



The Aga Khan Academy Mombasa, Newsletter

September 2012

Dates to remember

- Mid Term Break runs from midday on 10 October until 21 October
- MYP Information Meeting 9 October 1-2 pm and 25 October 4.15-5.15 pm
- Parent Teacher Conference 9-10 October

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‘There are not many short cuts in life’

Dear Parents, Students and Friends

‘There are not many short cuts in life’. The story goes that a boy watched a butterfly struggle to break free of his cocoon. The butterfly appeared to be making no progress, and feeling sorry for the butterfly, the boy opened the cocoon and set the butterfly free. But, after spreading its wings and flying for only a few metres, the butterfly fell to the ground and died. The boy had wanted to help the butterfly but in fact the butterfly needed the struggle to gain the strength that would enable it to fly free and live.

What messages are there for us in the above story? Life isn’t always a struggle, but sometimes it is. The good news is that struggle, hard work and much effort does enable us to grow as individuals and does lead to success. All of us – staff, students and parents – may want to help ourselves and others by taking short cuts or by providing assistance, but

sometimes we have to allow the struggle to take place. Students, be encouraged that the hard work that you put in now will indeed pay dividends later on. Good luck with all your endeavours.

On a personal note, most people have heard the news that my wife and I are returning to New Zealand at Christmas for health, personal and family reasons. It certainly was not our intention to leave so soon but circumstances have decided otherwise. There is still a lot still to do before we depart but as I look back on our time here there has been significant progress made on a wide range of fronts including actions, programmes and staff professional development to enhance academic progress; significant upgrading of computer hardware; the use of the facilities to promote additional revenue generation; significant building development in the Commons and four residential blocks; growth of sport and music;



Rob Burrough

stronger policies and procedures in administration; and general development and improvement of the school. The search for a new Head is progressing and on appointment s/he should be well placed to continue the growth of the Academy. More news on the appointment process as it unfolds.

Best wishes

Rob Burrough

Head of Academy

PS

Thanks to Mrs Ursula Ryan, Manager Communications, Events and Extension Programmes for now collating and formatting a much-improved Newsletter.



DP student art work
by Farhana Jiwa



DP student art work
by Alfred Muttimos



DP student art work
by Jessica Macharia

Staff News

Our new Head of Humanities, Mrs Joanne Gogelescu, and ESL and Literacy teacher, Mr Vlad Gogelescu arrived recently. They come to us from a year spent teaching in Nigeria.

Mrs Gogelescu started her teaching career in Romania where she taught English. She then went back to her home town in the UK and taught in a girls' school in Nottingham for nine years, teaching a range of Humanities subjects and leading a large Humanities Department.

Mrs Gogelescu has visited Africa many times before arriving in Kenya.

After graduating in Law in Romania, Mr Gogelescu moved to the UK where he obtained a post-graduate degree in Education followed by one in teaching English Literacy. He started his teaching career in Nottinghamshire in the UK, as an English Literacy and ESL Teacher. Following a switch to teaching Law and Politics, he coordinated several A-Level subjects before he

moved to Nigeria where he taught Humanities.

We welcome them and hope that they will have a successful and enjoyable time at the Academy and in Kenya – Karibuni sana.

Last month we farewelled Mrs Azina Jiwa from her role as Senior School Principal's PA after five and a half years at the Academy. Mrs Jiwa moves on to look after extended family and to pursue other interests. We thank her for her contribution to the life of the school.

Notices and Coming Events

The Parent Teacher Conference will be held on 9-10 October. This is an opportunity for parents of Senior School students to discuss the progress of their child, in meetings with individual teachers. All parents and guardians are most welcome.

Mid-term break runs from midday on 10th until 21 October.

MYP Information Meetings The next information meeting will be on 9 October from 1-2 pm to cater for parents of residential students and others who may have missed the last session which focused on ATL Skills in MYP. The venue will be the Upper Library. On Thursday 25 October from 4.15-5.15 pm the session will address the importance of Community and Service. Both meetings will include a question and answer session. Parents and Guardians are welcome to send any questions on MYP by email to the Vice Principal Middle Years Programme, [David Ochieng](#). All parents and guardians of MYP students are most welcome.

Year Book 2011 – 2012 There are still some copies available for purchase from the Bursar's Office at a cost of 1,000 KShs. This full-colour 78 page record of the past academic year includes a large photo of each class. Purchase your copy while there are still some stocks left.

Senior School Awards Ceremony

This celebration of achievement in diverse fields was held on 14 September and included House Awards, Outstanding Artist of the Year, Farhana Jiwa, Outstanding Athletic Achievement, Caleb Munyasya and Hanifa Said, many Community Service and Citizenship Awards, as well as numerous Academic

Awards including Top Performing MYP Student and culminating in the DP Medal of Honour presented to the top graduating Diploma Programme student, Aleem Mawji.

Congratulations to all who received an award.

The top MYP student was Amsal Lakhani who achieved an overall grade

of 59 out of the possible 63 points.

His Personal Project entitled *A Booklet of Poems from Different Cultures* was described by the IB Moderator as “sophisticated in its presentation and mature in style”.

Congratulations Amsal!



