

Newton British School Newsletter



NBS Mission Statement
An international community of learners; striving for excellence and celebrating success.

March 2011

The Usual Suspects

View from..

Focus on?

Future Events

The Rooney
Interview

Inside this issue:

Principal's
Column

Sports Day

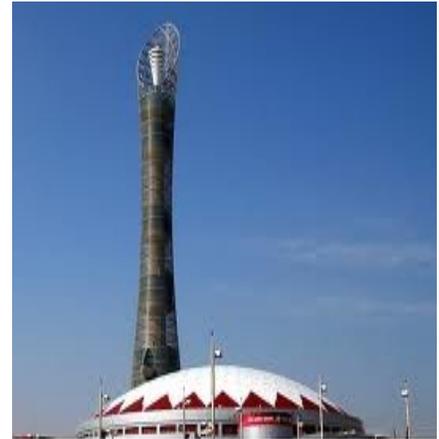
The Fair

House Cup

School Council

On your marks.. Get Set.. Go !!!

As the temperature climbs in Qatar, Newton British reaches new heights. This edition of the Newsletter focuses on some fantastic events that have taken place since our last edition. So sit back and enjoy the latest edition as we tell you all about Sports Day, the School Fair and bring you



up to date with all the important news from the classroom. We hear from Mrs. Gray, our Principal, as always so don't miss that on page two. We have a massive section which looks back at the wonderful fair and we have lots and lots of photographs from the day and comments from some of the children who attended. This edition is also about looking forward and as we focus on our third term we have exciting news about a Key Stage Two school production. The race for the House Point Cup is hotting up and we have asked the school captains for the latest figures in this important competition. So with such a fun packed and informative issue to get through, sit back and enjoy. If you want to download a copy of the Newsletter to save or read on your Ipad, Tab or your Android then visit the online version at www.newtonbritishschool.weebly.com.

We hope you and enjoy this latest edition of The Newsletter.

The Principal's Column

As I write this we are very busy preparing for Sports Day and the School Fair. We have had a very busy term so far and continue to be productive in improving the learning experiences for our pupils.

As I have previously mentioned the school is a candidate for accreditation through AdvancEd. One of the standards in which we would be accredited is 'stakeholder communication and relationships.' The term 'stakeholders' means all parties directly linked with school; teachers, staff, parents and pupils. I feel at this stage it is important to outline how the school has started addressing this standard. An outline of the AdvancEd accreditation is displayed on the parent's notice board.



This year we have had our first parent survey. Thank you to the parents who returned this. The results of those surveys will inform the Senior Management Team when an action plan for the school is being developed. This action plan will also be discussed with the PTA.

We have set up a PTA, who advise the school on parent perception. As a consequence of this, the PTA have set up coffee mornings after assemblies on a Thursday to ensure the school is a welcoming place where parents are free to make suggestions. The PTA have also set up an email address nbsptadoha@gmail.com where parents can email Karolanne the Chairperson of the PTA to share ideas and concerns.

We have set up a Student Council this year, where there are representatives from each Key Stage Two year group who represent the views of the other pupils in the school.

We have opened our doors to parent volunteers in school and have had parent help in reading programs, special events and trips. Thank you to all who have been involved.

We keep a record of parent concerns that have been raised and have a record of how and who has addressed these concerns and worked on a solution with the parents.

I am in the process of designing a webpage for the school as a means of communication and I will be meeting someone this week who will be able to support me on this matter.

I have put up a parent's notice board by the school reception office. The results of the school survey, the minutes of PTA minutes and other important information is displayed there.

Diary Dates

These are the special dates for next term, why not print this page off and then cut them out and stick them on the fridge so you will never forget any of the exciting events that are happening at Newton British School.

