

MESSENGER

**WHAT A GREAT YEAR
IT HAS BEEN FOR MES
CAIRO!**

**'Oh the thinks
you can think!'**

Seussical The Musical
Sports Days
Literacy Festival
MUN
Primary School News
Curriculum Developments
and much more...!



FOREWORD

As we approach the end of another successful school year, I reflect on the successes we have achieved at MES Cairo and ponder with amazement at the resilience and professionalism of the whole of the MES Cairo family. Despite any obstacles we may have faced, we continue to grow from strength to strength. Overcoming obstacles is not something new for us. As a direct result of the events of the past year and a half, I believe that we are today, stronger, closer and more united as a school community. The dedication of our effective staff team is reflected in three successful accreditation visits this year. The feedback we have received has given us much to celebrate as we prepare for our fourth (MSA) in November 2012. All three (IBO, BSME/BSO/PENTA and AdvancED) visiting teams were not only satisfied, but were indeed extremely impressed with the school, its achievements and its community.

Modern English School Cairo's motto is 'Studiis Gubernatio' (Leadership through Education). The journey our students experience as they grow into highly educated, 'independent' and 'visionary' leaders that encompass the qualities reflected in our Graduate Profile is certainly an exciting one filled with challenge, variety, opportunity and of course, fun! Our MESsenger magazines help us all to share in the journey together and although the magazine seems to grow in size every year, it still only shows mere snippets of how exciting and rich the MES Cairo learning journey really is.

Our students are always given the very best opportunities a young person can get on this journey, academically and also in all those experiences and areas of learning which encourage creativity. The MESsenger shares with us fascinating developments in our teaching and learning practices here at MES Cairo. You can read about some of the nuts and bolts of what happens inside our classrooms and how students are taught so much more than basic facts. Throughout the curriculum, they are nurtured to be independent critical thinkers and life-long learners. Our students are on a journey of 'Leadership through Education'.

MES Cairo is a school that encourages participation in a plethora of extra-curricular activities and charity events and nurtures a cultured experience of the Arts from a young age. This is part of our graduates' journey towards becoming creative, confident and visionary leaders. Our Whole School Production of 'Seussical the Musical', involved a vast number of children and staff and was as good as any Broadway show! From as young as Foundation Stage One, children have performed in delightful productions, showing us how dazzling the MES Cairo learning journey is – right from the very start! Children from across the school recently displayed their outstanding work in our annual MES Cairo Art Exhibition which this year was themed: 'Aspects and Prospects'. Students have travelled on inspiring trips all over the world; for example, to Washington to engage articulately in Model United Nations debate, to Switzerland for winter sports and to Barcelona for culture and recreation on the Senior Trip.

Every June, our graduating class heads off even further afield to start university careers all over the world. With every new September, the journey begins again for our smallest family members. As every academic year comes to a close, the MES Cairo family continues to gain all the qualities of 'Studiis Gubernatio' in an environment that is Caring, Challenging and Inspiring.

Enjoy this issue of the MESsenger. It will fill you with pride for being a part of the family and will encourage you to continue to work against any obstacles there may be yet to come...when you are reminded that our brilliant young people are our best hope for the future.

S.L. Dajani

Managing Director

MES CAIRO – PLANNING FOR EXCELLENCE!



According to Peter Senge, Learning Organisations are:

“...organisations where people continually expand their capacity to create the results they truly desire, where new and expansive patterns of thinking are nurtured, where collective aspiration is set free, and where people are continually learning to see the whole together.” (1)

At MES Cairo we have much to celebrate. During these past two academic years, four independent accreditation agencies (IBO 5 year self-review, BSME, BSO and AdvancEd) have confirmed that in many areas relating to organisational capacity and student performance, we are an outstanding school. This comes as no surprise as it is simply a reflection of the work of a truly professional faculty, a supportive parent

body and effective leadership at all levels. It is now time to look to the future and how we wish to shape it. As an organisation, we are committed to providing an education that embodies our whole school mission statement: **Leadership through Education: Caring, Challenging, Inspiring.**

Ensuring that our students are ready to meet the challenges of an ever uncertain world, has made us consider and clearly articulate the knowledge, skills and attitudes that we wish to see in every MES Cairo graduate. Therefore, our collective aspiration is summed up in the following Graduate Profile:

An MES Cairo graduate is:	An MES Cairo graduate can:	An MES Cairo graduate shows:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A leader • Confident • Articulate • Flexible • Pro-active • Reflective • Principled • Independent • Resourceful • Resilient • Inspired • Visionary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate fluently in the English language • Intelligently express their views • Problem solve • Lead by example • Recognise personal strengths and passions • Relate well to others • Take appropriate risks • Make a difference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity • Initiative • Empathy • Excellent interpersonal skills • Appreciation of individuals' rights and responsibilities • Cultural awareness • Respect for self and others • Global understanding • Commitment to lifelong learning • Understanding of the Egyptian culture and the Arabic language

We are already well on the way to making the MES Cairo Graduate Profile a reality for all students. However, we realise that our ultimate success depends on close collaboration between all stakeholders within the MES Cairo family. A Planning Team made up of senior leaders, Primary and Secondary teachers, board members and administration staff has been tasked with driving this process. The Planning Team, in consultation with parents, staff and students, is responsible for the development and monitoring of a whole school seven-year strategic plan that will act as our road map on this exciting journey.

After an extensive analysis of data drawn from a variety of sources, the Planning Team has identified three objectives that will be at the heart of our seven-year whole school strategic plan. Those objectives are:

- 1- **To develop the students' independent learning skills through literacy.**
- 2- **To help students become more socially responsible members of the community.**
- 3- **To develop more effective ways to communicate the progress and attainment of students.**

In November 2012 a validation team from the Middle States Association (MSA) will visit our school with the aim of verifying and corroborating our self-study, evaluating our strategic plan and assisting us with our efforts to grow and improve. We see this visit as a welcome and positive contribution to our growth and development and look forward to it. In the meantime, our task is to develop the action plans that will help us to achieve these objectives as a whole school. With the experience and expertise that we have available at MES Cairo, we are sure to find many exciting and effective ways to succeed.

Mrs. C. Jodrell and Mr. K. El-Metaal (Internal Coordinators)

(1) from 'The Fifth Discipline; the art and practice of the learning organization.' By Peter M. Senge



MES Cairo in IB World News

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme continues to go from strength to strength at MES Cairo. It is a well-known fact that IBDP students at MES Cairo are expected to engage in an exciting, holistic learning journey that is cultural and social as well as being highly academic. Here, we share with you an article all about MES Cairo which was published by the IB World magazine. Well done to our students and to Mrs. Allsop, who has been organising the myriad of charity events that all of our MES Cairo students participate in so willingly.



community

Modern English School Cairo, Egypt

Things are looking up

Young people seize the spirit of change to help local schoolchildren – and learn valuable lessons about the importance of people power

With its dramatic scenes of mass protest, violence and cowed dictators, the events of last year's Arab Spring gripped people across the world. But for children in Egypt, the revolution was scarcely close to home. Students at the Modern English School Cairo (MES Cairo) were personally affected by events – and are dealing with the aftermath by dedicating themselves to making a positive difference to their country.

"When we returned to the classroom after the enforced enclosure, we could not ignore what

"A group of schoolchildren came by to help with the painting and have a quick game of football with us"

had happened and return to normal," says CAS Coordinator Alice Allsop. "Students were full to bursting with stories of what they had done to help others during and following the revolution – cleaning and painting the streets, bringing water and bread to Tahrir Square and helping local families who had lost loved ones."

This enthusiasm for helping out locally led to the school rebranding its 'Make a Difference' initiative to become 'Make a Difference in Egypt'. The main beneficiary of the new focus: a nearby government school, the uninspiringly named Military Factory Number 18.

Run-down and poorly equipped, Number 18 now has a new tarmac schoolyard and play area, thanks to MES students' fundraising. IB Diploma Programme students organized a Football Fun Day for younger pupils, raising more than US\$1,800, and are selling cakes through a 'Cupcakes for classrooms' initiative. Families have also been getting involved, donating money and resources including a new photocopier and printer.



Events in Tahrir Square (above) moved MES students to help local schoolchildren (top)

As well as raising cash, MES students have got their hands dirty, painting colourful murals around the schoolyard. "Painting in the Egyptian sun in the height of summer was a challenge," says Alice. "But it was a real highlight when a group of schoolchildren came by to help with the painting and have a quick game of football using the new goalposts."

The first chunk of money raised has been spent on bags and stationery supplies for the school, which MES volunteers distributed one hot Monday morning. "Nothing can describe the joy on the faces of the children as we handed the bags to them," says student Seif Abdel Ghaffar.

Despite the group's hard graft, there still remains plenty to be done. The next steps include improving classrooms by repairing desks, boards and walls and repaving and painting the middle-school yard. But MES students are more than up to the challenge.

"When I started this project I had no idea that the conditions in local schools could be that bad," says MES student Ahmed Dahawy. "It made me appreciate all the things our school has. I hope in the future I can look back at this school and see the smiles on the children's faces and say: 'I did that.'"

What a great year it has been for the

National Honor Society!



The National Honor Society at MES Cairo has had an exciting year fulfilling its commitment to developing students' Leadership, Scholarship, Character, and commitment to Community Service.

Last Autumn, students collected twenty five bags of rubbish in Wadi Degla and also challenged themselves to a difficult climb to the top of the Wadi. On 31st March, NHS returned to the Wadi to again collect litter and climb the Wadi walls. On this second trip, students had the added excitement of being able to learn about the unique desert flowers and plants that grow and bloom in the Wadi for only a few weeks a year.



The biggest NHS trip of the year was on 24th March, when ten students explored Old Cairo with Mr. Roodvoets as their guide. Beginning at the Bab el Fotouh, students wandered down the shady cobblestones of El-Mu'ez Street, thinking aloud about what life must have been like there over the many centuries of Cairo's long history. The students visited many archaeological and historical sites along the walk, some of which have only recently been opened to visitors.

Later, students crossed Al-Ahzar bridge (a first for Alia Zaki, who waved at the passing cars and pedestrians below) to visit the mosque of the Wekala el-Ghoury complex which dates back to the 1500s. At the mosque, students were able to explore the building from the dungeons below the foundations, up to the rooftop; which afforded amazing views of the Khan-el-Khalili. Some students were even brave enough to climb

up the dark, narrow staircase to the top of the minaret to get a true 'bird's eye view' of Old Cairo.

After a long morning of exploring, students were getting hungry. They were treated to kofta and kebabs in a local restaurant in the Khan that was off the beaten track. While they ate, they reflected on all they had seen in the morning and discussed college plans with Mr. Roodvoets and Ms. Crutchfield.

Continuing their exploration, students next proceeded through the Bab Zuweila into the Darb el Ahmar neighbourhood. Darb el Ahmar is one of Cairo's poorest neighbourhood, which also contains some of the most beautiful historic mosques and buildings of Old Cairo. Students were able to observe the restoration efforts of the Al-Azhar Foundation in the neighbourhood, but were also struck by the difficult lives of the people living in Darb el Ahmar. NHS hopes to return to the neighbourhood in future years to volunteer in the restoration efforts with the Al-Azhar Foundation.

The day's-long journey ended at Sultan Hassan Mosque and Madrasa, just below the Citadel. Students had engaged in improving their academic scholarship and developing character through an exploration of their cultural heritage while having fun exploring areas of Cairo that many had never visited.

To complete the school year, NHS will be assisting CAS students with the annual Workers' Lunch and will be inducting new members at the annual Induction Ceremony on 3rd June, where we will also say goodbye to our graduating seniors – to whom we wish all the best!

Ms. H. Crutchfield, Head of American English Department; Co-Advisor, NHS

and Mr. T. Roodvoets, Head of American History Department; Co-Advisor, NHS





MES CAIRO WHOLE SCHOOL PRODUCTION 2012

SEUSSICAL The MUSICAL

'Oh, the thinks you can think!'

MES Cairo's whole-school production of Seussical would have been impressive on any Broadway stage. Directed by Jonathan Todd, the show involved a large number of students aged from 7 to 17, as well as teachers and a large crew of back stage assistants, supervisors and technicians. Seussical is based on the works of Dr. Seuss and combines many of the author's characters and stories into one through plotline. The audience were swept away by memorable performances from the whole cast and The Cat in the Hat (Nadim Gergis), Horton the Elephant (Daniel Tomlin), JoJo (Sam El Metaal), Gertrude McFuzz (Annie Kirby), and Mayzie LaBird (Catherine Spencer) are just a few of the many Seuss characters that came alive radiantly in this thrilling MES Cairo showcase.



The dancers, choreographed by Jo Goodchild, Heather Crutchfield, Laura Butler and Christine Downey were impressive and kept in time with the captivating musical numbers (directed by Philippa Needham and Daniel Tomlin). A through-composed musical means that the music is played constantly throughout the two-hour show. Adam Briggs, assisted

by Una Stiles and Mary Quinn, achieved an outstanding musical sound from the Primary school choirs who, along with the Senior Choir, produced a magnificent sound throughout the performance. The beautiful harmony was complemented by brilliant sound effects created by Scott Allsop, who was ably assisted by Ihab Iskander.

Dr. Seuss's typical colour palette, a series of muted but vibrant tones that so memorably leap off the pages of his story books, were interpreted very effectively in the fabulous set (designed by Lucy Prime) and in the delightful costumes (realised by Maureen Glancy, Charlotte Trout and Karen Armstrong). Clement Peter magically put the set together with his team and James Crabb and Mella Jodrell created a variety of 3D puppets and masks that added a stunning dimension to the visual effect of the show.

This complex and fast-moving show is extremely tricky to stage-manage yet Tom Thurston and Alice Allsop made it seem like an easy task and must be complimented for their exceptional work behind the scenes.

We thoroughly enjoyed the music and all of the performances and the whole of the MES Cairo family were reminded of the positive messages behind Dr. Seuss' much-loved books. Visitors from across Cairo complimented the show and stated that they had never before experienced such a professional and enjoyable school production.

**Mrs. S. Sheehan -
English Department**



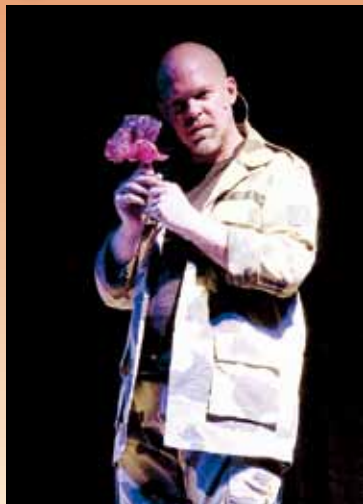


MES CAIRO WHOLE SCHOOL PRODUCTION 2012

SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL

'Oh, the thinks you can think!'

SEUSSICAL REVIEWS



When the lights first lit up the magical set design they created a surreal forest of pink, turquoise and mauve hues with shimmering reflected pools of colour. Suddenly you were inside the storybook, cartoon world of Dr Seuss. Karen Elliott

I thought that Seussical the Musical was fantastic. Initially I was sceptical about a piece of theatre where the music never stopped but it gripped me from beginning to end. Large stripy hats off to the Music Department! The songs were so catchy! Many children from my class went to see it and we are all still singing about how 'a person's a person, no matter how small!' This was another brilliant whole-school production. Bravo, MES Cairo! Ursula Jardine

Seussical the Musical – to me this was truly a Magical Musical! There was plenty of fun and plenty of frolics and feathers in this wonderful production. I was really impressed by the dancing...what team work! A special mention must be made of the back row of performers who never forgot they were on stage. The Whos, the Fish, the Circus, all worked well together. The Fish were incredibly cute and I enjoyed their wonderful singing and costumes. The show allowed us to enjoy great acting and singing too. The Sour Kangaroo had a fabulous voice that had such range! Gertrude exuded the necessary pathos and also had an amazing voice, as did Amazing Maisie. Jojo gave a very touching and completely convincing performance and The Cat in the Hat had a strong stage presence and a powerful voice. Horton's performance was moving, stoical, loyal and unselfish and we enjoyed his brilliant acting and singing. Group performances: Great choreography and teamwork. The stage sets were fantastical yet flexible. It was amazing that such a creative set could



also be so very practical. **Therese Sliney**

What a fantastic, upbeat and inspirational performance Seussical was. The acting was superb as were the amazing and creative stage sets and costumes. The vibrancy and energy of the whole show was contagious and I went home feeling very upbeat and humming along to the many tunes that had been performed. I thoroughly enjoyed the show and only wish I had gone on the previous day as I would have liked to have seen it a second time. **Paula Inger-Smith**

I give this show ***** Five Stars! It was a huge, all-singing, all-dancing production that would not look out of place on a stage in the West End! **Olly Morgan**

I am so glad I saw this production twice. The first time, I was so overawed by the wonderful music and the vivid colours, I actually forgot to follow the story line! The second time I was intrigued by the depth of characters and the meaning behind their lines but the tunes were so ingrained by then I was humming them all the way home. Fabulous work by all the students and staff involved. **Steve Perry**





SEUSSICAL The Musical

'Oh, the thinks you can think!'

LIGHTING ADVANCES AT
MES CAIRO



As 'Seussical the Musical' is a full-scale Broadway show involving three completely separate worlds, the challenge for a lighting designer is huge. It was thanks to the generosity and commitment of the school's Board of Governors that some very special lighting effects were possible through the acquisition of what are known as 'Smart Lights'.

Two different types of cutting edge lighting technology were added to the arsenal of lights in the MES Cairo Theatre. A set of LED Pars were rigged above the stage and the auditorium housed two Moving Heads.

In order to change the colour of a standard light it is necessary to slide a piece of coloured gel over the fixture. LED Pars consist of a bank of LEDs divided equally between red, blue and green. Using a control board instructions are sent to the light to vary the amounts of each colour and their intensity. In this way any colour can be chosen without changing the gel. This allows greater flexibility for each light as they can be completely red in one scene and electric blue in the next.

The Moving Heads are big lights that can swivel and turn into endless positions, change colours at the press of a button and through different shaped shadows onto the stage. Many people would recognise this type of light from rock concerts as waves of colour sweep across the audience. In Seussical they were used to instantly change the mood and feel of a scene, allowing quick transitions between the blues and purples of 'The Jungle of Nool' and the yellows and greens of 'Whoville'.

The benefit of these new lighting fixtures goes far beyond the stage of the MES Cairo Theatre. MES Cairo has developed a very strong and successful set of Theatre courses over the years and students often learn the rudiments of lighting design for many different styles of play. Now students can graduate from MES Cairo with knowledge of how to control and use these very modern appliances. With the ability to change colours instantly, the different moods created by combinations of colour and intensity will be quicker to learn and easier to experiment with. The future of Lighting Design at MES Cairo is looking very bright.

Jonathan Todd – Director / Lighting Design





SEUSSICAL The MUSICAL

Spotlight on New Sound at MES Cairo

Seussical was a technically challenging musical to stage. Here we talk to Mr. Scott Allsop about how he tried to make sure we could hear what we should, and couldn't hear what we shouldn't!



MESSENGER: Seussical is a musical with a full band that plays even while the actors are talking. What challenges did this create for the sound setup?

Mr. Allsop: We knew from the earliest days that the band would be in front of the musicians. No matter how quietly they played it would be difficult for the actors to be heard speaking over the top of them. Therefore we knew that we would need to have microphones for the actors. However, that created a bit of a headache! I worked out that we needed a whopping 18 radio microphones on stage at the same time, as there was not enough time for the actors to swap them between the scenes.

MESSENGER: How does that compare with other productions we've staged?

Mr. Allsop: 'Oliver!' was another demanding show, but that used only six microphones at any one time so it was a bit of a steep learning curve going from that to Seussical! The School's Board of Governors generously agreed to fund the purchase of a number of new radio microphones which were added to those already owned by the school so that we could stage Seussical. Meanwhile, Ihab Iskander ensured that all our existing radio microphones were in perfect working order so that we had enough. By the time everything was set up the aerials for the microphone receivers looked like a forest. I needed to bury myself in some mathematical calculations to ensure the microphone radio frequencies did not interfere with each other when all 18 were turned on – there were a lot of radio signals bouncing around!

MESSENGER: How did you then mix the actors' microphones with the band?

Mr. Allsop: Earlier this year the school purchased a new sound mixer and 'stage box' which enables up to 24 different instruments or microphones to be connected to the theatre sound system. We basically plugged the band into this really long cable, and plugged the other end into the mixer in the control box. From there I had to try to balance the actors with the band, which was often easier said than done! There were a lot of fast changes and cues, and points where the band would need to be turned up or down, so there wasn't any time for me to sit back once the curtain was up!

MESSENGER: With so many different microphones, instruments and sound effects to keep track of, how did you make sure that everything was turned on and off at the right time?

Mr. Allsop: The new mixer is digitally controlled, so it can save and load information like a computer. I was able to set and store the sound cues for every scene and every song in the show. Over 70 individual cues were stored, each consisting of 24 channels. As you can imagine, it took a while to set up but it made sure that microphones were turned on when they were needed and turned off when actors were offstage. I then needed to change the volume of each microphone during the show if we had difficulty hearing some actors over the music. Fortunately I had the valuable assistance of Youssef Sabry (Y9Y) who was in charge of making sure the sound effects all happened at the right time, so I didn't need to worry about those.

MESSENGER: Overall are you pleased with how it all went?

Mr. Allsop: Absolutely. It was the largest and most challenging technical setup we've ever attempted, and considering we were learning everything from new I'm really proud of what we achieved. However, a sound setup on this scale would have been impossible to produce without the new equipment. It's taught us a lot about how to approach sound configurations on this scale, and so hope to make the next one sound even better. Consequently I know that everyone involved is very grateful to the owners of the school for their foresight in investing in such excellent equipment that should serve us well for many years to come.





SEUSSICAL The MUSICAL

The Art of Seussical

Over the past eight years I have worked closely with Lucy Prime in the creation of the sets for our plays and musicals. Designing the sets for over ten shows together has brought us to a stage where we seem to have developed our own shorthand for communication of ideas. Initial sketches for the technical arrangement of the sets are difficult to read and envision but when I took these rough drafts to Lucy for the concepts behind the Seussical the Musical sets it took a mere glance for her to understand what I was suggesting.

The second stage in the process is when Lucy lets the initial ideas develop through thought and research. She shares her ideas with me and then the wood-cutting and painting begin. Throughout this period we both check and double-check the lists we have made to ensure everything is completed. Discussions take place to solve practical problems in translating wonderful ideas into practicable set pieces. Some items have been forgotten and so the lists grow.

The wonderful artists of the MES Cairo Art Department did have a difficult time with some of the set for 'Oliver!' two years ago as Dickensian London was not a very colourful place and I think they may have used all of Cairo's stock of grey, brown and black paint. When I visited the Art Department to see the first examples of how the Jungle of Nool was going to look I almost reached for some sunglasses. The vibrant colours of Dr. Seuss' books were lighting up the room. As more and more pieces were finished by Lucy



and her team of staff and students the feeling of excitement grew. As Mr. Godfrey described it, seeing the set take shape was, indeed, like stepping into a pop-up book of Dr. Seuss' worlds.

The most magical moment of creating the sets is when everything is finally installed on the stage, the lights come on and everyone gazes in amazement at masterpieces of giant art. When the stage crew begin their work and the pieces move gracefully into and out of position the magic is complete and the actors have an amazing world to inhabit. A huge debt of gratitude is owed to Lucy Prime and her team because without them, the shows just would not be the same.

