

- [2 Reconnecting with nature](#)
- [2 Photo montage](#)
- [3 Principal's Message](#)
- [3 Councelor's Message](#)
- [4 ExtraQAST](#)
- [4 After School Clubs](#)
- [4 Dates for Your Diary](#)

## Director's Message

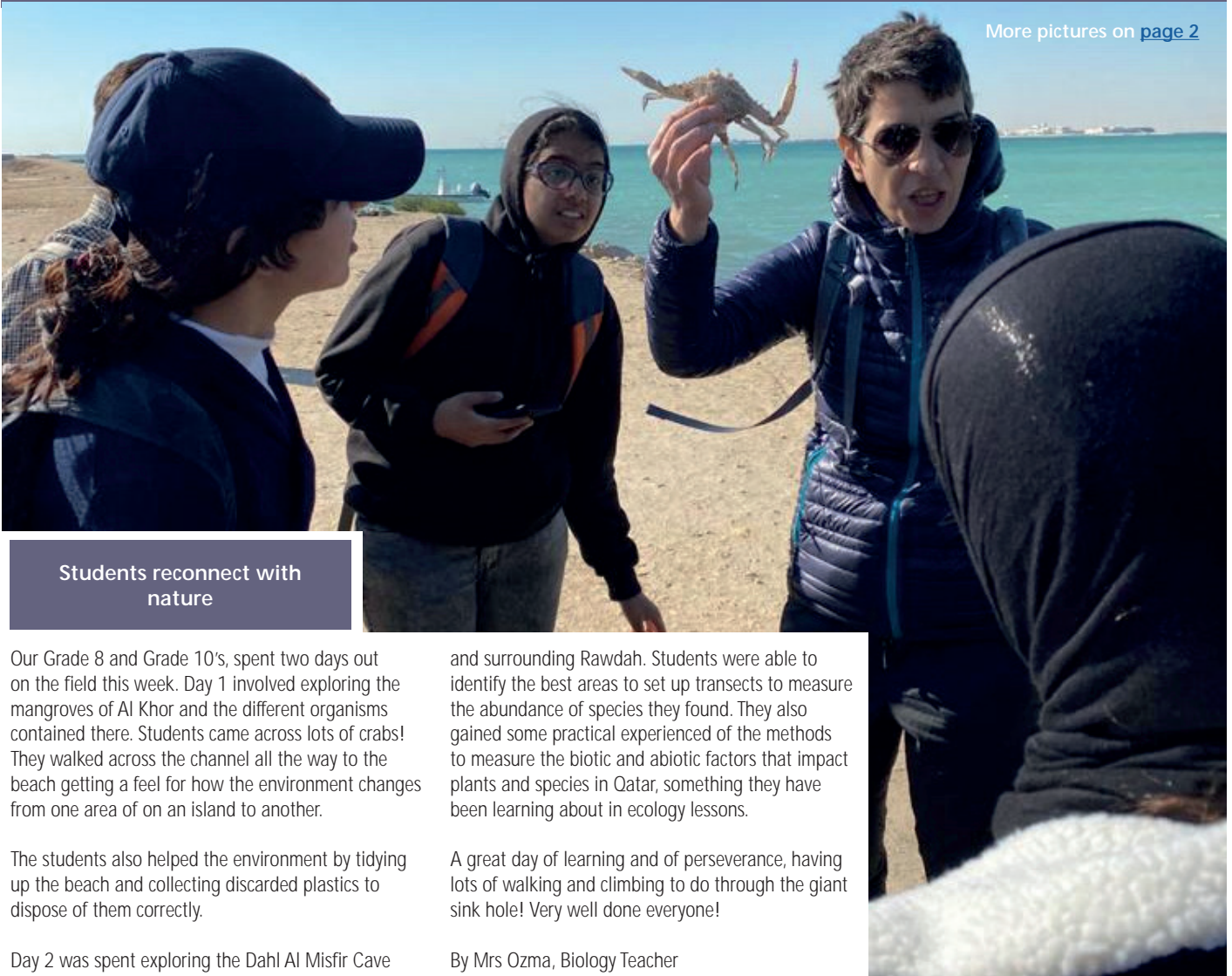
All moves quickly here at QAST! Whether it is a field trip to the coast or math lessons from visiting math legend, Dr Lam, the learning is deep and rich.

Our planning for next year is underway and this includes our new course selections for the Grade 11 class. Grade 11 will begin taking A level classes next year. These are two year college level classes an given the rigor of these courses, students usually only take three, or four at the most. We will be offering Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, and Computer Science. Other course that are required will be English and Arabic. Electives may include Social Studies, Design, and Engineering III. We will also be requiring short internships at least four times next year along with the Duke of Edinburgh program.

The college application process also moves into high gear and we'll need to know if your child intends to study at a UK or US based university.

As part of our planning for next year, we will be adding six new teachers: Chemistry, Mathematics, Computer Science, English, Art/ Graphics and Arabic. To find the very best, I'll be heading to the UK next week to interview with candidates. Thankfully, I will be joined by Curriculum Coordinator, Mr Vaughan Lewis. Together we will attend the International Schools Global School's Awards. QAST is a finalist for their Teaching and Learning Category. We will recruit through the week and then attend the British Educational Training and Technology conference where we hope to test drive various curriculum and student management systems.

