

The art of teaching is the art  
of assisting discovery!

4th Edition

Chief Editor Sara Diab

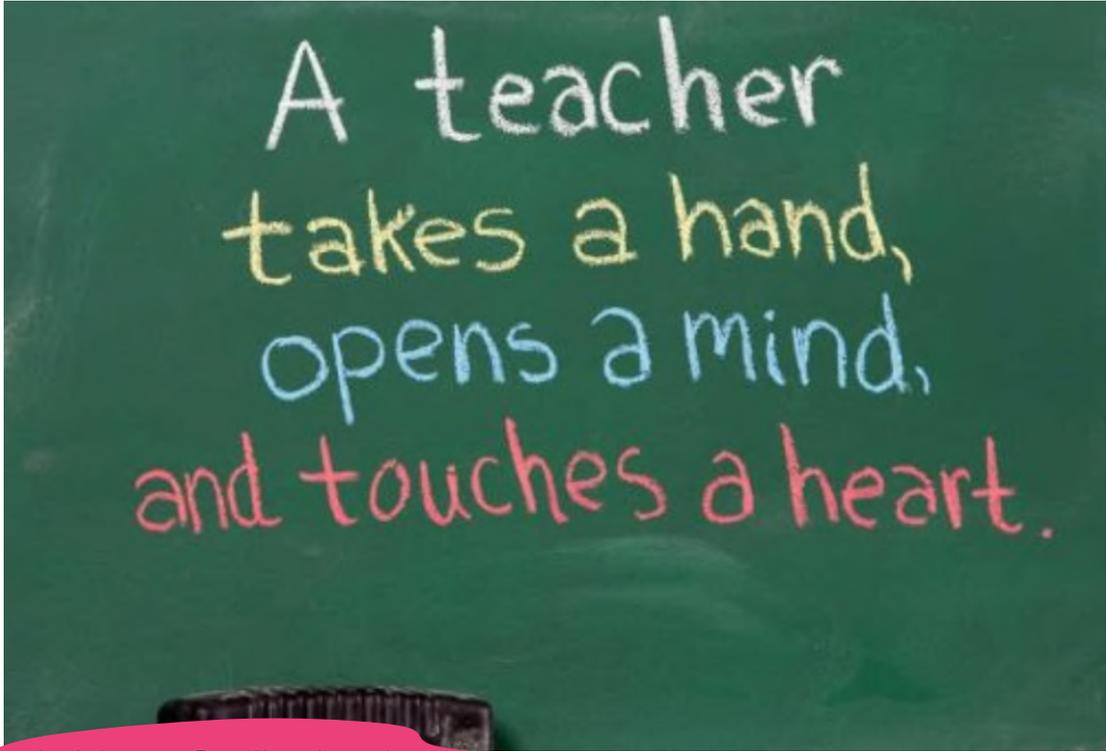
May 2021

# Bridges جسور

## WELCOME BACK!

We are nearing the end of this academic year, through the difficult times, constant change, and even hardship we somehow made it through. This year truly showed us how strong the QFI School community is because even in the most difficult times you'll always find someone to guide you or help you. Whatever and whenever there's always going to be a member of this community that's going to have your back.

A message from a student to QFI School



A teacher  
takes a hand,  
opens a mind,  
and touches a heart.

[bridges@qfischool.com](mailto:bridges@qfischool.com)

### 2021 has two rules

1. Never quit
2. Never forget rule number one

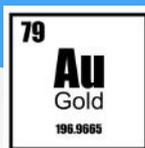
Students in QFI School would like to thank each and every teacher, guidance counselor, sen teacher, learning assistants, principal, counselor, librarian, parent, friend, and anyone else behind the scenes that made this year doable and worth finishing.

# THANK YOU LETTERS

Dear Miss Shazia,

I simply really enjoyed all of your classes this year! (and last year as well). I always eagerly looked forward to them. Biology and chemistry are two of my favorite subjects, but you've given me even more reasons as to why they should be! Thank you for all the times you made me regain my confidence and reinforced my little wins. Your words of encouragement mean a lot to me! You made me feel like underperforming in a quiz is not the end of the world, and that getting back on track and feeling motivated again is always within reach! Thank you for drawing big smiles on our faces on the good days and the bad, for always being as positive as a proton, and for seeing potential in every single one of us. Your positivity is very contagious, and I hope you know how kind, thoughtful, and inspiring you are!

You have a heart of



!

So thankful for all the work you've put in to make sure we get all the knowledge we need, and for all the times you made my curiosity grow. You always show us your full support, and it shows how much you care! Your classes are so special to me, and you always manage to make them interesting and engaging. Never felt like falling asleep in your classes, and I have never clicked the "leave the meeting" button on Zoom, or physically exited the classroom without being in a better mood! I am beyond grateful to have you as my teacher and I can't wait to have lessons with you next year! You're so awesome!

