



Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2016

Dear Parents,

Both the Junior School students and staff certainly seem to have benefitted from the break, returning to school enthusiastic and refreshed ready for the last eleven weeks of the year.

### **Teachers from Ontario joining the Junior School**

This week we were delighted to welcome two highly accomplished and experienced teachers, Ms Christine Robertson and Mr Andrew Jones, from Ontario, Canada, who have been seconded to work with us at the Academy for the next fifteen months. They both were selected following a stringent interview process conducted by the Ontario Ministry of Education in collaboration with ourselves. We are fortunate to have them here and they too are very much looking forward to finding out about the Academy and its vision, as well as working in an IB PYP school in a Kenyan context. A short bio detailing their professional experience will be sent to you in our next newsletter.

### **Replacement of the jungle gym**

Over the holidays, work started on dismantling the existing jungle gym in the school playground which has suffered wear and tear from the past years. We are currently looking at replacing it, much to the students' delight. We will be working closely with the class representatives to decide how to go about finding out from the students which new playground structure they would like to have.



A sample structure...



## Parent workshop – Service Learning and Action in the PYP

With the opening of other Aga Khan Academies, our Curriculum Manager, Ms. Alex Holland, is very busy and now spends many weeks away supporting our other schools in Maputo and Hyderabad. Fortunately, these past weeks, Ms. Alex has been with us in Mombasa and along with Ms. Zohra Lakhani, led a workshop for parents on the subject of student *service learning* and Action in the PYP, a programme central to the Academy's vision in educating and developing future leaders. It is always a pleasure to have parents attend these workshops, bringing to them insights and thoughtful questions which stimulate interesting conversations. Please find attached a copy of the Power Point presentation.

