welcome addition of a range of musical sets, performed by staff and students alike. Many thanks to Mr. Todd for arranging this and to everyone involved in the performances.





The charity collection boxes were out and students were encouraged to deposit any spare change in these as part of the ongoing house competitions. In addition students representing the school houses collected rubbish again part of the house competition efforts.

The students did excellent business with many selling out and having to place new orders for day 2 of the event.

Day Two

The weather did not prove to be as kind, with strong gusts of wind and dust in the air. However, the students rose to the challenge, again setting up quickly and efficiently with minimal help required from staff. Business was again brisk during the first break, it would appear that many of our students and in fact teachers have a never ending desire for certain food types! In fact I did spot Mr. Smyth with not one but *five* burgers in his hand - hopefully not all for his personal consumption!

During second break there was plenty of musical entertainment, the IGCSE Music group were very impressive, as was Mr. Tomlinson's rock rendition.

The students performed well assigning tasks and clearly dividing their helper labour force with good effect.

Mr. Morris performed the role of photographer to his usual high level, capturing many perfect snapshots of the event.

There was a good range of food and some non-food stuffs on offer and at the end of second break the majority of businesses had sold out and couldn't wait to count their takings.

When it was all over the students were tired but happy. They had thoroughly enjoyed the event and gained new knowledge as part of the process. Of particular note was how they packed up at the end of the each break and the degree to which the amount of litter had been reduced.

Students' comments were positive. For example:

"It was challenging but rewarding. I enjoyed dealing with the organization of the event and making the money." Omar Refai - Year 9Y

"I liked the experience of handling a business." Lolwa Awad - Year 9 R

Of course the event would not have been possible without the guidance and support of Mr. Anthony Baldwin, whose experiences from previous years contributed greatly to the smooth running of both days.

A thoroughly enjoyable event for all involved.

Mrs. A. Brown – Commercial Studies Department



Heba Khaled El Bourini's Interview

Heba Khaled El Bourini is one of the greatest treasures of Modern English School Cairo. She has attended MES Cairo for her complete school life, since Nursery, and is currently in the British Section Year 11 studying for her A-Levels. Though very quiet about her athletic achievements, Heba is a 15 year old champion Gymnast and has represented Egypt winning several glorious medals and prizes both nationally and internationally. As a dedicated Gymnast and student Heba has achieved excellence in both academic and sporting life. Around the same time Heba began to attend MES Cairo nursery, at the age of three, she began to develop her love and passion for gymnastics. It is amazing how she has the capability to juggle around both responsibilities and excels in both too. She is clear proof of how when you are truly determined, anything is possible.

Q: Heba, it's great to finally have the chance to speak to you. I have really admired your constant effort and achievement. So, what was your inspiration to start this whole amazing 'career' of yours?

A: Well, my grandfather, Lotaif Mahgoub was a great gymnast over 50 years ago. He is my inspiration... he impressed me and made me sure that I was willing and determined to do my best. I always found him spectacular at what he did. I wished I would be just like him someday. He is definitely my greatest inspiration! My whole family continues to encourage me to be the best I can be.

Q: When and where did you start training

A: I started at the age of 3, with artistic gymnastics. I then moved on to Rhythmic when I was 5. I train in the Gezira Youth Centre in Zamalek. It is very convenient as it is close to home so I can get there easily and quickly...this is important with all of the training sessions I have. My first tournament was actually in 2000 at Maadi Club where I happily came third.

Q: So, tell us about your dedicated schedule. How do you manage to juggle school and gymnastics simultaneously?

A: I'm generally very consistent with my attendance in school and try to dedicate as much time as possible that's needed to my studies to ensure I progress and achieve my highest potential. On school days

I have around five hours of training each day and I train six days a week. If we have a holiday or a few days off, I ensure that I take great advantage of the extra time and dedicate even more of time to my training. During holidays I train for four hours in the morning and five in the afternoon. I am extremely dedicated to both academic and non-academic aspects of my life and strive to succeed in both equally while growing consistently as a person.

Q: So, everyone is wondering who is the great coach that is helping you achieve so much?