Year 4 Field Trip

DP1 Field Trip

As part of the students' orientation programme the DP1 group camped in the shadows of Mount Kasigau for 2 nights in late August. The trip presented a unique opportunity for the students to learn more about the Diploma, meet with their teachers, learn more about each other

and engage in challenging activities that pushed their physical and mental limits. Students were encouraged to conquer their fears and rely on one another as they participated in rock climbing (up the rock-face), abseiling (down the rock-face) and a seven hour hike to the top of

Mount Kasigau. Students showed tremendous skill, patience and determination and returned home at the end of the three days exhausted from the journey and their experiences, but richer for the challenges overcome and friendships forged.

Field trips are an excellent way for the students to broaden their experience of the world.

Other Student Activities

House Spirit Day

The SRC has made it one of their goals this year to raise the profile and pride in Houses. The first event, House Spirit Day, comprised a variety of activities for both Junior and Senior Schools with students encouraged to dress from head to toe in their house colour; it made for a lively and

dynamic day with the students participating enthusiastically in a variety of competitions.

Field Trips

The past month has seen several field trips including visits by both Year 4 and Year 6 classes to Sapling Special Education Centre as part of their unit of inquiry on

the brain. The Year 2 group took a trip of Mombasa Island looking at physical features, while the Year 7 class visited places of worship around Mombasa. These trips are an excellent way for the students to broaden their experience of the world and learn about the world in which they are growing up.



DP1 Field Trip



DP1 Field Trip

Congratulations
to all those
recently elected
to the SRC, PA
and Swim Club
Committees.



Newly elected Chair
of the PA: Dr Evelyn
Gitau-Njuguna

Student Representative Council

Year 7-10 level representatives for SRC Committees have been elected after a week of campaigning, speeches, and questions and answer sessions with the student population.

They will join the DP1 and 2 Executive members who chair the four committees and who congratulate them and welcome them onto the SRC. The SRC Executive looks forward to working with them to serve our school community.

Academic Reps	Citizenship Reps	Expression Reps	Action Reps
Sukaina Hirani	Amsal Lakhani	Aahil Kanji	Velentina Solinas
Kelvin Nduma	Lillian Odera	Amreen Valli	Prisca Munyasia
Rachel Ayugi	Aabid Shamji	Malcolm Cameron	Bevertone Ochieng'
Inara Ramji	Brian Kimwatan	Zarina Mamedbekova	Abdallah Salim
Nabeel Chudasama	Asma Shariff	Neel Patel	Alykhan Jiwa

Parents' Association

The AGM of the PA was held in the Junior School Library on 13 September. There was a good turnout of parents who were entertained before the meeting by a number of musical items from the choir and instrumental groups.

The following are the newly elected Chair and Representatives:

- ◆ Chair: Evelyn Gitau-Njuguna
- ◆ Vice Chair: Azmina Jamal
- ◆ Secretary: Shafina Visram
- ◆ Treasurer: Peter Mbugua
- ◆ Junior School Reps: Lisa Kibutu, Shaheen Meghji, Tasleem Shamji
- ◆ Senior School Reps: Nasim Dave, John Kameta, Farida Chakera
- ◆ Academy Reps: Rob Burrough, Simon Otieno, Les Wilkins

We congratulate the new committee on their election. We look forward to another year of active involvement in the school community and thank them in advance for their energy and commitment.

Swim Club AGM

Congratulations to the newly elected Committee for the Swim Club:

- ◆ Chairman: Geoff Holt
- ◆ Vice Chairman: Viv Burrough
- ◆ Secretary: Binti Vora
- ◆ Treasurer: Raju Shavdia
- ◆ Executive Member: Rob Burrough
- ◆ Members: Meeta Kanji, Farida Chakera, Hina Vaiani, Nitiksha Kavia, Shabnam Natha, Tasleem Shamji, Sanjay Sharma, Sanjeev Khagram, Shafina Visram.

Our Library is Number One

The Aga Khan Academy, Mombasa Library has been judged number one in the School category of the Kenya Library of the Year Award (LOYA 2012). Also known as the Maktaba Award, the awards ceremony was held on 21 September at the Nairobi National Museum.

Senior School Head Librarian Mr Habel Amolo attended along with Assistant Librarian Ms Georgina Mwende and they were delighted to receive, on behalf of the Academy, the trophy for top school in Kenya.

Each entrant had to submit a profile of their library, indicating the unique features that qualify it for the award. Preliminary judging was then followed by visits to the shortlisted libraries for further assessment.

A total of 75 institutions enrolled in the different



Mr Habel Amolo is presented with the Maktaba Award by German Ambassador HE Margit Hellwig-Boette. Looking on is Georgina Mwende, Assistant Librarian.

categories of the competition which seeks to recognise excellence in the provision of library and information services. The introduction of a national library award in Kenya three years ago was driven by the recognition of the key role that information plays as a catalyst to sustainable development. It also acknowledges that the attainment of Kenya's

Vision 2030 will remain elusive as long as the vast majority of Kenyans have no access to current, relevant and quality information.

Congratulations to Mr Amolo and all librarians who understand the importance of knowledge and seek to offer ever-better library services: *you cannot open a book without learning something—Confucius.*

The Aga Khan Academy
Mbuyuni Rd
PO Box 90066-80100
Mombasa
Kenya

Phone: +254 41 222 0360;
+254 41 223 0049

Email: info@akam.ac.ke



The Maktaba Award

