



14 November 2018

Dear Parents,

Firstly, thank you for your attendance at several events that have taken place in the Junior School this term. We appreciate your continued support and feedback as it helps us to revisit planned activities and adjust for improvements along the way. The next few weeks are very busy for the students and teachers as there are many exciting events coming up, as well as end-of-term goals that we are all working towards.

### **Enrichment Programme - Arts Week (From Ms. Hope)**

We are now into our third week of the Arts Week workshops. The workshops kicked off very well with students having made choices of what they are passionate about and want to pursue. So far, they have been working closely with teachers, sharing their ideas towards the upcoming play *Kalulu*. This is an African tale about a rabbit who likes to brag and promises to grow an impossible crop. It focuses on some of the moral issues that happen around us, and our responsibility in this regard. Prepare to be awed by your child's creativity as the students work toward making the Junior School 2018 Arts Week, an exceptional one.

We would like express our gratitude to all parents and guardians who go out of their way to come and support us during the Junior School productions. As well, we invite any of you who are skilled in costume making, face painting, stage décor or any other activity that they can be involved in during the making of the Arts Week, to provide your assistance. The final production will take place on Friday 07 December. For any enquires or more information please get in touch with Ms. Hope at: [hope.baraka@agakhanacademies.org](mailto:hope.baraka@agakhanacademies.org).



Role Play group sharpening their skills



Dance group, working out a plan, where they will put their best foot forward.



Putting on the thinking caps to bring our best creativity in Visual Arts Enrichment.



## Swimming Programme

As you may be aware, there have been some changes to Government requirements for teachers, which affected our swimming programme. However, we have resolved some of the issues with the support of our teachers, and the lessons will continue as timetabled.

## Are you Bilingual or Multilingual?

Recently we welcomed back to the Academy, Ms. Eowyn Crisfield Burr, a Bilingual consultant who has been providing professional development to the faculty. With over 20 years of experience in the field of Applied Linguistics, she continues to work with us in the integration of Kiswahili across the curriculum.

One aspect of her work with us includes fostering our home-school partnership, by providing you with insights into improving the learning experiences of bilingual and multilingual learners. In this regard, she presented a workshop on this topic for parents, on Friday 26 October 2018. Her presentation is attached to this newsletter. You may also visit her blog for more information, at <http://www.crisfieldeducationalconsulting.com/home/about-me>.

## Our Parent/Teacher Partnership

Schools build on the successful learning provided at home, by the parents. Parents and teachers working together in partnership will help a child achieve success. As parents, you are probably already doing many things to help your child move forward on their path to literacy. In our newsletters, I will be sharing with you some ways you can support your child's language development at home. This newsletter's highlight is on **Speaking and Listening**, in engagement with your child:

- *Take every opportunity to talk with your child; responding to and reinforcing attempts to communicate*
- *Always show an interest in and value what your child says*
- *Read to your child and talk about the story and the pictures*
- *Provide a range of books with clear illustrations or photographs*
- *Talk about topics of mutual interest with the expectation that your child will listen*
- *Ask and answer questions*
- *Involve your child in conversations, plans and discussions in a variety of situations*
- *Encourage your child to listen and respond to others' opinions. Support your child in developing confidence to express his or her understanding and thoughts*
- *Provide an example of good listening and avoid responding with "Mmmm" or "Just a minute"*
- *Include children in some adult conversations so that they can hear adult language use.*

## Library News (from Mr. Justin)

The Library, also known as The Learning Commons, is an active learning hub. As a media center, the students have access to digital learning on Ipads and the desktop computers, through which we integrate ICT and information literacy skills in learning. The Year 1, 2 and 3 students are actively engaged in a learning toolkit, *ABRACADABRA (or Abra)*, which is a digital literacy platform we have introduced in Library lessons as well as in the homerooms, to supplement our Library inventory. The site can be accessed at home through the link <http://105.27.208.27/ltk>

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with the username as your child's first name or middle name (*where the first name is shared by another student*) and the password as 123. We will have a parent login rolling out soon to enable you to monitor your child's progress.

