

Dear Parents,

There is quite a bit to happening in the lead up to Easter. We will be conducting Parent Conferences this afternoon/evening and on Wednesday afternoon/evening. As I have mentioned previously this is a wonderful opportunity for teachers and parents to dialogue with regards to Student Learning.

MOTHERS DAY

Next Sunday is Mothers day here in Egypt and I would like to invite all our mums to come along to the school for a morning tea to celebrate this occasion. We would invite you to school from 8:20am to sit in on the Assembly and then to stay around to enjoy a cup of tea and some treats. We would also like to ask that you spend some time in your child/children's classroom following the morning tea. As a school we would like to extend a Happy Mothers Day to all our mums and let you all know how much we appreciate you and how much you are appreciated by your children.

VISITING AUTHOR

On Monday 15th March we are lucky enough to have a visiting UK author at the school. Val Bloom will be sharing some stories and activities with our students throughout the course of the day. Val will have books available for purchase on the day at around 70LE per book. If you would like to know more about Val, please visit her web site <http://www.valbloom.info/>

ENVIRONMENTAL WEEK

During the week beginning March 21st, NCBIS will hold its first environment week. There will be a range of activities going on throughout the week all aimed at raising environmental awareness. Some of the exciting events that will be taking place that week include:

"Junk to Funk" Fashion Show

NCBIS will be hosting a recycled fashion show on Thursday 25th March during primary lunch break. Secondary will be hosting their own fashion show during their lunch break. The two schools will then merge for a fashion extravaganza at 2.30pm which parents will be invited to attend.

At home, children can create one or more fashion items from *used* materials E.g. Jewellery, hats, scarves, belts, whole outfits, shoes. All fashion items will be displayed on the catwalk. They can use any old materials (old clothes, used paper or plastic cups, old toilet rolls, old household items etc...) to make their items. Examples include a skirt made from newspapers, a belt made from old DVDs, a dress made from rubber gloves - the possibilities are endless! For more information regarding this please speak to Ms. Sally Davidson (Year 3SD).

Dance-A-Thon

As part of environmental week we are not only interested in how we can look after our planet but also how we can look after the **people** who live on it. Dance-A-Thon is a great way for students to have fun, stay healthy and also help out others less fortunate.

If your child wishes to take part in Dance-A-Thon, all they have to do is ask some family and friends to sponsor them to dance for fifteen minutes each day during first break. Each day, your child will receive a stamp to confirm they have taken part. Once your child has completed the challenge, they can collect the money and bring it to school. The money will be given to several charities. Sponsorship forms will be coming out very soon. Please see Mrs. Carydias (Year 1C) for more details.

Recycled Art Exhibition

Students are invited to create a piece of art work made from recycled materials. They may do this at home or in school (for example, Year 2 have created 3D castles made from recycled newspaper, tissue paper and cardboard tubes). The pieces of work will be put on display during Environment Week. Please submit the work by Thursday 18th March.

Unplugged for a day

On Tuesday of that week classes will make a pledge to turn off all electrical appliances. Each class will choose how long to turn off their electricity and then see if they can meet the challenge. Some classes may choose twenty minutes, some two hours, some may even choose the whole day!

Moqattam Recycling Centre

On Wednesday, the lovely people from Moqattam will be visiting the school to give rug-making demonstrations and sell products made from recycled materials.

Other Activities:

- Themed Assembly
- Environmental movies in the library during lunch breaks
- Following on with the health theme, the Canteen Manager Mr. Nabil will be offering free food samples of his new healthy menu throughout the week.
- Waste free lunches
- Earth Hour - Earth Hour takes place on Saturday 27th March this year. To take part, all you have to do is switch off your lights for one hour - easy! Maybe the whole family can take part. For more information please go to: www.earthhour.org
- Competitions
- Plus so much more!

For more information please speak to your child's class teacher or come see Miss Lochrie (Year 2 teacher). Alternatively you may email Miss Lochrie at: llochrie@ncbis.net

Please see a draft timetable for Environment Week below:

Environmental Week - Primary Timetable					
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Morning (and often continued throughout the day)	Primary Assembly Recycled Art Exhibition on display in the Primary Library. Exhibition will run all week.	Secondary Assembly	'Unplugged' for a day – to run for as long as class has pledged.	Mokkatam in school for loom demonstrations – times TBC	
First Break	Dance-A-Thon in Assembly Hall Free samples of new healthy canteen menu with questionnaire by Year 6	Dance-A-Thon in Assembly Hall Free samples of new healthy canteen menu with questionnaire by Year 6	Dance-A-Thon in Assembly Hall Free samples of new healthy canteen menu with questionnaire by Year 6	Dance-A-Thon in Assembly Hall Free samples of new healthy canteen menu with questionnaire by Year 6	Dance-A-Thon in Assembly Hall Free samples of new healthy canteen menu with

					by Year 6 3
Second Break	Eco DVDs shown in the Primary Library	Eco DVDs shown in the Primary Library	Eco DVDs shown in the Primary Library	Eco DVDs shown in the Primary Library	Junk to Funk Fashion Show Primary Models only Audience: Students and Teachers Time: 12.10pm
After school				Mokkatam in school selling recycled products for parents.	Junk to Funk Fashion Show Primary and Secondary Models Audience: Parents Time: 2.30pm

