



6th March 2015

Dear Parents,

The Junior School continues to be a place full of activity and learning.

Junior School Assemblies

Since the last newsletter of 6th February, we have had three assemblies.

The Year 1 classes had their assembly on 13th February, on the theme of *love*. We were given colourful and entertaining insights into the meaning of *love* through the eyes of 6 and 7 year olds. Many spoke about their love for their parents and siblings. Here are a few quotes:

- *Well, love is a lot of things but to my family love is unconditional. It's when you choose to love each another no matter what. It's kind of like how God loves us with all our faults.*
- *Love is like the wind. You can't see it, but you know it's there.*
- *Love is something you feel. Love is different for everybody. Love makes you happy. You can know you love somebody when you trust them, you are happy with them and they care about you.*
- *Upendo ni kama ikifika Id-Mubarak, mama anakununulia nguo mpya.*
- *Upendo ni kuwaheshimu wazazi na kuwapa busu. Upendo ni kusaidia wagonjwa hospitali. Upendo ni kupeana zawadi.*
- *Upendo ni kuwaamini watu. Upendo ni kucheza na dada yako na marafiki zako na kuwasaidia pia.*



On 27th February the Year 5A class gave a thought-provoking presentation which included a skit and dance based on one of the Aga Khan Academy Strands - Pluralism. We were reminded of how fortunate we are to be in a diverse environment at this school.

Today we had an assembly presented by students from Year 5 to commemorate World Book Day, which was led by Ms. Mary Wanza. The message was to encourage the students to read books more widely.

We very much appreciate it when parents join us for the Friday morning assemblies and extend the welcome to all our parent community. These take place at 7:45 to 8:30 every Friday morning.

PYP Coffee Morning (26th February) and Evening (5th March)

We were delighted to have many Junior School parents join us for a presentation given by our PYP Coordinator, Ms Rukiya Cochu, about Reading and Writing Through Inquiry in the PYP. Many questions were asked with discussions focussing on how the school provides support for students who are not reading at grade level expectations and how we select appropriate texts for our learners. Teaching language conventions such as spelling and punctuation also came up in discussions.

For more information please find sent along with this newsletter, a copy of the presentation used which includes the questions asked and the responses shared by the parents during the 2 meetings. Together with this email we have also attached a feedback form; we'll appreciate those of you who attended to take the time to fill it in and email to Mrs. Cochu on Rukiya.cochu@agakhanacademies.org or send in a copy. Feedback is valuable in helping us plan workshops that meet your needs and help address your concerns.



Teacher PYP Workshops

On 14th – 16th February 2015 all Junior School teachers took part in International Baccalaureate workshops. For the PYP we ran three workshops; Reading and Writing Through Inquiry, Bilingual and Multilingual Teaching and Learning and Making the PYP Happen in the Classroom. Our trainers came from Slovenia and Lebanon and we were delighted that Ms Khona Bhattacharjee, our Year 5 teacher and experienced workshop facilitator, led one of the workshops.

Teacher Preparation Programme

Since 9th January 2015 we have had four intern teachers with us at the Junior School, following an intensive 3 week Teacher Institute held at the Academy in November and December 2014. Titus Makunyi, Kepha Obiri, Fridah Gatwiri and Michael Muchilwa are qualified teachers from national universities and are here with us to develop their practices and understanding of the IB programme. They will be spending blocks of time in different year levels until the end of next year. Included with this letter is a short write-up to introduce them to you.

Inter-School Junior Athletics Championships

The school was proud to host its 9th annual Inter-School Junior Athletics Championships, on Saturday 28th February. This proved to be a long and hot morning running into the early hours of the afternoon! We were proud to have so many of our students participate and come to support their friends. They provided us with lots of exciting moments, not least the relays taking place at the end of the track events. As can be seen from the results below, AKAM did extremely well taking overall 1st place as well as 1st place in the Under 8 and Under 10 events.

▪ Under 8 Events

1st place: AKAM - 121 points

2nd place: Oshwal Academy and Shree Swaminarayan - 119 points

3rd MSB - 116 points

▪ U10 Events

1st place: AKAM - 171 points

2nd place: Shree Swaminarayan - 162 points

3rd place: Oshwal Academy – 123 points

▪ U12 Events

1st place: Shree Swaminarayan - 172 points

2nd place: AKAM - 162 Points

3rd place: Jaffery Academy - 133 points

▪ Overall

1st place: AKAM 454 points

2nd place: Shree Swaminarayan Academy 453 points

3rd place: Jaffery Academy 350 points.



