

PYP MIRROR



from..

The Aga Khan Academy, Hyderabad

From the Junior School Principal

“If you can’t fly then run,
If you can’t run then walk,
If you can’t walk then crawl,
But whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward”

Martin Luther King Jr.

At the Junior School, it seems as though we surged forward in the year 2014-15, flying all the way! I’m proud to say that we’ve had a brilliant year with a number of truly great moments. All the big celebrations such as Book Week, Maths Week, the Science Fair, international days and several unit celebrations were examples of the learning happening at the Junior School.

These events culminated in the recent PYP Exhibition by Grades 5 and 6. This year, the exhibition was iconic as there were two grade levels that participated, and they brought the whole community together as students worked in diverse groups while the adults in the community acted as mentors. I am particularly grateful to Ms. Roshni and Ms. Manisha, who are non-faculty members, for their willingness and commitment as exhibition mentors.

I think I speak for most of the Junior School when I say that we had undiluted fun during the annual musical, the sports day, the art exhibition and the swimming gala. Doubtless, the crowning glory was the visit by His Highness, the Aga Khan in April.

It was a pleasure to see parents attending several of the school events and showing solidarity as partners in their children’s education. Please accept our gratitude and appreciation for your support and cooperation. I must also appreciate the Junior School teachers whose hard work and unconditional commitment made it possible for us to have such a wonderful aca-

Now I come to the saddest part of my message as we bid farewell to a few teachers : Ms Sheherbanoo who is leaving us for personal reasons, Ms. Naini and Ms. Isha for prospects abroad. The silver lining is the fact that we shall continue to see Ms. Arpita, who is only moving across the courtyard to the Senior School. Please join me in wishing them all a successful life ahead.

We also welcome Ms. Nivedita who has joined us as the visual arts teacher and Ms. Riddhi who will join us as a form tutor in August.

Finally, here’s wishing you all a safe, restful and fun-filled holiday!

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Latha Kumar, Principal

Junior Academy The Aga Khan Academy, Hyderabad

SPLASH! 2015

The first ever swimming festival of Aga Khan Academy, SPLASH -2015 was an exciting experience for the entire community of Junior School. Though the summer was at its peak, the parents and teachers who were present during the occasion enjoyed every moment of it. The swimming gala also gave opportunities for students to exemplify the IB learner profile attributes of being courageous, caring and balanced learners.



Swimming has been an integral part of the physical and health education in the PYP since the beginning of the academic year. The majority of students were beginners and it is worth mentioning that in this swimming gala, 100 % of the students in Junior school participated in this exciting event.

The Head of Academy, Dr. Geoffrey Fisher, inaugurated the swimming gala. Junior school principal, Mrs. Sreelatha Kumar addressed the audience, which included the students, parents, teachers and the non-teaching staff of AKA,H.

Students from grades 1,2 and 3 participated in freestyle and fun relay. Students from grade 4, and 5 took part in freestyle races. Grade 4 swam with swim noodles as a fun activity. Students from Grade 5 participated in the marble finding activity. Grade 6 participated in freestyle, butterfly,

breaststroke and backstroke. The swimming gala ended with a 4 x 25 meter freestyle fun relay for students and as a culminating event, 4 x 25 meter students vs. teachers individual medley relay, in which all the different swimming strokes were on display.



The Grade 5s learn all about sustainability!



The Grade five students believe in action. What is the point of having all that knowledge, having “fun” activities in the classroom, going on trips, if we are unable to apply the knowledge accrued for a good cause? The unit on “Energy” provided a perfect opportunity for these passionate and caring citizens of AKAH to show their true mettle.

It all started when...

the students brought their toys and other household items and tried to relate them to energy. The abstract concept of energy was most certainly a challenge, but as the days passed by, they understood the fact that it was a **force** that made things work.

These smart scientists experimented and explore, observed, recorded, made conclusions, asked questions and the cycle continued throughout the unit. We had some of the most exciting classroom discussions where our doubts and queries were thrashed out.

Application of our knowledge...

