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# Q.F.I. School Magazine



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# 1 | A New Environment

Aliesha Jaseena 9B



Grade 5 & 6 teachers

## What do you love about teaching elementary students?

Ms. Ifrah, a grade 6 teacher stated, “The best part of teaching for me is making someone understand [new content],”. The ‘discussions’ and the ‘wonder,’ in the classroom, motivate her to teach at this level. Further we interviewed a grade 5 teacher, Mr. Mika, to get his perspective of what it feels like to teach this grade. He replied, “I really love to see when a student gets an idea on how to do a task after molding the ideas in their own

minds first; It is great to see them feel accomplished.” [Ms. Ifrah, Grade 6 classroom teacher]

## Why did you choose to teach elementary students?

We interviewed Ms. Katri, the team leader, as well as grade 5 classroom teacher as to why she teaches at the elementary level. In her response, she stated “ Every school day is different! I also learn something new every day.” [Ms. Katri, Grade 5 classroom teacher]

## Why do you want to teach this grade level?

Mr. Luke, who is a Grade 5 teacher, reveals that he wants to teach elementary students so that he can be someone who, “listens to what my students have to say and help them to treat each other with respect and kindness.” [Mr. Luke, Grade 5 classroom teacher]

## How do you handle discipline in a classroom during this time in Covid 19 pandemic?

Mr. Lassi, a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher confirmed that there has been less need for handling discipline in the classroom due to the new norm of teaching as we are currently doing the blended learning. “One on one chats have been working, however, the students have found having responsibility more difficult than being in fully on-site.” [Mr. Lassi, Grade 6 classroom teacher]

We asked the same question to Mr. Mika, one of the Grade 5 teachers whose response is, [It is] “the same way as we previously do in normal times, by telling them how important discipline is for all of us.” [Mr. Mika, Grade 5 classroom teacher]

## What is the greatest challenge getting a student to adhere to the safety bubbles/ social?

All teachers had similar answer to this question as their students love being around each other, Nonetheless, when playing games, it’s difficult for them to remember that they need to keep distance. However, the bubbles with other grades are easier to maintain, since they are not close to other units. With this said, the teachers need to constantly remind the students to social distance from each other, “ as mentioned by both grades 5 and 6 teachers.

## How do you motivate students to learn during these unprecedented times?

Ms. Katja stated, "Remind them that even though things are different, this situation also teaches them new skills such as they are learning (computer skills, which they need for online lessons) and working with different groups- in blended learning, not just with their own class,” help them to get along with others outside their social realm. [Ms. Katja, Grade 6 classroom teacher]

Mr. Mikas view on this is not too different from Ma Katja. He simply states, “by constantly cheering them on.” (Mr. Mika, Grade 5 classroom teacher)

# 1 Evolution of Elementary Teaching

Vesam Delfi 9B



Grade 5 students

## How do you discipline students if they don't follow the guidelines?

All the teachers confirmed that a talk with the students first is important and if the behavior doesn't change, they'll be in contact with the student's parents. [Grade 5 & 6 classroom teachers]

## What are the developmental needs and characteristics of children in this grade?

Ms. Ifrah stated, "Understanding the bigger picture. Why are we studying history or math? These are often asked questions. Getting rewards without working for it is also very common." [Ms. Ifrah, Grade 6 classroom teacher]

The most effective way to develop the needs and characteristics for 6<sup>th</sup> graders according to Ms. Anne is one-to-one time with the students, as it helps them to focus on what they are lacking. By using private meeting and study hall, the teachers will spend their break time to guide the students and teaching or helping them. [Ms. Anne, Grade 6 classroom teacher]

## What teaching strategy/style do you use to accommodate the various developmental needs of the children?

Every teacher has different approach when it comes to teaching strategies or style they use when teaching students. One of the styles Ms. Ifrah uses is telling stories and have plenty of discussions. Ms. Anne says, "every individual has different style of learning, whether it be with a teacher beside them or visual aid or hands on; it depends on the students." (Ms. Ifrah and Ms. Anne, grade 6 classroom teacher.)

