



# The Aga Khan Academy Mombasa, Newsletter

November 2012

## Dates to remember

- Christmas Carol Service  
Sunday 9 December, ACK  
Memorial Cathedral in  
town, 6pm
- Christmas tree lighting  
Monday 10 December, in  
front of the Commons.  
5:30 - 6:30pm
- School closes, Tuesday 11  
December, noon
- School re-opens, Tuesday 8  
January 2013

## Inside this issue:

Staff News	2
Notices & Coming Events	2
Community Service, SRC	3
Student Activ- ities	4
Swaleh Ouma	5
PDC Gradua- tion	5

## Kwaherini – kwa sasa

### Dear Parents, Students and Friends

Saying goodbye is never easy, and for my wife and I, this month is tinged with sadness and regret as we prepare to return to New Zealand. We have really enjoyed our time at the Academy over the past two and a half years, we have made strong relationships both inside and outside the school, and we have seen significant growth in the development of the Academy. We have not found this an easy decision to make, as the vision of the Academies is a powerful one and we have appreciated the opportunity to be part of making the dream a reality.

Highlights of our time here are many. They include the improvement of Diploma and MYP results; the growth of residential student numbers from 29 to 168; the building of the Commons, 4 new residential blocks, the astro turf and a retrofit of

the old cafeteria and amphitheatre (about to start); restructuring of the co-curricular programme enabling wider participation in service, sport and music activities; celebrations of sporting and music successes, particularly at national and international level in swimming and choral performance; growth of locally raised funds through hire of the facilities and creation of short stay holiday programmes; the continued growth of staff professional development and the Professional Development Outreach programme to local government schools; the opportunity to be part of a strong community service programme; interacting with the outstanding young men and women who are truly wonderful students with so much potential; and the opportunity to work with strong and committed staff. The times to explore some of this wonderful



Rob Burrough

country from seashore to savannah are also most memorable.

The process to appoint a new head is almost complete, and I am sure that s/he will work well with the senior management team and staff to continue the strong growth and development of this fine school.

Best wishes to the whole school community over the coming months and years, and may you all have an enjoyable and relaxing holiday time over the Christmas break.

Kwaherini – kwa sasa.

**Rob Burrough**  
**Head of Academy**



Mrs Viv Burrough



Miss Naheeda  
Karmali



Christmas is coming!

## Staff News

This month we farewell a number of staff. Mr and Mrs Burrough leave to return to New Zealand where they will be able to enjoy their first grandchildren – twins! The Academy has grown and strengthened in many areas under Rob’s leadership, notably the creation of systems and processes to support teaching and learning and in co-curricular activities. The Parents Association and the Swim Committee were also established after his arrival. Viv was responsible for the development of HR systems throughout the school, the establishment of leadership training for academic and non-academic middle managers, and the growth of a number of successful revenue generating activities including short stay programmes and the hire of the facilities for conferences, weddings,

sporting and cultural events.

Miss Naheeda Karmali resigns at Christmas to be married and then to join her husband in Burundi. As Vice Principal of the Junior School she has led many initiatives to promote PYP teaching and learning.

Miss Rosetta Ngugi leaves for further training in Nairobi; Mrs Heather Clarke finally gets to spend more time with the family and the family business; and Mr Graeme Telford is thanked for his support to the Finance Department.

We thank all of our leaving staff for their support to the staff and students of the Academy, and we wish them well in the future.

Several staff versus student football games have been held recently. The DP1 v staff football

was won by staff 7:0 and the after-match photos of the respective teams shows a dispirited group of students and a beaming staff contingent. The following match between staff and Year 10 was a 2-all draw, while the Year 9 match was won by staff, 5:3. The Year 9s proved to be an agile and skilful team and the score does not reflect the narrowness of that contest. Well done all round!

Male members of staff are participating in Mo’veember, a highly successful campaign to raise awareness about men’s health issues, particularly prostate cancer. Ten teachers took up the challenge to grow the maximum amount of facial hair possible for a moustache growing competition to try to win the coveted and prestigious award for “Best Mo 2012”.