20th March Exam Week

3rd April—Reports to Parents

4th April—Parent Meetings

5th April—Last day of Term 2

18th April—First Day of Term 3

23rd April—Easter Sunday—school closed

1st May—Maths Week

18th May—Half Term

Newton British School Fair

The NBS Fair was held on Friday 11th March from 2pm until 5pm. The event was by all accounts a resounding success. The parents and children who attended had a great time. As did all the Newton British staff. There were a myriad of events and activities to get involved with. On offer were face painters, nail decorators and from the state of the children's hair as they left someone



was spraying their hair in a multitude of colours. Stalls selling exotic foods attended and the refreshments stand was run by the PTA. Many items were donated by our generous parents and helpers, so a very big thank you to them for their support. The event saw a return of the now



legendary old favourite, sponge the teacher, and a great deal of fun was had by both children and victim alike. This year the money raised will be used to continue the improvements which have been started by Mrs. Gray in the outside area of the school. The money raised from the PTA stand will be used by the PTA in line with their projects. A very big thank you to every single person who was involved either on the day or in bringing in food and

drinks. A truly magnificent effort by everyone. This was only the third time that we have had a fair at NBS and I am sure you will agree that the event has already become a firm fixture in our academic year. The preparations for next year, I am sure, are already underway. As always these events are organised by a small but dedicated group of staff who form a committee. This committee then provide the direction and organisation for the event. So a very big "well done" needs to be passed on to them for a great job. We all cant wait for next year for more fun and laughter.



Newton British School Sports Day



What a day we had! On Wednesday 9th March the entire school turned up at The Aspire Zone for our school Sports Day. Our P.E. teacher, Mr. Rucker, thought that it would be great for the children if we could have the event at this prestigious venue and worked tirelessly to make it happen. The children, parents and staff had a fantastic time as houses battled it out under the shadow of the Aspire Tower.

The day went brilliantly with houses competing against each other in both track and field events. The whole day had an Olympic feel to it with cheering and chants from the crowd. Lots of encouragement for the athletes taking part meant that vital seconds were taken off times or added crucial centimeters to distances.

The events had a mixture of the traditional and the new. I am sure that many of the children were surprised when they found out in their PE classes that they were going to be practicing the javelin!!

There were straight sprints, a relay race, a hurdles race and the very popular plank race. On the field we had shot putt, standing long jump and the javelin. The mums and dads had a sprint race each against each other which was great fun. The traditional event of the Tug-O-War was very popular as usual and this year saw the staff pitted against the parents.



Sports Day is an opportunity to have some great fun outdoors. No event at school can run smoothly without the help of a committee and they should all be very proud of their contribution to a very successful day. They each deserve to be congratulated for their efforts. A fantastic day which is firmly secured into our school year. A special thanks goes to Mr Rucker, we cant wait for next year... at the Khalifa Stadium???



The children of NBS



The Rooney Interview



This edition sees the return of the popular Rooney Interview. Mr. Rooney has been busy working with his Year Two class but has taken time out of his busy schedule to interview our P.E. teacher, Mr Rucker.

Well, firstly congratulations on a successful sports day! What did you enjoy most about the event?

What a great question with several answers vying for the coveted pole position. It was a team event with everyone pulling together to make it work. This includes members of the Newton Sports Committee, maintenance and teaching staff, and parent helpers whose support was very much appreciated. The parents support was also fantastic with many of them dressing up in their child's house colours. The icing on the cake was winning the father's race at my children's first ever sports day !!

How are you and your family finding life in Doha since arriving in September? Interesting ?

We love the multi-cultural society and the friendliness with which the locals greet us whether at the Souks or by The Corniche.

What do you love most about teaching P.E. at Newton British School?

The attitude of the children who absolutely love Physical Education and make it a fantastic experience and a joy to teach.

Why do you think it is so important that children get the opportunity to participate in sport?

When you look at the worldwide obesity figures for children it is so important that children enjoy at least one sport. At NBS we aim to develop their fundamental motor skills which underpins all skill acquisition to build confidence in a supportive environment.

What options do Newton British School children have to participate in sporting events outside of school?

Apart from the E.C.A. programme which is provided free of charge, there are various clubs that parents can send their children to including, football, tennis and karate. There is a charge for these clubs.

What is your favourite sport to participate in?

Many years ago it was football, but now I simply enjoy the intrinsic pleasure of exercise whether running, skiing or playing badminton.

Thank you so much for your time and good luck for the rest of this year.

The view from...