A: I actually love this question because people are always surprised by my answer. I don't actually have a formal coach or anything like that. My Mum is my coach. She was also a gymnast and now dedicates her time to coach me. I am extremely privileged to have her by my side. She is a huge support and is constantly encouraging me and looking out for me. Occasionally my family pay for a specialist coach for a maximum period of a month just to help with certain difficulties that I may be having but, on the whole, my success is down to my Mum's excellent guidance.

Q: Is your whole family supportive?

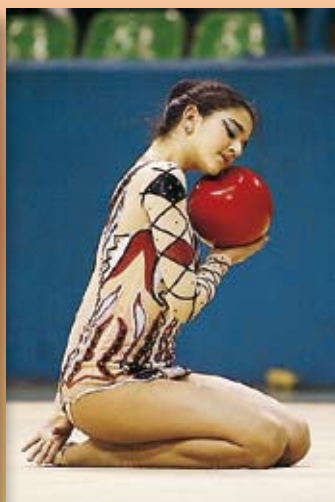
A: Yes, as I have said my mother is extremely supportive and my whole family is always there supporting me financially and most importantly emotionally. They are always there to cheer me on, no matter if I win or lose.

Q: Where have you travelled for your tournaments?

A: Wow, I've been all over but to name a few: Bulgaria, Moscow, Croatia, France, UK, Portugal, Algeria, Namibia and South Africa.

Q: Out of all of those, which was your favourite?

A: Well, when I'm there my main focus and priority is more of the training and tournament rather than the country itself but my favourite experience was Moscow. I had the chance to train with a very dedicated Russian national team. They were sponsored and actually attended a specialized Sports Academy rather than normal school. They were extremely dedicated to the importance of gymnastics and I gained and learned a lot from that experience.



MES CAIRO ACHIEVERS

Q: Do you have a favourite memory you could perhaps share?

A: It will have to be the first tournament I played in the Egyptian Nationals where I won first place against fifty other great gymnasts. I was just ecstatic!

Q: How many medals and achievements do you have?

A: Well, thankfully I have a huge amount, I haven't actually really counted. But the greatest achievement I am always proud of is the feeling that I have represented my country and made it, and my family, all so proud. I would never trade that feeling for anything in the world! My latest accomplishment though was in Moscow where I won two gold medals and a silver one representing Africa.

Q: How do you feel before and after you have performed?

A: Before I go on stage I loosen myself up as much as possible, and ensure I try my best all throughout to make everyone as proud as possible. After I am done it is always such a relieving and satisfying sense of achievement, especially when I receive a prize. I just feel so honored.

Q: What are your hopes and aims for the future?

A: I am determined to qualify for the 2012 London Olympics. It has always been my dream and hopefully it will come true. I just have to come first in the African Division in the World Championships and I am there. It will be a fantastic opportunity to represent Egypt and hopefully succeed.

Q: Well Heba, it has been a privilege talking to you, but one last question. Do you have any advice for anyone like you trying to succeed in any sport, including gymnastics?

A: Well, all I have to say to them, if you really want it, with enough effort and dedication you can do anything and be anything you want to be. Just work with maximum effort and perseverance. I never thought I would be even close to getting this far, but here I am now. Work hard, enjoy every second of it and be yourself!

By: Menna Raafat - Yr 10 Red.

Youssef Abbas (3 Yellow) A Judo orange belt at MES Cairo!

Congratulations to Youssef Abbas who has been awarded his orange belt in judo by the Egyptian Federation of Judo. Youssef is very committed to his sport, training at the Ahly Club three times a week. Fitness is a vital part of his judo programme, and Youssef is proud to be the fastest runner in his group. "I like judo," he said. "It's fun!"

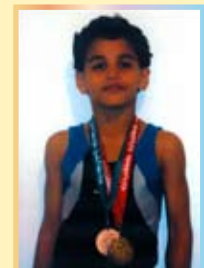
Well done Youssef! This is a great achievement!



