



Newsletter No. 3 2016/17

16th September 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome to this year's 3rd Junior School Newsletter. We hope that our families who celebrated Eid on Monday, had a peaceful and joyous occasion.

These past weeks in the Junior School, as always, have been eventful. On Tuesday we had our Year 4 classes go on a field trip to the Sapling Trust in Nyali, as part of their Unit of Inquiry on *Children's Rights*. We also made headway with the Student Representative Council (SRC) election campaigns and included below is the timeline of events.

Student Council Representative Election Timeline

	Important Dates	Time
Campaign Period:	Tuesday, 13 th September to Thursday, 22 nd September 2016	
Candidate Speeches: (Executive Positions)	Action and Citizenship Reps on Wednesday, 14 th September 2016 Academic and Expression Reps on Thursday, 15 th September 2016	7.45am – 8.15am
Presidential Debates and Speeches	Friday, 16 th September 2016	7.45am – 8.30am
Candidate Speeches: (Non-Executive Positions)	Red and Green House Captains on Tuesday, 20 th September 2016 Blue and Yellow House Captains on Thursday, 22 nd September 2016	7.45am – 8.15am
Voting:	Friday, 23 rd September 2016	
Announcement of results:	Monday, 26 th September 2016	7.45am



Some SRC campaign posters



Baseline assessments in reading and mathematics continue to be carried out, and we look forward to meeting at the Parent-Teacher Conferences in October, to share with you how your child has settled into their new year level, as well as to give an overview of their academic achievements so far. This will also be an opportunity to provide us with your feedback and to ask any questions.

Year 4 visit to Sapling Trust – Tuesday 13th September

On Tuesday 13th September the Year 4 students visited the Sapling Trust, an educational and rehabilitation centre for children with cerebral palsy and other special needs. The trip was organised to provide our students with first-hand experience to develop a better conceptual understanding, that all children have the right to education, regardless of their physical and intellectual challenges. In addition, students were enabled to understand the role of civil society in promoting equality and providing opportunities to a group of children. This understanding will further investigate their inquiry which explores how organisations work to help protect Children's Rights.

Below, a student's reflection from the visit to the centre included:

There are different Children's Rights provided by Sapling Trust:

1. *A right to protection: To provide this right they take care and watch over them.*
2. *Haki ya elimu: Ili kufanikisha haki hii, shirika la Sapling huwasaidia kusoma.*
3. *A Right to love: To provide this right they care for them and guide them.*
4. *Haki ya kucheza: Ili kufanikisha haki hii, shirika la Sapling huwapa ruhusa ya kucheza.*



Visit to Sapling Trust



Parent Workshops

As always, it is a pleasure to have parents take part in the workshops we provide. Attached with this newsletter is the power point presentation from the workshop, *An Introduction to the PYP*, which was held earlier in the month.

Please note that the next workshop on Citizenship, which was scheduled for Thursday 22nd September and Thursday 29th September, has been postponed to Thursday 3rd November at 8.00am and Thursday 10th November at 5.00pm. If you are planning to attend, please inform the school office at rebecca.davis@agakhanacademies.org

The Learning Commons

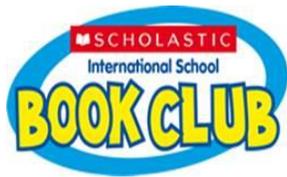
Our Library, now known as the Learning Commons, is taking shape and becoming an active part of our school. We are well underway with cataloguing new resources and books but would really appreciate any parent volunteers who have a bit of spare time, and would like to help us. Below is some information from our Teacher-Librarian, Ms Kristine Leabres.

Reading

We are exploring the concept of 'stamina' or doing something for a long period of time, without getting tired or giving up. We connected this to one of our Junior School Essential Agreements – being 'resilient'. You can support your child at home by providing a comfortable place to sit and a regular time to read books. You can discuss with your child, what it feels like when a person has reading stamina. How long can your child read and be truly engrossed in a story or information they are reading? Can they train or practice to become a better reader, just like an athlete trains to be better in sports or in preparation for a competition? How can you increase your child's reading stamina? Further information is provided in the link: <https://www.pinterest.com/scholastic/parents-raise-a-reader-blog/>



International School Book Club



The Scholastic International School Book Club (ISBC) has produced a brand new Book Club selection of quality children's books, at discounted prices. The books they offer are carefully chosen to get children reading for pleasure and to keep them reading right through their teenage years. For every 1US\$ that parents spend on a school's Book Club order, ISBC donates 20% in FREE BOOKS back to the school, which go into the Library. Your child will have received an ISBC catalogue and order form today. If you wish to buy some of the books, please return the order form and payment in cash or cheque, (payable to the school), by **Monday, 26th September 2016** at the latest.



The Learning Commons

You are welcome to come to the Library on Wednesdays and Fridays at 2:00pm, before you pick up your child/children from school. You can help us by organising shelves and covering books. The Learning Commons is not just for the students, but also for teachers and parents. If you are in school during the school day, please come in and make yourselves comfortable – read a book, choose books for your child or sit and have a chat with other parents or teachers. It is open to the whole school community. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any queries or recommendations at: kristine.leabres@agakhanacademies.org

After-School Pick Up

We wish to remind you that students should be picked up from school promptly at the end of the school day, by **3.10pm**, except on days when there is enrichment when they should depart the campus by **4.10pm**. A teaching faculty supervises the students until this time. We cannot take responsibility for your child, thereafter. Unfortunately, we continue to have Junior School students hanging around the campus for many hours after lessons end.

Please take note of upcoming events listed below in our *Dates for the Diary*:

September			
Saturday	17 th	CASA Novice Swimming Gala	
Sunday	18 th	CASA Novice Swimming Gala	
Monday	25 th	ISA Tests this week (Year 3 – 5)	
October 2016			
Saturday	1 st	U11 & U13 AKAM Rounders Tournament	8.30am – 1.00pm
Tuesday	4 th	Under 11 Rounders vs Braeburn (Away)	3.00pm
Tuesday	4 th	Under 11 Cricket vs Braeburn (Away)	3.00pm
Thursday	6 th	Parent Teacher Conferences (Year 1 – 5)	8.00am – 4.00pm
Friday	7 th	Parent Teacher Conferences (Year 1 – 5)	8.00am – 4.00pm
Friday	7 th	CASA Open and Age Group Swimming Championships 10+	
Saturday	8 th	CASA Open and Age Group Swimming Championships 10+	
Saturday	8 th	U11 Cricket Tournament	8.30am – 1.00pm
Sunday	9 th	CASA Open and Age Group Swimming Championships 10+	
Monday	10 th	Half Term break until Friday 21 st October 2016	
Monday	24 th	School reopens	
Tuesday	25 th	U11 Rounders vs Light Academy (Home)	3.00pm
Friday	28 th	Inter-House Athletics	8.00am – 12.00pm

Finally, attached with this newsletter are details and a sign-up form for the Parent-Teacher Conferences which will take place on 6th and 7th October. Please return the slip to the school office, by Monday 26th September 2016. We look forward to seeing you there and sharing with you, your child's learning.

Wishing you a wonderful week-end.

Kind regards,

Isla Gordon
Principal, Junior School