Mr. J. Todd – Head of Performing Arts



YEAR AND GRADE EIGHT AND NINE LEARN IMPORTANT LIFE LESSONS THROUGH THE HRCF PROGRAMME

Assembly with Saber Lotfi



On Wednesday 16th May Saber Lotfi visited MES Cairo to speak to the Year and Grade Eight and Nine students during our HRCF Assembly. Saber is a forty-year-old Egyptian man who had a tragic car accident three years ago that left him paralysed from the chest down. He is the brother of actor Mohamed Lotfi, and a personal friend of mine (Mrs. Sullivan – American Section English). Before the accident, Saber worked as a Theatre technician at Cairo American College where he was involved in all aspects of technical theater such as lights, sound, and set construction. He has a lovely wife and two young children.

In July 2009, Saber left his wife and young children at home to attend a family wedding in Fayoum. On the return trip, he had an accident that left him permanently in a wheelchair and sadly, killed his father. Saber's cousin, who was wearing his seatbelt, sustained only a broken arm from the accident. Saber was also wearing his seatbelt, but his father in the front passenger seat was not. Due to these circumstances and the way that Saber was moved from the car and carried, he now has a 3 cm. gap in his spinal cord.

Saber shared with our students about learning to cope with a completely different set of circumstances in life. He lives in a third floor apartment with no elevator, so relies on others to carry him up and down the stairs when he wants to go out. He and his brother Hosni designed a special spoon that allows Saber to eat by himself, which is a major accomplishment, since he does not have use of his fingers. They also designed a special type of splint for his index finger that allows him to use a computer.

He also talked about going to China two years ago to undergo stem cell therapy, as well as extensive physical and occupational therapy. The stem cell injections could not replace the 3 cm. gap in the spinal cord, but he did experience some improvements. The physical and occupational therapy allowed Saber to gain some control of his movements, and they trained him to use muscles in his arms to move objects with his hands.

During the assembly, Saber showed photos of himself and his family before and after the accident. He shared his love of riding horses and fishing. Fishing is something he can still do, and this activity helps Saber pass the time. His main goal now is to be able to get a worm on a hook by himself.

Saber was warmly received by MES Cairo staff and students and some were even moved to tears while listening to Saber's story. Students asked excellent questions about his physical challenges, as well as the issues surrounding his trip to China and stem cell therapy. At the end of the assembly, many students stayed behind to thank Saber personally, ask questions, and have their photo taken with him. Khaled el Zahabi (G8R) and Mona Shahein (G8R) presented gifts to Mr. Lotfi on behalf of MES Cairo, to thank him for his efforts. Students in my Grade Eight English classes made beautiful thank-you cards for Saber and also wrote reflections in their journals about the assembly.

'Thank you for giving us the message of wearing our seatbelts. You saved a lot of injuries and lives.' **Rana Zaki (G8Y)**

'You are my role model...your words and story will save many lives.' **Mohamed Assem (G8Y)**

'It was a very interesting and informative assembly.' **Sophia Revett (G8Y)**

'You really inspired many of us and please always keep your hopes up because God can make the impossible possible.' **Rahaf Samih (G8R)**

'You are my hero of hope. From now on you are my role model for strength, courage, and hope.' **Nada Sorour (G8Y)**

'We really like how you are still strong and trying to be creative and make your life easier. Keep working hard and have faith.' **Farida Ismail (G8Y)**

'I hope to be as decent and confident as you are one day. Your visit to MES meant the whole world to me. I went home with such an amazing story to tell everyone.' **Jomana Mohamed (G8R)**

'Yesterday was my favorite HRCF lesson since the beginning of Secondary. It was a pleasure for us to meet Saber.' **Carol Botros (G8Y)**

I would personally like to thank Saber Lotfi for giving our MES Cairo students this wonderful opportunity to learn life lessons that extend beyond the regular curriculum. We have all been blessed by this experience.

Mrs. D. Sullivan - American Section English Teacher



READ FOR YOUR LIFE!



The MES Cairo Literacy Festival took place in March 2012. With a view to reinforcing our students' love of reading and their interest in the written word, this exciting event involved a week of activities and celebrations aimed at motivating all of our Secondary students to spend more time reading.

Activities:

Four highly respected visiting authors and performers spent some time with us here at MES Cairo! Students and staff had the opportunity to purchase signed copies of the authors' books.

Award-winning children's author Linda Strachan was hosted by MES Cairo from 27th to 29th March. Linda Strachan writes books for all ages, from books for young children to teenagers and adults. She has also written a book on writing - Writing for Children - for both aspiring and newly published authors. She often visits libraries, schools and festivals talking about her books and running creative writing workshops. She worked specifically with all students in Key Stage One and Two and also in Grade and Year and Nine.

Donavan Christopher is an acclaimed author and performance poet from the UK. Participation in this event was voluntary and involved a stimulating performance followed by a writing workshop and a book signing opportunity. The performance and workshops were extremely enjoyable and motivational. Donovan's approach suited children aged between seven and thirteen years of age and all students from Years Three through to Grade Seven and Eight were invited to participate. His work was filled with positive messages that encouraged children to build confidence and raise their self-esteem. He inspired our young people to express themselves effectively in writing. Donovan Christopher is also a musician and he incorporated rap and music into parts of his lively performances. He is known to be a dedicated advocate for social justice worldwide and was a superb role model for all the students who took part.

Eden Unger is the writer of a highly acclaimed new book for young people called 'The Atomic Weight of Secrets'. We were delighted to discover that Eden Unger lives right here in Cairo. Her novel has received excellent reviews by critics across the globe. Eden worked with AS, AP, IB and Honor class students from 10, 11 and 12 on Monday 26th March and her workshops inspired the students to enhance their creative writing skills.

Samira Kirollos was at MES Cairo on Sunday 25th and Monday 26th March. Currently based between London and Cairo, Kirollos practices the art of performance storytelling. Pure storytelling is an underrated and uncommon form of performance art which grips people of all ages. In her performances, the lives of these prolific figures from ancient history are condensed into lively half-hour shows.



Donavan Christopher at the pyramids!



READ FOR YOUR LIFE!



Kirollos gave us four engaging, amusing and heartfelt performances that were hard to forget. These were followed by informative and enjoyable Question and Answer sessions. Students from Year Three through to Grade and Year Seven and Eight saw Samira's delightful pieces about ancient Egypt and students in G/Y and DP Ten, Eleven and Twelve had the opportunity to enjoy Samira's work based on ancient Japanese folk tales.

Ahead of the Festival week, literacy fever started early when the Learning Media Centre ran a fun online Bookworm competition for Year and Grade Seven and Eight. Students played Bookworm in pairs and were fiercely competitive! This game sharpens up thinking skills and enables students to widen their vocabulary. Ms. Gemayel had also prepared presentation sessions where students found out details all about our visiting authors. Additionally, students entered a 'Design a Book Cover' competition which enabled them to use their artistic skills and express their chosen themes visually. Winners of the Library competitions were awarded their prizes during school Assemblies.

Mr. Crabb's Grade Twelve photographers worked on capturing images that had literary themes and were based on meanings and symbols found in texts. We thoroughly enjoyed this work when it was displayed around the Secondary school. Mr. Crabb and Mr. Constantini arranged a whole school photography contest. The winning images featured prominently throughout the Festival. The winner of this open competition was Fareeda El Deeb (G10Y). The runners up were Amina El Ghazali (Y7Y) and Malak Sadek (Y10Y).

In **Art and Design Technology** students worked on a variety of short projects linking images and words from expressive lettering to amazing 'altered books'. The work was excellent and is featured in the Art Attack section of the MESsenger.

Performances. Students through Secondary worked hard in their English and Drama lessons, bringing the drama scripts they were reading to life! Students from a range of classes performed in the yard during break times. The Performing Arts Department shared with us a preview performance of a number from 'Seussical the Musical' and there were also some of our talented teachers on the yard stage. Students and staff from all sections enjoyed the best of these performances.

The now famous MES Cairo **House Poetry Slam** also took place during the Festival and students put pen to paper and won many points for their Houses using their excellent recitation and poetry writing skills.

Book Fairs took place throughout the week of the Festival. There was a wide range of books for sale in both the Primary and the Secondary school - to suit all interests and tastes. We were visited by Omega books and also by Diwan.

We were all looking forward to '**Drop Everything and Read**' day! Students were aware that at one surprise moment during the Festival, special whistles would sound and the whole of the Secondary school would stop what they were doing and read all together for half an hour – as a unified gesture of our love and respect for reading at MES Cairo. Participation was for *all* and involved all people on the Secondary



campus, including teachers from across the subject areas and the administrative staff. *Everyone* needed to make sure they were not caught off guard and that had a great reading book in their bag at all times. Students at MES Cairo are encouraged to have a reading book at all times...regardless of special events.

Across the school. Other Activities took place across the subject areas during lessons. For example, they analysed the specialist language and vocabulary that is used in PE or wrote at length in role as scientific or geographical matter! They were reminded that language matters to all teachers... not just English teachers! Good language skills are vital to learning in *every* subject.

The English Department sent out a useful booklet offering advice to parents to help them help our students to READ FOR THEIR LIVES!

Thank you for supporting your child in making the most of the activities. It is particularly important that young people are constantly encouraged to read more in their spare time and to spend less time 'socialising' fruitlessly on the internet! We do as much as we can here at school, always insisting that

our students use the Library and make the most of the great resources we are so lucky to have here at MES Cairo. We hope they are receiving the same encouragement and motivation in their home environments.

Ms. S. Sheehan – Head of English Department, British and IB Sections



MR. COOLIN TELLS US WHY MES CAIRO DROPPED EVERYTHING TO READ!



At 10.10am on Wednesday 28th March 2012, Secondary staff and students at MES Cairo dropped everything they were doing and 'read for their lives' for the MES Literacy Festival's 'Drop Everything and Read' event!

The idea was that there would be a surprise twenty minutes during the MES Literacy Festival Week in which students, teachers and administrative staff would cancel whatever they were doing - whether it be analysing the finer points of the Treaty of Versailles, organising school outings or even running laps around the MES Cairo track – and immediately pick up a book, newspaper or magazine and read instead.

The coordinated silent reading of over 1000 people clearly requires meticulous organisation and planning. The MES Cairo Secondary students cover a wide area, and surely it is impossible to



grab the attention of all of them at once? Well, that's where Mr. Crabb's team of over 20 Grade Twelve photographers came in. Armed with cameras, synchronised watches and referee whistles, the snap-happy seniors were given the instruction to blow and take photos when the clock struck 10.10. The Grade 12s didn't disappoint with their wonderfully coordinated efforts both chiming in the start of the event and capturing the voracious reading of our staff and students on camera!

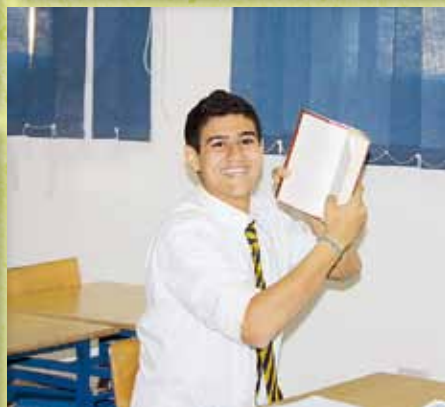


'Drop Everything and Read' is not only about literacy, but unity too. This was an event that united everyone – students and staff – in reading. Please



enjoy these photographs, and remember, the Literacy Festival may be over but it's still important that we all READ FOR OUR LIVES!

Mr. M. Coolin – British Section English Teacher



Year Seven Yellow get a thrill during Literacy Festival Buzz!

With so much going on during the Literacy Festival, it seemed a good opportunity to do something special in class. So, Year Seven Yellow became reporters for the week, creating their own newspaper front pages. They reported back on events, reviewed the activities and interviewed visiting guests, teachers and each other about their experiences. Of course, top of the list to be reviewed was our very own Shakespeare performance of a scene from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Salma Wafa, Salma El Shamy, Hisham Karim and Moataz Magdy were outstanding (although a little nervous as they were the first group to perform). Luckily, they were well supported by an eager group of fans from the class. Year Seven thoroughly enjoyed the Festival as well as working on the newspaper. At the end of the week each team presented the highlights of their newspaper to the rest of the class.

Ms. T. Sliney – English Department

LITERACY FESTIVAL FUN!

CLASS COMMENTS FROM YEAR SEVEN YELLOW

The Literacy Festival was filled with a lot of cheerful spirit and I'm jubilant that we had this Festival because it was filled with activities that helped me develop my skills and abilities. There were drama performances during breaks and also there were several other activities at break times like the Poetry Slam and a Seussical preview concert. It was really good that the school got Mr. Donovan Christopher who is also known as Rappaman! This monumental poet Mr. Donovan taught us how to write poems. There were many other activities like newspaper making; our class special literacy project. It was fantastic and made us feel like grownups. My group took the newspaper project very seriously and we were cooperative and worked well with each other. It was so good that it has made me think about becoming a writer in the future.

Abdel-Rahman Hassan

It was great fun and there was a lovely atmosphere throughout the Literacy Festival week. When we were preparing for our Literacy Week newspaper, we talked and wrote about all sorts of things, for example about what students were doing in their English and drama classes for Year and Grade 7 and 8 and about the different plays. We also did some work on the Poetry Slam and interviewed people about what they thought of the acting and poetry recitals. We talked about the authors and their stories that they taught us in the theatre and the MPH.

Asser Taher

The Literacy Festival was really wonderful. In my group I worked with Sohaila Alaa and Mariam Ossama to create the 'The Latest News' newspaper which was all about our rehearsal of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

Farah Shaaban

We were very excited before we started the newspaper and we thought it was an awesome activity. We tried our best. We faced a little bit of trouble at the beginning of the project but we soon got over our obstacles.

Seif Gaafar

I had so much fun writing the newspaper. My group interviewed seniors and teachers. We interviewed both my brothers and Mr. Shooter, Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Allsop. We asked all of them what they thought of the literacy festival. Did they like it? They thought it was fantastic and they didn't know we had so many talented people at MES Cairo.

Bassil Abdelaal

The week was a really exciting full of special things. I had lots of fun as well as learning new things. My friends Salma Wafa and Salma El Shamy put on a fantastic play on the yard they showed their amazing talents. They made everybody cheer them in a great way. We also had the 'Drop Everything and Read' event. The reading whistle went off in our Science lesson! We all literally dropped everything and started reading. We also went to a performance storytelling show and Miss Samira told us interesting stories about the Ancient Egyptians. Ms. Sliney was supporting us as always and she made the week extra fun for us. We were asked by Ms. Sliney to write a newspaper about the Literacy Festival. While we were doing this she supported us really well by being really kind and



cheerful and not telling to any of us that ours was no good. MES CAIRO IS ALWAYS FUN!

Mariam Ossama

The Literacy Festival was a wonderful experience for all students. It shows how much the school cares about Literacy. The performances were great fun. We used props and costumes. We worked independently and teachers respected us and gave us responsibilities, which all students love to have. The Poetry Slam was outstanding. It really shows how talented students at MES Cairo are. When it was the time to 'Drop everything and Read' it was great. Seniors took pictures of us while we read. Moreover, it got us out of Science for twenty minutes! Overall it was a fascinating experience and I hope we do it again.

Salma Elshamy

It was pretty good working in a group to create a newspaper. We all worked together to do it well. I also enjoyed acting on the yard to show off my drama skills and doing our newspaper which helped with my presenting, listening and teamwork skills. I was thrilled to see legendary rapper Donovan Christopher. He told me that he raps from his mind, heart and soul. He despises rappers who insult others in their music, like Eminem does. I respect Donovan and I learnt a lot from him.

Youssef Hafeez

The Literacy Festival was an enormous success and lots of fun too. It was a wonderful experience because throughout the whole week many unusual things happened such as: Authors visited the school from different countries that held some exciting workshops which were great fun. We started the Festival with the fantastic Donovan Christopher who seemed to be an invincible man, reading and writing poems as easily as a bird would sing! His poems were like music to our ears. On the second day Miss Samira told us a lot of ancient Egyptian myths and stories. A Poetry Slam was also held where people from all over Secondary showed their talents in writing and reciting poetry. In the last twenty minutes of the second period on Wednesday whistles were blown by Seniors and we had to drop everything and read to show our appreciation for reading. Our scene from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' was a good show to present in front of an audience. I was proud of myself for having an acting part. People liked our performance! Our English teacher Ms. Sliney supported the Literacy Festival by making us work in groups to make a newspaper called 'Literacy Buzz'! I really enjoyed it and we were either interviewing or writing or making advertisements. I would like the Literacy Festival to be repeated at MES Cairo. It was simply beautiful.

Amina Elghazali

The Literacy Festival at MES Cairo was an outstanding experience for everyone. Fabulous activities took place, such as 'Drop Everything and read', 'Slam Poem' performances, 'Workshops', in addition to 'Acting'. Talented students made exceedingly spectacular performances, which made me enjoy myself. In YTY, our great teacher Ms. Sliney made it even more fun, as we were asked in groups to write a newspaper report about it. Moreover each group introduced their newspaper in front of the class. THE FUN NEVER ENDS AT MES!

Salma Wafa

The Literacy Festival was so exciting. We held interviews with teachers like Mrs. Allsop and Mrs. Elliott. Some authors like Donovan Christopher and Linda Strachan came all the way to Egypt from the UK with their books and poems. We had an interview with Donovan Christopher and found out what his life is like. On day two, Year Seven all went to the theatre and found out really interesting facts about ancient Egyptian myths and stories. Later in the week there were drama performances at first breaks and the Poetry Slams in second break. I was so delighted and so happy during the Literacy Festival. MY QUOTE IS: READ FOR YOUR LIFE!

Moataz Magdy Hamed

The Literacy Festival was really fun because we enjoyed many cool activities like going to the bookshop or to a workshop to hear an amazing story! Some of us saw the performance poet rap his stories which were all about life. We acted Shakespeare scenes and everyone got to join in. Then we got to write our own newspaper with our own names in it. It was hard work but our group did really well so we should give ourselves a pat on the back!

Youssef Khourshed



ENGLISH MATTERS!

Cairo Schools Spelling Bee

On Monday 7th May, MES Cairo students from Year and Grade Seven and Eight became our first representatives at a Spelling Bee competition in Cairo. The event, held at Narmer American College, Tagamoa, saw thirty students aged 11 to 14 from ten local international schools compete for the crown of 'best speller'. Students sat on stage and one-by-one were called to the microphone to spell aloud words chosen at random by the organisers. An incorrect response spelled 'elimination' for a contestant, while correct answers secured entry into the following round.

MES Cairo was represented by Carol Botros (G8Y), Salma Wafa (Y7Y) and Ali Bahaa Eddin (G7G), plus a team of student supporters who had impressed in a recent internal Secondary spelling competition. Although MES Cairo did not leave with first prize this time, the performances of Carol, Salma and Ali (who placed 6th out of thirty students) deserve considerable credit. The confidence displayed by all three students while under intense pressure was commendable. Thank you for representing MES Cairo and you can guarantee (or is that guarantee?) we'll be back next year!

Mr. M. Coolin and Ms. D. Sullivan – Secondary English



Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Coolin and the team prepare for their journey



Ali, Carol and Salma were selected after two preparation rounds at MES Cairo



The students arrive at Narmer College ready to show what they can do!

Marvellous Mathematics

On 14th March 2012, both the British and American Mathematics departments celebrated Pi Day (3.14).

Pi Day is a celebration of the mathematical ratio that man has been trying to unlock for millennia. Pi represents the number you get when you divide the distance around a circle (its circumference) by the distance across (the diameter). The rough ratio of pi 3.14 gives us the date for Pi Day, 14th March, or 3/14 in American dating style. Coincidentally, Pi Day is also the birthday of Albert Einstein, who no doubt knew more than a little about pi. At MES Cairo the students celebrated by participating in a variety of activities that involved learning about pi and circles; including quizzes, writing poems and baking and eating pi and cakes. Here you can see images of some of our students wearing t-shirts that display pi trivia!

Pi shows up everywhere. In mathematics, pi appears in many fundamental equations that have nothing to do with circles. In science, pi is inextricable from measuring everything from ocean waves to economic statistics. Pi is found in the very measurements of the Great Pyramid at Giza.

Trivia Questions about pi (π)

by Michael Erian (G12) and Mohamed Derbala (G11)

- Is pi a rational or irrational number? Explain why.**
pie is an irrational number because a rational number is one that can be expressed as a fraction (or ratio), e.g. $1/3$. There are fractions that are near Pi, for example: $22/7 = 3.142857$ ($\pi = 3.14159265...$) A closer fraction is: $355/113 = 3.14159292$ However, whatever fraction you have, you will never get exactly pi. Hence it is irrational!
- What is pie to 30 decimal places?**
3.14159 26535 89793 23846 26433 83279
- Who first used the symbol of pi?**
William Jones first used the pi symbol (π) in 1706
- Pi day is also the birthday of a famous Mathematician, who is she/he?**
Albert Einstein.
- Who were the first people to know pi? When was that?**
The first people to know pi are the Babylonians way back in from ca. 1900-1680 BCE (approximately 4000 years ago) followed by the Egyptians.
- What is the approximate distance all the way around the world?**
Equatorial diameter x 3.141592 = equatorial circumference || $7,926 \times 3.141592 = 24,900$ || the earth has a circumference of approximately 24,900 miles.

Ms. S. Havercroft and Mrs. H. Fayyad – Secondary Mathematics



YEAR SEVEN SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES TRIP TO WADI DEGLA SCIENCE CENTRE



The first day of summer had struck. After an interminable Cairo winter, we skipped spring and moved straight into the blazing heat of summer. Even at 8:30 am, as we lined up in the Secondary yard, teachers and students alike donned sunglasses to combat the bright morning sun. With our desert battalions lined up — Yellow, Blue and Red — Mrs. Tomlinson, Mr. Shooter and I inspected our stylish, rag-tag troops! Never before had I seen desert explorers sporting fur-lined boots with hotpants or neon-on-



black Addidas track suits with matching Kanye shades. From the plethora of designer ensemble in our ranks, one would have thought it was the Year Seven trip to City Stars. But alas, we were preparing to embark on a journey sans BBM or air conditioning — to a desolate place of dust and grit — the 2012 Year Seven Science/Humanities trip to the Wadi Degla Protectorate had begun.

Our convoy soon arrived at the meeting location, six kilometres into the Wadi. The students were buzzing with anticipation at the experiential learning about to take place in this desert landscape. Each of the five WESC staff members struck out in a different direction across the Wadi followed by a slow-moving cloud of shrill laughter and dust. Mr. Shooter, Mrs. Tomlinson and I fell in behind the louder or slower-moving dust clouds as everyone migrated to one of the four stations. My crew of explorers would be doing some basic orienteering and desert botany to start the day. The botany, or studying of plant life, seemed quite within our scope. The orienteering — that is to say, finding our way to various checkpoints using only a map — was a slightly more worrying prospect. We found our way though and as we approached the first desert plant, I realise that we had a good turn of fate — the recent rain meant that the normally dull desert plants would be in bloom! Tiny flowers — lilac, gold and white — studded the otherwise brownish-green scrub bushes lining the Wadi floor.