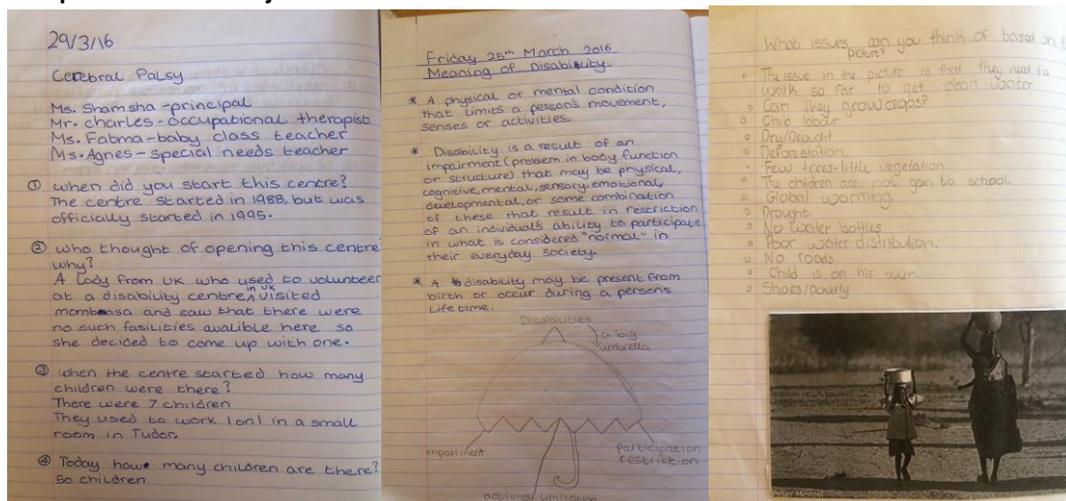


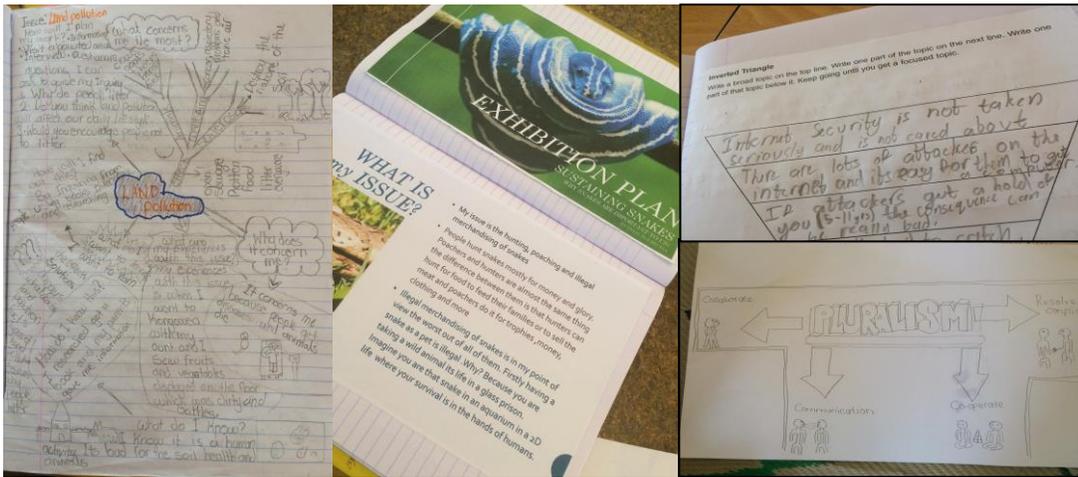
## Workshop – Action in the PYP

### Year 5 and the PYP Exhibition Unit

The Year 5 Exhibition is well underway and students have been retrieving information about their chosen topic, as well as planning to go/have been on field visits. On the field visits they will have carried out interviews and taken surveys, a crucial part of the students' inquiries into their topics. The next stage of the Exhibition will have the students identify issues connected with their topic and propose solutions to these, with ideas for action that can be taken. These ideas will be presented to a panel of teachers for feedback. We look forward to the Year 5 students showcasing their work at the Exhibition opening on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm. All members of our community are welcome to join; a celebration and culminating event of the students' learning experience in the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme.

### Samples of a student's journal work from the Year 5 Exhibition Unit





Samples of a student's journal work from the Year 5 Exhibition Unit

### Year 4 Field Trip to Shimba Hills

The IB programme believes that students learn best through experiences in authentic contexts. As part of their Unit of Inquiry on Ecosystems, the Year 4 students will be going on an overnight trip next week to the Shimba Hills, where they will carry out a study of the local ecosystems. In a quest to further their knowledge as well as language skills, the students will carry out interviews with the Park Rangers in Kiswahili. We look forward to sharing photos with you from their experiences.

### Events and Photos from the last week before the break

The last week of term was indeed a busy one, with many classes having parents in to view students work in their last Units of Inquiry, as well as spectate at the annual Junior School Swimming Gala on the final day. Attached with this newsletter are the details of the results from the Gala.

### Year 2 Summative Assessment: Materials Matter (From Year 2 Team)

The Year 2 students celebrated the culmination of their learning on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016. Their unit was under the transdisciplinary theme 'how the world works' and, for their summative assessment, they had to "create something for a specific purpose using various materials." They used the visible thinking routine – Generate, Sort, Connect and Elaborate <http://www.rcsthinkfromthemiddle.com/gsce-concept-maps.html> and came up with the ideas for their inventions.



They used the inquiry model by Kath Murdoch to prepare and present their ideas and inventions which allowed them to develop their thinking and research skills.

The students were very excited to share their learning and experiences to their parents and teachers. Some of them also brought their building projects, recipes and kites. They are very keen to go further and learn more about other materials, their properties and how they can be changed to create useful objects and tools.





### Year 3 Summative Assessment - Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

For their Summative Assessment, the Year 3s gave presentations under the heading *Explorers in Action*, where they demonstrated their knowledge into different discoveries they explored during their learning.



### Inter-School Athletics Competition – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016

On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March we hosted 7 Mombasa schools for the 2015-16 Annual AKAM Inter-School Athletics Championships. It was a hot morning; the participants, coaches, teachers and parents bravely coped with the sweltering heat. Events were clustered in three age groups Under 8s, Under 10s and Under 12s. AKAM achieved 1<sup>st</sup> position with 78 points in the U8 category, 4<sup>th</sup>

position with 78 points in the U10 category and 2<sup>nd</sup> position with 121 points in the U12 category, culminating in attaining 2<sup>nd</sup> position overall with 277 points behind Shree Swaminarayan Academy with 319 points. Well done to all the participants for their achievements and good sportsmanship! Our students interaction with their peers from other schools in Mombasa, for sports or other events, builds a wider educational community and relationship network.



**Hepatitis A outbreak in Mombasa**

With the recent outbreak of Hepatitis A in Mombasa, we have discussed with students why good hygiene is important and in particular to wash hands before meals. It would be much appreciated if you could continue these discussions at home to help reinforce this necessary and good habit.

Indeed, our weeks in the Junior School are colourful, engaging and eventful. Please take note of the following dates:

<b>Dates for the Diary</b>	
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	Junior School Enrichment Programme starts
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> & Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 4 overnight field trip to Shimba Hills
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 5 to MYP Transition Meeting for Parents: 3pm – 4pm
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Academy Swahili Day – (students to dress in Swahili attire)
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Labour Day holiday (school closed)
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 5 PYP Exhibition – Evening
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Half Term holiday
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 5 field trip with Camps International
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 5 Graduation
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	School closes (12 noon)

As always, wishing you a wonderful weekend.

Regards,

**Isla Gordon, Principal, Junior School**

