

January 6, 2016
25 Rabi-ul-Awwal, 1437

Az-Zahraa Islamic Academy



Principal: Sr. Sukaina Jaffer

Theme: Random Acts of Kindness

Islamic Theme: Mercy, Truthfulness, Trustworthiness



“Whenever you think that truth will ruin you, it will save you and whenever you think that falsehood will save you, it will ruin you.” Imam Al-Sadiq (as)

Message from the Principal

Bismillah.

Respected Parents,
Salaamun Alaykum.

Welcome back to another exciting start to the current school year at AZIA. It was wonderful and heartwarming to see all the smiling faces of students, parents and staff after inshaAll-h a restful and enjoyable winter break. The staff are energized, planned and looking ahead to some amazing learning prospects and adventures.

A reminder that Term 2 is a shorter period of time and it will pass by very quickly. Below are a few helpful tips and reminders on how you can assist your child to inshallAll-h have a successful and productive second term:

- ◆ Replenish school supplies and ensure that they bring all essential books and materials to school on a daily basis (including agendas)
- ◆ Establish an after school schedule (include homework, extra-curricular and relaxation time) to ensure a healthy balance

Dates of Interest

- Jan. 5 - 8 - Spirit Week
- Jan. 11 - Term 2 Clubs Start
- Jan. 20 - Gr. 6/7 Field Trip - Connect Create Cairo
- Jan. 21 - Hot Lunch
- Jan. 22 - PVG Meeting - 1:45 pm
- Jan. 23 - Learning and the Brain Conference
- Jan. 27 - Growth and Development Talks (Gr. 4 - 7)
- Feb. 5 - Term 2 Interim Report Cards Sent Home

- ◆ Review work daily to reinforce concepts learned each day/week
- ◆ Assist with homework but allow it to be your child's work
- ◆ Help time manage long term projects and provide materials as required
- ◆ Establish healthy eating habits (lunch and snacks)
- ◆ Establish a bed-time routine and ensure your child is getting essential hours of sleep
- ◆ Communicate often with the classroom teacher to build a strong partnership
- ◆ Give importance to prayer time at home
- ◆ Ensure your child reads daily and practices reciting the Holy Quran

I pray that with our combined efforts, our children will inshAll-h achieve great successes in the coming months.

Dress for the Weather:

With the colder weather, we remind you to please ensure your child is dressed appropriately and brings a warm jacket to school. For younger students, an extra set of clothes or at least an extra pair of socks can be kept at school, just in case it is needed.



Snow Day Procedure:

Although we have had a rather mild and typically rainy fall, with winter now upon us, there is always the possibility of snow. The safety of staff, students and parents is of utmost importance and should we feel that the school needs to remain closed due to inclement weather conditions, the website would be updated, an email would be sent out to parents from the office as well as from the classroom teacher. As much as possible, we try to remain open as we know finding alternative child care on short notice causes stress to some families. If you do not receive an email saying school is closed, then assume that we are open. Please make sure your current contact information is on file in the office including e-mail addresses. If the school is open during inclement weather and you feel it is unsafe to drive, feel free to notify the office and your child will be excused.



Update Your Contact Information:



If you have moved or your phone number has changed in the last few months, please notify the office in person or by email (info@azia.ca) so we can update our records. In the event of an emergency, having your current contact information is critical.

Tuck Shop Privileges:

Students know that going to the tuck shop on Fridays is a privilege that students may earn throughout the year and teachers would supervise during this visit. To maintain this as a privilege and fairness to all students, parents are welcome to purchase items for their children after Jumuah prayers, but we request that you give it to them after school. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

School Spirit Week – January 5-8, 2016



We started the 2016 portion of the school year with a spirit week. The students have enjoyed, Jersey Day (Tuesday), Pyjama Day (Wednesday), and Twins/Triplets or Beyond Backwards Day, Colourful Day (Thursday) and will end the week with an Engineering Challenge Day (Friday). Students who showed school spirit were recognized for their participation and enthusiasm.

Emergency Drills:



Many of us felt the earthquake that occurred last week during the winter break. This week we are practicing our fire, earthquake and internal lockdown safety procedures. Please discuss with your children and develop at home plans for your families.

Children's Hospital Toy Drive- Winner: Grade 5 Students:

Thank you to all the students and their families who contributed so generously towards the AZ- Zahraa Humanitarian Group (HumanKind) Toy Drive that took place before the winter break. We collected about 144 items. Congratulations to the grade 5 class. They contributed the most items and were treated to a pizza lunch prior to winter break.