As the students explored different sustainable forms of energy, they realized they could make a difference in the lives of other less fortunate students of Hyderabad. Through sheer hard work, they generated over Rs. 40,000 to buy solar panels for a nearby school. A special thank you to all the parents for their support.

FORCE FIVE



Naini Singh, Form tutor Grade 5K

Another music success



A sense of excitement filled the air as Junior School students put the finishing touches to their musical concert on May 12th. All the Junior School students were on stage to sing, play, speak or dance and 'The Commons' was abuzz with anticipation on the Friday morning as students found their places and prepared for their final rehearsal.



A substantial audience arrived by 2 p.m. and after Dr. Fisher's opening remarks the Tabla group, led by Mr Subhadip, gave a stunning performance of well-disciplined playing.

Soon to follow were Grade 6, who performed a number of tunes on the keyboards and sang two well-known songs from 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'.

Other soloists followed including Abigail on the violin, Saafa on the guitar and Sana and Kriva on the keyboard.

Hindi songs and keyboard soon followed and finally all

the children performed 'The Moon Thieves' preceded by an overture of young players on recorder, violin, keyboard and xylophone. Yet again, another successful musical event for the Junior School musicians was presented.

Mr. Nigel

Original artworks

The Junior school library witnessed yet another spectacular event this week in the form of the annual Art Exhibition. There was palpable excitement in the air, as the entire staff and students of the Junior School gathered to inaugurate the exhibition on Wednesday 22 April 2015. The guest of honour was Dr. Geoffrey Fisher, the Head of Academy who cut the ribbon and declared the event open. He addressed the students urging them to be proud of their works on display and congratulated them on their creativity and hard work.

The Junior school library witnessed yet another spectacular event this week in the form of the annual Art Exhibition.

The exhibition showcased the original works of art done by the students of Junior School in their art lessons throughout the year. The students were involved in the entire process of creating the artworks, from conceiving the idea to executing it.

On display were a wide range of works in terms of medium and themes. Students had created two and three dimensional works. There were still life, outdoor study, pen and ink works, landscapes, self-portraits, totem poles created from waste material, masks from Africa and many more.

Parents, teachers and other members of the AKA,H supported and encouraged our students by visiting the gallery in large numbers.

Isha Joshi
Visual Art Teacher



Reflections on His Highness' visit



My Dear Parents and dearest brother,
On the 10th April 2015 His Highness and his family came. I was extremely excited. Each grade was divided into the specialist classes. My grade had to be in the Hindi room where Princess Zahra visited. She interacted with me and thanked me for the information and messages she got from me. I was feeling very happy. Then we went to the AB building where we sang the song Ei Deso Eei Matti. While we were singing His Highness and his family went down the stairs. I was very, very happy because His Highness walked in front of me, he saw me and gave a big smile. I also saw Prince Ali Mohammed, Prince Illiyan and the Princess Sara. They also waved to us. This was the best and greatest experience of my life.

Love
Sana—Grade 4



Dear Sai,

I was in the swimming pool when His Highness was moving around the school and wishing students good luck for their exams. When he visited the sports building, light emanated from him. Our dull faces from lack of enjoyment, were bright for once.

He visited the squash court too. Eventually the girl's eyes started to fill with tears of joy when he blessed them.

He must be having a magical power of gathering clouds. Our scorching Hyderabad, where it seldom rains, was cooled down by the rain which fell by his arrival. We sang a song for him, when he was leaving. In the meantime people's eyes were filled with happy tears.

Sincerely,
Jignesh—Grade 5



Dear Brother,

I have some great news to tell you! On your previous visit to Hyderabad, you asked me several questions about His Highness. Guess what? On the 10th of April 2015, he Himself actually visited our School! He arrived with his children, Princess Zara and Prince Ali Mohammed. Before he arrived, everyone was really excited, however they were nervous at the same time. Everyone was cleaning up their classrooms and doing their best to present.

Then after a while His Highness arrived and was dressed in an elegant suit and he had a really kind face. Some of us were even lucky enough to get an opportunity to meet him! Unfortunately I didn't. We even sang a song for him and my how pleased he was! What a splendid time everyone had!

