

February 2, 2016  
23 Rabi-ul-Thani, 1437

Az-Zahraa Islamic Academy



Principal: Sr. Sukaina Jaffer

Themes: Read for the Love of It  
: Helping Others

Islamic Themes: Courage  
: Optimism



“Read in the name of your Lord who created. He created man from a clot. Read, and your Lord is the Most Honorable who taught with the pen. Taught man what he knew not.” (96: 1-5)

## *Message from the Principal*

Bismillah.

Respected Parents, Salaamun Alaykum.

Alhumdulillah, we have completed 19 weeks of classes and that means we are at the half way point in the 2015-2016 school year. There has been so much growth and learning that has been achieved and yet we have so much to look forward to. Classes have enjoyed field trips, several students are participating enthusiastically in a variety of after school clubs, and our dedicated staff continue to make meaningful learning experiences for all.

The students have been demonstrating our previous monthly themes which include: kindness, truthfulness, trustworthiness, compassion, mercy, perseverance and many more great virtues and we are so proud of them. Even when a mistake is made, they are quick to recognize and learn from their errors. It will be a very difficult task for teachers to select just one student from each grade to receive the “Spirit of Kindness Award” on February 12, 2016, as we celebrate the birth anniversary of Lady Zainab (as).

### Dates of Interest

- Feb. 5 - Term 2 Interim Report Cards Sent Home
- Feb. 8 - Family Day Holiday
- Feb. 11 - Photo Day
- Feb. 11 - Ahlulbayt TV filming day
- Feb. 17 - Spelling Bee
- Feb. 18 - Book Cover Contest
- Feb. 18 - Hot Lunch
- Feb. 19 - Pro-D Day #4
- Feb. 25 - Book Character Day
- Mar. 3 - Term 2 Report Cards Home
- Mar. 4 - Last Day for clubs
- Mar. 9 - Noon Dismissal for Parent / Teacher Conferences
- Mar. 10 - Last Day of Classes

During the months of February and March, we will be focusing on building character traits such as courage and optimism. There are many fun and innovative school-wide events planned for February, which is “Literacy Month at AZIA.” Details of activities and incentives will be shared by the classroom teachers.

## *Quran App: “Memorize”*

We know the blessings that the recitation of the Holy Quran brings into our lives. Just like we encourage our children to read books daily to improve their reading fluency, please ensure that daily recitation of the Holy Quran happens at home. With the introduction of the Arabic program last year, students in Grades 5-7 only receive one class of Quran a week instead of two that students in Montessori to Grade 4 receive. It is imperative for all students to practice reciting the Holy Quran daily. There is an app called “Memorize Quran for kids & adults” that can be downloaded on iphones or other devices to assist in memorization of the assigned weekly verses.

## Literacy Month/ Spelling Bees



February is literacy month at AZIA. We would like the students to read as much as possible. We have partnered up with the “Write 2 Read” Foundation who will donate school supplies to the Syrian refugees. The more we read, the more school supplies will be donated. During this month, we will also have book talks, book exchanges, design a book cover contest, character dress up day, and camp out with your favourite book. We will also be having our ever popular spelling bee which will be held on Feb. 16 for the primary grades and Feb. 17 for Grades 4-7 and parents / teachers. If you are interested in participating, please email or contact the office..

## Welcome Grade 6/7 Teacher & Resource Teacher



Please take a moment to introduce yourself to our newest staff member. We would like to welcome Ms. Jenna Benko to our AZIA family. She officially joined the Grade 6/7 class on January 18, 2016. We would like to thank Ms. Benko for the positive energy, enthusiasm and collaborative personality she brings to our school community. We are very pleased to announce our part-time Resource Teacher, Ms. Jenny Yiu. We are pleased to welcome her back to our AZIA staff and look forward to her creative and nurturing spirit.

## High School Presentations



We would like to thank our alumni student, Hamidatabarak Al-Amiri, who along with two other classmates from the Incentive Program at A.R. MacNeill Secondary School, gave a special presentation to the Grade 6/7 class last month. The students had an opportunity to learn and ask questions about the Incentive Program but also high school transition in general.

We would also like to thank Sufiah Azhar-Bowmar for talking to the Grade 6/7 class about her experiences at Steveston London Secondary. The students also had an opportunity to ask questions about her experience thus far.

On Wednesday, Feb. 3, we will have Maliha Khaku, Maryam Rashid, and Sadiyah Jagani along with a counsellor from Matthew McNair to talk about the different programs available at their school.

## Grade 6/7 Field Trip – “Connect, Create, Cairo”



On January 20, 2016, our Grade 6/7 class was invited to participate in a 3-D Printing Workshop at the Ismaili Centre in Burnaby. The students participated in an interactive learning experience by understanding globalization and urbanization of the city of Cairo, as a case study, through history and technology. We learned to use cutting edge 3-D printing technology to visualize, design and build a model city. We would like to thank the Ismaili Council for British Columbia for this unique opportunity.

## Tennis BC Camp

The students enjoyed a week long tennis camp January 25-28, 2016. They had an enjoyable time learning some basic skills, drill practice and game situations. We are grateful that our students had a chance to learn tennis with a professional coach. If your child has not paid the \$10 fee, please send the amount to the office.



## *Growth and Development Talks – Grades 4-7*

Each year, we are pleased to offer our intermediate students an opportunity to dialogue about some topics relevant to puberty –“bulugh.” We discussed the various changes that they are experiencing and strategies on how to manage these changes in a healthy, positive and Islamic manner. The classes were held on January 27, 2016 in gender-segregated rooms and facilitated by Shaykh Murtaza Bachoo for the boys and Sr. Sukaina Jaffer with the girls. Please realize that these are initial discussions and we believe that parents, at all ages, should be discussing these important issues in a positive, clear and supportive way, especially during these formative years towards adulthood.