Having enjoyed orienteering and botany, we made our way to Mr. Shooter's favourite station of the day — the 'bat station'. According to Mr. Shooter, there is nothing quite like the smell of fresh guano in your nose as you crawl into a moist cavern, pitch-black and full of screeching bats! Unfortunately, the bats were still in hibernation from the long winter, so we could not enter the cave. The students did have an opportunity to demystify the flying mammal and to examine a specimen. Most of us were relieved to find out that the blood-sucking variety of bat does not live in Egypt and that bats do not stick to one's face. To Mr. Shooter's chagrin, there is apparently a bat with a three-metre wingspan. Some suspect a clerical error in the measurement of this bat; others say that it may be found near a castle in Transylvania. With these useful facts successfully ingested, we made our way back to the central meeting point for ingestion of a different sort. My mother always told me that one could not survive by eating crisps alone. It seems as though our students, budding scientists that they are, set out to prove my mother's theory wrong by eating many bags of crisps!

Their carb-loading complete, my group moved to the penultimate station — owl pellet dissection. Picking apart a ball of regurgitated rodent fur and bones is my idea of the perfect after-lunch activity! The station has always fascinated me because one can easily see what kind of things the owl had just eaten. Leaving the morbid piles of vole skulls and mouse clavicles, my little morticians trudged across the Wadi floor to the day's final activity and Mrs. Tomlinson's perennial favourite — fossil hunting!



As we scuffed our feet on the sandy ground and squinted our eyes in the noon-time glare, we learned that it was not a desert on which we stood, but an ancient seabed. All the rocks I picked up pretty much looked like rocks to me — nothing particularly fossil-ly about them and certainly nothing to indicate the presence of ancient sea creatures. It turns out that you actually do have to 'hunt' (i.e., pick up more than two rocks) to find the fossils, and that the ancient sea creatures were all quite tiny — like little impressions of shrimp-like insects captured on rock. As a result, nearly every rock a student picked up was brimming with tiny fossilised sea-creatures. There we stood on the Wadi floor with fifty metres of cool turquoise water above our heads and hundreds of thousands of tiny shrimp-like creatures swirling around us. A primordial sea — Nature in her youth — there we stood, many millennia before the pyramids would be seen and many more until the din of Cairo would be heard as we hear it today.

The sea receded and its ancient creatures returned to their rocks as we did to our buses and our school and our homes and our lives. Perhaps this is the 'Humanities' side of the field trip — the point at which we put our lives into perspective against the great tapestry of existence. We continue to fulfil our purpose here, so that one day many millennia from now, our marks on the stone may give pause to another group of thoughtful youth.

Mr. J. Tomlin – Secondary Science Department

GRADE 10 HISTORY I-SEARCH PROJECTS



Farah Abdelsalam - Integration of Clothing Companies



Fatma Abu Hendia - Photography



Farida Attia - Vertical Business Integration



Ibrahim Ramadan - airplanes



Mostafa El Masry - Engineering Airplanes



Nada Barkouky - history of music players book



Sandy William - Engineering



Yousef Aboul Nour - Karl Benz

'Mr. Driver, will this be covered on the test?' This is a very common question in my class, and the answer is usually, "yes". However, as a teacher I believe that what is most valuable is not what we cover, but what the students DISCOVER on their own. In class, we covered the Industrial Revolution. We learned that in the 19th century, human beings began to harness the immense energy of fossil fuels. Large factories produced more goods faster than ever before. Engines revolutionised transportation. Cities became powered with electricity.

Outside of class, I wanted students to discover on their own, how their personal interests are directly related to the Industrial Revolution. The i-search project is like a research project, but more personal. Students start from one of their interests, and discover the history behind its development. Some students chose to research their future college majors, such as medicine, business management or engineering. Many students chose to research (or i-search) a personal hobby or interest, such as the history of music playing devices, the history of cameras, or the history of automobiles. Some students chose to do further research on inventions that we talked about, such as the airplane or telephone.

Students produced a handwritten research paper discussing why they were interested in the topic they selected, and then went on to describe what they learned through their research. Due to the personal nature of the i-search project, students were instructed to write in the first person narrative, such as 'I find

cameras fascinating,' or 'I wanted to learn more about the Mercedes-Benz Company,' or 'Because I want to be an engineer, I chose to research the history of engineering.'

In addition to the paper, students were required to submit a visual project. I encouraged students to get creative, and think three dimensionally. Students created models of factories. Others created functional models of early camera technology. Some students created digital visual aids - such as a video demonstration of how film is developed in a black room. Yet others assembled model kits of tanks, cars, and airplanes. One student even created a 3-D model of a camera ...with CAKE. We ate her project!

I was extremely pleased with the results and creativity of the Grade Ten students as they completed this i-search project. Some students told me that it was valuable in their thinking about college and future careers. Others said they simply enjoyed learning more about a subject they already had an appreciation for. I hope through projects like this, our students develop a sharper awareness of how the Industrial Revolution has shaped our modern lives ... not just our hobbies and interests, but also our communication, transportation, and career options. I also hope students learn to not just cover the material in class, but to discover the amazing personal connections we have throughout our shared history.

Mr. J. Driver – Secondary Social Studies Department



Naera - History of Cameras



Enas Risk - Biofuels



Farida El Deeb - The Wright Brothers



Nour Haddad - Camera shaped Cake



Khaled Samy - Photography



Menora Magdy - Airplanes and Airports



Reem Kamis - Oil Spills Engineering cleanup



Nada Sherdy - History of Photography 2



Mohamed Gad - History of Modern Medicine



Mohamed Wegdan - history of the automobile

The Commercial Studies Department makes a healthy business decision to ban junk food!

MES CAIRO ENTERPRISE DAY 2012

In March 2012, the Commercial Studies Department introduced a radically different Enterprise Day for the MES Cairo Secondary school students. Gone was the hectic hustle and bussle of previous Enterprise Day events that took place on the yard and in was a junk-food-free event that encouraged access to all Year and Grade groups.

The event was moved to the multi-purpose hall, where the entrepreneurs were encouraged to set up a stand based on fete games and events. The students were able to enjoy games such as the Penny Drop, Bat the Rat tombola, as well as Football Fun and PS3/Wii games. Customers were encouraged to buy tokens and stands were not allowed to deal in cash. As a result, the organisers were able

to keep a better track on the profitability of each company. In addition, a new twist was introduced whereby the most profitable company got to keep ten percent of all the other firms' profits. This helped to create a more competitive business environment!

Year and Grade 7-9 were allowed exclusive access to the enterprise stalls on the Monday with the older students enjoying the fun on the Tuesday.

Thirty percent of all money raised went to charity and this enabled the school to raise 1025LE for good causes. The overall winning team this year was SNSH made up of Suleima Benhalim, Hatem Elana, Noran Ibrahim and Seif Kilany. They managed to generate an impressive Profit of 1045LE, as well as a grand prize fund of 350LE.

Well done to all of the participants. The innovation shown by all teams was very impressive.

Mr. D. El-Hoss – Head of Commercial Studies Department



DRAMA IGCSE CLASS OF 2012



For students taking IGCSE Drama in Year Ten the Spring Term is a frantic one, when the various pieces of coursework need to be rehearsed, perfected and finally filmed. MES Cairo students always produce excellent coursework and 2012 was no different. With admirable tenacity and determination the class chose their monologues and group scripted pieces and set to finding the truth in them and delivering living, breathing characters in the Drama Studio.



The monologues this year ranged from the darkness of 'The Duchess of Malfi' to the struggle to be accepted in 'East is East'. We were witness to an office worker regretting his inability to be an engineer and a society lady having to constantly reject the marriage proposals of a smitten admirer. Alfieri bemoaned the inevitability of the course of events in 'A View from the Bridge' while a lady on a train gossiped about the women in the dining car. All of the single-actor performances were of an incredibly high standard and thoroughly entertaining to film.



The class then organised themselves into three groups, two tackling scenes from Tennessee Williams' 'A Streetcar Named Desire' while the third group threw themselves wholeheartedly into the bizarre world of Samuel Beckett's 'Waiting for Godot'. Again, through dedicated effort and rehearsal, three scenes of truly remarkable realism emerged. The scenes the students chose to perform are not easy and the level of maturity and sensitivity with which the whole class approached their task was admirable.



The final coursework piece must be created by the students themselves. Improvisation around the stimulus of a group of actors rehearsing for a terrible show produced a highly entertaining series of scenes entitled 'The Actors'. With a total commitment the Drama class invented an ensemble of self-centred and not very talented global actors trying to stage a modernist retelling of the story of Little Red Riding Hood. By the end of the play, most of the actors have left the project, angered at not being allowed enough stage time for themselves. Original and very funny, 'The Actors' proved that the class can take on Commedia dell Arte and make it work in a modern setting.

Bravo to the class and I hope the examiners enjoy your performances as much as I did.

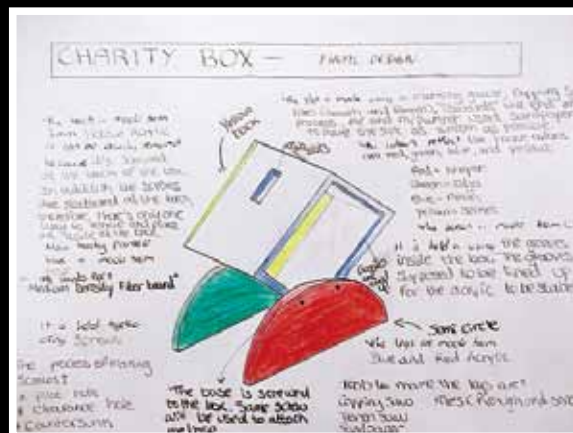
Mr. J. Todd – Head of Performing Arts



Creative Thinking and Product Design in D&T – Design and Technology

This year the Design and Technology students have been extremely busy and creative in the school workshops W1 and W2. Students have designed, engineered and produced some outstanding products in D&T with Mr. Simon Griffin and the technician Mr. Heikel.

Starting with the youngest students – Year Seven has designed and built their own trophies using a realistic gold effect render. The Year Eight students worked with a range of woods, metals and plastics to produce personalised desk tidies made in three separate parts. In addition to this, some students developed their own graphics for the acrylic photo frame they made themselves. The staff in the workshop and Mohamed, the school carpenter, were also deep in creative thought when they had their eureka moment - recycling an existing product to engineer a tool called a strip heater and a jig to help students manufacture their photo frame with precision.



Year Nine has been industrious, working on various small products and tasks in preparation for their final piece which is a one-off product design task to be completed in Year Ten. The Year Ten cohort of 2012 are an exceptional class. They have worked extremely hard. On four occasions some students came to school on Saturdays gaining an extra 20 hours of study time. They have now finished their final piece of work for themselves and the Cambridge Exam Board. Their best work features in the photographs and almost half the class scored A* in the practical element of the IGCSE coursework. Two students received the very rare 100% mark for their practical piece. Well done to Laila Farouk and Omar Bahig, as well as all the students who have done their best with Product Design this year.

Finally, the Grade Ten class donated their time to create and manufacture charity boxes for a client for our charity organisation MADE (Make a Difference in Egypt). The first batch are in the school House colours and are expected at the end of the academic year. They will be positioned at various counters around the school next year, so please help fill them up!

Mr. S. Griffin – Secondary Design and Technology Department



ART ATTACK!

MES Cairo Annual Art Exhibition

ASPECTS & prospects 2012

ART PHOTOGRAPHY DESIGN TECHNOLOGY



Visual Art and design has always been important at MES Cairo. This year's Whole School Art Exhibition: 'ASPECTS & prospects' showcased our talented students' work and included a great range of impressive art.

Many **Primary artists** had work in the exhibition. This is the first year that there has been a specialist Art teacher in Primary and Mrs. Nicki Millington has made a great impact in this new post.

There were high quality **Design Technology** projects from both our American and British Secondary sections. Mr. Simon Griffin has taught students to design and make a range of high quality products in the workshop. The IGCSE storage units were particularly impressive, both for their creativity and quality. Mr. Christian Maldonado has introduced a computer-based design course across the American section which introduces students to the world of graphic and virtual design. Much of this was displayed on computer screens in the Secondary building. **Digital Visual Media** is another new course introduced this year into our American High School by Mr. James Crabb which has included film making and animation – a great new course that intends to prepare students for the 21st century.

Secondary Artwork included a range of lower school projects, IB diploma artwork and some IGCSE and Advanced Level art although much of this had already been sent away for assessment. Projects from the American High School Students included work from the talented students who completed Advanced Placement Studio Art portfolios this year. The course requires each student to complete a portfolio of twenty four high quality artworks. While five are sent away, many of the other artworks were in the Exhibition. Senior students' impressive photography also included that of our first AP Photography Student, Nouh El Khafif (G12). On display, there was also artwork and photography that had been created by our talented MES Cairo staff.

MES Cairo was proud to welcome the acclaimed Syrian Artist **Taki Edine** who has participated in many exhibitions and has works owned by art lovers all over the world including the USA, England, France, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon and Egypt. Asmaa is a graduate of The Gulf School of English in Kuwait where Mrs Dajani was the Educational Director. They met again last year at an exhibition in Maadi! Asmaa started her artistic career during school and is still in touch with her Art teacher who really inspired her. She has continued to paint and is also involved with interior design. She has a beautiful shop and atelier in Maadi called Nokoush. Asmaa's work reflects the oriental traditions and spirits, fused with her modern vision. Her work is characterised by her ability to use different materials utilised to express the feeling of Middle Eastern culture. Many will recognise her work from the 'On a Caravan' Exhibitions in Maadi.



Fareeda El Tohamy G12B



Nouh Khafif G12B



Nafisa JibriluY5Y



Karim Nabhan Y8B



Faten Al Nahas DP11R



Haidi Lala G12G



Omar Bahig Y10Y



Zubaydah Jibrilu Y8B



Raghdha Ibrahim G12V



Guest artist Asmaa
Taki Edine



Hedayat Foda G12V

Asmaa presented ten special awards to students who have made a significant contribution to Art, Photography and/or Design Technology. All were nominated by their teachers for demonstrating excellence throughout the year and making a significant contribution to the MES Cairo Exhibition.

The award-winning students are:

- Nafisa Jibril (Y5Y)
- Ezzeldeen Elmaghraby (Y6O)
- Zeinab El Gammal (Y6Y)
- Zubaydah Jibrilu (Y8B) Art and DT
- Nada Sorour (G8Y) Art
- Nour Jaouda (Y9Y)
- Omar Bahig (Y10Y) IGCSE Art and IGCSE Design Technology
- Ingie Enan (G10R) Design Technology
- Farah Hegazy (G12O) Advanced Placement Art
- Nouh Khafif (G12B) Advanced Placement Art

It takes many people to make an exhibition like this happen; from our creative students to our talented teachers. The Exhibition was a huge success due to the hard work of Nicki Millington in Primary and the Secondary Art and Design Technology department: Karen Elliott, Brooke Vogel, James Crabb, Simon Griffin, Christian Maldonado.

WE were all supported invaluable by Tamer, Clement and their teams, Mr. Heikal the Design Technology technician and Mr. Sayed and his team of computer technicians.

A very special thank you must go to Miss Lamia, our highly-valued Art technician who has a massive job at this time of year!

I hope you enjoy the selection of artwork on these pages!

Mrs. L. Prime - Secondary Head of Art and Design Technology



Ingie Enan G10R



Mirit Agibey DP11R



Zeinab El Gammal Y6Y



Hana Seif El Nasr Y9Y



Nour Jaouda Y9Y



Nada Sorour G8Y



Guest Artist Asmaa



Farah Hegazy G12O



Ezzeldeen Elmaghraby Y6O



Zubaydah Jibrilu Y8B



Nourhan Selim G9Y



Sara Malak G11G

ART ATTACK!

IBDP VISUAL ART EXHIBITION 2012

In April Yasmine Akef and Anna Borsch of IBDO12 impressed everyone with their IB Visual Art Exhibition. The two talented students filled the top multipurpose hall with high quality artwork. MES Cairo was proud to invite renowned Egyptian artist Carelle Homsy to open the IB Visual Arts Exhibition. Carelle declared the exhibition 'outstanding' and everyone who visited couldn't help but agree.



The exhibition represented the best of two years' work and the pieces selected and displayed form 60% of their final IB grade. The opening enabled the students to discuss their work with family, friends and teachers in preparation for an interview with a visiting examiner later in the week. Those visiting the exhibition were struck by the variety of media both students used and the large scale of the work.

'The IB Visual Arts course has really helped me push that boundary between my personal life and expressing myself through Art. It has introduced me to a wide

range of media that I was able to use to my advantage and to be able express myself freely on a much bigger scale.' **Yasmine Akef DP12**

'Working in both, three-dimensions and two-dimensions and where possible in charcoal or acrylic, I have explored many different forms of art and have been influenced by a myriad of sources; from artists to films, people, nature and objects. What impacted me overall is the current situation within Egypt and much of the Middle East; especially with regards to women.' **Anna Borsch DP12**

Each student followed a theme of their choice that developed over the two years.

'I started off by concentrating on the theme of cultures and dance. The scale of my work expanded as my ideas developed. I started off by looking at traditional dances from Far Eastern cultures. I found inspiration in the movement of the dancers and I couldn't help but relate it back to my own culture and personal life. That is when I decided to study the movement of Tanoura dancers and their bold-coloured skirts. I realised that my artwork comes out best when it has been inspired by

subject that I can relate to personally. I found my focus during two months abroad in the summer. I started taking an interest in the theme of women and femininity; the trip really opened my eyes to how extreme the contrast is, between the Middle East and the West when it comes to that matter.' **Yasmine Akef**

'I drew on my experiences of living in Cairo and my thoughts on particular issues; predominantly the restrictions on, and expectations of, women. The incentive of this theme emerged from my own personal process of growing up and maturing, transitioning from a child to an adult. I began to ask myself: what do I want in life? What do I want to achieve? What direction do I want to take? These are questions every young person asks but I had a thirst for answers to one further question. This was, how will being female affect my future? The ideals of women in the Middle East both conflicted and influenced me as I reflected on the definition of myself as a woman.' **Anna Borsch**

Please enjoy a selection of the artworks displayed.

Mrs. L. Prime – Secondary Head of Art



Yasmine Atef



Yasmine Atef



Anna Borsch



Anna Borsch

ART ATTACK!

ART ALTERS BOOKS!



Aliaa Khalil G12G

Do you ever wonder what happens to those old hardback encyclopedias and reference books that are out of date and probably taking up space on your bookshelf? Instead of ending up in a landfill, some of these books made their way into Ms. Brooke's Grade Ten Art class where students channelled their creative energy and transformed them into innovative Art projects.

These 'altered books' might be considered a librarian's worst nightmare, but instead of becoming discards, the books have taken on a new life of their own. The transformative process involved students being introduced to several techniques, including carving, painting, and drawing. In this way, students came up with their own creative ways of recycling an old book into a new work of art.

'I was very impressed with the uniqueness of each student's piece. You could see a bit of their personality show through their work. No two books were alike.' **Ms. Vogel**

'It's amazing how one can express their character through art, and this is what I did with our altering project. It was truly a great experience to be able to take a book and alter it from scratch and make it into an entirely artistic piece. I was trying to apply everything I learned from the first book into my second, but I ended up creating something completely different from what I expected.' **Nadine El Essawi (G10B)**



'I really enjoyed working on my altered book project because it taught me that there is so much you can do with a book rather than just reading it. I believe that through both my books I exposed my feelings, either towards horses or Om Kalthoum.' **Nadia El Bostany (G10B)**



"It was really exciting working on this project, It was something new that I have never experienced before! It was different from the things that we have done before during our art lessons. Who knew that there was a lot that you could do with a book." **Farida El Halwagy. (G10Y)**



Savanna Revett G10R and Nadia El-Bostany G10B



Enji Jaouda G11V

ART ATTACK!

Year Eight Red..... as you've never seen them before!



Andy Warhol Marilyn

Year and Grade Eight have been doing a project on Pop Art Portraits, looking at the work of artists Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein. Year Eight Red found this project particularly inspiring as there are a lot of keen graphic designers in this Homeroom, so they decided to put their finished paintings together to make a whole-class Artwork.

At the start of the project, students each chose a head and shoulders self-portrait from a selection of digital photographs, including their most recent school photograph. Next they worked with Photoshop filters and effects to create a 'Pop Art' style image. They then translated this



Nourhan Madkour



Hassan Saad



Magdy Morsi



Alia Mazhar



Yazan Mahaini



Sara Aly



Karim Koueider



Tarek Sulhab



Youssef Helmy



Youssef Omar



Karim Abdallah



Sara Ismail

ART ATTACK!

Eight Red Pop Art

image onto a large A2 sheet, making careful pencil outlines and finally, they painted themselves like Andy Warhol icons. Many of us are familiar with the multiple vibrant images of Marilyn Monroe, Jackie Kennedy, Elizabeth Taylor and Mick Jagger that characterise the American Pop Art movement. Warhol made many celebrity art images like this, depicting famous people of his time.

Here are Year Eight Red in their 'celebrity' Pop Art posters. I think you will agree, they have created some impressive self portraits!

Mrs. K. Elliott – Secondary Art Department



Seif Nasr



Sara Ismail



Norhan Madkour



Tarek Tantawy



Hussein Rizkana



Hassan Saad



Mohamed Fekry



Youssef Helmy



Tarek Salhab



Youssef Omar



Yazan Mahaini



Sara Aly



Mai Hindawi



Magdy Morsi



Karim Koueider



Karim Abdullah



Farah Faidhi



Alia Mazhar



Yasmin El Shaer



Yassmin Soliman



Yasmina El Dairy

CARAVAN FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS 2012: THE ROAD AHEAD



Carelle Homsy



The fourth Caravan Festival of the Arts opened on 26th April 2012. Organised by Mr. Roland Prime, the Festival demonstrated the strength of the art scene here in Cairo, as well as showing the range, imagination and artistic ability of all those who exhibited. The festival followed the theme of 'The Road Ahead' and included an art exhibition, author's talk and music concert. Forty five artists from both the East and the West had each created an artwork on the theme. The festival has grown from the idea that the Arts can be an effective medium to build bridges between Muslims and Christians and between the Middle East and the West. Here we share some of these artworks with you. MES Cairo teachers and students were spotted amongst the crowd, which also included other notable visitors.

'It was very exciting to see so many different styles of art together especially as they all dealt with the same theme. I was really inspired!' **Jacqueline Bali (Y11)**

'I really enjoyed seeing the different textures on the paintings the Artists used paint in so many different ways.' **Mirit Agibey (DP11)**

'This objective of Caravan echoes my life in film: bridging the East and the West. I believe the arts more than anything else can address issues of religious extremism, intolerance and sectarian violence, and emphasize the possibility of friendship and love between all peoples and religions.' **Omar Sharif, legendary Egyptian actor**

'I am impressed with the richness, depth and variety of interpretation in the artists' work in this Caravan program. Our President, Barack Obama, is very much in sync with the inspiration of Caravan. He has said, 'Regardless of your faith – and America is a country of Jews, Christians, Muslims and even non-believers -- people still have common hopes and common dreams are quite evident in the work of Caravan.' **The Honorable Margaret Scobey, U.S. Ambassador to Egypt.**

Adhaf Soueif: Literature Night

Let's face it, most writers we study at school are dead, white and male! What an amazing opportunity then to listen to world famous Egyptian author, Adhaf Soueif, speaking at the Caravan event. The internationally acclaimed novelist gave a talk and read extracts from her latest book to a packed audience at St John's Church in Maadi. It was incredibly interesting to hear her read her work and fascinating to hear her views about her writing experiences and the writing process and how these related to her life. She spoke with eloquence and humour but above all, it was her warmth, intelligence and humanity that was conveyed to the audience. It was also very pleasing to see MES Cairo students participating in an event such as this, outside of school arranged activities. As an added bonus, we all had a chance to have our books signed personally by the author!

