



12 March 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our March newsletter update.

I trust you had productive meetings with the teachers at the 3-Way Conferences last month, and the feedback about your child's learning was useful to identify key areas of focus for the next steps in their learning. The teachers welcome meeting with parents for any discussion regarding their child's education, or their well-being at school. Should you wish to have a meeting please feel free to book an appointment by emailing the teacher or write a message in your child's diary, or contact the Junior School office to arrange for this.

Open House

The Junior School held an *Open House* for Years 2 - 5 on Friday 01 March, which was an opportunity for the parents of Year 3 students to come and participate in the final summative activities with their children. It was also a time for visitors, parents and teachers from local schools to come along and learn more about how the PYP works in our school. This was a Science based unit on 'How the World Works'. The lines of inquiry guided the investigations:

- *Different types of forces and how they affect motion and position*
- *How we use scientific methods to investigate forces*
- *How we can optimize the effect of forces in our lives*

The students shared a summary of their learning in this unit through their demonstration of different types of simple machines they had made, modelled on what they thought would make tasks easier to do in different parts of our school, such as with an aspect of maintenance and in the kitchen. They also presented experiments on friction and gravity forces. The event concluded with a slide show of classroom activities depicting the trans-disciplinary nature of their learning. Thank you to the Year 3 students and their teachers, for an outstanding display of the PYP in action.

Parent Meetings with the Principal

Thank you to all the parents of Year 1, Year 4 and Year 5 students who have attended our meetings with me during the term. It has been a wonderful opportunity for us to discuss a variety of topics that impact on our work with you and your children in the Junior School. The next meeting is scheduled for parents of Year 2 and 3 students, on **Thursday 21 March from 8.00am to 9.00am.**

Swimming Programme

The swimming programme is working well with our two teachers Mr. Marcelino and Mr. Polycarp. If you have previously been involved in the swim training programme and you wish your child to



continue or to newly enrol, or if you have any enquiries about this activity, you are welcome to contact the swimming teachers. Their contacts are:

Marcelino Ngalioma: marcelino.ngalioma@agakhanacademies.org

Polycarp Ageta: Polycarp.Ageta@agakhanacademies.org.

If you have any matters you wish to discuss or clarified, please do contact us.

Junior School Choir

Becoming a member of the Junior School Choir is an opportunity for students interested in singing, to nurture their talent. We have noted that some students are reluctant to join this activity as there is a general misconception that the choir is formed so that they can participate in the Kenya Music Festival. This is not the case. Apart from a student taking part in singing for their own artistic pursuit, we are looking to provide opportunities for choir performances at the Academy when we have special events. There is no obligation and it is solely a parents' choice for their child to participate in an external event, such as the Kenya Music Festival. If your child loves singing and is interested in joining the Junior choir, please encourage him/her to do so.

In regard to the 2019 Kenya Music Festival, please find a letter from Mr. Francis Nyadida the Choral Director, with information about the event. Do contact him if you wish for your child to participate or you would like to have more information.

Book Month

This month is *Book Month* and we are encouraging all our students to read as many books as they can in Kiswahili, English or in their mother tongue, and count up the minutes of reading either at school or home, and add it to our 'Reading thermometer' on display in the assembly area. At the end of the month we will hold a 'Book Character Parade'. Further details will be shared later. Please find attached a letter from Mr. Justin Msagha, the Teacher Librarian, about the planned activities.

Year 5 Unit of Inquiry – Exhibition

The Year 5 students have embarked on their fourth Unit of Inquiry – the Exhibition, a collaborative transdisciplinary inquiry which is significant in their completion of the PYP. We look forward to welcoming you to view the Exhibition, in May 2019.

Year 4 Field Trip to Shimba Hill Reserve

The students in Year 4 went on an overnight excursion to Shimba Hills on 27 to 28 February, for their unit on the Ecosystem. The visit brought together the various concepts the students are learning about, as well as offering them the opportunity to witness how an organisation has enacted its responsibility towards the environment. Some of the activities they participated in included a game drive where they saw different animals such as buffalo and several types of antelopes. They also walked to the Sheldrick Falls and took a cool swim at the *pools* before going to the lodge. In the evening, they conducted interviews with the Kenya Wildlife Services rangers as part of their inquiry, and on the deck under the bright stars, they enjoyed traditional stories told by the group's tour guide. Some student reflections about their trip are:

- *We enjoyed the trip because it was interesting to see new animals and how the skulls look like. The rangers answered all of our questions and we also had fun swimming at the waterfall.*
- *We enjoyed the trip because we saw squirrels, buffalo and eagles, and it was so much fun.*
- *My experience at Shimba Hills was really fun because we did many activities. The activities helped me to learn more about the coastal tropical rainforest ecosystem at Shimba Hills.*
- *Sheldrick Falls, in the heart of Shimba Hills, is as beautiful as a rainbow. I hope to go back with my family.*





The group



Interview session



Stories under the stars



Shimba Hills wildlife

Sports News

Hats and Water Bottles: Due to the warmer weather we are experiencing, I am asking that all students have a cap or legionnaires hat to wear outside the classroom, and a water bottle. Please make sure your child brings their water bottle to school every day.