Onward and upward!  
**Dr Greg Moncada, Director QAST**



More pictures on [page 2](#)

### Students reconnect with nature

Our Grade 8 and Grade 10's, spent two days out on the field this week. Day 1 involved exploring the mangroves of Al Khor and the different organisms contained there. Students came across lots of crabs! They walked across the channel all the way to the beach getting a feel for how the environment changes from one area of on an island to another.

The students also helped the environment by tidying up the beach and collecting discarded plastics to dispose of them correctly.

Day 2 was spent exploring the Dahl Al Misfir Cave

and surrounding Rawdah. Students were able to identify the best areas to set up transects to measure the abundance of species they found. They also gained some practical experienced of the methods to measure the biotic and abiotic factors that impact plants and species in Qatar, something they have been learning about in ecology lessons.

A great day of learning and of perseverance, having lots of walking and climbing to do through the giant sink hole! Very well done everyone!

By Mrs Ozma, Biology Teacher



# Principal's Message

QAST Parents,

After School Clubs are starting next week, which will run from 2pm to 2:50pm. The clubs are free of charge and if attended will help your child grow in their respective areas. Students will need to be picked up promptly by 3pm at the normal school pickup locations. See the club list detailed on [page 4](#).

Also please be reminded that I am asking for parent volunteers to be apart of student celebrations each month. If you would like to participate in celebrating QAST students, then please let me know by email: [sabrams@gast.qfschools.org](mailto:sabrams@gast.qfschools.org)

Responsibilities will include:

1. Communicate via WhatsApp and/or email
2. Attend monthly celebrations at the end of each month
3. Give feedback as needed

**Mr Samuel Abrams**  
Principal, QAST

# Counselor's Message

Dearest Parents,

The past couple of weeks in Advisory, the grade 8's have been learning about gratitude and why it is important to practice being grateful daily. After watching videos and sharing the students then took part in painting selecting a rock and creating their own a gratitude rock. A gratitude rock is just a small rock that you can carry in your pockets and that you use to remember and take the time to be grateful.

The hope is that our students will carry this rock around daily and or display it somewhere so to remind them self about all of the blessings in their life.

The students were very happy and engaged during this lesson, so much so that many students decided to paint gratitude rocks for their teachers.

Kindly encourage your child to pause for a moment every day to be grateful for all of life's blessings. Through this, it is proven that people lead happier and healthier lives when they show gratitude.

Sincerely,  
Ms Lisa

Dearest Parents,

This is a warm reminder in regards to my email earlier this week.

At QAST, we are always looking for new ways for our parents to actively engage in our community. There is a Parent's Forum that will take place in late March that is open to QF/QAST parents. The theme is "A Healthy Mind, A Healthy Body." If you have any knowledge, skills and/or best practices in how to keep kids healthy it would be wonderful if you could participate in this forum in which your audience will be other QF parents.

Contributions in some way or another are always appreciated in support of keeping our kids healthy at QAST.

Such opportunities are:

1. Through celebrations
2. School events
3. Parent Partnership Forum.

Thank you for your partnership and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you decide to partake in the Forum or want to contribute to our school in any way, please let me know. **Kindly send me proposals by Sunday 19 January, 2020, if you are interested in sharing in this forum.** Please refer to the flyers that were in the email sent on Sunday 12 January, 2020.

Thank you,  
Ms Lisa

# NewsQAST Extra

We are wishing Dr Greg and Mr Vaughan a successful trip to London next week as they attend the International Schools Awards Ceremony (as featured in last weeks newsletter), and also spend a couple of days at the world's leading educational show 'BETT' (British Educational Training and Technology) at ExCel London.

BETT attracts experts from over 146 countries within the global education community to celebrate successes together, find inspiration and discuss the future of education; as well as exploring how technology and innovation enables educators and learners to thrive.



## Dates for Your Diary

Date	Time	Activity
30 Jan	TBC	Student Celebration Committee Meeting at QAST

## Dr Lam visits QAST

We're excited to invite Dr Quan K Lam from the University of California to run a maths session with QAST students next week. Dr Quan K Lam is based at the University of California Berkeley and is the founder of World Math Team Championship (WMTTC) and World Mathematics Invitational (WMI). WMTTC has developed into the top international mathematics team competition for middle and secondary schools attracting 1500+ students annually. Dr Quan is also the founder of Berkeley Math Circles. Berkeley Math Circles has trained some of the top global competitors in pre-university mathematics competitions. The fundamental idea of Berkeley Math Circles is to create a unique opportunity for pre-university students to develop mathematical problem solving skills through the support of professional mathematicians and to discover raw talent in mathematics.




Dr Quan also sits on the board of several global schools providing advisory support with mathematics education.

## Clubs

After School Clubs will start Sunday 19 January from 2pm to 2:50pm

CLUB	DAY	STAFF MEMBER
Robotics/Creating	Sunday	Mr Idris
Arabic Gift Talent	Sunday	Mr Zayed
Football	Monday	Mr Zayed, Mr Abdulla
Girls Gym	Monday	Miss Elena
Math	Wednesday	Mr Abdullah
Current Affairs	Wednesday	Miss Ellen
Book Club	Thursday	Miss Jeanetta
French	Thursday	Miss Maha

## QAST Online

-  [www.instagram.com/qast\\_qf/](https://www.instagram.com/qast_qf/)
-  [www.facebook.com/QASTQF/](https://www.facebook.com/QASTQF/)
-  [www.QAST.qa](http://www.QAST.qa)

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