Syrian Refugees - Operation Backpack (Jan. 4-15, 2016):



AZIA is supporting another initiative by the HumanKind Group called "Operation Backpack." We will be collecting donations of school supplies and basic items like socks, t-shirts, small toys and comfort items for kids and teens. The goal is to fill backpacks for Syrian Refugee Children and the deadline to donate is January 15, 2015. You can also donate cash or write a cheque payable to "Az-Zahraa Islamic Centre." All cash donations of \$10 or more will be eligible to receive a tax deductible receipt. May All-h (swt) bless you for your generosity.

Get to Know Your Neighbour:

AZIA is proud to initiate and host a meeting of our No. 5 Road neighbours comprising of Principals, school officials, school nurses, and other dignitaries from the "No. 5 Road Community." This monumental gathering will be happening on Jan. 13, 2016. This will serve as a way of showing and putting into practice the respect given to neighbours in Islam and our openness to engage, integrate, and partner with the wider community.

Learning and the Brain Conference – Saturday January. 23, 2016 (8:15 am – 1:15 pm):

The Richmond School District and Parents Association, in collaboration with the city of Richmond and SUCCESS is hosting its 17th annual conference. There are a number of great workshops to choose from and the Key-note Speaker, Deborah MacNamara, will be speaking on the importance of raising resourceful and resilient children. To register for this FREE workshop taking place at MacNeill Secondary School and additional details, please follow the following link: <http://learningandthebrain.sd38.bc.ca>.

This is a highly professional conference with great workshops. We highly recommend all parents to try to attend as this is a great opportunity to learn and continue to assist your children in various aspects of their learning and development.

Term 2 After School Clubs:



We are pleased to confirm that our term 2 clubs will commence for 8 consecutive weeks, starting Thursday January 14 to March 3, 2016, 3:30-4:30 pm. The clubs will include: Lego, Sports, Social Responsibility, Debate, and Arts and Crafts. Please refer to the sign-up forms which were sent home for additional details. We highly encourage all students to participate by signing up for a club of their interest. We also ask that students please be picked up promptly at 4:30 pm as many teachers have other commitments beyond that time.

Alumni / High School Student Volunteers Welcome:

Several alumni and other students have approached us wanting to volunteer at the school. We are delighted and always appreciate the help. Some students will be assisting us with the after school clubs. If you or a high school student is interested in volunteering, please let us know at the office.



“The Spirit of Kindness Award”:



To coincide with the January themes of “Random Acts of Kindness, Mercy, Truthfulness and Trustworthiness,” we have unveiled “The Spirit of Kindness Award.” On February 12, 2016, to celebrate the wiladat of Lady Zainab (as), this award will be given to one student in each grade who has demonstrated the character traits of this great personality. We know all our students are capable of receiving this award and it is always difficult to select those who receive these special honours.

Foundational Skills Assessment (FSA) Testing – Grade 4 and 7

All grade 4 and 7 students will participate in the Ministry of Education FSA Tests during the first week of February. As in the past, our students have always scored above the Richmond District student percentages, and we will inshaAllah do the same this year. If you have any questions, please contact your child’s teacher.

School Photo Day

The rescheduled date for the school photos will be on Thursday, February 11, 2016. Please ensure your child arrives to school each day with proper school uniform, but especially on this day. It is awkward in class photos when a child is not dressed like the rest of his/her classmates.



Term 2 - Interim Report Card:

Term 2 interim report cards will be distributed on Friday February 5, 2016. Please ensure you discuss your child’s progress with them when these are sent home and contact the teachers if you have any concerns. This is an opportunity to have a conversation and ensure that the next official report card reflects growth and learning.





January 2016
Random Acts of Kindness
Islamic Theme: Mercy, Truthfulness, and Trustworthiness
Rabi-ul-Awwal / Rabi-ul-Thani 1437

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Back to School	5	6 Pizza Day	7	8	9
10	11 1st of Rabi-ul-Thani	12 Hot Lunch Forms Sent Home	13 Pizza Day	14 Term 2 Clubs Start	15	16
17	18 Hot Lunch Forms Due	19	20 Pizza Day Wiladat of Imam Al-Askari (as) Gr. 6/7 Field Trip Connect, Create, Cairo	21 Hot Lunch Term 2 Clubs	22 PVG Meeting 1:45	23 Learning and the Brain
24	25	26	27 Pizza Day Growth & Development Talk (Gr. 4 - 7)	28 Term 2 Clubs	29	30
31						