Omar Rashed (2 Violet) Gymnastics Champion



Omar began his gymnastics career when he was three years old. He started at Heliopolis sporting club, then he continued his intensive training routine in Alam Al-Reyada, a specialised club in Gymnastics. Omar was training 6 days a week for 3 hours a day. Before any championship he had to exercise sometimes twice a day for more than 5 hours to keep his shape and to be able to perform in each routine (floor, pommel horse, bars, parallel bars, balance, press balance, etc...).



Focus and hard training enabled Omar to achieve his first Bronze Medal in the Alexandria championship in November 2009 and another medal for participating and achieving the 5th position as a team.

Also as a result for his continuous efforts and dedication in training, he was able to gain his first Gold Medal in Cairo Championship in February 2010.

Congratulations Omar, we are very proud of you

ART ATTACK!

20's Art Competition in Secondary!

The 20's Art Competition caused just as much excitement and interest in Secondary. We received entries from students in every year and grade of the school. Judging was not easy –there was so much variety! From metre high constructions to photographs and collages... to creations with fairy lights and candles...and even a chocolate brownie shaped '20' in a creative box!

Congratulations!

Finally, when the judging was over we invited the 45 winners from across the school to an awards assembly. It was wonderful to see every Year Group represented! Everyone received a certificate and prize. They were also the first to see all 45 artworks displayed together in a presentation.



1st Shams Arafa G7O



2nd Mariam Monib G7G



2nd Salma Amer Y7B



3rd Dania El Khazindar G7O

'20' Winners in Secondary

Year 7 Winners:

First: Ismail Seoudi Y7Y
 Joint Second: Mostafa Amer Y7R
 Joint Second: Salma Amer Y7B
 Third: Youssef Morcos Y7Y
 Runners up:
 Ahmad El-Dajani Y7R
 Ahmad As-Saadiq Y7Y
 Amr Abdel-Wahab Y7R
 Hana Seif El Nasr Y7R
 Mai Gamal Abu el Naga Y7Y

Menatallah Sheba Y7R
 Mohamed Dabees Y7B
 Nada Mady Y7R
 Nader Raafat Y7R
 Youssef Yousri Y7R
 Zeina Nasr Y7B
Grade 7 Winners:
 First: Shams Arafa G7O
 Second: Mariam Mounib G7G
 Third: Dania El Khazindar G7O
 Runners up:

Abd-el-Rahman El Ogeil G7G
 Amr Al Wishah G7V
 Haya El Ogail G7V
 Karim Abdullah G7O
 Mahira Ahmed G7O
 Mohamed Salama G7G
 Nouran Jaouda G7G
 Yassin Helmy G7G
 Zeina Salem G7O
Year 8 Winners:
 First: Tamer Madbouly Y8R

Second: Nourjahan Khafaga Y8R
 Third: Nourhan Farrag Y8B
 Runners up:
 Alia Abouelleil Y8B
 Alaa El Nisr Y8B
 Alyshia Brown Y8B
 Clara El Metaal Y8R
 Enjy Heshmat Y8B
 Hana Rashad Y8R
 Jumana Radwan Y8R



3rd Youssef Morcos Y7Y



1st Ismail Seoudi Y7Y



1st Tamer Madbouly Y8R



2nd Mostafa Amer Y7R



3rd Nourhan Farrag Y8B



2nd Nourjahan Khafaga Y8R

ART ATTACK!



3rd Fareeda El Tohamy G10B



2nd Mostafa Osman G9O



1st Yasmeen Dabees Y9Y



1st Ingie Enan G8V

Mohamed Bahaa-El-Din Y8Y
Nada Sherdy Y8B

Grade 8 Winners:

First: Heba Abu-Shakra G8G

Second: Ingie Enan G8V

Third: Nadia El Bostany G8G

Runners up:

Abdel-Moneim Shahin G8G

Farida Attia G8O

Leila Nassar G8V

Mary Henry G8V

Nour Kandil G8V

Sandy William G8O

Youssef Abouel-Nour G8O

Grade/Year 9 Winners

First: Yasmeen Dabees Y9Y

Second: Moustafa Osman G9O

Third: Khadiga Khadr Y9B

Runners up:

