

Sherborne Qatar Weekly

Newsletter



SHERBORNE
QATAR

15th April 2010

Welcome Back!

We hope you all had a good holiday. Before we broke up Key Stage 1 and 2 held special prizegiving assemblies at which a number of certificates were presented as well as trophies for Inter-House events. Well done to you all. We also congratulate Mr Jessurun who you may also have read about in the Gulf Times. He completed the 251 km Marathon Des Sables last week. You will read more about that elsewhere in this week's newsletter.

Mr Harrison, Housemaster of Jassim House writes:

On behalf of Mr. Jessurun I would like to say a special thank you to all the children from Jassim House and their parents for their kind and generous contributions to the Sports Day stall. The children were so keen to make this happen, and I am very proud of their commitment. They brought in so many things, and took turns to sell on the stall. They showed real enterprise to come up with this idea, and further initiative in discounting items during the day to make sure we sold almost every last item and maximise the profits made. It was great to see children and staff from other houses also bringing in donations, so well done to all. The children raised the fantastic sum of QAR 1,493. This will go towards the Making a Difference Project to build new classrooms for 240 Muslim ethnic children in remote Dongxiang, China.



Sherborne Qatar Pupils - High Achievers in Quran Recital Competition.

As you may have seen in the newspaper on April 8th, the Annual National Quran Recital Competition was conducted in Doha recently and seven Sherborne Qatar pupils took part. The competition is open to boys and girls from Reception to Year 12. The pupils have to recite the Quran and awards are given for the various stages of memory.

There are three levels of achievement: 'Excellent' was given to pupils who could recite almost all of the Quran, 'Very Good' for pupils who could recite almost all of the Quran, 'Good' for pupils who could recite most of the Quran.

!7500 pupils from Qatar competed in the competition and 11400 were successful. Fifty five students attained the level of 'Excellent' including Jannah Abdullah in Year 3. Sherborne Qatar is very proud of her as well as the other candidates.

Here are the results:

Jannah Abdullah 3J - Excellent

Omar Abdullah RG - Very Good

Essa Al Mohannadi 3W - Very Good

Hamad Al Bader 4S - Good

Ali Al Thani 1B - Good



Quiz

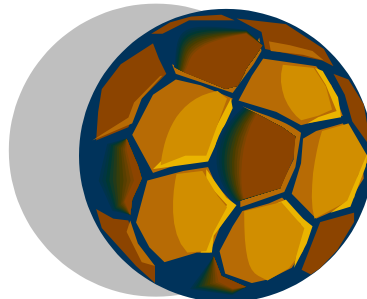
The Inaugural Sherborne Qatar General Knowledge Quiz was held yesterday in school and was a great success. The witty compères Miss Derrick and Mr Harrison set two sets of questions for the House Teams from Years 3 & 4 and from Years 5 & 6. Congratulations and 10 House Points to the winners: Amna (Year 3 & 4) and Irons (Years 5 & 6).



Message For Parents of Reception Children

If you arrive at school after 7.15 when the children are collected by their teachers, please would you walk around the outside of the building to bring your child to school, rather than through the building.

Thank you for your cooperation with this.



Parent/Staff Football

This will start on Sunday the 18th April at 7pm in the school Sports Hall. The more the merrier. I PROMISE TO TAKE IT EASY ON YOU!

Jon Rawlinson, Director of Sport

From the School Doctor

We would like to inform you that on Monday 20th April at 11.30 there will be a talk on diabetes at school, presented by the Qatar Diabetes Association. Anyone interested in attending please contact the School Doctor by email at nurse@sherborneqatar.org by April 19th at the latest.

Qatar Tennis Federation

Qatar Tennis Federation have again recognized the fantastic support of our students-and their families! – during the Qatar tennis open.

Sherborne Staff, Students, Parents and siblings seemed to take up half the main stand on one particular night and the Federation have thanked us for this by rewarding us with QR1500.

This is the second time the federation have rewarded us with this sum of money and it will be spent wisely on some new Table Tennis Tables. I for one, can't wait till next year's events.