Ms. T. Sliney – English Department



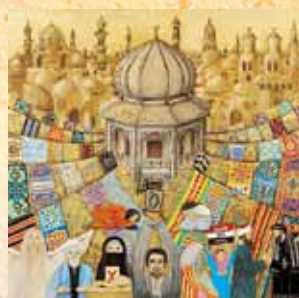
Mohamed Youssef



Roland Prime



Asmaa Taki Edine



Renee van Lille 'Demetruades'



Dorian Haqmoun



Lucy Prime

MES Cairo students were spotted at the Festival



MES Cairo students were spotted at the Festival



Reda Abdel Rahman



Erik Blome 'Mashrabia'



Adhaf Soueif



Hana Seif El-Nasr and Ismail Seoudi get books signed

'Meeting a successful, published, best-selling author was bound to be an interesting experience. However, meeting Adhaf Soueif completely surpassed my highest expectations. She spoke with wisdom and intelligence and was a great role model and inspiration. She also gave me some priceless advice about writing that has really helped me. Overall, she was simply brilliant.' **Hana Seif El-Nasr (Y9Y)**

Note: Adhaf Soueif has written *The Map of Love* (shortlisted for the Booker Prize), *In the Eye of the Sun*, *Sandpiper* (short story on the IGCSE English Literature syllabus) and *Cairo: My City, Our Revolution*. She also writes regularly for The Guardian Newspaper in London.



Caravan Opening Night

Primary Art Exhibition 2012



Year Five 'Shifting Sands of Egypt' images

What clever and artistic children we have at MES Cairo! If you were to take a stroll around the corridors of the Primary Department Atrium about the time of the Parents' Evenings you would have been able to see the incredible artwork created by children as young as FS1 and FS2, through to our oldest Year Six Students.

Facing the playground were the smiley Year One paint and collage portraits; batik-inspired watercolour and wax-resist animal paintings; and oil pastel and painted fabric images.

Year Two's 'Spike the Chinese Dragon' sculpture greeted us outside the Year Two pod, guarding the children's stunning paintings of Chinese dragons.

Outside Year Three's pod we saw how the children had learned how to create realistic portraits, and their oil pastel studies reflected their enthusiasm for reproducing dramatic African patterns.

Year Four children created clever POP-UP books in Design and Technology. Also on show were some beautiful images inspired by aboriginal art.

The Year Five display was a stunning mixture of their awesome pastel desert images and block prints of Egyptian landmarks. The children had also enjoyed being graphic artists, constructing and designing their own eye-catching pizza boxes!

Finally, the Year Six dramatic artwork was a culmination of many skills and techniques that the children have acquired, such as in their use of colour, different media and the presentation of their work.

It has been a pleasure to work with such enthusiastic children this year and they should be very proud of their achievements. Watch this space for more news about artistic events and achievements!

Ms. N. Millington - Primary Art Specialist



Year Three 'Who Am I?' double portraits and African patterns.



Year Two 'Amazing Asia' dragon paintings and sculpture.



Year One 'It's a Wild World' animal wax and oil resist paintings, and collage portraits.



Year Four pop-up books and 'Journeys' artwork



Year Six 'People in Action' mixed media artwork

BOOK MARKS

from the Primary Libraries



It has been a novel year in the Primary Libraries. Our theme is literacy and in our first chapter we introduced students and staff to new materials through book talks and open houses. The first term's plot climaxed in the Key Stage One Library with Dinosaur Days; a fun-filled week of dinosaur songs, stories and activities. There was also a 'joke-of-the-month' contest in the Key Stage Two Library.

As our story unfolded throughout the second term, we acquired a new author, Samia Gomaa, who has contributed greatly to the work in



progress. The main plot continued with reader services and refinements to the collections and the catalogue. We also introduced some exciting sub-plots as both libraries registered with the Scholastic International Book Club and placed book orders for students. The Key Stage One Library also initiated Library Shopping Days, which stimulated and rewarded students' creative writing and artwork. The Key Stage Two Library began producing *Just Joking Around*, a library joke book that is also a fundraising activity for Make A Difference in Egypt (MADE).

The third and final chapter, set in Term Three, began in the Key Stage Two Library with an art contest for the cover of *Just Joking Around*. To celebrate reading, the Key Stage Two Library also co-sponsored an oral reading competition for students in Years Five and Six.

At the time of publication, more exciting scenes for our story are being planned, but as every good reader knows, one should never give away the ending in advance. To find out what happens next, book yourselves into the library and browse around. Better yet, stay awhile, and help us write the sequel.

Dr. E. Hill - Primary Librarian



The Prophet Mohammed's Birthday

المولد النبوي الشريف



This year MES Cairo celebrated the birth of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH). The Arabic department put on a short assembly which began with a student reciting verses from the Quran.

After this, members of the Arabic staff put on an entertaining and informative puppet show depicting the time in which Mohammed (PBUH) was born and explaining why it was called 'The Year of the Elephant.'

Two students then told the audience about the marriage of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) to Khadiga, the visitation of the Angel Gabriel and the first and second pilgrimages to Habasha and Medina.

The choir, consisting of children from Years One through to Year Six, then sang 'Tala Al Badru Alena' with Miss Nadya Shanab in Arabic then in English.

After a short poetry recital, the choir then finished with a beautiful rendition of 'Mohammed Nabina'.

The Arabic staff would like to thank everyone who helped them to organise this, especially the Music Department.

Arabic assembly celebrating the Prophet Mohammed's birthday

It was with great pleasure that I watched the recent assemblies organised by the Arabic staff. I was lucky enough to understand most of what was said. However the visual effects during the puppet show made the understanding of the story much more straightforward. I loved listening to the children singing their two songs, as each and every one of the children knew all the words and were obviously enjoying performing. The audience listened intently the whole way through and thoroughly enjoyed it too.

I am so glad that this event was such a success and hope that it becomes an annual event at MES Cairo.

Mrs. M. Glancy – Senior Lead Teacher

احتفلت المدرسة بذكرى المولد النبوي الشريف، حيث قام قسم اللغة العربية بعمل حفل يبرز هذه المناسبة الكريمة. وقد بدأ الحفل - بخير الكلام - آيات من القرآن الكريم، ثم تبع ذلك تقديم عرض للعرائس تناول وقت مولده "صلى الله عليه وسلم" وأهم الأحداث التي تمت خلال ذلك وأسباب تسمية عام مولده بعام الفيل، وبعد انتهاء هذا العرض قدم بعض التلاميذ نبذة عن مرحلة زواج النبي "صلى الله عليه وسلم"، ثم نزول الوحي الأمين - جبريل - عليه وتكليفه بالرسالة النبوية مروراً بهجرة المسلمين الأولى إلى بلاد الحبشة ثم الهجرة الثانية للنبي "صلى الله عليه وسلم" والمسلمين معا إلى المدينة المنورة.

ثم جاء دور الغناء وذلك من خلال "كورال" من تلاميذ الصفوف المختلفة من الصف الأول إلى السادس الابتدائي الذين أنشدوا أغنية "طلع البدر علينا" وبعدها غنت "نادية شنب" نفس الأغنية مرة أخرى باللغة الانجليزية.

وقد كان للشعر نصيب من هذا الاحتفال فقام بعض التلاميذ بإلقاء بعض الأبيات الشعرية التي تناسب هذه الذكرى العظيمة.

وفي الختام قام "الكورال" بغناء أغنية "محمد نبينا" وقد تجاوب الحضور مع جميع فقرات الحفل.

وأخيرا لا يفوتنا أن نتقدم بخالص الشكر لكل من ساهم بجهده مع قسم اللغة العربية لإخراج هذا العمل بهذه الصورة المشرفة، وخصوصا قسم الموسيقى بالمدرسة.



Primary Music News

It's been a busy time in the Primary Music department. Towards the end of Term Two there was an Atrium concert. The performers in the concert were children who had attended Music ASAs.

The concert started with a group of children from Year Two who had been learning the Ocarina with Mrs. Stiles. They played a couple of songs that the Year One children in the audience recognised, including 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star'.

The audience were then treated to a jazzy performance from children playing another wind instrument as my recorder ASA (Y4/5) took to the stage. They played songs such as 'Mr Cool' and 'Chicken Cluck Waddle'. They also played a Chinese folk song, based on a pentatonic scale, during which Hannah Breitingner (Y4B) played an alto recorder and I played a tenor recorder (which is so big none of the children could actually play it!) to create a song with three different parts being played. After that my Y2/3 choir performed a number of songs. They had been practising singing 'in a round' and their hard work paid off with an excellent performance.

In addition to this, rehearsals for 'Seussical' had started. I had asked Mr. Milton and Mrs. Stiles to recommend some children from each year group to form the Primary Choir. All the children who joined showed a huge level of commitment, giving up many, many playtimes as well as attending after school rehearsals and even coming to school on a Saturday! Many thanks to Miss Mary and Mrs. Stiles for their help with the Primary Choir.

Mr. A. Briggs - Head of Primary Music



Key Stage One News

Foundation Stage Two Production **ALL AT SEA IN FS2!**



On 23rd November 2011, the MES Cairo theatre was filled with over a hundred little pirates, but thankfully not the scary, grumpy or grubby kind! These were friendly pirates dressed in all of the class colours, ready to help their friend Izzy (played by Lina El Hilaly of FS2 Yellow) become a real pirate. Each class of pirates sang their own song and performed a pirate dance, and gave her one of the things she would need to be a real pirate, such as an eye-patch and sword.

The production was inspired by the fabulous Pirate Day held earlier in the year when all of the FS2 teachers dressed up as pirates ready to meet Pirate Pete (Mr. Phil Downey) who was

looking for his treasure that had been used in the FS2 classes to bring some sparkle to the maths activities that week. Although Pirate Pete was very impressed by the way the children sang pirate songs he was still so cross with Pirate Hayley Martin for using his treasure that he ended up throwing her into the swimming pool!

The script for the production was written by Ms. Hayley Martin, and the rousing songs were provided by the musical director Mr. Neil Milton, accompanied on the day by Mr. Adam Briggs and Mr. Magued Nagati. The stunning set was designed and created by Mrs. Lamia Afifi of the Secondary Art Department and her team. The FS2 teachers were immensely grateful for the work of Mr. Clement Peter and his team who set up the stage and to Mr. Ihab Iskander for the technical support.

All of the children and staff thoroughly enjoyed working on this production, and we were thrilled at how well the children performed.

Ms. H. El-Hoss - FS2 Yellow



Year One Production – THE QUEST

“Magic, magic everywhere...”



There most definitely was magic, magic everywhere when the Year Ones took to the stage to perform their fabulous production 'The Quest.'

The audience were whisked into different magical lands in a quest to find six golden puzzle pieces. Familiar characters, guided each time by the Princes and Princesses, were asked to complete different tasks in order to win the magical puzzle piece. Along the way the audience was wowed with songs, dances and brilliantly remembered lines.

First of all the audience was taken to a land in which dragons and knights lived and then they went deep into an enchanted forest where Little Red Riding Hood and her Grandmother lived. Next the adventure took them to green pastures and the land of the Three Billy Goats Gruff. After that the audience was left feeling hungry and licking their lips as they visited the land of Hansel and Gretel. Later they visited a land of bones and ghosts and ghouls before finally making their way to the land of Goldilocks and The Three Bears. If that wasn't enough they were then mesmerised by a talking tree! After exploring each land all the Princes and Princesses worked together to complete the jigsaw puzzle. In the end, as if by magic, the Queen appeared to congratulate them on their good relationships and resilience.

The children worked fantastically hard in order to memorise all the songs, dances and all of their lines. The Year One Team is extremely proud of them and we are already looking forward to next year's production!

Ms. C. Parsons - Year One Blue



YEAR TWO PRODUCTION **OLYMPIC ODYSSEY**



Take your mind on a journey back in time to Ancient Greece and the birth of the Olympic Games....

Zeus is angry because the true meaning of the Olympic Spirit has been lost! Or has it? The Ancient Greeks obviously have a lot to understand and who better to remind them of the skills and relationships created through sports than the Year Two Olympic sporting teams!

This year's Year Two Production featured an array of different sporting activities from the Olympic Games which will be taking place in London this summer.

Year Two children have been learning about different types of sports. Sporting histories, famous sports personalities and movements or motions involved with the sport has been a direct link to our recent curriculum topic. With fabulous songs expressing determination, resilience, 'going for gold' and astounding dance routines, the Year Two children had a huge amount of fun in bringing this production to the stage.

The Year Two team and the Music Department have worked tirelessly on preparations for this production, as have parents at home. This show is a true credit to the children themselves and what they can achieve when they focus their energy in a positive manner. We have seen so much growth in these individuals over this academic year; they are really beginning to mature in so many ways.

Complete with a multitude of key characters, stunning costumes, fabulous singing, dancing and acting, the children in Year Two really came alive for this production. For everyone who works with these children, it was a real pleasure to see them perform on stage.

The Year Two Production – Olympic Odyssey – was a tribute to the true spirit of the Olympic Games and we all now have thoughts of admiration and encouragement for all the athletes around the world who are preparing to compete in London this summer!

Mr T. Pickhaver – Year Two Team Leader



Key Stage One News

FS1 GO TO THE FARM

Old Macdonald had a farm ee i ee i o, and on his farm he had a...

The adventure started with this beautiful song that all the children enjoyed singing on the bus while on our way to the farm. The excitement was clear as the children's faces lit up the minute they stepped out of the bus when we arrived.

The children started their day at the farm by eating lunch in the fresh air. They were excited to begin the programme that was set for them at the farm.

The tour started with the farm's supervisor escorting each class around the different areas. While the children walked around they were getting a lot of information about the different animals they were seeing. The supervisor explained in a fun way about the animals and how they live, what they eat and what they do. Ostriches, goats, rabbits, geese, ducks, pigeons, pelicans, horses and cows were some of the animals the children had a chance to see and learn about on their tour.

What excited the children most was seeing the animals' babies, as some animals had been newly born. It was incredible how the children interacted with the baby animals as they also got a chance to touch and feel the baby bunnies and the baby ducklings.

To complete the farm adventure the children had a chance to bake Balady bread....yummy... and of course they enjoyed playing with the dough and each child helped to plant a plant.

I must not forget to mention the donkey cart ride, which was the happy ending of the farm adventure for the children! Lots of fun and laughter was shared by all.

It was such a beautiful experience for the FS1 children and teachers too.

Ms. R Zaza - FS1 Orange



Foundation Stage One Production

There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly

All the children in FS1 have been working extremely hard to learn their songs for the production this year, 'There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly'. Each class represented an animal from the song and wore beautiful costumes on the day.



Orange class were flies,
Yellow class were spiders,
Blue class were birds,
Violet class were cats,
Green class were dogs,
And last but not least,
Red class were cows

The stage was set as a huge farm yard and decorated with the children's own work. It looked beautiful and extremely impressive as the children entered wearing their animal costumes. The singing was excellent and how they performed all the verses to each song was a remarkable achievement for such young children. Even the teachers needed a prompt from time to time!

The concert was very well attended and all the parents were so impressed and happily joined in with the final song of the finale. It was a beautiful ending to a beautiful day.

Ms. A Smylie - FS1 Green



MOTHER'S DAY IN FOUNDATION STAGE ONE



The FS1 children hosted their mothers here at MES Cairo on Egyptian Mothers' Day. It was great that so many mothers were able to come to school to celebrate this special day with their children. The day began with a welcome meeting in the Atrium and from there, the mums moved on to their children's classes, where they were serenaded with a range of Mothers' Day songs and were presented with cards especially made by the children.

This was an emotional and touching event. The mums also had a taste of some of the independent activities often enjoyed by their children, including making play dough models and painting. A big 'thanks' goes out to all the mums who were able to come. 'Well done' to the FS1 children for being wonderful hosts and making Mothers' Day extra special!

Mr. R Bruce - FS1 Violet



Grandparents' Day in Foundation Stage One



In the middle of May, Foundation Stage One had another special day – Grandparents' Day! We had many grandparents attend this event and some children were lucky enough to have all four! The grandparents were treated to the dress rehearsal of this year's Foundation Stage One Production 'There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly.' They made an excellent audience and everyone enjoyed seeing their grandchildren dressed up in new costumes and singing the show songs.

After the performance the grandparents had a chance to socialise over refreshments before meeting their grandchildren outside. At the end of the day, grandparents were treated to a journey back in time. They joined the children in the classroom to share some of their typical classroom activities. There were some excellent

drawings that were done, super constructions and lovely story times.

The grandparents were very well behaved throughout and a credit to their grandchildren! Well done to all the grandmas and grandpas!

Ms. Kyla Maaka - FS1 Blue



Year One Love Vegetables!

Classes of very excited children joined me in the Cookery Room for the final activity of our thematic studies unit on Growing Plants. We were going to make vegetable soup! Hands washed and 'listening ears' ready, we talked about safety, as well as which part of the plant each vegetable came from and what we needed to do to prepare it for the pot. The children remembered to keep their fingers out of the way and to always chop down on to a board, table or worksurface!

Those that were 'root vegetables' e.g. the carrots, potatoes and sweet potatoes, needed peeling first. That was the most difficult part because most children had not used a potato peeler before. The vegetables were then washed and chopped into little pieces and put in the big saucepan. The onions needed peeling too, but not with a potato peeler! They just needed the top and bottom taking off and the outside skin taking off. There were tears – chopping onions often makes you cry – but our children were very sensible and did not rub their eyes.

In this soup we did not have any 'leaves', 'stems' or 'flowers', but we did have 'fruits'. Year One all know that you can tell the fruit of a plant is where the seeds are growing. It gets very complicated as the word 'fruit' has two meanings; the scientific one above, as well as meaning apples, pears, oranges and strawberries; which actually are the fruits of the plant as they have seeds in them! Tomatoes and peppers are the fruits of a plant and we washed these before chopping them up. We eat the seeds inside a tomato so everything was cut up and put in the saucepan but we cut out and threw away the seeds of the peppers as they are not nice to eat.

With all the chopped up vegetables in the saucepan we added some seeds. They are tiny seeds that are bright orange and come in a packet; I wonder if you know what they are called? We put in a little salt and pepper and added two vegetable stock cubes to our very large pot of soup. Lastly we put in enough water to cover all the vegetables and left it to cook for at least thirty minutes - or until all the vegetables were soft. The delicious smell wafted all around the Primary school!

When it was cooked and had cooled down, class teachers used a hand held blender to liquidise all the vegetables. Then came the best part - tasting it! Most children decided it was delicious and had two cups. Some even had more!

If you want to make this soup at home use an onion, two or three carrots, a sweet potato, one large or two smaller potatoes, a pepper, five or six tomatoes and a handful or two of lentils. Enjoy spending time with your children developing their peeling and chopping skills as well as the delicious end result.

Ms. K. Armstrong - Primary Senior Lead Teacher



We're published!

The Year Six students from Ms. Gillian's Thursday writing group have worked hard this year in exploring the art of writing. We have focused on what is required to create a quality piece of writing, to suit a particular purpose or audience (whether to inform or to entertain).

Thursday's groups have allowed us to express our own way of writing. We have explored different genres, looked at examples of different levelled texts and worked at making our writing the best it could possibly be. When we gathered together each week, we realised how we can lift the spirits of people through our writing. We have shared our writing, discussing what we particularly liked about a piece and how it could be further improved.

When writing our 'Pack-It-In-Bag' reports, we had to pretend we had completed a trial on a newly designed school bag for students and report back our findings to the company. We learned the importance of including technical vocabulary to make our reports believable.

Definitely our favourite task was the writing of short mystery stories where we let our imaginations run wild! Furthermore, our collection of short mystery stories has been combined to create the book 'Marvellous Mysteries'. Our wonderful book has been 'published' and is now to be found on many bookshelves, being read by students not only from MES Cairo, but as far away as Australia!

Amazingly, children in Australia were fighting to catch a glimpse of the book that had come from the Middle East. However, when they read it they were initially disappointed, as they expected it to be written in hieroglyphics! This may be explained by the fact they had been recently studying Ancient Egypt. The Marvellous Mysteries collection was a huge hit in Australia (well at least in one classroom, on one bookshelf).

This report was compiled from sentences we wrote (then cut and pasted together) when reflecting upon our experiences during the year. We feel our writing groups have been a sensational experience, which has resulted in much success.

By Adam Abu Shady 6O, Aisha Abdelaziz 6V, Aisha Morsy 6O, Ali Attia 6V, Alia Sabbour 6G,

Ezzeldin El Maghraby 6O, Karim Badawy 6G, Latifa Hussein 6V, Malak El Ahwal 6V, Malik Ghali 6B, Marwan Seoudi 6G, Mia Jodrell 6V, Nadim Osman 6V, Nay Assassa 6V, Rady Madkour 6O, Tala Mosalam 6V, Zeinab Gammal 6Y and Ms. Gillian.



YEAR SIX GO BACK IN TIME AND BACK TO NATURE IN CYPRUS



Year Six Yellow and Blue working hard at the Curium

March and April saw all of the Year Six classes embark upon the much anticipated trip to Cyprus. The children (and teachers!) had been looking forward to this trip and as the time for departure grew closer the excitement in the Year Six pod was palpable.

A lot of research and studying was carried out in preparation for the Cyprus trip. During our topic 'Trendy Tourism', the children got the opportunity to study the geographical features of Cyprus and learn about the fascinating lives of the Ancient Greeks. Then, of course, there were the practical aspects of the trip – we needed t-shirts and work books! The challenge of creating a catchy front cover for the Cyprus booklets, and an inspiring design for the T-shirts, was given to the Year Six children. So many wonderful designs were created, but after much deliberation the Year Six teachers chose a winner for each design. Congratulations to Zein El Zarki (6R), Seif El Soliman (6Y) and Rana Bahaa (6B), whose creations were all used on the Cyprus t-shirt and Latifa Hussein (6V) for the winning booklet front cover.

With the t-shirts and booklets ready and the students' minds filled with facts about Cyprus, Year Six Yellow and Blue were the first explorers to go on the much anticipated trip, followed by Violet and Orange, and finally Red and Green.

On Day One of the trip, after tearful parents bid farewell to their children at Cairo Airport, it was up, up and away to Cyprus. After landing in Larnaca Airport it was a short coach journey to Paphos where the children could finally get settled into their rooms and have a good night's rest after a long day of travelling.

On Day Two, the children rose early, had a hearty breakfast (they were going to need it!) and went off to explore Avakas Gorge. The long walk through the Gorge, complete with lots of river crossings and adventure, was a challenge – there were some very tired and wet feet by the end! The leaders from the Environmental Centre taught Year Six all about the history and geography of the Gorge. Later on, Year Six groups conducted a beach study where they found and captured lots of interesting sea creatures that they investigated closely, before setting them free. After some relaxation time back at the hotel, we were treated



Year Six Yellow and Blue hiking up for a view near Aphrodite's Baths



Year Six Red and Green conducting rock pool studies



Year Six Red and Green at Avakas Gorge

to some traditional Greek dancing and some of the children and teachers even joined in!

Day Three was an equally busy day with just as much fun on the menu. The knowledgeable staff at the Environmental Centre took the children on a very long and very steep hike until they reached some rivers teeming with wildlife. The children conducted a river study and found lots of strange and peculiar creatures to take back to the centre and analyse under powerful microscopes in the laboratory. After some recreation time and dinner, the children got prepared to battle each others' wit and knowledge at the Quiz Night.

