



PARENT ASSOCIATION
QFISPA

Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2018 - Issue 4

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE NATALIE BROWNING

Third Culture Kids

As evidenced by the school's spectacular International Day celebration, a large portion of our children come from countries other than Qatar. Many fall under the definition of a Third Culture Kid (TCK): a person who has spent a significant part of his or her developmental years (age 0 to 18) outside the parents' culture. This lifestyle has both its benefits, such as an expanded worldview, as well as its challenges, such as confusion about identity and home.

My family moved to Doha over four years ago. Finding schools for the children, making new

friends, learning where to find things, converting units of measurement, and re-learning how to drive, grocery shop and do many things, on top of adjusting to the new culture and climate were all challenging. We missed family and especially missed home in autumn when the temperatures were still over 40 degrees and friends back in the US were posting photos of colorful leaves and pumpkin patches. Now my children enjoy travelling to the US in the summers to visit grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins, climb mountains, eat at Cafe Rio and stock up on Target items - but every year after about three weeks they tell me they're ready to go "home" to Doha. This is where their stuff is, this is where their friends are, this is where they belong. I wonder how they will fit

whenever we do return to the US permanently. If you are an expat, or have been an expat, I'm sure you can relate to some of these experiences. So how can we help our TCK's adapt in a healthy way to the challenges in their lives? How can we help them gain from all the benefits of living abroad, while simultaneously staying connected to their parents' home culture(s)? How can we give them both roots and wings?

If this topic is of interest to you please join us on Monday, February 26, at 7:30 AM in the canteen. We will have an informal discussion based on the principles found in Third Culture Kids by Jason Pollock. You can find a summary of the book [here](#).



PLEASE USE OUR [WEBSITE](#) FOR INFORMATION ABOUT: [EVENTS](#), [PARENTS EVENTS](#), TO FIND YOUR [CLASS REP](#), [PAST PA MEETINGS](#) INFORMATION, AND IMPORTANT [PARENT RESOURCES](#)

USEFUL LINKS



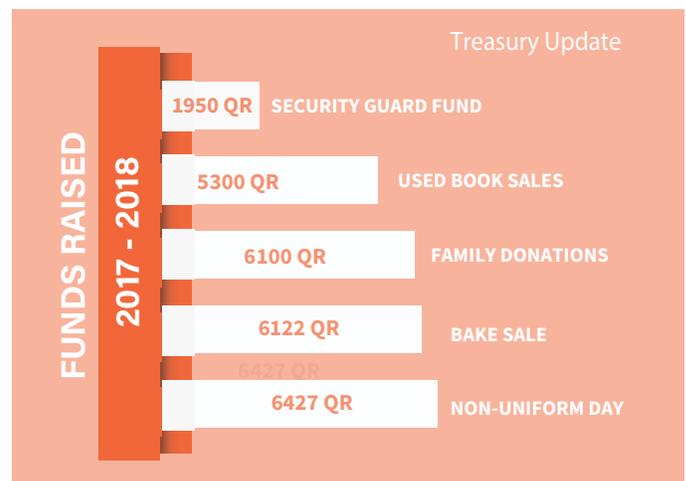
The Purpose of the PA is ...

- To maintain and foster a constructive partnership between school staff and parents in the interests of the school and children.
- To act as a vehicle of discussion, learning and positive action.
- To enhance programs offered by QFI School and work towards achieving these goals through fundraising and other activities.
- To create a community where ideas and information are shared, new families are welcomed, and learning is promoted. This is done in a respectful and collaborative manner.

Librarian Highlights

As our librarian, I am very proud how nicely our library continues to grow! You might be interested to know that recently our Arabic collection has substantially grown adding hundreds of new Arabic picture books, beginning readers, non-fiction and chapter books. We also have a collection of bilingual books in both Arabic and English. These books are available to all students to check out during their library lessons or the breaks available to them.

Happy Reading! Ms. Cheryl



Events

We are looking forward to working with teachers and parents to organize events, charities and fundraising initiatives for the 2017-2018 school year!

FEB 14 "Sports Day: UNICEF Walk"

Students will be encouraged to do a walk for charity. Funds raised will be according to the number of laps that a student makes. All proceeds will go to UNICEF. Further details will be provided by Class Teachers.

Volunteers wanted to help with water and stamping laps. **Nutrition and healthy lifestyle experts** are needed to give presentations.

FEB 15 "QFIS Sports Day"

ECA providers along with others will organize various athletic activities for the whole school. Activities will be planned for the entire day.



Parent Events

Third Culture Kids, on **Monday, February 26, at 7:30 AM** in the canteen.

International Day

An all-time favourite children's song boasts, "There is just one moon, And one golden sun, And a smile means Friendship to everyone.." Global Village at QFI School is this and much, much more as everyone comes together on this special occasion to showcase their pride for their own customs and traditions. It is a potpourri of colours, sounds, sweet scents and smiles, a feast for the eyes and hearts of children and adults alike, proving "it's a small world after all." **By Marianne Armocida**



The Digital Bookshelf

By Marianne Armocida

Few would argue that the digital age has changed the way we read, and that we have little trouble finding millions of words that scratch the surface of any topic. But for every convenience we've gained, what have we lost? And how will this affect our children? This brief article examines reading as more than decoding words on a screen. In a dizzying world of chats and never-ending tweets, books continue to be lifelong friends of the heart and mind.

On the bookshelf in my children's room sits a book I've had since I was a child. It's old now, nearly falling apart. You have to be careful when opening it so pages don't fly away. Its colours are not very bright anymore, but it still has a sweet and innocent smell about it. I close my eyes and I'm five years old again. It gives me goosebumps and my eyes quickly fill with tears. Thank you, Book. Thank you for bringing me back to my childhood, and for allowing my children to step into my past and take a peek. We've travelled a lot over the last decade and, as a result, were compelled to buy an e-reader. Who can carry a library all over the world, right?

I admit I was very hesitant about the e-reader at first. I've always loved curling up on the couch with a good book. Despite my hesitation, I decided to give it a try anyway. I could immediately see why people have one or more of these in the household. I suddenly had access to a whole book store in my own living room! I was able to change the font to my liking, and adjust the backlighting to my

taste. It was perfect. Well, almost perfect. As I read, I knew something wasn't quite right about this new experience. But I couldn't quite put my finger on it. After a few books it finally hit me. I realised I was missing out on a whole experience. A 'real' book eases you into a relationship with it. You almost become friends with it. I miss how a book feels, the brushing of its pages under my fingertips, the way it smells, the faint sound it makes when you open it for the first time. With a book there is a stack of pages in one hand showing me how much I have left to read, causing both excitement and sadness at the same time. I'm sure the e-reader can do this. somewhere. But there is a clear emotional disconnect with the object. I'm almost forced into a kind of literary passivity. Even with all its technical advantages (hyperlinks, built-in dictionaries and digital bookmarks), the e-book often fails to immerse me in its narrative.

With the ever-growing world of technology, our reading habits change by the day. And in truth, this has been the history of the book throughout the centuries: one change after another. Surely our time is merely the next jump in that textual history. Yet I cannot help but wonder, as I look at that old childhood book sitting on my children's shelf, if perhaps we need to model something more for the next generation. Do we want readers who skim superficially across the surface, reading one sample chapter after another without giving a book a chance? Or do we want readers who delve deep into books to find and enjoy greater meaning?

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