SRC Floodlit Football Tournament

On 18 February 2019, the Junior School SRC in collaboration with the PE department, organised a 7-a-side floodlit football tournament for Year 2 to Year 5 students. The event was a success and the students had a great deal of fun challenging each other! Herewith is a write-up from the SRC:

The floodlit football was a very nice experience. We have not done this for a year and the SRC is glad to have success at it. We got to organise the students groups so they could learn to communicate and socialize and cooperate with different people. We did face some challenges of some students not liking being in their team because someone was not a good player, but we got to solve it by changing some teams or telling that person "We have to work with different people and not everyone is the best at football". This event was very fascinating, and a learning experience to work with other people. Floodlit football is an inspiring event and the future SRC could make it more fun.



Inter-House Swimming Gala

The annual Inter-House swimming gala took place on the Friday 01 March, 2019. Different events were designed for the various swimming levels, ensuring that all the students felt confident and safe to participate in their race. It was an entertaining and fun-filled event with the houses competing fiercely for the top position as they cheered their members on. The house with the highest points was Yellow Eagles followed closely by Green Falcons in second position, then Blue Ravens in third and Red in fourth position. Well done to all the students and thank you parents, for your attendance and support.



CASA Under 9 Gala

The Junior squad represented by ten swimmers participated in the CASA Under 9 gala on the 23 and 24 February, at the Bandari pool. Our swimmers did us proud by winning medals in various categories. During the popular 4 x 25m freestyle relay, our boys' team emerged second overall. In individual events several medals were won by our students. We are proud of our swimming team and their achievements. The next competition is scheduled for 06 and 07 April, 2019.



Hockey Tournament and League

January to March is usually the Hockey season, and our Under 11 boys' and girls' hockey teams participated in the Mombasa International Schools league. This year, our teams played three matches each. Both the boys' and girls' teams played against Mombasa Academy and won 2 - 0 each. Our second matches were against Jaffery Academy where our girls won 2 - 0 whilst our boys lost 1 - 3. Our last matches of the league were against Braeburn Mombasa International School where our boys recovered by winning 3 - 1. The girls retained their winning record and finished with a 4 - 1 win against Braeburn, placing them at the top in the league. Congratulations to the teams!



The teams also got a chance to participate in the Mombasa Hockey Association tournament which was held here at the Academy, on Saturday 2 March. The Under 11 boys' team played 3 matches in a round robin where they drew two matches and lost one, placing them in third position out of four teams. One of the forward players, Ayman Ladha, was recognized as a top upcoming athlete at the

tournament. The girls also played 3 matches and won them all, placing them first in their category which earned them a trophy. Geeta Pancholi, a forward player of the team was recognized as the top scorer of the U11 girls' category. Well done to all our hockey players for their personal achievements and representing the school.



U11 Hockey teams



Hockey Tournament

SRC News

Below is a write-up from the SRC about Friendship Day, which was celebrated on 14 February.

On Friendship Day which was on Thursday 14 February, the whole Junior School was celebrating their friends. The students got to dress up in home clothes in white, red or pink colours. Students were having a blast of fun. They even got to fill up a friendship wall, which allowed them to write a nice message to a friend, which made them feel good. They got to appreciate their friends and write what was amazing about them.



Also on Friendship Day, children got to make friends with new people, whom they might not know. They got to spend time with them too. There was a whiteboard put up for kids to write more things about their friends to appreciate them or even write about what they like about the academy. And so that was a wonderful Friendship Day as everybody got to celebrate their friends.



Dates for your Diary

MARCH 2019			
Friday – Sunday	1 - 31	Book Month	
Thursday	21	Year 2 and 3 Parent Meeting	8.00am – 9.00am
APRIL			
Monday - Friday	15 - 26	School Holiday	
Monday	29	School resumes	07.40am
May			
Wednesday	01	Public Holiday – Labour Day	
Friday	03	Swahili Day	

Kind regards,

Annia Dear
Principal, Junior School

Attachments:

- Book Month Information
- Kenya Music Festival Letter

