



### **JUNIOR SCHOOL MODELS THE AKA LEARNER PROFILE**

I'm sure that everyone will agree when I say that the Junior School has had an enjoyable first quarter of the year 2015-16. It has been a wonderful eight and a half weeks of joyful learning. I wish to thank the students, teachers and parents for your overwhelming support in all that we did. It was really nice to see so many parents at the meet-the teacher afternoon, and at the PTM held recently.

I'm proud to mention here that the staff and students of the Junior School were true champions of the AKA learner profile and modeled the attributes in many ways:



#### **Inquirers:**

Students and teachers launched into being inquirers from the word 'go' in August. You see evidence of inquiry everywhere in the Junior School campus- inside the classrooms, in the playground, during assemblies and field trips, and when attending a guest lecture.

#### **Open-minded:**

Through participation in team-building activities and the trip to the Qutub Shahi Tombs, the students learned the importance of being open-minded and sensitive to others' views and needs. On these occasions, they had to work in vertical groups made up of members from Grades 1-5 in each group.

#### **Caring:**

The staff and students at the JS had the opportunity to show that they are caring on the Service Saturday, when they got the opportunity to shadow the gardeners and the house-keeping staff on the campus, and helped them in maintaining a 'swach academy'. They also helped to raise INR 3000/= for charity through self-sponsored sporting events. We were all inspired by the two guest speakers, Ms Rajini and Ms Pravallika to care for the environment and all living things in them, thus being stewards.

#### **Communicators:**

Through observing important events and days, the JS staff and students were able to showcase themselves as communicators by conducting assemblies of an excellent standard. The Hindi day celebrations were varied and afforded us an opportunity to show respect and fondness for the national language. On Dot Day, everyone was able to express themselves through visual art. There were plays, songs and dance to communicate the spirit of Onam and Ganesh Chaturti.





## PYP MIRROR

AGA KHAN ACADEMIES, HYDERABAD

### Leaders:

The JS Student Council representatives are learning about developing their leadership qualities by identifying their overarching goal: school improvement.

They also defined their responsibility for being role-models and the 'voice' of the JS student community.

The members were elected from each class:

- **Grade 1:** Alishan, Reeva
- **Grade 2:** Anand, Grace
- **Grade 3:** Aarek, Alayna
- **Grade 4:** Ali, Alaina
- **Grade 5:** Ayan. P, Iqra

The JS SC meets weekly to discuss issues brought to the table by the representatives and come up with suggestions and ideas to make the school a better place. The meeting minutes are posted on the SC board for all to see. They have also come up with some essential agreements on playground behavior and shared them with the whole school. The SCRs also seek opportunity to meet with their class after each meeting to share what was discussed and to collect more ideas for school improvement.

Wishing you all a restful holiday and looking forward to having the teachers and students back on Monday, 26 October, energized and charged for the next quarter of the academic year.

Sreelatha Kumar,  
Principal, Junior School.





## Happiness!



Right from the start of this academic year, students at the academy have been enthralled with the exciting changes, one of them being the introduction of working Saturdays. As a part of a 'joyful community', the purpose of these Saturdays is to add to the happiness of students in the junior school.

We have had three 'Happiness Saturdays' so far. The first Saturday focused on team-building activities in order to develop the feeling of belonging to a school community. Students were divided into mixed grade level groups. The groups moved to different centers in rotation and participated in the activities designed for them by their teachers. Each and every student thoroughly enjoyed the day and were grateful to the school for giving them this wonderful opportunity.



The Saturdays took a historical twist when the students of the Junior School visited the Qutb Shahi tombs on August 29, 2015. They continued to be in the mixed groups that were made the previous week and enjoyed learning about the Nizams. Getting a glimpse of the work done by the Aga Khan Foundation towards restoring the tombs added to the pride of each student!



We witnessed our third Happiness Saturday on September 19, 2015. The theme was Service. Students experienced service in a variety of arenas: themselves, their peers, support staff, animals, birds and the rest of the environment. From guest speakers to sponsored sports and from helping gardeners to mopping and sweeping with the housekeeping staff, everything was packed into one day! The entire school community came together to plan and implement another successful Saturday for the students.



Three down... five more to go. Let's wait and watch what is in store for the little ones!