Jon Rawlinson, Director of Sport

Music Department

This term the Sherborne Qatar Music Department is excited to be providing for more instrumental music students. Currently, pupils are receiving lessons at the school for Flute from our new Music Staff member – Ms Rita Rajz. This term we are joined by Dr Livinia Balasu who will teach Violin and Piano. Expressions of interest are being sought from pupils wishing to begin Flute, Piano and Violin lessons. Please contact Mrs Liz Thomas, Head of Music, for a registration form.



Marathon des Sables – Making a Difference Project

It was wonderful to be greeted by a sea of smiling faces at Sherborne Qatar after having competed in the 2010 Marathon des Sables as part of the Making a Difference Project.

The 2010 Marathon des Sables involved running 251 km over six stages: 29 km, 35 km, 40 km, 82 km, 42 km and 21 km. All runners had to be self-sufficient and carry all of their food and associated survival equipment for the duration of the race. The event took place in the Sahara Desert of Morocco.

Each stage of the race involved running over high mountains, dry salt plains, rocky ground and towering sand dunes. Day time temperatures peaked at 48 degrees during the third stage.

The race was supported by five hundred volunteers from France and England, along with representatives from various media organisations.

The Marathon des Sables is probably the most famous ultra-endurance event in the world today.

I was fortunate that my preliminary training throughout the past six months allowed me to cover the first three stages in relatively quick times. The long fourth stage of 82 km proved to be more challenging for it involved me running for 19 hours and crossing the finishing line at 4.10 a.m. in the morning with blistered feet.

I enjoyed the fifth stage of the race the most because I managed to run a fast marathon time.

For the duration of the event I only ate beef jerky and dried fruit and ended up losing about 5 kg in weight. Each night I did slept on the ground under an open aired tent.

My next challenge will take place in July where I will attempt to be the first person to circumnavigate Qatar by running. Considerable planning is now going into this event to make it possible and allow me to cope with the high temperatures.

The reason for undertaking these unusual endurance challenges is part of the Making a Difference project which is linked to a foundation building new schools for poor Muslim children of the Dongxiang ethnic community, located in Gansu Province of China. The average yearly income for Dongxiang families is about 240 American dollars. Most Dongxiang children do not continue their middle school education due to a lack of schools, thus trapping them in a continuous cycle of poverty.

For a sum of about 40 000 American dollars a new school can be built that will accommodate 240 students. By undertaking these running challenges, I am trying to raise attention to the plight of children throughout the world who do not have access to education due to the lack of schools. Qatar is a very wealthy country and both the Qatari and International Expatriate communities are in financial position to help and make a difference to children who have no access to education.

Donations to support the Making a Difference project are now being accepted at the financial office. Cheques can be made out the Sherborne Qatar School (Making a Difference Project). I am also eagerly looking for corporate sponsorship and some logistical assistance for the Qatar circumnavigation running challenge. All support will be warmly accepted. I can be contact via email if you wish to know more information or are able to provide assistance and support: rjessurun@sherborneqatar.org



Mr Jessurun during the Marathon Des Sables



Parents Association Update.

Welcome!

A warm welcome to all the new families. It was our pleasure to host our first newcomers information and coffee meeting on Sunday. We will be hosting one at the beginning of each term. A special thank you to Mary Mulqueen and the committee members for their time, energy and commitment to ensuring this happened (mostly over the holidays).

Urgent Appeal

As you will have read, Mr Jessurun is 'Making a difference' by raising funds to build a second school in China by undertaking an endurance run around the circumference of Qatar later this year. The Parents Association has committed to support Mr Jessurun by fundraising and supporting his quest. We are making an urgent appeal for volunteers to finalise this project. We need additional volunteers to assist with fundraising and in particular the support team for the endurance run. If you can offer your time and/or expertise, please contact Tracey Salmon Ph: 622 6331 or Vallerie Murphy Ph: 300 9338 ASAP.

We look forward to bringing you news of upcoming events – we encourage you to be involved and show your support, particularly in May!

Meeting Reminder

The next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday evening at 7-8pm at school. As we have a strict time frame, should you wish to put forward a suggestion for general discussion by the committee, please contact Tracey Salmon prior to Monday to enable the agenda to be finalised. Committee members please pop this in your diary - everyone is more than welcome to attend. Interest and support is appreciated.