## What teaching strategy/style do you use to accommodate the various developmental needs of the children?

Every teacher has different approach when it comes to teaching strategies or style they use when teaching students. One of the styles Ms. Ifrah uses is telling stories and have plenty of discussions. Ms. Anne says, "every individual has different style of learning, whether it be with a teacher beside them or visual aid or hands on; it depends on the students." (Ms. Ifrah and Ms. Anne, grade 6 classroom teacher.)

## How do you make your lessons applicable to the real world?

Ms. Katja stated, "Draw comparisons to the

real world, remind or tell the students how the skills they are studying can be used later in their lives." [Ms. Katja, Grade 6 classroom teacher]

Ms. Anne stated, "she uses her own life experiences or persona a lot in her teaching. It's important to share stories or examples about real life and try to blend in with different topics. Something that is mechanical or by the book, but from something that happened." [Ms. Anne, Grade 6 classroom teacher]

## How do you assess student progress?

Ms. Heidi states that she uses every way possible. More specifically, she states, "You can tell, show, draw, write etc. What you know. Project works. Continuous observing. Little amount of testing required." [Ms. Heidi, Grade 5 classroom teacher]



# 1 | Evolution of Elementary Teaching

Vesam Delfi 9B

In every single lesson Ms. Anne assesses her students through participation, or the work they have completed, and or how much effort they have put in. For group work, she would assess by how much they contribute to the group, and the most important, how well they do in the subjects. They make goals with each other in the beginning of each term and then the teachers will do everything they can to support the students and helping them to reach their goals. The tests are a very small part of the assessment stated Ms. Anne, it is the everyday work that the teachers assess. [ Ms. Anne, Grade 6 classroom teacher]

**If the students are under stress, what will you do to help them?**

Miss Heidi solution is very simple yet effective. She stated, “making the students simply relax is the most effective method to use.” [Ms. Heidi, Grade 5 classroom teacher]

Mr. Lassi says” to Figure out what is causing the stress and working with other teachers, counsellor and parents (if needed) to help the student resolve the situation.” [Mr. Lassi, Grade 6 classroom teacher]

**Have you had to adjust your teaching style in the past for different kinds of students?**

Mr. Lassi recites that understanding your student is one of the most crucial factors to this. More specifically he says, “The key to be a teacher who understands the students is to know the students a bit and respond to their needs as well as you can.” [Mr. Lassi, Grade 6 classroom teacher]

**In what ways have you used technology to enhance your teaching?**

Mr. Lassi uses videos to give extra information. He mentioned “giving students tasks where they get to use computers in various ways.” [Mr. Lassi, Grade 6 classroom teacher]



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# 2 Education in a New Age

AYŞE ELİF DEMİR- 9A

Blended Learning



AHMET SALİH DEMİR 7D

□ What was the worst part of COVID, educational/social/personal?

Ahmet Salih Demir, one grade 7D student, says that the biggest impact COVID-19 had on him was socially. Conveying how before the lockdown, he and his friends played football together, and since the start of COVID-19, their social activities are limited.

□ Would you get the vaccine for COVID-19 when it comes out?

As a reply to whether he would take the vaccine once it was released to the public, Ahmet responded by saying that he would wait around two months to see if the vaccine has any after-effects.

□ What was your first action towards COVID-19?

"I tried to get organized, but it was really difficult because I have never done online learning."

• Compare online learning to on-site, and vice versa is it harder or easier?

Explaining his opinion on the impact of Covid-19 on

his education, Ahmet stated that "Online" is harder because so many things can happen when you're online; your internet could fail, camera could be broken and or some students may not have the proper devices, for example, not having a good mic, and or a computer." He further goes on to express his concern on if the internet were to go out, a lot of his and many others learning time would be lost and wasted.

□ How long do you think this virus will last?