George Henry G9G

Michelle Brace Y9B

Heidi El Ogeil Y9B

Grade 10 Winners

First : Farah Hegazy G10 O

Second: Fareeda El Tohamy G10B

Third: Farida El Kassaby G10V

Runners up:

Diala Nabih G10O

Hedayat Foda G10V

Malak Shash G10B

Mariam Fayek G10O

Nada Okasha G10V

Nesma Dighidy G10B

Raghda Ibrahim G10V

Grade 12 Winners

First: Deena El-Safy G12Y

Second: Nadine Murad G12Y

Third: Nadine Zaki G12R

Runners up:

Alia Al Baker G12Y

Badr Al Kaabi G12R

Danya Abu-Hashem G12R

Faisal Al Bitar G12Y

Malak Nour G12R

Mariam Mohsen G12Y



1st Nadine Murad G12Y



3rd Deena Safty G12Y



2nd Nadine Zaki G12R



2nd Nadia El Bostany G8G



3rd Khadiga Khadr Y9B



1st Farah Hegazy G10O



3rd Heba Abu Shakra G8G



2nd Farida El-Kassaby G10V

ART ATTACK!

Photography Update!



Nourhan Zaki Iconic



Tarek Abdella Composite Image



Manal Safwat Abstract

Over the last few months you may have seen some senior students wandering around school with large cameras and doing all sorts of extraordinary things. Now is the time to find out what they've really been doing by coming to see the displays of their work around the Secondary building which have been causing such a recent stir!

Please take the time to enjoy their Iconic Images which recreate the picture of a well known person. These are on display outside the Art department. See some of the students posing as Charlie Chaplin, Marilyn Monroe and Audrey Hepburn - to mention a few. Then take a moment to venture inside the department itself to see the amazing Composite Images which show the same person in the picture more than once.

Who would have guessed that the school environment which you see everyday could hold so many creative photographic opportunities!

Photographs by Grade 12 also feature strongly in the new school prospectus and the Key Stage One Parent Handbook.

As well as taking photographs the students also spend a lot of time in the computer lab selecting, editing, adjusting and manipulating their images using Adobe Photoshop.

CAS students have also been involved in a Photography ASA exploring different ways to use a camera as well as learning some interesting Photoshop techniques.

Younger students can also look forward to a Photography ASA later this year.

Keep snapping MES Cairo!

Mr. J. Crabb – Secondary Art Department



Injii Refaat G12 Hands 2



Nada Motawe Iconic



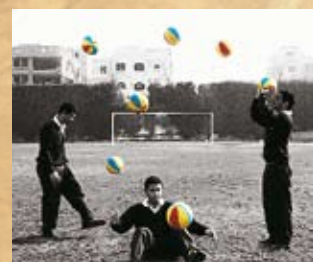
Malak Nour Composite



Nadine Murad Composite



Nariman Mahgoub Abstract



Youssef Naga Composite

Entries for the British Council Creativity in Art Award

There are many talented art students at MES Cairo and it was difficult to decide who to nominate for this year's British Council Creativity Award. Nominees must be studying Art in the British Secondary Section of the school. One artwork was submitted from each student as an example of their creativity. Good luck to Sarah Hegab, Shaheer Soliman, Christina Magdy, Jacqueline-Marie Bali, Khadiga Khadr, Fady Philip and Hyunmin Lee. I am pleased to share their wonderful artwork with you.

Mrs. L. Prime – Head of Secondary Art Department



'From the Mountain to the Sea' acrylic on canvas
Hyunmin Lee Year 9 IGCSE Art



'Dancers at Rest' mixed media on paper
Sarah Hegab, Year 11 AS Art



'Evening at Sea' acrylic on canvas
Khadiga Khadr, Year 9 IGCSE Art



'Sea Bed' print and collage
Christina Magdy, Year 9 IGCSE Art



'Shell Harmony' print and collage
Jacqueline-Marie Bali Year 9 IGCSE Art



'Water' acrylic and collage on paper
Fady Philip, Year 9 IGCSE Art



'Cairo at Night' acrylic on paper
Shaheer Soliman, Year 10 IGCSE Art

ART ATTACK!