After a while His Highness left. It was such a memorable experience! Before he left he showered his blessings on us. Even though he left, he left a lovely memory to our School which we will never forget.

Yours sincerely,
Zaara Grade 5



PYP Exhibition: A rite of passage from the PYP to the MYP

It's that time of the year, when the Exhibition is near. Grades 5 and 6 gear up to celebrate their learning and showcase the essential elements of PYP, before they graduate to MYP. They begin with unpacking the transdisciplinary theme, "sharing the planet". The students brainstorm with big ideas like, rights and responsibilities; sharing finite resources; communities and the relationships; access to equal opportunities and peace and conflict resolution, as they connect with global issues. The students prioritise with their issues and connect with classmates with common interest to form groups. As the Exhibition represents one of the students' units of inquiry, they brainstorm with their group members to create the 'Inquiry Matrix'. The extended, collaborative student led inquiry starts under the guidance of their teachers and mentors. It is a time when students surprise themselves and the teachers pleasantly, by demonstrating leadership, ownership and independence. The inquiry process involves identifying, investigating, and offering solutions to real-life issues or problems. They work around a central idea that is sufficient in scope and significance to warrant a detailed investigation by all students.

The excruciating heat of the summer does not deter the students from going on field trips, arranging for guest lectures and coordinating Skype sessions with subject experts and teachers to get into the depth of the inquiry.

Amidst the myriad of emotions of nervousness, excitement, pride, anticipation and confidence, the students pull up their socks to arrange for the gallery walk to synthesise the essential elements of the PYP and share them with the whole school community. We all await the final day when the esteemed guests, judges, students, parents and teachers gather together to celebrate the staging of the "Exhibition", with the students.

P.S. The blog that shows the making of PYP Exhibition Happen: <https://akahexhibition2015.wordpress.com>



Arpita (Form Tutor, Grade 6 A)



Grade 5's Synthesize their learning in PYP exhibition

The Primary Years Programme (PYP) Exhibition represents a significant event in the life of every PYP school and student. The Exhibition is an opportunity for students reaching the end of the PYP curriculum to synthesize the essential elements of the PYP and share them with the whole school community. In conducting research and communicating it to the entire AKA,H community, this is also an opportunity for students to exhibit the attributes of the International Baccalaureate (IB) learner profile that they have been developing throughout their engagement with the PYP.

To start with, both the students and teachers were very excited and equally apprehensive as it was the first time for us. The journey has been a memorable one with some interesting learning and teaching along the way. It was however very demanding but the students are already on the road to success and have proven their skills acquired in their journey of PYP. I'm so proud of the effort put in by them and sure it was great team work.

Shehrbanoo, Form tutor, Grade 5A



Spotlight on Outreach

It's been a busy couple of months in Outreach. Ms. Lisa, Ms. Silvia and Ms. Wendy have recently helped to facilitate Tier III of the Professional Learning for Educators Series (PLES) at the Academy. This involved training government school teachers in English and pedagogy so that they could complete their three-year commitment to the PLES program.

Prior to that, Ms. Lisa and Ms. Silvia taught English at various Mahita centres to help students there prepare for their 10th examination papers. They have also done professional development with teachers.

Meanwhile, Ms. Wendy has been busy making a joint Outreach AKA,H social justice film with Grade 8 students; facilitating a teacher training workshop at the AKA,H and is working with Ms. Neeha to write unit introductions for the new Mahita training modules. In addition, her Outreach exchange was written about in a newspaper article in Dublin and she is planning on following through with the exchange to bring some of our AKA,H students to Ireland.

Meanwhile, the Outreach team is engaged in strategic planning for next year in the PLES and is about to conduct a curriculum review as well as plan for an expanded training of trainers program. Ms. Wendy and Ms. Lisa have extended their contracts for another year, however, the team is sad to announce Ms Silvia's departure from the school. She has been an integral part of Outreach and will be missed.

Lisa Gervais
EAL



DAYCARE DIARY



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