

September 11, 2015
26 Dhul Qa'dah, 1436

Az-Zahraa Islamic Academy



Principal: Sr. Sukaina Jaffer

Theme: Building
Relationships and Nutrition

Islamic Theme: God
Consciousness



Message from the Principal

Bismillah.

Respected Parents / Guardians,

Salaamun Alaykum.

It has been a real pleasure meeting students and parents alike as we start an exciting 2015-2016 school year at the Az-Zahraa Islamic Academy (AZIA). InshaAllah, this will be a year of great progress and achievements for all students who have been entrusted in our hands, and the school as a whole. I am very humbled to have the opportunity to lead our school and request everyone's support so we can together create an environment that will foster academic excellence, leadership skills, social responsibility and exceptional character building, all within a nurturing and Islamic setting.



I would like to extend a special welcome to the new students and families who have joined AZIA this year. We are pleased to introduce two new staff members to our AZIA family, Ms. Sacha Wassick (Grade 4 teacher) and Mrs. Lisa Tom (Grade 5 teacher). I am also very happy to inform you that Sr. Sabera Dewji will be returning full time this year as our Grade 6/7 teacher. A heartfelt welcome back to Mr. Anthony Scopa, our Past-Principal. He has sacrificed family time to be with us for the last two weeks to ensure we have a successful start to the school year. Mr. Scopa will unfortunately return home in a few days, but we feel very blessed that he will continue to provide his advice and wisdom as he serves in the capacity of Educational Consultant.

I urge you all to drop by the school to see all the wonderful changes that have happened over the summer. Please keep actively involved in all the extra events at the school this year and especially with your child's education by reading and discussing the newsletters and other communications that are sent out by the school and your child's teacher. We hope you will volunteer your time and expertise for the betterment of the school. Lastly, I would like to stress the importance of keeping open communication and providing your feedback in a way that will inshaAllah have a positive and successful impact on your child and the future progress of our school.

Dates of Interest

- Wed. Sept. 16- PVG Meeting (2:00 pm)
- Thurs. Sept. 24- Eid-ul-Adha Holiday
- Fri. Sept. 25- Pro-D Day #1
- Wed. Sept. 30 - Meet the Teacher 7:45 pm - 9:00 pm
- Fri. Oct. 2- Eid-e-Ghadeer Breakfast (students and staff)
- Mon. Oct. 12-Thanksgiving Day Holiday
- Thurs. Oct. 15- 1st of Muharram
- Fri. Oct. 16- Gr. 6 Immunization
- Wed. Oct. 21- Writing Assessment Day
- Thurs. Oct. 22- Photo Day
- Thurs. Oct. 22- Term 1 Reports Issued
- Fri. Oct. 23- Pro-D Day #2 (Provincial)
- Sat. Oct. 24- Day of Ashura

A Special Thank You



Besides Mr. Scopa, who has been helping tirelessly with the Administrative side, as well as, painting, cleaning, moving furniture, installing bulletin boards, and more painting, there are a few more individuals I would like to recognize. I would like to thank Ms. Jenny Yiu, our past Grade 4 teacher, who will be the Grade 3 teacher for the month of September, while Sr. Zahra Ibrahim has been granted the invitation by the Almighty to perform the hajj. We pray that her hajj is accepted and she is inshaAllah praying for all of us as well.

Please take a moment to thank Br. Ali Safdari, our school custodian and Br. Shaji, our volunteer painter, for their many hours of hard work and dedication to keep the school looking clean and fresh. We are also grateful that our bus children will be under the safe care of our driver, Sr. Yasmin Ladak.

There are some very special people who work behind the scenes and serve only for the pleasure of the Almighty. This is Shaykh Murtaza Bachoo, who is our constant guide and source of wisdom and the entire School Board of AZIA for their vision and behind the scenes leadership, encouragement and dedication. May Allah (swt) bless them and their families.

Arrival at School and Morning Assembly



The doors of AZIA open at 8:15 am and students gather in the assembly area at 8:25 am. Our morning assembly commences at 8:30 am. We encourage all students to be present so that we can begin each school day with the remembrance of the Almighty and other supplications to give us a spiritual start. Noteworthy announcements, including brief presentations, are shared and so we encourage students to arrive to school on time so they do not miss out on this important part of the day. Parents and family members are always welcome to attend. Unless we are celebrating or commemorating a special event, most assemblies will be about 10 minutes in duration.

Parking Lot Safety



For the safety of all students, parents and family members, we ask all drivers to please drive carefully in the parking lot. We will be reminding the students to walk, not run and look around for moving cars. Please allow our school bus the right of way and plenty of space to enter and leave the main gates of the school. We appreciate your assistance with this.