Archana Prashar  
PYP Coordinator  
Aga Khan Academy, Hyderabad



## Class assembly on ethics in Media

“Ethics is choosing amongst two right things, it is to choose the best one.” This was one of the thoughts of my students during class discussions. As the students had to conduct a school assembly, the students idea was to create awareness of ethics in Media as they thought that information disseminated by media needs to be used appropriately by people.

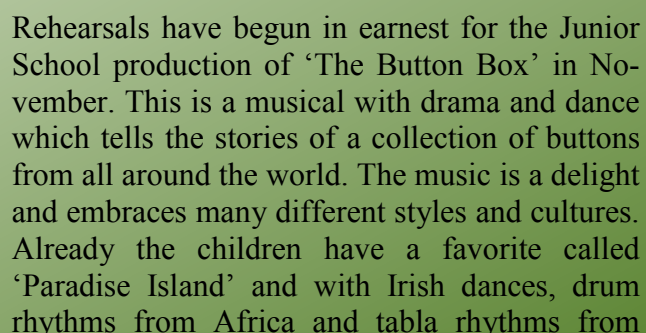
A whole class assembly was planned in the form of a role play where each student played a part and used media to focus on the authenticity of news and information. They presented different aspects of being ethical and why people need to analyse information properly before taking any decision.

The assembly was an infotainment for the junior school. The students became more confident as they played their parts very well.

**Mubeen Safura**  
**Form Tutor-Grade 5 K**

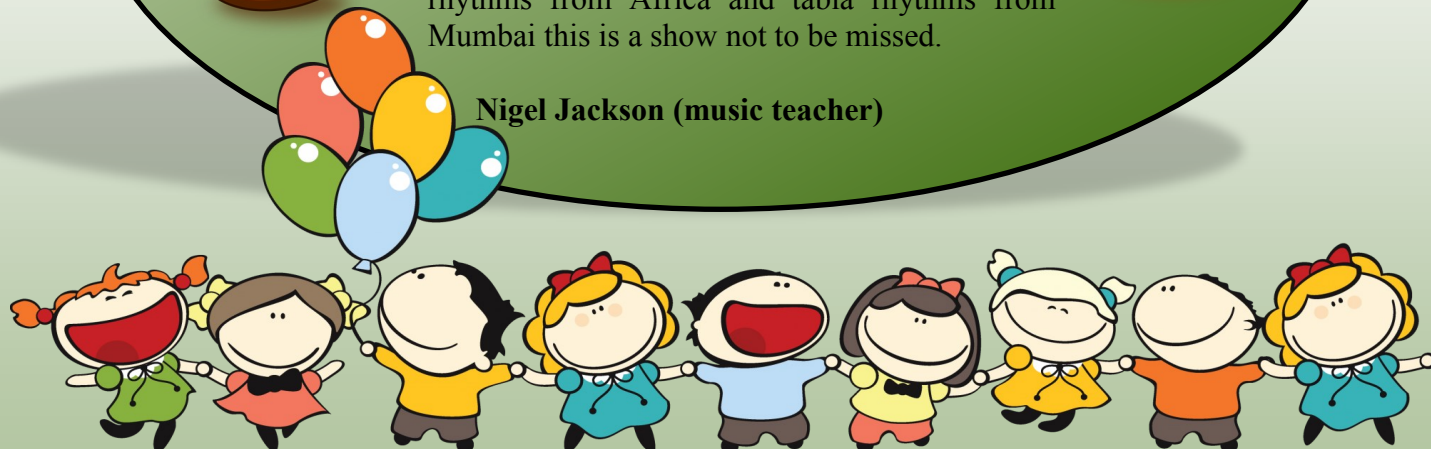


### Getting ready for ‘The Button Box’



Rehearsals have begun in earnest for the Junior School production of ‘The Button Box’ in November. This is a musical with drama and dance which tells the stories of a collection of buttons from all around the world. The music is a delight and embraces many different styles and cultures. Already the children have a favorite called ‘Paradise Island’ and with Irish dances, drum rhythms from Africa and tabla rhythms from Mumbai this is a show not to be missed.

