



27th November 2015

Dear Parents,

In the last three weeks, the AKA, M community have been engaged in various activities as we near the end of term and indeed the end of 2015. Our students have been engaged in completing assessments, examinations, internal assessments, presentations and university applications, marking a very busy part of the term. We appreciate your support in ensuring that the students are able to cope and go through all these activities. We acknowledge that the outbreak of flu due to the weather changes have not made things easier but we are doing our best through the Wellness Centre to manage this especially with an emphasis on maintaining high hygienic standards.

During the same period, our Professional Development Centre welcomed sixteen teachers who have recently graduated from Kenyan Universities for a three week institute under the Teacher Preparation Programme (TPP). This is aimed at identifying the third cohort of TPP interns who will be joining the school in January 2016. These teachers have played a crucial role in supporting departments as they develop their skills of delivering the IB programmes.

It is also worth noting that two of our DP2 students, Natasha Treunen and Mohammed Waseem have been selected by New York University Abu Dhabi to attend a candidate weekend in December following their application during early decision window. From experience, whenever the university sends such an invitation, there is a high possibility of candidates being admitted into the university on almost full scholarship. It is our prayer and hope that this becomes a reality for these two students.

There are two upcoming events which we would like to make a special invitation to you:

First is our annual Zawadi Bazaar which is taking place on Saturday 5th December. Kindly come with your family members and friends to enjoy the day and witness our year 10 students being social entrepreneurs. Apart from the fun experienced, the funds raised will go to the citizenship fund which helps to implement the various service projects undertaken by our students.

The Second one is to our annual Christmas tree lighting concert on 8th December 2015 in school starting from 7pm. The Aga Khan Academy choir will be performing Christmas carols and this will be a culmination of various performances at various venues dubbed "THE GIFT". This is the choir's community and service project aimed at supporting the less fortunate children at Saint Patrick's health centre Bangladesh, Changamwe. They are appealing for donations in kind e.g. toys, cloths, (especially for children), non-perishable food and money. There will be an opportunity to give these donations during the concert.



Student Life

In the recent weeks, we have seen our students actively involved in different events as participants or as organizers. The events includes; Ubuntu football tournament organized by Stand Up Shout Out enrichment group, SRC mainstream school dance, inter house swimming competition, Karaoke night and the Tudor water sports event for the residential students as shown by photo below.



In the swimming gala, it was an exciting competition where Eagle house emerged the winners. The photo below shows some of the action.



During the week, our students have been involved in the conversation of environment related activities. The organizers put in place several activities that culminated in the environmental awareness information. In the Green Day house competition, Falcon House came first.

Diploma Programme

DP2 students had their Final Theory of Knowledge (TOK) presentations on Saturday 21 November. That is one third of their IB TOK assessment done and over. This essentially frees up a lot of quality time for them to invest in the TOK Essay, and other subject areas. It was a delight to see the intellectual growth of the students in the 18 months they have been a part of the Diploma Program – especially in the nuanced and layered arena of wrestling with the nature of knowledge and its impact, which is what TOK is all about. They are also on the verge of completing and tying up all the loose ends of their CAS Portfolios. Now they are in preparation mode for their Pre-Mock examinations which will commence on 5 January. The Weekly Cycle Tests are also coming to an end for them. This has been a great way to keep them invested in revising and revisiting all they have learned – albeit in compartmental doses. This conclusion also accords them time and opportunity to prioritize exam prep.

The DP1 students are sitting for their first formal DP exams from 24 November to 27 November (Tuesday to Friday), and are therefore immersed in academia, at the moment. We expect them to fare well, for that is the trend we want to inculcate. As they say, - ‘Well begun is half done’. But the moment the examinations conclude, they will be ready for a very different kind of challenge. They have come to a consensus about the play they are going to perform on the evening of 12 February – and it is ‘Romeo and Juliet’. But it is a very interesting modern take on the old tale of star crossed lovers, with a very humorous slant. The auditions are almost done, roles assigned, and all technical responsibilities ranging from direction to set design to stage management to marketing have been assigned – and the cohort is now enthused to collaboratively exhibit their artistic ware.

Middle Years Programme

The Year 10 Mock Personal Project Exhibition took place and the Year 10 students successfully shared their projects with the other students and faculty. It was delightful to see the students doing their best to present their ideas. The feedback they received helped them to start finalizing their personal project by submitting their draft 1 report. In the meantime, there are busy preparing for Zawadi Bazaar which is a culmination of their entrepreneurship unit where in their mentor groups, they will be social entrepreneurs who through their business venture they will focus on the what is the impact on people, planet and how they will use the profit they make serve the society.

On Friday 20th November we held the third AKA,M Inventions Fair. This event is firmly grounded in our Year 8 curriculum which explores the Silk Road through the statement of Inquiry: ‘The interaction of diverse cultures is a catalyst for the spread of ideas, and the development of technology and a better understanding of the world.’ The Year 8 students started the day with a key note speech by Miss Alex Holland, Curriculum Manager for the Academies Unit. She gave us a window into our Global Context of ‘Orientation in Space and Time’ as she brought the concept of the Silk Road into the present day, highlighting the huge development project funded by the Chinese which seeks to bring the Silk Road back to life as a modern day land and sea trade network which even extends as far as Nairobi!

The Year 8s had a taste of the life of an inventor as they recreated the pin hole camera and learnt about the way in which the evolution of this invention was only made possible through the meeting of minds and the sharing of ideas. In small groups our Year 8s were then faced with a tough task! They were given a short amount of time and required to work under pressure to research an Invention

from the Silk Road era and explain the role of collaboration and the impact of the invention through History. By 2pm we had transformed the Humanities courtyard into a caravanserai with all the sights sounds and smells of the ancient inns which supported the flow of commerce, information, and people across the network of trade routes along the Silk Road. Students tried some of the commonly traded food stuffs and also got to meet an Arabian camel; animals who were vital to the movement of people and goods along the Silk Road.

The day culminated in the students' presentations to our special guests; the Year 4 students. Year 4s are currently learning about technology and science and the way in which they support our everyday life so this was a valuable learning experience for them too. Year 8s did an outstanding job. Ms. Khona said that she felt very proud to see some of the students that she taught when they were in year 6 and she observed such a big difference in the way they presented and the confidence that they displayed. The Humanities were also very proud of what they achieved in such a short space of time and the way in which they approached the day with such positive can-do attitudes.

Upcoming events

4th December - Lip Sync competition

5th December - Zawadi Bazaar

11th December - School closes at 12noon for December break

Have an enjoyable weekend!



Kind regards,
Francis Kariuki
Principal, Senior School