According to Ahmet, he is confident that the virus might come to an end no later than in 2022 but expressing his hope for an earlier finish. Ahmet's prediction may seem to be a long time away, but he voiced, "People aren't taking the right protocols, for example, in America, they have 30,000 cases per day and if we continue to ignore the safety protocol, the numbers will continue to escalate and therefore, I [think] it will take this time to suppress the virus

from getting out of hand. For the virus to extinct, the vaccine must be distributed to the entire world or the virus will continue to spread." Ahmet gave an extraordinary example as to how the virus will keep spreading, he stated, "Let's say there's this wall, which is the vaccine, but if the Coronavirus keeps on developing more, it will keep on jumping over the wall or going under the wall, it will keep [undermining the effectiveness of] the vaccine." The analogy pointed out by Ahmet was most likely voiced by health care workers and scientists; "What if it doesn't work?"



Ahmet Salih Demir 7D

# 2 | The Education Impact

By: Ece Deniz Çağatay 9B



Ms. Holly Crewe, librarian

## Would you get the covid-19 vaccine?

Lucy Sanduluk shared a similar thought to our other interviewees, she had said, "I don't think I would get it immediately. I personally would wait a bit to make sure its 100% safe and that nothing is injected inside our bodies." This is a common remark as people are unsure whether the vaccine is being distributed to cure the virus or for making it worse.

## Where do you think the virus came from?

She explained her point of view about this topic saying, "I believe it started in china, but I think it came from America because the bats were imported into China from America."

## How long do you think the virus will last?

Finally, "I think it's going to last till 2023. I think the worst of it is over unless it spikes up and becomes more deadly. I don't think it is going to become any worse when the vaccine is released but if people don't get the vaccine or don't trust the vaccine."

Lucy Sanduluk 8B

Lucy Sanduluk, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, was one of the many interviewees we had chosen in order to see what our schools' students and our peers thought of the ongoing global crisis that had become intertwined with our daily lives. We asked her about her thoughts regarding the Covid-19 pandemic, and here is what Lucy has to say.

## What was your first action towards COVID-19?

In response to our first question Lucy gave a straightforward and confident answer "First, we stored extra [supplies] in case of lockdown." she explained, "Then to stay safe we [practiced social distancing and we wore masks and gloves when we went outside.]"

## Do you think our school handled COVID well?

"I think they handled it well." the 8B student started, "Some stuff could have changed to protect student's safety and health more, but in general our school did a very good job considering the conditions."



Ms. Irreen Palis, librarian assistant



"Online learning is not the next big thing; it is the now big thing." -Donna J. Abernathy

## 2 | Bringing Back Hope to Education

AYŞE ELİF DEMİR- 9A

**Brodie Probert 9A**

**How did COVID-19 effect your education?**

One of the students we interviewed from grade 9A, Brodie Probert, volunteered to answer our questions based on COVID-19 and its effects on education. He replied "Suddenly we were online most of the time which [hindered] us from getting the [necessary] help we needed to practice more [on subjects we struggled in]." which is what many of our interviewees have concurred.

**What was the worst part of COVID, educational/social/personal?**

"It was staring at a screen for 7 hours a day [due to] online learning. It's the worst [as it requires us to sit] for a long time, especially because I can't sit still. I lose focus the longer I sit [...]. I begin to zone out and kind of stop focusing." after his comment my partner and I realized that perhaps online learning wasn't hard, but it was the conditions that were causing the struggle.

**Do you think our school handled COVID-19 well?**

• Being straight forward our interviewee stated a few of his own concerns regarding online learning, "Okay, the zoom links are still chaos, they are barely usable sometimes. For other [issues] I'd say, 'yeah', it's going okay, but the online group probably still needs more work if I am being honest here."

**What was your first action towards COVID-19?**

Like many of us, "The first thing I did was buy masks. And then I began preparations for a doomsday bunker. I was ready for an outbreak; the problem was that I ate all my snacks almost instantly after." Although COVID is not something to laugh about it is good

to see the spirits of some students still being quite high.

**How long do you think this virus will last?**

"I'm going to say maybe [4 months after 2021] before everything goes back to normal. Because people are [careless] and if you go outside, you will see people without their masks on; people who have their masks on [their faces are not fully covered], you can [still] see their noses." Brodie concluded by saying "People aren't the smartest of things."