Such events require a lot of organisation and we extend our appreciation to all those who made it happen this year. We always look to improve our practices and would welcome any feedback

from parents who were there on Saturday, which would help us with the organisation of the event next year. Please email your thoughts and feedback directly to our school office on Rebecca.Davis@agakhanacademies.org

The Pied Piper – Junior School Production

Rehearsals continue to take place for the Junior School performance, *The Pied Piper*. This show takes place on **Thursday 19th and Friday 20th March from 6.45pm to 8.00pm** at the school amphitheatre. Please arrange to collect students who use the bus from school on the two days as there will be no late bus after the performances. There will also be a full dress rehearsal on Wednesday 18th March during the morning, rather than the evening, as indicated on the school calendar. More information about the organisation of costumes and ticket sales will go out from the Production Committee next week.

Inter-House Sports Day – Friday 27th March

The Inter-House Sports Day will be held on Friday 27th March from 8.15am to 12.15pm. All Junior School students will participate in this event. Your child should come to school dressed in their P.E. kit with their house colour shirt and sports shoes. Students should also wear their school hat if they have one and have sun screen on. It is essential they bring their water bottle and a healthy snack to school. We welcome you to come along and support your child and their house team.

Friday 27th March will be the last day of the 2nd term and due to the sports event, the Junior School day will end at 1.00pm. Students who use the school bus will leave at **1.00pm**. Students who have school lunch can have their meal before they leave.

Information on Conjunctivitis

There have been recent cases of students with conjunctivitis and I request that if your child has symptoms of the condition, s/he sees a doctor and remains at home until it has cleared. I would like to share with you some information which was sent to us by parents at the Academy, Dr. Vishwanatha N.Gokhale and Dr. Sandhya V.Gokhale of Lions Eye Hospital, Mombasa.

We as ophthalmologists are seeing quite a number of fresh cases of conjunctivitis each day. It appears to be a strain of virus that is causing a highly contagious and often a very severe form of conjunctivitis. We felt it would be wise to educate the community about the facts of this viral infection so that people can take measures to halt this rapidly spreading epidemic.

Viral conjunctivitis spreads primarily through fomites or objects contaminated by the virus from a patient, as the virus is present in the tears and discharge of patients. It starts with redness of eyes, gritty sensation, itching, pain, tearing and discharge. Some or all of these symptoms may be present. It is our observation that some forms of viral conjunctivitis are taking a long course of even up to 3 weeks.

Spread of infection can be controlled by taking certain measures.

- 1. Patients should avoid touching or cleaning their eyes with bare hands or fingers.*
- 2. Preferably use a tissue to wipe the eyes and discard it immediately.*
- 3. Patients should wash their hands every time they touch their eyes.*
- 4. Patients should avoid using common towels.*



5. *Family members who are not yet affected should avoid rubbing or touching their eyes unnecessarily as the fingers may carry the virus.*
6. *Wash your hands frequently.*
7. *Avoid close contact with the patient.*
8. *Infants, elderly and patients operated should be extra careful.*
9. *When more than one member of the family is affected, it is safer to use separate sets of eye drops.*
10. *Infected patients should avoid swimming as it can facilitate spread of the disease to others.*

*Contrary to popular belief, **conjunctivitis does not spread by looking into the eyes of an infected patient.***

Please pass this information to all to prevent the spread of the disease.

Junior School Parent Representative on the Food Committee

Our children's eating habits can be a constant source of concern and we endeavour to provide those who take a school lunch with nourishing and tasty meals. The school Food Committee, which is managed by Mr. Mos Somji, Head of Administration, requires a Junior School Parent Representative to help bring a parent perspective to discussions and decisions. Please email Mr. Somji directly at mos.somji@agakhanacademies.org if you are interested in serving on this committee.

Emergency SMS

An SMS was sent out by the school to all parents on 24th February. This method of communication will be used for **urgent messages and emergencies only**. If you did not receive a message from the school please contact our Admissions Office at Paul.Davis@agakhanacademies.org to be sure that we have the correct contact information in our data base.

Wishing you a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Isla Gordon
Principal, Junior School

