

Friday, 23rd January, 2015

Dear Parents,

These past two weeks have flown by and there has been much activity going on in the Junior School. The Year 4 classes led our assembly last Friday and it was wonderful to see so many parents join us. In the assembly the children spoke in different languages and many were dressed in national dress, a true demonstration of our diverse community here at the Aga Khan Academy in Mombasa.



Year 4
Assembly

Stories of Learning from Year 5

With the recent introduction of overhead projectors installed in classrooms, the Year 5 students, this week, were able to take advantage of using Skype and speak with three very interesting people. Each of these individuals had a story to tell about how personal circumstances led them to the meaningful projects that they are currently implementing, connected to welfare, education and community. The Skype interviews were to support the students' inquiry in their unit with a focus on *governance and leadership*. The following is a short excerpt written by the Year 5 class teachers, introducing the people interviewed.

- *Yasmeen Claire is a DP Psychology teacher at Scottish High International School, Bangalore. She is an animal rights activist and is doing some inspiring work to save stray animals.*
- *Dr Mansoor Durrani is an international banker and writer and has a PhD in Islamic banking from the UK. He serves as Senior Vice President with a reputed bank in the Gulf. He is also running a low-fee IB school in Bhopal and donates almost 75 percent of his income to it. His vision is to serve his community by providing high class education to them.*
- *Ikram Hussain is a young man in his 20s. He fell and lost the senses in his lower body and is in now a wheel chair for life. He faced many challenges going through governmental processes and gave up his career choices, and is now working with an NGO in a small town to help disabled people.*



Some of our Year 5 students on the morning of the Skype interviews



3-Way Conferences

As mentioned in my previous newsletter, you will shortly be receiving your child's progress report. On Thursday 5th and Friday 6th February our school 3-Way Conferences will take place, allowing you and your child to meet with the class teacher(s). Please see the attachment providing further information about the conferences and the sign-up slip to book your appointment.

Annual Book Fair and Literature Workshops

After the successful book fair last year, we have decided to run it again. This will take place on Thursday 5th and Friday 6th February and includes a book sale from Educate Yourself, a Nairobi based company. This will provide our community with an opportunity to purchase literature and other books for a range of age-groups. To celebrate the event we will be organising fun literature-related workshops for our students. These two days take place at the same time as the 3-Way Conferences. As teachers will be involved with the conferences we would like to invite parents, along with their children who are interested in running a workshop, to sign up for a time slot. The workshops include:

- Parent and child reading a traditional story in their mother-tongue language (explaining the outline of the story first in English)
- Assisting students in making bookmarks
- 'Hot-seating' characters in literature
- Learning to draw a favourite book character

For parents who are interested in helping to run a workshop along with their child, please indicate this on the same slip as the one used for the 3 Way Conferences. This will enable us to sign you up for a time slot. We really appreciate your support and guarantee these Book Fair workshops will be a lot of fun for the students. Note the sale of books will be: Thursday 5th February from 9.00am to 5.00pm and Friday 6th February from 8.00am to 5.00pm.

Promoting our school to the community: preparing for the Year 1 Open House

On the Wednesday 4th February, we will be welcoming children and parents from local nursery schools to spend the morning with us at the Junior School. The morning will include a whole Junior School assembly, a presentation for parents and time spent in classrooms. If you know of families in the area, who are interested in their children attending our school, please do not hesitate to advise

them to contact our Admissions Office on <http://www.agakhanacademies.org/mombasa> or telephone 0737 696 930/ 0736 200 008.

Junior School Hockey Team

This week marked the beginning of the inter-school fixtures and our boys' hockey team travelled to Braeburn Mombasa International School for their first match of the season. There has clearly been a lot of practice going on these past three weeks, including at break and lunch times. Students have been showing real dedication to improve their skills. As you will see from their coach, Anthony Ndungu's 'newsflash' sent along with this newsletter, the team did extremely well by winning this week's game.

Year 9 Students running a Badminton Club for Year 3 to 5 Junior School students

As part of their community service projects, some Year 9 students are offering badminton and some other sports for our Junior School students on a Saturday morning. Should your child wish to take part in this activity, please see the information sent along with this newsletter. (Please note this is for Year 3, 4 and 5 students only.)

RAZ Kids

Many are pleased to know that we plan to continue our subscription to an online reading programme, RAZ Kids. We are keen that this reading programme continues to be used at home. If you have any questions about it, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher. The following provides a link to the RAZ Kids site <http://www.raz-kids.com/>



RAZ kids in action

School Calendar

Finally, this term is full of activity, which promises to continue to be a busy time right until the end of the school year. Please see the School Calendar which provides you with many key dates for the rest of the term. I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming events and, in the meantime, I hope this finds you and your family well.

Wishing you a relaxing and enjoyable week-end.

With warm regards,

Isla Gordon
Principal, Junior School