On Day Four we turned our attention to the rich history that Cyprus has to offer. The groups visited the historical sites of the Baths of Aphrodite and Paphos Mosaics. Then it was time to hit the shops. Year Six certainly did shop till they dropped! Lots of souvenirs and presents were bought and after a hard day shopping what better way to relax than cooling down with a refreshing ice-cream? Then it was back to the hotel for a swim, before getting ready for the disco, where it was noted that year Six have some pretty impressive dancers!

There were some sad faces at the breakfast table on the final day. Luckily, the fun wasn't over. After packing our cases and getting on the coach, we had a short drive before we arrived at Aphrodite's Rock, the site where the Ancient Greeks believed that Aphrodite, Goddess of Love, appeared from the water on a beautiful seashell!



The Mythical site of Aphrodite's Rock

After taking pictures of the famous mythological rock, we headed to the Curium – the site of an ancient Roman amphitheatre, where the children had the chance to show off their acting and joke telling skills. A hungry group of teachers and children then headed to a local restaurant to meet Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey for lunch before finally heading to Larnaca airport and on to Cairo Airport where lots of happy parents were waiting.

It was a truly memorable trip for students and staff. The teachers would like to thank ALL Year Six children for their responsible and sensible behaviour. Thanks also to the teachers that accompanied them: Mr. Nichol, Ms. White, Miss Aherne, Mr. Parrott, Miss Nikki, Miss Kathleen, Mrs. Trout, Ms. Mella, Ms. Arlene, Mrs. Glancy and Mr. Jodrell.

Ms. N. Connelly and Ms. C. Aherne - Year Six Red



Year Six Violet and Orange doing lab investigations at the Environmental Centre



Year Six Violet and Orange conducting river studies



Performing at the amphitheatre



YEAR FIVE HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME IN AIN SUKHNA!

FEBRUARY 2012



As part of their Thematic topic of 'Wonderful Water', the Year Five children went on a one-night, two-day trip to Ain Sukhna. This exciting trip incorporated a variety of fun educational activities for the children, along with some well earned pleasure time with their friends.

After leaving school at 8.30 am the children were at their hotel in Ain Sukhna by 10 am and it didn't take them long to get checked into their rooms and set off to the beach.

The trip began with an orientation walk along the beach and pier. Here the children observed the height of the tide and the direction of the many ships sailing through the Suez Canal, commenting on how the following day they would be heading in the opposite direction.

After the walk it was lunch time and then straight into our activities of either 'Shelter Building', 'Orienteering', 'Sand Art' or 'Beach Poetry'. As the children were split into four groups, this allowed the children to have a go at all the four activities over the two days.

Once the first two activities were completed it was time for some sporting fun! Mr. Oliver and Miss Laura from the PE Dept arranged several activities for the children to choose from. They could join in with Football, Volleyball, Skipping or Rounders and the children had a fantastic time playing games with their friends on the beach.

Eventually it was time to return to our rooms, shower and head to the restaurant for our evening meal. After some amazing food it was time for the Talent Show. More than thirty children got on stage to show everyone that there really is some amazing talent in Year Five. A short disco followed, but it was clear by this time that both the children and teachers were ready for bed and a well-earned sleep!

An early rise the following morning allowed all the children to have a hearty breakfast that filled everyone up and left them ready for the day ahead. The children were soon completing the two activities that they did not do on day one. This was followed by lunch and some more sporting fun.

Sadly, all good things have to come to an end and it was time to travel back to school. However, all the children clearly had a fantastic educational holiday that hopefully, they will remember for a long, long time. Well done to all the children who went! A big 'thank you' goes out to the teachers who helped make this trip possible.

Mr. S. Millington – Year Five Red



FUN IN THE SUN ON THE YEAR FIVE TRIP TO AIN SUKHNA



On Monday 20th February, most of Year Five went on a trip. We got on the coach at 9:00 and went on a trip to Ain Sukhna. We went on a learning trip.

We hopped on the bus. There was a special compartment to store your suitcases which was great. On the coach I was listening to my ipod. I was sitting next to Kanzy in my class and we had so much fun. On our bus we had Miss Laura, Mr. Morris, Mr. Millington and Mr. Oliver.

As soon as I got there I was full of excitement! The hotel was beautiful, we were staying at the Stella De Mare. When I got to my room I saw the beautiful paintings. I loved the room it was gorgeous. Then we had to go back to the reception because we were going for a walk around.

We walked around the hotel. After that we had lunch. It was a really delicious lunch. I had a roast beef sandwich which was tasty.

My first activity was shelter-making. It was really hard, but we came first. I don't know how as I didn't think ours was very good!

Next we did orienteering that was really fun, but it was so, so, so tiring because you had to run fast to find the different countries. I was so happy because I came first again! That was probably my favourite activity.

After that we did sports. There were six activities including volley ball, football, skipping, rounders and we could even go to the play park!

Then we went back to our rooms. We had to get ready for the night ahead. Therefore I put on some of my favourite clothes.

After that we had dinner. The dinner was great, especially the pasta. That was my favourite.

Half an hour later we had a talent show. I loved all of the acts; it was a bit like MES Has Got Talent.

All in all I loved my days in Ain Sukhna! It was a fantastic trip!

Layla Gillies - Year Five Orange



PRIMARY FRENCH DAY

Wednesday 7th March 2012 saw yet another fantastic French Day take place in Primary Key Stage Two at MES Cairo.

The day began on the KS2 playground with a rendition of the French National Anthem and saluting the flag. Zeinedin El-Helw (Y4B) told us some interesting facts he had found out about Bastille Day the French National Day and gave us a taste of what it must have been like to be part of the French Revolution.

The playground was awash with the colours of the French flag, as all of the Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 children showed off their amazing French-themed costumes. There were French chefs, waiters, artists, onion sellers and even army generals. French footballers, dancers, kings, queens and even Monsieur Sarkozy, the ex-French president was there, who as you may know, has now been replaced by Monsieur Hollande.

Throughout the day every class was involved in a variety of exciting activities, each with a different French flavour. At playtimes the resourceful Year 5s set up some great games and competitions for us all to enjoy.

People had their nails and faces painted red, white and blue, they played spin the colour wheel and pin the moustache on the French artist games. They built Eiffel Towers out of plastic cups, played football shoot out games using French numbers and took part in many matching and guessing competitions and games, all using their French and having fun at the same time!

We sang, we skipped, we danced and we munched our way through goodness knows how many crêpes between us!

A group of generous and creative girls in Year Six Violet also made and sold cakes with French flags on them and donated the proceeds of their sale to the Children's Cancer Hospital. Bravo les filles!

During class time, Year Six children worked in teams to construct Eiffel towers and produce some stunning Pointillism Artwork, recreating their own versions of Seurat's famous *Afternoon on the Island of la Grande Jatte*. They tried their hand at découpage too. Take a look in the French/library pod to see their great results.

Year Fives played all sorts of French food games and made their own delicious baguette sandwiches like real French chefs.

The theme in Year Four was the 'Le Mans 24-hour race'. Children interviewed our visiting rally driver, designed their own racing cars and raced against the clock in our own MES Cairo 24-hour race, cheered on by their classmates. The atmosphere was wonderful! The final winners who were awarded trophies were Omar Rashed (Y4V) for the boys and Jumana Mourey (Y4B) for the girls. Félicitations!

What about the children in Year Three? They sampled a traditional French breakfast and learned how to say 'C'est délicieux' and 'Merci!'. They sang French songs, took part in French quizzes and were French artists too!

At the end of a busy day, the whole of Key Stage Two gathered in the theatre. We were treated to a variety of acts and performances from confident and creative students. Year Three sang their version of *Tête, épaules, genoux, pieds* and *Frère Jacques*; Ali Attia and Mohamed El Fiky (Y6B) performed an excellent and entertaining clothes shop role play while Year Five demonstrated confidently, in great French, how to buy foods at the supermarket. The French themed costume winners for the day were announced and paraded their great outfits on the stage for us all to see. Well done to Lara Majid and Adam Oates in Year Three, Khadiga Atiti and Omar Rashed in Year Four, Hanna El Ganzoury and Tony Baltayan in Year Five and Nada Emad and Nadim Osman in Year Six. What creative students we have in Primary!

What a great day! Vive La France and roll on French Day 2013!

Mme Jacqueline - Primary French Department



Primary Spelling Bee



On Thursday 12th April, the MES Cairo Primary Department held its very first Spelling Bee in the school theatre. The event was a huge success and we are all very pleased with the standard the participants achieved.

All the children from Years Three to Six were tested on the words they had been given to learn from the beginning of the year. This helped the class teacher to choose the best two spellers in each class. These children were then given a more challenging list of words which they had to learn and spell out loud in front of a full theatre. This in itself

was a risk taking activity for all the children involved as they have never been asked to do this before.

All the children had obviously made a huge effort to learn the words they were given and we had to ask them to spell some extra tricky words in order to knock them out and find a winner. Well done to everybody who took part! Each participant was awarded a special certificate and House points and the winners were given Virgin Media store vouchers.

The audience were sitting in the theatre in their house T-shirts and they too were given a chance to show how good their spelling was and gain House points. The atmosphere was electric at times and each correctly spelt word was met with great applause.

We are already looking forward to next year's event and hope that it will be another event to be proud of.

Mrs. M. Glancy - Senior Lead Teacher



WESC Rocks Year Three!



As part of our 'Cool Cairo' topic, Year Three went on many field trips in order to carry out practical fieldwork. One of the favourites, however, was our trip to the Waadi Environmental Science Centre. The staff at WESC carried out a host of challenging and fun practical activities for the children relating to our science unit 'Rocks and Soils'.

Here's what some of the Year Three children had to say about their day out:

"My favourite experiment was making my own sedimentary rock. It was messy and fun but also helped me understand how these rocks are formed." Mazen Darwish (Y3O)

"The words we had to learn were really tricky but the WESC teachers helped us by splitting up the words and singing a song with us." Maram Hussein (Y3Y)

"I liked finding out which rock was the hardest. We wore safety goggles and used hammers to try to break the rocks and find out the answer." Aly Tantawy (Y3G)

Ms. C. Kearney - Year Three Team Leader





An Eiffel Tower out of paper That's Resourceful

THE 5 RS IN ACTION!

And so, what's all this 5 R business really all about?



The 5Rs are the skills children need to develop in order to be great learners. The most successful learners are those who are Risk Takers (they have a go at something, even if they think they might make a mistake), who are Resilient (they never give up). They able to cultivate great Relationships (working with others) and are Resourceful (they think about different ways to help them solve a problem). Successful learners are then Reflective (they have a think about how their work could be improved and what they could do better next time).

We asked pupils and teachers in Key stage Two to tell us about how their 5Rs skills have really helped them out:

A Risk Taking Situation

by Sondos Hothaifa (Y4R)

Last summer, my mum wanted to send me to a full two weeks of summer camp. At the beginning, I refused, but after deep thinking, I decided to take the risk and join the summer camp. I thought, 'What better place can there be for children to learn about making good choices than at camp? There, they can also learn to take safe risks without mum or dad.' The first risk I took when going to camp was getting on the bus and saying goodbye to my mum. I was nervous and a bit scared but tried not to show it. At camp, the staff were very good. They helped guide us into making good decisions. The camp was perfect. It's a safe place where kids can be kids, making choices and learning from their mistakes. I really enjoyed the challenges and being successful in the activities, such as rope swinging and playing dodge ball. I took a risk by going to camp, but achieved a lot because I took that risk.



Be resilient Keep trying your best



Working together Great Relationships

A Week of Resilience

by Mme Jacqueline - Key stage Two French Teacher

Madame Jacqueline had to be very resilient last week. In preparation for the French breakfasts in Key Stage Two, she had asked children in the classes to bring in a small amount of money which would pay for croissants and hot chocolate. When the majority of the children had not brought any money to school, she had to go to each class and remind them, not once, not twice, but in several cases, three times! Madame Jacqueline really had to be resilient! The class with the greatest number of children who remembered their contributions enjoyed a lovely French breakfast during their French lesson. When other classes heard about what a fantastic (and delicious!) occasion it was, they were inspired to bring in the money towards their own class' French breakfast.



Will you take a risk and learn a new skill



Reflection in Action

But that was not the only occasion of Madame Jacqueline having to be resilient last week. She was having a conversation in Arabic with an Egyptian friend, but when she needed to use the Arabic word for 'tablecloth', she realised that she had forgotten how to say this word. She tried the word for 'cloth' and tried the word for 'table', but she couldn't make herself understood, however hard she tried. After spending twenty minutes gesticulating wildly, trying to describe a table cloth and attempting to act out laying a tablecloth on a table, her Egyptian friend finally understood what Madame Jacqueline was trying to say.

Her resilience paid off and now, at last, she knows how to say the Arabic word for 'table cloth'.

The Need for Reflection

by Aisha Morsy (Y6O)

Being reflective has successfully led many figures to fame and fortune, like Thomas Edison, an inventor, who spent a period of time attempting to create an invention that would transform the world. Here is the story:

The village was dimly lit and not even a whisper could be heard. However, it was everything but safe and sound. Trees rustled as a young boy lay slumped, exhausted, on a wooden chair. The boy dreamt of success. Years later, the boy could be found in the same room, experimenting with wires and other scientific equipment. He remained patient, jotting down his notes to help him avoid any further mistakes. He was being continuously reflective, planning and experimenting, again and again. Finally, when he had planned, reviewed, and experimented for the one hundredth time, victory stomped on failure with its right foot; he had been reflective and succeeded! He had brought the world.....wait for it.....the light bulb!



Keep going Be resilient



Great team work in Cyprus

Relying on Resourcefulness

by Mrs. Maureen Glancy - Primary Senior Lead Teacher

Mrs. Glancy has been incredibly resourceful recently. When set the challenge of organising this year's successful Spelling Bee, she knew being resourceful was a skill she would need to rely on. Having never held a Spelling Bee before at MES Cairo, she felt it was necessary to find out everything she could about it.

'I used the internet to find out all about what a Spelling Bee was and how a competition like that should be run', she explained. 'By watching the film 'Akeelah and the Bee' and reading other schools' Spelling Bee rules online, I was able to create our own set of MES Cairo Spelling Bee rules.'

Not only was Mrs. Glancy resourceful when it came to the running of the competition, she also used her initiative looking for images and other materials when she made certificates for the winners and special hats for the judges to wear. In conclusion, Mrs Glancy was able to organise a splendid Spelling Bee for Key stage Two at the end of the second term because she was resourceful; if she hadn't had that skill, we would not have had such an organised and successful event.

Making Relationships Work

Joumana Barbakh (Y5O) wrote an excellent true story about how she and the rest of her class made relationships work.

Sometimes new pupils start at MES Cairo in the middle of the school year. When this happens, it's hard to make friends easily. So here is tip from me about how to help the people who are new (not just here at school, but in other places like work, the club, our neighbourhood).

- Introduce yourself to the new person and hopefully they won't be shy!
- Ask them about themselves.
- Ask them to meet you again at a place they know.
- Grab another friend (or two) of yours and then introduce them to each other.
- Repeat this the next day with a different person you think they might get on with.
- Tell everyone about how great the new kid on the block is!

By doing this, the new person should more easily make friends and feel welcome. This way, we can show them how at MES Cairo we're great at building relationships!

5Rs – they are what we do, every day

As you can see, the 5Rs are essential skills that we use every day. When did you last take a risk?

Have you been resourceful to get something done? Have you thought carefully about how to do something and been reflective on how it's been done? Have you noticed how good relationships affect your life? How resilient are you?



Will you take a risk and eat a weird meal this summer

Ms. C. Trout - Senior Lead Teacher



A delicious result of being resourceful



Being reflective How could I make this better

Year 6 Go to Mars

The final Term of the 2011-12 academic year was dedicated to preparing our young astronauts for their galactic journey to Mars! Yes, you read that right. Our students launched into the sky and through our atmosphere in order to reach their final destination...Mars!

Let me lead you through the journey that the students (from here on referred to as Mars cadets) travelled.

Mission to Mars was a five-week, fully integrated, theme that led the cadets through the scenario that we might have to, one day, abandon Earth. They were therefore armed with the knowledge and skills that might be needed to command a mission into the night's sky.

Cadet Activity 1

Cadets had to show their collaborative skills as well as their design skills as they were instructed to build a rocket. Using specific data, teams built rockets that were to be launched from Stomp pads. Fortunately, the majority of the teams led a successful launch, although one team lost their rocket...on the roof!

Cadet Activity 2

The second task for the teachers (Cadet Trainers) was to reinforce knowledge of our solar system, the Milky Way. Beyond this background information, the cadets were required to research Mars (after all, you can't go there if you know nothing about it!) and write a comprehensive report. Some of the facts they included were: Surface gravity = 0.38 / Atmosphere = Carbon Dioxide / Average Daily Temperature = -63°C!

Cadet Activity 3

Before any Mars cadet was allowed to head off into space they were required to study the history of space travel. Special emphasis was paid to the Apollo 11 mission to Mars, producing some great journalistic accounts of the successful moon landing, as well as some empathetic Neil Armstrong diary entries.

Cadet Activity 4

Of course we could not prepare for an abandonment of Earth without examining the events that might cause the need for such drastic measures. All manner of global issues were considered which ranged from those found in science fiction through to the very real. These included: 'Alien Attack', 'Asteroid Strike' and 'Extreme Global Warming'.

Global warming, the focus of Activity 4, inspired the space travelers in Year Six to write some excellent persuasive poems, posters and messages.

Cadet Activity 5

Cadet training was not confined just to the classroom. A vital element of the training took place at home where each cadet was trusted with the task to design their own Mars Terrestrial Space Station! All manner of factors needed to be considered:

- Warmth
- Oxygen
- Food
- Waste
- Water
- Communications
- Energy

Cadet Activity 6 - BLAST OFF!

Using all of the information gathered, each Cadet was given Commander status and ordered to lead their mission to Mars. However, rather than travelling to Mars via rocket, each Commander led their voyage via pen/pencil. A vast wealth of narrative tales of Martian exploration burst on to the pages of the students' books, utilising all of the cadet training information. We produced some excellent writing.

So, there you have it. If, at any time in the next few years, you are forced to move to Mars, just ask the Year Six students. They are fully trained and experienced in such a venture!

Mr. S. Parrott - Year Six Orange



Year Six staff head to Mars



The Mass reports on display



On a mission to Mars!



Six Violet display their great work



We are proud of our Mission to Mars



The amazing Year Six pod entrance

YEAR FOUR LUNCH TIME CHESS CLUB



Teachers and TLAs in Year Four have worked together this term to start a Chess Club for students during the third term of this academic year. The Club takes place on Sunday and Wednesday during second break times, where students have a choice of an energetic break outside in the sun, or alternatively they can relax and play chess with their friends inside, with the guidance of the Year Four TLAs.

The club has been a great success so far, with over thirty children attending each lunch time. Some pupils are playing chess for the first time

and learning a new skill. Others seem to be accomplished players, knowing the rules and playing with a competitive attitude, while focussing on their game. The TLAs have reported how focussed, concentrated and enthusiastic all students have been when attending the new club. This environment also helps develop social skills and allows interaction with pupils from different classes – all skills related to the MES Cairo 5Rs.

Following a great start to this new activity, where children can relax and play chess with friends in air-conditioned classrooms, Miss Mary and Mr. Phil plan to organise a chess competition for Year Four towards the end of Term Three, in order to find the 'Year Four Chess Champion 2012'.

Ms. M. Soliman and Mr. P. Downey - Year Four TLAs



MULTIPLICATION TABLES CHALLENGE IN YEAR FOUR



Over Terms Two and Three there has been a buzz of excitement in the Year Four pod. Mr. Dan's 'Times Tables' competition has gripped the Year Group. Starting off with about 100 children, this two-minute, timed competition has taken place each week....with half of the children eliminated each time round. The aim is simple: how many questions can you

accurately answer in two minutes? The competition gradually worked its way down to three finalists. Aly Khalifa (Y4G), Omar Abdel-Aziz (Y4R) and Youssef Sadek (Y4R). These three children then all competed for one final round. It was a sensational final and really challenged all involved. Well done to the Year Four audience who managed to stay quiet and calm throughout the final. These are the individual scores and positions.

- 1st Aly Khalifa - 100
- 2nd Omar Abdel Aziz - 92
- 3rd Youssef Sadek - 58

Well done to all involved, it has been a great competition. First place will receive 30 House Points, second place will receive 20 House Points and third place will receive 10 house points.

Finally, for any parents who wish to challenge their child, this website will make question papers for you: www.everness.co.uk. Good luck....

Mr. D. Ebsworth - Year 4 Team Leader



YEAR 6 WHAT A YEAR!

From chemical chaos to missions to Mars- from Aphrodite's Bath to groovy dancing at the Leaver's Ball. What an outstanding year this has been for all!

Year Six is a year for personal growth and academic achievements whilst serving as a chance for students to reflect on their remarkable Primary learning journey. It is also an opportunity for the children to take ownership of their learning environment, their classrooms and their school, before moving on to the Secondary school.

During our thematic learning this year, we...

...dived to the deepest depths of the Amazon Rainforest, where we investigated the amazing animals and plants that inhabit that weird and whacky environment. This topic really inspired the adventurers amongst us to dive in, explore and, ultimately, shine.

... jumped into the laboratory where the students were transformed into critical scientists; experimenting, observing and investigating the properties of sugar. The budding scientists amongst us stood out here.

Then, after the Term One break, we dropped our lab coats and strolled back in time to Ancient Greece, where we found fascinating facts, explored ancient lands and discovered why Greece is such a terrific tourist destination. But most importantly, we were offered the privilege to pack our bags and join the tourist trail! We jumped at the opportunity to jet off and explore the exciting island of Cyprus. (You can find out about our great trip to Cyprus from Miss Nikki and Miss Aherne, in this edition of the MESsenger.)

If you think heading to Cyprus was an ambitious journey... hold onto your hats... in Term Three, Year Six rocketed off into outer space! Yes, you read that correctly...SPACE! To be more specific we put on our spacesuits and oxygen packs to set off on a marvellous 'Mission to Mars'. Everyone explored this hostile uninhabited planet... but, the question is...

will it be uninhabited for long? Ask the Year Six children what they think. (You can find out more about the mission from Mr.Parrott, in this edition of the MESsenger.)

If you think that's all we have had time for, you're mistaken! We have also worked hard, continuing to further enhance our Literacy and Mathematics skills.

Speaking and listening has played a vital role in Year Six this year and this has been heightened with our recent production of 'Pantomime Pandemonium'. Your next MESsenger will feature news about our show.

Another thing to look out for is our end of year Leavers'



Six Blue and Miss White



Six Violet and Miss Aherne



Six Red and Miss Nikki



Year Six 'Going Greek' for the 24 hour run

Ball. This truly is a memorable occasion for the Year Six children and a great way for them to end their Primary learning journey.

As you can see, even though the year is coming to a close, there are still a lot of exciting things happening.

Being academic is just a small part of the Year Six learning journey. We also focus on the holistic side of the child and the development of their interpersonal skills. Daily, the 5Rs (*Relationships, Reflective, Resourceful, Risk-Taker and Resilient*) are embedded into all that amazing learning you have just read about.

These skills link closely to the school vision *Care, Challenge and Inspire*.