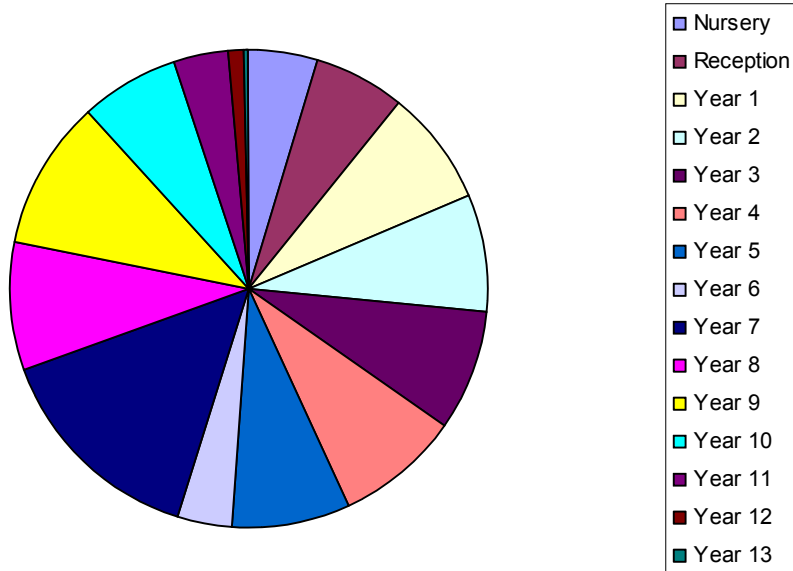
NCBIS Language Questionnaire 2010 NEWSLETTER SUMMARY

What a response? We received 224 responses to our survey on languages from the NCBIS which represented almost half of our families. We are most grateful to the responses as they are invaluable in providing future guidance for our Language policy. It was very interesting to read the many, and at times, varied comments relating to the 12 questions that were posed. It certainly indicated the breadth of experiences and perspectives within the community.

We have summarised some of the key findings from the survey in this article but should you wish to view the full report it is available in both the Primary and Secondary Libraries.

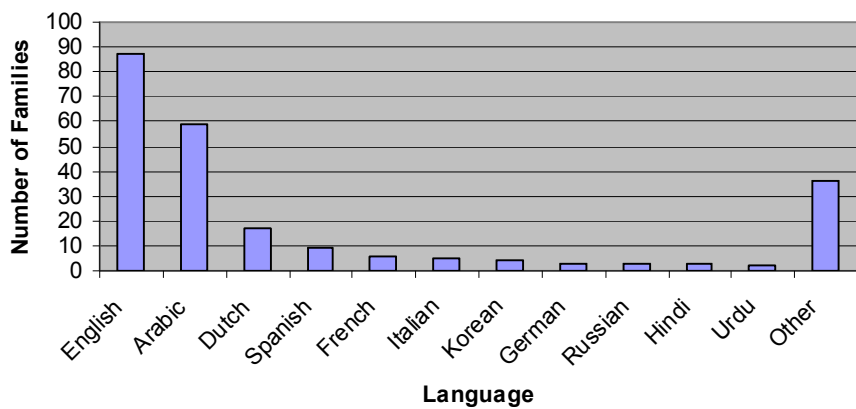
Response by Year Group & Nationality

Total Responses by Year Group



Within our community there were over 20 different languages being spoken at home with the greater majority being English and Arabic. This certainly reflects the 55 different nationalities that are represented within the school.

Language Spoken at Home



Within the survey languages were ranked in order of preference with English undoubtedly being the preferred choice (1 was the most preferred and 6 the least).

English (1.165); French (2.688); Arabic (2.978); Spanish (3.317); German (3.689), Dutch (4.231)

For the question looking at any language not currently offered at NCBIS. Mandarin was the only language to receive any significant support. This could be mainly due to the ever increasing importance of China in the Asia and the Pacific as well as world markets.

Most families were indifferent about the amount of time spent teaching languages with a number making reference to the fact that it is the quality of the learning experience that is more important than the time.

However, there is a far more defined recognition (rating 7.9 out of 10) of the importance

students to understand the culture of Egypt due to the fact that for our expatriate families it is the country they reside in. It is also critical for Egyptian families as their society values cultural understanding as a key factor in maintaining their identity. It was also strongly noted that a large portion of the community do not believe NCBIS are doing sufficient to promote the Arabic language and culture. Our Egyptian community believes national students should study Arabic (speaking, reading, writing and listening) as an additional language to English at NCBIS as this rated a response of 9 out of 10. 5

This was generally reflected by the support for learning two languages in addition to English in both the Secondary school. Whilst Dutch families believed that maintaining the current emphasis on Dutch and English was appropriate and consistent with the Dutch education system.

Over the coming weeks we will be looking at the NCBIS Language Philosophy and using this to construct a policy to take language learning forward. If you would like more information or contribute further please do not hesitate to contact myself or any member of the Languages task force which has both Board and parent representation.

Philip Rogers
Director of Learning & IB Coordinator
10th March 2010

Kind Regards,

Nick Kendell
Head of Primary