---

## Notices and Coming Events

**Christmas Carol Service Sunday 9 December** This will be held at the ACK Memorial Cathedral in town. The Service will begin at 6pm and include performances by Academy students, and other members of the school community.

**Christmas tree lighting Monday 10 December, in front of the Commons 5:30 - 6:30pm.** Come and watch the traditional lighting of the school Christmas tree along with performances by the Senior and Junior School choirs, orchestra and a number of smaller ensembles.

**Term Dates** School closes on **11 December** at noon and reopens for students on **8 January 2013**.

## Community Service at Mwakoweni School

On 17 November the DP 1 students visited the Mwakoweni School to administer a second dose of de-worming medicine to over 400 children in the area. The Diploma students have been doing this for the last 5 years as an on-going commitment to bringing service to that community. Generous donations of the medicine from Makadara pharmacy has enabled our students to visit Bombolulu every 6 months to ensure the continuing effectiveness of the medicine in keeping small children free from various intestinal worms which compromise their immune system. Data collected by the students supports the view that the regular administration of the medicine has had a great effect on the children who are then better equipped to fight off other illnesses and perform better in school. The DP 1 students are now looking into ways to raise the KShs 50,000 needed to install a rain water reclamation system for the school in order to bring cleaner and fresher water to the community.



Community Service at Mwakoweni School

## Anti-Bullying Week

The SRC held an Anti-Bullying Week in early November. It began with a lunch event: anti-bullying slogan henna tattoos. Many students, male and female, were seen sporting them throughout the week. Other events were a flashmob that even got Mr Simon Otieno dancing, and a great musical performance by Aahil and Xenia. The weekend ended on a positive note with the "I'm a DP" event where around thirty DP students came in front of the whole school to dispel stereotypes and send a message to the younger students that bullying is not tolerated at the Academy and that each and every student should be proud of their interests and passions. It was a powerful end to a well-executed week by the SRC.

## Football for Hope Fundraiser

In late October the open boys soccer team, chaperoned by Mr Hirani, played in a *Football for Hope* CAS event at The Aga Khan Academy, Nairobi. The tournament was a fundraiser for a local school that the

Nairobi students work closely with. Despite the 13-hour bus ride, the 4 hours of sleep, and lack of training, the team won the competition. Four out of five games were won, one was drawn; 9 goals were scored along the way and

none was conceded. The organisation and hospitality of the students at The Aga Khan Academy, Nairobi was superb and the competition was lively, fun, victorious and best of all, all for charity.

## CanCare Blood Drive

The student CAS group *CanCare*, started by 3 Diploma Programme students and involving a group of year 10 students, organised a Red Cross

Blood Drive on 17 November. The group was motivated to organise it because of the large number of adults and children suffering from

cancer and other illness, and the lack of necessary blood supplies required to support their treatment and recovery.

Students are engaged in a range of activities to help those less fortunate.



Community Service at Mwakoweni School



Maxwin Ojwang explaining his Personal Project at the mock exhibition



Celebrating Diwali



Ali-Mohammed Jaffer playing at the Musical Showcase

## Personal Project Mock Exhibition

The PP Mock Exhibition was held on 9 November to help prepare the Year 10 students meet the requirements of the Personal Project. Each of the 67 students displayed what they have made and were available to explain the thinking and process so far. They have now embarked on the process of writing their reports for the final MYP certification. The exhibitors had a great time and received excellent feedback from other students and faculty. It was also a learning opportunity for the current Year 9s who will do their Personal Project next year.

---

## Inter-House Sports

On 16 November the Senior School held its first Inter-house competitions. Ravens, Eagles, Hawks and Falcons competed in squash, table tennis, swimming, tag rugby and basketball. The competition was won by Hawks, followed by Eagles and Falcons tied in second place, and Ravens in fourth place. Throughout the afternoon students demonstrated high levels of skill, cooperation, camaraderie and competitive spirit. Congratulations to all those who participated and special thanks also to the staff, not only those who coach the students, but also to those who volunteered their time to help support the event, creating a positive and exciting environment for all involved.

