



The Aga Khan Academy, Mombasa Newsletter March 2012

Dear Parents, Students and Friends

The story goes that a child was having difficulty lifting a heavy stone. He tried and tried but could not budge it. His father came past and noticed the difficulty he was having. He asked his son, “Are you using all your strength?” “Yes, of course I am,” the little boy replied indignantly. “No you are not”, his father answered. “I am right here just waiting and you haven’t asked me to help you.”

Everyone has a support group of family, friends, workmates and teachers. Whilst most of us generally wish to remain independent, that support group is there to help – and many are just waiting to be asked. That also applies to students who feel that they need extra help in their school work. A number of extra tutorials are being offered to students outside of regular class time, especially for the DP2 students as they prepare for the all-important IB examinations in May. Results from the recent Mock examination results will be available shortly and students should be looking to build on these results over the next two months. Using all their strength means calling on members of their support group to help shift the heavy rocks.

Over the last month a range of activities have featured in school life. In addition to the Mock examinations these include a number of sporting successes in swimming, basketball and athletics – most notably the boys swim team placing first school in the Kenyan National Championships; the East African Model United Nations Conference (EAMUN) held at the United Nations Offices in Nairobi; the Year 10 Personal Project exhibition; promotion of the school in Nairobi; the 150-strong Mombasa Old Town 4th Annual Youth Conference and the Term 3 fee collection. Our thanks to all those staff and students who contributed to the above programmes and successes.

We have now received an analysis of the ISA results for students in Years 3 - 10. We would like to discuss the test results and school-wide trends at a parents meeting on Wednesday 14 March starting at 5.30pm in the Senior School Lecture Theatre. One clear

trend is that over the years our students collectively improve quite significantly as they progress through the school system. We look forward to discussing these results with parents.

Best wishes for the month ahead.

Rob Burrough
Head of Academy

Highlights of the last month

Highlights of the last month include:

Teaching and Learning - Whole School

- Analysis of ISA results has been completed and results have been returned to the school.
- Faculty Professional Development: *Literacy Across the Curriculum* has been introduced as the second theme for the year. Issues around Listening have been addressed; with follow up sessions to address Writing Styles, Spelling and Vocabulary planned. One PD session also held on Mentoring – developing positive relationships and mentoring skills.
- Concordia University ran sessions for staff on e-abracadabra and e-pearl sessions. These generated positive interest by staff.

Senior School

- ***Personal Project Exhibition*** on February 8th was most successful. We invited top students from other schools to attend the exhibition and the event was well supported by parents.
- ***Mock Examinations*** have just been completed. We will be analyzing performance in order to further support the students.
- ***PYP to MYP Entry Tests for Junior School*** students have been completed and parents advised of the outcomes.
- ***Year 10 Parents Evening*** was held to explain how the Year 10 subjects align with the Diploma course. A Grade 5 at MYP is required for any subject that the student expects to do at Higher Level (HL) in the Diploma course; and Grade 4 at MYP is required for any subject that a student intended to pursue at Standard Level (SL). A Grade 4 score is expected for the Personal Project.
- ***Year 7 Parents' Information Evening*** The on-going series of parents' information evening talks for Grade 7 and other parents new to the MYP was held.

Junior School

- **Auditions** have been conducted for this year's drama production "**Bugsy Malone**".
- **Portfolio Day** where students share their work with parents and the community is rapidly approaching.

