

Newsletter

Celebrating Life!

We all need cheering up from time to time so when two celebrations come together at almost the same time then we celebrate them both. That is the fun of being an international school, we can celebrate the Prophet's Birthday as well as Halloween!

The other great thing about our school is that depending on your age, you'll want to celebrate it in a different way. Foundation children are very creative so they love to make decorations, prints, cooking festive goodies and they love games. I attended a morning assembly where all the children were wearing all sorts of amazing outfits with some of them even having make-up. In the line out I saw at least three Batmen!

It would be wrong to leave out our fantastic art teachers who adorn every corridor with the most amazing posters, pictures, decorations, artifacts, lighting displays and graphics. These guys come in on their weekends because they want the children to love their surroundings. Also let's not forget the teachers who spend hours decorating the classrooms and encourage the children to get into the spirit of things. Some teachers use their own money to give gifts to the children in their class competitions and quizzes. I also wish to thank Mrs Safaa who approves the costs for all the materials etc.

In the primary school, the pupils created some lovely colouring to the wall displays for the Prophet's Birthday as you can see in the main picture. We have seen pumpkins being carved and displayed in and around the classrooms alongside spiders, skulls, ghosts, axes, witches and a host of other horrible images.

These two wonderful events came at the right time for everybody so we could remember how to have fun in school again. Halloween marks the seasonal change as we say goodbye to the nice weather and start seeing nights get darker earlier and the need for warmer clothes. The Prophet's Birthday was a chance to wear very smart and brightly coloured costumes and it is celebrated by fancy food and sweets. Arabic music was played in many of the classrooms.

Finally I want to thank all of you for making these two occasions successful. I know you spend a lot of time dressing up the children for these events and it really shows. Amazingly the children swap back to reality after the partying is over so the next day they are in their uniforms again. They start their revision and in the following week it is the end-of-year tests.

Shhhh... is that Santa coming down the chimney!



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"Diversity is the one true thing we all have in common. Celebrate it every day." – Anonymous





International Teachers Day

The official date for International Teachers Day is the 5th of October but at that time there were many other things happening in the school so we delayed it for Sunday, 18th October. The entrance hall was decorated beautifully with posters, a gallery of photographs of all the teachers garlanded with fairy lights and tables of decorations, cards and sweets.

All the teachers came down to the entrance hall to see the nice surprises and gifts from the children. Some of the children personally went up to staff to offer them chocolates and to say 'thank you' for the great job that you do! Let's face it, teachers and other vital professionals are often forgotten until a crisis hits and then everyone appreciates what a fantastic job they do.

This has been a particularly challenging year for

schools and the risk teachers are taking, coming into work when there is a pandemic on, is great. There are good reasons why our teachers get such adulation from their classes but, I know that with our staff, all that love is reciprocated.

Our decision to follow the government guidelines to allow Foundation Stage and Years 1—3 back to school for 4 days a week put enormous pressure on all our resources including the teachers. Basically all our teachers have an increased workload because they are often teaching the same lessons twice and recording extra lessons as well.

Egyptians really value their families especially their children and so education is a priority. Let's hope we'll overcome recent challenges and come out of this better, stronger and wiser.

"Technology is just a tool. In terms of getting the kids to work together and motivating them, the teacher is the most important."

- Bill Gates

Head Boy & Head Girl for 2020/21

I am delighted to report that we have our new Head Boy and Girl for 2020/21.

I met Abdullah Amr Nabil (Year 12) back in September 2017 when he was in Year 9. He was always an enthusiastic person in and outside of the classroom. So when it came to finding two students who exemplified our vision, he was one of the students that I chose. It was further confirmed when I found out that he was a champion archer which is rather unique in Alexandria. So for the cover of our first flyer, there was a picture of him holding up his bow ready to let go of the arrow.