This issue we have a different view from as we take a view through the school gates. This year has seen many changes and the school has taken on a new and different feel. It was inevitable that as we got bigger things would change. The school is different from many different perspectives. The playground wall has been transformed into a new and very exciting traversing wall. We now use the playground to dismiss children at the end of the day which allows us to see parents and other children from other classes. We now have fully Interactive Whiteboards in every classroom which allows the teachers and children to engage in very exciting whole class activities every day. The new drop off procedure with our "kiss and go" area has meant that traffic issues are a thing of the past. We will continue to evolve and things will change and improve. It is important to remember that change is good and is the only way to progress and get better at what we do and how we do it. Watch this space as we move forward.



School Production

Since Mrs. Gray became our Principal we have seen many changes and improvements at our school. Almost as soon as she began her role, Mrs. Gray said that she would like to see a school performance in the third term. Mr. Clarke and Miss McCrea started to think about the many performances that could be done. After much searching we have a play, Aladdin! The performance will be held towards the end of the third term and will involve children from Key Stage Two. Miss McCrea has been busy with the school choir and Mr. Clarke is in the process of setting up a Drama Club which



will be focusing totally on this production. As we approach the date for the show we will need lots of support to paint sets, create costumes and maybe even borrow some props. So watch this space for updates and encourage your children to take part. You might have the next Kevin Spacey or Justin Bieber in your

Now for the N E W S

The School Council

It has been a busy few weeks for the new formed School Council. Mr. Mustoe and the school councillors have been asking the children of Newton British for their opinions. The school councillors are Youri in Year Six, Nicolas in Year Five, Lina in Year Four, Jessie in Year Three and the Yehia, the Head Boy and Thariene, the Head Girl.

Year Six have been writing about the process. Youri wrote this piece which gives a good insight into the running of the school council and will keep us up to date from now on.

THE SCHOOL COUNCIL BEGINS!

The first school council meeting was held on the 3rd of February 2011. It happened between 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm.

The school councilors present were: Jessie Knight, Lina Alardah, Nicolas Law, Youri Ladouceur, the Head girl, the Head boy, Mr Mustoe and Mrs Gray, our dear principal. They all met in Mr Mustoe's class (the year 6 class).

A school councilor's job is to ask other children for ideas and to report the answers back at the school council meetings. Using those answers will allow the school council to help and improve the school!

Every school councilor was given a folder that included: a book to record answers from children, a pencil, a school councilor guide and the minutes of the last meeting. Minutes are basically what happened during the last meeting, a summary of the three most voted items and what were any last minute things that anyone added during the meeting.

The next meeting was on the 10th of February 2011. All of the school councilors had asked KS1 and KS2 children what they would want in the playground and reported the three most popular ideas they collected. A lot of people voted for new swings, tree houses and other wonderful toys and activities.

A survey was born from the children's ideas. So Youri Ladouceur, Thariene (head girl), Yehia (head boy) took the survey to the KS1 and EYFS classes. The other school councilors asked their own classes.

The next meeting will be held on the 10th of March

www.newtonbritishschool.weebly.com

Now for the N E W S

The House Cup

The results of the school Sports Day have made a major contribution to the points score in the race for the House Cup. The Sports Day results meant that Edison added 346 points, Bell added 282 points, Curie added 282 points and Wright added 244 points to their respective totals. The standings in the House Cup are now Edison has 1886 points, Wright has 1731 points, Bell has 1576 points and Curie has 1725 points. So with only 161 points between first and third place there is still plenty of time for the lead to change. Last year Bell had a wonderful last term and won the House Cup so don't rule them out.



Husam is Wright's Captain



Youri is Edison's Captain



Auni is Bell's Captain



Hegar is Curie's Captain

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

The Newton British School PTA is having a large impact already. The school fair refreshments were provided through the work of the PTA. The NBS PTA continues to be a link between home and school. The PTA work towards assisting the school management team and teachers. The role is very important and is an indication of just how much NBS is growing year by year.

The members of the PTA are made up of a mixture of staff and parents and the members are:

The Chairperson: Karolanne Pacheco

Treasurer: Mary Buttigieg

Ordinary Members: Norzaimah Ismail, Nisar Latif and As-ser Mohammed

Staff Members: Jillian Stewart, Sean Mustoe, David Rucker, Laila Shanab, Georgina Gray

The PTA is currently seeking a Secretary. Please email ptanbsdoha@gmail.com or speak to Carol on the front desk if you would be interested in this role.

