



**HAMILTON**  
International School

Igniting  
passi♥n, purp@se  
and pOtential

# NEWSLETTER

October 2020



PAINTING THE TOWN



GRADE 2



## AMAZING LEARNING!

Amazing Learning is central to everything that we do at Hamilton. We are a lively, busy, happy and hardworking school where we support our students to develop a love of learning and achieve to the best of their ability. Through our enriched and flexible international curriculum, our teachers work continuously to inspire children. We sincerely feel this is one of the primary reasons that Hamilton is so different and special.

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"Our teachers delivered highly engaging, academically challenging lessons that captivated our students."  
 -Ian Rinaldi,  
 Head of Elementary



# MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF ELEMENTARY

September was an incredible month filled with Amazing Learning! Our teachers delivered highly engaging, academically challenging lessons that captivated our students. This Amazing Learning not only occurred physically in our classrooms, but it resonated online with our distance learning lessons. Parental feedback has been extremely positive with all modes of learning, thank you for sharing your feedback as it is important to us.

The buzz around the school, the energy in the classrooms and the ‘feel good’ factor at Hamilton is well and truly in place. Amazing Learning happens when our learners surprise themselves, and their teachers and parents too, with the levels of learning they have reached. This learning can take place in many forms; it

may be in a specific subject in class, or through an interaction with a peer or member staff. Throughout each day, our students are getting better. This is not just academically, but could be observed through key skills, such as problem solving, resilience or cooperation. Our staff at Hamilton have a hunger and desire to ensure our students are continually adding value to themselves, no more so than at this current time.

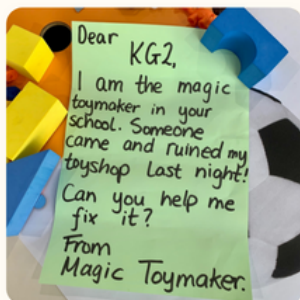
October is an exciting month as we have engaging lessons planned and several events to celebrate.

Stay safe and we look forward to an exceptional October!





# AMAZING LEARNING!



## EARLY YEARS

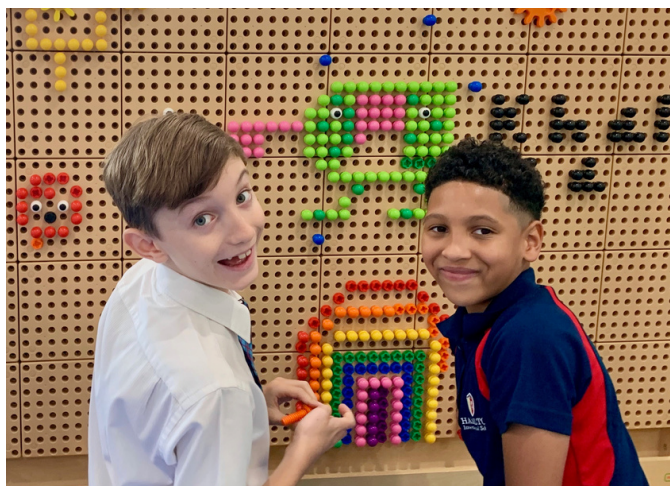
Focused on settling into their new classes, learning about our environment and making new connections with teachers and peers. Participated in Little Movers Make Giant Strides unit. Visit from the Toymaker activity.

## ELEMENTARY

Introduction of ICT, music and language within classroom safe bubbles. IPC unit 'Brainwave' incorporated all aspects of learning through English, Math, Art and PE. iPads utilized in all subjects including Arabic A / B lessons.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

Cartography project in Visual Arts completed. Introduction of the IMYC Media Project which encompasses all aspects of learning. Covered 'Big Idea' themes to incorporate into Math, English, Science, Social Studies and Foreign Language.



## REFER A FRIEND

We recognize that parents and friends are the best ambassadors for our unique style of learning and community-minded environment. To thank you for every friend that you refer to Hamilton, you will receive a QAR 1,000 discount to use towards any school related cost. This credit can be applied to tuition, outside activity providers (ASAs), bus transport, uniform or school meal purchases. Contact the Admissions Team for Terms & Conditions - [admissions@this.qa](mailto:admissions@this.qa).