After that, Abdullah came to use the play area after school for target practice so as to prepare himself for future championship competitions. I felt his determination to be the best archer was a reflection of his resilience and fortitude. Now after three tough years of sitting external exams every year, he has made it to his final year. He told me that he has some time this year to devote to doing a good job of being Head Boy. I am sure he is going to define what a Head Boy can really do and make some interesting changes while in the role.

For the post of Head Girl, there were two candidates from Year 10 so I

interviewed them both. One of the candidates was Sofia Amir Rizk in 10MS and although she was quite nervous, I got the clear impression that this role was something she wanted above anything else. It will be interesting to watch how she tackles her new opportunity this year.

Even though things will be a bit different this year, we have to go forward with our normal routines where possible. I hope other students will get a chance to serve the school in some way this academic year.



International Girl's Day



In the last copy of the Newsletter, we highlighted that on October 11th this year we celebrated for the first time, the International Day of the Girl Child. This event started twenty-five years ago, some 30,000 women and men from nearly 200 countries arrived in Beijing, China, for the Fourth World Conference on Women, determined to recognize women's rights as human rights. The conference culminated in the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: the most comprehensive agenda for gender equality.

In the years following, women pressed this agenda forward, leading global movements on issues ranging from sexual and reproductive health rights to equal pay. Today, these movements have expanded. They are being organized by and for adolescent girls – girls from all walks of life who are boldly demanding action against discrimination, violence and poor learning opportunities.

The two winners in the primary school were Karma



Khalil in the Lower Primary and Farah Ihab in the Upper Primary School. I was delighted to see how many entries we had for this house competition. But even more surprising was the range of talent we have in the primary school. I watched video clips of our girls competing at sporting events, singing and dancing in their living rooms and looking at paintings and photographs created by our budding artists.

We all know that employers around the world are looking for more than just academic results and right now creativity is at the top of the list for most sort after skills. The other important reason we support pupils doing these non-academic pursuits is that all of us need balance in our lives.

I hope this event will remain as a permanent fixture of the school calendar—Girl Power!

The Art Department

Having been an art teacher for so many years, I know that teaching is only one part of the job. Miss Heba, Miss Tahgreed, Miss Nermine, Miss Fatma and Miss Amira are incredibly hard workers and the best creative team I have ever seen.

Every year, our corridors and open spaces are decorated with children's artwork as well as the teacher's own artistic creations. Each and every festive occasion is celebrated in amazing style. I hope we will also see the art department have their annual art exhibition.



Foundation's Pyjama Party



On Wednesday 17th November, we had a pyjama party in the Foundation Stage. Not only did the children come in their night wear but they brought along their cuddly companion. Obviously they were very excited on the day and didn't look at all tired.

As you know there has been a bit of a cloud over coming to school since last March so anything that raises the spirits is a good thing. At a later assembly I was one of those who handed the children certificates for 100% attendance for the Autumn term and there were quite a few who had managed to have perfect attendance.

I was proud to be part of the event when I was asked to read "The Noisy Monkey" to the children in the entrance hall. They behaved wonderfully throughout the reading.



New Staff Profile



Hello, my name is Noha Sherif, I am one of the newest members of Forsan School, where my new position is public relation officer and responsible for the social media marketing. I graduated from the faculty of arts – English department.

I previously worked as a managing director's assistant for 10 years. Although I enjoyed my job, I was searching for a new career path, a new challenge and a job to fit in with my family life.

I was over the moon when I was offered the job and joined one of the leading international schools in Alexandria, Forsan British School. I am really enjoying being part of the Forsan family and I am grateful for the new experiences, and skills I continue to learn daily. In my spare time I enjoy being a mummy to my son and daughter and I love travelling and experiencing new cultures. I also enjoy reading and watching movies.

We wish Miss Noha every success in our new role and already she has made a big difference in the school.

Pyjamarama!



I remember when Miss Mona told me that they were having children back to school on the weekend, don't worry I'm going back a couple of years. What really surprised me on that occasion was how many children took up the offer. I suppose when you think about it, they see their friends and for them it is an adventure.