Here's what some of the Year Six children have had to say about their year:

'This year has been a happy and great year. We have learned about a lot of different things, but my favourite has to be Mission to Mars. Everyone in Year Six is excited about performing in this year's production. People are starting to now feel sad about leaving Primary and going to Secondary. Thank you Primary!' Abdel-Wahab El Sharkawy (6Y)

'Year Six has been a marvellous and wonderful year and I am going to miss it. I especially enjoyed the Cyprus trip and I am looking forward to the production and the Ball. This year has been fun and I will always remember the good times!' Mariam Hassan (6B)

'As I walked through the doors of Year Six, I imagined how the year was going to turn out. Fortunately it was exactly how I imagined it- it was amazing! I especially adored the Cyprus trip and we are really looking forward to the Leavers' Ball and to our show.' Marwan Seoudi and Karim Badawy (6G)

'We have all had a great year this year in Year Six. We especially enjoyed the trip to Cyprus. Everyone in Six Red would like to thank all of the teachers and TLAs - they really made learning fun and enjoyable. Year Six has been a great experience and one we will never forget!' (All of 6R)

The Year Six teaching team would like to wish the Year Six children a happy and safe transition as they embark on their Secondary school learning journey.

Mr. D. Nichol - Year Six Year Team Leader



Six Green and Miss Kathleen



Six Yellow and 6 Blue in Cyprus



Six Orange and Mr Parrott



Six Yellow and Mr Nichol (Year Leader)



PRIMARY SPORTSDESK SPORTS DAYS

Years Five and Six

The Sports Day kicked off with Year Five and the children came down from their classes raring to go after training in their PE lessons for the previous six weeks. There were some outstanding performances, particularly in the throwing events, and some very close sprint races, with many school records broken. At the end of the morning medals were given out to top performers, with Ismail Riskana (Y5B) and Nafisa Jibrilu (Y5Y) winning a staggering number of medals and breaking nine school records between them.

It was then time for the climax of the competition; the announcement of the winning House. The competition for the trophy was intense, with Ra coming in 4th place, Anubis in 3rd, Thoth a close 2nd and in first place - Horus.

The afternoon was dedicated to Year Six and they had an exciting competition. A significant number of competitors from our BSME athletics squad were preparing for their trip to Dubai. Competition was fierce in all areas, with very close scores for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. In the high jump Abdel Sharkawy (Y6R) matched the school record with a jump of 1.25m and the girls' competition was closely fought with only centimetres between 1st and 3rd places. Farida El OGail (Y6G) reigned victorious with a jump of 1.22m. Other notable performances included BSME athletes Fatima El Harby (Y6R), Hamza Hussein (Y6Y) and Omar Soliman (Y6Y) who each won numerous medals.

Congratulations to all of the competitors who worked so hard to earn points for their House team. The final scores were particularly close this year with Ra in 4th position, Thoth in 3rd, Horus in 2nd and Anubis in 1st place. Many thanks go out to the class teachers as without their help the event would not run. Thank you also to the parents who attended, for their excellent support, cheering and encouragement.

Ms. L. Butler - Primary PE department



Years Three and Four

The annual Year Three and Four Sports Day gave the sportsmen and women of tomorrow a chance to show what hard work and commitment in lessons can achieve.

Year Three Sports Day

A bright and sunny start to the day set the scene for a morning of activity and sport for the Year Three students. Many records were set throughout the day for the various throwing, jumping and track events and in particular a mention should be given to the students who won more than one medal. Omar Abdelhassib (Y3B) did a fantastic job representing his house by winning all three of the track events and collecting three gold medals for his achievements. Another performer who was highly successful was Layla Haikal (Y3V)

who won gold in both the 75m sprint and the

hurdles. Although Layla and Omar were both representing Thoth house, it was another team that was the overall winner of the House Trophy. Each student had been helping throughout the day to contribute points towards their House team so they could be crowned champion of the House groups. This year there was only thirty points difference between first and third place, meaning that every point scored by each individual in the team made an overall difference. Third place was awarded to Horus with 819 points, in second position with 825 points was Thoth and the winner with 848 points, was Ra House.





Year Four Sports Day

The Year Four Sports Day saw some fierce competition throughout the afternoon, with many races being so close that they had to be re-run. In addition to the close racing on the track, the children in the throwing and jumping events exceeded expectations and broke record after record on the day. It seemed that Violet class (taught by Mr. Oliver)



wanted to win all the gold medals on the day and nearly did, with Laila Selim taking gold in the sprint and hurdles and her classmate Mariam Azab winning gold for high jump, javelin and the 300m race. In the boys' section Violet class also took four of the seven gold medals on offer, splitting two each between Omar Rashed and Omar Fouda. Once again the main House Competition relied on a whole team effort to collect as many points as possible, and the results were; in third place Anubis with 779 points, in second place Horus with 818 points and the winners were Ra who scored 840 points!



Mr. O. Morgan - Primary PE Department



Years One and Two Sports Day

The children turned up in great spirits to get involved in the six activities available. All the students had worked amazingly hard in PE lessons to improve their running, jumping and throwing abilities. The activities included the bean bag throw, where the children were able to throw as far as possible to earn a massive amount of points. The next activity is my favourite. It was the obstacle course, where the children took turns running up ramps, jumping from heights and crawling through tunnels. The football dribble let the children show off their ball control skills and speed, and the children realised that the more they stick their tongue out the faster they will go. The children also enjoyed running over hurdles.

The children had a lot of fun during the rotations. However, following this the Year Two children had a bit of extra time and were able to have a tug of war against the teachers, where the children came out triumphant. Then it was time for the class sprint races. Pupils raced against their classmates with wonderful enthusiasm and determination.

I must say thank you to all the parents who attended the Sports Day. It was the biggest turn out of parents we have ever had for all the Sports Days and it was wonderful to see all the support and encouragement parents showed on the day. In the parents and staff race we had over 70 parents taking part!

It was one of the most successful sports days and the PE department would like to say 'well done' to all the students, 'thank you' to the Year Six children and staff for their help, and thanks again to all of the parents for your support!

FS1 and FS2 Sports Days

The Foundation Stage Two Sports Day started with the classes, accompanied by their teachers and assistants, coming up to the athletics track all dressed in their class colours and chanting their team songs with great enthusiasm. Each class was split into teams of lions, tigers, monkeys and crocodiles. The six classes were on a rotation where each group competed against each other within the class.

There were relays of jumping with space hoppers, hurdles and an obstacle course. Another activity was where the children had to throw bean bags as far as possible at targets. The classes also had a chance to play the Colour Collect game where the children used quick colour recognition to collect as many of their team's items first, which the parents found hilarious. The last activity for the children was the individual sprint where they able show their pure speed. Following this was the Parents' Race where the children and adults had fun watching the parents race down the track.

The children had a great, fun-filled day. They showed great team spirit and excellent determination in all activities. Thank you to all the teachers and staff for their help and to the many wonderful parents who were there to support the children.

Mr. M. Cox – Head of Primary PE Department



Secondary - Sports Day 2012



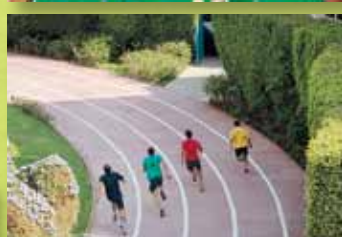
Sports Day 2012 was a huge success with students from Year and Grade groups in Secondary participating and competing in their respective Houses. The Grade/Years 7-9 competed during lessons 1 and 2 and Grade/Years 10-12 competed during lessons 4 and 5 on Wednesday - in the running events. Students that competed in the Field events were able to leave their classes on Thursday only during the time needed to complete their events.

All students were asked to select at least one event to compete in and represent their House. All students were also asked to compete in the Foam Javelin competition on the infield on Wednesday. It was a five-minute throw and score competition that could involve anyone from their House to throw quickly and accurately. The Top Three finishers in each event were awarded medals on the podium celebrated by their respective Houses and teammates.

The intensity, competitive enthusiasm, and team work shown by all was both contagious and inspirational to all. Personal competition at each event as well as the team competition made the Sports Day a great experience for all.

EDJO won the House Championship and has 'bragging rights' for the next year! It was a close competition with the Field events being the deciding factor. There was some fierce competition as the Thursday morning competitions wound down, with the older students finishing by noon.

Coach Johnson – MES Cairo Athletic Director



JV Girls Basketball

Match report by Alia Bassem - Grade Eleven Green

You may have seen the Lakers playing basketball, or the Celtics or the Knights; but watching the MES JV girls Cougars would have changed your whole perspective on basketball. These girls, with their fantastic coach, Mr. Gross, added a new meaning to team spirit and loving the game. From the trainings, to the court, these girls are wizards and have the ball under a spell! Their graceful way of playing is a delight to watch, almost like they're tied magically to the game. They confidently stepped out onto their home court to take on the best teams of Cairo in the JV tournament last term.

After long days of determined training and sizzling efforts, the day finally came. It was Friday 17th February. The eleven girls and their coach were ready from 8 o'clock in the morning to start their games here at MES Cairo. As the team performed their early warm ups, still fresh in their excitement, the other teams started to arrive.

Soon, the games had started. MES made an excellent commencement with their first game against the AISE girls. Everyone participated in that game, and it ended in a triumph: 25-17 to MES! It was only the beginning of a thread of successful games for the Cougars. For me, Nourhan Zaher (G11O), Yara Reafie (G11O), and Basma El Kersh (G11G), it was the first game played in a real tournament. It was a thrilling experience, and we rose to the challenge with our great efforts and eagerness.

The next game started on the outdoor court, against the ISC- 6th of October girls. It was a tough one to start with, but the enthusiasm never faded away. And again, the girls shone in their blue and gold shirts across the court. Excellent techniques were performed by Laila Farouk, who never gave up a harsh struggle against the opposing guard. Mahira Ahmed and Nourhan Amr also played fantastically. It was not an easy match but the team was successful yet again. Despite the fact that it was a windy day and the weather was not on our side, the game ended in a 16-9 to MES Cairo.

We made it to the semi-finals. The competition was getting tougher game by game. The next opponents were the BISC group, known for their great playing and talent. But like Micheal Jordan said, "Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championships." Luckily for us, the Cougars acquired both: excellent talents and an impenetrable team bond, in addition to extraordinary support and coaching. The game was played beautifully, an exquisite show of dribbling the ball across the court and swinging it away from the hands of the desperate opponents. Salma Amer swayed across the court brilliantly and Nour Mashour pushed to her furthest strengths to make sure her team stayed on top. The performance of all players in that match was incredible. Unfortunately, after standing strong throughout all the previous games, our outstanding player Bana El Bitar got injured. However, determination didn't shake and she was able to continue the game and support her team 110%. By the end of the game, our team was once again ...victorious!

It was time for the team to face ISC-C in the finals. The team was strong and it was one of the toughest games we had played. The game started with the Chouiefat girls taking the lead but of course our girls wouldn't give anyone the pleasure of beating them! They played their best till the very last second. The game had everyone on their toes, nervous and fretful. For every point they scored, the Cougars came back at them with another point. As the time passed, the players rotated on and off the court, all engaged in a resilient bond. We witnessed a terrific pass from Nourhan Amr to Mahira Ahmed, a stupendous dribble by Nour Mashour, great guarding by Nourhan Zaher, excellent shooting from Laila Farouk and remarkable layup by Bana El Bitar and the star shooter, Salma!

The referee whistled for half time, and Mr. Gross gathered the team around for a word of inspiration. He said, "Girls, just remember to give it your all. It does not matter whether you win or lose, what matters is how hard you try. And we're good, we're playing great, so keep it going."

Sure enough, his words echoed in our ears as the game continued. In the final five minutes we were down by a couple of points but a phenomenal performance from Salma Amr helped us to overcome the setbacks. Our confidence shot up again as we became tied. However, despite our fortitude and endurance, the ISC girls were able to topple our score in the final few seconds. Regardless of this misfortune, our heads remained held high as we exited the court feeling proud and satisfied.

Our team played extraordinarily and that day held a memorable journey for each one of us. As we stood with our coach congratulating us, I responded with words I needed to share with the first team I've ever been on. I said: "I just want to let your girls know that this is my first time playing for the school basketball team. It's my first time being involved in a tournament and wearing this MES shirt. The great team spirit has made it so fun and enjoyable. I can honestly say I'm really proud and happy to be part of this, no matter how it ended."

Moreover, the coach's encouragement and the way he was devoted to his team and guided us step by step - was motivational to us all. You always find Mr. Gross right behind you, or one step behind the line. Though we did not walk away with a 'first place' trophy, we walked away with much more. We gained pride and confidence and had a stimulating experience that will last a lifetime with us.

Congratulations to MES Cairo for second place and for the Fairplay award.

Go Cougars!



SPORTSDESK

Track and Field Meet May 2012

MES Cairo hosted our first ever Track and Field Meet on Tuesday 29th May. We competed against AISE-West. The events were the 100 metres, 200 metres, 800 metres, and the 1500 metres. The relay was a 3 x 100 meters. The Field events were the Shot Put, Discus, Javelin, Long Jump, and High Jump.

The following school records were broken:

1.	Mahinar Galal	Grade 8	High Jump---1.10 meters
2.	Adel El-Bendary	Grade 7	High Jump---1.35 meters
3.	Fatma Abou-Hendia	Grade 10	Javelin---8.20 meters
4.	Leila Farouk	Year 10	Shot Put---6.30 meters
5.	Omar Siam	Grade 11	Shot put---11.30 meters
6.	Omar Siam	Grade 11	Discus---25.65 meters
7.	Omar Siam	Grade 11	Javelin---31.00 meters
8.	Farida Helwagy	Grade 10	1500 meters---7.12.59
9.	Mena Sharaway	Grade 8	1500 meters---7.13.71
10.	Youssra Khatib	Grade 9	1500 meters---7.24.86
11.	Jomana Saber	Grade 10	200 meters---32.43
12.	Farida Seoudi	Year 7	100 meters---14.64

This is the first year MES Cairo has established a Track and Field Team as we competed earlier this spring in a multi school meet involving CAC, AISE, and many other local schools at the Olympic Stadium in Maadi. MES Cairo will have an official team next year that is scheduled to travel and compete in Amman, Jordan in April 2013.

One of the school's major projects this summer is to install a new all weather track surface to replace our current cement and cracked track. This will be a huge jump start to not only the Physical Education classes but for the track team to practice and train on.

Coach Johnson – MES Cairo Athletic Director



GO COUGARS!

The PE and Athletic departments have put on a **NEW FACE** on many of our facilities. Come out and catch the **COUGAR** spirit!



Middle School Football CISSA Championship



The players with their 2nd place banner

with BISC topping the group on goal difference. This meant MES would play the top seed from Group B in the semi-finals – the formidable unit known as El Alsson.

The atmosphere was electric as MES Cairo and El Alsson kicked off for the first time this year. Our opponents quickly established themselves as a force to be reckoned with, threatening the MES goal with an array of powerful and accurate shots. The tactic against this technically strong and physically solid team was to break on the counter attack, and in the second half this is exactly what MES Cairo did, with Omar Sawan (Y9Y) finding himself in a one-on-one situation with the opposition goalkeeper and scoring the game's only goal mid-way through the second half. The goal elicited pure animalism in the celebrations of the MES squad - and coaches!

MES Cairo had reached the final, but with the other semi-final, BISC vs. AIS, being fought down to the wire in extra time the Cougars had no choice but to wait to see who their next opponents would be. Everything was looking good for MES Cairo, at this stage the only undefeated side in the tournament. As AIS defeated BISC with a handful of clinical penalties after extra time the MES players and coaches watched from the sidelines and observed that although AIS had undergone a long, tiring, arduous slog in order to reach the final, they should not be underestimated.

As the ball was placed on the centre spot for the 2012 CISSA Championship Final the atmosphere was palpable. The weeks of hard work and commitment from the players and coaches had culminated in this special game. MES Cairo had reached the final, an achievement that certainly couldn't be grumbled at, but the Cougars were hungry.

The opening exchanges were fraught with tension, with MES Cairo enjoying the majority of the possession but unable to break through the watertight defensive barricades of AIS. Then our opponent's tactics became all too clear as AIS broke on the counter-attack and scored late in the first half.

With little left to lose at half time, the MES coaches decided on a more attacking strategy for the second half, but the AIS rearguard again proved impenetrable and our opponents scored another two counter-strike goals in quick succession to all but seal the CISSA Championship.

The final whistle blew, the players shook hands, the MES Cougars had suffered their only defeat of the season, but spirits were still high as our players lifted the 2nd place banner aloft, a symbol of the determination, unity and positive attitude shown by the MES Cairo Middle School Football Squad this season.

Mr. M. Coolin and Mr. D. El-Hoss - Middle School Football Coaches

Saturday 5th May saw the culmination of the Middle School football season: The CISSA Championship at Choueifat 6th of October. Our MES Cairo Cougars were entering the tournament fresh off the back of a 6-2 victory at NCBIS, but the players were well aware that the seven other teams in attendance today would be physically and mentally prepared for this gruelling tournament. The CISSA Championship is not to be taken lightly.

The whistle blew for the first game in Group A, MES vs. CAC, and within moments Mohy Abou-Alam (Y9G) of MES scored a beautiful header from a corner, exactly as had been drilled for in training. Omar El Saeed (Y9R) followed up with another first-half effort, sweeping the ball across the keeper to enable MES to take a 2-0 lead into half time. The Cougars were met with a rejuvenated CAC team in the second half but still managed to hang on until the end for the victory.

Buoyed by a strong opening performance, the MES Cougars looked confident as they entered the second group game against the much-touted BISC team. There ensued a gritty end-to-end encounter, with neither team able to break the deadlock in this 0-0 draw.

Joint top of the group and certainly not downhearted, MES Cairo looked skilled and powerful against NCBIS, quickly accruing a 2-0 lead through goals from Mohy Abou-Alam (Y9G) and Omar Aref (Y9R). Although the Cougars always looked like scoring a third it was NCBIS who replied with an eleventh-hour penalty to make the final score 2-1.

With all three group games over MES Cairo were level on points with BISC,



The Middle School Football Squad



Mr. El Hoss gives some valuable advice



MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS FOOTBALL – DEVELOPING SKILLS FOR LIFE!

Football is a game that always changes – no single game is the same. As a result, everyone who plays needs to learn to cope with the different scenarios that happen on and off the football pitch.

What was apparent from the first training session for girl's middle school football is that we had a squad of players that were ready to learn. A squad of thirty girls arrived at training on a regular basis, intent on improving as football players. The plan for us as coaches was to improve the girls' footballing technique, focusing on control, passing, movement and teamwork. We also wanted to improve the fitness levels of the girls with a focus on teaching them the importance of exercise as well as maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

This group of players were committed. We ran two coaching sessions each week. On Sundays we focused on fitness, while on Tuesdays we worked on our ball skills. Needless to say – the hard work paid off, and by the time we had to pick a team ready for our Cairo tournament we felt we had a group of players that could have a major impact on the competition.

In the pre-season friendly games we lost our first game 4-1 against NCBIS, and then lost narrowly 2-0 in a more improved performance against CAC. However, similar to this season's Newcastle United team having also lost all their preseason games, the response from the players was magnificent!

The day of the tournament arrived – even though superstar defender Mahira Ahmed was unavailable to play, all the girls had hopes of doing well in the tournament. However, after the first five minutes MES Cairo were three goals down – and although they then had several chances, the girls were unable to beat CAC's goalkeeper.

'There is nothing better than adversity. Every defeat, every heartbreak, every loss, contains its own seed, its own lesson on how to improve your performance the next time.' (Malcolm X)

We talked about the CAC game and decided that the intensity of the last match wasn't high enough. Our opposition in the next match were local rivals AIS, who had also narrowly lost, meaning that if either team lost this game, they would be knocked out of the tournament. However, we need not have worried as MES dominated the game from the first kick to the last. Nour Jaouda and Mariam El Whash dominated the midfield, winning the ball, and allowing wingers Nouran Jaouda and Mirna Youssef to get crosses in. This resulted in some great service being supplied to Farah Faidi and new grade 7 star striker Rozan Saber who finished the game with a hat trick. By half time the girls were four goals up and cruising. More goals were to follow after the break with substitutes Mariam El Gabalawy and Khadiga Wegdan getting stuck into AIS and the defense, coping admirably with any sporadic attacks, were defenders Salma Farouk and Nardeen Massoud. The icing on the cake was a goal made purely by Year and Grade 7s. Mariam El Gabalawy dispossessed an AIS player before finding Rozan Saber in space; she then passed the ball to Khadiga Wegdan who coolly finished past the onrushing goalkeeper.

This result gave MES the confidence they needed, but it was to be severely tested in a winner-takes-all clash against NCBIS. MES had to win, while NCBIS would progress to the semi finals if they got a draw. Having being on the receiving end of a big loss to NCBIS in pre season the girls were determined not to let this happen again, and actually be the ones to win the game. When the game kicked off, MES were the first out of the starting blocks, and played with an aggression and determination that would have left any coach proud. Every player on the pitch out battled their opponents, and a slightly complacent NCBIS did not know what had hit them. Then the moment of the match -- Mirna Youssef battled through



two tackles before smashing the ball past the goalkeeper. MES continued to dominate and were unlucky on several occasions not to score a second. Proof of MES domination was that NCBIS players started dropping like flies, and injuries resulted in less time for them to score. MES saw the game out, getting revenge for the game earlier on in the season and sending them into the semi finals.

The semi final was an extremely close encounter, with the girls losing a tight match to eventual winners BISC. Semi finals in all competitions are often decided on which teams start the fastest. Unfortunately fatigue after the two games MES had played previously seemed to set in, and BISC got the all important first goal. A second goal from the penalty spot soon followed leaving the MES girls with a mountain to climb. What followed was a very open game with both teams having chances. Sadly the prolific strike force could not find a way through a stubborn BISC defense.

The sign on of good team is the ability to bounce back. The MES girls played Chouiffet 6th October in the 3/4 place play off. The girls survived an early scare when Chouiffet were awarded yet another penalty. However, goalkeeper Laura Sakran made a phenomenal save, before kicking the ball straight up front for Farah Faidei to score. It was an amazing piece of goalkeeping by the MES number 1, and testimony to the practice she has put in with the assistance of Miss Quarin and Mr Perry. The game finished well with MES scoring another beautifully crafted goal scored by Grade 7 sensation and tournament top scorer Rozan Saber.

Captain Mariam El Whash deservedly collected the third place banner on behalf of MES. What this tournament does show us is that there is a core of players not only in the tournament squad, but all who trained twice a week that will be fiercely competing for places on both the Middle School, and Junior Varsity squads next year. With a bit of luck and more skill development next year let us hope that coaches Quarin and Perry can build on what has been a very promising year for Middle School girls' football. What we can say as coaches is that we are extremely proud of the attitude and dedication shown by all players, and thank them for this!

Mr. P. McTigue and Ms. L. Quarin - Middle School Girls Football Coaches



SPORTSDESK

MIDDLE SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

This year we had a new MES Cairo volleyball squad that formed the Middle School team. We trained from March to May.

We had three matches in the run up to the CISSA tournament. The first two matches were against AIS and Choueifat, who both proved to be very experienced and well-established teams. This was an excellent opportunity for our team to compete at a very good level. This paid off in our third match against AISE where our team won the game two sets to zero!

Finally the CISSA tournament arrived. A squad of eight girls represented MES Cairo, playing the best volleyball teams in the city. The team spirit and determination to do as well as possible kicked in and although we lost our first game to AIS, we had them worried! The squad held their own and played some amazing volleyball. Playing Choueifat set us up for a final match against BISC where the team fought hard to achieve victory and win the game.

The squad came in at 6th place in the tournament having battled El Alsson for the playoffs. Well done to all involved!

