

Thursday 22nd June 2017

Dear Parents,

It is with appreciation, gratitude and sadness, indeed a mixture of emotions, that I write this final Junior School Newsletter for the academic year. My gratitude is for having had this wonderful opportunity to have spent the last two and half years working as Junior School Principal of our Academy in Mombasa. The appreciation is for having been made to feel so welcome and very much at home during my time here. The sadness to be leaving your children as well as the Academy staff! The students here give us true purpose to come to work each day, are an inspiration, and I will truly value and treasure my Mombasa memories for a very long time.

Year 5 PYP Graduation and Party – Friday 16th June

It has been a busy and eventful end of the school year. This past Friday we had our Year 5 PYP Graduation assembly, a highly enjoyable event, but also a moment for both our students and parents to appreciate that time has come to bid our Year 5 farewell, wishing them well in their transition to Senior School. In the evening, they had their party. It was a pleasure to see the effort that they made coming to the party, dressed for the occasion.

Year 5 PYP Graduation – Friday 16th June



Year 5 Party – Friday 16th June



Staff Farewells

Indeed, we also bid farewell to some of our faculty members.

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, Mrs Amita Dave retires at the end of this academic year, having given us many years of outstanding service as a Learning Support teacher. Mrs Dave plans to spend time travelling to see her grand-children, but equally wishes to still keep in touch with the Academy as she lives not too far away. She will be sorely missed.

Ms Salima Nanji, will be leaving at the Academy at the end of this month to take time to care of a family member. Ms. Salima has given many years of service to the Academy, initially in an administrative role, she then trained as a teacher and has been working in the Junior School for the past 10 years. Highly appreciated by families and her students, we will certainly miss Salima and wish her and her family well.

Mr John Mbindyo has been with us for the past 18 months as a Teacher Preparation Programme intern. His insights, wisdom and gentle approach to working with our younger members of the Junior School have been highly appreciated.

Mr Kennedy Kariuki has been with us for the past six months as a replacement teacher for Ms Fridah whilst she was on maternity leave, and thereafter, to support cover in the PE Department. Both students and colleagues have appreciated Mr. Kennedy's care and collegiality.

Ms. Atalia Matola and Mr. Pinto Belo returned to The Aga Khan Academy Maputo, after 10 months here at the Academy as Teacher Preparation Programme interns. They are missed and we look forward to continued association with them.

Next year, the Junior School looks forward to welcoming the following new, and not so new, faculty members to the team.

Ms Dorcas Kisilu has been appointed as a Homeroom Teacher to Year 4 and we congratulate her on this appointment. Ms Anuradha Mohsin will now move to Year 5, joining Ms Evelyn and Mr Kepha as Homeroom and Translanguaging Teachers.

We also look forward to welcoming, Mr Peter Muraguri, as our Junior School Learning Support Teacher. Peter joins us from Braeburn School in Mombasa. He comes to us with an impressive professional background and the Junior School very much looks forward to working with him.

Interviews for a Junior School Music teacher have been ongoing since January this year, and we are in the process of making an appointment.

Sports News

Football and Netball Matches (from Ms. Fridah)

On Tuesday 6th June, we hosted Braeburn Mombasa International School for under 11 boys' football and under 11 girls' netball matches. The AKA Mombasa football team won their match 5 - 0 whilst the girls netball team also won, 9 – 5! It was indeed a superb day for both teams, in winning their last match of the season. Well done to the students and we thank them for their efforts and sportsmanship throughout the term and indeed, the year.



U11 Boys Football vs Braeburn



U11 Girls Netball team – Vs Braeburn on 6th June

Sports Gala Awards and Recognition (from Mr. Kennedy)

On Monday 19th June the Sport Department held their annual Award Gala to recognise the students who have represented the Academy in various sports this academic year, in football, rounders, cricket, field hockey, netball, athletics and swimming. Well done to all the sports participants.

Kenya Music Festival Update (from Mr. Philip)

I am pleased to inform you of our Junior School and Year 6 and 7 Students' success at the Kenya Music Festival; the students passed the county stage with amazing results in their performances on Tuesday 30th May. This stage was a very competitive and our students did us proud. The student scooped seven 1st Places, three 2nd places, and two 3rd places.

Our Junior team went to Kwale on Monday 5th June (the Senior on Wednesday 6th June), to represent the Mombasa County in the regionals. They competed against the best from the counties in coast region, and came first in all the items they performed! Congratulations to all the participants! We look forward to representing the Academy at the Nationals next month, at Masinde Muliro University in Kakamega.

Key Dates for the Dairy

June 2017

Thursday 22nd: Semester 2 Student Reports go home to parents (please contact the school office at rebecca.davis@agakhanacademies.org should you not receive notification from Managebac about accessing your child's report).

Friday 23rd: Final assembly at 11:00am. Parents are welcome to join.
School closes for all students at **12.00pm**.

August 2017

Wednesday 16th Year 1 and new students orientation (8.00am – 10.00am)

Thursday 17th School re-opens for the 2017-18 academic year

Thursday 24th Parent Information Evening (5.00pm – 6.30pm)

(Please note that a mailing with various details related to the start of the Academic year will be sent out in mid-July).

As the year draws to an end, we thank you for your continued and ongoing support as Academy parents. Your children, our students certainly do us proud, both in their sporting, artistic, creative and academic achievements.

Finally, we bid farewell to families who are leaving us, some relocating to places near and others, far away. Please do come back and visit the Academy when you can. In the meantime, *bon voyage* and stay safe.

On a personal note, I will remain in touch with the Academies as we work toward formalizing collaborations between ourselves and the school I will be working at.

If your travels take you to Geneva, please get in touch. I would be delighted to meet up and share with you some of the sights from my home country.

Have a wonderful and peaceful school break. Safe travels to those who are travelling out of Mombasa.

Warmest regards,

Isla Gordon
Principal, Junior School