## Early literacy tool



### Inquiry process



**ABRACADABRA** stands for **A Balanced Reading Approach for Children Always Designed to Achieve Best Results for All**. A highly interactive, early literacy web-based tool that supports beginning readers through dozens of engaging activities and digital stories. **ABRA** helps children in the early elementary years develop skills in phonological awareness, reading fluency, comprehension, and writing.

The link is also home to other tools, one of which is the **ISIS21**, which we are initiating to the Year 4 and 5 students. **ISIS-21** (Inquiry Strategies for the Information Society of the Twenty-First Century) is a tool which develops foundational information literacy skills, including identifying, searching for, and appropriately using information. It teaches students strategies for effectively using Internet search tools, evaluating sources, synthesizing information and designing creative final products. This tool will be pivotal in assisting the Year 5 students in their Exhibition unit.



The Learning Commons

## School Timings and Student Attendance

A large number of students are not meeting the day-to-day school regulations of times to arrive at and/or depart from school, and we request to help on this.

**Chronic late arrival to school:** Many students are arriving at school well after the bell at 7.40am and at the conclusion of the assembly, or even after classes have started for the day. This is very disruptive for both the student who is late and those already at school. I have included a link to this, on "The effect of student tardiness on learning" with some interesting information about the impact of late arrival at school. <https://www.teachermagazine.com.au/articles/the-effect-of-student-tardiness-on-learning>

If your child is often late for school, perhaps look at those situations that may impact him/her not being at school on time. Identify and address what you can do together to remedy the situation. For example, as the parent, you may plan a *wake-up-and-get-ready schedule* for arriving on time. This could involve listing the tasks your child must do by a certain time to

prepare for school. This will help with him/her taking on some responsibility as well as developing self-management skills.

**Collecting your child after school:** I have written previously about concerns regarding collecting your child after school each day. On Wednesdays and Thursdays, ALL the students who attend LAMDA (not attending the first session), or who are waiting for an older sibling to finish their enrichment activity or are waiting for their parent or driver to arrive, will be supervised in the outer room of the library. No student will be allowed to play unsupervised on any day during the week, so I am again requesting that you collect your child as soon as possible at the end of the school day.

### **School Attendance Matters**

Every school day counts in a child's academic life. A missed school day is a lost opportunity for your child to learn, develop and grow. Research shows us that there is a relationship between student attendance and student achievement. It also shows us that the student-teacher relationship is the strongest factor in determining success for our students. Prolonged absences from school impacts greatly on even the best teacher's ability to provide learning opportunities for their students. Did you know that?

- There are usually 40 teaching weeks in the school year
- Missing 2 days each month, totaling 18 days, equals 10% of the school year
- Missing 6 days every term every year is the same as missing one whole school year
- 95% attendance sounds good, but means that your child is taking one day off a month
- Would you think it was acceptable if your teacher was not at school to teach your child for a week because he/she had gone on a holiday during the term?

As an Academy policy, students must attend school for more than 90% of the days in the academic year; no student should miss more than 18 school days throughout the year. Should this be the case, at the end of the year, academic progress will be evaluated to determine whether they can progress to the next year level.

Unexpected absence from school, due to illness or another unforeseen event, should be communicated by email to the school office as well as your child's Homeroom teacher by 8:00am on the day of absence. For such cases, teachers can provide your child with some of the work that has been missed.

Planned absence must be communicated to the Principal at least 5 days before the start date. For such requests for absence, we cannot always guarantee that ongoing class work will be made available. Should circumstances mean that your child needs to leave Mombasa for a period of time, for longer than a month, we recommend that they attend another school in the new place in which they are staying. Please be sure to discuss such arrangements with the Junior School Vice-Principal or Principal at least a week prior to travelling.



### Inter-House Sports Day *(from Ms. Fridah)*

On Friday 02 November, we held our annual Inter-House Sports Day. There was a range of activities and all the students participated in an event; 100m and 50m sprints, relays, sack races, hurdles, ball shuttle races, tug-of-war and the classic egg and spoon race. Red House scored the highest in the girls events and were awarded the best girls' team shield, while Green House were awarded for the best boys' team. Overall, Green House came first with the most scores in total, while Red House came second, Yellow House third and Blue House fourth. It was an enjoyable morning, and well done to the students. Thank you for your support - we had a good parent turnout and participation.



