



Thursday, 27th November, 2016

Dear Parents,

Hoping that you and your families had a restful and enjoyable break. It has been a real pleasure seeing our students back at school and I hope your child has been sharing with you some of the upcoming events.

Inter-House Sports Day – Friday 28th October 2016

Tomorrow, Friday, 28th October, we have our annual Inter-House Sports Day; you are most welcome to attend to support the children. It will take place at the Academy's MPH building from 8:00am to noon. Please see attached a programme of races, which should give you an idea about at which time your child's event takes place. If you wish to take part in the parent race do bring with you some suitable footwear. We look forward to an exciting and energetic morning! Students should come to school dressed in their PE kit with their house colour t-shirt. Your child will need to have their water bottle and you may wish to provide an extra drink, such as juice. Normal classes will continue in the afternoon after the sports day.

Parent Workshop

Over the next two weeks, we will be offering a new workshop for parents. The particular theme for this one is on *building character* in our children. The content is aligned with our vision for student leadership as well as the Academy Strands of Pluralism and Ethics. Latest research in education connects student success to their mastering awareness and skills in self-regulation, which includes an ability to discipline the mind through focus and self-control. We will also explore the importance of a mind-set and how it is actually powerful for students to make mistakes and learn from them. Please see the attached excerpt from the book; *Nurture Shock*, which gives further insights into the focus for the workshop.

We would appreciate it if you could let the school office know at rebecca.davis@agakhanacademies.org if you plan to attend one of the two workshops; on Thursday 3rd November from 8.00am to 9.30am or on Thursday 10th November from 5.00pm to 6.30pm.

Arts Week

Your child may have mentioned to you the up-coming annual Arts Week. This will involve a series of workshops for our students, and as last year, students will be writing, creating and delivering a performance, as well as showcase an exhibition. This year, the theme is on festivals and celebrations through our cultures, with a story connected to Pluralism which has been



written by our students. We very much look forward to sharing this joyful and creative event with you on the evening of **Thursday, 1st December**. We will send updates from the workshops in our next newsletters. Please note that that the performance date has changed from the one communicated in the Junior School calendar of events, to a week later.

Sports News

We indeed have talented students at AKA, M. They do not just enjoy and excel in the Arts but also in Sports, many proudly representing the Academy at local events in Mombasa. In the past weeks the Academy has hosted inter-school Cricket and Rounders tournaments, as well as CASA swimming competitions, in which several of our students have participated.

Please see below photos and AKA, M results from these events: *(from Anthony Ndungu)*

U11 Rounders Tournament – Saturday 1st October

AKAM hosted the 7th edition of the U11 Rounders tournament with the following schools taking part: AKA, M, Jaffery, Braeburn, Oshwal Mombasa Academy and Shree Swaminarayan. The games were played in two pools. The winners proceeded to the finals with Oshwal winning 5 rounders to 2 ½ to AKAM, to emerge the winners.

U11 Cricket Tournament – Saturday 8th October

AKAM hosted the 8th Edition of the U11 Cricket tournament with AKA, M, Jaffery, Braeburn, Oshwal, Light Academy, Shree Swaminarayan and Kivukoni schools taking part, in 8-aside of 6-overs matches. Shree won against Oshwal to emerge the overall winners for the second year running, with AKA, M taking 3rd place.

We applaud the students who represented the school in the tournaments, and played really well. The weather was hot on both mornings but this did not mar the excitement, sportsmanship and team-spirit during the events.

The cricket and rounders teams also played against Braeburn on Tuesday 4th October. In cricket our team lost the match with 40 runs in 7 overs whilst Braeburn reached the target in the fifth over, and were thus declared the winner after attaining 41 runs. The girls put effort in the rounders game but we unfortunately lost, having scored 5 rounders against Braeburn's 12.



Rounders Tournament – 1st October 2016



Cricket Tournament – 8th October 2016

Swimming

CASA Open and Age Group 10+ years: 14th – 16th October 2016

The CASA open and age group 10+ years championships took place over the half term holiday. Eight of the 25 swimmers who represented the Academy were Junior School students. AKAM placed 1st overall with a total of 572 points; the girls' team were placed 1st with 293 points whilst the boys' team was 3rd with 279 points. Congratulations to the participants on their personal and team achievements!



Photo – Courtesy of Coastweek

The Learning Commons (from Kristine Leabres)

A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert. - Andrew Carnegie

Andrew Carnegie is often referred to as the 'Patron Saint of Libraries'. He founded 2,509 libraries in the 19th and early 20th century. Many of the new buildings constructed during this period encouraged communication with the librarian, as well as open stacks that allowed the public to freely browse all the library had to offer. Prior to these changes, patrons generally requested material from a librarian, who then retrieved the item from 'closed' stacks, off limits to the public. Both of these advances contributed to Carnegie's ultimate goal of freely-available knowledge and libraries as valuable community resources. Source: <https://www.carnegie.org>

Libraries around the world are becoming community spaces or learning commons designed to promote a culture of learning and collaboration. As we develop the Junior School Learning Commons, we are also fostering partnerships with other libraries and librarians around the world. On Wednesday 26th October 2016, we welcomed some visitors to the school; four librarians from Connecticut who are members of the American Friends of Kenya

(<http://afkinc.org/>). They were accompanied by the founders of Hatua Likoni (<http://www.hatualikoni.org/>), who have also worked with the Admissions Department of AKA, M for the Talent Identification Programme.

The guests joined the students for assembly, where one of them read a delightful and engaging book, *The Wolf's Chicken Stew*, by Keiko Kasza. The surprise ending made all the children laugh with glee! The Student Representative Council members also gave them a tour of the school, after which the visitors commented on how confident and knowledgeable our SRC students are. They also met with the Academy's management about collaborating on future projects as well as with the Junior School teachers to share their love for literacy, community service and collaboration.



Hatua Likoni and America Friends of Kenya visit

Dates for your Diary

October 2016

Friday 28 th	Inter-House Sports Day (Venue – MPH)	8.00am – 12.00pm
Fri 28 th – Sun 30 th	KSF (Kenya Swimming Federation) Championships	

November 2016

Thursday 3 rd	Parent Workshop – ‘Building Character’	8.00am – 9.30am
Sat 5 th – Sun 6 th	CASA Open Junior Swimming Championships	
Thursday 10 th	Parent Workshop – ‘Building Character’	5.00pm – 6.30pm

December 2016

Thursday 1 st	Arts Week Performance	Evening
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Note: Due to the CASA Junior Swimming Championships, the Inter-School Junior Athletics event scheduled for Saturday 5th November has been postponed until further notice.

Finally, we wish all our AKAM families who celebrate Diwali, happy, peaceful and festive celebrations this weekend.



We also very much look forward to seeing you over the next weeks and hopefully, at tomorrow's Inter-House athletics event.

With warm regards,

Isla Gordon
Principal, Junior School

Attachments:

1. Inter-House Sports Programme
2. Nurture Shock - book excerpt