

# campus line



\* Compass International School kids and their family members at Aspire Park.

## CIS raises money for Water Aid

**C**lad in blue, students of Compass International School (CIS) recently held a special event to raise money for the charity, Water Aid which uses practical solutions to provide clean water, safe sanitation and hygiene education to the world's poorest people. It works in 26 countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific region.

At the end of the day, the children and their families congregated in Aspire Park where a special track had been prepared by the Aspire team. The children completed the run and then spent time playing with friends and picnicking in the park. "It was a great family event for all to enjoy, whilst raising money for a great cause," said Pauline Markey, CIS principal.



\* Children of Compass International School taking part in a run organised at Aspire Park as part of the school's fund-raising drive for the charity, Water Aid.

## Counselling session at MES

**M**ES Indian School is organising a counselling session on December 30 for the parents of Class I to VIII students in the school premises. Dr Vijayan, an eminent counsellor and resource person in the field of psychology will address the parents and offer useful hints about general parenting skills, practical and psychological solutions on how to deal with children who have learning disabilities and other emotional distractions and aberrations.

He will also highlight on tackling the problems of child delinquency and indiscipline. Dr Vijayan is also conducting a three-day orientation programme for the teachers.



**National Day celebrations:** Iqra English School for Boys and Girls recently celebrated Qatar National Day with great fervour. At a special programme organised at the school, children had a chance to reflect upon the principles on which Qatar was founded. They enjoyed the warmth of Qatari culture and hospitality and a performance depicting 'Life in Qatar.' Later they had a traditional meal inside a traditional Arabic tent.



Every week, education expert Sanjeev Verma will answer your queries on studying abroad. E-mail queries to [features@gulf-times.com](mailto:features@gulf-times.com)

### How should one write an essay for US college admissions?

As application time arrives, one of the worries of every student is how to write the essays for the US college applications. Every student or parent who comes to our office asks this one question over and over.

To simplify the topics and make it seem more approachable I am writing a few lines on personal essays and the options available.

I cannot repeat this enough to students, do not have anyone else write the essays or copy and paste it off the Internet. Admission officers are very savvy and can easily make out an essay written by the student or a parent.

Also do not use unnecessarily long words so the admission officers are referring to a dictionary.

Write in an engaging way. Keep explanations short and brief. Your essays should be expressive of your passions, interests, accomplishments, aspirations, motivations etc. They should be able to sell you as a product without a sales effort. That is the main goal. It is not about your basic biographical information or where you were born or about your likes and dislikes. It has to do with you as a person and where you see yourself in the future. On top of everything, it has to be able to put your values and principles with that of the university you are applying to. Ultimately your essay has to stand out from the rest and should be able to show your creative writing skills. It should be grammatically correct, have excellent comprehension and show a string of ideas that are logically linked. And please do use spell check, word count as these essays should not exceed a maximum word limit. Finally, remember it is a work in process, never write and submit in one go.

*(Sanjeev Verma began with Ernst & Young and progressed to set up the Gulf operations of IDP Education Pty. He now leads Intelligent Partners, developing a wide range of solutions in areas of International education.)*