**Nigel Jackson (music teacher)**



## हमारा हिन्दी दिवस

भारत देश में हर वर्ष 14 सितम्बर को हिन्दी दिवस हर राज्य में धूमधाम से मनाया जाता है। इसी बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए पी. वाई. पी. में इस उत्सव का आयोजन किया गया। हिन्दी दिवस के उत्सव का आरंभ हमारे विद्यालय में श्रीमती लता की शुभकामनाओं से हुआ। प्रार्थना सभा में पांचवीं कक्षा के विद्यार्थियों ने एक समाचार चैनल के संवाददाताओं की भांति अपने विचारों को नाटिका के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया। जिसमें उन्होंने भारत के विभिन्न प्रांतों में बोली जाने वाली हिन्दी भाषा के भिन्न - भिन्न रूपों को बड़े ही मनोरंजक ढंग से दर्शाया। तदुपरांत हमारे पी. वाई. पी. समाचार संवाददाताओं ने सारी पाठशाला के अलग - अलग विभागों में प्रस्थान करते हुए अधिकतर कार्यकर्ताओं का साक्षात्कार किया। इस तरह वर्तमान में हिन्दी भाषा की दशा को ज्ञात करने के लिए इन विद्यार्थियों ने अपने सर्वेक्षण को पूर्ण किया। पहली कक्षा के विद्यार्थियों ने अभिनय सहित कविता को मौखिक रूप से अभिव्यक्त किया। दूसरी कक्षा के विद्यार्थियों ने प्रसिद्ध कार्टून कार्यक्रमों के पात्रों की वेशभूषा धारण कर उनके संवाद को मौखिक रूप से कहा। तीसरी कक्षा के विद्यार्थियों ने शुद्ध एवं सामान्य हिन्दी भाषा के मध्य अंतर को बड़े ही रोचकपूर्ण विधि द्वारा प्रस्तुत किया। दूसरे दिन कक्षा चौथी के विद्यार्थियों ने एक नुक्कड़ नाटिका के द्वारा हिन्दी भाषा के प्रति सम्मान की भावना को जागृत किया। हर वर्ष की तरह इस बार भी पी. वाई. पी. ने हिन्दी दिवस को मनाकर, हिन्दी भाषा के प्रति अपनी कृतज्ञता को व्यक्त किया।

कृत - श्रीमती मीना उनियाल

पी. वाई. पी. हिन्दी शिक्षिका





## PYP MIRROR

AGA KHAN ACADEMIES, HYDERABAD

### First grade....wow



We've just finished our whirlwind first term of school. So much excitement getting to know our new friends and learning routines. The first weeks of school are always exhausting ones for the students (and their teacher!) as they adjust to a new environment and full days of school. My new students were up to the challenge.

When planning for the first few days of school, my main goal was to set a tone for respect and love for one another! I wanted my sweeties to get to know each other, enjoy their classroom (and teacher), and have fun learning and inquiring about new things around them.

Studies show that colour can increase memory by up to 50 percent and help students remain engaged. The Grade 1 classroom remains colorful this year too. I use colour in my classroom to help my students engage and focus in different parts of the classroom. They take ownership in developing various areas of their classroom. Learning remains fun and inquiring about every possible thing around and builds up the excitement for being in school every day for all the first graders.

**Laboni Banerjee**  
**Grade 1**





## PYP MIRROR

AGA KHAN ACADEMIES, HYDERABAD

### Hyderabad Darshan



So... here we were, all set for our Hyderabad Darshan. The first place we visited was the Chowmahalla Palace. It was breathtakingly beautiful. Students spent a lot of time exploring the incredible palace of the Nizam era. The kids were curious about the palace and asked a lot of questions about its history. In the morning,

before we left school, students wrote down questions related to the trip. They were expected to explore and find their answers. In this way they 'tried' to stay focused.

We walked and we walked. Chowmahalla is truly a mahal in the literal sense. By the time we finished exploring one building, we had already exhausted our energy and the very thought of walking to Charminar made us even more tired. Finally we found our way out of the palace and our journey to Charminar had begun on foot. We were worried about: 21 kids walking on the road, including a few naughty ones, only four adults, the narrow roads of old city, the heat and crazy autos. This list seems to be endless.

However, we reached Charminar and found a guide who agreed to show us the place, basically the history of the gigantic and exquisite structure. The most proud moment for me as a teacher was that my students knew much more about the Charminar than the guide, who was amazed and nicknamed them 'genius students'.