**Become a Hamilton Ambassador!**

# UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

EVENTS	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4th Virtual Open House for Prospective Parents / 4:00 pm					1	2	3
5th World Teachers' Day School celebration postponed to November 5th							
6th Parent Workshop & Coffee Webinar / 8:00 am Topic: How is my child assessed?							
11th Resilience and Wellbeing: Strengthening Families in Unprecedented Times Webinar / 4:00 pm	4 Virtual Open House	5 World Teachers' Day	6 Parent Workshop & Coffee Morning	7	8	9	10 World Mental Health Day
13th Parent Workshop & Coffee Webinar / 8:00 am Topic: What does success look like for my child?							
17th Community Event for Perspective Parents / 11:00 am Tours, assessments for Term 2 and meet the teachers	11 Resilience and Wellbeing Webinar	12	13 Parent Workshop & Coffee Morning	14	15	16	17
19th International Language Day In class activities planned							Community Event
20th Parent Workshop & Coffee Webinar / 8:00 am Topic: My child has English as a second language - how can they be supported?	18	19 International Language Day	20 Parent Workshop & Coffee Morning	21 Elementary Parent Conferences / Prospective Parent Coffee Morning	22 Cancer Awareness Day Middle School Interim Reports Issued	23	24
21st Elementary Parent Conferences Information to be communicated on Class Dojo							
21st Coffee Morning for Prospective Parents / 9:00 am	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
22nd Cancer Awareness Day Students come to school wearing pink and/or red	Half Term Break	Half Term Break	Half Term Break	Half Term Break	Half Term Break		
25th Start of Half Term Break through 29th October							

Hamilton is kicking off October with a variety of events. Please join us on the optional parent webinars each Tuesday morning at 8:00 - 9:00 am. Each session will be recorded and archived in the Parent Portal.

Also we have a few special days to celebrate in October - World Teachers' Day, World Mental Health Day, International Language Day and Cancer Awareness Day. For World Mental Health Day we have a special event with a distinguished panel of experts which should not be missed. On International Language Day, we will have a variety of activities for all year ages. October is also Cancer Awareness Month and on Hamilton's Cancer Awareness Day, students can wear their uniform with pink and/or red accessories or come in their own pink and/or red ensemble. This casual dress down day aims to create cancer awareness.

The end of October marks half term break. This gives teachers, families and students the opportunity to rest and enjoy quality family time before returning back to school on 1st of November.

We are continually updating future events so we encourage you to continually check Engage or our website under News & Events.





# WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

Every year on the 5th of October since 1994, UNESCO celebrates the World Teachers' Day (WTD) to commemorate the adoption of the 1966 UNESCO/ILO the Recommendation Concerning the Status of Teachers. This Recommendation provided the precedence of education standards, recruitment, training and working conditions for all teachers. WTD is globally celebrated and aims to acknowledge, empower and appreciate teachers.

The theme for this year's celebration is, "Teachers: Leading in crisis, reimagining the future." At Hamilton, our incredibly inventive teachers are expertly navigating the challenges of a pandemic and continuing to deliver amazing learning in class and online.

We believe our teachers are a positive influence on our students and community at large and a very important part of our school. They challenge our students to consider what it means to be successful and guide their search for meaning in the world around them, and in their interactions with each other.

The Hamilton Community would like to commend our teachers and extend a heartfelt 'thank you' for encouraging our students to ignite their passion, discover their purpose and realize their limitless potential.



# RESILIENCE AND WELLBEING

To celebrate World Mental Health Day, Hamilton will be hosting an exclusive webinar on **Resilience and Wellbeing: Strengthening Families in Unprecedented Times**. Leading the discussion alongside Mr. Senior, will be Iain Tulley, Chief Executive Office, Mental Health Service at Hamad Mental Health Services and National Health Strategy Head - Mental Health and Wellbeing at the Ministry of Public Health and Katja Warwick-Smith, Assistant Executive Director of Clinical Service Development at Hamad Mental Health Services. The discussion has been specifically planned to provide families with guidance on maintaining wellbeing during these unprecedented times. Advanced registration is required [here](#).

**Resilience and Wellbeing: Strengthening Families in Unprecedented Times**  
**Sunday 11th October**  
**4:00 - 5:30 PM**



Mr. Iain Tulley spent 35 years in UK Healthcare, 15 years as Chief Executive. Prior to joining HMC, he was Chief Executive of Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust, one of the largest mental health Trusts in England. He was previously Chief Executive of Devon Partnership NHS Trust and East Devon Primary Care Trust. Mr. Tulley has held a number of senior healthcare management posts; he also worked at the Department of Health and was involved in developing a National Service Framework for Mental Health in the UK.

He describes his only priority as improving the quality of the patient experience. He said that the development of Mental Health Services in Qatar will further enhance the world ranking of our health system.



Katja Warwick-Smith (RMN, MSc, PGDE) graduated as a registered nurse in Finland and then spent over a decade working for the NHS in the UK, in clinical, managerial and service development roles in mental health services (especially in acute and emergency settings) before moving from a senior health care position to academia. She joined HMC here in Qatar in 2014 and is currently engaged in clinical redesign, virtual mental health services, The National Mental Health Helpline, workforce development and wellbeing & mental health awareness work across HMC and Qatar.





# WORLD MENTAL HEATH DAY

It is important to look for opportunities for children to enjoy meaningful interactions with others. Here are some tasks to help your child combat loneliness and feel connected.