University Of the Arts Workshop

On Saturday 13th February, a group of keen, enthusiastic art students from MES Cairo DP 11 and Grades 11 & 12 accompanied by Mrs. Prime and Ms. Barnes went to a workshop held by the University of the Arts London. The venue was the British International School in the 6th October area.

The University of the Arts is a group of prestigious Art colleges based in and around London. The purpose of the workshop was two-fold; firstly to give foreign students a clear idea of what an Art Foundation course is, as most British Art colleges expect you to have done one before embarking on a BA Degree course. Secondly it was to give students a hands-on taster of what it might be like to be on a Foundation course. The introduction was clear and a lot of useful information was given by the two representatives: Maria Brawand and Dave Webster.

If you are interested to find out more about this yourself, you can visit www.arts.ac.uk or see one of your MES Cairo Art teachers.



The activity they set was to get them to work in a new and different way which challenged the students by taking them out of their comfort zone. This resulted in some inventive and exciting material being produced. It was also a good opportunity for Art students to meet and share ideas. The activity was based on investigating an area or space, that being the Art room and anything in it - be it the shadows produced in the room, the route that people moving around took in there or the variety of footwear worn - or whatever aspect sparked an interest in the students.

It was great to see some students become real risk-takers and embrace the task in an abstract manner. They worked in new ways with confidence, even though it was something very different and something they were initially not comfortable with. The main purpose was to experience a new process and find great starting points for further work.



Ms. C. Barnes – Secondary Art Department

Congratulations...

to **Manar El Mokadem DP12R** and **Yasmine Barakat G12Y** who have each been offered a place at the prestigious University of the Arts, London!

Yasmine has a place on Art Foundation at Chelsea School of Art and Manar, who plans a career in Interior Design, has a place on Art Foundation at the London College of Communication .



Yasmine Barakat G12Y



Manar El Mokadem DP12R

Well done!

ART ATTACK!

HANDS ON!

Design and Technology at IGCSE!

MES

Cairo has started a new IGCSE this year. Students in Year 9 have the opportunity to take IGCSE Design and Technology (Resistant Materials) for the first time!

A very healthy number of students have opted to take this subject. This course improves not only students' practical skills in the workshop, but also their design and communication skills as well. Students were asked to write a design brief at the start of their course. The challenge was to decide on a type of storage unit for a specific purpose. Their ideas were creative ranging from CD storage to Jewelry and even Guitar picks. By following the design process and producing an original idea and a good quality piece of practical work students have a good opportunity to earn excellent grades within this subject. In addition to design skills and practical construction skills, students are learning the importance of deadlines, time management and organisational skills as they take responsibility for their coursework. The students themselves have really enjoyed the course so far- please see their comments below! Having an IGCSE in Design and Technology can benefit those who wish to pursue further study in Engineering, Construction, Manufacturing, Architecture, Design and some vocational courses, as well as Education courses.

Mr T. Dickinson Secondary DT Teacher and Mrs. Lucy Prime – Secondary Head of Art

What do we do in Design and Technology?

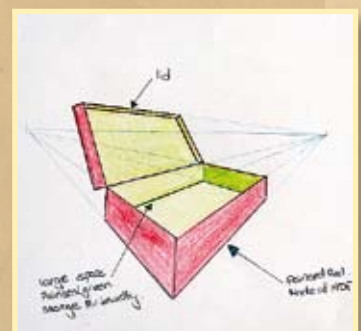
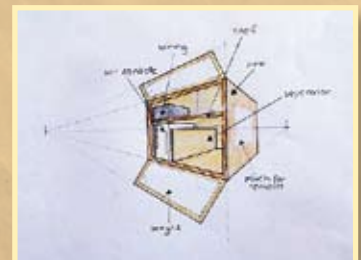
'Design and Technology is a broad subject with many different aspects. One of the many aspects in Design and Technology is technical drawing. In technical drawing you learn how to design using different techniques. For example, I learnt how to use two point perspective in a drawing of my idea (my Wii Storage Unit). My Wii Storage Unit will house my Wii Console, wires, games and remotes. All my ideas started off as a simple box and progressed into what it will look like when completed. The best thing about Design and Technology from my point of view is that I have the freedom to turn my ideas into life-size objects using modern technology.' **Amir Salem – Y9Y**

