



Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2015

Dear AKAM Junior School Parents,

The past two weeks have been productive ones, with lots of activity in the Junior School. We have been looking forward to sharing with you some updates in this newsletter.

Classes have finished their third Unit of Inquiry for this academic year and have now moved onto their fourth one. Below you will see some pictures from the Year 3's unit, where their Central Idea is *Exploration can lead to discoveries and can develop new understandings of the world.*

During the early stages of this unit, the students investigated the use of maps as a tool for exploration and connected these to work in language, where they collaboratively created stories from the maps.



‘We worked collaboratively in our group to come up with a creative and detailed story recount.’



‘It was so much fun to create our own stories using a map.’



### **3-Way Conferences**

On Thursday and Friday this week, we enjoyed seeing many of you at school for your child's 3-Way Conference. I hope this was informative and constructive for both you and your child. These conferences have been intentionally timetabled following your child's progress report to enable you and their teachers to discuss their learning and well-being.

### **The Book Fair**

Whilst the conferences were taking place, the school was a hub of activity with our annual Book Fair. This involved books to buy and a range of activities around literature run by members of our parent community in collaboration with the school. Feedback from parents has been very positive about this event, one to be sure to make happen on an annual basis.

### **Year 1 Open House**

On Wednesday this week we welcomed approximately fifty nursery school students with their parents to visit our school. Our Junior School students were fantastic ambassadors, performing in the assembly which was run by the student body themselves. Following this, some of our Year 5s took our visiting parents around the school and campus. Parents from our PA were also highly involved in the day, providing valuable information and answering our prospective parents' questions with a parent-to-parent perspective. Part of the morning was a presentation given by the Dean of Admissions, Junior School Principal, PYP Coordinator, Senior School Student Council Presidents and Chairperson of our Parent Association. For those of you who would be interested, I am sending along with this newsletter, a copy of the slides we used for the presentation.



### **How We Express Ourselves Assembly**

Assemblies are an important part of life in our school community and we have had two assemblies in the Junior School since my last newsletter. On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January, the assembly was on the theme of *How We Express Ourselves* and Ms Lillian and her *Enrichment* group treated us to an array of singing, dancing routines and acting. This was an example of teachers sharing their passion with our students through the Enrichment Programme. Students participated from across the age groups and we could clearly see the collaboration taking place between them.



### **Year 5 United Nations Experience**

Last week our Year 5 students took part in a joint Junior/Senior School United Nations simulation. Details from this event were presented on our school website with a write up from our campus Communications Coordinator. <http://www.agakhanacademies.org/mombasa/year-5-united-nations-rapporteurs-investigate-child-labour>

### **A message from the Senior School Principal, Mr. Naheed Bardai about the Academy's 'Strands Day'**

This is a reminder of our Strand event for parents on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February** which will give you an opportunity to find out more about the Aga Khan Academy Strands and how they impact on your children. We have planned in opportunities for you to meet staff and students, and experience some sessions that demonstrate the ways in which the Strands are integrated into lessons. Lunch will be provided. It would be a pleasure to have you in attendance. If you are able to attend, please inform Joanne Gogulescu at [joanne.gogulescu@akam.ac.ke](mailto:joanne.gogulescu@akam.ac.ke).

### **What is coming up?**

The weeks ahead promise to continue to be filled with activity. Rehearsals for our lead roles in the Junior School production are taking place on Tuesdays after school. It is important that every student in our school takes part in this event and after the mid-term break all classes will be involved in preparing for it. Further details will be provided in our next newsletter.

We wish to remind you that the mid-term break will be from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February. School will resume on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

### **Sponsored Walk for the Cerebral Palsy Foundation on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2015**

Over the past years families from the Junior School have taken an active role in raising funds for this good cause. The walk, or bike ride for those who wish, will take place at Haller Park on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> of March. Should you wish to participate please send an email before Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February to our school office at [Rebecca.Davis@agakhanacademies.org](mailto:Rebecca.Davis@agakhanacademies.org). Sponsor cards will then be sent home the following week. For those wanting more details about this fund-raising event, please see the attachment provided with this newsletter.

### **PYP Coffee Mornings and Evening Sessions**

Details with dates and topics of our PYP sessions for parents were sent out with the calendar attached to the last newsletter. We have chosen to run these sessions twice, once in the morning and again in the evening to enable a maximum number of parents to attend.

### **News from Junior School Sports Events**

Our Junior School hockey team continues to serve us proud, winning more games. Please see Mr Ndungu's Sports Newsflash sent along with this newsletter.

Wish you a restful and enjoyable week-end.

With warm regards,

**Isla Gordon**  
**Principal, Junior School**