Attendance and Tardiness



If your child is going to be absent or arriving late due to an appointment, please notify the classroom teacher well in advance. If your child is sick, please give them some tender loving care at home and inform the office by 8:30 am. Please provide a note or call the office if your child will be arriving late or requiring to leave during the school day. To ensure everyone's safety, we ask you to please come to the office to sign your child in when arriving late or if leaving early. Thank you for your cooperation!

School Calendar



Please find attached the 2015-2016 School Calendar indicating Pro-D Days, holidays, reporting dates and noon dismissals and more. Fridge magnets will be arriving soon and will be sent home with your child so you can be aware of these pertinent dates.

School Forms



There will be several forms that we require parents to complete and please return to the school as soon as possible. These include: media release, technology contract, contact information updates, agreement to uphold policies and procedures. As many of you know, every child from KG - Grade 7 use agendas. The cost of the agendas is \$10. If you have not yet paid for your child's agenda, please do so as soon as possible.

First Pro-D Day



Friday September 25, 2015 is our first Pro-D Day. The staff will be attending an in-service on the new Re-Designed B.C. Curriculum and a school visit to view a state-of-the art Science Lab.

BC's New Curriculum - KG - 7



At AZIA, we are pleased to inform you that although the Ministry is not mandating the new curriculum until Sept. 2016, the school plan is to implement approximately 80% of the new draft curriculum this year. Please find attached a letter from the Minister of Education, Hon. Mike Bernier, explaining the key changes to the redesigned curriculum. Please feel free to discuss this with teachers or the Principal if you have any questions.

Medications at School



It is school policy that students are not permitted to bring over the counter medications. If this is required, please provide the appropriate medication to the office for administering. If your child requires administering of a prescribed medication, please ask the pharmacy for an extra medication label which will be placed on a form in the office. Please see Sr. Femida if you have any questions.

Parents and Visitors

All parents and visitors are requested to sign in at the office if you are arriving past 8:40 am. If you wish to speak to a staff member, please call Sr. Femida at (604)274-7861 to arrange an appointment. While classes are in session, we ask parents and visitors to humbly refrain from going towards any particular class as this can interrupt learning. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.



Uniform



Our school uniform is a symbol of unity and pride. If there is an exceptional reason that prohibits your child from wearing the proper uniform on a certain day, please send a note to the school indicating the reason. We encourage parents to purchase an additional pants and shirt so that the uniform can be washed regularly and we can follow the hadith, "Cleanliness is part of faith."

Peanut Sensitive School

Due to several students with allergies, some life threatening, we ask your cooperation in ensuring that all food items brought into AZIA, including birthday celebrations and potlucks, have no nuts or nut by-products. Please ensure that all snacks and lunches follow this policy. We thank you in advance for your vigilance.



Meet the Teacher Night

We would like to invite all parents and families to Meet the Teacher Night on Wednesday September 30, 2015 at 7:45 pm. The evening will begin with a brief talk by the Principal and introduction of the staff. This will be followed by two sessions where parents can visit their child's classroom and hear a brief talk regarding curriculum and classroom procedures. This will be a great opportunity to meet staff and fellow parents. Please mark this date on your calendars.



Discipline Code

At AZIA, we follow a positive reinforcement approach. However, we all need reminders from time to time and below is a progressive discipline plan we will be implementing:

- * Step 1 - Hint #1
- * Step 2 - Hint #2
- * Step 3 - Teacher Conference
- * Step 4 - Office Log – "Why didn't I take the Hint" Form
- * Step 5 - Principal Talk / Call Home



The students will be reminded of our plan and each teacher will discuss in details and rehearse how they want students to "take the hint." We encourage you to follow a similar system at home for consistency and let us know if it has helped.

Field Trips



We believe that field trips are a very positive way to reinforce and enhance the learning that happens in the classroom. It also creates lasting memories that students, parents and staff cherish for many years to come. Some field trips require parent volunteers to drive and we ask you to join to meet other parents and form great friendships that result when we travel together.

The Parent Volunteer Group (PVG)

The PVG were very active last year in numerous projects that enhanced the school and will inshaAllah leave a legacy for others to follow. Among the many activities the PVG pursued included: monthly hot lunches, school carnival, Scholastic Book Fair, food sales during Science Night and the Drama Performance Night, a community garden and much more. Their fundraising efforts led to purchasing of books for the library and of course the new playground which will be installed next weekend. We hope to see everyone on Sat. Sept. 12th to help during this exciting day. Please join the PVG on Wednesday, September 16th at 2:00pm in the library to join and become a part of this dynamic and enthusiastic parent body.