'Throughout this extraordinary experience of IGCSE Design and Technology, I have achieved a lot of skills. I have improved my ideas and techniques, and know more about wood joints, wood types and different kinds of materials. I made my own storage box out of wood and I think I have really put all my effort into make it the best. This is one of my favourite subjects and I am so pleased that I have the opportunity to study it at MES !' **Mohamed Refai – 9B**

'As one of the first students to take IGCSE Design Technology I would like to say that it was very exciting starting to make a storage box using MDF and working on making a model of my final piece. I enjoyed learning about the different tools and how to use them. Also I would like to say to any student who enjoys having fun and being creative, IGCSE Design Technology is the subject for them!' **Christina Magdy - Y9B**

'I was amazed that IGCSE Design Technology was one of our option choices. We got a great teacher, Mr. Dickinson! Most of us want to become engineers and it is important that we get a chance to design and then make our ideas in wood. Thank you MES Cairo for adding Design Technology as an IGCSE subject!' **Hashim Salem - Y9R**

'The new design technology course helps students to develop an engineering mind allowing them to explore different approaches to solving problems. The first skill we learn in DT is different types of drawing. This seems hard at first but after repeating it several times you get the hang of it. The next part in the DT course is the fun part where we start our making skills. The course has one big project that we work on all year. We are currently working on storage units. After we have completed most of our drawing we start modelling. That is the stage we are at then we start our final make. Overall DT is a very fun and useful subject to take for IG.' **Youssef Gouda - Y9Y**



Model United Nations

MUN News

THE MES Cairo Secondary Section prides itself on its ability to offer students a world-class education. The Model United Nations club is one of the ways that MES Cairo students are encouraged to develop into well-rounded world citizens. This year, the Model UN club has had the good fortune to participate in two Model UN conferences.

In November, students traveled to Lisbon, Portugal to take part in the annual Iberian Model United Nations conference, hosted by the Fundação Escola Americana de Lisboa. Students took part in a number of committees, including ECOSOC & General Assembly. MES students distinguished themselves at IMUN in a number of ways, including sponsorship of resolutions, and the delivery of persuasive speeches to their fellow delegates.

In March, 2010, MES Students are again preparing themselves to participate in an MUN conference. From March 26-29, MES students will be attending the AIS Model United Nations. This is our first year in attendance at this conference, but we anticipate great things for our students at this event!

Mr. B. Christensen – Social Studies Department



GRADE 9 TRIP TO ISLAMIC CAIRO



In the morning, we were all extremely excited about the trip. Once the bell rang at 8:20, we rushed towards the bus gates. There Mr. Stock, Ms. Crutchfield, Mr. Christensen, Mr. Bane, and Ms. Allsop were waiting for us. Once we settled, we took a half-hour drive to Islamic Cairo.

Our first stop was at Bab Al-Futuh, which was the northern wall of Cairo in the Fatimid Dynasty. Once we entered, we saw the Mosque of Al-Hakim, which was amazingly extravagant.



After that we went to the area known as, "Bayt El Suhaymi". It is an area that a royal family used as a palace. It was like a maze from above the terraced walls, and we saw the northern wall where he dealt with court duties or meetings. There is a luxurious fountain in the grounds of the palace gardens.

Exiting into the rest of Bab Al-Futuh, we stumbled across the Barquq Mosque. Beside it stood the Madrassa and Mosque of Al-Nasir Mohammed.



One step further ans we were at Bab Zewala, and that is the area of the Al-Aqmar Mosque. Afterwards at Bab Zewala, we were permitted to climb the stairs of the minarets. It was gloomy and it wasn't for the faint hearted, because it is extremely high where you can practically see the whole of Islamic Cairo, and the surrounding area of roads that we had recently walked through.