Nizam's museum was next on our list. After having our lunch and resting for a while we waited eagerly for our next pit stop. However, we were not able to see the museum as there was no electricity and the entire place was dark. Too bad they didn't have power backup! To add to this disappointment, it started to pour cats and dogs. We waited for awhile for the rain to subside, but we had to get back to school before 3 p.m. Fortunately, autos came to our rescue and dropped us all, batch by batch, to our bus, which was waiting for us outside the galli (lane). Phew! To sum it all, it was one amazing field trip which I will always remember.

**Ms Ridhi (Gr. 3 form tutor)**



## A Trip Emblazoned In Our Memories



**VISIT TO RAIWAY STATION**

Grade 2 students went on an exhilarating and fun-filled trip during their unit on transport. The students were taken to the ‘Hyderabad Railway station’ to go for a train ride from Nampally to Falaknuma. The students explored the different places at the station, such as the ticket counter, ticket vending machine and the railway tracks and platforms of different trains arriving. On the way, they also observed the names of the stations from where passengers were boarding the train. We travelled in a first class compartment of a local-MMTS train where the students noticed a digital display of the station coming next along with the map of the train travelling to the various stations. It was fun to see them excited as many of them were travelling on a train for the first time.

After reaching ‘Falaknuma station’, the students were next taken to the ‘Sudha Cars Museum’. They were thrilled to watch the different cars and automobiles which were creatively made by Mr. Sudhakar, who is the owner of the museum. There were cars of different shapes, such as a sofa-set, hand bag, stilettoes, a computer, a pencil, an eraser, sharpener and many more. Also, there were six-seater bicycles, the world’s smallest train and bikes. The most amazing part of all of the automobiles exhibited there was that all of them are functional. This museum’s name is also found on ‘Ripley’s believe it or not’. The students got to explore the functions and features of these automobiles in an enjoyable way. They learnt about the different transportation systems used by the people in their daily lives by travelling in a bus (school bus) and a train. Students came back to school with ecstatic moments that will last in their memories incessantly.



**SUDHA CAR MUSEUM**

**Anjum Budhwani and Mita Mohapatra Grade 2**





## International Dot Day celebration at the junior school



We shared our enthusiasm on **International Dot Day**, September 15<sup>th</sup>, with the entire junior school, including teachers. Morning assembly started by presenting the book 'The Dot' written by Peter Reynolds. Then, all students started making their mark on various objects. A few students brought objects like T-shirts, bottles, plates, old CDs etc. from home, on which they presented their creativity.

We had so much fun. The smile never left my face and I was enlightened throughout the day!

**Nivedita (art teacher)**





## Job alike session at the Aga Khan Academy

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of October, there was a job-a-like session at the Aga Khan Academy Hyderabad. A job-a-like session is a platform where educators share their best practices in order to enhance their teaching and learning process.

We had participants from various other international schools from Hyderabad.

The topic of the session was '**science in PYP**'. We brainstormed the different ways science can be integrated into any unit of inquiry through the science skills like- observing data, generating questions, using scientific vocabulary, carrying out systematic investigations, interpreting and evaluating data. **That was a significant learning for me.**

Something which I really enjoyed in this mini workshop is the experiment with soap and water, in order to integrate maths and science. We all enjoyed the process of creating foam with the help of soap and water. Each time we tried to create a big mountain of foam and measured its height. Eventually we realized that less concentration of the liquid leads to more foam and bigger bubbles.

I definitely look forward to applying the knowledge I acquired in my class.

**Ms Reema , form tutor 4K**

**Meet our new teacher!.....**

⇒ Hello, I am Neha Bhangdia (Assistant Teacher, Grade-1). Before joining the academy, I interned with Talent Sprint where I was directly responsible for training both current and aspiring teachers. Prior to interning at Talent Sprint, I was a part of the Teach for India fellowship. As a 'fellow' I have taught a class of bright eleven year olds at a low-income school in Hyderabad for two years. The two years of fellowship has reinforced my belief that I want to be a teacher in the long-term. Working as a teacher at The Aga Khan Academy has not just allowed me to share my knowledge with a group of new little people from diverse backgrounds, but is also helping me learn new skills through teaching in a different environment.

I completed my M Sc. in Biotechnology from Osmania University College for Women and Masters in Hospital Management from Apollo Institute of Hospital Administration.

I am very creative and usually think from my heart. I enjoy painting, quilling and other such arts and crafts. I am an avid reader.



## Day Care Diary



**The Journey continues.....**