# 2 Engaging with Learning

By: Ece Deniz Çağatay

Ismaeel Zia 9B

- **Compare online learning to onsite and vice versa is it harder or easier?**

9<sup>th</sup> grader Ismaeel Zia had the last word for our interview before we wrapped up. "Online learning is horrible in general, it makes learning hard because the workload is too much which I think our school can improve by giving less homework to students." he advised.

- **Would you get the vaccine for COVID-19 when it comes out?**

"No, I wouldn't." he began, explaining further, "I will take it if it has no side effects, so I might wait about 3 months before taking it."

- 
- **What did you think about COVID-19 when it was first discovered?**

Ismaeel explained his theories in simple words, "I didn't think it was going to affect the whole world to be honest, I thought it would end in few months." he expressed many of our shared beliefs during the beginning of COVID-19.

- **Where do you think the virus originated from?**

Sharing the beliefs of multiple others, Ismaeel took his guess, "It started in china, but it did not [originate] from there. Basically, people planned the virus, I think someone made it." The 9<sup>th</sup> grader believed that maybe the virus was in reality, man-made and not actually something that originally derived from nature itself.



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## 2 | The Futuristic Style of Schooling

AYŞE ELİF DEMİR- 9A

Ana-Sofia Haddad 8A

### □ What did you think about COVID-19 when it was first discovered?

Like many others, Ana-Sofia too did not expect that she would be getting her education completely online. She mentioned, "I thought it was just going to be a week or two, and we'd come back to school, but then it turned out that the rest of last year we were all online."

### □ How did COVID-19 effect your education?

"I think it made it a lot more difficult. Because [now we] do online and onsite [learning]. So, it gets confusing at times." explained Ana-Sofia.

### □ What was the worst part education/personal life?

What makes online learning harder and more confusing than onsite learning? Why does this student prefer onsite? Ana-Sofia says that the downside of online learning is the inability to have all her friends and everyone in the same classroom as her, "You can have more social interaction. It was nicer to have everybody here. All the laughter was nice." She suggests that having everyone physically in the same room provided a much better learning environment.



E-Learning

“

You can have more social interaction.  
It was nicer to have everybody here.  
All the laughter was nice.

”

### □ What do you think your school can improve?

We ask Ana-Sofia questions on what she thinks the school can improve and she replied saying that the school is already doing a great job when it comes to classroom organization, as they already have two separate groups divided into different bubbles which makes it much safer for her, peers, and teachers.

### □ Compare online learning to onsite and vice versa is it harder or easier?

When asked to compare online learning to onsite, Ana-Sofia did have some concerns regarding the heavy workload. She has stipulated some solutions that may help students feel more comfortable towards online learning. She thinks that the homework could be lessen, having most of the work done onsite, the reason she suggested this was because she says "Classwork and homework, sometimes get mixed up when online." Additionally, she also highlighted her own personal struggles with online learning, saying that it is harder to keep up with and to hand in tasks on time. One of her major technological concerns is Microsoft OneNote. She expresses that it deletes the work or takes forever to sync. "Then, it just gets confusing." When she was onsite, she exclaimed that she could hand in things faster and on time, and without any excessive stress.

# Setting New Trends



Gentle Monster

"Fashion is very important. It is life-enhancing and, like everything that gives pleasure, it is worth doing well." —  
**Vivienne Westwood**



Undercover



Ms. Jonna Temonen,  
Physical and health  
education

Mr. Waqas Raja,  
mathematics teacher



### How are the students cooperating with the social bubbles system?

The students have been doing good, because they are mostly managing. The system has been working quite well, even better than expected. All thanks to the cooperation of the students.” *There is more structure to lessons in the classrooms.*”, explained Mr. Waqas (Mr. Waqas Raja, math teacher). Mr. Waqas goes on to explain that the students are now used to this system because it is similar to the previous system. However, during the breaks these rules are sometimes not followed as well as they are in the lessons. But when students are reminded, the issues are quickly resolved. Likewise, *“It is hard times for everyone, but our students have shown incredible skills.”* stated, Ms. Jonna, (Physical and Health education teacher.)

