



4th March 2016

Dear Parents,

We end this week with great excitement and anticipation of our Junior School Arts Week, which takes place next week. The students started in their workshops during enrichment times two weeks ago. Attached with this newsletter you will find details about what has been going on in each workshop, as well as the logistics for the next week, with particular reference to the performance evenings on **Thursday 10th and Friday 11th March.**

The script for the performance has been written by students, with members from our Student Representative Council taking a major role in this, along with guidance from adults. It is inspired by the stories of a few people who have returned to Africa looking for relatives, in particular the recent one of Akinyi Ochieng who travelled from the United States to find and meet her father for the first time, who now lives in Kenya. The week after next we will be having an Exhibition displaying students' work.

Arts Week Logistics

Next week will include performances and the production of creative works. We will have professional guests at school (a photographer and a choreographer) and your child will be finding out about the cultural elements connected to the theme of their workshop.

The performance will take place on **Thursday 10th March** and **Friday 11th March** from **6:45pm to 8:30pm** at the Academy amphitheatre. Your child will need to be in school by 6.00pm each day to get ready. You are very welcome to join us for both the events, which is free of charge! Please bring with you, family and friends.

For audience arrangements we need to know the numbers for each evening, so please let the school office know how many people you will be and which evening(s) you plan to attend at rebecca.davis@agakhanacademies.org by Tuesday, 8th March. We will send home a ticket with your child.

If your child is not able to go home or stay with a friend and return to school by 6.00pm, please inform us via your child's diary or a note to the teacher. We encourage students to go home before the event; however, for those staying at school, there will be supervision provided. **If your child is staying please provide them with an extra drink and a substantial snack, such as sandwiches and fruit, or some money to buy some refreshments at the tuck shop as he/she will be in school until 8.30pm.** The school bus will depart school at 3.00pm as usual.

For the performance, all students are asked to bring into school black clothing as a base (e.g. a black t-shirt and black trousers or leggings, or a black dress (girls). Please send this into school by Tuesday 8th March in a plastic bag, labelled with your child's name.

Any parents who would like to join and help us prepare students (make-up and putting on costumes) are most welcome and should let the school office know at rebecca.davis@agakhanacademies.org, who will put them in touch with the relevant teachers.

The week of 14th March we will have an exhibition in the Junior School Library of the student work from this week. Parents are invited to come and view this on **Thursday 17th March from 1.30pm to 3.00pm** and on **Friday 18th March from 8.00am to 12.00 noon**.

Recent Sports Events

CASA Age Group Swimming Championships (From Sports Department)

Our Academy hosted the CASA Age Group 10 years and over championships on Friday 12th to Sunday 14th February, 2016. This time again, our swimmers achieved outstanding results. Our boys and girls teams took the first place with 370 points and 390 points respectively. Congratulations to the swimmers!



CASA 10+ Year Age Group

National Kenya Swimming Federation Gala Nairobi (From the Sports Department)

Our Senior School swimmers attended the National KSF (Kenya Swimming Federation) Gala in Nairobi which took place last weekend. The team was relatively small with only 15 swimmers, but were able to shine again. Our swimmers won 6 national titles in the event whilst 6 others qualified to swim in a final. The medals garnered were 6 gold, 6 silver and 4 bronze! After this gala seven AKAM students were selected to represent Kenya at the CANA Zone 4 Championships in Mauritius, in April. Congratulations to the team, who are also an inspiration to our junior swimmers.

Hockey (From Coach Ndungu)

Inter-School Hockey

On Tuesday 1st March the girls U11 team played against Braeburn in an away match and were beaten 1-0. It was a tightly contested game in which our girls played at their very best. Well done to the team for their efforts; this is the only match they have lost, in the three they have played this season.



Warming-up – match vs Braeburn



After the match

The boys' team is looking forward to their last two matches of the season, against Braeburn on Tuesday 8th March (away) and Mombasa Academy on Tuesday 15 March (away).

Book Fair & Mother-Tongue Celebration

On 11th and 12th February 2016 the Junior School hosted the annual Book Fair, with the aim of nurturing a love for reading within the entire school community and developing perspectives from around the world through storytelling.

The fair consisted of not only a book exhibition, but also storytelling sessions in five different languages, namely: Kiswahili, Urdu, English, Tajik and French. The student community was invited to attend the storytelling sessions told in mother-tongues, led by various faculty members. It was an enriching experience hearing stories from around the globe showing how sounds, emotions, actions, props and body language help narrate a story more effectively than the otherwise plain use of words. At AKAM, we believe and promote the use of mother tongue, as it is part and parcel of who we are; exposure to different languages is a window into people's cultures.



Mother-tongue story sessions

Friday Assembly

Year 2 Materials Matter Assembly (message from the Year 2 Team)



The Year 2 students presented an assembly on Friday, 26th February 2016. They started off with the School Prayer in Kiswahili and then entertained us with a song about the properties of different materials such as metal, plastic and wood. They presented some riddles too and everyone, including some parents, enjoyed guessing the materials they were describing. They also reflected on the different literary genres that they focused on in class such as Realistic Fiction (Unit 1), Poetry (Unit 2) and Fairy Tales and Folktales (Unit 3). Their current class book is 'The Iron Man', by Ted Hughes, which is a work of Science Fiction (Unit 4). Their current unit is under the transdisciplinary theme, 'How the World Works' in which they are focusing on how materials are used based on their properties. The students created a short play based on the book, 'The Paper Bag Princess' by Robert Munsch, and they included superhero characters that they created themselves. They even had a short fashion show in the end! Everyone joined in when they sang 'Count on Me' by Bruno Mars. We can definitely count on fun, relevant and engaging learning in Year 2!

Curriculum Overviews – Unit 4

Attached with this newsletter are the Year 1 to Year 5 Curriculum Overviews for Unit 4.

Dates for your diary!

Please take note of the following dates.

Saturday 5th March 6.30pm – 9.00pm Amphitheatre	AKAM Senior School DP1 Play - <i>Romeo and Julie</i> Tickets may be purchased at the door. We have been informed that this is a child-friendly performance so Junior School students are welcome to attend.
Thursday 10th March 6.45am – 8.30pm	Arts Performance in the Junior School

Friday 11th March, 2016 6.45 – 8.00pm	Arts Performance in the Junior School
Thursday 17th March, 2016	Arts Week Exhibition in the Junior School library
Friday 18th March, 2016	Arts Week Exhibition in the Junior School library
Saturday 12th – Sunday 13th March	CASA Junior Swimming Championships
Monday 14th March 1.45pm – 4.00pm	Athletic Heats (selection of competitors for the Inter-School Athletics event on Saturday 19 th March)
Thursday 17th March 5.15pm – 6.15pm - Library	PYP Exhibition and end of PYP Field Trip meeting (for Year 5 parents)
Saturday 19th March 2016 8.00am – 1.00pm <i>Sports field</i>	Inter-School Athletics Competition Mr Ndungu will be in touch with the families of students who have qualified for this event. All students and parents are welcome to attend to support and cheer on the school.
Thursday 24 th March 8.00am – 12.30pm	Junior School Inter-House Swimming Gala All parents welcome.
Thursday 24 th March 12.30pm	School Closure - Please note that students will finish school after the gala
Friday 25 th March – Friday 1 st April	Term 2 break
Monday 4 th April	School resumes for Term 3

We look forward to sharing many of these events with you.

Wishing you a wonderful and restful weekend.

Kind regards,

Isla Gordon
Principal, Junior School