---

## Celebrating Diwali

This year's Junior School Diwali assembly was a glorious and colourful exposé of the rich cultural and traditional expressions of India, which transcend religion and race. The effort and energy that was put in was outstanding. In a fine example of PYP in action students showed solidarity and supported one another, with older students managing and directing part of the assembly. The PYP encourages students to not only appreciate and celebrate various cultures and beliefs from around the world, but also to understand the etymology of these practices and to share this understanding. Students from across the year groups presented various festivals celebrated during the course of the year and their confidence and enthusiasm was evident all through the assembly. It was not only entertaining but also educational as we take every opportunity to learn more about different peoples and their beliefs, and to reinforce the value of diversity.

---

## Musical Showcase

The Musical Showcase held on 15 November was a powerful display of musicianship and talent by our music students. The concert included individual piano performances, solo, duet and ensemble singing, and violin pieces, from a wide range of students from Year 2 to DP. The short evening ended with an energetic and uplifting performance of *Wantata* by the Senior School Choir although the audience would willingly have listened to such music making for much longer.

## Swaleh Ouma

The vision of the Aga Khan Academies to identify, nurture and retain ethical leaders of the future is showing signs of success. Swaleh Ouma, the son of a local fishmonger in Mombasa, graduated from The Aga Khan Academy, after successfully completing his IB Diploma in May 2009. Swaleh joined the Academy in August 2008 from Allidina Visram High School in Mombasa, where he attained a mean grade of B+ in the KCSE examinations in November 2007. In his former school he was one of the co-founders of the Law Club. At The Aga Khan Academy he took an active interest in the Model United Nations (MUN) programme and attended the South African MUN conference with his peers from the school. The group attained 4<sup>th</sup> position out of the fifteen groups participating. Swaleh went to Reading University in the UK to achieve his goal of becoming a lawyer.

Whilst at Reading he set up the MUN with other former students from the Academy. The University was so impressed with their work that they included this course as an elective on the Law course. Swaleh graduated from Reading in June 2012 and has since returned to Mombasa to pursue a career in politics and is an aspirant for the ODM MP nomination in Kisauni for the elections next year.

The Aga Khan Academy  
Mbuyuni Rd  
PO Box 90066-80100  
Mombasa  
Kenya

Phone: +254 720 631 144;  
+254 735 931 144

Email: [info@akam.ac.ke](mailto:info@akam.ac.ke)

## Professional Development Centre Graduation

The PDC held a ceremony on 29 November to recognise 98 educators who were graduating from professional development programmes in educational management and training in English at the Academy. The programmes, which are delivered by the Academy's PDC are conducted in collaboration with Kenya's Ministry of Education, the Teachers Service Commission, the Aga Khan Foundation, East Africa and the Department for International Development (DFID). The PDC provides high quality programmes focused on subject content acquisition, general pedagogical skills, interactive learning

techniques and student-centred teaching methodologies, with the aim of deepening the pool of well-trained teachers across the region, raising the status of teachers and encouraging talented people to enter the profession. Of the 98 who graduated, 37 were primary and nursery school teachers who had successfully completed the Programme for Teachers of English which focuses on effective teaching methods in language learning and works to improve teachers' fluency in English. The programme is currently being piloted in two other Aga Khan Academies: Maputo and Hyderabad. An additional 56 school leaders completed the Educational Management

Programmes and received the Certificate in Education: Educational Leadership and Management, while five others graduated from the Training of Trainers Programme, which qualifies them to deliver the Programme to teachers of English in their own institutions. The Head of the Academy, Mr Rob Burrough, congratulated the graduands on their success, saying that partnerships with local schools and organisations are an important aspect of the Academy's joint mission of service and leadership. He added that the graduation was testament to the power of different organisations working in collaboration with a common focus.