King regards, Yara Elnaccour



## Dear Mr Joonas,



Thank you for being such an amazing music teacher. You have taught me most of the things I know when it comes to instruments, and I discovered a new passion thanks to your lessons. I enjoy playing all the songs you give us, the fun assignments, the presentations, and everything that we have done this year despite the challenges of not being onsite. I still managed to have fun during music classes even at home, and wanted to thank you for all of your hard work and the fact that you always manage to make music enjoyable. I only see you once a week, but unless something terrible has happened, I always look forward to our Sunday lessons and hope to learn some new chords or practice playing a different instrument and learn new songs. Thanks for planning such a big variety of activities for us, thank you for always helping us whenever we need it, and thank you for always bearing with us. I can't wait for music lessons next year! - Anonymous

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## Dear Miss Amber,

All teachers are GREAT but there is one teacher I want to specifically write this for and thank her for everything she's done for us. Miss amber, you always encourage us to do better, help us so much with assignments, give us many chances, and above all, all your lessons are well taught and organized. This past year hasn't been easy with the ongoing pandemic. I want to thank you for being patient and working hard for us. You are always there when we need help and additionally, you always support what we do outside of school as well. Another thing that amazes me and other students is that you don't only teach us in school but outside of school too, you teach us how to endure challenges by running your marathons and you teach us how to be patient by dealing with students outside of school time. Teaching this year sure seems to look a lot different, yet through these new challenges, you have adapted and helped us adapt too. You have risen to occasions and continued to continuously show up for your students. Coming to the end of this year, thank you for all the fun lessons and everything you have done for your students. I am beyond excited to see what's coming up next year!

- Haya Diab



# DEAR MISTER JAAKKO,

I have been in this school for quite some time and I got to see many teachers come and leave; sometimes, it felt harder to say goodbye because of the bond that I ended up forming with them.

However, there was one teacher in particular that left an impression on me, among all the others. I remember him coming in to teach us one day, so he could practice; right off the bat, he seemed like a very good-natured and kind teacher. Before anything, he introduced himself to us as Mister Jaakko, and most of us took a liking to him from the beginning. He was very enthusiastic and it was as if his eyes lit up when he was teaching, because of his passion for teaching us. He never failed to make us laugh with his witty jokes. Once the lesson was over, I remember having a smile left on my face because I had to admit, I had fun in his lesson.

Later on, we were told that mister Jaakko would be coming back, and better still, he would be teaching us English; he also taught us ICT. Once he became our English teacher, I was very excited to see what he had in store for the class, because I was and still am a big fan of reading, writing, and English in general. Along the way, I realized that Mister Jaakko never failed to challenge us with continuous interesting tasks, such as writing poetry and reading classical literature. With time, I was given many chances to show him my love for poetry, writing, literature, and even acting, since I gathered up the courage to tell him that I was a great Shakespeare fan and that Romeo and Juliet was one of my favorite plays; I even admitted that I had memories the lines to some of the scenes off by heart. Later on, I gathered up even more courage to share one of my favorite books with him, because I liked how he always encouraged us to read (one of my favorite activities at that)

Recently, we started reading yet another book together, and I was given yet another chance to put my nerdy brain to the test whenever I was answering the questions assigned by him. I had been insecure about me being nerdy for many years because I had been looked down upon by one of my best friends years ago because of it, but for some reason, mister Jaakko helped me get rid of that completely; he made me feel proud of the fact that I was nerdy and of my love for books. I also loved the enthusiasm and support he showed me when I told him I had created my book club in school. I feel as if he has always been highly supportive, not just of me, but of all his students, because he is set on helping when asked for help by his students. Mister Jaakko is one if not the best teacher any student could ask for with his personality and genuine nature. I feel like I can speak for most students when thanking him for being able to put a smile on our faces all the time and having the strength to go on and try and make school fun even through the most challenging times, despite everything going on. He is one of the teachers that have had a significant impact on me, a highly positive impact, in so many ways. His appreciation and support were something that I always loved about him and I feel incredibly fortunate to have had the chance to share moments in time with him and have him be my teacher because he is simply the best.

-Anonymous



# Dear Miss Ivania,



I've always thought that being an art teacher suited you, as you are as vibrant and vivid as the colors in the art room. However, over time my opinion changed, I started seeing you differently. Don't get me wrong, I still think that you are as vibrant and vivid as the colors in the art room, but I started discovering that you are not just an art teacher. You are beyond that, you make us smile, inspire us and push us to pursue our goals/interests. Above all, you are understanding, whatever the situation is you always try your hardest to make us feel accepted and acknowledged. You help us express the inner voice that we didn't we had, the inner voice that we suppress. There are not many teachers that I would say I am comfortable with, but with you, I would say it in a heartbeat.

- Anonymous

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# I am Leaving...



It all started when I joined QFI School in January 2017. I was in the fourth grade when I had a teacher named Ms. Katrine. I have fond memories of her because she encouraged me to write short stories, something that I deeply enjoy to this day. In Grade 6, I met a new homeroom teacher, Ms. Pauliina. Initially, I was upset because I would have a new class teacher, but I found out right away that she was very kind and she inspired me to learn more about math and science.

I can't put into words how nervous I was to begin middle school because let's face it, it's a whole new experience. However, I couldn't have asked for a better homeroom teacher than Ms. May. She made the transition to Grade 7 feel stress-free by making the students feel at home. I cherish having Ms. May as a teacher because her warmth, kindness, and support make me feel safeguarded and happy. She loves and respects all her students, and it shows.

Other than my fantastic homeroom teachers, I've been blessed with amazing teachers in subject areas as well! Too many to name, I'm very thankful to every single one of them. They have helped me in my growth as a student and a person. I can only hope that in my future studies I will encounter people as dear to me as they are. No matter where I go, a piece of QFI School will always be with me.

- Joshua Hackett

“There are no goodbyes for us. Wherever you are, you will always be in my heart.” –  
Mahatma Gandhi