## *A Journey into Islam*

AZIA was once again proud to share our unique and amazing school with guests at this year’s annual event, A Journey into Islam, held on January 30, 2016. In line with this year’s theme of DIVERSITY, we exhibited our school by creating a display that highlighted the various places our families come from, the languages we speak, the type of programming we offer through student artwork and much more. It was a great evening to showcase our school.



## *Term 2 - Interim Report Cards*



Term 2 Interim Report Cards will be distributed on Friday February 5, 2016. This is the right time to contact your child’s teacher if you have any concerns so that plans can be made to ensure a successful Term 2 official report card.

## *Foundational Skills Assessment (FSA) – Grades 4 and 7*

The Grades 4 and 7 students will be participating in the Foundational Skills Assessment (FSA) Tests during the first two weeks of this month. This is an annual assessment by the BC Ministry of Education which provides a snapshot of how BC students are learning foundation skills in Reading, Comprehension, Writing and Numeracy. Students at AZIA have always scored above the Richmond School District scores and we are confident that inshaAll-h, they will do the same this year.

## *BC Family Day – Monday, February 8, 2016*

Please remember that school will not be in session on Monday, February 8, 2016. We wish you a wonderful day to enjoy time with your family. If you are looking for something to do on this day in Richmond, please visit [www.richmond.ca/parksrec/about/events/familyday.htm](http://www.richmond.ca/parksrec/about/events/familyday.htm)



## *Science Night Preparations*



Although our annual Science Night event will take place in April, we will start preparing during February and March. Teachers will inshaAll-h share details specific to their classes soon. Please speak to your children about their Science Night ideas and plan on how you can support them in order to have a successful and rewarding experience.

## *Photo Day / Ahlulbayt TV Filming – February 11, 2016*

We are looking forward to capturing some beautiful memories during our upcoming photo day and filming of AZIA by Ahlulbayt TV. A documentary will be created by Ahlulbayt TV highlighting different aspects of our school. We would like to request all parents to please ensure your child arrives to school in proper and clean uniform every day, but especially on this day. We appreciate your assistance in making this a priority.



## *AZIA Community Garden/ Contest:*



With the assistance of the PVG, AZIA students will once again have an opportunity to be involved in the community garden. Different classes will have the responsibility of cleaning the garden beds, weeding, seeding, germinating, planting and watering. With the nurturing hands of our students, inshaAll-h we will reap the rewards of a bumper crop.

All students are encouraged to apply for a chance to win a Tried & True Organic Edibles prize pack for the school filled with an array of quality vegetable plants worth \$150. By creating a video or a poster, students can simply show us what gardening means to them. This will kick our planting season off to a great start! The school will also have an internal contest and a prize will be awarded for the top entry. Please see the attached flyer for additional details.

## *Pro-D Day –February 19, 2016*

Teachers will be involved in professional development on this day and we hope that students and families are able to enjoy this day off together. AZIA teachers will be using this day to indulge in further aspects of BC's re-designed curriculum.

## *Teachers Institute on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy*

The Teachers Institute is an intensive professional development opportunity in our country's capital. Sr. Sukaina Jaffer has been selected from teachers across Canada to participate in this week long experience in Ottawa, February 22-26, 2016. She will have the opportunity to learn about the different aspect of the parliamentary process, both past and present and meet the Speakers of the Senate and the House of Commons and other parliamentarians. She will inshaAll-h bring back many experiences and resources to share with staff and students.

## *Term 2 Report Cards – March 3, 2015*

Term 2 Report Cards will be sent home on March 3, 2016. We ask that you review the report card with your child, acknowledge their successes and encourage ways of further growth and successes in the last term of the school year.



## *Parent-Teacher Conferences / Noon Dismissal – March 9, 2016*



Please note that parents can call the office starting Tuesday March 1, 2016 to schedule an appointment time with your child's classroom teacher. Parents are reminded that students will be dismissed at 12:00 pm and interviews can be booked from 12:40 pm – 4:30 pm. This will be a good opportunity to set goals for term 3 and plan for a successful final term of the school year.



**February 2016**  
**Reading for the love it**  
**Islamic Theme: Courage**  
**Rabi-ul-Thani / Jamadi-ul-Awwal 1437**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Literacy Month Kick Off	2	3 McNair Secondary School Visit 6 / 7 Class  Pizza Day	4 After School Clubs	5	6
7	8 BC Family Day Holiday	9	10 Science Fair Launch  Pizza Day	11 Photo Day & Ahlulbayt TV Filming Day  After School Clubs	12	13
		<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">           Gr. 4 &amp; 7 FSA Testing         </div>				
14	15 Hot Lunch Forms Due	16 Primary Spelling Bee 9:00 am	17 Intermediate / Teacher / Parent Spelling Bee 9:00 am  Pizza Day	18 Book Cover Contest Due  Hot Lunch  After School Clubs	19 Pro-D Day	20
21	22	23	24 Pizza Day  Anti-bullying Pink Shirt Day	25 Character Day  Campout with a favourite book  After School Clubs	26	27
28	29					



**March 2016**  
**Helping Others**  
**Islamic Theme: Optimism**  
**Jamadi-al-Awwal / Jamadi-al-Thaani 1437**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Pizza Day	3 Last Day for After School Clubs  Term 2 Reports Cards Sent Home	4	5
6	7	8	9 Parent / Teacher Conferences 12:40 - 4:30pm <b>Noon Dismissal</b>  No Pizza Day	10 Last Day of Classes	11 Spring Break Begins	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Good Friday	26
27	28 Easter Monday	29 Back to School	30	31		