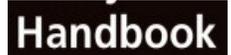


Themes Of The Month

In order to promote good citizenship, character development and impeccable "akhlaq" amongst the students, AZIA focusses on a variety of monthly values and virtues. The overarching goal is to maintain the awareness of the Almighty ("taqwa") and keep the remembrance and pleasure of Allah (swt) at the core of all our thoughts and our actions.

Parent / Student Handbook

Inshallah the handbook will be emailed soon. Please take some time to read through it when you receive it as there is a lot of valuable information in it. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office.



Clubs

As we are still settling into the 2015-2016 school year, we will run our clubs in term 2 from January until Spring Break.



Eid Breakfast and Special Gift

Our annual school board sponsored Eid Breakfast and gift for students and staff will be held on Friday, October 2, 2015. This is the day of Eid-e-Ghadeer and students will be invited to wear festive clothes on this day. Further details will be sent home by the classroom teacher.



Reporting Dates

Teachers at AZIA value frequent communication with parents regarding the progress of students. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher by email or make an appointment to meet in person. Your child will receive two interim report cards and three formal ministry mandated report cards throughout the year, as well as, two parent-teacher conferences. Please find attached a copy of the school calendar for 2015-2016. A fridge magnet will be sent home with all these dates for your convenience.

Awards and Recognition - Most Valuable Prayer - MVP



Back by popular demand, the weekly “MVP Award” (Most Valuable Prayer) will be used to recognize students who have demonstrated excellent work habits, “akhlaq” and have been positive role models for their peers. We will be announcing MVP’s on Friday and students from kindergarten to Grade 7 will have the opportunity to come to school the following Thursday in non-uniform. Students also have the opportunity to receive “Super VG (Very Good) Award,” for receiving an outstanding report card, with a focus on work habits.

How Can Parents Help at Home?

Parents play a vital role in the physical, academic, social and spiritual success of a child. Below are a few suggestions for good habits we can all try to establish:

1. Ensure your child gets enough sleep and nutritional meals, with treats occasionally.
2. Establish a homework routine that is age appropriate and fits around the extra-curricular activities of your child, both within and outside of AZIA
3. Provide social opportunities by attending programs at the mosque and the community centers on a regular basis.
4. Role model wudhoo, love of prayer and recitation of the Holy Quran daily.

2015 - 2016 Staff Members

- * Montessori – Sr. Tahera Khaku and Ms. Afsha Gulamhussein
- * Kindergarten – Ms. Maura Smolensky
- * Grade 1 – Ms. Terumi Kataoka
- * Grade 2 – Ms. Carmen Flannery
- * Grade 3 – Sr. Zahra Ibrahim
- * Grade 4 – Ms. Sacha Wassick
- * Grade 5 – Ms. Lisa Tom
- * Grade 6 /7 – Sr. Sabera Dewji,
- * Islamic Studies – Sr. Shabnam Mithani (Kg/Gr. 1-4),
- * Quran – Sr. Zainab Bachoo and Sr. Masuma Daya,
- * Arabic – Sr. Huda Saleh
- * Custodian – Br. Ali Safdari
- * Bus Driver – Sr. Yasmin Ladak,
- * Lunch Time Supervisor - Sr. Sidika Mussa
- * Lunch Time Supervisor - Sr. Farzina Dharamshi

School Board Members

- * Chairman - Br. Hameed Jagani
- * Director of Education - Sr. Navshina Savory
- * Treasurer - Br. Azmat Ali
- * Principal - Sr. Sukaina Jaffer
- * Educationalist - Sr. Samiha Rehmtulla
- * Educationalist - Vacant
- * Board Member - Sr. Lidija Causevic
- * Board Member - Vacant
- * Parent Representative - Sr. Sukaina Rashid
- * Educational Consultant - Mr. Anthony Scopa

September 2015



Building Relationships and Nutrition

Islamic Theme: God Consciousness

Dhul Qa'dah / Dhul Hijjah 1436

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 First Day of School	9	10	11 Class and School Newsletters Sent Home	12 Playground Construction & Mosque Clean-up
13	14	15	16 PVG Meeting 2:00 pm	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Eid-ul-Adha No School	25 Pro-D Day #1 No School for students	26
27	28 Eid-ul-Adha Celebrations Non Uniform Day	29	30 Meet the teacher 7:45 pm - 9:00 pm			