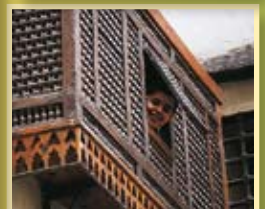
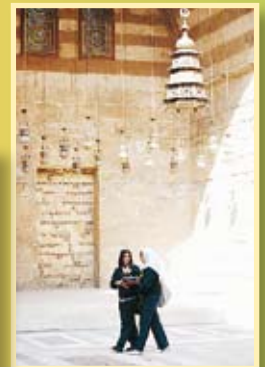
Then we had a delicious traditional Egyptian lunch at the Koshary restaurant "Mo'men," We all sat down and enjoyed the rest.



However, it wasn't long before we started walking again. Nour did really well as he was on crutches. We thought we were going to the Citadel but we went all the way to the Salah-Al-Din Mosque. It was by far the most impressive mosque any of us had ever seen. All the Grade Nine students enjoyed this. On the outside it seems like the other mosques with the mithrab and mausoleums. Behind the wall, however, is the large reading stand for the Qur'an along with so many other interesting features. The walls fitted together as a large jigsaw puzzle. They were extremely spectacular!

Sadly, the trip eventually came to an end and we returned to school. We are all really grateful that our teachers gave us this opportunity to visit and study this area of Cairo and learn so much while having fun!

Trip Review by George Botros Henry – Grade 9 Green (MESsenger Club)



MES CAIRO HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT FEATURE

THE HUMAN SIDE OF HUMANITIES TEACHERS!



Using map skills to navigate through Sweden's archipelago



Admiring the ruins of the medieval Bishop's Palace in St David's, Wales

Humanities subjects in the British Section continue to go from strength to strength. Over the past year and a half, our energetic and dedicated teaching team has worked hard to introduce exciting new topics and activities for students of all ages. Students in Geography and History learn not just the 'facts' of the subject, but also a range of skills that are enormously beneficial when they go on to take up college or university places, or move on to forge careers.

In Years 7 and 8, students are taught to interpret the world around them and to make connections between events. They study how society develops and adapts itself to new challenges over time, and have considered the effects of these changes on our lives today. It is only through understanding these changes that our students – the leaders of tomorrow – will be equipped to deal with them. Lessons also challenge students to reach difficult judgements and explain how and why they made these decisions. The modern world requires its citizens to make choices based on evidence, and through practising these skills in class we equip our students with the ability to do this.

Further up the school our students continue to benefit from studying Humanities subjects. Students interested in law, politics, and business have all benefited from studying History and Geography due to their application of skills to interpret the facts placed before them. For focus on other careers the ability to collect, sort and interpret data

as we do in Humanities is just as important. Scientists and engineers of the highest calibre are required to communicate their ideas to others through the presentation of data, and both Geography and History teach these vitally important communication skills to our students.

The Humanities department benefits from a wealth of expertise. All members of staff are highly trained specialists, and have many years' experience of their subjects. The quality of teaching and learning that takes place in our classes is clear from the excellent examination results gained by our students. In the section below, our Humanities teachers have aimed to show why they love their subject, and why it is so important.



Mrs. Alice Allsop

Mrs. Alice Allsop

'What I love about Geography is that it is such a diverse subject. Throughout GCSE, A-Level and university I learnt about everything from why businesses are located where they are to why different places have different weather and climate. I am both a physical geographer, using skills similar to those in Mathematics and Science, and a human geographer, using skills similar to those in History and English.'

Prior to working at MES Cairo I was a Policy Advisor for a charity in the UK and often needed to present information to the British Government. I used my geographical skills of analyzing varied data sources and conducting research to produce referenced papers that I presented to Government Officials in Westminster and which contributed to new laws and policies. The skills I gained from studying Geography were essential for me to influence politicians and the new laws being introduced.'



Reading the MESsenger in the Peak District National Park



Having a rest while walking across Britain following 2,000 year-old Hadrian's Wall



Overlooking the Muscat valley in Oman



Exploring the rainforest canopy in Costa Rica



Admiring flowstone calcite formations in the Cheddar Gorge



At the crater of the active Pacaya volcano, Nicaragua