### How and who came up with this idea of social bubbles?

When this question was posted to the teachers, they mentioned that all the staff contributed to this idea of “social bubbles.” However according to it came from scientist who decided that this was the best option for onsite school.

The restrictions were given to the homeroom teachers from the vice principals. We already should have social bubbles within our personal life's, with our friends and family. These restrictions are followed all around the world.

## What are the pros and cons about these restrictions?

It is not something we (teachers) or the students are used to. Ms. Shazia stated “it would be hard but... HEALTH FIRST” (Shazia Saeed teacher of Biology and Chemistry). For children's wellbeing and so that they learn better there has to be emotional and social contact, which is missing. Being online is hard for everyone, it is not the “original” way of teacher or learning so All of us have to adapt.

The pros are that we are alive. Ms. Jonna explained “Everybody has chance to be onsite” (Ms. Jonna Temonen, teacher of Physical education and Health education). It is better for learning to be onsite; they get to see their friends and teachers. With this system everyone gets to experience that being onsite and benefiting. There is a lower chance of the virus spreading.



Ms. Shazia Saeed, biology and chemistry teacher

## 3 | From the Teachers Eyes

Yulia Feliz Shapovalova

### Do you think that this was the best option for when students are onsite?

According to the teachers, at this point we must trust the science. *"These restrictions are made for OUR health."*(Waqas Raja, math teacher). Despite the fact that the ministry enforces these rules to the schools, studying online can be hard; it's our best option right now. *"I think it's the best suggestion so far,"* due to these restrictions, we can only have 43% of students at the same time. (Tahir Valli, Mathematics teacher) Ms. Saeed responded, *"The social bubble system works most of the time, but students struggle with having to stay in one place all the time."* (Ms. Shazia Saeed, Biology and Chemistry teacher)

### Is this idea going according to plan?

When asked this Mr. Waqas went on to explain, most of the time yes. “Cases in Qatar schools are lower than schools in other countries I know of (Europe & US) Therefore I would say things are going to plan.” (Mr. Waqas Raja, math teacher) Sometimes there are little issues, for example when students move in-between rooms and the sanitizing rules. These restrictions are going well as there haven't been any cases spreading in the school, at this moment.

Mr. Tahir Valli, mathematics teacher



### 3 | Thoughts on Social Bubble System

Falisha Jaseena



Ms. Colleen Whyte teaching her grade 9 news students

## Student Interview

### How do you feel about the social bubble system?

The social bubble system is a good idea as we are not in contact with anyone that might carry the Coronavirus. We asked three students how they feel about the social bubble in our school, they responded, “*It is a good prevention from Covid-19.*” They further explained that it is effective and makes it much safer from mixing the grades together. However, they mentioned the stress that comes with being onsite one day and online the next. (Ahmet Kağan Hançer, Yulia Feliz, 9B&A, Ammaarah Raja, 7C)

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It won't do much if people don't keep their mask on