Student Life

- **Kenyan Swimming Federation National Championships** – we are the top Boys school team! Our small team of 14 swimmers (10 boys and 4 girls) gained 4 Gold, 7 Silver, 12 Bronze and 38 Finals (Top 6) placings. We were the top boys' school team and 3rd placed schools team overall. Individual Results (national rankings) *Boys 10-11 Years* 3rd Karan Khagram, 4th Shaan Vora; *Boys 14-15 Years* 3rd Shivraj Vaghela, 8th Rohin Kanji; *Boys Open* 5th Rama Vyombo.
- **Mombasa Schools' Athletics** held at Shree this last weekend – AKA, Mombasa was 1st overall with the Girls team 1st and the Boys 2nd.
- **CASA Junior Swim Gala** was held this last weekend – our Aga Khan Swim Team was 1st overall with the girls 1st and the boys 3rd.
- **Mombasa District Basketball Championships** Our Senior Girls team is the District Divisional champion and our Senior Boys team came third in their Divisional finals.
- **EAMUN** Nineteen students from Grade 10 and DP-1 attended the East African Model United Nations Conference held at the United Nations Offices in Nairobi. Sixty one schools participated in the conference. Our students scooped four out of the twenty-one awards that were available. The timing of the Mocks made it impossible for our DP-2 students to attend the conference.
- **Senior School Athletics Sports Day** was held on the afternoon of February 6th. A new approach this year was to involve as many students as possible by diversifying the activities of the day. Several sports like badminton and swimming were included but unfortunately lack of water in the pool due to pH issues meant that the Water Polo tournament did not take place.

Residential

- **Half Term Expedition** 59 students, 11 teachers and 3 assessors participated in the 3 nights and 4 days hiking experience. A successful and enjoyable time was had by all.
- **Dorm Captains:** 10 new Dorm Captains were appointed after a rigorous selection process involving a written application, interview, feedback from students, Dorm Parents and current Dorm Captains, and an analysis of their academic performance and behaviour. The new captains are: Livia Clandorf, Esther Okello, Karen Chalamilla, Flora Waiganjo Valentina Solinas, Alykhan Sumar, Sadiq Shamji, Sadruddin Hashmani, Johnston Kirimo and Ali Amershi.

HR Activities:

- We welcome Mrs Kiringa Kamanu from Oshwal, Nairobi to the Physical Education Department following the departure of Coach Mohamed last December.

Notices

ISA Test Results A parents' information evening held with support from the Parents' Association will be held in the Senior School Lecture Theatre starting at 5.30pm.

School Fees A reminder that school fees are due in August, November and February. The third installment is now overdue. Parents with difficulties are welcome to discuss financial issues with the Head of Finance.

Wahu Concert Wahu is coming to perform at the Academy on Thursday 15 March at 7pm. She has agreed to perform for free. The concert is being run by "Because I am a Girl" – one of our social service groups who are trying to raise awareness about the girl child's struggle for equality in Kenya. All proceeds will support disadvantaged girls in the Mombasa area enabling them to attend girls' forums and helping to raise their aspirations and provide practical support and friendship. This is a really good cause and will be a *really* good evening. Wahu will be performing for the whole evening, and is also singing with some of our students. A great evening for all ages.

Tickets selling fast. 500 Ksh for students, 700 Ksh for adults. Buy from Reception or Junior School, or from the student ticket team at school at lunchtimes, or from Forget-Me-Not at Ratna Square.

Coming Events – March

- 8 International Women's Day
World Science Day
District Basketball Finals – Senior Girls
Math Fun Night – The Junior School Quad from 5pm - 7pm
Choral Concert – Choir room at 5pm
- 9 *A Midsummer Night's Dream* theatre production
Year 5 Educational Trip to Voyager Hotel – Unit: Responsible Tourism
- 10 Inter schools' Junior Athletics Championships at school from 8am to 12.30pm
Inter schools Cross country Tournament - Oshwal
- 11 Cerebral Palsy Charity Walk
- 13 End of Trimester
- 15 **Wahu concert 7pm**
- 16 Release of trimester 2 Report cards
- 17 JS – Inter-House Athletics from 8am – 1pm

- District Swimming Championships – AKAM
- 18 CTA Triathlon Festival (Triathlon, Aquathlon, Duathlon) from 9am
- 19 Start of Francophone Week
DP-2 Art Exhibition
- 20 Year 5 Educational Trip to Tsavo
- 21 Provincial Girls Basketball Finals – Mwatate (provisional)
CASA Level 2 International Swimming meet- South Africa
- 22 Peace and Conflict Resolution conference
Piano Concert – Choir Room at 5pm
- 27 Awards & Recognition Ceremony
- 28 CASA Level 1 International Swimming Meet – South Africa
- 30 End of Term Easter holidays begin.**