The Team: Nour Mashour (Y9R) Captain, Yasmine Refaie (Y9R), Youssra Khatib (Y9Y), Nardine Massoud (G9G), Aliaa Mazhar (Y8R), Yasmeine Soliman (Y8R), Farida Seodi (Y7R), Mariam Gabalawi (G7G), Mahira Ahmed (G9G) and Merna Youssef (Y9R)



GIRLS FOOTBALL

2011-2012 – DREAM TEAM



Roseanna Lawandi
G12B
(V Goalkeeper)



Salma Farouk Y8Y
(MS Right Defence)



Ingie Enan G10R
(V Centre Defence)



Amina Gafaar Y11R
(JV Centre Defence)



Nada Ibrahim G11G
(V Left Defence)



Bana Al Bitar G10B
(JV Right Midfield)



Engi Jaouda G11V
(JV Centre Midfield)



Nour Jaouda Y9Y
(MS Centre Midfield)



Alia Elkhadem G11G
(V Left Midfield)



Habiba Ibrahim G11O
(JV Centre Forward)



Farah Faihdi Y8R
(MS Centre Forward)



ATHLETIC BANQUET 2011-2012



This year's Athletic Banquet was held on 30th May at the Dusit Thani Hotel. It was a celebration of all of the successes of our student athletes and their team participation. It included a dinner, a special appearance and talk from Ali Abou Greisha, a famous Egyptian National Football player, followed by the Team and Award presentations. 2011-2012 was a very successful year with many of our teams taking championships at both CISSA and ISAC tournaments as well as finishing in the top two or three in most. This year was truly part of our MES Cairo tradition of Excellence. Special thanks goes out to the administration staff for all of their support throughout the year; Vivian Monir for her help in securing and arranging the banquet, Randa Ashour and

the entire accounting office for their help in purchasing the awards and presents, and to all of the athletes and coaches that made this year such a fantastic success.

The Awards

Most Improved

Mohamed Wegdan Sayer Dayer (G12O)
Engi Jaouda (G11V)

Most Inspirational

Amr Morsi (G10Y)
Mahira Ahmed (G9Y)

Rookie of the Year

Mohamed El-Refaiee (G12O)
Alia Elkhadem (G11G)

Cougar Award

Nour Hussein (G11G)
Bana El Bitar (G10B)

Senior Athletes of the Year

Hussein Houta (Y12Y)
Guilia Ramandan (DP12R)

Athletic Director's Coach of the Year

Mr. Paul McTigue

Goals for the 2012-2013 year will be to introduce Water Polo, integrate Rugby into our current athletic leagues and develop Golf, Track and Field, and possibly Cross Country. Our athletic schedule for next year includes hosting JV Football and Basketball, and traveling to Beirut for Varsity Football, to Kuwait for Varsity Basketball, and to Amman for Track and Field. Our Middle School football teams will also compete in the ISAC tournament in Cairo. We are also looking to take many of our other teams to Portugal, Prague, and to Germany. A great year for MES Cairo Athletics!

Students will be met with a new Athletic Honor Code in Term One that will for the first time connect success in the classroom with their participation on the athletic field or court. The track will be resurfaced over the summer as will the floor in the Sports Hall. These two major projects will definitely light the COUGAR spirit come September.

GO COUGARS!

Coach Johnson – Athletic Director



MES CAIRO ACHIEVERS

Darcy Tomlinson Y5B – He's Harry Potter mad!

Darcy started reading the first Harry Potter book last August whilst on holiday in England - at first he found it quite tough going and would get an adult to re-read chapters to him to increase his level of understanding. By about chapter 5 though, he was off and running! Since then he has devoured all the Harry Potter books and the increasing length and complexity of the stories has not fazed him. He will often spend two solid hours glued to his book. Recently he finished the 7th and final book – 'The Deathly Hallows'. So, in seven short months he has read the whole saga and greatly improved his reading ability in the process. He also has the DVD box set of all eight films – but he only watches the film when he has finished the book! Darcy keeps himself busy with loads of sporting activities both in and out of school – but he always has time for reading. The only problem is: now that he has finished the Harry Potter saga, what is he going to read next!

Well done, Darcy! The MES Library is always stocked up with great reads for our book worms. We look forward to more recommendations and want to know what you will read next!



Alfie Tomlinson Y1R – He's still football and Tae Kwon Do crazy!

In a recent Messenger article, Alfie was celebrated as an MES Cairo achiever for his sporting exploits both on the football field and in the Tae Kwon Do dojo. Since then, Alfie has gone from strength to strength.

He finished the football season with an amazing 23 goals and his team, Al Korom, won the gold medal in the end of season tournament, winning all four of their matches! In the dojo, Alfie was recently awarded a green belt after a highly focused test. Captain Moyaser was very impressed with his performance!

Go, Alfie! We look forward to seeing you wearing the black belt very soon!



LIFE IN PRIMARY IS GOING SWIMMINGLY!

As everyone knows, the Term Three is the term for swimming in the Primary Department. As the heat gets up in Egypt, we all need to cool off and get involved in swimming lessons. The children are taught all the technical points to the different strokes, pool safety, life-saving drills and general water confidence. All students end with an assessment and if they attend most of the lessons they can achieve a level as well as a bronze, silver or gold certificate. The determination the children show is amazing! The children that take part in out-of-school lessons have impressed the whole PE department and the class teachers by showing us how advanced they are. In Egypt it is swimming weather all year round and so it would be great to hear and see that more Primary children are taking swim lessons outside of school to help them work towards being part of the BSME team and getting their gold certificate.

Mr. M. Cox - Head of Primary PE



New Additions to the MES Cairo Family

Mr. and Mrs. Byrne's miracle baby!

This term, Sally and Pete Byrne had a baby boy called Finlay. He arrived into this world five weeks early! The couple were in Ain Sokhna for the day thinking they would be safe to spend a day at the beach, as the due date was still five weeks away! When they arrived in Sokhna Mrs. Byrne went into labour and the doctor advised the Byrnes to drive straight back to Cairo. Luckily, a friend of theirs was at the hotel and had a car. They tried to make it back to Cairo but they only got about 1 km down the road when Finlay decided he didn't want to wait another two hours and he was ready to join his parents there and then. They had to pull over and Mr. Byrne had to deliver the baby himself - in the back of the car! IT was quite amazing! They then drove on to the hospital. Finlay was born early and so was very small and was kept in observation because he had a lot of fluid on his chest and he was suffering with a little hypothermia, which was making his feet and hands purple. His sugar levels were also low. They gave him glucose which soon fixed his sugar levels. They suctioned his chest and they kept him well-wrapped up to get his temperature up. Finlay is now doing fine and will always have this remarkable story to tell about his incredible birth!

Mrs. Dajani was delighted and delighted that Finlay and his parents managed to get over this experience and deliver the baby so well and she did everything possible to help them recover and help them organise the baby's birth certificate and other papers – which are much easier for parents to arrange when babies are not in such a rush and are born in hospitals!

Mr. Byrne told the MESsenger: "I can't thank Mrs. Dajani enough for the support and assistance she provided after Finlay's sudden arrival. I also want to take this opportunity to publicly thank Emad and Nasser from the transport department, whose help and patience registering Finlay's birth was invaluable. They treated me like a brother. Thank you all once again."

Congratulations to the Byrne family from your family here at MES Cairo.



Mrs. Singleton travels across the world to deliver her baby girl

Luckily for Mrs. Singleton, her little girl did arrive close to her due date as she travelled for 32 hours all the way across the globe to deliver her baby in New Zealand. Kenzi Amgad Shaalan was born on 20th March. Her proud father Amgad and delighted big brother Zain were there to help welcome her into the world. Amazingly, Mrs. Singleton was back at MES Cairo leading the British and IB schools within 3 weeks of the birth.

Congratulations to the Mrs. Singleton, Amgad and Zain - what a beautiful addition to the MES Cairo family!



International Award 2011-12

Report by Mr. James Crabb – IA Coordinator

Studiis Gubernatio!

It has been another busy year for the International Award at MES Cairo with a large number of students from both American and British Sections aged fourteen and above participating in the Award program.

Modern English School Cairo is an approved Independent Operator for the International Award. This prestigious award has been in existence for the last fifty years, and is recognised in over 120 countries around the world, with thousands of young people from all walks of life participating in it every year. The Award concept is one of individual challenge designed to encourage young people to develop into responsible, active citizens who will positively contribute towards society.

Participants complete four main activity sections: Service, Skill, Physical Recreation, and an Adventurous Journey. It is the Adventurous Journey which many participants find enjoyable and which also presents the biggest challenge for them. This year all the MES Cairo Adventurous Journeys took place in the Wadi Degla Protectorate, an area of natural beauty on the edge of Maadi. Although it is very close to the huge metropolis of Cairo, this is a desert environment which extends over a massive area, with countless mountains and canyons that are far from easy to navigate. To really explore some of these areas on foot a person needs to be well prepared, both with equipment and skills.

Typical Schedule for a Bronze Level Adventurous Journey

Day 1: Friday

8am	Arrive in school – equipment issue / pack rucksacks – weight: maximum of quarter of the carrier's bodyweight – equivalent to carrying a 4-year-old child around on your back for a whole day!
9am	Arrive in Wadi Degla Protectorate – Team brief to go over the Route Plan which was made earlier in the week – Set off hiking!
3.30pm	Day's hiking completed – at least 10km covered in wilderness carrying a full rucksack! Return to school to set up camp
4.00pm - 7.00pm	Setting up tents, cooking an evening meal, wash and relax
7.00 pm - 9.00pm	Review the day's journey and turn in Route Cards to Coordinator. Plan the next day's journeying. First Aid Training.
9.00pm - 10.30pm	Make a camp fire and toast some marshmallows!
11pm	In the tents and lights out!

Day 2: Saturday

6.00 am	Wake, wash, eat! Take down camp and pack rucksacks.
9am	Arrive in Wadi Degla Protectorate. Team brief to go over the Route Plan which was made the night before. Set off hiking!
3.30pm	Another day's hiking completed – at least another 10 km walked! Return to school and hand in equipment.
4.00pm	Home for a hot bath, a good meal, and a real bed!

For the Adventurous Journey section of the Award it is necessary to do at least one Practice Journey before tackling a final Assessed Journey. Participants will have also completed necessary training in navigation, first aid, risk awareness, and equipment use.

During the Practice Journey teaching staff are on hand to assist the teams with map reading and navigation and to deal with equipment issues, as well as coach the team if they need help with their decision making skills. On the Assessed Journey the teams are entirely independent; they must be able to navigate the route together as a group and make it back to the finish point by the agreed time. Staff observe the teams from a distance, being on hand in case of emergencies, or to intervene if a team becomes lost or gives up. For the Bronze level they Journey lasts at least two days and one night. For Silver it is three days and two nights.



Mr. Prebble, Ms. Kasper and Dakota



Grade Ten



Ms. McCall and Youssef Sabry



Fatma Abou Hendia and Habiba Omar prepare dinner



Map and Compass



Alaa El Nisr admires the beauty of the Wadi



The Bronze Group

'Other than preparing our food, equipment and clothing, my group and I also had to be familiar with the route and know our regard compass bearings, distance, and timing. We used Naismith's Rule to help us (it takes approximately twenty minutes to walk one kilometer carrying a full backpack). Having a map and compass with us through the journey was very helpful because every time we thought we were lost we used them to go back in the correct direction.' **Diala Nabih (G120)**

The hardest part for the teams, which consist of between four and seven participants, is definitely the afternoon of the second day when fatigue sets in and it becomes harder



Camping fun



Ms. Downey and Heidi El Ogeil

to concentrate on navigation and more difficult to communicate with other members of the team. This is the time when real leadership emerges among the teams and participants step up and take responsibility for their team. Often teams will share leadership tasks, with one person motivating and encouraging and another navigating, while another records the route taken.

'When the follower becomes the leader! On the first day I wasn't bothered to make an effort as another person was good at reading the map and compass; as a result, I fully relied on him to lead the way which got us lost more than five times. The second day, he didn't accompany us on the journey. This is when I realized that I had to step up, when I had no idea what to do. However, I surprised myself and my teammates when I was able to read the map perfectly and precisely and we didn't get lost once. This is when I became the leader rather than the follower. I learnt that when I'm put in a situation where I have to step up I do it without any hesitation; however when there is someone that can also do it I tend to leave it for them to lead us. What I'm taking out of this journey is that I will always step up because I am able to do it, and not to be lazy.' **Malak Shash (G12B)** - an excerpt from her Adventurous Journey review



Navigation



Mr. Crabb works out which way up the map goes



Putting up a tent

A successful journey will be one in which the team returns tired, but safe and smiling at the end of the day by the agreed time. This will have been the result of sound planning, good teamwork, sufficient skill, adequate equipment, and an appropriate level of fitness. It is also essential that each team member looks after themselves properly; that means eating energy-giving food, drinking enough water, and wearing comfortable footwear, sunglasses, a hat and sunscreen. In the desert environment dehydration can quickly make a person fatigued, disorientated and unable to function as a team member.



Sticking together



Teamwork



Scouting the route ahead



The Garde and Year Nine boys strike out

Riyana Jaber (Y10Y) shares some of her memorable moments:

- 'Sitting cosy in bright pyjamas, roasting marshmallows on a fire with friends , laughing and telling jokes.
- A funny moment was when my rucksack had broken on the first day, at the beginning of our journey. We had to keep fixing it which was rather annoying, but still funny.
- Climbing mountains, walking for miles, and singing while walking to keep the momentum going.
- Getting lost a few times, wanting help from teachers e.g. Mr Prebble when we passed him on a number of occasions with his dog, Dakota, but finally figuring out in the end where we were.'

Alaa El Nisr (Y10B) also shares some her memorable moments:

- 'Eating the worst pasta ever, but eating it because we wanted to make the team member who cooked it feel good
- Friends talking in their sleep in the tent
- The tent falling down during the night'

The completion of the Adventurous Journey is a mixture of relief and happiness. The challenges participants face are very real and very tough, but the rewards are great – knowing that at any time you could have just stopped and given up but you didn't – you kept on going. This kind of activity helps build character and self-confidence, attributes essential for the young leaders we are developing here at Modern English School Cairo. As the school motto says: 'Studiis Gubernatio'. Translated from Latin this means 'Leadership Through Education'.

'International Award is one of the few things where you can be in pain but still be laughing and having a good time. We made amazing memories and I definitely want to go on expedition again next year.' **Kamal Abdel-Ghani (Y11R)**

The Adventurous Journey activities would not have been possible without the continued dedication of staff members who have regularly given up their weekends to support the International Award programme: Ms. Christine Downey, Ms. Rebecca Kasper, Mr. Matthew Prebble, Ms. Gail Cornish, Ms. Rachel McCall, Ms. Nadia Shanab and Ms. Philipa Needham.

To find out more about the International Award for Young People visit www.intaward.org

Mr. James Crabb - International Award Coordinator



Leading the way



Team spirit



Wide open spaces



Which way now



Ms.Needham feels the cold



Yasmeen still smiling after 5 kilometers



The flag



Grade 12 IA class Navigation Practice Day

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION



Zein Dakrouri G11 IA with Year Six Art group

The International Award Class for Grade 11 & 12 American Section students is an elective course built around the core values and skills found in the International Award program. The central focus of the course is developing leadership potential.

Students have been finding out about the main styles of leadership, researching well-known leaders, and also analyzing and interviewing leaders that they know personally. Students now recognise that learning to lead is a life-long process and that leadership as a concept comes in many forms and exists in many walks of life.

Having completed a comprehensive analysis and summary of their own leadership style and capabilities students went on to devise and deliver activities to teams of younger students in the Primary Section. These included coaching cookery, sports, art, music, dance and drama; as well as academic support sessions.

These multiple opportunities to be part of a team, to be the designated leader of a team and also to step up and assume leadership in a variety of situations, have enabled students to acquire a significant degree of self-knowledge. Following the International Award method of “Plan – Do – Review” they are now able to pinpoint areas for their own personal growth and development, and so be better prepared for the next step on their personal leadership journey.

‘Being put in a position where I had to make decisions that would affect others gave me a much greater sense of maturity and responsibility.’ Amina El Khadem (G11V).

I started out wondering how I would be able to teach the younger students but the big surprise was that I actually came out of this experience having learned a lot from them.’ Zein Dakrouri (G11O).

Mr. J. Crabb - IA Coordinator



SNAPSHOTS

Photography grows from strength to strength at MES Cairo
Grade 12 Photography: **American Section**



Allia Sallam 'Boy Blowing Bubbles'



Nouh Khafif AP work



Farida Ghamrawy 'Rembrandt'



Saif El Deeb Textured - 'Bader Mahasneh'



Hussein Assem 'Light Racing'



Moataz Abbas 'Flying Hussein'



Nada Khalil 'Wow'

Photography is offered as an elective in the American Section at MES. Over forty students in the class of 2011/2012 enrolled for this class which aims to produce students confident in the use of a Digital Single Lens Reflex camera (DSLR). In addition they are encouraged to acquire a solid grounding in photographic concepts and techniques, and to create a portfolio of work that can be used to apply for study at a higher level, or to be published on a photographic website.



Farida Abou Hendia 'Water Balloon'



Malak Shash 'Framing'



Omar Refaie



Nahed Nabil



Omar Ahmed 'Sea of Souls'



Omar Ahmed 'Super Power'



Nada Khalil 'Secrets'



Saif El Deeb 'Simplicity'

This work on show in this year's Whole School Art Exhibition gave viewers an insight into the various assignments covered by the Photography students and what they have learned, as well showcasing some of the many fantastic images that they produced during the course of their studies.

Featured Photographer: Nouh Khafif (G12)

Continuing the MES Cairo tradition of developing leaders, Nouh Khafif is the first student at MES to submit purely photographic portfolios for the American High School Advance Placement Program, under the category of 2D Studio Design. His example has led the way for other senior students to consider photography as a serious option for their Advanced Placement portfolios.



Safey Sallam by Nouh Khafif



Alia AbdelRazek by Nouh Khafif



Hussien Houta by Nouh Khafif



Karin Hatem by Nouh Khafif

Nouh really took advantage of the studio lighting equipment acquired by the school this year. Inspired by the American photographer Scott Kelby he shot a series of superb portraits of fellow students. This project evolved into Nouh taking portraits of every senior and then using Adobe Photoshop's Liquify Tool to transform each into a hilarious caricature.

Nouh also produced some very creative images under the title of 'Levitation Photography'. In these illusions a person appears to be floating freely without any means of support. A high level of skill and organization is required to prepare and light the model and the scene, as well as in processing the images in adobe Photoshop. These images really demonstrate the degree of professionalism which Nouh has attained through his hard work and dedication.



Nouh Khafif - Portrait



Nouh Khafif - Portrait



Nouh Khafif - Portrait



Nouh Khafif 'The ONE !'



Nouh Khafif - Portrait

Photography ASA



Child Selling Postcards in Jordan by Merve Constantini



Those Little Nimble Creatures of the Air by Michael Constantini



Sara Mattar G8R



Hassan Hegazy G12V Rembrant Lighting portrait of Merve Constantini



Nada Sherdy G10Y

A number of students between Year and Grade seven through Eleven take the opportunity to enjoy Photography as an After School Activity. Some of these students took part in the whole school Art Exhibition this year: Sara Mattar (G8R), Nada Sherdy (G10Y), Nour El Haddad (G10B) and Peter Mina (DP11R). There are also several talented photographers among the staff at

MES Cairo. This year Mr. Constantini inspired ASA students with his own fantastic images and regularly shared his knowledge and expertise with them. Mr. Constantini's wife, Merve, is also a

gifted photographer and was a frequent visitor to Grade 12 Photography classes this year, where she too passed on her unique experience and understanding of photography to the students.

Featured Photographer: Khaled Samy

Khaled Samy Grade 10 is another of MES's talented young photographers. He regularly gave his time to work with younger students in the Photography ASA. In addition this year, Khaled became the first student at MES to become the Official Sports Photographer for MES Cougars, regularly giving up his time to cover the sporting events in which MES teams participated.



Khaled Samy G10 Official Cougars Photographer

Sports Photography

Khaled also supervised a team of 8 official Sports Day Photographers, who were each assigned to a House to ensure an even coverage and a variety of shots over the two day event. Students selected and edited their images which were then collated and organized by Khaled. The final selections can easily be accessed by Heads of House and used for publicity and display.



Eliana Fleifel G11

Sports Day Photographers:

Bana El Bitar (G10B)
Tamer Madbouly (Y10R)
Nour Mashhour (Y9R)
Shahd El degwi (Y9B)
Nada Sherdy (G10Y)
Eliana Fleifel (G110)
Sara Mattar (G8R)
Mohamed Kouta (Y10R)
Mr. J. Crabb – Secondary Art and Photography and IA Coordinator



'Nada Sherdy' G10 by Eliana Fleifel G11



Khaled Samy



Khaled Samy G10



Mohamed Kouta

Doing something **MAD** for **MADE!**

MES Cairo Hair Dare



March 2012 saw the very first MES Cairo 'Hair Dare'. Five students (and one teacher!) took part by all agreeing to do something MAD with their hair on the condition that sponsorship and donations would be given to charity by the students watching. The event took place in the Secondary Yard and all the students sat nervously

on the stage awaiting their turn with the barber.

As a Student Mentor to Grade Seven Green, Seif Abdel-Ghaffar of DP12Y, has developed a close relationship with the class and they dared him to cut his hair for charity. When he saw that in one week they had raised 1,500LE he couldn't say no! Seif was the first student to receive a trim and he was all smiles as the clippers started. Haircut complete, Seif said he was glad to have raised so much money for charity, but was looking forward to having his hair grow back!

Brothers Yassin Helmy in G9G and Omar Helmy in G7B were up next. Both brothers could be easily recognized by their

dark curls, but not for much longer. In a wonderful move for charity, both decided that they would have their heads shaved. As the hair came off though, their smiles remained. Feeling a cool breeze on his head, Omar jumped up to see his new look for himself. After a quick gasp of realisation that this was the shortest he'd ever had his hair he settled in to his new style and remained happy to know that so much money had been raised for MADE.

I did something **MAD** for **MADE!**



Nadim Gergis (G12)



Nour Al-Serw (G12)



Omar Helmy (G7B)



Seif Abdel-Ghaffar (DP12)



Yassin Helmy (G9G)

While all this was going on Nadim Gergis (G12), was having his hair styled by the very able Fareeda El Tohamy (G12). Nadim's recognisable hair style was turning into another well-known look; that of Justin Beiber! With care and attention Nadim's hair was straightened much to the delight of the watching crowd. This 'dare' was also much to the delight of the charities MES Cairo supports as all money raised through sponsorship pledges and donations would be going to MADE.



It was a more collaborative effort for the last two 'dares' as Nour el Serw (G12), who had been growing his hair for the occasion, met with Ms. Flake and her scissors and came off with a new look. Ms. Flake discovered a new talent as she shaved Nour's head, ably assisted by Mr. Tomlin. Mr. Roodvoets was willing to do something MAD too, as he auctioned off the opportunity to cut his hair to the highest bidder. As History students poured around him awaiting their turn to cut, the pledges kept coming in.



A huge 'thank you' goes out to everyone who took part in the Hair Dare event – we would not have raised over 3,000LE for MADE without these six willing volunteers!

Mrs. A. Allsop – MADE Coordinator



FOOTBALL FUNDAY 2012

Top teams and Fantastic fundraising!



All kitted out



Fantastic T-shirts



Warming up

that everyone was able to enjoy the day. Ezzeldin Dabb (G12B), was Team Manager for team Benz who told the MESsenger: 'Ezz was really good as our Team Manager. He knew how to organize our team and he gave everyone a fair chance to play'.