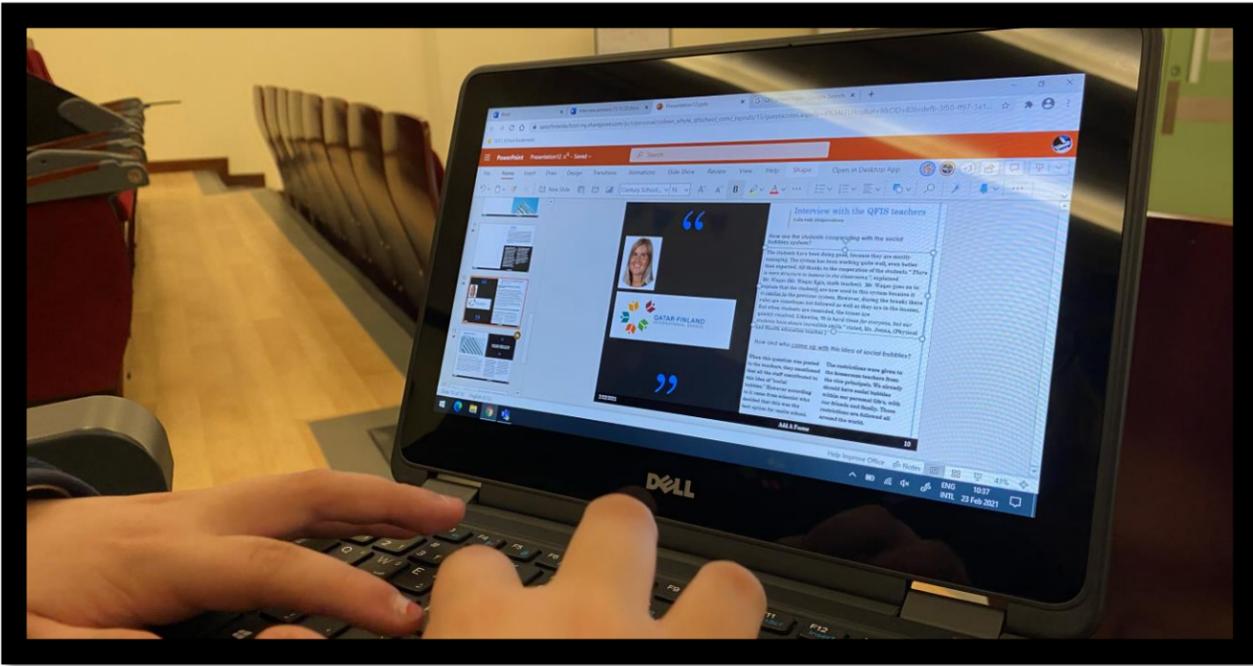
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### How do you comply to this system mandated by the school and ministry? (give ways/tips)

Maintaining social distancing is a must, or we would never be able to go back to the normal school routine. Students and staffs are ought to keep their mask on throughout the whole school day. “*I personally try to follow it as much as possible, but I think there should be more time in which we can have mask breaks,*” Yulia stated. On account of these restrictions, the students tried only to be in a classroom if there are teachers to supervise them. (Yulia Feliz, 9A)

# 3 The Protective Soap Bubbles

A presentation in making



**How long do you predict the social bubble system is going to continue?**

The social bubble system will likely remain for a while until the Coronavirus goes away. As individuals are not following these restrictions, this is also one of the reasons why the system will continue to exist. We hope that it could be gone latest by next month or when the number of Covid-19 decreases, but until then, we should do our best to act in accordance with the system. Lela exclaimed, *"Not sure, it's 2020 anything can happen."* (Lela Johnson, 8C)

**Do you think this system is effective?**

To some degree, "Yes"—our school haven't had many cases since September. The system is effective because there are less students onsite, and it helps reduce the probability of catching the virus. Nevertheless, Saba exclaimed, *"In my opinion, it won't do much if people don't keep their masks on, but, if they do, then we should be able to do things normally without the new systems. So, if we have masks on and are social distancing, we should be allowed to mix groups."* However, if everyone cooperates with the new system, we might be able to go back to the normal routine slowly. (Saba Albakri, 8C)

**Is the 2 meters rule being followed by everyone?**

Not everyone seems to follow the 2 meters rule. This makes it hard for the teachers as they have to constantly remind students to comply. *"No, not everyone is following the 2 meters rule and I confess that I had some troubles obeying the social distance,"* explained Giovanni. Seeing as the students wish to socialize and talk with their friends, no one is applying this rule. (Giovanni Miguelez, 7A)



Grade 9 student working on the school laptop



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## Qatar-Finland International School News Club

The News Club Team presents the new school magazine! Our team worked hard to get this far in our trip, and we encourage others, yes including you, to join us on our future adventures! We believe there is a talent in everyone, so why not foster up the courage to show it here at Q.F.I. School News Club?