



## QATAR ACADEMY SIDRA CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

*'Peace One Day' Event Designed to Promote Unity and Compassion among Students*

**Doha, Qatar, September 24, 2017:** Qatar Academy Sidra (QA Sidra), an International Baccalaureate school under the umbrella of Qatar Foundation's (QF) Pre-University Education, celebrated the United Nations (UN) International Day of Peace on September 21 with students, staff, families, and board members in a special 'Peace One Day' event.

Ahead of the event, students from both the primary and secondary school explored the mission and values of QA Sidra to develop a deeper understanding of how individual and collective choices impact the learning environment. From there, QA Sidra's very own kindness movement was born.

Ms. Kim Green, Director, QA Sidra, offered her support and enthusiasm for the student-led Day of Peace and kindness movement.

"For our 'Peace One Day' celebrations, Qatar Academy Sidra launched **#BeKind**. At Qatar Academy Sidra we believe that kindness is in everyone. We want to engage all members of the community through our **#BeKind** movement, and encourage individuals to show compassion to one another," said Ms. Green.

"The mission of our **#BeKind** movement is to inspire kindness through spontaneous and thoughtful actions that demonstrate team synergy and positive relationships. As internationally minded young leaders of the future, Qatar Academy Sidra students know they are the sum of their experiences. They understand that we can be greater and more beautiful when we extend kindness."

The International Day of Peace event kicked off with a powerful performance of 'Asalamu Alykom' led by the Arabic department. After a warm welcome by Ms. Green, the Grade 5 students showcased their musical and film talents.

The assembly concluded with secondary school students introducing the **#BeKind** movement. The students took the initiative to look at areas of the school where they could make the biggest impact in making a positive difference to the school's environment. They explored the idea of QA Sidra creating a slogan, and came up with the 'Panther Pride' greeting. By encouraging the student community to welcome each other with a special greeting, they are helping to promote unity and compassion.



Additionally, to enhance the visual impact of peace, senior students practiced their leadership skills and helped the younger students craft 'Pinwheels for Peace', referencing the international art and literacy project created in 2005. They helped the primary students look at words and symbols, which, to them, represent kindness. They then took part in a peace parade with parents looking on.

Finally, to commemorate the first International Day of Peace celebration at QA Sidra, the community gathered to take a photograph on the school grounds using their bodies to make the international symbol for peace. The attendees then gathered to view a display of artwork created by parents and faculty about how they view peace and kindness at school and at home.

The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by the UN General Assembly, and is designed to commemorate and strengthen the ideals of peace. The theme for 2017 is 'Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All'.

**Photo Captions:**

**Image 1:** Students and teachers at Qatar Academy Sidra make the peace symbol at the school's first 'Peace One Day' event to celebrate the UN International Day of Peace 2017

**Image 2:** Ms. Kim Green, Director, QA Sidra, welcomes students to the school's first 'Peace One Day' event to celebrate the UN International Day of Peace 2017

**Image 3:** Students at Qatar Academy Sidra make peace related artworks as part of the school's first 'Peace One Day' event to celebrate the UN International Day of Peace 2017

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**Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential**

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) is a non-profit organization that supports Qatar on its journey to becoming a diversified and sustainable economy. QF strives to serve the people of Qatar and beyond by providing specialized programs across its innovation-focused ecosystem of education, research and development, and community development.

QF was founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, who shared the vision to provide Qatar with quality



education. Today, QF's world-class education system offers lifelong learning opportunities to community members as young as six months through to doctoral level, enabling graduates to thrive in a global environment and contribute to the nation's development.

QF is also creating a multidisciplinary innovation hub in Qatar, where homegrown researchers are working to address local and global research and development challenges. By promoting a culture of lifelong learning and fostering social engagement through programs that embody Qatari culture, QF is committed to empowering the local community and contributing to a better world for all.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>

### **Qatar Academy Sidra**

Qatar Academy Sidra is a supportive community that engages and empowers all in the pursuit of learning through a student-centered inquiry approach. Qatar Academy Sidra is proud of its core values that are grounded in the Islamic and Qatari values of Kindness, Relationships, Integrity and Respect.

Qatar Academy Sidra is a non-profit, co-educational school that offers a broad-based, international educational programme. Qatar Academy Sidra is a fully authorized International Baccalaureate Primary Years, Middle Years and Diploma Programme school. Qatar Academy Sidra was established by the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development. It is licensed by the Qatari Ministry of Education. Qatar Academy Sidra is a candidate for the Council of International Schools (CIS) and New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation.

The Qatar Academy Sidra experience is unique. We engage and empower all in the pursuit of learning to ensure that together, as a supportive community of parents, faculty, and staff, we give each individual child "roots to grow and wings to fly". Our campuses are hives of exploration, creative and critical thinking and are places where the joy of learning can be seen on smiling faces. We respond to the individuality, passions, and talents of each of our students. This is achieved whilst simultaneously building a reflective and open-minded culture that thrives on our abilities to collaborate and innovate.

Qatar Academy Sidra is more than just a school; it is a student-centered hub of inquiry, it is our community. Qatar Academy Sidra is a place for students, faculty, staff, and parents to play, learn, grow and celebrate.



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