



ISG Tehdeed *March 2010*

Sharing Monthly Highlights and Innovative Learning across the ISG District!

Summary

ISG schools were packed with creative learning activities, extra-curricular events, and study abroad experiences during the month of March. In the below updates from each ISG school, our leaders highlight the success of promoting reading in their schools, World Math Day, Science Fairs, art and cultural programs, and the triumph of our students in a myriad of athletic competitions.

ISG students and staff continue to set a standard for excellence and were well received and respected by their international host communities as students from ISG Jubail traveled to Switzerland and DEMS students lived history in London.

Accreditation for Growth planning processes, Parent-Teacher Volunteers and conferences, and the two-day Administrative Forum are also discussed. This important work helps to guide and lend support to the exceptional learning taking place throughout the ISG District.

ISG Superintendent Norma Hudson wishes to recognize the devotion of staff, school leaders, and parents in helping our students learn; and in supporting one another.

For more information on current news, visit our ISG News/Events or follow the links to the main websites of each ISG school in the lower left of the **ISG Homepage: www.isgdh.org**.

DISTRICT-WIDE NEWS

Administrative Forum and ISG Leadership Professional Development:

On March 16th and 17th, all ISG Assistant Principals, Principals, and District Administrators met during the annual **Administrative Forum** to discuss District items and to engage in professional development focused around "**What Great Teachers Do Differently.**" This book served as the catalyst for a discussion about leadership, effective instruction, and professional development. The next step in the process "**Looking for Learning**" is the theme and focus for our **ISG Educators' Conference** with Martin Skelton to be held in November.

The two day meeting was a blend of professional conversations, information about the District and future growth and development, public relations and development, high stakes discipline, and expectations about leadership.

Resources:

- Amazon offers this book via its website at: <http://www.amazon.com/What-Great-Teachers-Do-Differently/dp/1930556691>. Alternatively, ISG staff are encouraged to consult our **ISG District Library** (located in the Superintendent's office area) for this and other helpful reference materials.

- For more information about Martin Skelton and his work, please consult the **Looking for Learning** website: <http://www.lookingforlearning.co.uk>

ISG PARTNERING SCHOOLS

Dhahran British Grammar School (DBGS) – from Ian Jones, Headteacher

DBGS's **Under 16 Netball Team** returned triumphant from the recent **SAIKAC Tournament** held in Jeddah; an excellent achievement as the squad included girls from DBGS's **Under 14 Team**.

Saturday saw the first **Track and Field** day to be held on the Campus. A joint initiative between DBGS and DEMS, it was an excellent (if hot) day, thoroughly enjoyed by students and parents alike. **Joe Castillejo** presented a workshop on Risk to Resilience for interested staff and our Key Stage1, and Lower Key Stage 2 students were entertained by the **Marionette Playhouse Puppet Theatre**.

Parent Teacher Conferences were also scheduled for Early Years, Key Stages 1, 2 and 3.

Dhahran High School (DHS) – from David Dorn, Principal

Our students are fantastic! Under the facilitation of DHS Art Teacher **Ms. Abeera Atique**, several honor art students have been volunteering their artistic skills and services for the US Consulate. This group of young artists designed and painted a 3 wall mural for the Consulate's child care area (the Consulate will be accepting families with children for their post beginning next school year).

Our staff is also fantastic! **Teri Green**, DHS Counselor, **Liz Vallejo**, DHS Chemistry Teacher, and **Courtney Carreon**, DHS English Teacher have volunteered to be **mentor teachers** for fellow DHS staff members this spring. These three professionals are assisting fellow departmental members to learn more about their craft and facilitate professional development within the content area.

Finally a special thank you to both **Alichia and Retief Gerber** for facilitating the **varsity SAIKAC basketball tournament**; their organization and planning reinforces that great image within the Kingdom of both ISG and DHS. *With the student and staff that are at DHS...no wonder Life is Good at DHS!*

ISG Jubail – from Mark Wootton, Headteacher/Site Administrator

- ISG Jubail's annual **Science Fair** was held on the evening of Tuesday, March 16th so that our fathers could support their children more easily. The event saw over 20 displays of curiosity being extended and given the scientific approach. Volcanic eruptions, support/ load-bearing capacity and the properties of oil and water were amongst some of my favourites. Judges from the faculty and parent body were of course entirely objective in the assessment and awarding of certificates to participants.
- **World Math Day** - that frenzy of computer activity that shows mental math capability has been a feature of the past month, culminating in the worldwide event in which all of our student body took part. Some improved scores from previous years, and the usual level of inter school rivalry gave the whole thing an edge. Well done to the staff, led by **Stuart Keens**, who helped to facilitate and then promote this educational exercise.

- **Ski trip** students along with sponsors **Mr. Ray & Mrs. Laura Timm** came back from Switzerland with a very good report from the hosting ski school and just a few bruises and knocks and scrapes to show. Well done to each of these students who apparently made extremely good progress during the time they spent whizzing down slopes avoiding trees/people/lifts.
- The G 7 student field trip to **Bisak**, for a performance of "**Joseph**", helped us keep culture in mind.
- The school photo came and went supported by a new venue to help display our ISG Jubail "brand". Thanks to **Mr. Borisko** for his technical expertise.
- Sporting success for our **JV girls' basketball team** who took a second place at the recent tournament. Our **netballers** also enjoyed a run out at their **Eastern Province tournament**.
- **Accreditation for Growth (AFG)** is at the action plan stage as our improvement targets are fleshed out into a practical response for the immediate future.
- **PTA meetings** continue to develop the kind of support network that should serve the school well as they begin to take on projects and support school activities."

Dhahran Elementary Middle School – from Jana Barnhouse, Principal

On March 14th, DEMS celebrated **Pi Day**. During the daylong event, students in both the elementary and middle school worked on math projects, sang songs, made crafts and memorized facts related to the many themes of this important mathematical concept. In addition to *working with Pi*, many students *enjoyed pie* prepared by moms and teachers. (The *Pi* symbol (π) is a mathematical constant whose value is the ratio of any circle's circumference to its diameter. Source: www.wikipedia.org.)

Middle school students at DEMS also participated in the **annual science fair**. Students prepared and presented their projects to judges and then to parents in the afternoon. *The projects in this event just keep getting better every year!*

Taking learning outside the classroom, twenty-three middle school students enjoyed a **week long study trip to London during** which they attended several shows, went on a 'ghost walk' and visited the major historical sites of London.

Yanbu International School (YIS) – from Paul Thompson, Principal

D.E.A.R. Readers, Y.I.S. is coming to the end of the last chapter of this year's **Reading Week Celebration**. Many special activities highlighting and celebrating reading have been taking place. Every day there is an announcement for everyone to **D.E.A.R. ... Drop Everything and Read**. With that announcement everyone pulls up the book they have been reading and reads until the announcement to stop reading. There's a very special feeling in the building when all those pages are being read at the same time.

Another feature of Reading Week is that many **volunteer teachers and parents** visit the elementary classrooms to **read aloud to the students**. These reading sessions are very much anticipated and enjoyed ... and remembered, as I found out. I read a Dr. Seuss book to a 2nd grade class, and at the end of the reading and our discussion of "On Beyond Zebra," which easily rivaled any discussion in an Oprah reading group, the students started remembering. And, they remembered that I had read them "One Fish, Two Fish" in JK; "Solla Sollew" in KG; and "To Think That I Saw it On Mulberry Street" last year. That's quite a literary memory. Oral reading is still an incredibly effective way to share knowledge with young students. I was amazed at their long-term memories of those readings.