Overseeing 'fair play' in the tournament was Ms. Rebecca Kasper. She was ably assisted by a team of ten referees who all represent MES Cairo at Varsity level. This year saw extra time being played in two matches during the knock-out stage. Mohamed Refai (G12B) was Team Manager of El Bakabortat, and he was keen to move to penalties when ten minutes of extra-time had been played in the boy's competition semi-final. With an eye on the next match (the final), a decision was made to have 'sudden death' penalties as both teams were tiring in the heat and didn't want this to affect their performance in the final. After a tense few penalty kicks, team El Bakabortat made it through to the final, leaving Team Manager Peter Mina (DP11Y) consoling his team, El Ahly, who had put in an excellent performance throughout the competition.



Benz - Football Funday Champions!



Pink - Football Funday Champions!



Funday trophies



Seriously Fun!



Team play!



Strategising



It was a fun Football Funday!

Mahmoud Shabba (Y7B) says that, 'The biggest challenge of the tournament were some of the rules. We weren't allowed high balls or allowed in to the penalty box.' For a few players though, this challenge was too much and this led to a sending-off in the final. Next year a 'Fair Play' award is planned for the tournament, to reward the team that demonstrates the most positive attitude towards others.

When it came to keeping players and supporters well fed and watered, Suliema Benhalim and Sohayla Helal (DP11Y) made it look all too easy. They came well prepared with supplies of home-baked goods ranging from cheese sticks to brownies that covered the Food Stall table almost to bursting point. It didn't stop there, as they also managed the distribution of 75 pizzas and 150 bottles of water to everyone taking part in the event. The Food Stall managed to raise nearly 2,000LE; a significant contribution to Adopt A School and to the hungry mouths of the players and supporters.

In the finals El Bakabortat would face Benz for the boy's trophy and Pink would face Love Life in the girl's competition. Even though Pink had faced Love Life earlier in the day, Farah Faidhi, Team Captain for Pink was not going to let her eye off the prize for one minute as she set her players out on the pitch. It was a similar situation for Benz, who had faced their opposition in the group stages of the event. They told the MESsenger that, 'Going in to the final we had a lot of confidence, even though we were the younger team. Because we had played them before we knew their players and how they would play. We kept thinking: *We can win this.*'

All of the supporters were standing on the side-lines as the finals played out. One told the MESsenger, 'Even though I wasn't playing myself I wanted to support my friends, so of course I came along.' As the final whistle blew it was Benz and Pink who walked off with a 150LE bake sale voucher and an amazing trophy. Adopt A School was the real winner though, with nearly 10,000LE being raised from this single event.

Thank you to Ms. Kasper, Ms. Cornish, Mr. El-Hoss and Mr. Perry for helping to run the event and to Mr. Coolin, Ms. Dahlstom and Ms. Spencer for supporting the teams on the day. Thank you also to all Team Managers, Referees and organisers in DP11, Year 11, Grade 11 and Grade 12.

Mrs. A. Allsop - MADE Charity Events Coordinator



Tense moments



May the best team win!



Great games



Preparing for Football Fun



Team talk!



Teamwork!



We have to beat them...



Waiting for the fun to begin



Fun day skill



Team T-shirts



Drama on the pitch



Team effort

Senior Trip 2012



Barcelona and the Costa Dorada proved to be a most intriguing venue for the Senior Trip of 2012. The history and culture of Catalonia mixed with the "high adventure" of sophisticated shopping and exploring the lively street scene of La Rambla in Barcelona, combined with the serenity of the hillside monastery of Montserrat and the lovely seaside of Sitges ensured a true taste of this extraordinary part of Spain. This land of great natural beauty enthralled us with its stories: stories and struggles that spawned magnificent art and architecture, and bred

such genius as Antonio Gaudi and Pau Casals. From tango to tapas, from seashore to stadium, we breathed in the air of Catalonia and found it truly mesmerising!

Ms C. Spencer – Principal American Section

Moataz says...

Barcelona, Spain was the destination we chose as seniors for our senior trip. Our decision paid off as it was the best week of our lives. We had anticipated the trip for so long that when we actually arrived it took us a while to believe we were there. Barcelona is a multi-cultural city

with many things to do and several places to visit. During our trip we also visited both Sitges and Tarragona, two small towns beside Barcelona, which were full of Roman ruins and lovely sites that we couldn't have missed.

Upon our arrival at the hotel, we had free time to explore the city and get used to our new surroundings. We had dinner at night with the group and enjoyed Barcelona's famous seafood.

On the second day, we visited the gothic sector of the city, exploring the amazing gothic architecture and getting a feel of what it was like to live there back in the old times.

On "Gaudi Day" we were given a briefing from our tour guides on who Gaudi is. He is a very famous artist who is known for the construction of the Sagrada Familia Church. I have to admit we were not excited about visiting a church as we thought that would be ordinary but we were proven wrong. When we arrived there we were amazed by what we saw, a tremendous structure with fine details designed by Gaudi. Due to its greatness, UNESCO has adopted it as a world heritage site. After that we went to the Camp Nou, FC Barcelona's famous home. The venue is the home to one of the biggest clubs in the world, with a capacity of 115,000 seats. We explored all aspects of the stadium, passing by the dressing rooms and the church the players gather in before a game. Most importantly we took a picture alongside the Champions League trophy!

On our next day, we went up Montserrat to the fascinating Benedictine monastery. We listened to the wonderful choir and enjoyed the rest of the day on the mountains. We then went to Sitges, a city located thirty minutes away from Barcelona to enjoy the last two days of our trip. The hotel we stayed in was amazing, with a tremendous view of the sea. Our tour guides organised a scavenger hunt around the city that was really challenging and exciting. A highlight of our two-day stay there was the Tango dancing lessons we received. This was one of the best activities we enjoyed on our trip; I can't forget the teachers laughing at our awful attempts at dancing.

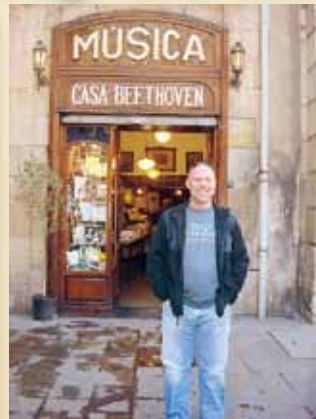
Lastly, I would like to thank all our chaperones, Ms. Spencer, Mr. Tomlin, Mr. Roodvoets, Mr. O'Connell, Mr. Garnet and Ms. Flake for such a wonderful week. We would like to give special thanks to Ms. Flake who dedicated so much of her time to organise our senior trip.

Adios amigo!

Moataz El Sherbini - Grade 12 Blue



Senior Trip 2012



Malak says...

As a group, we've been waiting for our senior trip for years now! As it approached us we started imagining how it would all go and it would be perfect in our minds. However, it was nothing like we had imagined, because reality was so much better. Countless memories were created as soon as we all met up at the airport in Egypt. Everyone couldn't stop smiling and the excitement was overwhelming. The school created a great schedule that balanced time between sight-seeing and free time. I had visited Barcelona before but the tour the school arranged for us made me see the city from a whole new perspective.

We were staying in a hotel on the famous street, Las Ramblas. On our first day, we were given free time to get to know the area we were in. At night we all went out as a group for dinner and experienced Barcelona's delicious seafood.

On our second day we explored the gothic culture and architecture in Barcelona. We also visited the longest bench in the world that has an amazing view of the city.

On our third day, we saw inspiring architecture created by Antoni Gaudi - which was the majority of Barcelona- and learned a lot about his life. However, the most luxurious work of Gaudi I saw was the church, Sagrada Familia, the way he was able to incorporate the story of Christianity in to the façade of the church and making it one of the longest churches ever was simply breathtaking to visit. To show how much we were impressed by Gaudi's work we decided to call that day "Gaudi day." After lunch with the group, we visited one of the biggest stadiums in the world, FC Barcelona, we got to see every inch of the stadium; locker rooms, church, trophies...

On our last day in Barcelona, we went to Montserrat to the Benedictine monastery of Santa Maria de Montserrat. We heard the choirboys sing and it was harmonious and we were awed by the innocent and beautiful voices. We also got to ride the teleferic to the top of the mountain where we were able to see the whole city.

We then went to Sitges for two days where we stayed at a hotel by the sea. There, we had the best two events in the whole trip; the scavenger hunt and the tango lessons. The hunt brought our competitive side, all the groups were running around the city asking different questions and taking pictures of different objects just to win the prize. The tango lessons were hilarious as we all miserably failed and had all the teachers laugh at us!

The city was breathtaking and having all my friends by my side made it even more exciting! I got so much closer to my teachers, which added another reason to why I don't my senior year to end. We shared laughter and gained so many memories, and it's all thanks to Ms. Flake for organizing the trip. I couldn't have asked for a better senior trip, it was the best week of our lives!

Malak Shash – Grade 12 Blue



FRENCH TRIP 2012

MES Cairo takes over Normandie!

We gathered early one Sunday morning before most people are out of bed, ready to embark on a long but exciting journey to the beautiful French countryside. After successfully negotiating Cairo traffic and then the airport we touched down in France in the early afternoon. Some of the students assumed that we had arrived but had not counted on the five-hour bus journey to get us from Paris to Normandy. However, with a little persuasion (French sweets from a motorway service station!), we soon arrived in our fantastic chateau which would be our home for the following week.

Once we had settled in our rooms it was time to experience our first taste of French food – something which I had particularly been looking forward to. The lack of chips, ketchup, burgers and other McDonald's type food came as a big shock to us but slowly over the course of a week the students all understood the requirements and culture of food – French style!

There was a small farm on-site with animals; ranging from chickens, and turkeys to horses, goats and guinea pigs. One of our students

+-- found inspiration here and spent most of his free time with the animals, suggesting a possible future as a veterinarian. In fact if ever he was missing when we were counting heads we always knew we could find him chasing an animal of some sort around the grounds of the farm!

Some students (and some staff members!) found it tough getting used to the 'no English' rule during activities but this forced all of us to practice and understand the language and improve our skills. The staff at the chateau were extremely patient with all the students and always ensured that everyone understood what was said before moving on.

Apart from the French lessons, the activities were very wide-ranging and all the students found new skills and sports that they have said they would like to try again in the future. Mahmoud Badawi (G7G) found that he is a modern-day Robin Hood with his amazing skills in archery, Akram El Sakka (Y8B) discovered that his height enabled him to rock-climb quickly and easily, and Laila Ahmed (Y8B) realised that she is virtually unbeatable with a fencing sword.

Over the course of the week, students discovered other talents they had not known about before, made friendships that had previously been missing and discovered and understood a completely different way of life. I am sure that some of these students will be rushing to come along again next year to relive the fun and, in some cases, to form a reunion of the greatest boy band in history. The fantastic band was called 'Un Direction' and to find out more about them, ask Akram El Sakka (Y8B), Khaled Whaleed (Y8R), Kirilous El Gindie (G8B), Mohamed Salama (G8B) or Youssef Harbi (G8Y)!

Mr. J. Shooter – Secondary Humanities



Enjoying the castle's farm



Getting ready for battle



Photogramme



Fencing like a true musketeer



Our lovely group



Le Chateau



Ahmed Radwan at the Goat's cheese farm



Mr. Shooter transformed into Monsieur Shooteur



Modern day Robin Hood?



Norhan scores another Bullseye



Getting lost during orienteering



Le Chateau



Pollux shows us his trick



We had so much fun

WE HAD A WONDERFUL TIME ON THE FRENCH TRIP!



Les escargots!!

Amira Madbouly (Y7R)

"I extremely enjoyed eating snails. They actually taste nice and are not slimy. Compared to last year's trip in Paris, this trip was actually more fun because we did loads of fun activities" Yousef Al Harbi (G8Y)

"I loved fencing because it was fun and exciting." Mohamed Salama (G8R)

"One of the best things on the trip for me was the archery. We had to go deep into the forest to find the archery ground." Mohamed El Digair (Y7B)

"The best thing in the French trip was playing football with Mr. Shooter and the dorm rooms because we spent a lot of time telling jokes to each other. We organised a fun treasure hunt in the forest and of course we got lost for a little while" David Shenouda (Y7B)

"I enjoyed the Photogramme activity. We went out looking for flowers, leaves and branches and arranged them the way we wanted on a piece of special paper. This was done under a dimmed light and then we turned the light on for a couple of seconds and dipped the paper in various chemicals and left it to dry." Yasmine El Shaer (Y8R)

"I enjoyed meeting people from different schools and from different countries." Bahira El Kerdani (Y7R)

"I really enjoyed taking part in the talent show and the disco night."



Coming down...



Going up!



The girls dominated the climbing wall!



Rock-climbing or rope-swinging?



Evening entertainments



Photogramme



Photogramme



Having fun on the French trip!



Le Mont Saint Michel



Exploring the narrow streets of the Mont Saint Michel

MODEL UNITED NATIONS MUN NEWS



Nour gets to learn a traditional Czech dance- I'm sure she'll show us at prom, Prague

'In the 21st century, I believe the mission of the United Nations will be defined by a new, more profound awareness of the sanctity and dignity of every human life, regardless of race or religion.' – Kofi Annan

Model United Nations conferences are an excellent opportunity for MES students to gain life changing experiences. MUN conferences provide students a unique hands-on experience of not only learning about international issues and concerns but also an opportunity to create and debate possible solutions. Students learn the arts of negotiation and compromise while participating in student-led committees that are based on the United Nations example. Interaction with other international students allows an appreciation and understanding of different cultures and perspectives to develop for participants.

This year 39 secondary students have participated in three different MUN conferences: PRAMUN in Prague, Czech Republic, NAIMUN in Washington D.C., USA, and Nevsky MUN in St. Petersburg, Russia. MES students participated in these conferences in a variety of ways including opening speeches, sponsorship of resolutions, and the delivery of persuasive speeches to their fellow delegates. Students also experienced cultural tours

and sight-seeing activities outside of the official conference times which helped to create an understanding of the hosting country and its history.

Thank you to all those students who participated in a MUN conference this year. Through your MUN adventure hopefully you came away with a sense of international empathy, additional knowledge of major issues existing in our world today, ideas on how to peacefully resolve them, and a new appreciation for the cultural experience from your MUN conference country.

Ms. C. Flake - MUN Teacher

'Civilization is the encouragement of differences.' -Mahatma Gandhi



MES student delegation with the Moroccan delegation, Prague



Mohamed needs a power nap at lunch to have energy for more debates, Prague.jpg



Nariman and Nour make a new friend, Prague



Strahov Monastery, Prague

Prague MUN (PRAMUN)

Prague, Czech Republic – January 2012

The MUN conference in Prague was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The knowledge and pleasure I gained from that trip is truly immeasurable. I had the opportunity to meet a diverse array of cultures and the chance to develop a friendship with people from all around the world. I got to participate in a Model UN conference and was able to experience the process of producing solutions to tackle real world problems. I really enjoyed the local cuisine and weather. It was a great trip that developed my academic and social skills. Mohamed El Rifaee (G120)

The MES Cairo MUN class was really looking forward to the Prague MUN conference that took place in January. It was a country we had never visited before and we were all excited to see it for the first time. We met many people



Cultural dancing and singing is always a special treat, Prague



Bana is planning her rebuttal argument, Prague



Omar is convincing another co-submitter, Prague



Church of Our Lady Before Tyn, Prague



St Vitus Cathedral at Prague Castle



Astronomical Clock, Prague

from different countries and learned a lot from our conference. We heard other people's opinions and thoughts about world issues, which was really interesting and insightful. Prague as a whole is also an amazing city. The architecture is very classical and there are not many modern buildings, which is quite unique compared to other cities. It was a trip where we can look back and laugh about funny incidents and interesting comments. Prague will definitely be a trip to remember! **Nour Raslan (G12V)**

North American Invitational Model United Nations (NAIMUN) Washington DC, USA – February 2012



It being my first time in Washington DC, I was nervous yet excited about what the next seven days of the trip would hold. I shopped, I toured, I witnessed, I slipped in the rain, I ate, I laughed, and I socialised! But what I truly cherished the most was my first, unique experience at NAIMUN. Guaranteed, as a group, we were still ignorant about what to expect when we got there. However, as the first committee session commenced and the others followed even more swiftly, I became much more confident with the formality, the friendly delegates and the numerous ideas and speeches that continuously circled the conference room without ceasing to inspire me immensely. It was truly marvelous to have the rare opportunity that MES Cairo provided for me to meet with so many people from around the globe to share such ideas, to mingle, and experience a short yet memorable trip that influenced, inspired, and interested me more than any other trip before. It certainly gave



Mohamed making his final argument before the General Assembly, Prague

me a chance to speak my mind, hear and be heard, enjoy a new culture, and acknowledge the many flaws present in the world that seem to be invisible to most of us in our daily lives. NAIMUN gave me a place in a matter of four conference days that made me trust and believe that I was one of the many special delegates that has a say and a chance to make a change for the better in the large, complicated, imbalanced world of the 21st century. **Eliana Fleifel (G110)**

It was a pleasure this year to travel to Washington DC for the MUN conference. Visiting such a beautiful city was breathtaking and had a lot of history in it; the museums and monuments were very interesting. I personally enjoyed the Smithsonian Museum, since it really showed a vast amount of animal history and air and space travel. The conference itself was well organized and very impressive; there were people from all over the world debating about important current issues. In our committee we researched what the US faced when the war in Afghanistan started. We discussed similar topics that people had to resolve at that time. It was an amazing experience and I would definitely do it again. **Zeyad Samra (G12G)**

On Tuesday evening, we all met at the airport getting ready for our long journey to Washington DC. We were so excited at the beginning but as soon as we arrived there after nearly fourteen hours of flight time and the long seven hour of transit time at Amsterdam, we were desperate to sleep. When we arrived we had dinner and we all raced to beds to get ready for the first day of the MUN conference the following day. The conference was scheduled to start at 5:00 pm so Ms. McCall took us to visit the Air and Space Museum and the Art Gallery Museum but we liked the Air and Space Museum so much that we spent all the available time to us there before the start of the conference! When we got to the conference we enjoyed getting into discussions with other delegates from all around the world; each one sharing his or her own idea and opinion independently. It was a great experience to join that successful conference and also visiting Washington DC. I hope I can be a part of this conference next year. **Khaled El Sharabasy (Y10B)**



Nevsky Model United Nations St. Petersburg, Russia – March 2012

St. Petersburg is one of the most breathtaking cities I've ever seen and it was such a privilege to visit Novgorod as it is Russia's oldest city. The sightseeing was stunning; I highly praise the Russians for being able to restore all of the damaged monuments that were destroyed during various fires and wars. The Hermitage was very interesting for me personally as I could relate back to my AP Art History class and identify some of the works, artists and techniques. The best part of the Nevsky MUN is how the delegates would be very competitive and defensive during the committee debates but as soon as we walked out of the doors we'd be the best of friends, laughing away the tension created between us earlier when we were arguing about a resolution. The evening activities we got to experience, like watching a ballet, participating in folk dance and eating in different palaces, were very exciting because and we never did the same thing twice. The food was very new and experimental to us but at least I get to say that I had Russian blini (pancakes) stuffed with mushrooms at the Nikolaevsky Palace. We all felt at home in a short period of time and if I had a chance I would definitely go back without hesitation. **Mariam El Makarem (G12G)**

The Nevsky MUN Conference was nothing short of spectacular. We were greeted so wonderfully in St. Petersburg's Second Gymnasium, the hosting





school, with three days of intellectual merging and friendly mingling. The discussing and debating of different global issues was **exciting** and that, along with getting the chance to meet people from different parts of the world is the best part of any MUN conference. Getting to know St. Petersburg was even more **exciting**; from food to stories to museums. Our visit was full of culture and we learned a lot about history and traditions. In just a few days, the Czars seemed to be our long lost family and the palaces our well-admired homes. I would say that the Hermitage is **definitely** a must-visit museum; it is believed that it would take eleven years to look at every single painting and artifact in the museum if you spend a mere thirty seconds on each one...absolutely fascinating! We were also very lucky to have the opportunity to visit Novgorod for a few days, the oldest Russian town and the ultimate foundation of Russia's history. The 2012 MUN Russia trip was a trip of great opportunities, making new friendships, raising intellect, and learning about history. If there is one thing you should do before graduating, it would **definitely** be a MUN conference... and another, and another! p.s. Pancakes and mushrooms. You will not regret it! **Monia Hamdy (G11G)**

It's hard to imagine why I waited till until Year Eleven to join MUN. Going to MUN St. Petersburg was the most fun trip I have ever had whilst I have been at school. I thought the conference was engaging and what surprised me was that the trip wasn't just about the conference. We got to tour the amazing city of St. Petersburg with its rich history, including the Hermitage which is the largest art museum in the world. At the end of the conference some of us went had great fun when it came to disco night. By the far to best part of that trip was meeting students from around the world in the conference. We are all now in touch with people who live in Russia, Switzerland and Muscat. **Youssef Gouda (DP11R)**

MES Cairo Challenge Kits are a great success

When Miss Mella (who is Deputy Head of Key Stage One) decided to carry out a survey to find out what pupils thought about the MES Cairo shop, it produced some interesting and useful results. 600 pupils from all sections of the school completed Miss Mella's questionnaire, answering questions which included whether or not they used the shop, what sort of things they bought there, and how they would like to see the shop develop in the future.

As Miss Mella analysed the answers, she was pleased to discover that the majority of those questioned found the shop useful and were regular customers. But a large percentage of those who took part in the survey said that they would like to be able to buy a wider range of activity packs, which would give them something interesting and creative to do at home.

Miss Mella decided to act on the findings of the survey and assembled a team of Primary staff to help her. Maureen Glancy, Karen Armstrong, Lauren Douse, Barbara Meason, Lianne Berrisford, Maria Shooter, Nicky Millington, Sophie Watts, Arlene Campbell and Lynda Dermody volunteered to join Miss Mella in designing and making a range of MES Cairo Challenge Packs. These would be sold in the school shop, and would allow pupils to put into practice their 5Rs skills, whilst having some fun in the process.

A total of 4 packs were planned and produced:

- Let's learn to juggle
- Making a table decoration
- Mask making
- Make a piñata

Each one contains instructions and all the resources needed to make the finished article, and even has a video which shows you what to do.

The first set of 150 MES Cairo Challenge Packs were ready in time to be offered for sale at the Term 3 Primary Parent Interview evenings, and sold like hot cakes! More of the original kits will now be produced for sale in the shop, and Miss Mella and her team are busy thinking up ideas for a new range of kits which will go on sale in September.

Ms. L. Dermody - Primary LDD



MES Cairo Challenge kits are designed to appeal to pupils of all ages. They can only be bought at the school shop, and cost from 35LE - 50LE each.

MESMERISED



*What a day of jolly good
Jubilee Fun we had at MES
Cairo in June!*

*You can read all about our fantastic celebration of
Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee in your next
issue of The MESsenger!*



MESMERISED



The students, staff and directors of Modern English School Cairo wish you a restful Summer Holiday.

MESsenger 41 Team: Ms. S. Sheehan,
Ms. L. Dermody, Ms. G Dajani, Ms. V. Monir,
Mr. J. Crabb, Mr. J. Todd, Ms. S Nabil,
Ms. C. Collier, Ms. O. Mawla.

Modern English School Cairo



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

Our Mission

Leadership through Education: Caring, Challenging, Inspiring

We believe in:

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

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IBO World School

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