## For Younger Children

- Pick a pen pal and write letters or draw pictures
- Take some chalk and write or draw positive messages for your neighbors on their sidewalk
- Call or connect online with family members
- Snuggle up on the sofa and look through family photo albums
- Create fun or silly videos and send them to family and friends
- Learn to cook your child's favorite meal together
- Have Zoom playdates with their friends and encourage structured activities like playing games together, crafts, scavenger hunts or retelling stories
- Working from home? Let your child 'intern' for the day. Set up a desk space for them and let them 'help' you with a special assignment.

## For Older Children

- Ask them to write to people they admire: artists, singers, athletes, gamers, etc.
- Look through year books or photo albums together and recount positive memories
- Create a scrapbook (paper or digital) of families and friends that they miss
- Connect with hobby or interest groups
- Ask them to create a tutorial for YouTube, TikTok or something that they enjoy doing
- Ask them to research a cause to advocate online as many organizations have found ways to utilize volunteers during COVID.
- Set up a weekly Zoom call with friends and each week ask them to take turns hosting with a game or activity to play together
- Ensure they have access to a 'Teen Lifeline'

## How to Keep Kids Motivated!

### Mental Motivation

- Do they know what the expectations are?
- Do they understand the directions?
- If they seem bored, can they move up to the next level?
- Are they overwhelmed? Can small groups or problems be completed in increments of time rather than a full page?

### Fun Motivation

- Give choices wherever possible, especially in choosing a research or writing topic.
- Allow various modalities to show knowledge of a subject. Help them create posters, blogs, videos or drawings to reinforce learning.
- Assign fun, special projects to work on after daily work is complete. Keep the project seperated from regular school work.

### Avoid the Schoolwork Blues

### Self Motivation

- Track milestones on projects to help keep your child motivated and excited about their progress.
- Watch motivating films together.
- Find motivating quotes from your child's personal hereos or people they admire to read together.

# CALLING ALL ASPIRING JOURNALISTS

- Do you like to write?
- Are you passionate about photography?
- Are you interested in capturing events and retelling the story?
- ✓ If you answer YES to any of these questions and are interested in working as a school journalist on the newsletter and social media 'scoops' then contact Christine at [csperr@this.qa](mailto:csperr@this.qa)
- \* Join the student reporter team!

Click here to follow us:



## MINECRAFT EDUCATION GLOBAL BUILD CHAMPIONSHIP

**The First Minecraft Education Global Build Championship will be held in October!**

### What is the Global Build Championship?

On October 3rd, the first Global Build Championship will be announced and open to schools around the world. The Global Championship is designed to engage students remotely or in the classroom. Minecraft developers want to inspire students around the world to develop creative environmental solutions to build a better world.

### Who can participate?

Students ages 8-18 are invited to participate in teams of 1-3 students with a fully supported educational activity designed for self-directed remote learning and aligned to UN sustainable development goals.

### Submission Requirements

Once the championship opens on October 3rd, an Educator will register each team.

Minecraft will provide a world template and submission template for builds.

Students will need to include a short Game Recording and voice over description in their submission.

Extra credit will be given for incorporating one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals

### Key Dates

Registration Open on October 3rd

Submissions due by November 6th

Winners announced December 4th



**If your child is interested in joining a team through Hamilton, please contact Mr. Ross on ClassDojo or MS Teams.**



# PARENT & STUDENT TECHNOLOGY TOOLS

Hamilton integrates technology with our students' learning journey. We also utilize it to communicate important information and announcements. Here are the two platforms each parent should be engaging with on daily and weekly basis:

## ClassDojo

ClassDojo connects teachers with students and parents to build amazing classroom communities. ClassDojo includes the links to live lessons and a summary of the daily learning with the applicable assignments. There is also the Student Portfolio which allows each student to upload work for all subjects. This is a tool for all modes of learning: in-person, blended and distance learning so please ensure ClassDojo is checked daily by students and parents. It also contains important communications from our senior leadership team. If you do not have login details for ClassDojo, please contact your child's homeroom teacher for assistance.



## Engage

Engage is a tool THIS utilizes as a parent portal which contains student information. Engage is where all school reports, invoices, events and announcements are located. It can be accessed from the Parent Portal button on the upper righthand side of our website or direct login [here](#). All new parents should receive login details from [info@this.qa](mailto:info@this.qa). If you have not received login details or require assistance, please contact [info@this.qa](mailto:info@this.qa) with your child's name, grade and best contact phone number.

Our aim is to provide an excellent and engaging learning environment with the support of technology tools.

# SCHOOL MEAL ORDERS

A selection of school meals is available through Sodexo, operating from Hamilton's cafeteria. Weekly menus are available each Thursday for the upcoming week. Scan the QR code here or order link: <https://forms.gle/FQ94wGywBqfpymFq7>

It is highly appreciated to arrange a Sodexo meal card and to prepay each week with a top up. This reduces the handling of cash daily and is easier for all students. Meal cards can either be kept at Reception, the Cafeteria or held physically by students.

For specific inquiries, please contact Sodexo directly by Whats App (974) 7033 8257 or email: [hamilton.admin@teyseer-services.com](mailto:hamilton.admin@teyseer-services.com) Bon appetite!