Inter-house sports day

### Inter-School Athletics – Saturday 17 November

The Academy will host the annual Junior Inter-School Athletics on Saturday 17 November from 8.00am to 1.00pm, with the following schools participating: Oshwal Academy, Mombasa Academy, Jaffery Academy, Coast Academy, Braeburn Mombasa, Kivukoni International School, Shree Swaminarayan Academy and Light International School. Events will be categorised in age groups of under 8's, under 10's and under 12's. The school community is welcome to attend to support the event.

### Rounders Team

The under 11 Rounders team has been doing fairly well this season. The girls played three league matches in October and won one, drew one and lost one. The team played Shree Swaminarayan Academy on 02 October and lost 16 ½ to 9 ½ rounders, with Braeburn Mombasa on 24 October to win 6 to 4 ½ rounders and with Oshwal Academy on 30 October to draw at 13 rounders. On Tuesday 06 November, the rounders team played a home match against Mombasa Academy. The girls put in a lot of effort in both batting and fielding throughout the game despite the hot afternoon sun; the match ended with a draw at 4 rounders.



Rounders vs Mombasa Academy – 06 November

### Rounders Tournament – Saturday 10 November

The Academy hosted an U11 and U13 Rounders Tournament on Saturday 10 November, which involved six schools from Mombasa. The guest schools were Jaffery Academy, Oshwal Academy, Mombasa Academy, Kivukoni International School and Shree Swaminarayan. The matches were played in pools whereby Aga Khan Academy played Jaffery Academy and Mombasa Academy in Pool A while Shree Swaminarayan, Kivukoni and Oshwal played each other in Pool B. Our under 11 team won both of their games and emerged top with most points in Pool A, while Shree Swaminarayan garnered most points in Pool B thus qualifying for the finals. The AKA Mombasa team conceded to Shree Swaminarayan with 2½ to 6½ rounders, coming second overall. The girls had fun and remained positive in all their matches, thanks to their very energetic team captain, Marylyn. Congratulations to all the players.



### CASA Open Junior Swimming Championships (from Coach Kingori)

The CASA Junior Swimming Championship 9 years and under, was held here at the school, on 03 and 04 November 2018. Thirty-six athletes represented the Academy, and performed exceptionally well. The girls topped first position overall and boys team was awarded third position. In combined point scored, the Academy was ranked first 1<sup>st</sup> overall out of 12 teams of schools and clubs. Well done to all the swimmers!



Casa Swimming – 9 and under



## Zawadi Bazaar – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December

Over the past few years, the Academy has held an annual *Zawadi* Bazaar. The bazaar is modeled as a festive open market with food and gift stalls, and centers for games and fun-filled activities. The purpose of this event is to not only bring the Academy community together for a social event, but to also raise funds for the Aga Khan Academy Students' Citizenship Fund, a fund which financially supports student-led community service projects. Further, the event acts as way to encourage student leadership and community entrepreneurship efforts. Our school prides itself in its service to humanity, thereby we undertake several community service projects targeting causes such as literacy, health and disability.

The school community is invited to attend the event, with family and friends. You can also donate towards this worthy cause. Companies may also have their business advertisements displayed, for marketing. The event details are as follows:

- Bazaar date: Saturday 01 December 2018
- Location: The Aga Khan Academy, Mombasa
- Bazaar Hours: 11.00am – 5.00pm
- Vendor participation fee: Kshs. 2,500/= for a single stall, Kshs. 3,500/= for a combined stall. If electricity is required an additional Ksh. 500/= is payable.

For enquiries, please contact Ms. Aileen Kimuhu at [Aileen.Kimuhu@agakhanacademies.org](mailto:Aileen.Kimuhu@agakhanacademies.org).

### Dates for your diary

NOVEMBER 2018	Date	Event	Time
Saturday	17	Junior Inter-School Athletics	8.00am - 1.00pm
DECEMBER 2018			
Saturday	1	Zawadi Bazaar	11.00am – 5.00pm
Friday	7	Arts Week Production	TBC
Tuesday	11	School Closes	2.40pm
JANUARY 2019			
Wednesday	3	School reopens	7.30am

Best regards,

Annia Dear  
Principal, Junior School

Attachment:  
Bilingual Workshop PowerPoint