It is my dream that children like coming to school because if we can make learning fun then they will continue to associate education with an enjoyable act. The truth is that more and more young people

are going to face a future where training and re-training will be the norm.

Above you see pictures of children from the primary school wearing their night wear to school which I never did when I was their age. The older ones seem to have discarded their cuddly toys though which is something I will never do!

Our aim is to keep school a nice mix of learning and adventure so the two things become one.

Thanks to the organizers.

Bringing the Farm to School

The Covid-19 pandemic has meant we have to do things differently than we did before. This was the case when Miss Dina in the Play School wanted children to enjoy visiting a farm to see animals and their environment. Sadly that could not happen so the only solution was to bring the farm to the school (of course with the help of our resident magician, Miss Safaa).

It was truly delightful to see the reaction of the children in Play School and in the Foundation Stage when they got up close and personal with the rabbits, ducklings, chickens and goats. If anything good has come out of this crisis is that we have learnt to think out of the box or, in this case, in the box. Thanks to my colleagues in the Play school.



Our School Core Values

AMBITIOUS

BROADMINDED

CREATIVE

DETERMINED

EMPATHETIC

FAIR

GENEROUS

Two of the original core values have been changed since we opened the school so which ones

would you update? Well, the first one is determined because I think our children are going to face even more challenges than we did so they need to be resilient to succeed in the 21st Century.

The second updated core value was empathetic as companies today are looking for people with 'soft skills' and empathy is one of those. The ability to understand how the other person is thinking and feeling. I wish I had more of that vital skill.



Social Distancing

This is the new way we have to position the children for a class photograph in 2020. Actually it is rather nice and I am very glad that we did have school photographs this year. All time is precious and we do change a lot over a year so we need to record these moments as part of our memories. Another addition for us has been the video recording of special occasions in school through the emergence of our sophisticated 'movie' production group on Facebook.

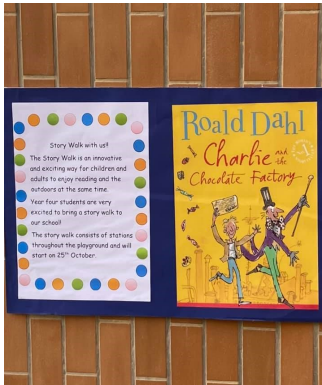
When we hosted the British Council exams for some of the schools in Alexandria we also had even more signs and reminders about social distancing, wearing masks and washing your hands. The return of assemblies in Foundation Stage and I hope soon in the Primary School has been successful because we adhere to socially distancing outside.

I hope with the recent developments in vaccines we will see a brighter world in the future but for now we have to continue to practice healthy and safety regulations for all our community.



The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn. Alvin Toefler

The Primary School Story Walk



A group of pupils arrived in my office with their English teacher to invite me to their 'Story Walk' which was going to take place in the play area. I like events happening out of the classroom and intrigued to find out what a story walk was.

It was a cross-curricular initiative between the English and Global Perspectives department. The main theme is chocolate and you start your walk by reading parts of Roald Dahl's 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. As you follow the arrows around the play area, the theme goes from light to dark chocolate because you are seeing images of children at a young age working as cheap labour for the cocoa growers in Africa.

It is important that we enlighten children about global issues so that they can develop their opinions on things going on around them. For instance, I was very proud of our senior girls when they wrote messages on boards of what they would like to see for the rights and status of girls in the future (International Day for Girls).



Worse than Covid!

The Year 6 Inter-School football match between the American and British school ended in a draw. It is very hard for me to take in this information as we have won every year so far. Somehow I feel as this is an English sport we should have done better in.

Never mind I am a fair person so we will have a rematch. I haven't been so upset since I found out Mohamed Salah was not originally from Liverpool. Oh well I think we'll start playing cricket next Summer. *Enjoy the holidays!*



A Centre of Excellence

